

LDWA SURREY GROUP

51st Surrey Inns Kanter

Merstham

1 January 2026

REPORT

The 51st anniversary edition of the Kanter was held in a new venue, Merstham Village Hall. The hall had previously been a checkpoint on the LDWA Games 100 in 2012, hosted by Essex & Herts Group.

There were 90 entries in all, similar to the 2025 Kanter, of which 80 entered in advance (including 22 non-members) and 10 entered on the day (including seven non-members). There were 12 non-starters, giving 78 out on the routes, and no retirements.

The weather was very cold, clear and bright, with crisp shadows, and excellent ground conditions for winter, a complete contrast to the previous year. All the walkers and runners managed the routes in good time.

Both routes incorporated parts of present trails, including North Downs Way, Greensand Way and Millennium Trail (which linked both).

There were a number of historical features this year, including yards from the hall the replica of rails on the Surrey Iron Railway, approved in 1801; the millennium stones, a modern stone circle to mark the double millennium in 2000 in Gatton Park; Reigate Fort dating from 1898, and Reigate Tunnel just over two centuries old, Britain's oldest road tunnel. In addition Quality Street, also close to the start, was named after JM Barrie's play of the same name, in honour of two of the actors in the play, who for a time lived at the end of the street. There were a large number of Coal Tax posts, now listed monuments, on the North Downs, Walton-on-the-Hill and Banstead Heath, which featured in earlier Kanters organised by Surrey Group in the 1980s.

We were pleased to have a new artist, Peter Rogers, and the certificate this year was based on his impression of a horse and two wagons on the Surrey Iron Railway, as mentioned above.

David Hoben, Organiser 07/01/2026

Acknowledgements:

Entries/start/finish/results: Ann Muggeridge, John Goody

Refreshments: John Preston, George Collins

Artwork: Thirsty's, Peter Rogers