



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2004



Between Tiffed and Alstead.

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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Surrey Group LDWA

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Editorial

Summer is past and autumn is upon us. The forthcoming programme contains a varied selection of walks and events starting in October 2004 and ending in May 2005. There are a total of 15 social walks, two challenge walks (the Winter Tanners and the Punchbowl Marathon), one Kanter, one weekend programme, one Christmas Dinner and the group AGM. The walk along the Surrey Border Path under the leadership of Jerome Ripp moves into its third stage, two more of Tony Youngs' walks from the 80s are planned and the final stage of the ascent of all Surrey Tops over 150m will take place in May 2005. A new innovation in this programme is a walk, to be led by Molly and Elizabeth, along one of the named walks, Hangers Way, that can be found on the Explorer maps. As readers can see in the Moon Meander entry, Tony Youngs walks were accompanied by delightful, hand drawn maps, accurate enough to locate the route on the relevant map, but also including drawings of things that can be seen on the route and information about items of interest.

Looking further ahead the group are planning a new walk for September 2005. The walk will be called The Surrey Tops Event and it is for walkers and runners. The distance is 50 miles starting from Witley Village Hall at 5 pm on Saturday 24th September (9pm for runners). There are already a number of volunteers helping with the planning and organisation but more are needed. If you wish to help with this Surrey group initiative, please contact Keith Chesterton, 01483 563392.

Unusually for the Surrey group two planned walks in the last programme had to be cancelled/postponed due to foot/ankle injuries suffered by the leaders. They were Erling's walk of the 22nd September, Surrey Heights, and Keith's walk of the 3rd October, Leith Hill Group of Tops: the latter has been rescheduled. Both leaders send their profound apologies. Keith has written to say that he is suffering from a condition known as 'Policeman's Heel' also known as Heel Spurs and, formally, as Plantar Fasciitis. He adds that this condition has not stopped him cycling because on the planned day of the walk he cycled from Guildford to the start, just in case anyone turned up, no one did, and then continued up Leith Hill for tea and cakes!

The Christmas walk and dinner takes place on Saturday 11th December at the Drummond Arms, Albury. Those planning to attend this event should contact Louise as soon as possible, 01483 503768.

This year by a strange coincidence, three parties of Surrey group walkers spent a holiday in the same place in the Italian Dolomites, two using Holiday Fellowship and one party self-organised, in addition two of the parties were there at the same time. All stayed in Selva-Wolkenstein in the Val Gardena. This is fabulous walking country; high upland pastures overtopped by towering, snow dappled limestone cliffs reaching up to 2800m.

The cover picture for this newsletter is taken from a book first published in 1905, *Highways and Byways in Surrey* by Eric Parker, with illustrations by Hugh Thompson. In the preface of the book the author writes;

"But only by walking would it be possible to explore much of the country. You would never, except by walking, come at the meaning or read the story of the ancient Way, or the Pilgrim's Road that follows it; only on foot can you climb the hills as you please, or follow the path where it chooses to take you. It is only by walking that you will get to the best of Thursley heather, or the Bagshot pines and gorse, or the whortleberries in the wind on Leith Hill, or the primroses of the Fold country, or the birds that call through the quiet of the Wey Canal. ... The walker through Surrey sees the best; the others see not much more than the road and what stands on the road."

As true today as it was nearly a century ago!

Meon Meander 27th June

20 souls set off from Petersfield Station at 9 am after our leader, Dave, gave an account of the walk we were to re-tread; a walk that first took place in November 1989 which was led by Tony Youngs. Three of our party did the original walk, but, when quizzed, failed to remember much about it.

We set off in bright sunshine soon to cross the busy Petersfield bypass, a part of the A3 that did not exist when the walk was first done. About 1/2 mile on our leader pointed upward to the skyline ahead, promising a coffee stop on top of Buster Hill, the highest point on the South Downs. On arrival at the summit at 10.35 am we were rewarded with magnificent views of the Solent, the Isle of Wight and the Southern landscape but the coffee stop was what we were carrying and not a pleasant country café.

We continued on Downland tracks and fields, over 11 styles and finally a 'gate' with no foothold, perilous to the vertically challenged. We arrive at East Meon at 12.35 for lunch in the Old George Inn. Underfoot conditions were so dry we were welcomed to enter without removing our boots! Dave had been very thoughtful and had reserved a table for us in the inn. Our next hill was Park Hill that towered over the threshold of the pub. Dave, knowing what was to come, supplemented his lunch with Summer Pudding while most of the other walkers slipped in an extra pint of 'Tanglefoot' to help them on their way.

After the immediate steep climb of Park Hill, the rest was 'downhill', except for the solitary stile. The Meander seemed to be forgotten after lunch, as it was a brisk pace with no stragglers all the way to the station. However, there was one pause at Steep Church to view the memorial window, engraved by Laurence Whistler, to Edward Thomas, poet and walker. We did wonder if we had returned to Petersfield Station, as there was a gathering of Orangemen in full regalia in the station car park. Apparently they were celebrating, yet again, King Billy's, William of Orange, victory in 1690 at the battle of the Boyne. The explanation is that there is a statue of William of Orange in Petersfield.

Jan McLeod

THE MEON MEANDER

As it was such a rainy day (and very windy), before the walk we went to the top of the South Downs, a very hot day. The rain along the Meon was the result of the wind, and of the hills and the bit of height from the ground up to the station. The views of the Meon 25 miles to the west are the best you can see from the Meon valley. The views of the Meon 25 miles to the west are the best you can see from the Meon valley. The views of the Meon 25 miles to the west are the best you can see from the Meon valley.

River and Seaside Saunter Sunday 18th July

A typical English summer day dawned – wet, windscreen wipers going to help see the way to the start at Arundel. In spite of this discouraging outlook, 19 eager enthusiasts arrived to brave the elements plus Timber who excitedly wagged her tail not caring rain or sun.

All were rewarded as the sun soon joined us as we strolled, or was it raced, as we tried to keep up with the leading, unofficial, front-runners. Along the twisting Arun to the Quay at Littlehampton where we stopped for a welcome break of steaming mugs of coffee for the old-fashioned price of £1.90 for three mugs.

The sun, now warm as we passed the boats then a sharp right turn onto a hidden footpath that the ‘racers’ had missed and so had to be called to heel.

A lovely, twisting path alongside the Littlehampton Golf Course leading to the beach at Climping with its the green verge clothed with yellow poppies.

The twelve picnickers enjoyed their lunch and were greatly entertained by Timber, as rather hesitantly at first, she discovered the ways of the waves and the joys of sea bathing: a first time treat for her. Reluctantly, we left the beach and walked along the lane to join the rest of the party at the ‘Oyster Catcher’ pub in Climping, where they had enjoyed a delightful and well-served luncheon in the garden.

The walk took us along the road and north across the cornfields. This part was followed by a brief look around the 12th Century church at Yapton and then through the twisting paths of Binstead Wood and so back to Arundel where several indulged in a welcome tea at the Copper Kettle tearooms.

A big thankyou to all who joined us to make it an enjoyable saunter without a hill in sight.

Elaine Edwards

Downsman Revisited, part 4

Sunday 15th August

Janet led us away from Dancton View Point and we climbed through the woods to join the South Downs Way at Littleton Down. A pleasant walk followed, south eastwards, along the Downs to meet Reg. for our coffee break. Unfortunately the ‘Ravers’ were there with volume on high. We didn’t stay long, but it was long enough for one of our group to join in the dancing! Further along the way Janet told us that when she was checking the walk with Avril, a man was seen ‘un clothed’. After confirming with Avril that it was not a mirage and, with a final glance over their shoulders, their pace quickened somewhat. Where the South Downs Way crosses Stone Street we turned on to the Monarch’s Way to our pub stop at Houghton. Suitably refreshed we proceeded along the River Arun to Bury, then cross-country through the villages of West Burton, Bignor, Sutton (for a second pub stop) and Barlavington where Reg. was waiting with tea and cakes. A climb back to the View Point completed a most enjoyable day.

Our thanks go to Janet for leading such an enjoyable walk and to Reg. for the coffee, tea and cakes.

Bill Grace

The Mike Mardle Memorial Walk 26th August

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

This was a 13-18 mile walk (only our organizer believed that it was 13 miles!) in memory of Mike Mardle on a perfect sunny English day. We met at the home of Mike and Barbara in Boxhill village and set off on along the North Downs, on a route which was to take us around Dorking via fields and woods to a pub stop at Wotton Hatch. There were about 16 of us and as an invited guest from The States, I felt honoured and lucky to be on this walk.

This was a day with the best of everything: England at its best (the weather), Surrey at it best (the beautiful and changing landscape), and LDWA walkers at their best honouring their loved and departed friend, walkers looking out for each other over the stiles and their open and friendly welcome of me.

John suffered the odd comment over the distance but then English miles always do seem a little odd. Returning along the North Downs the walk paused briefly for a photo shoot, see below, in the memorial field for Chris Steer, another departed and missed member of the group.

The VERY best of teas, Barbara's delicious and plentiful tea that awaited us at the finish was remarkable. The garden was beautiful, she had tables and chairs under a cover for us and had spent her day making this tea for us. Clearly Mike was loved by many and Barbara wanted to keep his memory alive, along with what he loved to do, and that was walk the English countryside.

We may never know the actual distance of the walk, but what I keep remembering is that this LDWA group goes the distance to honour their loved and missed walking friends with the same enthusiasm they walk the actual distances.

Thank you for a day with the best of everything you and your country have to offer. Despite the criticisms over the distance, our thanks go to John Lay who devised this enjoyable walk.
Carol Graybeal (a visitor from the USA)



*EXMOOR 100 29th - 31st May
Seventeen Hours and four hundred Breakfasts*

Another tremendous marathon from stalwart members of the Surrey group and helpers who completed not a walking marathon but a breakfast marathon.

The exercise started at Minchhead School, with Peter Edwards and Reg Chapman loading their cars with cereal, milk, sausages, tea, marmalade, beans and eggs. These goodies were taken to Dulverton Town Hall, in the heart of Exmoor, to provide food and comfort to 391 walkers, organizers and marshals. The Surrey Group marshals who were responsible for opening the CP 9B arrived at 20.00 hours to prepare for the scheduled opening at 23.30 Saturday evening, opening at 22.00 to support an early arrival.

When I arrived at the checkpoint it was a hub of organised activity. Being totally 'out of it' as one is on a 100, I did manage to recognise some Surrey and Thames Valley friends, there were however additional marshals that I did not recognise who had come along to lend their support to Surrey and Thames Valley.

On my arrival at the CP at 06.27 it was good to be sat down and waited on, although I did hear rumblings that after having washed and applied make up at CP 9A, I looked far too fit to have walked through a day and night and that I must have come in a taxi.

The breakfast CP is always a long haul; the volunteers who had opened the CP on Saturday evening were more than ready to finish by 08.00 on Sunday morning. The additional help meant that the shift system was able to operate.

The walkers on reaching the breakfast checkpoint had completed 58 miles. Looking after the walking wounded and exhausted requires a high level of TLC, however the pressure on the breakfast CP was eased this year as the walkers had been able to lick their wounds at CP 9A the baggage stop, but some were still in need of the TLC that was lavished upon them at the breakfast CP 9B.

The Marshals from Surrey and Thames Valley Group were:

Reg. Chapman, Peter Edwards, Elaine Edwards, Avril Stapleton and Peter Saunders, who worked through Saturday night until the dawn.

Elizabeth Bryan, Molly Groundsell, (as featured in Strider) John Westcott and John Robinson started their shift at 0200, followed at 3.30, by Carol Brooker, Phil Green and Ann Sayer. 0800 saw the arrival of Richard Breson, and Peter and Betty Waterhouse. Rumour has it that Carol enjoyed the weekend so much that she is waiting for Surrey to host another CP.

Congratulations to all the Surrey Group members who completed the walk, Don Bolton (marshals walk) Gail & John Elrick, Don Newman, Ian McLeod, Janet Whiteman and not forgetting me.

Ian McLeod completed his 9th 100, escorted and supported by Avril, Molly, Elizabeth, Elaine and Peter Saunders who walked with Ian through the second night. No mean undertaking as all five had been on night duty at Dulverton the previous night. They survived and so did Ian.

The final fling and highlight of the weekend was the evening, wineing and dining at the Rest and be Thankful at Whodden Cross.

Although Surrey has not volunteered to host a checkpoint on the 2005 Chiltern Landmark, 100, some members of the Group have offered their support and will be helping with the event.

Janet Chapman

Group Programme

All are welcome to these walks. They last about 8 hours and are taken at a reasonable pace. Unless indicated, they always include a pub stop for lunch and sometimes a tea stop.

If you intend to go on a walk, please tell the organiser or leader beforehand

<p>Thursday 7th to Sunday 19th October Autumn 4 Day Event Start: Thursday pm. Further details from organiser. Organiser: Molly Groundsell; Tel. 01483 362843 Walkers accommodation at the 10th Larpool Hall, Nr Whitby The walks programme will include extensive coverage of the North York Moors</p>	
<p>Saturday 16th October Lipchis Distance: 23 miles linear Explorers 133 & 130 Start: 9.00am; CP at Liphook Railway Station GR 842309 Leader: Chris Hayward; Tel. 01428 722817 Picnic lunch only. Return by train from Chichester</p>	
<p>Wednesday 20th October Tony's Going West Distance: 20 miles Explorer 145 Start: 9.00am; CP at West Hanger GR 070494 Leader: Tony Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768</p>	
<p>Saturday 30th October Another Afternoon Around Ashted Distance: 12 miles Explorer 146 Start: 12.30pm; 44 Agates Lane, Ashted, Surrey GR 178577 Leader: Dave Challenger; Tel 01372 277128 Refreshments afterwards at 44 Agates Lane. Please advise Dave if planning to come.</p>	
<p>Saturday 6th November Deer Oh Deer Distance: 18 miles Landranger 197 Start: 8.45am; National Trust CP at Petworth Park GR 966238 Leaders: Margaret Miles & Shirley Robertson; Tel. 01252 318176 Picnic lunch only.</p>	
<p>Saturday 13th November Surrey Border Path, part 3 Distance: 18 miles Landranger 186 Start: 8.45am; CP at Frenshay Great Pond GR 843405 Leader: Jerome Rippe; Tel. 0208 5462830 This will be a joint walk with the Wessex Group Refreshments at finish. Please inform the leader if planning to come.</p>	
<p>Saturday 11th December Christmas Walk and Dinner Distance: 15 miles Explorer 145 Start: 9.00am; Rear CP at Drummond Arms, Albury GR 049478 Leaders: Tony & Louise Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768 Dinner 7.30pm at Drummond Arms. Please book early with Louise</p>	
<p>Tuesday 28th December Windsor Winter Wander Distance: 12 miles Landranger 175 Start: 9.00am; walkers, 10.00am runners; RAF Memorial CP, Coopers Hill Road, Englefield Green; GR 996719 Organiser: Ralph Henley; Tel. 01784 252104 (MAYBAC Running League) Small charge for route description</p>	

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<p>Saturday 1st January 2005 Distance: 12 or 20 miles Start: 9.00 - 10.00am; St Catherine's Village Hall, Guildford Organiser: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596 Finish by 4.30pm</p>	<p>Explorer 145 GR 992485</p>	<p>Surrey Inns Kuster</p>
<p>Sunday 9th January 2005 Distance: 20/30 miles Start: 7.30-9.30am; Leatherhead Municipal CP Organiser: Barry Harrison; Tel. 0208 9491547 More information from organiser. See also Future Events in Strider</p>	<p>Explorer 146 GR 163567</p>	<p>Wister Tamers</p>
<p>Wednesday 12th January Start: 7.30pm; Drurmond Arms, Albury. Supper afterwards. Please pre-book with John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596</p>	<p>GR 049478</p>	<p>AGM</p>
<p>Saturday 22nd January Start: 8.00am; CP at Church Lane, Wisley. Leader: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596 N.B. There is no pub stop for lunch. This walk is self-supporting; bring adequate food and drink</p>	<p>Punchbowl Marathon Marshall's Walk Landranger 186 GR 947397</p>	
<p>Sunday 13th February Distance: 20/30 miles in 10 hours Start: 7.30am; Walkers, 8.30am Joggers and Runners. Full details in Future Events in Strider Offers of help with marshalling urgently needed, contact organisers. Organisers: John Lay, Tel. 01932 346596; Peter Ball, Tel. 01344 842508</p>	<p>Landranger 186 Wisley Village Hall: GR 947397</p>	<p>Punchbowl Marathon</p>
<p>Sunday 27th February Distance: 20 miles Start: 8.30am; Tilford Village Green CP. Café lunch stop Leader: Tony Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768</p>	<p>Explorer 145 GR 873434</p>	<p>Tilford Trudge</p>
<p>Sunday 13th March Distance: 16 miles Start: 8.45am; Petersfield Station CP Leaders: Molly Grounds; Tel. 01483 762843, Elizabeth Bryan; Tel. 01483 776985</p>	<p>Explorer 133, 120 GR 748235</p>	<p>Hangers Way</p>
<p>Sunday 27th March Distance: 22 miles Start: 9.00am; CP on A 285 south of Coking Leader: Dave Challenger; Tel. 01372 277138 This walk is the second of the Tony Young's series from the 1980s</p>	<p>Landranger 197 GR 874166</p>	<p>Coking Constitutional</p>

Group Programme

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Sunday 3rd April Distance; 18 miles Start; 9.00am; Arena Sports Club, Lingfield Leader; Jacky Barker; Tel. 01883 344410	Explorer 146 GR 396432	Round the Maypole
Wednesday 6th April Distance; 18 miles Start; 9.00am; Coldharbour Landslip CP Leader; Bill Grace; Tel. 01784 259145	Explorer 146 GR 148433	Return to Madge Hole
Saturday 16th April Distance; 20 miles Start; 8.45am; Hedgecourt Lane CP of A24 Leader; Jerome Rigg; Tel. 0208 5462870	Landranger 187 GR 358406	Surrey Border Path, Part 4
Sunday 1st May Distance; 25 miles Start; 8.30am; Dorking West Station CP Leader; John Lay; Tel 01932 346596 This walk is the third of the Tony Young's series of the 1980s	Landranger 187 GR 160499	Dorking Daunder
Sunday 8th May Distance; 17 miles Start; 9.00am; Leith Hill Road CP Leader; Keith Chesterton; Tel. 01483 563392 The final 8 tops - Holmbury, Woolpit, Pinch, Windmill, Reynards, Antisbury, Coldharbour and Leith Hills - to finish the ascent of all Surrey Tops over 150m.	Explorer 145, 146 GR 130433	Leith Hill Group of Tops