



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER
February 2002



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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.

Editorial

I often think that we are lucky in this country in having such an excellent mapping system and in particular I'm thinking of the OS Explorer series where each map, I consider to be a work of art.

However, having said that, there was a time back in October when my map reading skills, such as they are, were put to the test. Keith couldn't make it because of his biking accident and so I agreed to lead the assembled group of nine around the **East Surrey Group of Tops**.

Fortunately those that came were quite happy to let me navigate and probably lead them astray in the process. It is only then that you realise that half the paths you come across are not even marked, I'm sure that the Ordnance cartographers, when they map a new series of the Surrey countryside just come to the point when even they get confused with the myriad of paths, tracks, sheep runs, bridleways, bridlepaths, four-track trenches/etc etc.

Anyway, armed with the list of Tops we managed to find them all, some were hardly noticed as they were 'ascended' on the brow of some lane, and as we all know, Surrey group members are very talkative when on social walks and they were passed by without a backward glance! but then we came to **White Hill** where the climb up from Spring Bottom Lane certainly developed a thirst for the lunch stop at the **Barley Mow in Chaldon**, a true walkers pub this, stone floors, a good range of ales, a reasonably priced menu, fast service and no fuss and when we arrived without prior warning this, was even more commendable.

The last Top in this range of seven was **Botley Hill** and the climb up the **Pitchfont** track back to the carpark was knackered, to say the least, it was late afternoon and there was sufficient light not to need torches, if it had been a week later then night vision would have been necessary.

I don't want to turn this into a lecture but just want to stress the importance of having a torch with you when coming on winter social walks. I know that there are some who would argue that they are used to walking through the night without a torch, this may well be the case, but when you reach tarmac it is **ESSENTIAL** that you can be seen! We just don't want any accidents happening. OK!

The Drummond Arms in **Albury** is our new venue for planning meetings and by increasingly popular request, these are being followed by supper afterwards, unlike some other Groups who meet each month we confine our gatherings to just four a year, all the more reason to create the opportunity for talking amongst ourselves. We're good at that! Enjoy your walks

Editor

Bull Walk in the Park

Thursday 22 November

Nine of us gathered from two different carparks to start just after nine from the Savill Gardens area of the Park. After early morning rain we were blessed with one of those glorious autumn days when the tinted leaves glistened like jewels in the sunlight.

It was a figure of eight walk, commencing past the Obelisk and then going around the whole Lake. We stopped in an open grassy area near Johnsons Pond for coffee, under two ancient oak trees by a little bench. It was St. Cecilia's Day, the Patron Saint of Music, it was also a special day for our eminent walker Dave Challenger, so we all felt it was appropriate to burst into song tunelessly singing Happy Birthday to our friend and companion. This interesting sound echoed throughout the Park as the birds flew off in every direction. Having been refreshed, we continued the circuit of the Lake to soon pass the Totem Pole up to the Valley Gardens, along the top of Smith's Lawn, having walked through the colourful Heather Gardens, then on to admire Prince Albert's statue shining in the sunlight.

Our lunch stop was at The Sun where our Chairman joined us for a good meal and ale in pleasant surroundings.

The wind picked up in the afternoon as we went in the direction of Cow Pond to Royal Lodge, then through the deer gates and along down towards the Long Walk Later, when reaching St. George's Statue, the Copper Horse, we were greeted with splendid views of the Castle, Heathrow Airport and indeed the London Eye, all clearly visible in the bright afternoon sunlight.

We continued back to Royal School, through Cumberland Gate and then on to our tea stop at Savill Gardens Cafe. On returning to the carpark we said our farewells and I think we all felt fortunate to have had such lovely weather which always helps to enhance a walk.

GILLIAN BULL.

FINAL CLEARANCE SALE

BARGAIN PRICES FOR SURREY SHIRTS

All top quality with the highly acclaimed 'Leith Hill Tower' logo on the left breast:

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Polo Shirts	2	XL	£7
	3	L	£7
	2	M	£7
Tee Shirts	2	XL	£5

Contact Janet Chapman Tel: 01276 , 65169

Sunday 3 February**Punchbowl Marathon**

30/25 miles. See Future Events in latest Strider magazine.

Saturday/Sunday 16/17 February**Surrey Summits Marshall's Walk**

6.2 miles. More details from Reg Chapman. Tel. 01276 65169.

Friday 12 February**Walking in Natal**

Gillian Dull will be presenting a slide show on this evening to Surrey Group members, starting at 8.00pm at her home:

Abbots Corner, Abbots Drive, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4SE.

Please phone Gillian on 01344 842508 if you are planning to attend.

Thursday 21 March**Mudgehole Mini Marathon**

17 miles. Start: 9.00am from Windy Gap carpark near Leith Hill Tower.

Landranger 187 GR 140429. Pub stop for lunch.

Leader: Bill Grace Tel: 01784 259345.

Sunday 24 March**Dansfold Dawdle**

19 miles. Start: 9.00am from carpark near to Sun Inn, Dansfold.

Explorer 134 GR 007365. Pub stop for lunch.

Leader: Brian Haigh. Tel: 01483 305020.

Saturday/Sunday 13/14 April**Surrey Summits**

6.2 miles. See Future Events in latest Strider magazine.

Sunday 21 April**Surrey Inns Trail**

20 miles. Start: 9.00 am from St. Catharine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford.

Explorer 145 GR 992485. Pub stop for lunch.

Leader: John Lee. Tel: 01932 346596.

Sunday 28 April**Buckland Group of Tops**

20 miles. Start: 9.00am from Reigate Hill carpark. Pub stop for lunch in Headley.

Landranger 146 GR 262523. This is the third of a series of walks to climb all 41 tops over 150m in Surrey (Nos 12 - 18, seven today).

Leader: Keith Chesterton. Tel: 01483 563392.

Wednesday 15 May**Planning Meeting and Supper**

Start at 7.30pm to finish promptly at 9.00pm, followed by supper afterwards at The Drummond Arms, Albany. Details of menu etc. from the Group Secretary.

RAMME

Sunday 26 May

Farnham Frolic

20 miles. Start from Farnham Golf Club carpark
Explorer 145 GR838475 Pub stop for lunch
Leader: Mervyn Harvey Tel: 01798 344309

Wednesday 19 June

Midsummer Walk

7 miles. Start from 12 East Meads, Onslow Village, Guildford at 6.45 for 7.00pm
promptly. Hot potato supper (offers of desserts welcome) at the finish
Leaders: Tony and Louise Cartwright Tel: 01483 503768. Please advise Louise if
you are coming

Thursday 27 June

Box Hill Bender

13 miles. Start: 9.00am from Ashurst House, Ashurst Drive, Box Hill.
Landranger 187 GR198319 Pub stop for lunch
Leader: Mike Mardle Tel: 01737 841682

Saturday 13 July

Mystery Meander

17 miles. Start: 9.15am from small carpark by the Chichester Canal just north of
Flanton village on the west side of the B2145.
Landranger 197 GR865022 Pub stop for lunch
Leaders: Peter and Elaine Edwards Tel: 01243 262475

Thursday 25 July

Pirbright Potter

16 miles. Start: 9.00am from Village carpark
Explorer 145 GR 946561 Pub stop for lunch, picnic optional
Leaders: Molly Groundsell Tel: 01483 762843 and
Elizabeth Bryan. Tel: 01483 776985

Sunday 11 August

Downman Revisited (Part 2)

18 miles. Start: 9.00am from Harting Hill carpark (off the B2141)
Landranger 197 GR 789182 Pub stop for lunch
Leader: Janet Chapman. Tel: 01276 65169

Thursday 19 September

Northchapel Nomads

12 miles. Start: 9.00am from lane alongside the village green at Northchapel
Explorer 133 GR952295 Picnic lunch with drinks at Lodsworth
Leader: Mervyn Harvey Tel: 01798 344309

Sunday 29 September

Dansford Kanter

20 or 12 miles. Start: 9.15am from the clubhouse at George IV Playing
Fields, Dansford
Landranger 187 GR005369. ENTRIES ON DAY ONLY.
More information from organisers: Tony and Louise Cartwright
Tel: 01483 503768

Saturday/Tuesday, 12/15 October

October Three Day Event

8 miles. Start: Saturday pm. in the vicinity of Selworthy Beacon.
Walkers will stay at **Hobscote House, Selworthy, Exmoor**. The walks
programme will include 4 walks with extensive coverage of this beautiful area
Walks Leader: Phil Green
More details can be obtained from the Event Organiser: Molly Groundsell
Tel: 01483 762843

Look Out and About.

Saturday 10 November

On Saturday the 10th November, Surrey group eventually went out from the 'Look Out' carpark near Bracknell. This walk had been long in its gestation. It was devised by Les Maple and was originally planned for the 3rd March (when it was the first Surrey Group walk to be postponed by Foot and Mouth). Now that we're trying to catch up on those events it was back on the programme.

It takes its name from the Look Out, a Countryside and Science Discovery Centre in the Windsor Forest (and just on the southern tip of Bracknell). It turned out to be a splendidly sunny Autumn Day. 16 walkers were lead by Richard Ireson into the Windsor Forest by a circular route and then across the Iron Age Hillfort of Caesar's Camp.

Leaving the Forest the walk crossed Broadmoor and passed the special Hospital (whose inmates definitely cannot join the local walks!). Skirting the southern edge of Crowthorne, we passed through Ambarrow Nature Reserve and then onwards, along the River Blackwater, to the Nature Reserve at Moor Green Lakes (three reclaimed gravel pits that are now home to extensive flocks of ducks and waders).

Passing through the village of Finchampstead, lunch was taken in The Queen's Oak where our numbers were swelled by the Group Chairman (who had joined us at Ambarrow) and our National Webmaster (whose back was decidedly dodgy that day!). A bar had been reserved for our use, and lunch, when it eventually arrived, was filling.

Then it was back to cross the National Trust's Finchampstead Ridges and then down Wellingtonia Avenue (planted in 1863 with what is, in its native habitat, the world's largest trees). Next we traversed the extensive grounds of Wellington College to pass on to the west side of Broadmoor Hospital to return through Windsor Forest. The walk had expanded to 18 miles but still finished at 4.30 pm in the Look Out's Tearooms as darkness fell.

Richard Ireson

Sunday 30 September

Dunfold Kanter

The forecast was for heavy rain and strong winds, a mixture which undoubtedly deterred some would be entrants, but the total at 42 was four up on last year probably helped by the lack of events caused by foot and mouth restrictions.

Fortunately the weather was not as bad as forecast, there was no rain before 10.00 am and when it came it was only light, albeit persistent.

None of my daughters were available to help but Louise and Tony were able to help at the start before they set off to do the long route. Many thanks to them.

Brian Haigh

Lakeland Hundred : 1/2/3, June, 2002

I have had an urgent request from the organiser's of this event for help with manning checkpoints, they have been let down at this late stage, therefore if there are any individuals who would like to volunteer, please contact Boyd and Lillian Miller. Tel : 01539 724011

October Three Day Event

Saturday 13 October

The walk started at the carpark at **Grinlow**, with a distant view of **Solomon's Temple**. The weather was overcast but warm as we walked south passing **Stanley Moor** reservoir before climbing up towards **Axe Edge**. After a short stretch of roadwalking on the A53 we turned off up a track to **Axe Edge End**, then, via **Knotbury Common**, lunch at **The Three Shires Head** - no, not a pub but a very beautiful spot where the borders of **Cheshire**, **Staffordshire** and **Derbyshire** meet. The packhorse bridge with waterfalls on both sides made an excellent spot for our picnic.

After lunch we climbed up towards **Dane Bower**, then **Dane Bower Hollow** and on up to the **Cat and Fiddle** pub, which, at 1690ft is the second highest pub in England. Here we had a welcome refreshment stop (second lunch sitting)

Leaving the pub we headed north and detoured to climb **Shining Tor** where, on a fine day, we could have seen for miles, but no view today. At the top we met a large group of young people on a training exercise, preparing for an expedition, the young and fit in our party leapt the stile to hug the trig point.

Then we retraced and continued north to **Erwood** reservoir before swinging south toward's **Goyt's Clough** - a long slog uphill was this. after a short distance along the A54 we headed off along the footpath back to our starting point.

Altogether a very enjoyable day, for Dan, parts of the route brought fond memories of the 1988 White Peak Hundred.

It was good to get back to the hotel for a shower and an excellent evening meal; a few of our members even had some spare energy for a Barn Dance later.

Sunday 14 October

We drove through thick mist to the **Mam Tor** carpark. Visibility was so limited that we wondered if Ron would cancel or change the route - but no! two figures appeared from the swirling mist. Ann and Ron were ready to go.

We walked along **Rushup Edge** to the A625 then northwest to **Brown Knoll** joining the **Pennine Way** where we stopped for lunch. Unfortunately John ate so much that his trouser seam gave way, bringing out the very worst in the party in the form of ribald remarks and suggestions which John took in good part. A well placed safety pin did the trick and we continued on along the **Pennine Way** before branching off to visit the **Wool Pack** area.

The black stones made weird shapes in the ground mist, it was very atmospheric. On the steep track down from the **Wool Pack** Janet's mobile rang just as she was negotiating a particularly tricky section. This meant that the queue behind her wobbled, slipped and hung on, while she told Reg what time she thought that we would reach the pub in **Edale** where Reg and Peter were waiting. We soon joined them for a welcome drink.

It was a welcome surprise to meet up with Malcolm Whinney, secretary of the South Wales Group, also spending a weekend in the area. (We think he was checking up on Dan and Jean).

Here Ann left us for a nice shower and a cuppa while we climbed to **Hollin's Cross** and then on uphill towards **Mam Tor** and the welcome descent to the carpark.

Ann rejoined us to drive Ron home so we were able to thank them both for their leadership and for two excellent days walking.

On our last evening after another good meal, we had the choice of activities including a very competitive card game called 'Oh Hell' which was masterminded by Molly Groundsell; a stimulating political debate, presided over by Peter Edwards; and a private viewing of Barbara's wonderful photos of her Icelandic holiday

Dan and Jean Hadfield

Saturday 8 December

Christmas Walk and Dinner

What a lovely magical Saturday 8 December turned out to be. First we had a mystery coach ride around the Surrey lanes in brilliant sunshine with a touch of mist, for the start of a linear walk back to **Dunsfold** from **West Horsley**. After some lovely field and woodland walks we all arrived, mid morning, at **Abinger Hammer** for tea and cakes. Fully fed and watered we continued in a southerly direction, eventually arriving at **Shamblers Green** for lunch, where the first of much Christmas festive fare was consumed; crackers were pulled and paper hats adorned to keep out the cold later, talking of cold, why was Keith wearing an old doggie blanket around his shoulders? or was it a new creation from 'Parano' being tested for their 2002 catalogue? Not long after lunch the fog decided to add to the magic by coming down and cloaking us with a thick mist with the sun still trying to shine through. After turning up a side track, just by a fallen tree, the fairies had left flasks of coffee, tea and boxes of delicious cake hidden for us so that we could be refreshed for the last leg of the walk, it was about this time that the night drew in and with the fog we all managed to find our way back to our cars waiting for us at **Dunsfold**. Thank you Mervyn for making the whole day possible by arranging all the surprises from beginning to end.

IANEJ WHITEMAN