



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2003



Items for Newsletter

The Newsletter is published three times a year, Spring, Summer and Autumn. Reports of past events, letters, and other items should be sent to the Editor one month before the publication date of the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be sent by email or typed, but manuscript will be accepted.

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Editorial

The summer walking season is upon us, hot days in the summer sunshine and long cool evenings. I suspect most of the group will be looking forward to their summer holidays, which I assume, will be walking up mountains and along high ridges. Certainly that is what the editor and his wife will be doing in the Picos de Europa. I wonder if you, like me, will notice a difference when you greet fellow walkers in Continental Europe; they always politely reply with the appropriate phrase. This is in stark contrast to some situation in Southern England when a polite greeting is frequently ignored.

Readers will have noticed in the Group Programme a MAYBAC walk. John Lay writes to say that MAYBAC was founded by Alan Blatchford in the sixties before he, together with Chris Steer, founded the LDWA in the 1970s. Any member of Surrey LDWA would be welcome at any of the events organised by MAYBAC and these can be found on their website www.MABAC.org.uk

Bramley Ramble

On a day made for walking—dry with hazy sunshine in the morning becoming brighter in the afternoon—no less than 15 members set off, on the 15th May, from the edge of the Chantry Woods led by that dynamic duo Molly Groundsell and Elizabeth Bryan. None of us knew where we were headed but that did not matter. We were happy to follow in their foot-steps. Initially we followed the River Wey and nearly reached Godalming and then, having turned off, we nearly reached Winkworth Arboretum before turning off again to nearly reach Hascombe. Next we turned towards Bramley along part of the route used for the Punchbowl and as it was getting on for lunch we reached the Jolly Farmer where we enjoyed a long wait before having an adequate lunch. After lunch we headed towards Chilworth from where we nearly reached St. Martha's but instead we found the sting in the tail, a sharp climb up to the shoulder of Chantry Woods from where we dropped down to the car park. It had been an enjoyable day out. Many thanks to Molly and Elizabeth.

Brian Haigh

A walk with a purpose (and even a view)

As most in the Surrey Group will know, a few years ago Keith Chesterton spent many hours on a detailed examination of the local maps and put together a list of the tops in Surrey greater than 150m above sea level, known as the Chestertons. Over the past year or so the Surrey Group, as part of their social walk programme, have been ascending these eminences. Such a walk was held on Sunday 23rd February with the intention of climbing the five that were in easy reach of Newlands Corner. So it was on that day that 12 intrepid explorers set out under the leadership of Keith to walk eastwards along the North Downs Way, with several diversions, to ascend Woodcote, 208m, Netley Park, 203m, and Hackhurst, 227m, respectively numbers 23, 25, and 20 on the list. The lofty heights of the North Downs had to be left for the depths of the valley in order to ascend the Green Sand Ridge to claim Longmore, 161m, and number 39 on the list. As this top is on private land, it was claimed by applying the rule of the nearest public right of way. Lunch was thankfully taken at Abinger Common, sitting out in the pub garden so pleasant was the weather. There followed a trek down to Shere and onwards and upwards to St. Martha's, 171m and number 35 on the list. Naturally the walk ended at Newlands Corner, which surprisingly is not a Chesterton being only 105m in height.

Our thanks go to Keith not only for the original compilation but also for his leadership of the walk.

Virtual Reality

On the 14th March 12 members of the Surrey Group enjoyed a virtual mountaineering holiday. Gillian Bull lead us on a mountaineering holiday in the Tatras and the Pyrenees through the photographs she took while on a Holiday Fellowship Classic Walking holiday at Zakopane on the Polish-Slovakian border and at Barrege in the Central Pyrenees.

Zakopane, south of Cracow, was developed in the late nineteenth century as a spa town and is now a largely unspoilt holiday resort in the foothills of the Tatras. The famous mountain in this part of the Tatras is Giewont, 1894m, which, it is claimed, all Polish people must climb at least once in their lifetime. In fact, such is the popularity of the mountain that there is a one-way traffic system at the top! Two features of the footpaths in the Tatras are that they are incredibly steep and they are paved. The latter may not help on the descent but they certainly help on the ascent. A visit to Zakopane is not complete without a tourist visit to Cracow, a world heritage city, remarkably little damaged by the Second World War.

Barrege is a small town on the French side of the Central Pyrenees which, until recently, was a popular HF Classic Walking and Skiing centre. The nearest well-known spot is the magnificent Cirque de Gavarnie surmounted by the impressive gash in the border ridge known as the Breche de Roland. One of the beauties of this region is the change in scenery from the largely limestone ridge of the border mountains to the parallel granite ridge to the north with its delightful lakes reflecting the surrounding high mountains.

Upper slopes of the Cirque de Gavarnie and Breche de Roland



Punchbowl Perambulation

On the 3rd April the inviting odours of bacon sandwiches from the NT café on Gibbet Hill wafted past as 12 walkers, under the leadership of Peter Bull, gathered in the car park on a glorious spring morning. With no previous rainfall for nearly a month conditions were ideal for walking and were soon stopping to peel off our outer garments and reveal our summer walking attire. We headed north along the southern ridge of the Devil's Punch Bowl, one of the largest spring eroded valleys in Europe formed over 1000 year ago by a series of springs cutting and eroding the sandy beds of Greensand. Extensive tree felling had been undertaken so we had to tread warily along the path, although this did not prevent us admiring the beautiful views over the surrounding countryside. We soon headed west in the vicinity of Chart and past fields of well tended fruit trees and also fields of healthy looking llamas, although no one seemed to know what they were doing there. A descent was then made to the extensive sandy heathlands bordering Frensham Ponds. After a stiff climb to the Devil's Jump, where there were magnificent views across to the Hog's Back and Farnham, a suggestion from our leader for a two-mile extension to another view-point was met by stony silence. We then skirted Frensham Little Pond.

Lunch was taken at the Duke of Cumberland in Tilford where we were joined by a further member of the group who had tracked us down by following the planned route. The walk resumed with extensive views over Kettleberry Hill and Hankley Common and so on to the Devil Punch Bowl and our starting point at Gibbet Hill.

Afternoon tea was taken in the NT café and grateful thanks were extended to Peter Bull for a great day out.

John Stowell

Capel Village

Ten walkers assembled at Capel on the 6th April for a walk in the area west of Gatwick, an area little walked by the group. The morning was spent traversing undulating countryside to arrive at the pub at Ifield for lunch where the only food available was a full roast or a giant veggie Yorkshire pudding. Undaunted, the Surrey Group showed their true mettle and rose to the challenge consuming vast quantities of food.

After lunch a flat section saw us ducking under the wheels of incoming jets as we crossed a large field close to the start of Gatwick runway. This led us on to the only climb of the day, the precipitate south face of Norwood Hill to the trig. point at 97m. (Well the gentle slope felt precipitate whilst suffering from the effects of a giant Yorkshire pud!). The route from here took us through Newdigate and back to Capel.

Thank you Jon for a pleasant and interesting walk
Dave Challenger

March in the Park

On the 2nd March 15 members of the group set out from the car park at Virginia Water Station under the leadership of Gillian Bull for a walk in Windsor Great Park. However, the group had first to navigate their way through the opulent surroundings of the Westworth Estate, home to celebrities as Bruce Forsyth and one other of different fame, General Pinochet. This was followed by a walk across the Golf course, well three actually, and fortunately for us there were no prestigious competitions taking place. Then it was into the 2,500 hectares of park land known as Windsor Great Park. The walk went over Smith's Lawn with its imposing statue of Prince Albert to lunch at the Sun Public House in Englefield Green. In the afternoon, the walk took the group to the bronze statue of George III on the Long Walk. From this vantage point Windsor Castle could be seen to the north, a busy Heathrow to the north-east and through binoculars the London Eye could be seen to the west. The Long Walk was originally laid out with a border of elm trees in 1680 and it now forms part of the Three Castles Path. Towards the end of the walk a stroll through Valley Gardens enabled the group to enjoy the early blossom on the rhododendrons. A pause was taken to admire the highly decorated Indian Totem Pole, a gift from the people of British Columbia to Queen Elizabeth II. Afternoon tea was taken at the café in Saville Gardens before the walk back through the Westworth Estate to the car park in Virginia Water. Our thanks go to Gillian Bull for a very enjoyable day out in the park.
Erling Harwen

The Moonwalk

It is not the practise of LDWA members to do sponsored walks but there are always exceptions. So it was that Ann Sayer took part in the Moonwalk on May 10/11th, with about 11,000 women, and a few men, on a marathon raising money for breast cancer research. Her team was organised by Sylvia Steer and included Jill Green.

The walk started in Battersea Park at 11pm and went eastwards along the south bank of the river to Tower Bridge and back along the north bank to Battersea Park for the end of the half marathon. On again through Chelsea and Kensington and through Westminster and back along the embankment over Chelsea Bridge to Battersea Park for the finish in the morning with the birds singing under a cloudless sky.

Even overnight there were people about and some of them could not understand why all these women were walking through the night wearing black leggings or tracksters (and some with their bras worn outside their tops!)

Ann writes, that if ladies are thinking of entering next year the entries close at the end of February 2004.

Ann Sayer

Group Programme (Unless indicated, all walks have a pub stop for lunch)

<p>Sunday 21st September 12/20 miles Start: 8.00am; Bramley Village Hall, ENTRIES ON DAY ONLY Organisers; Tony & Louise Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768</p>	<p>Explorer 145 GR 009449 More information from organisers</p>	<p>Bramley Kanter</p>
<p>Tuesday 25th September Start: 7.30pm at Drummond Arms, Albury Supper afterwards, Please book beforehand with secretary, Secretary; John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596</p>		<p>Planning meeting & supper</p>
<p>Saturday/Wednesday 27/30th September Start: Saturday pm from Selworthy area Walkers accommodation at Holincote House, Selworthy, Exmoor The walks programme includes 4 routes to complete extensive coverage of the Exmoor National Park and the Brendon Hills Organiser; Molly Grounds; Tel. 01483 762843 More information from organiser</p>		<p>Autumn 4 day Event</p>
<p>Saturday 11th October 19 miles Start: 9.00am; CP at Darfold Wood, Picnic lunch with optional pub stop Leader; Jerome Ripp; Tel. 02085 462830</p>	<p>Explorer 133 GR 993330</p>	<p>Sussex Border Path, Part 1</p>
<p>Sunday 19th October 26 miles in 9.5 hours Start: 9.00am; Peaslake Memorial Hall More information from organiser; See also Future Events, page 105 Strider Organiser; Bill Thompson; Tel. 0208 992 0991</p>	<p>Explorer 145 GR 085446</p>	<p>Founder's Challenge</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd October 17 miles Start: 9.30am; CP in Four Marks off A31, Bus to Winchester; GR <u>672360</u> Returning by bus from Farnham Leader; Erling Hawson; Tel. 01372 379776</p>	<p>Explorer 132</p>	<p>St. Swithin's Way, Part 2</p>
<p>Sunday 26th October 18 miles Start: 9.00am; Jack & Gill CP nr. The Clayton Windmills; Picnic option for lunch Leader; Norma Newman; Tel. 01372 726332</p>	<p>Explorer 122 GR 303134</p>	<p>South Downs Saunter</p>
<p>Sunday 2nd November 20 miles Start: 9.00am; ; Witley Church CP, Church Lane, Witley Leader; John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596</p>	<p>Explorer 133 GR 947397</p>	<p>Punchbowl Pathfinder, Part 2</p>
<p>Sunday 9th November 17.5 miles Start: 8.30am; Top CP, Pattenham Common Leader; Keith Chesterton; Tel. 01483 563392 This is the fifth of a series of walks to climb all 41 tops over 150m in Surrey There will be two more walks to complete the series</p>	<p>Explorer 145 GR 920462</p>	<p>Hogsback Group of Tops</p>
<p>Sunday 16th November 20 miles Start: 9.00am; CP in Rabies Heath Road, Tilberston Hill Leader; Dave Challenger; Tel. 01372 277138</p>	<p>Explorer 146 GR 350501</p>	<p>Rabid Ramble</p>

Group Programme (Unless indicated, all walks have a pub stop for lunch)

Wednesday 18th June	Midsummer Walk
7 miles	
Start: 6.45pm for 7.00pm prompt;	12 East Meads, Onslow Village, Guildford
Hot potato supper at finish (offers for deserts welcome)	
Leaders: Tony & Louise Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768	
Please advise Louise if coming	
Thursday 3rd July	Brockham Circuit
20 miles	Explorer 146
Start: 9.30am; CP at jct. Wellhouse Lane & Wheelers Lane S of Brockham; GR 203485	
Leader: Jon Moore; Tel. 01932 887206	
Sunday 13th July	A Sea-breeze Saunter
20 miles	Explorer 120
Start: 9.00am; Chichester Railway Station (free parking);	catch 9.01am to Havant
Leaders: Peter & Elaine Edwards; Tel. 01243 262475	
Tuesday 15th July	St. Swithin's Way, Part 1
17 miles	Explorer 132
Start: 8.30am; CP in Four Marks off A31, Bus to Winchester; GR 672360	
Lunch at Abresford	
Leader: Erling Hawson; Tel. 01372 375776	
Saturday 19th July	Langstone Looksea
18 miles	Explorer 120
Start: 9.30am; CP at Ship Inn, Langstone; at north end of the bridge to Hayling Island GR 719047	
Short sea voyage beforehand lunch (bring money for ferry)	
Leader: Chris Hayward; Tel. 01428 722817	
Thursday 24th July	An Ashurst Ambulation
15 miles	Landranger 187
Start: 9.30am; Ashurst House, Ashurst Drive, Box Hill; GR 198519	
Leader: Mike Mardle; Tel. 01737 841682	
Refreshments after walk, please inform Mike if you plan to attend	
Sunday 3rd August	Punchbowl Pathfinder, Part 1
20 miles	Explorer 133
Start: 9.00am; Witley Church CP, Church Lane, Witley GR 947397	
Leader: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596	
Sunday 10th August	Downsman Revisited, Part 3
20 miles	Landranger 185
Start: 9.30am CP at Cheesefoot Head, off A272 via M3 jct. 9 GR 528278	
Leader: Janet Chapman; Tel 01276 65169	
Sunday 17th August	Wey Navigation
20 miles	Explorer 160
along Wey & Basingstoke Canal paths	
Start: 9.30am; Oakcroft, Dartnell Avenue, West Byfleet GR 053615	
Leader: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596	
Refreshments afterwards, please phone John if planning to come	
Saturday/Sunday 6/7th September	Summits Revisited
30/60 miles	Explorer 145, 146, 134, 133
Start: 8.00am; CP Onslow Village; Overnight accommodation at Witley Village Hall	
Pub stops for meals	
Leader: Tony Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768	

Group Programme (Unless indicated, all walks have a pub stop for lunch)

Saturday 13th December 15 miles Start: 9.00am; Drummond Arms, Albury, Rear CP over stream bridge GR 049478 Dinner at 7.30pm at the Drummond Arms, Albury. Please book your places with leaders Leaders: Tony & Louise Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768	Christmas Walk & Dinner Explorer 145
Sunday 28th December 12 miles Start: 9.00am walkers, 10.00am runners; RAF Memorial CP, Coopers Hill Road, Englefield Green GR 996748 Small charge for route description Organiser: Ralph Henley; Tel. 01784 252104 (MAYBAC Running League)	Windsor Winter Wander Landranger 175
Thursday 1st January 2004 12/20 miles Start: 9.00-10.00am; St Catherine's Village Hall, Guildford GR 992485 To finish by 4.30pm More information from organiser Organiser: Jon Moore; Tel. 01932 887206	Surrey Inns Kanter Explorer 145
Thursday 8th January 2004 Start: 7.00 for 7.30pm; Drummond Arms, Albury GR 049478 Supper afterwards. Please inform group secretary by 6 th Jan. if planning to stay Secretary: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596	Annual General Meeting
Sunday 11th January 2004 21/30 miles in 13 hours Start: 7.30-9.30am; Leatherhead Municipal CP More information from organiser. See also Future Events in Strider Organiser: Barry Harrison; Tel. 020 8949 1547	Winter Tanners Explorer 145, 146
Sunday 25th January 2004 25 miles Start: 8.00am; Witley Church CP, Church Lane, Witley GR 947397 Self supporting; bring adequate food and drink Leader: John Lav; Tel. 01932 346596	Punchbowl Marathon Marshall's Walk Explorer 133