

LDWA SURREY GROUP 50th Surrey Inns Kanter Dormansland 1 January 2025 REPORT AND RESULTS

The 50th anniversary edition of the Kanter was held in the Dormansland area for the first time, the first truly rural venue since the two that were held at Tilgate Village Hall. All the pubs visited were new to the Kanter.

There were 91 entries in all, including a duplicate, of which 85 entered in advance and 6 entered on the day. There were 34 non-starters, giving 56 out on the routes, and including 3 retirements.

There had been severe weather warnings for a number of days up to and including the day of the event itself. However the day proved to be less cold than expected, but the ground conditions lived up to expectations. Notwithstanding that, all the walkers and runners managed the routes in good time.

Both routes incorporated parts of present trails, including Eden Valley Walk, Vanguard Way and Sussex Border Path. The oldest pub visited appeared to be King Henry VIII in Hever village.

The souvenir beer mat this year was based on a vintage Victorian design incorporating oak leaves and acorns. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, Mary Dee followed up her success with the specially baked biscuits the previous year with a special 50th anniversary cake, and lots of cup cakes, complete with LDWA monograms.

If you see any errors in the results, can you please let me know and I'll get the web page updated.

2025 represents a milestone in the history of the Kanter - its 50th edition.

The event was founded by Keith Chesterton in 1975 with its first outing on January 1st from Guildford.

Interestingly, in that year inflation was on the rise; a gallon of petrol was 73p, a pint of beer 28p, a pint of milk 7p, a Daily Mirror 5p and a Ford Cortina £1,765. And on that day, Queen Elizabeth II conferred knighthoods on comedian Charlie Chaplin, author P. G. Wodehouse, athlete Roger Bannister, and cricket legend Gary Sobers.

On the first Kanter 108 entrants set off into the Surrey countryside, navigating themselves from inn to inn much as we still do today; and I wonder just how many of those original establishments are still with us today. In his report of that first Kanter, Keith noted that "we will consider making an event of this kind an annual event to start the year with". How true that aspiration became!

Keith continued to run the event for many years with the help of his immediate family, from St Catherine's Village Hall, Guildford, opposite his home.

Keith was an early member of the LDWA with number 81.

Has has had many accomplishments to his credit, he has been LDWA Chairman and Treasurer, LDWA Historian, qualifying as a Centurion on one of Leicester Walking Club's courses in 1980, school governor, Chairman of Guildford Rambling Club for many years and involved with Cyclists Touring Club. To celebrate his 80th birthday he organised and took part in a linear walk from London to Portsmouth over a week joining the historic semaphore towers, one of which still survives as a museum near the A3/M25 junction; now aged nearly 90, he still walks to the present day.

A record of reports and results of past Surrey Inns Kanter (including the 1st) can be found in our archives at

www.ldwa.org.uk/Surrey/W/2386/surrey-inns-kanter.html.

David Hoben Organiser

08/01/2025

Acknowledgements:

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Artwork: Thirsty's