



Surrey Group
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2004



Bridge approach, river Mole, Wednesday 5th May 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

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Editorial

This is the time of year when the walking patterns of many Surrey Group members changes from the relative ease of walking in Surrey to the challenge of the mountains. May I take this opportunity to wish you all who are mountain walking this summer an enjoyable, thrilling, and challenging time in whatever country you are visiting. However, safe walking in the mountains is important.

Betty and I have just returned from a week with HF at Selva-Wolkenstein in the Dolomites, a resort, we know, other members of the group are visiting later in the year. They will not be disappointed, although they will not be as lucky as we were with the wealth of spring flowers that scattered the meadows and alps. Most of the walks were done at heights of 2000 to 2500m moving around below the massive, impressive cliffs of the Dolomites. Such was the late snow that we had to learn how to ascend and descend snow slopes in safety and without wet bottoms!

Hohes Tauern Alps Friday 19th March

A group of members, guided by Gillian Bull, on a March evening, made a virtual visit to this delightful region of Austria. (A slide show, wine and good company).

The Hohes Tauern Alps which radiate from the 3797m summit of the Grossglockner, Austria's highest mountain, form one of the country's premier walking areas. Near-by is the lakeside resort of Zell-am-See sheltering under the 1965m peak of Schminnerhöhe. Gill's eye for capturing scenery on film was well displayed with views of the majestic Mooser reservoir whose turquoise waters are surrounded by a succession of 3000m peaks. Culture was not neglected for we were shown pictures of some of the buildings and views in Salzburg unfortunately without the background of Mozart's music which, those who have visited the city know, is all pervasive.

Our thanks go to Gillian and Peter for a very happy and memorable evening.

Peter Waterhouse

Vacancy for Group Secretary

John Lay, our group secretary, writes.

By January, 2005 I will have completed five years as Group Secretary and plan to resign at this juncture.

I think the time has come for a change. According to the rules of the Group's Constitution, this post should be re-assigned regular after every three years.

I have truly enjoyed doing the job over this time, it has been busy, tremendous fun and I have made many friends from amongst our eccentric LDWA circle, both locally and around the country.

I therefore do not wish to hinder anyone who may well be waiting for such a golden opportunity to present itself.

I am aware that, whoever that person may be, will find the job immensely rewarding and enjoyable. You will, after all, be making contact with well-wishers, soul-mates of kindred spirits, cronies even, with whom you can rely upon to come up with the right responses to keep the walks programme full and varied.

Therefore, don't delay, our chairman, Tony, who is only a phone-call away, will be delighted to talk to you and put your name forward for election at the Annual General Meeting in January.

Farnham Loop, 29th Feb. 2004

Tony Cartwright led 17 valiant walkers on a 19-mile expedition across the blizzard lashed, white hell of the heights above Farnham – or so the weather forecasters intimated. And what's more, he told us it would take 4½ hours till we reached the pub stop! So some of us bought extra provisions at the shop to help us last out. Then, at 9am, we set off through hidden alleys in Farnham, across Old Park and past Croydall to reach Horsedown Common. Here we were able to use a little known provision of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Following lobbying by the LYDA (Leap Year Day Association), this allows the ascent of any countryside top, to symbolise a leap, every Leap Year day (Feb. 29th). So we reached its normally private summit and admired the view over Odiham Airfield, before going past Bentley and through Isington to the comforts of the Cedar Inn at Binstead.

Tony had been nervous that this wouldn't be posh enough for the Surrey group. But its well kept real ale, modestly priced food, open fire and the landlord's welcome made our stay quite a long one.

The shorter afternoon had us go via the edge of Alice Holt and along the early River Wey, before Tony made us cross the busy A31 so that we could return to Farnham by fields a little before dark. Thanks Tony for a good day out on a cold raw day – with a few snow showers.

Keith Chesterton



Keith Chesterton leads the way through the blizzard lashed, white hell of the heights above Farnham.

Northchapel Round Thursday 4th March

The weather was mild and grey when eleven of us, and Elizabeth's dog, set off at a roaring pace from the car park at Northchapel. We were soon wallowing in mud and dodging brambles, but neither hazard seemed to slow our leaders. Our path took us through several woods, which, in a few weeks time, will be carpeted with primroses and later with bluebells. We passed through Kirdford, a delightful village full of attractive homesteads. Engraved on an ancient wall was a severe warning of the evils of alcohol. Among many nasties there was "It befuddles the brain".

Then on to Lexford for lunch at the Onslow Arms where two of our members indulged in Spotted Dick. The return route started on the banks of the disused Wey-Arun Canal passing a partially renovated lock. One of our party regaled us with tales of Canadian soldiers practising their explosive demolition skills on the lock walls. The stones that they so violently removed can still be seen on the canal bank. To avoid excessive mud Mervyn shortened our afternoon walk and we arrived back at the car park just before 3.30pm.

Our thanks go to Mervyn for organising an excellent and enjoyable walk. And the dog? Well she must have covered twice the distance the humans did and usually at a much faster pace.
Milly Grousebell

Lingfield Races Sunday 7th March

My introduction to Surrey LDWA was by means of a circular walk starting and finishing at Lingfield Leisure Centre. Little did I know that as the new boy I would be spanned to do the walk write up. I suppose I got off quite lightly as some initiations can be quite an ordeal. There was no requirement to wear a pointy hat, roll up a trouser leg or expose my left nipple!

When I met the rest of the walkers, I thought I would be in for a nice leisurely stroll but as we set off, the pace soon quickened and I thought I was back in the army doing a combat fitness test. The only difference was that everyone had different coloured clothes on!

It was a barry spring day with strong winds and the constant threat of a downpour. The route from the start was in a northerly direction soon picking up the Vanguard Way and climbing up onto Lingsfield Chart with a stop at the Carpenters Arms for lunch. We arrived just in time as the heavens opened and lashed down on the picnic lunch option people as they sat outside. After lunch the walk turned westwards and followed the Greensand Way through Oxted before turning south to descend from the ridge to follow field and woodland paths, and quiet country lanes for the return to Lingfield. The final stage went through the fascinating odd part of Lingfield to the railway station and then along the special footpath created for race goers linking the station with the racecourse.

The rest of the day remained dry and I found it thoroughly enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone for making me feel welcome and to Jackie Barker for organising the walk. I look forward to doing more walks although I don't think I'm quite up to a challenge event yet.
Bob Spruce

Spring in the Park Thursday 13th May

After nearly two weeks of persistent setbacks, the weather changed for Gillian's annual walk in the park, and just in time too. It was Gillian's 18th walk as leader in Windsor Great Park. Many congratulations, just two more for the 20th anniversary!

Seven exuberant and very jolly walkers joined forces for the 16½ miles excursion through the park. The first part of the walk circled the largest man-made lake in England, Virginia Water, which has a circumference of approximately 6½ miles. The lake was initiated by the Duke of Cumberland and was finished in 1755, after the Duke had completed a successful sortie against the Scots at Culloden in 1746.

A number of coniferous Sequoias stood out amongst the more indigenous species of spruce, although they will need to grow considerably to catch up with their renowned Californian Redwood brethren.

Gillian had certainly chosen the perfect day to show off Windsor Great Park this year. The translucent spring blossom of the azaleas together with the very deep colours of the camellias competed openly with cascading rhododendrons for which Windsor Great Park is very famous. Time flew and we soon found ourselves being looked after very well indeed by the efficient landlord of the Sun in Englefield Green.

The afternoon section of the walk was across the Long Walk and the Gallop to Queen Ann's Ride which has been awarded a 'facelift' with an avenue of new Oak trees. A large, new statue of Queen Elizabeth on horseback erected to commemorate her Jubilee in 2002 eclipsed Queen Ann's ride.

We finished off with a very well deserved cup of tea and a bite of cake, and continued our never-ending discussion, whilst we put the world to rest.

Erling Hansen

Hascombe Group of Tops Sunday 28th March

The 8.30am start at the Hydon's Ball car park to climb six of the forty-two Tops over 150m in Surrey did not sound too bad. However, it was the weekend that the clocks went forward, so in reality it was a 7.30 start with a 6.30 rendezvous with Dave and Peter at Ashted. And no time for breakfast!

Thirteen walkers duly started on the long climb up Hydon's Ball (179m). Woods, hills and valleys sprawl in a pleasant jumble below Hydon's Ball, a conical hill on Hydon Heath, northeast of Hambledon in the northwest Weald. The day was fairly overcast with a nice temperature for walking, although the views eastwards to Leith Hill and south across the Weald to the South Downs were somewhat restricted. In medieval times the local sand was used in the glass making industry based on nearby Chiddingfold, but in the Stuart period the use of wood as a fuel for glassmaking was banned due to deforestation, so the industry moved up north. Further tops were attained during the morning, namely Holloway Heath, Hascombe Court, Hascombe Hill, The Nore and Juniper Hill passing woods, farmland, tree-lined lanes and secluded houses. It was thought that a seventh top had been sighted, but after a detour it was proved to be a false alarm being under the prescribed height of 150m. Then via the Greensand Way and the Wimershall Estate (famous for its Passion Plays), we arrived for a well-earned lunch at Shamley Green. After lunch a more leisurely walk ensued, and we gradually made our way for afternoon tea at Winkworth Arboretum; 99 acres of woods, particularly noted for its maples and whitebears and for carpets of bluebells in spring and azaleas in early summer.

Mary thanks go to Keith for a very interesting walk in delightful surroundings.

John Stowell

Lurgashall Loop Sunday 25th April

The day dawned bright and warm. Twelve of us, plus the dog, including two members from Thames Valley and a friend who came with Juliette and Frank, set off from Liphook station along the Lipechis Way taking us south to Older Hill where the views were great. We then went east via Herley, Verdley Hill, Lickfold, Mill Pond and north to Lurgashall. The pub, Noah's Ark, is set on a delightful green. However, it being a warm sunny Sunday it was very busy with lots of people sitting outside and service was slow. I guess it was our first day of 'summer'.

We set off back at 2.15pm and although the bluebells during the morning were lovely we were spoilt in the afternoon by the beauty of the woods to the north of Lurgashall. Our route then went west crossing Fernhurst and north to Shalbrode Priory, Newlands Cottage and hence to Stanley Common and Liphook.

The highlight of the walk – apart from the company – was the variety of wild flowers including bluebells, stitchwort, wood anemones, cuckoo flower, Jack by the hedge, primroses, violets, etc.

All in all it was a thoroughly enjoyable day. Many thanks to Chris Hayward for planning such a lovely walk.

Elizabeth Bryan

Mole Valley Clover Wednesday 5th May

We were promised heavy showers on Wednesday the 5th of May but that did not deter seven merry walkers. We set off at a cracking pace and were soon climbing Mickleham Down via Stane Street. The route then took us down the edge to Cockshot Cottage and up onto Headley Heath at High Ashurst. From there we continued southwards through Box Hill village to join the North Downs Way above Brockham Quarry. As we turned along the NDW some were thinking of a coffee stop at Box Hill café but Erling had other ideas. We dropped down from the NDW to cross the fields below Box Hill, pausing briefly for a coffee stop. We rejoined the NDW part way down the steps to the stepping-stones. As expected these were covered with floodwater and so little daunted we set off for the bridge. The lower path was under water so we took the upper path. However, on reaching the bridge we discovered the approach was under water. Fortunately we had two St. Christophers with us, Erling and Tony, who piggy-backed the ladies across the floodwater. This created much mirth and Erling's laugh had to be heard to be believed. We continued our journey along the muddy Mole valley to Leatherhead with a slight detour because the path under Young Street Bridge was also under water. There we had lunch at the Running Horses. As we stood on Leatherhead Bridge our leader became quite poetic and commented that the river was a pussycat last week but today a tiger.

After lunch the route took us through Bocketts Farm and over the hill to Chapel Hill Wood and down to Chapel Lane. We bypassed West Humble and joined the NDW above Dimbles. From there we dropped down to Rammore Road and turned north to pass through the vineyard and so back to the car park.

Tony managed this muddy walk in sandals, giving his feet a wash from time to time.

Many thanks to Erling for a splendid walk with loads of laughs, wonderful views and lots of wild flowers.

Molly Grounds

Amberly Amble Sunday 6th June

The Views and the Few

The famous five set out from Alfred's burgh at Burgham on a warm summer morning for the long way round to Chantry Post and along the S. Downs Way to Amberly for lunch. The burgh's banks are still there on the north and east, now guarding only the car park; the west made safe by a great chalk cliff overhanging a meander in the Arun. Eastward and south the route then went across the sun-kissed downs. A yellow brimstone or two were seen fluttering across the grass, and Friesian heifers in their black and white camouflage were guarding the gate to the top of the hill. A broad field of bright poppies and white campions so apt on this 60th anniversary of D Day. Shorn sheep and ragged ones. Broad beans and scarlet pimpernels. The sea visible in the haze hiding the Isle of Wight from prying eyes. Old harrows and boundary banks. Flirt walled houses and thatched roofs. The coffin sled in Bury church, so cool a refuge from the heat of the afternoon sun. South Stoke steeple above the trees, shingled and dry. Along the riverbank watching the still making tide. The beech holding itself up on the steep bank with its broad knitted mat of roots. The river valley spread out below, lush and humid now but flooded wide in winter. Past the lake and over the bridge in town and back along the river once more. With us, a lone Spitfire heading home in the early evening light.

Chris Hayward

Lurgashall Loop 25th April



London Parks 10th April



SURREY TOPS 2005 – Help required

Surrey Group's new SURREY TOPS 50 mile challenge walk is seeking help in forming a small group to help Keith Chesterton organise the event planned for late 2005. If you would like to help then please contact Keith on 01483 563392 or email chestertonk@guildford.gov.uk

London Parks Saturday 10th April

Seventeen members including two friends from the London Group and Surrey County Walkers made the famous rendezvous: under the clocks at Waterloo Station early on this Easter Saturday morning. This was an opportunity not to be missed, it must be some five years since I had been anywhere near the London Parks and I was very interested to see they had been improved, or otherwise, since then.

The first mile across Westminster Bridge and through Parliament Square was unusual for our LDWA social walk in that we had to battle our way against hordes of tourists of all types who had decided to come out early onto the streets to take their photographs and were generally milling around.

At last we entered a surprisingly empty St. James' Park with its immaculate newly gravelled footpaths and bridleways, passing the pelicans on Duck Island en-route for Green Park where appropriately the new grass was looking very green and waiting for its first cut.

By this time things were getting back to normal as, surprisingly, not many people were venturing past the park gates at this early hour (10.30am) and most were probably still having 'full English' in the hotels around. We were therefore able to increase our pace a little as we made our way along parallel to Constitution Hill to the west end of the park where the newly erected War Memorials for India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka had vastly improved this previously scruffy area. Our footpath took us into the nearby subways under Hyde Park Corner.

We emerged to pass through Queen Elizabeth Gate and into Hyde Park just as a troop of the Horse Guards trotted past for our benefit. One of the main features of this park is the Serpentine Lake, no longer does it freeze over, sometimes swimmers venture in, today as we gazed at it from inside the coffee shop it looked very serene and we were soon outside again walking along its north shore and over the George Rennie Bridge and onwards towards Kensington Gardens. Through the Gardens, past the Round Pond, a glittering Albert Memorial and the delightful Peter Pan statue to leave via Victoria gate. We all were impressed with the freshly mowed lawns, the perfectly groomed flowerbeds with all the usual spring flowers out in full bloom; the gardeners had obviously been hard at work recently.

From Victoria Gate we continued through some of the more elegant London streets and mews, carefully and discreetly chosen by our leaders en-route to Paddington Basin and Little Venice, stopping briefly to see the recently discovered Isambard Kingdom Brunel Bridge. From Little Venice we strolled along the banks of the Regents Canal to Primrose Hill for our lunch stop. Primrose Hill was once covered with medieval forest "full of hairs and coverts of game, stags, bucks, bears and wild beasts". It was not until Elizabeth I's reign that this was all cleared away and it became meadow land and today the only things that roam wild are a few long distance walkers looking for a watering hole.

As a point of interest, the price of a good pint of beer at the Queen's Head on Primrose Hill was 40p less than at a certain pub on the green at Tilford. Somewhere there is a moral to bear in mind when we choose our lunchtime pub stops.

After lunch the walk went through Regents Park and out through Clarence Gate and into the bustle of Baker Street. This was soon left for the quiet streets and gardens of Marylebone to re-enter Hyde Park at Marble Arch. On through Mayfair to take tea in a little tea shop in Shepherds Market. Across busy Piccadilly into Green Park, St James' Park and through Horse Guards to the embankment and so back to Waterloo.

Throughout this walk we had been very ably lead by the two resident tour guides who continued throughout to astound us with their wealth of knowledge and constant streams of information about the beautiful parks.

Thank you, Molly and Elizabeth, for this truly inspiring stroll.

John Loy

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 27th June	Meon Meander
20 miles Explorer 133 Start: 9.00am; Petersfield Station CP GR 743255 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 Young in 1989	
Sunday 18th July	River and Seaside Saunter
18 miles Explorer 121 Start: 9.00am; Mill Road CP in Arundel Town Centre GR 020071 Leaders: Peter & Elaine Edwards; Tel. 01243 262475	
Sunday 1st August	S.L.K Pathfinder
20 miles Explorer 145 Start: 9.00am; St. Catherine's Village Hall, Park in Chestnut Avenue GR 992485 Leader: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596	
Sunday 8th August	Deep South
20 miles Explorer 146 Start: 9.00am; Ryka's CP, Box Hill GR 171521 Leader: John Dixon; Tel. 0208 6433166 Joint social walk with Thames Valley Group	
Sunday 15th August	Downman Revisited, Pt. 4
20 miles Explorer 121 Start: 9.00am; Dunton Down View Point CP, 4 miles south of Petworth on A285 GR 954160 Leader: Janet Chapman; Tel. 01276 65169, 07770 807137 This is the fourth in the series of the 1997 Downman 100 mile Walk	
Thursday 26th August	Mike Mardle Memorial Walk
13 miles Landranger 187 Start: 9.00am; Ashurst House, Ashurst Drive, Box Hill GR 198519 Leader: John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596 Refreshments afterwards. Please advise John if planning to come.	
Sunday 29th August	Arrea
20 miles Explorer 146 Start: 9.00am; Lingfield Leisure & Squash Centre CP (opposite racecourse) GR 396432 Leader: Jackie Barker; Tel. 01883 344410	
Wednesday 22nd September	Surrey Heights
20 miles Explorer 146 Start: 9.00am CP at Ryka's Café, Box Hill GR 171521 Leader: Erling Hansen; Tel. 01428 722817	
Thursday 23rd September	Planning Meeting and Supper
Start: 7.30pm; Drummond Arms, Albury GR 049478 Supper afterwards. Please inform secretary if planning to come John Lay; Tel. 01932 346596	

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 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.	Explorer 145 GR 872433	Tilford Kanter
Sunday 3rd October 17 miles Start; 9.00am; Leith Hill Road CP Leader; Keith Chesterton; Tel. 01483 563392 The final 8 tops to finish the ascent of all 40 tops over 150m in Surrey	Explorer 145, 146 GR 130433	Leith Hill Group of Tops
Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th October Start; Thursday pm. Further details from organiser. Organiser; Molly Groundsell; Tel. 01483 762843 Walkers accommodation at the HF Larpool Hall, Nr Whitby The walks programme will include extensive coverage of the North York Moors		Autumn 4 Day Event
Saturday 16th October 23 miles linear Start; 9.00am; CP at Liphook train station Leader; Chris Hayward; Tel. 01428 722817 Picnic lunch only. Return by train from Chichester	Explorers 133 & 122 GR 842309	Liphook
Wednesday 20th October 20 miles Start; 9.00am CP at West Hanger Leader; Tony Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768	Explorer 145 GR 070494	Tony's Going West
Saturday 30th October 12 miles Start; 12.30pm 44 Agates Lane, Ashstead, Surrey Leader; Dave Challenger; Tel. 01372 277138 Refreshments afterwards at 44 Agates Lane. Please advise Dave if planning to come.	Explorer 146 GR 178577	Another Afternoon Around Ashstead
Saturday 6th November 18 miles Start; 8.45am; National Trust CP at Petworth Park Leaders; Margaret Miles & Shirley Robertson; Tel. 01252 318176 Picnic lunch only.	Landranger 197 GR 966238	Deer Oh Deer
Saturday 13th November 18 miles Start; 8.45am; CP at Frenshay Great Pond Leader; Jerome Ripp; Tel. 0208 5462830 This will be a joint walk with the Wessex Group Refreshments at finish. Please inform the leader if planning to come.	Landranger 186 GR 843405	Surrey Border Path, part 3
Saturday 11th December 15 miles Start; 9.00am; Rear CP at Drummond Arms, Albury Leaders; Tony & Louise Cartwright; Tel. 01483 503768 Dinner 7.30pm at Drummond Arms. Please book early with Louise	Explorer 145 GR 049478	Christmas Walk and Dinner

Group Programme

The walks last about 3 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

Tuesday 28th December 12 miles Start: 9.00am walkers, 10.00am runners; Organiser: Ralph Henley; Tel. 01784 252104 (MAYBAC Running League) Small charge for route description	Windsor Winter Wander Laudranger 175 RAF Memorial CP, Coopers Hill Road, Englefield Green; GR 996748
Saturday 1st January 2005 12 or 20 miles Start: 9.00 – 10.00am; St Catherine's Village Hall, Guildford Finish by: 4.30pm	Surrey Inns Kanteer Explorer 145 GR 992485
Sunday 9th January 2005 20/30 miles in 13 hours Start: 7.30 – 9.30am; Leatherhead Municipal CP Organiser: Barry Harrison; Tel. 0208 9491547 More information from organiser. See also Future Events in Strider	Winter Tanners Explorer 145, 146 GR 163567
Wednesday 12th January 2005 Start: 7.30pm; Drummond Arms, Albury. Supper afterwards Please pre-book with John Lay. Tel 01932 346596	AGM GR 049478
Saturday 22nd January 2005 Start: 8.00am; CP at Church Lane, Witley. 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	Punchbowl Marathon Marshall's Walk GR 947397