



Surrey Group Newsletter.

February 2001

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Items for the Newsletter

Reports of past events, letters and other items should be sent to the Editor before the end of May for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

Not deterred by a poor weather forecast, I set off early to meet John Lay at Woking Station to be driven to Yorkshire on what was to be my first weekend break with the Surrey Group on their visit to the renowned Malham Tarn area.

We arrived at about 13.30 hours to join other members of the Group and Barbara Blatchford who led a half day walk into the Valley of Desolation and then onwards and upwards to Simons Seat, the former being named after a day in the seventeenth century when storms blew down all the trees in the area; as we approached Simons Seat the heavens seem to open, nevertheless we were rewarded with some spectacular views through gaps in the cloud.

After a sound night's sleep we set off for the first meeting point: the carpark at Tarn Foot, we were greeted with visibility down to about fifty yards and there was some discussion as to whether the planned walk should go ahead. Half of us decided to go with our leader for the day Richard Ineson, whilst the others opted to go and explore the local towns.

We set off, following Richard through the swirling mists in what he assured us, was the general direction of Arncliffe. We sauntered on to this picturesque little village green at about 11.30 hours where we stood under dripping beech trees to drink our coffee.

As we left the village the clouds blew away eastwards and we were bathed in glorious sunshine which stayed with us for the remainder of the day! within ten minutes of leaving Arncliffe our waterproofs were stuffed away and we climbed up over Hawkawick Moor and down the eastern slopes into Kettlewell where Richard gave us a very graphic description of the scarecrow competition which is held annually in the village. The afternoon walk was lovely, several ups and downs over open countryside, through Conistone village and then back over Kilmsey Moor to the carpark, a distance of some eighteen miles for the day.

The walk for day two was led by Phil Green and we were joined here by Anne Beeching. The route started at Clapham and was to take in Sulber Nick, the Narber Erratics, Ingleborough, and Clapham Bents on the way back, the views from the tops to the north, over the shake holes, and to the Ribbleshead Viaduct were awesome; from here it was back downhill to Newby where we found something that had been missing all day! an enclosed footpath with plenty of MUD! from here it was back to Clapham and Annie's Cafe where mugs of tea and large slices of cake were much appreciated, after this we returned to our hotel for hot showers and a five course menu.

After another pleasant evening spent chatting and playing cards, the next morning we had to make an early start for home.

People who were lucky enough to stay on had an enjoyable morning's walk on Ilkley Moor led again by Barbara.

A lovely weekend, enjoyed by all; many thanks to Molly for making all the arrangements and to Barbara, Richard and Phil for leading.

Surrey Group elect a new Chairman

A big thank you is due to Ann Sayer for all her help and guidance over the last three years not only in matters of policy but also her constant willingness to help at checkpoints during the busy first four months of the year. Her place has been filled by Peter Bull, well known to all of us for the many 'Mystery Meanders' that he has led us on in the past and also for his unrivalled knowledge of ALL the Surrey Inns.

Dunsfold Kanter

1 October 2000

Entries at thirty eight (one had to drop out) were modest but six up on last year. Many thanks to Bob McGavin who brought a party of nine. It would be nice to break fifty again so I hope to see you all again next year, and bring some of your friends, all will be welcome.

Once again the weather was good. As soon as the early mist had been burnt off there was then warm sunshine until just after the last party had finished when it started to rain. Good Timing! The new route along the Wey South Navigation was appreciated by those on the long route. They were also thankful that the llamas in the fields before **Rudgwick** were no longer in spitting mood.

After a year off my youngest daughter, Fiona, was able to help and run the taking of entries and operation of the Start in her usual efficient manner. Many thanks to her and also to all the entrants for supporting the walk.

Brian Haigh

Surrey Sammits

Saturday/Sunday, 31 March/1 April, 2001

This two day event is now rapidly approaching and will require the assistance of many marshals so we hope that Group members and their friends will respond by contacting **John Lay** on 01932 346596 with their offers of help.

White Rose Hundred

Saturday 1 June, 2002 Weekend

Members who attended the Surrey Group AGM last month showed much enthusiasm to give support for the manning of a checkpoint on this event at about the thirty mile stage, which will probably be in the vicinity of **Ripon**. Mervyn has agreed to investigate the cost of hiring a minibus type vehicle for transporting all the team members to and from this event over the period involved. Anyone who has experienced this, the main L D W A Event of the year, will know what a great time can be had by all over this Holiday Weekend. **Janet Chapman** has agreed to coordinate all the arrangements and therefore we hope that members and friends will respond with offers of help by phoning her on : 01276 65169.

Youth Hosteller's Walking Guides

3 new books now available @ just £6.65 each featuring *Lake District, Peak District, and Yorkshire Dales & Moors*. Amazing value with such good detail from *H.S. Moorhead, Hill Top Farm, Heathcote, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0AY* or *hughswir@skonline.co.uk* for more information.

PROGI

Sunday 4 February
See Future Events

Penfold's Marathon

Thursday 8 February

Furley Fairs

17 miles Start 9:00am from Furley Heath up. Pub stop for lunch.
Explorer 143 GR 051448
Leader: Dave Challenger Tel: 01372 277138

Sat/Sunday 17/18 February

Surrey Summits Marshall's Walk

62 miles More details from: Ray Chapman Tel: 01276 65000

Saturday 3 March

Look Out and About

18 miles Start 9:00am from Look Out up. Stockwell. Pub stop for lunch.
Explorer 100 GR 870661
Leader: Richard Jones Tel: 01344 771444

Thursday 15 March

Dunfold Down

20 miles Start 9:00am from Sun Inn, Dunfold.
Explorer 134 GR007165 Pub stop for lunch.
Leader: Brian High Tel: 01483 303020

Sunday 25 March

East Surrey Group of Taps

15 miles Start 9:00am from Botley Hill up. Pub stop for lunch.
Explorer 146 GR298315 This is the second of a series of walks to climb all 41 taps over 150m in Surrey
(7 today).
Leader: Keith Chapman Tel: 01483 303192

Saturday/Sunday 31 March/ 1 April

Surrey Summits

62 miles Start 9:30 - 10:00am from Downland School, Leatherhead
Explorer 146 GR 177571. NO ENTRICES ON THE DAY.
SAB: Dave Challenger, 44 Agate Lane, Ashford, Surrey, KT21 2ND

Sunday 22 April

Thursley Trest

21 miles Start 9:00am from Goddington railway station up. Cash man to Haslemere for lunch walk back.
Explorer 145 GR 966439 Pub stop for lunch.
Leader: Phil Green Tel: 01483 276834

Sunday 28 May

Liphook Luller

18 miles Start 9:30am from Liphook railway station
Explorer 113 GR 842209 Pub stop for lunch.
Leader: Tony Cartwright Tel: 01483 907168

Tuesday 15 May

7.30 for 8.00pm at the Percy Arms, Chidworth GR 010 457 Tel : 01483 561765

Planning Meeting

Thursday 14 June

18 miles Start : 9.15am from top of Marley Lane, nr Kingsley Green. Pub stop for lunch

Landranger 186 GR 889 309

Leader : Peter Hull Tel: 01344 842938

Marley Borderlands

Wednesday 29 June

7 miles Start from 12 East Meads, Cleiton Village Outfield, at 6.45 for 7.00pm prompt

Hot potato supper (offers of donations welcome) at finish

Leader : Louise Cartwright Tel:01483 301708. NB please advise Louise if you are coming.

Midsummer Walk

Saturday 14 July

13 miles Start : 9.15am from top of road through Pugham village. Pub stop for lunch.

Landranger 197 GR 478 976, please come prepared - acclimatising route afterwards if desired, trainers

recommended for much beach walking, tea afterwards at leaders house.

Leaders : Peter and Elaine Edwards Tel:01343 262473

Seven Seaside Seaside

Sunday 17 August

16 miles Start : 9.00am from top of Dutton Hill. Pub stop for lunch.

Landranger 197 GR 711 200

Leader : Janet Chapman Tel:01276 65169

Downton Revisted

Wednesday 21 August

Details to follow (see next edition)

Leader : Mike Mandle Tel:01737 801139

Downham Barbecue

Sunday 16 September

29 miles Start : 9.00am from Ashburton Youth Hostel (overnight accommodation available)

Pub stop for lunch.

Distance 16 GR 538 019

Leader : Philip Green Tel : 01483 276834

Seven Sisters Summit

1 PM Sat evening

Sunday 30 September

20 or 12 miles. Start: 9.15am from clubhouse at George IV playing fields, Dunsford.

Landranger 187 GR 005 309

ENTRIES ON DAY ONLY.

More information from the organiser: Brian High Tel:01483 303020.

Dunsford Easter

Friday (Monday), 12/15 October

This year the walking programme will take place in the vicinity of Dunsdale and will be based at Newton

House, an hotel near Ashbourne in the Peak District

More information from the organiser: Mally Greenhall Tel 01483 362843

October Three Day Event

What the Romans did for Ashstead

28 October 2000

Dave Challenger took a motley bunch of walkers, footsies in all, on 'An Afternoon Around Ashstead', a walk that proved to fall into three distinct parts, each part offering the walkers complete and different exposures to the weather.

The walk took us, via a short diversion through Ashstead, straight on to Ashstead Common which formed the first part of the walk. Ashstead Common is now owned by the Corporation of London, who bought it from the local council just after the turn of the century for the sum of £25,000 and the common was used Londoner's for a good day out.

Because of the availability of raw materials for construction (tiles, timber and turf) the Romans are known to have inhabited the Common, as archaeologists have found remains of a substantial Roman villa with baths. During the Saxon and Norman feudal times the Common developed into wood pasture combining the grazing of cattle with the growing of pollarded, well distributed trees. The weather for the first part of Dave's walk held steady!

We then re-entered Ashstead for a very brief period, passed the London City of Freeman's School and walked up a slight incline towards Headley Parish Church.

The second part of Dave's walk was clearly covering equestrian country with views through to the 'new' stand at Epsom Race Course and the crossing of many training tracks for both racing and three day eventing as well as riding tracks simply for pure pleasure. This second part of Dave's walk was directly into wind speeds of 70-80 miles per hour, not the worst winds we have ever experienced, but noticeable nevertheless.

The third part of the trip took us Stane Street, the old Roman Road from Chichester to London, which goes straight as a die up to the A 29 until south of Dorking to reappear almost by popular request somewhere in the Mickleham Downs vicinity. It was interesting stopping to contemplate the contrast between the straight Stane Street and the circular M 25 when they cross just before re-entering Ashstead.

The weather forecast was for high winds and buckets of rain and the last part of Dave's professionally planned walk around Ashstead proved the forecasters to be right, for once. It rained cat's and dogs.

We returned to Agates Lane, absolutely drenched, to the welcome of Pat who had prepared a splendidly arranged high tea for the L. D. W. A.'s very hungry Legion! With full stomachs we quickly forget about the raging elements outside and a rather pleasant conversation ensued.

So what did these Romans do for Ashstead? Well we think they put Ashstead on the map and liked it so much, enough to go and live there themselves.

Erling Hansen

Exactly how long is a good walk?

It was in 1912 that the classical scholar A. H. Sidgwick described four categories of walker in typically grandiose Edwardian prose.

His 24 miles were 'astronomers of rhetoric, lovers of the classic in art and music and literature, of the distilled and clarified products of human imagination and insight'.

His 18 miles might have attained this status but for their 'love of talking and disputation'. Sidgwick dismissed them as prone to 'sporadic intensities within a limited area'.

17 miles he considered 'physically disabled' they insist on large meals and a great deal of drink, and could well start making enquiries about a hamper before reaching the finish.

The 6 miles were dismissed as 'mainly occupied in catching the nearest train home at the earliest opportunity'.

Not many of today's modern walkers would think 20-25 miles a day particularly modest, except of course for those eccentrics within the community who are members of the L. D. W. A.

I've no idea what A. H. Sidgwick's reaction would have been to the idea of walking 100 miles, through the night, regardless of whatever the weather gods might throw down upon us!

We would probably have told me to go away and come back when the effects of that last glass of ale had worn off.

I joined the L D W A earlier this month , having walked the *Pressine Way* during the summer and realised that L D W A stood for **Long Distance Walking Addiction**.

Dear readers , you may be familiar with the havoc that can be wreaked on your erstwhile social life peopled by the Sodams, when the Walking Addiction muscles in.

The look of blank disbelief when you say you cannot make the proposed shopping trip (with lunch somewhere smart) because you are walking twenty odd miles , regardless of weather , in an inhospitable place that is bound to include several miles of bog and swamp. The look of incredulity when you are forced to confess that you now shop at the Youth Hostel Association Shop and no ,you haven't actually been along **Boad Street** for a while.

The weekend of the 18th and 19th November was my attempt to reacquaint myself with the **NORMAL** (**NO** Real Mileage Attempted At All) by wrenching myself from Shropshire, where I live, to visit friends in Teddington. The normal proved to be a brief flirtation as I escaped early on Sunday morning to Virginia Water to join the Surrey Group for their '*Gillians Jaunt Revisited*' for my first ever L D W A walk.

We left the carpark at nine and we numbered twelve. The weather was dry,soon we were into trees and mud but,dear reader,you will forgive me if my recollection of the early route is hazy.I was walking with Eugene Stratton,also a visitor,but unlike me,a very experienced outdoorsman,whose stories of past outings were fascinating and frankly I was so enthralled that the miles whizzed by unhooded.

We crossed the A30 by the **Wheatheaf** with an empty carpark but full toilets for the five minutes that we were there.We saw the **Pink House** occupied by the Queen Mother when she stays at Windsor.We stopped on the bridge across **Virginia Water** to watch and wonder at birds that disappear under water,to be followed by my first encounter with **Royalty**:coffee with Prince Albert!Still the sun was shining as we lingered at his feet I gazed across to **Smith's Lawn** recalling corporate hospitality in the days when we were too stressed out to leave our desks,no time for lengthy reminiscence or nostalgia,the walk was continuing! The going was soft underfoot but it did not delay our second meeting with **Royalty**:George the Third mounted and looking all the way down the **Long Walk** to **Windsor Castle** and our stop for lunch at the **Three Tuns**.

At this point,for those who have not walked with the Surrey Group before may I offer some advice! This is a particularly dangerous point of the day because you may be persuaded by your charming,silver tongued,fellow walkers to write a report on the walk.Consider your response carefully!

Arriving about noon,before the lunch time rush,the pub was quiet.They were also completely relaxed about twelve pairs of muddy boots tramping across their carpets

Refreshed and replenished we set off on the second half of the walk.Immediately we were in danger as some of our lady walkers were blown off course by the street market offering a tantalising opportunity for retail therapy.

Fortunately they were rescued swiftly, having succumbed only to the purchase of one much sought after and inevitable turn. Onward and back along The Long Walk for a short distance before going up Queen Anne's Ride. The sky was darkening now as we squelched our way through the 'War Memorial Trees' towards the tea rooms in Savill Gardens. As the light started to fade, we passed the Obelisk and the Totem Pole, leaving the delightful peace and tranquility to negotiate the A30 with its frantic Sunday weekend traffic and back in darkness now, to the Bourse carpark. The end of a glorious day of eighteen and my first L, D, W, A walk.

My thanks to Gillian for not only leading us so ably but for drawing our attention to points of interest en route and also, to you fellow walkers for your excellent company and for making Sunday 19th November a Lovely Day With Amusement.

Christina Boyd

Survey Inns Kante (SIK) : Jon's View

Monday 1 January, 2001

It was a very inauspicious start as I drove down the A3 to Guildford first thing on New Year's Day. The rain was so strong that the wipers could barely cope, and I had to switch on the lights as it grew darker and darker. After the rain of the preceding months I guessed that we were in for a nice soggy event, and I wasn't mistaken. Although the rain had stopped by the time I arrived at St. Catharines Hall, I still wondered if I'd made a mistake getting out of bed that morning! Unfortunately it was apparent that the weather had deterred at least some of the early starters and I anticipated not seeing anyone for all of the event.

Once inside the hall, a glance at the route maps showed that we were heading out north-west for the first time in some years. I've been out that way before - on a SIK, but I can't remember when. Before the 'off' it was difficult to decide what to wear as, although the rain had stopped, snow was forecast for later in the day, and it felt quite cold when you got out of the car. Being a pessimist I therefore chose to wear a variety of items, most of which could be removed if necessary.

Having exchanged greetings with some old friends and made sure that I had marked the 'control' locations correctly on my map this year, I left and almost immediately down to a slow trudge uphill. I'm a jogger by nature, and the effect of the previous night's celebrations put me in a poor frame of mind for the start of the event. However, at least it warmed me up and I was able to strip off some of the unnecessary clothing. The first few controls were OK, but it was obvious immediately after we'd crossed the A3 that there was a lot of standing water around, and it seemed the further north we went the more water there was. The boggy bit around Fairlands was particularly memorable, and I confess to stopping off to the road with its nice dry pavement. It was also obvious that any time we went under a bridge we had a choice of taking the water jump slow or fast. I decided I was going to get wet anyway and so charged through the puddles with gyl (in the older sense of the word you understand) abandon. Once past Merrist Wood though, where the A3 mile route split off, it dried out for awhile and the section up to Pirbright was very pleasant, one of those days I must go in and explore Brookwood Cemetery which we passed. After the memorial in Pirbright was it the Stanley of 'Dr. Livingstone I presume' fame? However the wet ground started again, and slowly got worse as we headed back towards the Hogs Back and then to the Hall. The conditions brought back memories of the Three Forests Way a few years ago.

Two particular points of the 2001 SIK will remain memorable to me. The first was where I misinterpreted a footpath sign and ended up wading in fifteen inches of running water - which was over twelve inches of mud! Very chilly, to say the least. The second was descending to the south of the Hogs Back, where I decided to run fast down the mud chute (or was that a path?)..... very exhilarating!

For some reason I'd started too early to stop at the pubs, and only The Withien was open. By the time I got there I was so mud besplattered that I decided not to go in, and so had a sober SIK for a change. Despite that it was my slowest time, although, as ever, I enjoyed myself immensely. Even if I hadn't answered all the clues correctly, at least I got back before it started to rain. My thanks are due to the members of Surrey Group who demonstrated as usual that it is possible to put on a very pleasant low-key low-gut event with sensible distances, even on New Year's Day. It is just a shame that fewer people took advantage of the opportunity this year to enjoy it.

Jon Moore

Footnote..... My grateful thanks are due to Gillian and Peter Bull, Les Maple, Brian Haigh, and Jon Moore for helping to run this first event of the year.

Ed.