



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER
October 2002



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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 January for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

Editorial

It occurs to me that every time we set off on one of our innocent little social walks that the day will not pass without being accosted by a group of speeding cyclists, all of them, it seems to me, going all out to being 'the one in front' It's not that I begrudge them doing what they do but why don't they have a bell on the handlebars just like I did back in the fifties which is when I last got on a bike, then it had just three gears and you had to stop pedalling to change up or down, I suppose in 2002 its considered wimpish to have a bell on your 'machine' but I do resent being buzzed at close quarters by some lethal missile which, had I chosen at that moment to step out of line for a split second the result could be disastrous and not worth thinking about.

Motor bikes are even worse but at least you can hear them coming and, on the whole they are considerate to walkers? maybe someone knows different but a few days ago we were on



the South Downs Way, revisiting the Downsian Route with Janet, (who else I hear you say), when a posse of them were heard and then seen, approaching from the East and sounding more like a squadron of Luftwaffe bombers, (those of you who like me, spent most of 1940 in an Anderson shelter will know what I'm talking about) anyway, as I was saying, we saw them coming and stopped and began clambering onto the bank to let them pass, but they saw us and waited at the top of the ridge until we had made our way up, at a leisurely pace, before proceeding onwards after a cheery wave and then roaring off down the path ! Why can't they all be like that I ask myself? As can be seen from the above, we all made it to the Unicorn at Heyshott for lunch, another super pub, Janet certainly knows where to find the good ones, but you will read more of this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Because of the demise of the Surrey Summits, as I write, our Walks Programme for the first few months of 2003 is looking a bit sparse and in urgent need of recovery, there is a real scarcity of new walk leaders and I'm absolutely convinced that amongst our merry 'band of brothers' there is some hidden talent lurking! I'm glad to say that, following my appeal at the last planning meeting in May, and having put the word around during the summer, Chris Hayward has come up with a winner and I know that we all look forward to his first 20 mile 'romp' to Rowland's Castle in March, there's also a possible 18 mile tour around Langstone Harbour later in the summer.

It may well be that as you read this editorial your thoughts are along the lines: I could do that! but you are hesitating, why? because, for one reason or another, you're unsure, maybe its the mapreading, or having the compass skills. If this is so then DON'T WORRY, linger no more! because help is always at hand, remember, you are amongst friends and if you do become 'temporarily disorientated' it won't last forever.

ED

Between Two Castles

Sunday 26 May

Several members of the Surrey Group of the LDWA gathered at the foothills of **Farnham Castle Keep** with an ominous weather forecast on their minds. The Castle is of Norman origin from the twelfth century and was for many years the seat of the Bishops of Winchester and later of Guildford.

The walk commenced across rural countryside with the rain and showers holding off for at least the first couple of miles and with a lot of discussion amongst the troops. The discussion took our minds off the weather whilst Mervyn let us settle down into a brisk and pleasant pace. A fair part of the morning's walk was along the **Basingstoke Canal** with its tranquil and slightly, very slightly, meandering stream. The Canal includes the **Greywell Tunnel** which is one of the longer navigational tunnels in England (just less than thirteen hundred yards), and because there is no towpath in the tunnel, the horses had to travel overland whilst the barges were 'walked' through by the men lying on their backs exerting pressure with their feet on the ceiling of the tunnel.

The tunnel is also the home to one of the largest roosts of bats in the United Kingdom, _____ or Europe, depending on who you talk to, figures of 20,000 have been mentioned and one wonders how you would count them all? the LDWA's local Bat-man, John Lay suggested it was easy, 'you just film them all flying out, then run the film slowly in reverse and count them at the same time as they all fly back into their cave!' he said, seriously!!!

Odiham also has yet another 'moat and bailey' castle - like the one at Farnham - which has had a significant part to play in Britain's transformation to democracy. It was here that King John stayed on his way to sign the Magna Carta, and Simon de Montfort was also associated with the place during his introduction of community representatives or 'commonsens' to parliament. This state of affairs did not last for long though. Odiham also contains one of the finest 'broad' streets in Hampshire and it was here that we stopped to take lunch with everything running like clockwork.

We resumed the walk after lunch, and had to reluctantly agree with the weather forecasters. It was pelting down for the early part of our return to Farnham, where Mervyn led us through **Castle Street** and then up behind the **Castle Keep** and back to our cars. A jolly nice walk with a bit of everything including a bit of Lay's lateral thinking. Well done Mervyn, thank you, and we all look forward to his next walk on Thursday, the 19th September for a bit of a nomadic experience near Northchapel!

Saturday-Tuesday, 12-15 October**October Three Day Event**

8 miles Start: 2.00pm Holnicote House, Sworby, Exmoor. First introductory walk to the programme which will include extensive coverage of the Exmoor Forest area throughout this four day event. Walks Leader: Philip Green.

More details from the Event Organiser: Molly Groundsell Tel: 01483 . 7628543

Sunday 20 October**Founders Challenge**

26 miles in 9.5 hours. Start :9.00am Walkers, 10.30am Runners, from Peaslake Memorial Hall Explorer 145 GR085446

More information from organiser : Bill Thompson Tel : 0208.992.0991, see also Future Events in Strider.

Saturday 26 October**Another Afternoon Around Ashted**

12 miles followed by refreshments from the house of Dave and Pat Challenger, 44 Agates Lane, Ashted, Surrey.

Start : 12.30am, Explorer 146 GR178577

Please advise Dave in advance if you intend to take part. Tel :01372 . 277138

Saturday 16 November**Warnham to Ashted**

20 miles (linear) walk from Warnham station, Landranger 187 GR171339, to Ashted. Catch train from Ashted station, GR180590, at approximately 9.00am to start. Contact Dave Challenger for the exact train time Tel :01372 . 277138

Saturday 23 November**Pattenham Common Circular**

20 miles Start :9.30am from Pattenham Common top CP.

Explorer 145 GR920462 Pub stop for lunch.

Leader : Tony Cartwright Tel : 01483 . 503768

Saturday 14 December**Christmas Walk and Dinner**

15 miles Start : 9.00am from Drummond Arms , Albury. Park in the rear CP over the stream bridge. PLEASE BE QUIET WHEN ASSEMBLING (STAFF SLEEPING NEARBY)

Explorer 145 GR049478

Dinner at 7.30pm at the Drummond Arms. (Book NOW with Louise Cartwright to avoid disappointment. First come, first served, the table plan is rapidly filling up!!

Tel : 01483 . 503768)

Friday 27 December**Windsor Winter Wander**

12 miles Start :9.00am Walkers, 10.00am Runners from RAF Memorial CP, Coopers Hill Lane Englefield Green.

Landranger 175 GR996748. Small charge for route description

Organiser : Ralph Healey (MABAC Running League) Tel : 01784 . 252104

Wednesday 1 January**Surrey Inns Kanteer**

20 or 12 miles. Start : 9.00 - 10.00am from St Catharine's Village Hall, Guildford.

Explorer 145 GR992485. To finish by 4.30pm.

More information from Organiser : Jon Moore Tel: 01932 . 887206

Thursday 9 January**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Meet 7.00 for 7.30pm at the Drummond Arms, Albury. Any motions or amendments to the constitution or bye laws must be sent to the Group Secretary no later than Tuesday 17 December.

Supper afterwards, those intending to stay , please inform the Secretary by Tuesday 2 January.

LAMME

Sunday 12 January **Winter Tanners**

30, or 21 miles in 13 hours. Start 7.30 - 9.30am from Leatherhead Municipal CP.

Explorer 145 and 146

More information see Future Events in Strider

Organiser Barry Harrison, Tel: 020 8949 1547

Saturday 18 January **Punchbowl Marathon Marshals Walk**

25 miles Start 8.00am from Witley Church, Church Lane, Witley

Explorer 133 GR947397 More details from leader: John Lay Tel: 01932 346596

Sunday 2 February **Punchbowl Marathon**

30/25 miles Start: 8.00am Walkers, 9.00am Joggers, 10.00am Runners from Witley Village

Hall Landranger 186 GR948394 Time limit: 10 hours Full details in Strider

Offers of help with marshalling urgently needed, please contact organisers

Peter Bull Tel: 01344 842508 or John Lay Tel: 01932 346596

Thursday 13 February **Ransmore Roundabout**

17 miles Start 9.00am from CP on Ransmore Common by Steer's Field.

Explorer 146 GR142154 Pub stop for lunch

Leader Dave Challenger Tel: 01372 277138

Sunday 23 February **Newlands Corner Group of Tops**

20 miles Start 9.00am Newlands Corner CP

Explorer 145 GR043493 Pub stop at Abinger Common for lunch

This is the fourth of a series of walks to climb all 41 tops over 150m in Surrey.

Leader Keith Chemerton Tel: 01483 563392

Sunday 2 March **March in the Park**

15 miles Start 9.00am from Bosme CP, next to Virginia Water station

Explorer 160 GR000679 Pub stop for lunch

Leader Gillian Bull Tel: 01344 842508

Saturday 8 March **LDWA agm Walks**

Choice of Three Walks from Pendley Manor Hotel, Tring, Herts

Full details will appear in December Strider.

Sunday 23 March **Rowlands Rump**

20 miles, linear walk from Liphook to Rowlands Castle. Return by train to

Liphook. Start 9.00am from Liphook station CP GR842309. Picnic Lunch

Leader Chris Hayward Tel: 01428 722817

Thursday 3 April **Punchbowl Perambulation**

12 miles Start 9.00am from Gibbet Hill CP

Explorer 133 GR899358 Pub stop for lunch

Leader Peter Bull Tel: 01344 842508

Sunday 4 April **Capel Area**

18 miles Start 9.00am Pub stop for lunch

Explorer 134 GR (details ibn)

Leader Jon Moore Tel: 01932 887206

: 5.

White Rose Hundred

24 - 26 May, 2003

In response to the appeal from John Sparshatt, the organiser of the above event, it has now been agreed that the Surrey Group will operate the checkpoint at **Carlton Village Hall** at GR067847. The Hall is situated at 38.9 miles along the route, it is NOT the breakfast stop although food will be on the menu.

The official opening time will be from 6.00 pm on **Saturday 24 May** until 4.00am on **Sunday 25 May**. The village of **Carlton** is on the edge of **Wensleydale** between **Leyburn** and **Aysgarth** and the grid reference shows that there is a pub close by the checkpoint.

There is therefore an urgent need for volunteers to offer their services over this Bank Holiday Weekend, any of you who have been on past events such as this will know how enjoyable it can be, with the opportunity to meet old friends and to make new ones as they pass through the checkpoint in varying states of disrepair and in need of food, water, and encouragement to spur them onwards.

Janet Chapman (01276 65169) will be co-ordinating this event and looks forward to hearing from you with further information for those interested.

Time for a change! - new scribe in the offing.

Following a series of informal chats during a recent Fibright midweek walk between the parties concerned, I'm very glad to announce that, as from next January, Peter Waterhouse will be taking over as Editor of this Newsletter. I've thoroughly enjoyed my spell of keyboard punching but we feel that Peter, who is well known to you all, will apply his skills at editing technical journals, among other things, to very good effect, and we wish him well.

Midsummer Walk

As usual the weather for this very popular evening stroll was again perfect for this seven mile stunter, somewhere near **Guildford**! Sorry I can't be more informative but I wasn't there at the time. The group is pictured in the **Chantry** with poppies in full bloom, this is a field which is somewhere south of the North Downs Way. Although, by LDWA standards this is a

Wednesday 19 June

very short walk, even for a social it can still turn out to be quite strenuous with the leaders contriving to find some of the steepest tracks in the Guildford outskirts. I did manage to catch up with them all in the end when we were all treated to a magnificent supper at Tony and Louise's house. Many thanks for yet another memorable evening.



A Downman with no hills

Sunday 11 August

It was twenty five years since I last went on a LDWA walk, then it poured and I fell in the River Wey. This time the sun shone, at least for the first half of the walk. Not having done twenty miles since the school sponsored walk at the age of fifteen, I was a little worried about how I would cope.

However, my father assured me that the leader, Janet Chapman, had said that there would be no hills! About an hour after the start all twenty one of us stood on top of a green mound with superb views of the Isle of Wight. Taking into account my aching legs and puffed condition, the only logical conclusion was that we had indeed ascended a down and that we would do so a few more times before the morning was out.

But I could not have asked for more pleasant company, all were seasoned walkers apart from myself and another girl, Caroline who was on her first trip with the LDWA.

We were both made to feel welcome and the miles soon disappeared in some interesting conversations. One man from the Chichester Group was a font of local knowledge and entertained us with tales of leaping devils and lost German pilots.

We had lunch at the Unicorn in Heyshott where the service was quick and the food quite yummy.

The afternoon was spent plodding through some muddy fields and at South Harting we stopped once again for scrumptious home made cakes at the WI cafe.

The final ascent to the carpark was made in the rain and both Caroline and I had coped with the distance.

If I stayed in England I would probably join but I was told tales of other groups who shot through the countryside with altimeters and pedometers on their social walks.....

how incredibly off putting !! For me the fun was seeing lovely countryside in the company of entertaining people as well as the challenge of the distance.

Nally Chesterton



Exmoor Hundred

Plans are already afoot with the organisation of this major event in the LDWA calendar and it has been tentatively agreed that the breakfast checkpoint which will be sited in **Dubverton Town Hall** will be operated by volunteers from both the London and the Surrey Groups. As with next year's White Rose Hundred, Janet will be making all the necessary arrangements and all those interested should contact her on Tel 01276 65169

Spring Bank Holiday, 2004

Box Hill Basher

Thursday 27 June

Those of us who managed to dodge the rush-hour traffic to get to the top of **Box Hill** and Mike Marle's house in time for a prompt 9.00am start were able to enjoy a fine sunny morning and a cracking pace, all descent, off the Hill for the first three miles, across **Betchworth Park** golf course and onwards in a general southerly direction towards **Hollowood Common** and beyond.

We sauntered through **Chadhurst Farm**, well known to those 'Summiteers' amongst us who had passed this way two months earlier at a much faster pace. The picture below shows some well known faces as we joined the **Greenand Way** just before the lunch stop at the **Wotton Arms** where, once again, we were made particularly welcome here.

After lunch, continuing onwards and upwards onto the **North Down Way** and across



Ranmore Common, passing through the vineyards at **Denbies** and back along the **Pilgrims Way** and a steep climb back to **Cher Marle**.

THANK YOU
BARBARA for all your efforts in providing the wonderful fresh cream tea at the end of this very special and memorable midweek walk.

LDWA National Committee Vacancies

In March, 2003 at the AGM of the LDWA, several vacancies will occur due to the retirement from office of some of the existing committee members. It may well be that within our members are individuals who aspire to become elected to this extremely important group of volunteers who give of their time and individual skills to ensure that our Association is professionally organised.

If you are interested, please do not hesitate in coming forward, contact the Group Secretary for the appropriate nomination form NW, you will be given further information and every assistance in being proposed and seconded as a member of this vital team of enthusiasts.

B.