



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER
June 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 September for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

Editorial

I don't wish to brag, but following my appeal on this page just a few weeks ago about the lack of bodies turning up for our social walks, you seem to have taken it to heart when, on the recent 'Surrey Iron Trot' we had twenty on the books, including two runners and three from our friends in the Sussex Group. This trend continued the following week with Keith's third in the series of Surrey Tops walks. Happily it now seems that the countryside is getting back to some sort of normality and we can all look forward to some invigorating and memorable walks throughout the forthcoming summer months.

This paragraph is really for the benefit of our new members who, when they peruse the walks programme on the next page will notice that the clause.....'pub stop for lunch'

.....appears quite a lot, please don't get the wrong idea, we are not a troupe of old soaks,lurching from one pub to the next on a Sunday afternoon pretending to be long distance walkers, when a walk is listed as being '18 miles',it means just that : 18 miles, and if we choose to stop at lunch time at some suitable inn for a pint and some pub fare this is because this habit has become accepted as the norm by the majority of our members, having said that I know that several prefer to bring picnic lunches and to have a drink of coffee or squash instead. Whatever your choice,it really doesn't matter,as long as you come along and enjoy the walk which will be led at a reasonable pace , after all it is a SOCIAL walk and we're not out to break any records (not like some of our friends from up north who insist in turning every walk into a CHALLENGE)

While on the subject , I was pondering the other morning, it was very early, about 3.00 a.m to be more precise and I was trying to keep warm by sitting close by, in fact, almost in, the crackling bonfire that John Robinson had been stoking up all night at the Crabtree Cottages checkpoint on the Surrey Summits, as I was saying, I was pondering that this would be the last 'Summits' as we have come to know it , and that it will most likely be replaced in two years time with something else, this has yet to be decided but I'm sure that something will turn up, be it an extended day walk or an overnight trial so that those interested can 'qualify' for the Hundred in May? Whether or not a 'qualification' will be necessary any more is questionable to my mind, after all, if an individual is capable of walking 30 miles with ease then surely this is enough to entitle him to walk 100 miles? especially as there will be SEVENTEEN checkpoints en route to cater for his every need and should he decide that he has had enough walking for one day all he has to do is to hand in his checkcard at the next checkpoint , relax , and wait for the minibus to take him back to civilisation.

Already five months of the year have whizzed by ,and with it,four out of the five Challenge Walks that are staged each year by our Group, and for those who have been involved it must be very gratifying to know that, as a result of all their individual efforts, with a lot of sheer hard work and dedication,that the overall result in terms of entry numbers ,comments made during and after the events ,and the numerous 'thank you' letters that have subsequently been recieved after each Event that it has all been worthwhile,you only have to have a chat with our Treasurer to know that trade has been very good over this last quarter, I know that it is frowned upon to talk about profit but surely ,if any Event is to be organised efficiently, then ,at the end of the day if there is no daylight showing (please forgive the pun) between costs and income then something's gone badly wrong.

Something was wrong when I had to move off away from the warmth of the Crabtree bonfire to pick up a lone walker from Bagden Farm on the Summits, he'd used his mobile to say that he'd walked far enough and needed help².....how times change.

White Rose Hundred 24-26 May, 2003

In response to the appeal from the LDWA Events Secretary, John Sparshatt, it has now been agreed that the Surrey Group will operate the checkpoint at Carlton Village Hall GR067847. It 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 6.00pm 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.

For those of you who are interested in doing the Marshal's Walk, this will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday-Monday, 24-26 August next, more details about this can be obtained from John Sparshatt (Tel : 01943 869613)

There is therefore an urgent need for volunteers to offer their services over this Bank Holiday weekend, any of you who have been there on past events will know how enjoyable it can be, with the opportunity to meet old friends and 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 (Tel :01276 : 65169) will be co-ordinating this event and has further information for those interested.

Vacancy for Group Secretary

The present incumbent's three year term finishes in January, 2003. Therefore, according to the Group bye laws this notice now appears.

Any nominations, whether sent by a proposer or by an individual will be acceptable. Please send these names to Peter Bull or John Lay to arrive no later than Tuesday 17 December

Dunfield Dawdle

Sunday 24 March

Sun hats are not often needed in March but they would not have been out of place on this Spring walk.

Underfoot there was still a liberal amount of mud but three days without rain had dried out the worst by the time we - a party of twelve - headed towards the Wey and Arun Canal, currently the subject of a restoration project.

After a pleasant stretch of tarmac (I didn't hear any complaints) we reached the canal and then, a little farther on, we met a working party at a lock which had been blown up by some Canadian commandos practising for their raid on Dieppe during World War 2.

At Drangewick Lane, where there are plans to build an aqueduct to carry the canal over the River Lox we left the canal and headed north through fields to cross the A281 and reach the Thurlow Arms at 1.00pm. I had expected that we would encounter the spitting llamas but fortunately they had been moved to a different field off of our route. The speed with which we were served at the Thurlow Arms was not the fastest we had experienced, but as nobody needed a pudding (I saw none out with us) we were on our way again shortly after two.

First we followed the Downs Link, then we crossed farmland to reach the A281 again before arriving back at our cars close by the Sun Inn.

Many thanks to all who turned out to do the walk, not least Janet and John Whitman from the Isle of Wight.

BILIAN HAIGH

PROGFI**Wednesday 19 June****Midsummer Walk**

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

Thursday 27 June**Box Hill Bender.**

15 miles. Start : 9.00am from Ashurst House, Ashurst Drive, Box Hill
 Landranger 187 GR198519 Pub stop for lunch. Refreshments at finish
 Leader : Mike Mandle Tel : 01737 . 841682

Saturday 13 July**Mystery Meander.**

17 miles. Start : 9.15am from small CP by the Chichester Canal just north of Hannon 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**FirbrightPotter.**

16 miles. Start : 9.00am from Firbright Village CP
 Explorer 145 GR946561 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 CP (off B2141)
 Landranger 197 GR789182. Pub stop for lunch.
 Leader : Janet Chapman. Tel : 01276 . 65169

Sunday 1 September**Surrey Inns Kanter Marshal's Walk***

20 miles. Start 9.00am from outside St. Catharine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford
 Explorer 145 GR992485 New route along Wey Navigation. *All welcome, Pub stop for lunch
 Leader: Jon Moore. Tel 01932 887206, email jon.moore4@ntlworld.com

Tuesday 17 September**Planning Meeting and Supper**

Start at 7.30pm to finish promptly at 9.00pm. Followed by supper at the Drummond Arms,
 Albury
 Please phone John Lay, Tel.01932 . 346596 by Tuesday 10 September if you wish to stay for
 supper.

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 later at Lodsworth.
 Leader : Mervyn Harvey Tel : 01798 . 344309

Sunday 29 September**Dunsfold Kanter**

20 or 12 miles. Start : 9.15am from clubhouse at George IV playing fields, Dunsfold.
 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
 Holnicote House, Selworthy, Exmoor. The walks programme will include 4 routes with
 extensive coverage of the Brendon Hills area. Walks Leader : Phil Green. More details can be
 obtained from the Event Organiser: Molly Groundsell. Tel : 01483 . 762843

AMME

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, also see Future Events, page 101 in latest Strider magazine.

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 **Puttenham Common Circular**
20 miles. Start: 9.30am from Puttenham Common Top CP
Explorer 145 GR020462 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 far CP at rear and over bridge PLEASE KEEP QUIET WHEN ASSEMBLING (STAFF SLEEPING).
Explorer 145 GR049478 Dinner at 7.30pm at the Drummond Arms (Book early with Tony or Louise to avoid disappointment)
Leaders : Tony and Louise Cartwright 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 the route description
Organiser : Ralph Henley (MABAC Running League) Tel : 01784 . 252104

Wednesday 1 January **Surrey Inns Kasser**
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.

Sunday 12 January **Winter Tappers**
30, or 21 miles in 13 hours. Start 7.30 - 9.30am from Leatherhead Municipal CP.
Explorer 146 GR164566
More information from organiser : Barry Harrison Tel :020 8949 1547

Saturday 18 January **Punchbowl Marathon Marshal's Walk**
25 miles Start 8.00am from Witley Church, Church Lane CP, Witley
Explorer 133 GR947397
More details from leader : John Lay, Tel : 01932 . 346596

SPLODGE, SPLODGE, SPLODGE, the runner tore past us downhill at a good pace through what can only be described as a mud moussie in a trench bounded on either side by narrow slopes of chocolate. The word mud was just not good enough for the many different combinations experienced that day. Too, the different noises of traction through it were quite alarming. I daintily perched on my chocolate edge trying to keep my balance as I avoided the brambles not wishing to slip and stand shin deep in the moussie in my clean trainers. The runner kitted out in vest and shorts was likely to finish near the front of the field, but he needed to as he did not seem to have waterproofs with him and the forecast was for rain which appeared after lunch.

Of course lunch was not an option for over a hundred enthusiast walkers that had to finish or down trying. Combatants walked, some jogged and walked, and a few ran. Some wiser ones knowing the route and the likelihood of flooded paths stayed at home to test themselves perhaps next month in Kent. Both Anthony in safari shorts and Dave in bright red trousers seemed less bothered than I with the mud, trying to keep my feet dry. Later in the afternoon rain I too saw my feet disappear repeatedly in pools of water or soft trackle, the trick was not to fall flat while reading directions.

Earlier that morning I had arrived late and saw that most people had gone despite the staggered start recommended by the organisers. So at 0924hrs I jogged slowly to the corner of the field and turned left. I had only gone five minutes and which way was it now? Fortunately a lean runner with a short pigtail had no doubts and I happily followed on behind as we started to overtake people after quite a long spell of solitary. I began to realise that his happy pace was a bit too fast for me and so I asked for our position before losing him as I jogged slower and eventually stopped for a breather. Then I jogged and walked with two ladies and used their navigational skills. Both had had a demanding walk last week and one was recovering from a bad cold, after today we all may have had colds I thought before leaving them to follow a tall fellow called Anthony, he did jog at my pace and helped me with navigation from there past checkpoint 1 and to checkpoint 2 without a drink! I think that checkpoint 1 was down a drive between houses but my two companions then were unsure and then a resident pointed me in the wrong direction and so it was missed.

In a large grass field beneath a tree after yet another stile I donned my waterproof top, as the rain was steady for the first time and then followed Anthony, he had caught up after finishing his mobile phone call to someone that turned out to be only 100m away! Voices saved us from getting lost, as the correct way was in the opposite direction! At checkpoint at 17.7 miles I collapsed in a chair knocking back plastic beakers of squash with the odd tea, and after nearly ten I realised that I had to get on and brave the rain. A lonely figure I made, rather damp and lacking confidence to follow the orienteering-like directions I plodded on. Damp and cold now with total waterproofs on except for wet trainers, I waddled past the playground and up the track by the antiques shop like some stray duck in a trance. Further on I stopped to read my soggy directions bending my head to stop the rain from further wetting them. The next path looked just like the trenches of WW1 as I slipped and plodded on, holding on to the fence posts to steady myself before I crossed a railway line high up above the path. Mind the live rail!

At the large holly bush I could not guess the way and did not think that I had gone 370m to this multi choice of route, fortunately a couple of ladies soon appeared and worked out the problem (they had done 100 mile routes) with the confirmation of my compass. Gratefully I followed these experts and knowing that my directions were stuck together and not usable

did so happily. I had given up the 30 miles idea a long time ago in my mind and now was less worried about attaining a good time than just getting out of the relentless mud and rain. Soon we caught up with a group and became a merry band that eventually found a four-wheel drive on a high car park at checkpoint 3, the owner handing out new 25 mile direction sheets. 'Everyone has to do the 25 now', he said, from the comfort of his car. I was happy with that and leaving the group I jogged down the long valley track through the trees to the farm by the road. From there by stile and field, kissing gate and track, mud and puddle, jogging mainly I progressed nearer to the last lane where a girl ran past me in tights and said, 'Hi'. I tried to respond but my marnise sarnies, my latest excuse to walk, got stuck in my throat. 'Arrrr-agh!' was all I could manage, I was nearly as articulate as one of Darwin's distant relatives.

Soon after came another male running faster. Obviously they'd had an altercation, what else? It certainly wasn't Spring yet!

KEVIN HARRIS

Winter Tanners Silver Jubilee

Sunday 13 January

John Westcott looks back...

I never quite got to the bottom of what motivated Alan Blatchford to start the Winter Tanners. He once told me he decided to invite 'a few' friends along to the first walk out of the proposed 1976 Tanners route. This would commit him to doing it rather than allowing an urgent aspect of one of his other many 'leisure' activities to take precedent. On the other hand he also told me he was surprised how popular the Tanners Marathon had become and how 'easy' so many were finding it to walk a cross country 30 miles and intimated he would 'scot the men from the boys' (women from the girls does not seem quite appropriate) by walking the same 30 miles in tough winter conditions. Whatever the real reason, on the 11th January, 1976, a small crowd formed outside Leatherhead Football Club (probably greater than the crowd inside on a Saturday afternoon) awaiting a leader who was late enough to give rise to doubts among those assembled whether they had got the right date. When Alan arrived he told us that his vehicle had broken down. He produced a map, possibly the OS 1 inch No.170 as the new 1:50000 series (pre Landranger) was still not widely being used. The would be walkers momentarily deserted their starting blocks, two of them holding the map against a nearby notice board while the others gathered around and Alan waved his hands over it to indicate where the route of the walk was to go. There was a sketch map with a few notes available but as the number who turned up far exceeded expectations they were hard to come by. I was one of those who missed out and had to rely on keeping up with the leader as my means of navigation, a task made easier by his stopping every now and again to consult the map. Although I kept up with the main pack for most of the way I had to give them belt towards the end and was left to my own navigation. I arrived back at Leatherhead with John Probert over an hour later than Alan by a different route. We still got our certificate though, and we were included in the results. This goes down in history as the first Winter Tanners. Sadly, just eight months after the 1980 Tanners, Alan died at the age of 44. He had already given me the route for 1981 so I developed it and I naturally fell (or was I pushed) into the role of organiser. After the flair of my predecessor my efforts became rather routine. I did not have Alan's memory or his aptitude for assessing

what was going on so I had to have a more formal approach to the Event
 For many years I, like Alan, took part, but as I slowed down found it increasingly difficult to
 organise in conjunction with going round the route. Barbara Blatchford acted on behalf of the
 Tanners Marathon Association to tell me where the route was to go for the 1982 to 1990
 events. From 1991 onwards, not only am I to blame for the route description, but also, where the
 route goes. In devising the routes each year I have tried to continue the policy of making each
 route different. This is difficult bearing in mind the constraints of having the same venue and that
 Tanners Hatch YH is to be the last checkpoint. Obviously the same paths are used time and
 again, but by using different combinations, walking the paths in reverse and not using the same
 'distant' area in two consecutive years it gives a fair element of the variety I seek. I make a point
 of using one footpath on each route that, as far as I'm aware, has never been used before on a
 Winter Tanners. In 2000 I introduced a 20 mile option which has boosted the declining entries

John Widdcott

Winter Tanners Silver Jubilee : Results

Comparisons are interesting, in 1976 there were 62 starters, 11 years on in 1987 this had
 increased to 152, this year, 25 years later, all records were broken with 293 starting, what must
 be ranked as one of the most popular events in the LDWA calendar nationally, with entrants
 coming from all over the country to take part.

Many congratulations are therefore due to John for fostering this classic marathon to the level of
 popularity that it now enjoys.

Changes for 2003

Event	Day/Date	Organisers
Surry Inss Katter	Wednesday 1 January	Jon Moore
Winter Tanners	Sunday 12 January	Barry Harrison
Purchbowl Marathon	Sunday 2 February	John Lay, Peter Bull



Surry Summits Birthday
 Celebrations.....were held at the Duke of
 Kent School which opened its doors on the
 Saturday afternoon of this event, also
 serving as checkpoint 3 for any walkers
 who just happened to be passing through.
 Peter Edwards, pictured here with his wife
 Elaine was celebrating and at the same
 time making sure that all were fit and well
 and that all had been fed and watered
 before they were allowed to leave. This is
 something that he is particularly good at
 and he must be one of our longest serving
 Marshals, always cheerful and quick to
 offer words of encouragement to those
 tilters who need to have their spirits
 boosted