



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004



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
Branch officials**

Chairman: Tony Cartwright 12 East Meads, Guildford Surrey, GU2 5SP. Tel. 01483 503768	Secretary: John Lay Oakcroft, Dartnell Avenue, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6PL. Tel. 01932 346596
Treasurer: Barry Harrison 58 Arundel Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 3RZ. Tel. 0208 9491547	Membership: Reg. Chapman 63 Yockley Close, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1QQ. Tel. 01276 65169

Editorial

Social walks are not mini-challenge walks. You do not expect to be physically exhausted at the end of a social walk although you will be pleasantly tired. You will have enjoyed the company of like-minded people, the scenery, the lunch and everything else that goes to make up a good days walking. Why not, therefore, invite your friends who enjoy walking to join with us on a social walk? They do not need to be LDWA members, just walkers.

Members will have noticed that there are themes to some of our social walks; St Swithin's Way, Sussex Border Path, The Group of Tops, Downman revisited and now the group is starting out to revisit the set of walks devised many years ago by Tony Youngs. These were not only enjoyable walks but Tony produced delightful sketch maps to accompany them. These maps were full of interesting information about the district much of which was in finely drawn illustrations. A new venture is the London trip for a walk in the London Parks. This is guaranteed to be different from our usual walks.

Your help is needed for the Exmoor 100, Saturday 29th to Monday 31st May

The Surrey Group, because of their professionalism and attention to detail not forgetting TLC, have once again been asked and have agreed to host the Breakfast Stop.

The venue is Dulverton Town Hall, GR 914278, and this is CP 9B at 57.5 miles.

CP opening times are Sunday 30th May, 0030hrs to 1200hrs.

The hall is booked from 1800hrs Saturday to 1500hrs Sunday

It is proposed to operate a three-shift system with a varying number of volunteers

from 1800hrs Saturday to 0200hrs Sunday; up to 6 volunteers

0200hrs Sunday to 0800hrs Sunday; up to 14 volunteers

0800hrs Sunday to 1500hrs Sunday; up to 8 volunteers

The first shift will be engaged in setting up the breakfast stop and looking after the few walkers who are expected to arrive before 0200hrs.

The second shift will be dealing with most of the walkers.

The third shift will have the slow walkers and will have to return the hall back to its pristine state before they leave.

For the volunteers food at the CP is free. An invitation is also extended to all volunteers to attend the Surrey Extravaganza on the evening of 31st May.

Offers of help to Janet Chapman;

email jnet@thechappan.co.uk Tel. 01276 65269 or 07770 807137

There is a YHA hostel in Dulverton and plenty of B&Bs. Early booking is recommended.

Mike Maefle

It was with great shock that we learnt of Mike's death on 15th January 2004 from a very recently diagnosed brain tumor. Mike had only been walking with us for a few years but his association with the LDWA goes back to the 1970's when he started running in the Mabac Fun Run league under the flag of the LDWA. For many years he organized the LDWA teams and until his death he played a major role in running the League.

In recent years as his active involvement with running diminished he became a regular on our social walks, usually striding out at the front. For the last few years one of the highlights of our summer programme has been a midweek walk from his house followed by a generous tea provided by Barbara. He was always ready and willing to help out on events especially on the last years of the Summits on which he acted as a roving timekeeper.

He will be greatly missed by Barbara, his family and friends. Our thoughts are with them at this time.

Dave Challenger



Key Officials

No organisation, society or even the Surrey Group of the LDWA can exist and be active without two key officials, the secretary and the chairman. The photo above shows the group members what these two persons look like: John Lay on the left, our secretary, and Tony Cartwright on the right, our new chairman. Admittedly the photo is eight years old but these two fit walkers have not changed much in the intervening years.

As we note the arrival of a new chairman we must express our thanks to Peter Bull who has chaired the group for the last four years.

John Lay writes that it has been a pleasure working with Peter over the last four years. This is mainly because of his natural ability to make the democratic decisions during the planning meetings to ensure:

- that everything runs to time;
- that we do not get delayed; and
- that we finish in time for supper.

Group members may not have fully realised that the planning meetings and the AGM are in fact social events. When the work of the meeting is finished the group 'retire' to a splendid meal, chosen from the extensive menu at the Drummond Arms, and the conversation continues to flow.

St. Swithin's Way, Part 2

Wednesday 22nd October

It was raining when five intrepid walkers set out on the second half of the trek from Winchester to Farnham along the newly designated St Swithin's Way. But then it should have been according to ancient folklore. St. Swithin, an English saint, theologian and adviser to King Egbert was, in 852, made Bishop of Winchester where he died. When, in 971, the monks exhumed the body to bury it in the rebuilt cathedral, the reburial, which was to have taken place on 15th September, is said to have been delayed by violent rain storms – hence the current belief that if it rains on that day, it will rain for 40 more days.

On this day, in 2003, the rains did not last for long and by the time we were passing Jane Austin's house in Chawton, the weather had improved considerably and we began to enjoy brilliant autumnal sunshine.

We continued our 'pilgrimage' through the centre of Alton, passing Bonham's Farm believed to be a stopover for the monks of Winchester enroute to join their brothers of the Augustian Monastery who would lead them, ultimately, along the Pilgrim's Way to Canterbury.

Three miles farther on and we arrived at the 'Anchor' at Lower Troyle where we were treated as VIPs, fast service, excellent food and ale. It was only afterwards that we found out that Wednesday is always 'Pensioner's Day! We must have looked appropriately ancient.

Reluctantly, we left the home comforts of this excellent pub, I'm still trying to reason as to why it was called the 'Anchor', as there was no water for miles around.

We arrived in Farnham Park and continued past the ancient castle down into the centre of town to find the bus stop, where we caught the bus to take us back to our start at Four Marks.

Many thanks to Erling for these ancient monuments walk which was of great interest and through some of the most picturesque areas along the Hampshire/Surrey borders.

John Lay

South Downs Saunter Sunday 26th October

Under a clear blue sky eight walkers plus our leader set off from the Jack & Jill Windmills at Clayton for what in their innocence they thought was to be a saunter over the South Downs. (If this was a saunter remind me not to attempt a walk with Norma!)

Where did we go? A good question as we were taken on a route that zigzagged down through valleys and up to the tops passing isolated farms and only crossing one public road to arrive at Plumpton, our first contact with civilisation, for lunch. Those who opted for a picnic had their chosen site invaded by two off-road motorbikes and were forced to join the rest of us in the pub.

Suitably refreshed we climbed back on to the top of the Downs where we continued eastwards to pass Blackcap and Mount Harry before turning west again to zigzag our way back to Ditchling Beacon and the South Downs Way which we followed back to the Windmills.

The weather throughout the day was glorious and the views across the Downs magnificent.

Our thanks to Norma, ably assisted by Roger on the map, for an excellent day's walk.

Dave Challenger

Sussex Border Path Sunday 11th October

This was my first walk as a leader for the group and the first in what I plan to be a group of walks to explore the border areas of our county with explorations into adjacent counties. This walk also had an element of challenge in finding and parking in a remote pocket-handkerchief car park. Some frantic telephone calls were necessary to get all 11 of us to the start and taught me a useful lesson in choice of car parks.

The 19-mile route started in Darfold Wood and soon led to the Sussex Border Path on the county boundary. This was followed to the edge of Black Down which we slowly ascended, stopping to take in the extensive views to the east and then to the south. The long summer sun was still with us and soon many were in shorts and T-shirts.

Crossing the lovely Blackdown Park with its mansion and the South Downs in front of us soon brought us to our lunch stop at Lurgashall. John approved of the beer at the 'Noah's Ark' pub and we all enjoyed an outdoor lunch in the very warm midday sun. The cricket green was proof that we were in England but the weather made it seem like the south of France.

The afternoon took us through the pleasant village of Northchapel and then through some remote woods and farmland, passing a deer tower and then down to a stretch of water with the rather unimaginative name of The Lake. We made our way back to the Border Path and into Surrey for our tea and cake stop at the end. I enjoyed my first lead and look forward to the next one in May

Jerome Ripp

Lines from 'Moostemat'
*Peace waits among the hills;
I have drunk peace,
Here, where the blue air fills
The great cup of the hills,
And fills with peace.*

Arthur Symonds

Xmas walk and dinner Saturday 13th December

Such is the popularity of this event that the rear car park at the Drummond Arms was filled to capacity before 8.00am on this weekend walk before the Xmas break.

Yet again, Tony and Louise led us off on a mystery tour of the Tops along some paths and sheep tracks that I never have visited before and that are certainly not apparent on even the large-scale OS maps.

About 11.00am we emerged from woodland on to the Hornham Road leading down into Holmsbury St. Mary and to the recently reopened White Hart. Fortunately the landlord was expecting this early invasion of some 30 thirsty walkers. He was so well prepared that we were off again within the half hour heading south towards Ewhurst via Holmsbury Hill and the maze of tracks that are typical of the Hartwood Control area.

After a swift lunch break at the Barely Mow in Ewhurst we set off at a brisk pace towards Wisterfold Woods and a stiff climb up a steep track to surface again on the top of Raynard's Hill. There we regrouped and continued northwards along the Greensand Way to a welcome tea stop on Farley Heath.

Tony had gone ahead and was ready with mulled wine and Alison's birthday cake which was swiftly demolished and enjoyed by all.

It had been really quite a stressful fifteen miles, but our thanks go to Tony and Louise for arranging such a memorable walk.

The day finished with an alpha-plus Xmas dinner back at the Drummond Arms.

John Lay

The Winter Tanners Sunday 11th January 2004

The Winter Tanners is not a social walk but a challenge walk. It is organised by the group and is an important event in the LDWA Calendar; hence this report. It is one of the few truly challenge walks in the calendar with a minimum number of check points each providing minimum food and drink and no back-up. It is also done in winter when the daylight is at a premium.

My special thanks go to John Westcott who devised the route and was universally praised for its splendour. He also started the event, helped at the start, kept the running tally and closed down the check-points.

	30 mile	115	20 mile
Entries	106		
Starters		99	105
Time for getting home to shower first		5.01hrs	3.28hrs
Time for enjoying scenery most		10.38hrs	10.17hrs
Lost without trace	none		

The weather forecast for the day had said there would be strong winds and rain followed by squally showers. Nevertheless, there were plenty of cars in the car park when I arrived and the weather turned out to be warm with a few showers. The Winter Tanners Marathoners don't heed the weather forecast, they want to enjoy the challenge of the best Surrey mud.

So I began my two-hour labour taking entries with my head stuck in the boot of my car. OK, I did forget to bring a table, but try explaining that to people who, for the next two days, were wondering why I was doing a Quasimodo impression.

Then it was off to set-up Tanners Hatch CP, where I had to drive down the track at race pace to beat two runners who were 'slightly' early. Next year I must borrow an off-roader from someone who is not taking great care of it because it is needed, next day, to take the children to school. No-one will beat me then!

The 'breaking' news at CP2 was that someone was so desperate for a cup of Reg's fresh blackcurrant juice that they jumped on the table. I hope they are OK; the table is in intensive care! However, this was up-staged by a lady who did the 30-mile route with a 20-mile route description. Who says female intuition is not a powerful force!

As for the rain, well apart from a few sharp showers, it stayed away. However, everyone came in looking exceedingly muddy even though we did arrange a footbath at the end of the walk, courtesy of the River Mole. It is alleged that some refused to try it out.

My congratulations to all those who took part, and to those who manned the check-points; Dave and Pat Challenger with Bill Thompson at CP1; Reg Chapman, Ralph Henley and Ken Styane at CP 2; and Peter and Betty Waterhouse with Anne O'Mara at CP 3.

My special congratulations to the two youngest entrants and to those who no longer tell us how young they are.

I hope to see you all back again next year for the 28th new route.

National Trust. Thank you, on behalf of the Trust, for the donation of over £100. Don't ever think that you have to donate to enter the event, but if you do we will ask that the money goes to protecting the Surrey Countryside. Not to developers turning Leith Hill Tower into luxury apartments or the North Downs Way into lane 87 of the M25.

Barry Harrison

The secretary writes:

Ah yes! I remember that day, what a great walk it was

For me, one of the most enjoyable parts of our Surrey Newsletter is reading the walk report afterwards. I am sure that I'm not alone on this.

Would walk leaders please make a point of asking someone, preferably during the morning, to volunteer to just write a few lines and then send it off pronto to the newsletter editor?

It doesn't take much time and I'm sure that most of us would be quite willing to act as a sort of 'moving reporter' on the day

Just jot down a few words as soon as possible after the walk is finished, so that things are still fresh in the mind, and then send it off to the editor.

Rabid Ramble

Sunday 16th November

Having been asked to become a potential walk leader, I had to do this walk for two reasons:

1. Tilburton car park is only 10 mins. from home (wonderful – a lie in!)
2. This is the car park where I was, and still am, going to start one of my walks and so I did not want to double-up on Dave's route

On arrival, I have to admit I did not know many names but recognised a number of faces. One day there will be more days in the week and I can come out more. But, life would be very boring if I had spare time.

The day started chilly with blue skies and 16 (or thereabouts) of us set off heading north towards the M25. Before reaching it we turned west across sand tracks, passing early morning golfers, and up through Blotchingly village. Next it was south on to the Greenstand way, this time with the M25 on our right. That is the only trouble with this area, we are encompassed by motorways, the cars rush past on their business to wherever – people blink inside their tin boxes- whilst we enjoyed the wonderful views of the Weald. The going underfoot was dry as we went across fields and through farms. Like children, we scuffed our way down tracks through dry colourful leaves on the ground, part of what makes this time of year so wonderful. Crossing the road at Outwood and past the oldest working windmill in the country we did another loop south, losing three walkers to sit in a sunny field to enjoy their own packed lunch, whilst the rest headed for the 'Castle' pub in Outwood. We were first in so we were served very promptly. They had laid on homemade soup and ciabatta filled sandwiches especially for us. Sitting in the snug with a log-fire burning was very friendly and hospitable.

The three from the field joined us again, so we set off, back-tracking for a short while, then on to new territory, our leader was now shouting his directions from the back of the pack as re-fuelled people were striding ahead. Through Home, past chicken and geese, in to Lower South Park and up into South Park – which has its own personal chapel – St. Marks, admiring many rural and beautiful properties en-route.

Now only about 1 mile from the cars, Dave fooled us again by adding another loop. As we climbed stiles we looked back south trying to name the distant hills, Black Down and Leith Hill. The autumn sky, clouds and sun of the late afternoon were a spectacular colour and deserved a few minutes rest as we admired the vista. The last sandy track, covered in fallen chestnuts, turned sharply left, up a short steep path and straight into the car park.

Mary thanks go to Dave Challenger and the companionship of everyone for a lovely relaxing walk

Jackie Barker

EXMOOR 100 2004 Saturday 29th May – Monday 31st May
Start Venue: Minehead: West Country Community College: GR 979452

The Surrey Group, because of their professionalism, attention to detail and the delivery of TLC, have once again been asked and agreed to host the Breakfast stop.

Venue: Dulverton Town Hall
CP 9B- 57.5 miles GR 914278

The Hall is booked from 1800 Saturday to 1500 on Sunday.

Walk: Opening time 0030 Sunday
Closing time 1200 Sunday

A shift system will be operated. The first shift will need to arrive by, the latest 2200 Saturday to set up, prepare and be ready to greet the first walkers. Until about 0200 only a few walkers will have gone through. The busy period is estimated to be from 0600-0800.

The early shift should be away by 0800.

Until 0200 six volunteers to increase to
0200-0800 fourteen then decrease to
0800-close eight

If you wish to offer help on this, not to be missed, fun weekend in beautiful Exmoor National Park, please contact Janet Chapman and advise shift preference.

e.mail: janet@thechapman.co.uk
tel: 01276 65269/07770 807137

All food will be supplied free to volunteers. Full detail including the route description for those, who when the chores are completed, may wish to walk or even back up a friend who is walking the event, will be sent at the end of May.

If you wish to discuss expenses please give me a call

Accommodation: There is a YHA hostel and many B&B in the area. As it is a busy holiday week early booking is recommended.

An invitation is extended to all to join the Surrey Extravaganza on Monday 31st May during the evening at a local hostelry, still to be discovered, sampled and approved.

CP 9A baggage, first aid and shower are in a separate venue nearby Dulverton Middle Community Hall. The delightful odour of sweat, feet and cooking will therefore not be mixed.

Our friends from the Thames Valley Group will host the Baggage CP.

Janet Chapman

Group Programme

The walks 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

Sunday 15th February	Punchbowl Marathon
23/28/33 miles in 10 hours Landranger 186 Start: 7.30am walkers, 8.30am joggers and runners; Witley Village Hall GR 948794 Full details in Strider Contact organisers: Peter Ball; Tel. 01344 842508, John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596	
Sunday 29th February	Farnham Leap
18 miles Explorer 145 Start: 9.00am; Farnham Railway Station GR 844465 Leader: Tony Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768	
Thursday 4th March	Northchapel Round
20 miles Landranger 186 Start: 9.00am; Northchapel Green GR 953295 Leader: Mervyn Harvey; Tel. 01798 344309	
Sunday 7th March	Lingfield Races
17 miles Landranger 187 Start: 9.00am; Lingfield Leisure & Squash Centre CP (opposite racecourse) GR 396432 Leader: Jackie Barker; Tel. 01883 344410	
Sunday 14th March	Chipstead Bottom and Back
18 miles Explorer 146 Start: 8.30am; National Trust CP, Headley Heath GR 205538 Leader: John Nixon; Tel. 0208 6433166	
Friday 19th March	Hohe Tavern Alps
Start: 8.00pm An evening slide show with Gillian Bull Abbots Corner, Abbots Drive, Virginia Water, Surrey. Tel. 01344 842508 Please phone Gillian if planning to come	
Sunday 28th March	Hascombe Group of Tops
19 miles Explorers 133, 134, 145 Start: 8.30am; National Trust CP, Hydons Ball GR 979403 Leader: Keith Chesterton; Tel. 01483 563392 This is the sixth of the series of walks to climb all 42 Tops over 150m in Surrey There will be one more walk to complete the series	
Saturday 10th April	London Parks
15 miles Start: 9.30am; under the clock at Waterloo Station Leaders: Molly Groundsell; Tel. 01483 762843, Elizabeth Bryan; Tel. 01483 776985 Picnic lunch with optional pub stop	
Sunday 25th April	Lurgashall Loop
20 miles Landranger 186 Start: 9.00am; Liphook Train Station CP GR 842309 Leader: Chris Hayward; Tel. 01428 722817	
Wednesday 5th May	Mole Valley Clover
20 miles Explorer 146 Start: 9.00am; Ryka's CP, Bos Hill GR 171521 Picnic option for lunch Leader: Erling Hansen; Tel. 07905 921769	

Group Programme

The walks 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

Saturday 8th May 20 miles Start: 8.45am; Haslemere Station CP Leader: Jerome Ripp; Tel. 0208 5462830 Optional picnic stop for lunch. Tea stop Please inform leader if planning to come	Explorer 133 GR 898329	Surrey Border Path, Pt. 2
Tuesday 11th May Start: 7.00 for 7.30pm Supper afterwards. Please inform John Lay by 5 th May if planning to stay for supper.		Planning Meeting and supper
Thursday 13th May 16 miles Start: 9.00am; Wick Road CP off A30 Leader: Gillian Bull; Tel. 01744 842508	Landranger 175 GR 985700	Spring in the Park
Thursday 20th May 17 miles Start: 9.30am; Viewpoint CP, Grandstand Road, Epsom Downs Leader: John Stovell; Tel. 0208 3930786	Explorer 146 GR 220587	Epsom Downs Excursion
Sunday 6th June 18 miles Start: 9.30am; Public CP behind George Inn, Burgham Leader: Chris Hayward; Tel. 01428 727817	Explorer 121 GR 039089	Amberly Amble
Thursday 10th June 21 miles Start: 8.45am; Copsale Village CP, SE of Southwater Leader: Michael White; Tel. 01306 888886	Explorer 134 GR 170248	High Weald Wander
Wednesday 23rd June 7 miles Start: 6.45 for 7.00pm prompt; 12 East Meads, Orulow Village, Guildford Leaders: Tony & Louise Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768 Hot potato supper at finish (offers for deserts welcome) Please advise Louise by 20 th June if planning to come.		Midsummer Walk
Sunday 27th June 20 miles Start: 9.00am; Petersfield Station CP Leader: Dave Challenger; Tel. 01372 277138 This is the first in a series of walks along and around the South Downs originally devised by Tony Youngs in 1989	Explorer 133 GR 743235	Meon Meander
Sunday 18th July 18 miles Start: 9.00am; Mill Road CP in Arundel Town Centre Leaders: Peter & Elaine Edwards; Tel. 01243 262475	Explorer 121 GR 020071	River and Seaside Saunter
Sunday 1st August 20 miles Start: 9.00am; St. Catherine's Village Hall, Park in Chestnut Avenue Leader: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596	Explorer 145 GR 992485	S.L.K. Pathfinder
Sunday 8th August 20 miles Start: 9.00am; Ryka's CP, Box Hill Leader: John Dixon; Tel. 0208 6433166 Joint social walk with Thames Valley Group	Explorer 146 GR 171521	Deep South

Group Programme

The walks 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

Sunday 15th August 20 miles Start; 9.00am; Dunston Down View Point CP, 4 miles south of Petworth on A285 GR 954160 Leader; Janet Chapman; Tel. 01276 65160, 07770 807137 This is the fourth in the series of the 1997 Downsman 100 mile Walk	Downsman Revisited, Pt. 4 Explorer 121
Sunday 29th August 20 miles Start; 9.00am; Lingfield Leisure & Squash Centre CP (opposite racecourse) Leader; Jackie Barker; Tel. 01883 344410	Arena GR 396432 Explorer 146
Sunday 26th September 12 or 20 miles Start; 8.00am; Tilford Village Hall Organisers; Tony & Louise Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768 Entries on day only. More information from organisers.	Tilford Kuster GR 872433 Explorer 145
Sunday 3rd October 18 miles Start; 8.30am; Further details to be announced Leader; Keith Chesterton; Tel. 01483 563392 This is the seventh and final walk of the series to climb all 42 Tops over 150m in Surrey	Leith Hill Group of Tops Explorer 146
Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th October Start; Thursday pm. Further details from organiser. Organiser; Molly Groundsell; Tel. 01483 762843 Walkers accommodation at the HF Laepool Hall, Nr Whitby The walks programme will include extensive coverage of the North York Moors	Autumn 4 Day Event