

Strider LDP News Cumulative Version

What this file includes and how to use it

This file contains all of the LDP News features articles that have appeared in Strider essentially since the Long Distance Walkers Handbook 7th Edition was researched in 2001/2002. Used with the Handbook it provides updates on the Handbook-vintage information, especially useful for routes we have not yet updated online (ie, not yet 'Available Online' status).

You can search it for information about say routes or authors, using the normal document keyword search facilities in Adobe Acrobat. These will depend on the Acrobat version you have and on the software on your computer. Using Control-F will often bring up a simple search box, or use Edit/Find or look for a binocular icon. You can alternatively transfer all the text into your Word Processor and search it there. (CtrlA to select all, CtrlC to copy, CtrlV to paste to a new document, then use the Find facility.)

This saves searching through old Striders, and for new members provides the past information in one place. These Strider updates and new routes are being reflected in the Route pages online, but this process is not yet fully completed.

For the most up-to-date information use the online database. The text here is only that published in Strider without any subsequent updates. The updates in LDP News are not comprehensive: they are only the items we heard about at the time. Websites and email addresses may be out of date, incorrect or no longer be in use. For clickable links please use in preference the route and publication data returned online from the main search screens: Search by Path and Search by Publication. These links have been checked and should work; if not please use the Contact Us facility to report the broken link.

This file will be updated online once each new Strider is issued, though for this new material, much will be directly included in the online route pages and be directly accessible, to save re-keying, eg, for weblinks,.

Conditions of Use

This file is supplied primarily to help current LDWA members to find information about long distance paths to plan their own personal walking trips.

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NEWS OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE WALKS

(For April 2008)

Edited by Adrian Rayner

This edition of LDP News brings you nine new routes and updates on a further 18 including details of guidebooks, maps and DVDs. There are trails in all four countries including a strong showing from Scotland and Northern Ireland. Both urban and rural routes are included and in almost all cases further information is available on websites as well as from publications.

Most of the publications listed below can be bought online from the LDWA LDPs webpages with our Amazon associate links with discounted prices normally available, and if you can buy £15 or more in total, standard postage is free. Details of all these updates are on the LDWA website (Long Distance Paths pages) so the links can be followed directly without re-keying a long web address.

News items relating to long distance paths should be sent to Adrian Rayner, 11 Charleston Close, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7LJ, Tel: 020 8751 3251, email: adrianarayner@hotmail.com. Books, book reviews and other publications should be sent to Ken Falconer, Lumbo Farmhouse, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 8NS, Tel: 01334 478507, email: editor@ldwa.org.uk.

ENGLAND & WALES

National Trails and other routes covering several areas

Offa's Dyke Path National Trail has a new Cicerone guidebook second edition by David Hunter priced at £12.95 that can be bought from bookshops or online from the LDPs webpages. The ISBN 13 is 978-1852845490. This Trail passes through Powys that provides a free overview brochure for the main walks in the county from Tourism Section, Neuadd Brycheiniog, Cambrian Way, Brecon LD3 7HR, or online for download at <http://www.powystrails.org.uk> and this lists the various trail guides and includes an order form.

Two DVDs are now available for the **South West Coast Path National Trail**, the first being a brand new one described as a multi-media guide from Virtual Books Company at £19.95 plus £1.95 p&p from them at Old Mill Business Centre, West Looe, Cornwall, Tel: 0845 0521867 or from their website www.virtualbookcompany.co.uk. The other DVD is an aerial trip along the route from Beckmann Visual Publishing. With a running time of 62 minutes and in NTSC format, so make sure your player will handle this, it costs £12.99 and can be bought from them at Lezayre Road, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM8 2TG, Tel: 01624 816777 and at www.beckmanndirect.com or online from the LDWA website, with some discounted prices available online. Beckmann provide a series of these 'great walks from the air' for many other trails such as the Pennine Way, Coast to Coast, South Downs Way and Saxon Shore Way and Pembrokeshire Coast Path.

Harvey Maps have two new stripmaps for this same trail, the **South West Coast Path**. Now available are maps 1 and 4 out of a series of six maps that will cover the whole 630-mile route. Map 1 covers the path from the start at Minehead to Bude, map 4 covers the path from Lizard to Plymouth. Each covers a section suitable for 8-9 days walking with information on finding accommodation, camping, and food plus Ranger Service contact numbers and enlargements of towns/villages showing facilities available and tips on weather and clothing. They are at 1:40,000 scale, waterproof and supplied in a clear plastic cover and cost £9.95 each, or with discounts if maps are bought together. The last two maps, 5 and 6 covering Plymouth to Exmouth and Exmouth to Poole, are due in 2008. Harvey Maps are at 12-22 Main Street, Doune, Perthshire, FK16 6BJ, Tel: 01786 841202, email: sales@harveymaps.co.uk, and www.harveymaps.co.uk.

The **Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail** has a new second revised edition of the Trailblazer guidebook by Jim Manthorpe at £9.99. With 208 pages it has ISBN13: 978-1905864034 and is included in the book reviews.

Three new books have been written by LDWA member Mike Salter and are covered in the book reviews that includes his suggestions for combinations with other routes. The books are for the **Island of Anglesey Coast Path** at £2.50, the **Southern Upland Way** and **St Cuthbert's Way** are both in one book at £3.95, and the **Ceredigion Coast Path** at £2.50. All three books contain black and white photographs and simplified sketch maps. All are all ultra light and being the same size as a folded OS map will fit into a map case quite easily. They are published by Folly Publications. The books are not readily available in shops but are available directly from the author: Mike Salter, Folly Cottage, 151 West Malvern Road, Worcs, WR14 4AY, Tel: 01684 565211. Postage is generally 50p per item but Mike is prepared to offer a set of all three books for £9.00 or the two Welsh books for £5.25 (prices include p&p). Please allow 3 weeks for delivery. The **Ceredigion Coast Path** is not fully open and so there are no boards marking the start and finish of the path. The website www.walkcardiganbay.com includes details of the sections currently open and a free downloadable guide.

Cheshire

For tennis fans, the **Fred Perry Way** is a 14-mile walking route across Stockport from where hailed the great tennis player. It spans Stockport Borough from Woodford in the south to Reddish in the north and was developed with NHS support to encourage walking. For the long distance walker it may be useful more as a link route between the Bollin Valley Way (and through that, the North Cheshire Way) and via a short link between Mottram and Woodford the Tame Valley Way and Etherow-Goyt Valley Way at Stockport. A full crossing of historical North Cheshire could be devised, linking Black Hill and Crowden on the Pennine Way with Hilbre Island, utilising also the Wirral Way/Wirral Shore Way. Interesting features of the Fred Perry route include Houldsworth Mill and Square, the start of the River Mersey at the confluence of the River Tame and River Goyt, Stockport Town Centre, and Vernon and Woodbank Parks where Fred Perry actually played some showcase games of tennis on the park's

tennis courts. The route passes through some of the most built up areas, particularly to the north of the town and does not pass Fred Perry's house in Portwood. It is signed and maps are available to download free from www.stockport.gov.uk/content/leisureculture/ and follow Parks and Recreation links to Walks and Trails.

Nearby is the **Stockport Circular Walk**, a 30-miler mostly following the Stockport boundary starting from Mersey Square, visiting Reddish Vale, Werneth Low, Brown Low, Mellor Moor, Lyme Park, Bramhall Park, Abney Hall and the River Mersey. It dates from 1991 though has slipped the net and has its first mention in Strider. Members report an out of print booklet by Geoff Brammall has been available on sites such as Amazon. The ISBN 13 is 978-0947818654. A longer Stockport 'Beating the Bounds' Millennium Walk with a similar objective was included in the Handbook but is no longer supported.

Durham

Ed Coles has devised the **Barningham Trail**, a new 24-mile circular walk linking Teesdale with Arkengarthdale crossing moorland, forest and having both airy views and hidden valleys along its route. It zig-zags over Barningham Moor then climbs over the watershed to enter the Yorkshire Dales National Park. A long climb back up-and-over brings you to Stang Forest before returning back to Barningham. Coles' book is published by Trailguides with ISBN 13: 978-1905444182 and it is available from local tourist information centres or directly from the publisher's website: www.trailguides.co.uk, priced at £4.99 (£5.48 including p&p). Trailguides are at 35 Carmel Road South, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 8DQ, Tel: 01325 283170. They also provide walking guides for shorter routes up to 10-15 miles in Hamsterley Forest, Teesdale and the Cheviots.

Hampshire

The 15-mile **Strawberry Trail** in the Hamble river valley that was a former major strawberry-growing area provides a range of distance options for mostly easy riverside, coastal, country park and rural walking, visiting its attractive villages. First covered in April 2004 Strider, it now has a free A4/3 colour leaflet from Hampshire County Council Information Centre on 0800 028 0888 or by post from Countryside Services, Mottisfont Court, High Street, Winchester SO23 8ZF, and there is information also at www.hamblevalley.com/walking.htm. The leaflet covers public transport links with rail, bus and summer riverbus options covered, along with pubs and tea-rooms.

Greater London/Essex/Surrey/Hertfordshire

In 2012 Her Majesty The Queen will, it is hoped, celebrate 60 years as Sovereign and London will host the Olympic Games for the first time since 1948 and to celebrate this conjunction the Jubilee Walkway Trust has developed the concept of a new 60-mile (100km) **Jubilee Greenway** circling inner London. The aim of the proposals, announced in November 2007, is to provide continuous, green and attractive walking

and cycling to all nine London venues which will host the Olympic Games, while connecting many of London's main visitor attractions, historic places, parks, open spaces, waterways and views and many major public transport hubs. The Jubilee Greenway proposes to make use of existing walking and cycling routes wherever possible with a core circuit beginning at Buckingham Palace and joining Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens Royal Parks with Paddington Station and the Grand Union Canal at Little Venice. Following the Regents Canal through Camden the Jubilee Greenway then connects to East London through Victoria Park and the original Greenway path, passing London City Airport to reach the River Thames and the Woolwich Foot Tunnel. The Thames path then links via Greenwich and the South Bank to the original **Jubilee Walkway** at Tower Bridge and back to St James' via Westminster. Additional spurs and links may be added to complete the network. Further investment to in the route will it is hoped address accessibility, signage, provide interpretation panels and resting points and improve its safety and route quality. Approximately £1m of investment is estimated to be needed by 2012 for this and to promote it effectively online, in print and through led walks and rides. The Jubilee Walkway Trust welcomes any contributions of time, money and expertise to help with the planning, delivery and promotion of the route. To lend your support and find out more about this initiative please visit the website at www.jubileegreenway.com. As a royal Diamond Jubilee initiative, it builds on the original 14-mile (22km) Jubilee Walkway set up by the Trust in celebration of the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and enjoyed by an estimated 2 million people per year; the Walkway map is the most popular publication visitors choose to navigate London on foot.

The route description for the 43-mile **Middlesex Greenway** is now available on a new website address for the route at <http://free.hostdepartment.com/r/redgoblin/mg/> along with other useful information. The original loose-leaf guide is now out of print but a remaining stock is still available from its author, Stephen Collins, 51 Russell Gardens, Sipson, Middlesex, UB7 0LP at £1.00 plus an A4 SAE.

Kent

The former detailed guidebooks for several routes in Kent produced by the County Council are being replaced, but in the case of the new 2007 edition of the **Darent Valley Path** guide, only an overview of the full route is included with a focus on shorter walks. The new 50-page book has ISBN 13: 978-1901509779 and is priced at £4.99 (plus £2.50 p&p) from Kent County Council, by calling 08458 247600 or online from www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent or from bookshops.

Oxfordshire

The **Oxford Green Belt Way** is a new route developed by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Oxfordshire branch to celebrate its 75th anniversary and 50 years of Oxford's Green Belt and mark the significance of the Green Belt in protecting the open countryside around England's cities. The route has one mile for each year since the designation of green belts in 1956. It is a 50-mile circular walk through some of Oxfordshire's most picturesque and historic villages,

and alongside delightful stretches of the River Thames near Abingdon and the Oxford Canal north of Oxford. The route provides excellent views of Oxford's dreaming spires. The Way links four Oxford Park and Ride sites and is crossed by major bus routes, making it easy for city and village dwellers to access the route, and to travel back to their starting point, in keeping with CPRE's aims. A paperback guide is now available priced at £6.00 (plus £1.00 p&p) from CPRE Oxford, Punches Barn, Waterperry Road, Holton OX33 1PP, Tel: 01865 874780. Route maps and descriptions may be downloaded from its website:

www.greenbeltway.org.uk/info/index.htm. The route is divided into nine stages and includes the links to the Park and Rides. The 50-year history of Green Belts started in 1955, when councils were invited to establish their own green belts and in 1956, Oxford councillors had the foresight to suggest they designate the fields surrounding their city as green belt, following a campaign by CPRE and the Oxford Preservation Trust. They protect the open character of the countryside next to urban areas and stop sprawl, thereby encouraging urban regeneration. Green Belts face multiple threats, nowhere more so than in Oxfordshire where several proposals currently threaten the rural character of the Way.

Suffolk

A new book of circular walks around the **Sandlings Walk** has been published by Larks Press, written by Simon Malone and priced at £6.50, it is named Sandlings Walks: 20 circular walks around the Suffolk coast and heaths. The ISBN 13 is 978-1904006381 and Larks Press are at Ordnance Farmhouse, Guist Bottom, Dereham NR20 5PF, Tel: 01328 829207. The walks are on the attractive heathland areas along the Suffolk coastline that are home to abundant birdlife and the RSPB Minsmere reserve.

Yorkshire

Brian Watson devised the 23-mile **Otley Ringway Walk** and as the name suggests the walk is circular and follows a route around the fringes of Otley and also Burley-in-Wharfedale but heading north to reach Denton and Askwith Moors. If you started in Pool it would go to past Lindley Wood Reservoir to Timble, then via these moors to Denton crossing the River Wharfe at Denton Bridge, up over Ilkley Moor to Menston and round again to Pool via the Chevin. From Ilkley almost to Pool it coincides with the Dales and Ebor Ways. The original booklet is no longer available by post but a downloadable version with schematic maps is now free to LDWA members from the route's online page on the LDWA website.

A new fourth book edition is out for the popular **Yorkshire Three Peaks Walk** from Challenge Publications priced at £4.50 (including p&p) with ISBN13: 978-1903568460 from 7 Earlsmere Drive, Ardsley, Barnsley S71 5HH (cheques payable to Brian Smailes). Further details can be found at www.chall-pub.co.uk. A review of this book can be found in the reviews in this Strider.

The **Yorkshire Water Way** (Vol.2) has been written by Mark Reid and published by Inn Way Publications. From the southern edge of the Yorkshire Dales, the book,

divided into four day stages, takes you on a journey through the valleys and across the moorlands of the South Pennines through Bronte country and Last of the Summer wine country to the finishing point at Langsett in the Peak District. Priced at £3.99 with ISBN 13: 978-1902001159, it can be obtained along with the first volume from the LDWA website, or from the publisher at 102 Leeds Road, Harrogate HG2 8HB, Tel: 01423 871750 and www.innway.co.uk.

SCOTLAND

The 89-mile **Kintyre Way** around the Kintyre peninsula now has a 68-page guidebook with maps. It is by Jacquetta Megarry and is priced at £10.99 with ISBN 13: 978-1898481294 and published by Rucksack Readers, Landrick Lodge, Dunblane FK15 0HY, Tel: 01786 824696, www.rucsacs.com. The route was originally covered in August 2006 Strider and is included on the LDPs webpages where the book may be bought and the route's own website is at www.kintyreway.com and has some free downloads. If buying OS maps for this route, be sure to get the latest version as some of the routing was initially shown incorrectly.

A new guidebook for the **Arran Coastal Way** also by author Jacquetta Megarry and from Rucksack Readers is out in May 2008 priced at £10.99 with ISBN 13: 978-1898481287. It gives a detailed route description of the 65-mile walk around the Isle of Arran with background on pre-history and history, whisky making and wildlife. There is a map of the entire route in four drop-down panels, practical information about public transport and travel and 70 colour photographs. The book is printed on waterproof paper.

The 9-mile **Kelvin Walkway**, between Glasgow city centre and the official start of the **West Highland Way** at Milngavie, is included in the new Trailblazer guide to the West Highland Way by Charlie Loram, price £9.99 and ISBN 13: 978-1873756904. The walkway follows the riverbanks on a route once used by Highland drovers bringing their cattle south to market. The route is marked throughout its length and follows, as much as possible, the three watercourses of the Allender, Kelvin and Clyde, to form a 'green link' from the countryside to the many parks, museums, art galleries, places of historic and cultural interest.

The first 9-mile part of the **River Avon Heritage Trail (Scotland)** to be completed extends along the River Avon between Avonbridge and Linlithgow that forms the border between Falkirk and West Lothian. The River Avon flows over weirs and waterfalls and in narrow gorges and the path keeps as close to the riverbank as possible, using boardwalks on occasion, and crossing from bank to bank. The disused Westfield viaduct dominates an early section of the route. Closer to the finish are Muiravonside Country Park, with visitor centre, the Avon Aqueduct that takes the Union canal over the river and is the second longest in Britain, and finally the railway over the Edinburgh to Glasgow line, where the Trail ends under one of its stone pillars on the south side of the river. The full Trail is planned to provide a route along the whole length of the River Avon from Slamannan in the heart of central Scotland to the shores of the River Forth at Grangemouth. A free leaflet is available to download at

www.csft.org.uk or from Central Scotland Forest Trust, Hillhouseridge, Shottskirk Road, Shotts, North Lanarkshire ML7 4JS, Tel: 01501 822015.

The **John Muir Way** is now complete between Musselburgh, near Edinburgh, and Dunglass, near Cockburnspath, providing some 45 miles (73km) of route, mostly along the coastline of East Lothian, that includes his birthplace at Dunbar and the nearby John Muir Country Park. The Way is named on OS Explorer maps except between Gullane (NT462827) and East Linton (NT590775). Five sectional leaflets and an overview leaflet are available free from North Berwick Tourist Information Centre, Quality Street, North Berwick EH39 4HJ, Tel 01620 827671 and may be downloaded from the website, www.visiteastlothian.org. A free booklet of shorter walks based on the Way is also available. More details of the Way, that is part of the North Sea Trail European Project, were given in December 2005 Strider.

A well-produced new free 38-page booklet of shorter **Shetland Walks** called The Walking Guide: Shetland Take It In Your Stride is available from VisitShetland, Market Cross, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0LU, Tel: 01595 693434, email: info@visitshetland.com, <http://www.walkshetland.com>, with a fee PDF download available from the website. The major series of seven longer walks books on the Shetlands by Peter Guy are still available with his seventh 144-page book, Walking the Coastline of Shetland: 7 – **Eastside**, published in 2004 with ISBN 13: 978-1904746010. This costs £9.99 (+ £1.05 p&p) and details are on the Shetland Times website at: www.shetland-times.co.uk or from 71/79 Commercial Street, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0AJ, Tel: 01595 695531. The Eastside Mainland of Shetland and the islands of Noss, Out Skerries, Bressay and Whalsay have lively communities, nature reserves and fascinating archaeological sites. The book covers the long distance walk from Lerwick to Mavis Grind and also what can be seen on a selection of circular walks and has route maps, photographs and diagrams. Shetland captivated Peter Guy and his late wife, Christine, when he was posted to RAF Saxa Vord, Unst, thirty years ago and they subsequently lived in Yell. The fourth book, 'Walking the Coastline of Shetland – No 4: **Northmavine**', was updated in 2006 and covered in Strider in December 2006. It includes a continuous coastal walk, divided into 14 sections, plus additional circular walks. Published by the Shetland Times at the same price, the ISBN 13 is 978-0952002604.

The **Ayrshire Coastal Path** from Glenapp Kirk to Skelmorlie, just north of Stranraer, to Skelmorlie, seven miles south west of Greenock, along Scotland's west coast is expected to be officially opened in June 2008. The 101-mile path, the legacy of 67-year-old Alistair Tyre and his band of retired volunteers from Ayr Rotary Club, includes rugged tracks and rock sections with beaches making up about the 30 miles of the route including the flat sands at Troon and Ayr. The ultimate aim is to extend the path to join the Southern Upland Way in the south and the West Highland Way in the north to create a single continuous pathway across Scotland.

NORTHERN IRELAND

In line with the continuing development of routes in the Province covered in the last Strider there are two more routes in Down. The **Mourne Way** is a 26-mile route

almost entirely off-road, traversing the foothills of the Mourne Mountains from Newcastle on the Irish Sea to Rostrevor on Carlingford Lough. The Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a unique, largely granite landscape shaped by ice and man, with stunning vistas of coast, sea and countryside. Further information is available online www.walkni.com where a leaflet is downloadable as a Word document and route maps may be downloaded free as PDFs, or contact Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN), The Stableyard, Barnett's Demesne, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5PB, Tel: 028 9030 3930.

Another long-distance walking route through the Mourne Area of Outstanding Beauty, the 28-mile **Newcastle Challenge Trail (Northern Ireland)** offers a wealth of different landscapes to explore with breathtaking views out over the Irish Sea and across the Mourne Mountains all within this small geographical area. The route includes Tollymore and Castlewellan Forest Parks, Maghera village and a shoreline walk around the Murloagh National Nature Reserve, along Dundrum Inner and finally Dundrum Outer Bays. A PDF leaflet is available to download from a Down District Council weblink at www.downdc.gov.uk/uploads/docs/challengetrail.pdf or from CAAN (address above).

Brochures, route maps and details of these and guided walks and walking Festivals in the Down area can be obtained from the Tourist Information Offices in Downpatrick on 028 4461 2233 and Newcastle on 028 4372 2222, or from Countryside Development on 028 4461 0800.

NEWS OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGEWALKS

(For December 2007)

Edited by Adrian Rayner

This edition of the News brings you some nine more long routes fresh to this feature and a further new Prime Meridian route being developed, plus some another shorter routes round the country. Publications are now available for three routes briefly introduced in previous Striders and there are several useful new publications for established routes. We aim to cover all of the UK in this column and among the new routes is a rare appearance of a new trail in Northern Ireland with a welcome addition to the Waymarked Ways, and we also include an update on the Ulster Way that has had a chequered history of access and quality issues, but that is encouraging more new trails in the Province. The mainland British National Trails of England, Scotland and Wales feature strongly with two new compendium books, one covering all of the trails and the other excluding the Scottish routes, and for individual National trails there are new guides and other media, with Hadrian's Wall Path leading the charge.

On the LDWA website, the LDPs area is now a public facility and you no longer need a password to log in, so take a look if you haven't already, it is a very comprehensive facility, with well over 800 UK LDPs to chose from and still counting and most areas now well represented. Just follow the Long Distance Paths tabs. It is now well established online and we would welcome feedback and news to keep the site up to date. There are easy ways to send information to the LDPs volunteer team online on these LDP webpages, whether updates, comments or suggestions. You will find much additional information there on the routes and publications listed below that we don't have space to cover here, including OS map lists and brief publication reviews. As well, there are online links to buy these maps and many of the books at Amazon's generally substantially discounted prices, while benefiting the LDWA. There are weblinks to maps of route starts and finishes and across to the parallel pages for many linking routes. For those with digital mapping, for many walks, especially the Anytime Challenges not marked on OS mapping, we provide tracklogs files online for free download by members only from the routes' webpages. The website addresses included below link directly from their online route pages for ease of use, to save retyping the web address. For many routes now the publications are available online as free downloads so with a couple of mouse-clicks you can be all set to walk.

News items relating to long distance paths should be sent to Adrian Rayner, 11 Charleston Close, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7LJ, tel: 020 8751 3251, email: adrianarayner@hotmail.com. Books, book reviews and other publications should be sent to Les Maple, 21 Upcroft, Windsor, Berks SL4 3NH.

BRITAIN – ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & WALES

National Trails and other routes covering several areas

Well-known author of trail guides, Paddy Dillon, who is expected to be the speaker at the 2008 LDWA AGM, has written a compendium guide to the **British National Trails** and it is reviewed in Footprint. Recently published by Cicerone at £16.99, with

ISBN13 978-1852845049, it is available to buy online from the LDPs pages on the LDWA website. This covers all 19 major trails in England, Wales and Scotland.

A second 2007 compendium book on the same 15 major trails in England and Wales is *Big Walks Of Great Britain* by David Bathurst, an indefatigable walker who also has a Kent coastline book covered below. David's 320-page paperback aims to be a comprehensive guide to these trails and offers detailed descriptions and geographical, historical and practical information, including route maps and places of interest along the way. It is priced at £9.99 with ISBN13: 978-1840245660 and is also available via the LDPs webpages or from bookshops.

There are several new items for **Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail**. *Walk Hadrian's Wall: The 84 Mile Route from Bowness-on-Solway to Wallsend*, is a new paperback from Brian Smailes that covers the route in the west to east or 'reverse' direction. The prevailing wind often blows that way across the country, so walking with your back to the wind may help a little and within a few hours of starting you enter Carlisle, useful for supplies before tackling the more challenging central section. The slim book is available from the LDPs webpages or from Challenge Publications, 7 Earlsmere Drive, Ardsley, BARNESLEY, South Yorkshire, S71 5HH, tel: 01226 217695, <http://www.chall-pub.co.uk>, and it is priced at £6.50 (incs p&p), with ISBN13: 978-1903568408.

Harvey Maps have a new XT-40 ruggedised stripmap covering the whole Hadrian trail, also available online on the LDPs pages that include other Harvey stripmaps, and direct from Harvey Maps at priced at £11.95 (plus £1.50 p&p) from 12-22 Main Street, DOUNE, Perthshire, FK16 6BJ, tel: 01786 841202, sales@harveymaps.co.uk and <http://www.harveymaps.co.uk>. They also have a similar 2007 **Speyside Way** edition.

Returning to Hadrian's Wall, there is a third edition of the booklet previously known as the Essential Guide and now called Essential Companion to Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail, by David McGlade, National Trail Manager. Building on last year's successful and popular booklet this guide provides much of the information you need in order to negotiate this long distance walk and it is priced at £3.95 from Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd, East Peterel Field, Dipton Mill Road, HEXHAM, Northumberland, NE46 2JT, tel: 01434 609700, <http://www.hadrians-wall.org>. The ISBN13 is 978-0954734213. A composite Hadrian's Wall Path Walking Pack, comprising a Harvey Map of the full Path, the Aurum Press Official Guidebook and the Essential Companion, at £24.99 (plus £3.00 p&p), is also available for from Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd. Also new from the same source is a free booklet, *Walking in Hadrian's Wall Country*, providing a variety of shorter circular walks based around the Wall, where the main corridor is under pressure from the number of users especially in winter. It is also free to download on the Path's website.

A free pack (Pack 2) with Trail Leaflet, Summer Passport, Bus/Rail Timetables (inc Hadrian's Wall Bus AD122), Mini Guide (Walking & Cycling Accommodation) and Roman Attractions Leaflet may be ordered online on the Path's website under Contacts, or call 01434 322002. A certificate may be had with a completed passport, for £2.95. There is a new rather jazzy website covering the sites and topics of interest along the Wall originally designed to keep you either in or out of the northern limits of the Roman Empire, appropriately entitled <http://www.planyourinvasion.co.uk>.

For the **South West Coast Path National Trail**, Aurum Press have a new 2007 edition by John Macadam for the section from Padstow to Falmouth, priced at £12.99 with ISBN13: 978-1845132705, available from the LDPs webpages.

A series of video guides to the National Trails of Great Britain has been launched by TV Walks.com. **Hadrian's Wall Path, South Downs Way, Cotswold Way and Ridgeway** programmes are so far produced. Each video is written and presented by author and TV presenter, Anthony Burton, author of three recent national trail guidebooks. You can download the videos to watch on your portable video player or order them on DVD to enjoy at home. The cost is £12.00 (mail order); £6.00 (download from TV walks.com at <http://www.tvwalks.com>). The mail order address is TV walks.com, Bonza TV Ltd, 12 Swainson Road, LONDON, W3 7XB, tel: 020 8746 7300.

The **Greenwich Meridian Trail** is a new route under development that seeks to follow as closely as practical by using public footpaths and bridleways the line of the Prime Meridian as it traverses north and south from sea to sea between Sussex and East Yorkshire across eastern England from its origin in Greenwich. The Greenwich Meridian was designated the Prime Meridian in 1884 at a conference in America. The route is planned for launch in 2009 on the 125th Anniversary with a guidebook planned. From the southern coastal limit marked by the Meridian Obelisk at Peacehaven the proposed route goes north through Lewes, East Grinstead, Oxted to Greenwich itself. The route leaves north of London through Epping Forest to Chingford, then onwards to Waltham Abbey and Royston. A Cambridge loop is planned as an option, but the main route will follow the Meridian west of Cambridge through the fens to Holbeach, then Boston, Louth and Cleethorpes. Crossing the Humber river by a small fishing boat to Spurn Head would be in the spirit of the route, before finally reaching the northern Meridian coastal crossing near Tunstall in East Yorkshire and the North Sea.

Derbyshire/Peak District

The **Inn Way... to the Peak District** is a new sixth 84-mile long distance circular walking route from the Mark Reid stable that takes in the best of the Peak District from the wilds of Kinder Scout to the dramatic Eastern Edges, the gentle pastoral landscape of Chatsworth and the beautiful limestone dales of the White Peak, all via 53 traditional country pubs. Starting and finishing at Hayfield, the route is presented in six stages. Stage 1 skirts around Kinder Scout then heads through the Woodlands Valley to Hathersage. Stage 2 traces the Eastern Edges southwards high above the Derwent Valley to reach Baslow. Stage 3 is gentler, with a stroll through Chatsworth Park then across the mystical landscape of Stanton Moor to Youlgrave. Stage 4 heads up through the beautiful limestone valleys of the White Peak to Tideswell. Stage 5 explores Eyam before heading over to Castleton. Finally Stage 6 traverses the famous Great Ridge over to Edale and then follows the packhorse route back to Hayfield. The **Inn Way... to the Peak District** by Mark Reid is a 2007 A5 paperback, ISBN13: 978-1902001098, priced at £8.95, from Inn Way Publications, 102 Leeds Road, HARROGATE, North Yorkshire, HG2 8HB, tel: 01423 871750. It includes information on history, geography, places of interest, traditional inns, routes and maps and is available online on the LDWA website or from <http://www.innway.co.uk/>, both of which cover the other Inn Way routes. Another new Mark Reid route, the **Yorkshire Water Way**, is covered below.

Durham

The **Consett & Sunderland Railway Path**, a 26-mile multi-user route based on a disused railway line potentially useful also for marathon distance training, follows the line of the former Stanhope & Tyne Railway, Britain's first commercial railway built in 1834 and finally closed in 1985 following the demise of the Consett steelworks. Going west to east it is generally gently downhill and passes Hell Hole Wood, managed by the Woodland Trust, the Beamish Open Air Museum, the Washington Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Centre at Washington and in Sunderland the Stadium of Light, with its artwork trail, to end at Roker beach and the North Sea. The route is marked on OS mapping, as National Cycle route 7, part of the C2C cycle route from coast to coast and <http://www.cobr.co.uk> carries details under Railway Paths for this and other similar easy trails. Another such is the York to Selby Railway Path covered below.

Greater London/Essex/Hertfordshire

Veteran trailwalker and prolific author John Merrill has a new 2007 book on the River Lea, or Lee, paths that covers walking the canalised Lee Navigation from end to end, from Limehouse Basin in East London to Hertford - some 28 miles - and also included are new shorter walks and history notes, plus walking around the 2012 Olympic park. Entitled **Walking the River Lee Navigation: Walking from London to Hertford Via the River Lee Navigation**, the 120-page paperback is priced at £9.95 with ISBN13: 978-0955369186 and is available online or from The John Merrill Foundation, 32 Holmesdale, WALTHAM CROSS, Herts, EN8 8QY, tel: 01992762776, marathonhiker@aol.com and <http://www.johnmerrillwalkguides.com>. The full Lea paths extend much further to the source at Luton, in all some 54 miles, using the river itself higher up and a new Cicerone guidebook for this from Leigh Hatts was covered in the last Strider, now also online on the path's LDPs page.

Kent

A new book by David Bathurst, **Walking the Kent Coast from End to End**, describes a complete end-to-end traverse of the diverse Kent coastline with its key role in Britain's maritime and wartime history. From Dungeness and Romney Marsh, Hythe and Folkestone are passed to reach historic Dover harbour and the White Cliffs, then via Deal to Sandwich and its famous seaside golf links to Pegwell Bay, and around the Thanet coast with the resorts of Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Margate and Herne Bay, and on to the Isle of Sheppey to the Medway towns, and finally past the Dartford QEII river bridge crossing. Much of the walking is relatively flat and there are many good public transport links. The many estuarine and mudflat areas abound in birdlife. However, major sections of this coast are developed for seaside recreation and accommodation and there is much in the way of industrial infrastructure and key continental transport links on view. The 144-page paperback book, priced at £8.50 (plus £1.00 p&p), with ISBN13: 978-1857703269, is available from S B Publications, 14 Bishopstone Road, SEAFORD, West Sussex, BN25 2UB, tel: 01323-893498, <http://www.sbpublications.co.uk>.

Lancashire

The **Hodder Way**, a 27-mile route from the river's source on boggy moorland on Access Land near the Cross of Greet through the attractive villages of Slaidburn, Newton, Dunsop Bridge, Whitewell, Bashall Eaves and Great Mitton to reach Hodder Foot where it joins the River Ribble, now has a booklet presented as a series of eight loop walks with a spine route following as close as possible to the river's course. The

final circular walk visits Stonyhurst with its famous public school. The Hodder Way With Circular Walks Along The Hodder, by Clitheroe Ramblers, ISBN10: 1901184862 costs £4.50 from 1 Albany Drive, Salesbury, Blackburn BB1 9EH, cheques to RA Clitheroe Group Social Account.

Lancashire & N Yorkshire

More information is available on the **West Craven Way**, briefly mentioned in April 2007 Strider. This was a new 24-mile route encircling the West Craven area from the moors to the south to the drumlin landscape and pastureland to the north, with interesting villages and ancient houses. Several shorter options are catered for in the leaflets. En route are Great Edge, the Copy House notable for links with the 'Dissenters', a first section of the **Pendle Way**, and Thornton in Craven where the **Pennine Way** is encountered. The second leg starts from the Cross Keys pub at East Marton and visits Gledstone Hall, the drumlin area, Horton, Stock, Bracewell, a short Roman road section and Weets Hill passing below the summit, where the Pendle Way is again encountered. The Leeds & Liverpool Canal divides the route naturally into these two parts each about 12 miles, with its towpath providing a shorter return link. If this is used Barnoldswick, on the canal, is a possible starting point. The leaflets cover the two parts, and include OS mapping and route descriptions, with a third overview leaflet. In addition to the canal link, five other link routes are covered providing much shorter circular options. The three A5 leaflets are available free from Pendle Borough Council, Regeneration Unit, FREEPOST, NELSON, BB9 9ZY, tel: 01282 661981, and their website is <http://www.pendle.gov.uk>.

Lincolnshire

The **South Kesteven Round** is an extended 130-mile route around the district of South Kesteven in the southwest of Lincolnshire connecting the market towns of Grantham, Sleaford and Bourne, visiting 42 villages and 21 pubs on route with an extra loop into Market Deeping. Dating from 2005 it has not been covered in this column so far. A 100-page paperback by R A Brownlow is available online from the LDPs webpages or from The Old Farmhouse, 4 Glen Road, Castle Bytham, Grantham NG53 4RJ, priced at £7.50 and with ISBN-13: 978-0955175206. A track file is also on the LDWA site for download

Yorkshire

There is a new edition of the **Lyke Wake Walk** Guide, with a 56 page paperback by Brian Smailes, priced at £4:50 (incs p&p) with ISBN13: 978-1903568477 and available from the LDPs webpages or from Challenge Publications, whose details are above.

The **Yorkshire Water Way**, another new 105-mile route from outdoor writer Mark Reid commissioned by Yorkshire Water and first covered in December 2006 Strider, is a 7-day long distance walk through Yorkshire from the Dales to the Peak District tracing the rivers and reservoirs of the Pennines. Published in two volumes, the second is now available. The first book described a 41-mile walk from Kettlewell to Ilkley and this companion second book covers a four-day section taking the walker on from Ilkley through the valleys and across the Moorlands of the South Pennines through Bronte country and Last of the Summer wine country to the finishing point at

Langsett in the Peak District. The Yorkshire Water Way (Volume 2) is a 2007, A5 paperback, ISBN13: 978-1902001159, from Inn Way Publications at £3.99, also available online from the LDWA website (see **Inn Way... to the Peak District** above for details).

Over many years Martyn Hanks has designed long distance walking routes to encourage walking with the use of the traditional Youth Hostels, some of which are now sadly closed. However where this is the case there are other accommodation options. One such route not covered before in this feature is the 40-mile **Three Hostels Three Peaks Walk** in North Yorkshire based on Stainforth, Ingleton and Dentedale Youth Hostels that was designed to take in each day the 'Three Peaks' (Ingleborough, Whernside and Pen-y-Ghent). A route description and well designed schematic maps for this route are now available for free download on the LDPs webpages by kind permission of Martyn Hanks. Similar downloads are now available for his other routes: **Dartmoor Ramble** (Devon), **Lakes and Passes of Borrowdale and Buttermere**, **Lakes and Tarns**, **Traditional Hostels Lakes Walk** (Cumbria), **Limestone Loop** (Derbyshire), **Lower Dales Three Hostels Walk** (N Yorks), and **Three Ways Walk** (Cumbria and N Yorks).

The **York to Selby Railway Path** is another multi-user trail of 15 miles. It goes from York Station to Selby Station following where possible the former railway line. The route is marked on OS mapping and so easy to follow and is described on the same <http://www.cobr.co.uk> website mentioned above.

Wiltshire

Wiltshire has a new waymarked east-west traverse route in the form of the 68-mile **Mid-Wilts Way** (MWW), researched and designed by James Alsop from Wiltshire College, Trowbridge. It takes in some of Wiltshire's finest countryside and downland areas and could be walked in either direction. At its eastern end the walk starts/finishes in the attractive village of Ham, located just to the south of Hungerford, and at the western end finishes close to the Dorset border in the heart of the pretty village of Mere. The walking is varied with extended open downland stretches on the ancient ridgeways of the Wansdyke over Tan Hill, passing burial mounds and white horses, as well as over easier terrain on the Kennett and Avon Canal with the interesting Caen Hill lock flight, and some pleasant vale walking skirting below the western fringes of Salisbury Plain. In all eleven villages lie on the route providing accommodation and refreshment, the nine others going east to west being Wilton, Wootton Rivers, Oare, Seend Cleeve, Keevil, Steeple Ashton, Bratton, Upton Scudamore, Horningham and Kingston Deverill. Originally the MWW ended at Wootton Rivers and this is the route described in the guidebook, but the extension to start at Ham is waymarked with the MWW logo. Down-loadable outline route descriptions are provided free at http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/pages/mid_wilts_way.asp and a track file for the full route is on the LDWA LDPs webpage for the MWW. Future OS map editions will also show the route. Train services run to towns near to the route at Hungerford, Pewsey, Melksham, Westbury and Warminster. James Alsop's 80-page, 2007 paperback called Mid-Wilts Way is published by Ex Libris Press, ISBN13: 978-1903341421, priced at £5.95 (inc p&p) from the publisher or at local TICs. Ex Libris Press is at 16A St John's Road, St Helier, JERSEY, JE2 3LD, tel: 01534 780488, <http://www.ex-librisbooks.co.uk>.

Shropshire

The **Simon Evans Way** is a recent new 18-mile figure of eight walk around the South Shropshire countryside starting and finishing at Cleobury Mortimer, visiting both sides of the River Rea and including the villages of Neen Savage, Oretton and Stottesdon and linking in the middle near Detton Hall on the **Jack Mytton Way**. Simon Evans was Cleobury Mortimer's postman writer who produced five books on the area and broadcast in the 1930s from a rural viewpoint and with something of a following. The Cleobury Mortimer Footpath Association, Brookside, Eagle Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, KIDDERMINSTER, DY14 8RA sell the 32-page, 2006 paperback guide to the route at £3.50 (plus £1.00 p&p) with cheques payable to them. The book is ISBN13: 978-0947712457. The Association's website is <http://www.cmfa.co.uk>.

Staffordshire

Another new county traverse route is the waymarked 25-mile **Newcastle Way (Staffordshire)**, through the north west of Staffordshire across the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, from Mow Cop to the Shropshire border near Market Drayton. It visits Kidsgrove Bank, Red Street, Black Bank, Madeley, Black Brook and Loggerheads and links the **Staffordshire Way** at Mow Cop with the **Shropshire Union Canal** towpath at Market Drayton. There is varied terrain, from moorland scenery, through industrial relics, to farming country and sandstone ridges. The idea for such a route originated from a Newcastle Councillor, Nigel Jones. The route is signed with a logo of a blue pit wheel with yellow arrow and route name on oak posts. A route description divided into seven sections includes clear maps and bus details for links from Newcastle and is available online as a free PDF download from <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/e-land/RightsOfWay/PromotedRoutes/> (this link is on the LDWA LDP webpage) or free, from Staffordshire County Council, Environment & Countryside Unit, Development Services Directorate, Riverway, STAFFORD, ST16 3TJ, tel: 01785 277264.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Longer walking trails in Northern Ireland have not featured in this column for some years and it had rather 'gone off the radar', so a new route here is welcome. The **Antrim Hills Way** is Northern Ireland's newest, opened in October 2006 and is the ninth of Northern Ireland's Waymarked Ways. It is a scenic 22-mile walking trail in the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB among the Glens of Antrim across Black Hill and Scawt Hill, over fields and moorland, from the historic village of Glenarm to end at the volcanic plug of Slemish Mountain, with its connections with St Patrick, where is an access road and car park below. The walk has extensive inland views across the Mountains of Antrim and from the coastline views as far as Scotland. An open upland route, it can be wet underfoot and is exposed to the weather. The route has been developed with permission of landowners; dogs are not allowed due to grazing livestock. There is a guidebook to the Antrim Hills Way available from Countryside Access and Activities Network, The Stableyard, Barnett's Demesne, Malone Road, BELFAST, BT9 5PB, tel: 028 9030 3930, priced at £1.00 (inc p&p), cheques payable to Countryside Recreation NI.

The Province also has a fine new walking website at <http://www.walkni.com> where a route map based on OSNI mapping and outline details can be downloaded free for this

and other routes and there is useful walkers' information online here along with an order form for the guidebooks.

The Antrim Hills Way is one of nine Waymarked Ways, a series of walking routes geographically spread across Northern Ireland, and led by the Northern Ireland Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN), an umbrella organisation. Ranging in length from 20-35 miles, the aim of the Waymarked Ways project has been to open up the countryside to the people of Northern Ireland and tourists alike. The Waymarked Ways are: **Antrim Hills Way, Causeway Coast Way, Moyle Way, Carleton Trail, Ring of Gullion, Newry Canal Way, Lecale Way, Sliabh Beagh Way and Central Sperrins Way**. Details of all these routes and links to their website are available on the LDWA LDPs webpages. Guidebooks are available for each of the nine trails, each with the same price and source as above, and a package for all nine trails, entitled Waymarked Ways of Northern Ireland, is also for sale at £6.50 in a plastic case or £6.99 in a presentation box (both include p&p).

While these Waymarked Ways arguably provide the pick of Northern Ireland's longer trails, the future of the **Ulster Way** remains unclear. This is a 585-mile route essentially encircling the Province by linking these Ways using other path and road sections, but which has not been promoted. There have been concerns in its link sections about route quality with many road sections, and with access issues and some sections being closed to the public. In 2003, NI Environment and Heritage Service, EHS, commissioned the Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) to produce a report on the future of the route. In September 2007 it was reported that CAAN had started work in partnership with EHS to develop a new website for the revised Ulster Way to be at www.ulsterway.co.uk. The Ulster Way is being divided into 'quality' and 'link' sections. The 'quality' sections will use the majority of the current Waymarked Ways and will be signed accordingly, and there are proposals for several new Waymarked Ways. Although these 'link' sections will not be actively promoted as suitable walking sections, the website will provide travel information on how to get from one 'quality' section to the next. The new website will contain comprehensive information on the Ulster Way including signage, interactive maps, descriptions for each section, facilities along the sections and transport links and will be accessible through <http://www.walkni.com>.

NEWS OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGEWALKS

(For August 2007)

Edited by Adrian Rayner

This edition of the News brings you some 20 long routes fresh to this feature, one re-launched route and a new route being developed, plus some another shorter routes round the country and useful new publications for some recent routes. This time there is a strong northern bias across the counties of Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland and also a good representation of northern Anytime Challenge badge and certificate walks, several by LDWA members. This may reflect in part the extensive research so far completed on these areas as part of creating the new LDWA LDPs website area. The south is not forgotten with new Sussex routes and while not a new route, the Cotswold Way has also had something of a re-launch with its full national trail upgrades completed in May.

With this new LDPs area now available online on the LDWA main website, you can find much additional information there on the routes and publications listed below, including OS map lists and online links to buy these maps and many of the books while benefiting the LDWA. There are weblinks to maps of route starts and finishes and across to the parallel pages for many linking routes. For those with digital mapping, for many walks, especially the anytimes not marked on OS mapping, we provide tracklogs files online for free download by members from the routes' webpages. The websites included below link directly from the relevant online route pages for ease of use, to save retyping the web address.

For those who took part in the 100 and want to revisit these impressive walking areas of Powys and the adjoining English borderlands, there are several LDPs on offer, some of which the 100 route used. Information on these is on the website and other linking routes can easily be found on these pages. Examples are Offa's Dyke Path and Glyndwrs Way, both national trails, and others like the Mortimer Trail and Wye Valley routes are close by.

News items relating to long distance paths should be sent to Adrian Rayner, 11 Charleston Close, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7LJ, tel: 020 8751 3251, email: adrianarayner@hotmail.com. Books, book reviews and other publications should be sent to Les Maple, 21 Upcroft, Windsor, Berks SL4 3NH.

ENGLAND

Routes covering several areas

Bath, Somerset, Gloucester, Worcs

The **Cotswold Way National Trail**, now upgraded, has new editions of two major guides. The new Aurum Press national trail guide series paperback by Anthony Burton was published in May 2007, with ISBN 978-1854109149 priced at £12.99 includes the full OS mapping at 1:25,000 scale. A new third edition laminated paperback guide from Kev Reynolds published by Cicerone, due July 2007, with

ISBN: 978-1852845520 is priced at £12:00. It covers the trail in both directions. Harvey Maps have a new 1:40,000 scale XT40 edition Cotswold Way route map that shows the entire route on one sheet - tough, durable and waterproof and supplied in a clear plastic pocket, it is priced at £11.95. Harvey Maps also have new detailed walkers maps for the **Malvern Hills** and the **Edinburgh Seven Hills**.

Beds, Essex, Herts, Gtr London, Luton

The **Lea Valley Walk**, a route on riverside paths, linking the **Icknield Way Path** with Dunstable Downs and the London Docklands, that includes the Lee Navigation towpath and the Upper Lea Valley Walk, has a second Edition 2007 guidebook from Leigh Hatts published by Cicerone Press ISBN: 978-1852845223, priced at £10:00 (+ £1.00 p&p). This provides alternative routes for the final section to reach the Thames. See Book Reviews.

E Sussex, Kent, Medway

The former well-produced previous series of guidebooks from Kent County Council for paths in Kent are progressively going out of print, to be replaced by a new and differently targeted series, of which the first is for the **Saxon Shore Way** that traces the ancient Saxon shoreline, now often inland from its original course. The new guidebook provides an overview of the many walking experiences to be savoured and includes details and maps of eight short circular walks as an introduction to the different landscapes to be explored. The 72-page book, with ISBN 1-901509-91-5, is available at £4.99 from Explore Kent, Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME14 1XX, tel: 08458 247 600, or from their online shop at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/> and follow the links for Explore Kent, and Walking.

Hants, Surrey, West Sussex

The long-awaited **Serpent Trail's** full-colour 36-page A5 booklet is available, complete with OS mapping at 25,000-scale and an overview map, dividing the route into 16 sections. There is no route description as such, or OS maps list, but the map sections are clearly presented and on the ground the route is well waymarked. The guide's well-illustrated narrative focuses on the habitats, plants and wildlife to be found en route. Public transport information is included along with useful websites, including the Sussex Wildlife Trust (link on the route's page online) whose work includes restoring these heathlands. It can be got free from the South Downs Joint Committee, Midhurst Depot, Bepton Road, MIDHURST, West Sussex, GU29 9QX tel: 01730 817945. The ISBN is 978-1900543422.

Aurum and Trailblazer National Trail and Other Guides

Apart from the Cotswold Way guide above, Aurum Press have new editions priced at £12.99 for two national trails, the **Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path**, ISBN 978-1845132071 from Mike and Bruce Robinson, and **Cleveland Way**, 978-1845132484 from Ian Sampson, and for the Wainwright **Coast to Coast**, 978-1845132224 from Martin Wainwright (no relation to you know who). All feature OS mapping and are for sale at competitive prices on the LDPs website.

Trailblazer have a new 2007 paperback guide to the **South Downs Way National Trail** by Jim Manthorpe, ISBN: 9781873756959, priced at £9.99.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

East and West Sussex

A Per-Rambulations venture, the new 42-mile **Ashdown Forest Perambulation**, is an initially clockwise figure-of-eight-walk centred on Gills Lap, in the heart of the Forest, but with a convenient start from the Forest Visitor Centre. Ashdown Forest derives its name from an earlier royal hunting 'forest' - these had little to do with trees. It lies on the area of sandstone ridge comprising the High Weald AONB, surrounded by the lower Weald, so providing consistently fine views and some apparently remote terrain so near to London. The full route could easily be walked as two 20-mile circuits using this and nearby car parks, or by linking from stations to make rather longer day-walks. It visits or passes close by well-known locations associated with its earlier iron industry, its characteristic 'clumps' of Scots Pine, and sites linked more recently with a certain fictional bear, with 'Pooh Corner', Pooh Sticks bridge, and Gills Lap - the 'enchanted place' - all associated with Winnie the Pooh. The 24-page, A5-sized guide to the 2006 'Per-Rambulations' route enables it to be walked at any time with an OS map, and comes with route directions, notes of interest and photographs. The ISBN is 978-0954965426. It costs £2.95 (+ 55p p&p) from Per-Rambulations, c/o Larkshill, Cranston Road, EAST GRINSTEAD, West Sussex, RH19 3HL, or visit <http://www.per-rambulations.co.uk>.

Another Per-Rambulations venture, the **West Sussex Literary Trail**, this time in West Sussex, opened in April 2007 and mentioned in April Strider, discovers many of the literary characters that have worked or lived in West Sussex on its 55-mile journey between Horsham and Chichester. The 112-page full colour guidebook is now available and contains maps and route descriptions and allows the walker to understand the many literary connections the county enjoys. It costs £8.95 (+ £1.55 p&p) with ISBN 0954965434 and is available from the address above.

Also from Per-Rambulations is a 'Companion on the **South Downs Way**'. Not a guidebook, there are no maps or route directions, this book by Terry Owen and Peter Anderson supplements and complements existing route guides, following the route east to west with an idiosyncratic look at the flora, fauna, history, places, folklore, traditions and people that have made the downland landscapes into what the walker sees today. This illustrated 96-page A5 paperback is available for £8.95 (+ £1.55 p&p) and the ISBN is 978-0954965419.

Yorkshire

Grassington to West Coast Walk and **Grassington to the East Coast** are two linking routes by the same author, each providing 100 miles of walking from Grassington and overall reaching from coast-to-coast, jointly named **Bay to Bay Walk**. **Grassington to West Coast Walk**, a new route subtitled '100 Miles in 7 Days' takes the walker west across the heart of the Yorkshire Dales, the Morecambe Bay Coast and South Lakes Peninsula. The **Grassington to East Coast Walk** runs east to the North Sea coast at Robin Hood's Bay. This route takes in Upper Nidderdale, Masham, the Vale of Mowbray and Fylingdales Moor. Each has a paperback by John White: Grassington to West Coast Walk with ISBN 978-1870735353 was due by August, 2007. Grassington to East Coast Walk, ISBN 978-1870735308 came out in July 2003. They are available at £9:95 from Fractal Press;

Low Mill Cottages, Grassington, North Yorkshire, BD23 5BX; 01756 752000;
www.fractalpress.co.uk/.

Rotherham Five Churches and **Rotherham Six Churches Walks** are each ten-mile routes. The Six Churches from All Saints, Wath-upon-Deerne discovers the industrial heritage in rural surroundings and visiting six churches on route via Brampton Bierlow, Elsecar and Wentworth. Its companion walk visiting Five Churches, starts and finishes at Todwick discovering the rural splendour of South Rotherham, visiting the churches of South Anton, Thorpe Salvin, Harthill and Wales. Each has an attractive free colour A5 leaflet with sketch map: Six Churches Walk and Five Churches Walks, from Rotherham Churches Tourism Initiative, Rotherham Minster, All Saints Square, Rotherham, S60 1PW; 01709 720 589; or visit www.rcti.org.uk for free downloads of the leaflets on the Visit/Downloads tabs.

Sting in Tail was formerly a circular challenge walk from High Royds Hospital Social Club (this site now developed as a new village) and is now an open challenge providing a demanding route around the Wharfe and Washburn Valleys visiting Burley Woodhead, Cow and Calf Rocks, Windgate Nick, Chelker Reservoir, Bolton Abbey, Rocking Hall, Blubberhouses, Fewston Reservoir, Dobpark Bridge, Clifton and Otley, before returning to Menston up the steep Otley Chevin. A 5-page, A4 looseleaf by Louise Mallinson is available free (+SAE) from her at 17 Prod Lane, BAILDON, West Yorkshire, BD17 5BN.

Two badge walk routes from Derek Haller are the **Otley Nine Leagues** and **Yorkshire Ridings 200 Furlongs**. The **Otley Nine Leagues** is a 27-mile circular, taking in woodland, moorland, riverside and field walking in the Wharfedale and Washburn valleys. The official start and finish is on the slopes of Otley Chevin south of Otley. The route passes through Pool-in-Wharfedale, Leathley, Timble, Denton, Middleton, Ilkley and Menston. Author Derek Haller provides a 3-page, A4 looseleaf, free (+ A5 SAE) from him at 21 Sunnyside Crescent, Otley, West Yorkshire, or the route is free to download from the LDWA site LDPs pages. The badge and certificate are £2 (+ A5 SAE). The **Yorkshire Ridings 200 Furlongs** is a delightful 25-mile circular trip around the Nidderdale AONB from the ancient market town of Otley, visiting Almscliffe Crag, Beckwithshaw, Beaver Dyke Dam, Dobpark Bridge and Farnley. Again there is a free 2-page looseleaf and a badge and a certificate as above.

Lancashire

Villages of the Valley is a walk through the central Ribble Valley countryside encircling Clitheroe visiting 12 valley villages: Whalley, Mitten, Clitheroe where the outskirts are visited, Waddington, West Bradford, Grindleton, Chatburn, Sawley, and returning under Pendle Hill via Downham, Worston, Pendleton and Wiswell. The A5 booklet, Villages of the Valley by Trevor Headley, is available from him at 18 Hillcrest Road, ORMSKIRK, L39 1NH at £3.50 or from local TICs. The author, himself a 'Lancashire Lad', has a more detailed book on the villages themselves, 'Two Days in the Valley', available on request. The **Trevine Trail** by the same author is an earlier linked walk of 54 miles, again based on Whalley, through the countryside of the lower Ribble Valley including Hurst Green and Clitheroe, returning over Pendle Hill via Sabden, with a booklet at £4.50 (inc p&p).

Cumbria and Northumberland

One new and one re-launched route provide circumnavigations on foot of England's longest and largest natural lake, Windermere. Much of the lake shoreline is privately owned, on the eastern side especially where there is little shore access. The new route, **Windermere – Walking Around the Lake** – is the shorter at 30 miles and keeps as close to the lake as is sensible, though at times is up to a mile from it, with the compensation of some good viewpoints not only of the lake but of the fells and more distantly the Howgills, the Pennines and Morecambe Bay. In total there is about 4700ft (1435m) of ascent, mostly gradual. Among the points of interest are Jenkin's Crag, Holehird with its gardens, Townend house, Orrest Head, Bowness, Gummer's How - the highest point, Fell Foot, Stott Park Heights, Rawlinson Nab, Ferry House opposite Bowness, Claife Heights and Wray Castle. The route is described in a recent hardback by Duncan Turner, ISBN 978-1874181347, priced at £6.95, published by Palatine Books - <http://www.palatinebooks.com>. Proceeds go to Leonard Cheshire Homes.

The **Windermere Way**, a much longer route of 45 miles dating from 2002 (April Strider), now has a fine new website at <http://www.windermere-way.co.uk>, from which route details can be downloaded. The Way also encircles the lake but with some longer excursions away from the lake itself, while taking in Ferry House, Lakeside, Bowness Bay and Bowness. Through use of the various public transport facilities available, namely bus, ferry and steamer, it is possible to complete the Way via a series of short walks. Waymarking is underway. The full route of the walk with map is available in a handy, fold out booklet at £2.00 (inc p&p) from Mozaic, 17 Main Road, WINDERMERE, Cumbria, LA23 1DX.

A recent 93-mile **Tour of the Lake District** is described in a new Cicerone book of that name by Jim Reid, that is reviewed in the book reviews, and is a lower level valleys and passes route but with higher level options.

As if he hasn't enough to do updating Wainwright's classic Lakeland guides, the **Roman Ring/Moss Troopers Trail** are two new routes created by Mark Richards as a green trail alternative to the central sections of **Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail**, part of which is shared with the **Pennine Way National Trail**. The routes are his response to the concern that the Wall Path has two innate flaws: it concentrates a four-seasons tide of walkers directly upon vulnerable archaeology and it distances the walking visitor from the depth and diversity of cultural landscapes of the wider Hadrian's Wall country in what he terms the 'Conservation Corridor' country around the Wall itself. The 52-mile **Roman Ring** route runs parallel to and to the south of Hadrian's Wall between Lanercost Priory and Halton Chesters. When walked in conjunction with the National Trail this makes a round walk equal in distance to the entire coast-to-coast Wall trail. The 20-mile **Moss Troopers' Trail**, in the same publication, strides out into the wilder country immediately north of the Whin Sill, from Carvoran to Newbrough. By combining several described north/south link routes, a number of shorter circular options are possible. Published by Shepherds Walks, 2 The Stone Barn, Kirkwhelpington, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE19 2PE, tel: 01830 540453, at £9.99, with ISBN 978-0955262401, the book features on <http://www.shepherdswalks.co.uk>.

The 64-mile **Northumberland Coast Path** forms a new part of the **North Sea Trail** project. From Cresswell it hugs the coast as far as Bamburgh before heading inland to Belford and the Kyoel Hills, which offer panoramic coastal views. From here it joins St Cuthbert's Way and returns to the coast at the causeway to Holy Island before

continuing to Berwick upon Tweed. A free leaflet is available from Berwick-upon-Tweed Tourist Information Centre, 106 Marygate, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, Northumberland, TD15 1BN, tel: 01289 330733. There is more online in the LDPs pages on the North Sea Trail and its constituent routes, including the **John Muir Way** where leaflets can now be downloaded online.

Great Cautley Challenge from Simon Townson, who has a number of routes in the north, is a tough 28-mile circuit visiting Winder, Calders and Calf and returning via Uldale and Dentdale, and it is described in an A4 looseleaf, free (+ SAE) from him at 15 First Avenue, Starbeck, HARROGATE, North Yorkshire, HG2 7PA.

The 26-mile **Hillfort Round**, an upland walk over rough terrain involving some 7,000ft of ascent, visits thirteen Iron Age hillforts in the Cheviot Hills to the north of the Cheviot itself. Good navigation skills are required for this LDWA Anytime Challenge. The St Cuthbert's Way passes through Hethpool where the route starts. An alternative route from Wooler, adding some two miles, is described. A route description can be downloaded from the website www.walknortheast.org.uk on the Anytime tab along with background on the hillforts. There is a looseleaf: Hillfort Round, from LDWA Northumbria Group, free – send 9 x 4 SAE or download from website, or write to LDWA Northumbria Group; 8 Handley Cross, CONSETT, DH8 6TZ. A completion certificate can be had for 9x6 SAE plus a loose first class stamp. Also for download are the **Three Peaks of Cheviot** and the **Cheviots 2000s**.

Over the Hill is a challenging 45-mile roller coaster circuit linking seven summit pillars in the Howgill area: Baugh Fell, Green Bell, Winder, Great Shunner Fell, Middleton, Wild Boar Fell and The Calf. Completion of the circuit qualifies over 50s for full membership of the Over the Hill club; under 50s qualify as associates. There is a 24-hour time limit with a series of optional first class times for the over 50s. The exact route is for the walker to devise. This was the first of the routes in this style promoted by the Club – see also Dark Peak Four County Tops and Tan Hill to Kirkstone Inn below. Free details are for download from a website at www.gofar.org.uk or there is a free looseleaf, and certificate for £1:50 with a registration form, from the Over the Hill Club, 10 Beaufort Grove, BRADFORD, BD2 4LJ.

Tan Hill to Kirkstone Inn is a demanding 45-mile, east-to-west route out of the Yorkshire Dales, across the Howgills and into the eastern Lakes, with 11,000 ft of ascent visiting Nine Standards, High Pike, High Seat, Wild Boar Fell, The Calf, Wind Scarth, Harter Fell, Mardale Ill Bell, Thornwaite Beacon, Stoney Cove Pike and Pike Howe. It links the highest pub in England, Tan Hill Inn on the Pennine Way, to the third highest. There is a time limit of 20 hours with a series of optional 'first class times' for over 50s. The exact route is for the walker to devise. It is the third route to be promoted by the Over the Hill Club with contact details above.

Derbyshire

The 1932 Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout 75 years ago has been described as the most significant event in the century-old battle for the Right to Roam on Britain's mountains and moors, a right now enshrined in the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Two fresh routes relate to this.

On the weekend of April 21-22, 2007, walkers from all over Britain congregated at

the former mill town of New Mills to celebrate that iconic and pivotal event. Among the features of the weekend was the inauguration of the 14-mile **Trespass Trail** following in the footsteps of the trespassers, the idea of New Mills man and chairman of Natural England, Sir Martin Doughty. The Manchester ramblers resolved to organize a well-publicised Mass Trespass onto Kinder Scout on Sunday 24 April 1932. Kinder, the highest point in the Peak District at 2,088ft/636m, was owned by the Duke of Devonshire and walkers were forbidden. In 2002, Andrew, the 11th Duke of Devonshire, publicly apologized at the 70th anniversary celebration event of the Kinder trespass at Bowden Bridge for his grandfather's 'great wrong' in 1932. The Trail takes in most of the important locations that featured in the build up to, and events of, the Mass Trespass. It also crosses the impressive recently built Millennium Walkway. An 8pp, A5 booklet, the Trespass Trail, by Sir Martin Doughty & Roly Smith, can be got from New Mills Heritage and Information Centre; Rock Mill Lane, New Mill, High Peak, SK22 3BN for £1.00 (+ A5 SAE), or visit www.newmillsheritage.com/.

The **Dark Peak Four County Tops** is a demanding 43-mile circuit linking the four county tops of Kinder Scout (Derbyshire), High Stones (South Yorkshire, just south of Margery Hill), Black Hill (West Yorkshire) and Black Chew Head (Greater Manchester), crossing Longdendale. There is a 21-hour limit with a series of optional 'first class times' for over 50s – those 'over the hill'. The exact route is for the walker to devise. The route is made possible by the 2000 CROW Act and appropriately starts at the plaque that marks where the historic 1932 Kinder Mass Trespass began. The route is the second to be promoted by the Over the Hill Club as part of 'Over The Hill' challenge series. See Over the Hill, and Tan Hill Inn to Kirkstone Inn routes above.

Nottinghamshire

The **Rushcliffe 100** is a new 62-mile circular walk devised by a member of staff at Rushcliffe Borough Council that climbs up and down the hills and valleys of the Wolds, follows the Rivers Soar and Trent and crosses the Vale of Belvoir. It passes through beautiful farmland, woodland and villages and crosses some of the highest land in the Borough. There is a nominal start at Willoughby on the Wolds. A quality downloadable strip map and route description is available from a website at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/doc.asp?cat=10198 but there is no paper publication.

SCOTLAND

The **Carrick Way** is a 100-mile route in development as a circular trail around the hills of North and South Carrick. It will be accessible from three railway stations - Girvan, Maybole and Barrhill. The route provides access to a diverse range of landscapes, from forest and upland landscapes to intensive agriculture and coast. There is initial information at <http://www.girvan-online.net>, under the Tourism tab.

NEWS OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGEWALKS

(For April 2007)

Edited by Adrian Rayner

This is my first time to edit the LDP News after taking over from Les Maple. It is a very hard act to follow as Les did such a great job with the News and even now has given much assistance to me while I learn the ropes and get to grips with doing this worthwhile job.

For me the LDP News is a real passion as I spend so many of my weekends strolling along the various trails all over the country. Indeed, the News always inspires me to order a new guidebook or leaflet and to get my boots on and get back on a trail. After all the enjoyment that the LDPs have brought me the least I can give back is to edit the news so others can keep abreast of what is going on with our LDPs.

Of course, my job is much easier if I can get feedback from the readers along with suggestions and tip offs on new and revised LDPs. To cover the entire country is not so easy so your co-operation on sending information from your locality is more than welcome.

This edition of the News brings you ten new long routes: Battlefields Trail, Epping Forest Challenge Walk, Saint Albans Way, a Lakeland Barn to Barn Walk, Ross Round, West Sussex Literary Trail, Wilberforce Way, Cleveland Circles, Lake Pickering Circuit and West Craven Way. There is news of re-launches for two established routes, Leeds Country Way and the Wye Valley Walk, and of a new route being developed, the Shakespeare's Avon Way, plus another two shorter routes round the country, so activity among those devising and promoting our UK LDPs continues at a high level.

ENGLAND

Routes or publications covering several areas

Vanguard Way A new website has been launched for this 66-mile trail at www.vanguardway.org.uk. The existing guidebook, by the Vanguard's Rambling Club, is being phased out and has been replaced by an online version in 2007. Copies of the book were still available at time of printing at a special price of £1 (incl p&p) from: Graham Butler, 1 Leaside Court, Lower Luton Road, Harpenden AL5 5BX.

Socratic Trail The guidebook for this 47-mile (76km) route, from Old Coulsdon to Brighton, is now available from Mike Blake, 39 Thornton Crescent, Old Coulsdon CR5 1LG (tel: 01737 552292). The cost is £1.50 plus an A5 SAE. Cheques should be made payable to Mrs K Hencke.

Monarch's Way – The Netherton Tunnel near Dudley in Worcestershire has been temporarily closed for safety surveys for three months starting from January. If major repairs are required then there is the risk that the tunnel may stay closed permanently if funding is not available from British Waterways. During the closure an alternative route can be used as

described in Book 1 of the Way by Trevor Antill. See the website www.monarchsway.50megs.com/ for more details.

Grand Union Canal Walk

There is a guide to the north section of the walk – a paperback: Grand Union Canal (North): A Towpath Guide by Nick Corble (Tempus Publishing Ltd) 2006. ISBN 0752438034, at £12.99. The companion guide to the south is still available but the other two main books (Aurum and Cicerone) are now out of print (Aurum) or out of date (Cicerone).

Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail Brian Smailes (Challenge Publications) has a new book on this 84-mile trail. Walk Hadrian's Wall (ISBN 978-1-903568-40-8) goes from west to east unlike other guidebooks to this fine walk. To view books on his website, go to www.chall-pub.co.uk or write to 7, Earlsmere Drive, Barnsley, S71 5HH. He also has a new National 3 Peaks site, www.national3peaks.co.uk, covering this challenge. There is also a 'walkers logbook' - an A5 ring bound booklet for keeping a detailed record of a walking route.

Shakespeare's Avon Way Association, the same people as are behind the Macmillan Ways and Shakespeare's Way, are now developing another long distance path – **Shakespeare's Avon Way** - which will follow the course of the River Avon from its source at Naseby to its confluence with the Severn at Tewkesbury - a distance of about 85 miles. There is a website www.shakespearesavonway.org that will include an illustrated diary recording Jenny Davidson's initial survey walks, and will show the ups and downs of developing a new long distance path. Jenny can be contacted at walking@oakgates.fsnet.co.uk. A guidebook will be available at a later date.

North of Banbury in the Midlands (Northants, Oxon, Warks), a new 20-mile walk over three historic English battlefields, the **Battlefields Trail**, starts in Chipping Warden, Northants and ends in Kineton, Warwickshire, linking the three battlefields of Edgcote (1649), Cropredy Bridge (1644) and Edgehill (1642). It was officially opened by Battlefields Trust President, Prof. Richard Holmes on 24th June 2006. An excellent and informative leaflet is produced by the Trust clearly showing the route and packed with historical information about the battles. Visit www.battlefieldstrust.com for the Trust's main website for a download. Follow links from this to the resource centre website and look for Edgehill and then 'visit Edgehill' to reach it. The leaflet may be requested by post from The Battlefields Trust, Meadow Cottage, 33 High Green, Brooke, Norwich, NR15 1HR or email to midlands@battlefieldstrust.com.

Hope House Way

This is a 335-mile circular walk from Wellington in Shropshire. The walk goes via Wenlock Edge and Ludlow then mid Wales. From near Presteigne the route coincides with the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail through Kington to reach Hay-on-Wye. From here it follows the Wye Valley Walk up to Rhayader. Along the Elan Valley and on to Devil's Bridge, and then Machynlleth. It returns by Cadair Idris, the Arans and the Berwyn Mountains, Welshpool and on to Montgomery using part of the Offa's Dyke Path. The walk then heads back east into England over the Stiperstones and the Long Mynd. The guidebook is available from bookshops locally and Hope House by email info@hopehouse.co.uk or tel: 01691 671671 or see www.hopehouse.org.uk and follow the fundraising tab for a list of shops. The price is £9.95 + £1.00 p&p. All proceeds go to Hope House Children's Hospices. The address is Nant Lane, Morda, Nr Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 9BX.

Icknield Way Path

A new 2006 5th edition spiral-bound booklet at £10.00 (including P&P), 70 pages and A5 size with ISBN 0952181924, is available from the Icknield Way Association via Sue Prigg, 1 Edgeborough Close, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8QY with cheques payable to Icknield Way Association. The route goes from Ivinghoe Beacon to Knetteshall Heath and this edition even has 5 more miles of trail! There is a website www.icknieldwaypath.co.uk.

Wye Valley Walk

At 136 miles end to end, the **Wye Valley Walk** is being upgraded and relaunched this Spring with new signs, better waymarking and an all-singing, all-dancing website at www.wyevalleywalk.org. It will have interactive maps of the route and contain comprehensive information about accommodation, transport and a new Passport scheme for completers. The walk is the classic 'follow the river' journey from mouth to source, skirting the border of England and Wales and taking in castles, gothic ruins and Iron Age forts before reaching rivers' end in the remote Cambrian Mountains. An Official Route Guide to the Wye Valley Walk priced at £9.00 (includes p&p) plus a free accommodation guide are available from: Wye Valley AONB Office, Hadnock, Road, MONMOUTH, NP25 3NG.

Wulfrun Way – Named after Wulfrina, the Mercian queen after whom Wolverhampton is named, The Wulfrun Way is a new footpath of 10 miles with signposting which runs from Northicote Farm (near to Mosely Old Hall) through Essington and Landywood. It then touches the northern edge of Pelsall North Common and finishes at Chasewater. The route is one of a number within The Forest of Mercia. No leaflet has yet been produced but details may be obtained from the Staffordshire County Rights of Way section, tel: 01785 277241.

GUIDEBOOKS DUE, OR OUT OF PRINT:

Cicerone (tel: 01539 562069) has a new 2007 guide to the **Southern Upland Way** by Alan Castle of LDWA Hillwalkers Register fame, with ISBN 978 1852844097 at £12.00. Also due is the **Great Glen Way** that is a two-way-trail guide paperback by Paddy Dillon, ISBN 978 1852845032 at £10.00. There are new guides to the **Cumbria Coastal Way** by Ian O. Brodie and Krysia Brodie, ISBN: 978 1852844301, at £12.00 and the **End to End (Land's End to John O'Groats)** by Andy Robinson, ISBN 978 1852845124 at £15.00. A **Lea Valley Walk** title by Leigh Hatts is planned. Cicerone's website, www.cicerone.co.uk, now provides many more facilities to search for, browse and purchase books. In *Footprint* Les Maple reviews their recent second edition of the **Lleyn Peninsula Coast Path** guide by John Cantrell, ISBN: 1-852844795, priced at £10.00.

Trailblazer (www.trailblazer-guides.com with free postage for online orders) have new recent editions, all at £9.99, of the **Cornwall Coast Path** by Edith Schofield, ISBN 1 873756 93 3, the **North Downs Way** by John Curtin, ISBN 1 873756 96 8, and **Hadrian's Wall Path** by Henry Stedman, ISBN 1 873756 85 2 and the **Ridgeway** by Nick Hill, ISBN 1 873756 88 7.

SB Publications (www.sbpublications.co.uk and tel: 01323 893498) will be publishing "Walks Around the Coastline of Kent" in April, ISBN 1 85770 268 9 at

£5.99, but "Walking the Coastline of Sussex" is currently out of print, with a reprint being considered.

NEW LDP MAPS

Harvey Maps LDP Route Maps for Walkers

Harvey Maps (www.harveymaps.co.uk and tel: 01786 841202) have some new dedicated walking route maps available since we last covered their range, that can avoid carrying the many OS maps often needed, plus some new DVDs. These items are: Coast to Coast East and West Route Maps, Coast to Coast Maps and DVD pack, Great Glen Way, Nidderdale Way, Pennine Way Maps and DVD, Settle to Carlisle Route, South Downs Way Map and DVD, South West Coast Path Maps 2 and 3, South West Coast Path Map and DVD, West Highland Way Map and DVD. They also have a map for Hadrian's Wall Path and others. Single maps are £9.95 and the packs with DVD are from £19.95 to £38.95 depending on route. The DVD gives an aerial tour of the route with commentary including historical notes and information.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

West Sussex

West Sussex Literary Trail is a new 55-mile waymarked trail linking Horsham with Chichester. An Inaugural Walk is scheduled to take place during April 2007. A booking form can be downloaded from: www.westsussexliterarytrail.co.uk or by sending a SAE to: West Sussex Literary Trail, Pear Tree Cottage, Jarvis Lane, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3GL.

Devon/Somerset

At 56mls **The Two Counties Way** is fully waymarked and leaflets are available from Tourist Information Centre in Taunton tel 01823 336344 or visit www.tauntonramblers.org.uk for maps and route descriptions. The route starts from French Weir in Taunton and finishes at Starcross on the Exe Estuary. The path follows the route of the Grand Western Canal to Tiverton and then down the Exe Valley, via Bickleigh, Silvertown, Killerton and Broad Clyst to Exeter. The final section takes in the towpath of Exeter Ship Canal and Powderham (with its Castle) to reach the end at Starcross.

Yorkshire

Barnsley Boundary Walk

Created by Barnsley Borough Council in association with the publishing arm of the Barnsley Chronicle, this 74-mile waymarked walk aims to provide a view of the varied countryside, industrial heritage and other points of interest in the Borough. Included are Langsett Reservoir, the former salt road to Dunford Bridge, several reservoirs and the Country Parks at Cannon and Bretton Halls. A pack of six leaflets for the route is produced by and available free from the Countryside Unit at Barnsley MBC. Please contact them on 01226 772696 or at CountrysideTeam@barnsley.gov.uk

Leeds Country Way

New free leaflets and an updated route essentially relaunch the Leeds Country Way, a 62-mile long distance path encircling the city of Leeds through some attractive countryside and villages. The new leaflets provide many options to walk the route, with four main 15-mile segments each broken into 5-mile parts. Links to numerous

other long distance paths offer other possibilities from the city and elsewhere. There are public transport connections using the many services around Leeds. From its start at Golden Acre Park the clockwise route visits the Harewood estate and Barwick-in-Elmet, goes via Garforth to the Aire riverside, then threads its way where possible through green corridors between Leeds and Wakefield, Dewsbury and Bradford, to return. The original route currently shown on current OS mapping included sections in Wakefield but its new line is almost wholly within the Leeds area. The significant route changes are between Swillington and Howden Clough/Haigh Moor and the full route is waymarked. A Tracklogs route file prepared by an LDWA member is available by email from ldp@ldwa.org.uk. The leaflets are laminated and tearproof and come in a plastic folder from Leeds City Council; Parks & Countryside, Farnley Hall, Farnley Lane, LEEDS, LS12 5HA, free with a 55p A4 large letter SAE, and also from local libraries/information centres.

There are three fresh or so far unreported routes from the John Eckersley stable covering over 700 miles in north and east Yorkshire, all available from John Eckersley, The Vicarage, School Lane, Heslington, York, YO10 5EE (tel: 01904 410 389). All proceeds go to Christian Aid and the walks can be used as a focus for Christian pilgrimage:

Wilberforce Way

The Wilberforce Way is a new 60-mile linear trail devised to mark the bicentenary of the 1807 Act of Parliament abolishing British involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The trail starts in Hull (where William Wilberforce was born), goes through Pocklington (where he went to school) and finishes in York (where he was declared M.P. for the County of Yorkshire). The 60-mile trail is divided into 13 interconnected walks so the route can be completed as a series of short day walks. As well as visiting places of special importance in the struggle for human freedom and dignity, the walks include places of more general interest and some delightful Woldian landscapes and visiting places of Christian worship along its route.

Paperback: Wilberforce Way (John Eckersley) 2007. ISBN 978 0 95358624 0. 56pp, 248 x 170 £7.00 (£1:00 p&p).

Cleveland Circles

Cleveland Circles divides the 108-mile **Cleveland Way National Trail** into 30 separate, but interconnected, circular day walks, thus allowing the National Trail to be covered over an extended period. The circular walks permit the exploration of the foothills of the Hambleton Hills and parts of the North York Moors that lie adjacent to but not actually on, the Cleveland Way. A total of 318 miles is mapped and described. The itineraries visit a number of famous abbeys and historic churches. Paperback: Cleveland Circles (John Eckersley) 2006. ISBN 0953586235. 108pp; 248 x 170 £9.00 (£1:00 p&p).

Lake Pickering Circuit

The **Lake Pickering Circuit** was devised to commemorate Percy Kendall's classic paper suggesting how a great lake occupied the Vale of Pickering at the end of the Ice Age. The Circuit is a 155-mile trail following the higher land around the edges of the Vale and the route is made up of 36 separate but inter-connecting circular day walks. These pass along the Howardian and Tabular Hills, the North Sea coastal cliffs and the Yorkshire Wolds. A total of 384 miles is mapped and described. The Vale of Pickering has a rich history of Christian witness. Paperback: Exploring Lake Pickering (John Eckersley) 2003. ISBN 09535362 2 7. 112 pp; 248 x 170. £9.00 (+£1.00 p&p).

Cumbria

Lakeland Camping Barns have published a series of maps describing a network of 'Lakeland Barn to Barn' walks linking six of their camping barns. The walks vary in length from 6 to 11 miles. The maps are based on Ordnance Survey data, clearly presented, with a good level of detail, scaled to fit the page and without grid lines. Each map includes a detailed route description along with other helpful information such as location of shops and points of interest. They are sealed into plastic bags that make them ideal for all-weather outdoor use. Further details can be found on web site www.lakelandcampingbarns.co.uk (click on 'Walking'), along with suggestions for combining the routes to make circular routes with overnight stops at camping barns. The maps are priced at £3 each and would normally be ordered when booking accommodation on 01946 758198 or via the web site.

The **Cumbria Way** is being waymarked, where appropriate, within the National Park. See above for a new **Cumbria Coastal Way** guide from Cicerone.

Lincolnshire

Brown Fen Trail

This 67-mile trail is waymarked and follows public rights of way and quiet lanes alongside the fen waterways through traditional fenland countryside and along historical drovers routes. It starts in Boston and goes through Spalding and Crowland, the burial place of Hereward the Great. Fens Tourism have a website www.visitthefens.com which has a downloadable map and route directions, and follow the links (Things to do/Walking). Alternatively contact Boston tourist information centre 01205 356656 or Spalding Tourist information centre 01775 725468. On the same site are details of the Frampton and the Wash Trail (8.8miles) and Sutton St James Trail (3.5miles), both in the same fenland area as the Brown Fen Trail.

Lancashire

West Craven Way

A new 20-mile route in the Pendle area. A book priced at £1.50 is available from Burnley Tourist Information 01282 661685.

Gloucestershire

The **Ross Round** is an 18-mile (29km) circular walk starting from Ross on Wye, Gloucestershire devised in 2004 but new to this column. Its originator, Guy Vowles, came up with the idea through his involvement with the Salter's Hill charity; an organisation having three residences for young adults with learning difficulties in the surrounding area.

The walk starts on the eastern bank of the River Wye close to the Riverside Inn (GR SO595241), situated just below the town centre. The route follows the river upstream using a nearby riverside path and a section of the disused Hereford to Gloucester railway line. This part of the route is also a section of the Wye Valley Walk. At Court Farm, now owned by PGL (Leisure) Holidays and perhaps better known locally as 'Hole in the Wall', the Ross Round leaves the river and heads up through Eaton Park to reach the 'Burnt House', with its Civil War connections, and the A449 Ross-Ledbury Road. Continuing on to Crow Hill, one has an opportunity to deviate to the Moody Cow pub at Upton Bishop. The main route carries on through Upton Crews on a 4 mile section that brings you to the village of Weston Under Penyard, passing on the way the site of an old Roman town called 'Ariconium'. The next section of the 'Round' (7 miles) is considered to be the most interesting and certainly most

strenuous section of the walk. Following a gentle start through open fields the path rises steeply through deciduous woodlands, then descends before climbing again to the top of Howle Hill. From here the walk is mainly downhill as it heads back to the Riverside Inn at Ross. On this section you pass a property (Cubberley) that was once owned by the folk singer, Roger Whittaker. For those who prefer a more gentle finish to the walk, the author provides a shorter, less strenuous route back from Weston under Penyard to Ross. Note however that you will not pass Cubberley if you choose this option.

Its originator, Guy Vowles, has an accompanying 34pp guide booklet, 'The Ross Round', (ISBN: 0-954820509), published by Chelwood Publications, and it is available from him at £3.50, at 189A Leckhampton Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos GL53 0AD, and from local TICs. He intends to re-publish the booklet, with the route described in both directions, in 2008/2009. This should not deter those who wish to walk the route. It is well waymarked with a green ring with the name and a yellow centre with green arrow, and, together with the use of OS map (OL14), you should have no trouble in getting round.

Shropshire

South Telford Way

The South Telford Rights of Way Partnership has established this waymarked 12-mile/18km loop route that passes through the five partner parishes of STROWP: Hollinswood and Randlay, Stirchley and Brookside, Madeley, Dawley Hamlets and The Gorge. It includes countryside and woodland areas managed by Severn Gorge Countryside Trust. A leaflet is available from Spout Farm House, Telford Town Park, and from the Tourist Information Office in Ironbridge. See www.madeley.org.uk/stw.htm.

Hertfordshire

The **Saint Albans Way** is a new 26-mile walk from Waltham Abbey to St. Albans by John Merrill linking together two major medieval pilgrimage centres and Abbey churches. Waltham Abbey (Augustinian), was the last abbey to be dissolved and where pilgrims flocked to the Holy Cross. The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban (Benedictine) have been for over 1,700 years a major pilgrimage centre to St. Alban's tomb; England's first martyr. The walk leads you across the gentle Hertfordshire landscape, past historical buildings and one of the finest and complete 14th. century church's in England, North Myms. The book is available from John Merrill Foundation, 32, Holmesdale, Herts, WALTHAM CROSS, Herts, EN8 8QY; 01992762776; marathonhiker@aol.com,

www.johnmerrillwalkguides.com, at £5.95 plus £1.00 P & P, cheques payable to The John Merrill Foundation. The ISBN is 978 0 9553691 3 1.

Essex

The **Epping Forest Challenge Walk** is a John Merrill circular walk around Epping Forest that gives vantage points over Essex, Hertfordshire and London. The 21-mile route takes you across dragonfly meadows, over small hills past places associated with Queen Boadicea, through beech and oak forest. The Walk starts and finishes at the historic Waltham Abbey where King Harold is reputedly buried. The booklet: The Epping Forest Challenge Walk by John Morrill, ISBN 978 0 9553691 0 0, at £4:95 plus £1.00 P & P, is available from the address above under the **Saint Albans Way**. A certificate is available for £2.00 including P&P.

The Flitch Way

This multi-user trail passes through 15 miles of countryside along the former Bishops Stortford to Braintree railway in the heart of rural Essex. The journey will take you through wildlife-rich railway cuttings, past Victorian stations, over embankments with

views across impressive farmlands, nearby villages and woodland. The Essex Ranger Service is on 01279 871315 and the leaflet can be downloaded from <http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/> and follow the links to Enjoy Essex/Visit Country Parks.

SCOTLAND

Isle of Arran Coastal Way

Route descriptions for this 100km trail are available to download from www.coastalway.co.uk. The guide is available from the Tourist Information Centre in Brodick or at £1.00 from Dick Sim, 8 Sheean Drive, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DH, (tel: 01770 302539) or email to dicksim@supanet.com or info@ayrshire-arran.com. If sending a cheque, please make this payable to "ACW". There is a recent 2006 Cicerone general book on Walking on the Isle of Arran, by Paddy Dillon, ISBN 1852844787, at £12.95.

E2P Elvis to Presley.

A walk undertaken in 2006 by David Gray and Nick Spedding of 400 miles from Elvis Voe in Shetland to Presley in Grampian via much of western Scotland. You can read more about their walk and see some of their puns at www.kingofwalks.org/.

December 2006

**News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS
& CHALLENGE WALKS
edited by Les Maple**

A successor to take over the LDP News column has now been found. He is Adrian Rayner who comes from Feltham, Middlesex. Until he finds his feet Paul and I will be working alongside him for the next one or two editions of Strider. I hope that you will give him your full support in his endeavour to produce this all important column of LDP News.

ENGLAND

General

An updated edition of the new **‘Walk and Explore the Cotswold Way by Public Transport’** leaflet is now available at TICs in the area or, by request, from the Cotswolds Conservation Board (01451 862000 or www.cotswoldsaonb.com). As part of the preparation for the launch of the Cotswold Way as a National Trail a website, containing information and accommodation details, is being developed. These details were due to be added to the National Trail website: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold during early September.

Hidden amongst the list of alternate publications under the heading of **‘Coast to Coast’** in the Long Distance Handbook (7th edition) is a guidebook for walking a coast to coast route called **The Ravenber Way**. The title is made up from its start and finishing points, i.e Ravenglass, on the Cumbrian coast, and Berwick-upon Tweed, on the Northumberland coast. From Ravenglass, the route takes you to Wasdale Head, Ambleside, Askham, Dufton, Garrigill, Allenheads, Hexham, Wark, Elsdon, Rothbury, Alwinton, and Westnewton Bridge before its finish at Berwick; a total distance of just under 210 miles. In 2003, Ron Scholes, updated his guide book, **‘Coast to Coast on the Ravenber Way’**; an update that escaped the net. The guide is well written and with detailed sketch maps is relatively easy to follow; although the author advises that the relevant OS maps should also be carried. The 292-page book (120 x 175), ISBN: 1-858211859 costs £7.50 post free (£6.50 if you are a LDWA, RA, YHA or Wainwright Society member) and can be obtained from him at: Landscape Heritage, Thornhill, Sandybrook Lane, Birchall, LEEK, Staffs ST13 5RZ (tel: 01538 388442; email: ron.scholes@btinternet.com). You can also visit his website at: www.landscapeheritage.co.uk Leaflets advertising the book and route are also available.

Hadrian’s Wall Path: Trailblazer Publications have added a new guidebook for this route, in their British Walking Guides series. Published in May (2006), the guide has been written by Henry Stedman and consists of 194 pages, including maps. The ISBN is: 1-873756852 and it costs £9.99. Amongst some statistics, sent by the publisher, it was quite noticeable how much the number 6 features in relation to Hadrian’s Wall and its path. It took the Romans 6 years to build the Wall; it took the Countryside Agency 6 years to create the Path; it takes the average walker 6 days to complete the walk; an estimated 6600 people walked the trail in 2005; the number of day walkers was estimated at 260,000. Since its opening in May 2003, it has attracted over 663,000 walkers. The guidebook contains 8 town plans and 50 sketch maps; practical information about camping sites, bunkhouses, hostels, B & B’s and pubs and hotels. Comprehensive public transport information for all access points along the path is also included.

The **John Merrill Foundation** (previously or also known as **Walk & Write**) has finally been tracked down. It was in July actually but the information arrived too late for inclusion in

August Strider. The current address is: John Merrill Foundation, 32 Holmesdale, Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 8QY (tel: 01992 762776). For those interested in John Merrill's publications, you can visit his website at: www.johnmerrillwalkguides.com).

Please note that there has been an increase in price for the badges and certificates which he has available for successful completion of his various walks. Certificates now cost £1.95 and badges are £5.00.

Offa's Dyke Path – The ODP website is now live and can be viewed at www.nationaltrail.co.uk/OffasDyke On the route itself, improvements have been made at Sedbury Cliff where trees and scrub have been cleared so that walkers now get a spectacular sweeping view of the estuary and the old Severn Bridge.

Ridgeway / Thames Path: At the time of writing these notes I was informed that the current National Trails Officer (Natalie Kosucu) was leaving at the end of October. A replacement had yet to be found. It is therefore requested that, until further notice, any queries relating to either/both these routes should be made to the 'National Trails Information Officer, Environment and Economy, Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ (tel: 01865 810224)'

AROUND THE COUNTIES

Cheshire

The North Cheshire Way is a new 70- mile (114 km) route, which officially opened this year. Devised by the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society the route takes one from the Wirral to the western hills of the Dark Peak. The walk officially starts at Hooton Station (Wirral – SJ349782). An alternative start can be made from Chester Station (SJ412659), where a spur route follows the Shropshire Union Canal to meet up with the main route at Croughton. Places visited or passed through along the way include: Backford, Dunham-on-the-Hill, Frodsham, Dutton Locks, Budworth Mere, Tabley, the River Bollin, Alderley Edge, Macclesfield Canal and Lyme Park before its finish at Disley Station (Dark Peak – SJ972845). The terrain is varied and the route uses field and woodland paths and tracks, riverside paths, canal towpaths, quiet lanes and some short sections of busier roads. The entire route is waymarked with circular discs showing a yellow directional arrow on a black background. The arrow shows the letters NCW. OS maps required are: EXP 266, 267, 268 and OL1. The North Cheshire Way also has links with a number of other long distance paths: The Wirral Way (Hooton); Baker Way and Marches Way (Chester); Gritstone Way and E2 (Disley) and along the way there are links with the Bollin Valley Way, Canalside Trail, Cheshire Ring Canal, Delamere Way, Eddisbury Way, the Longster Trail and the Middlewood Way. The Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society has produced a guidebook (See Book Reviews), which costs £8.95 (ISBN: 0-9553573). They have a website at www.mcfs.org.uk.

Cornwall

Trailblazer have released the 2nd edition of their guide to the '**Cornwall Coast Path**', which I am sure most of you know is just one section of the **South West Coast Path**. Originally written by Edith Schofield, this new edition has been updated by Jim Manthorpe and includes the section between Bude and Padstow. In recognition of its industrial heritage relating to its historical tin and iron mining areas, the region was granted World Heritage Site status this year (2006). The guide thus contains details of many things you can see and visit on or near to the path. Examples include the spectacular location of the Minack Theatre at Porthcurno, the Tate St Ives Gallery; John Betjeman's burial place at the sunken St Enodoc Church, the Levant Engine House; Geevor Tin Mine and the legendary Tintagel. Details of the guidebook are: ISBN: 1-873756933, 224pp, 120 x 180mm, 112 trail maps and town plans, 56 colour photographs. The price is £9.99.

Cumbria

Jonathan Dodgson Carr (1806 – 1884) left Kendal in 1831 and moved to Carlisle where he set up his own flour mill and bakery. From selling bread to the local population he soon diversified into biscuit production, resulting in having a flour mill at Silloth and a biscuit factory (Carr's) in Carlisle. Both are still in production today. As a tribute to this successful visionary a new 51 mile walk – **The Miller's Way** – has been devised. The route basically follows the trek that he took in 1831, by foot and horse drawn carriage, from Kendal to Carlisle. Inevitably this course has since developed into a modern transport corridor. Never straying very far from the A6 and then also the M6, which it crosses on a number of occasions, the walk takes in Shap Memorial, Bampton Grange, Lowther Castle, Penrith, Plumptonfoot and Wreay, before finishing at the 'Mercat Cross' in Carlisle. Maps required are OL7, OL5 and EXP 315. A 32-page booklet – **The Miller's Way - A Journey of Destiny - Celebrating 175 years of Carr's** – is also available for £3.99. The last page presents the reader with a recipe for making the 'Perfect White Loaf'.

In previous editions of Strider we conveyed a change of address for Michael Cooper, co-ordinator of the **Old Crown Round**. Gremlins struck on each occasion and we got it wrong. With further apologies for any inconvenience caused, here (hopefully) is the correct address: Michael Cooper, 8 Hazebrouck Drive, Baildon, SHIPLEY, W Yorks BD17 6PE.

Dorset

A Round Dorset Walk: This new long distance circular route around the county of Dorset is fully covered elsewhere in Strider - See Book Reviews.

Essex

Colne Valley Path – This 22.5 mile (36km) route was officially opened on 24 May, 2006. The path starts at Balkerne Gate in Colchester and takes in Lexden Dyke, the railway viaduct at Chappel, the town of Halstead and the historic village of Castle Hedingham, before reaching the Great Oak at Yeldham. A guidebook, *The Colne Valley Path*, is available from the River Colne Countryside Project, c/o Colchester Borough Council, PO Box 889, Town Hall, Colchester, CO1 1FL. The guide costs £3.50 and cheques should be made payable to Braintree District Council.

In the August edition of Strider, we reported a number of routes in Essex compiled by LDWA member, Derek Keeble. Derek recently informed us that he can also be contacted by email at: mapjog@ntlworld.com.

Gloucestershire

A new colour leaflet, dividing the **Glevum Way** into five sections, each showing transport connections, is available (Free) from Gloucester TIC (01452 396572). This replaces the one currently shown in the LDW Handbook (7th ed).

Isle of Wight

A new guide for the **Vectis Trail**, produced by the Isle of Wight Ramblers is now available. The guide splits the 75-mile route into six sections, and contains a full description, sketch maps and other useful information. The guide costs £2.00 + 45p p&p and is available from Merry Meeting, Ryde House Drive, Binstead Road, Ryde PO33 3NF. Cheques should be made payable to the Isle of Wight Ramblers Association. Although unconfirmed, I think that this new guide replaces the Barbara Aze publication shown in the LDW Handbook (7th ed).

Lancashire

Norman Thomas, author of anytime challenge routes mainly in the north-west, has a new address. For details and badges/certificates for the Anglezarke Anguish, Four Pikes Hike and

Pendle & Ribble, Ramsbottom and Spanners Rounds write to him at 13 Buckingham Avenue Horwich, BOLTON, Lancashire, BL6 6LS.

Leicestershire

Although a relatively short route, the 9 mile **Mowbray Way** links the Viking and Jubilee Ways and it has a new free A5 colour leaflet available from the Community Services Dept, Room 500, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire, LE3 8TE, tel 0116 265 8160 or email: footpaths@leics.gov.uk, or as a download at http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/community_services/environment_and_heritage/paths/long_distance_paths.htm. The Mowbray Way starts at Scalford church and heads east across open countryside, through the small villages of Chadwell, Waltham on the Wolds, Stonesby and Sproxton, to Main Street, Buckminster and is waymarked and is to be included on OS mapping. A further 9.5 mile waymarked circular route with a leaflet is the **Ambion Way**, starting from the Battle of Bosworth Visitor Centre, linking there with the Leicestershire Round. This website also includes information or downloads for these and several other LDPs passing through Leicestershire, the Jubilee Way, Ivanhoe Way and Midshires Way.

Northumberland:

Thanks to recent Access legislation, it is now legal to walk the whole length of the **Berwick Triangle**. This 148 mile circular trail, devised by Berwick Ramblers, starts and finishes at Berwick-upon-Tweed. Cockburnspath, Melrose and Holy Island form the 3 points of the triangle. The trail utilises existing paths such as the Southern Upland Way, St. Cuthbert's Way and the Northumberland Coastal path, as well as new Access land. There is no guidebook at present, but more details can be obtained from Berwick Ramblers, 5 Quay Walls, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1HB.

Also devised by Berwick Ramblers, the **Berwick Borough Boundary Walk** is a 120 mile circular trail around, yes - Berwick borough. The route is varied. Starting at Berwick, easy walking across farmland leads to more challenging sections through the Cheviots; finally, coast and beach walking bring you back to Berwick. If tides allow, there is the opportunity for a 10 mile detour onto and around Lindisfarne. See Book Reviews for a review of the new guidebook.

North Sea Trail – In the April edition of Strider I briefly mentioned this new trail which is being initiated. Information recently received indicates that another 103km section of the route has now opened in Northumberland, from Creswell to Berwick upon Tweed. This brings the total length of the trail up to approx 2,000km. When fully complete the trail will pass through Norway, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, England and Scotland, making a total distance of just under 5,000km. Up-to-date information can be obtained on the web at: www.northseatrail.co.uk

Surrey

Wey-South Path – An updated version of the Wey-South Path booklet, produced by W & A Enterprises Ltd, is now available. The 68-page booklet costs £3.50 (incl p&p) can be obtained from John Wood MBE, 24 Griffiths Avenue, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 0HW. Cheques should be made payable to W & A Enterprises Ltd.

If you have any queries relating to the Wey-South Path or the Wey & Arun Canal information can be obtained from G R E Perks, 61 Ashleigh Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2LE. (tel: 01403 262855)

Yorkshire

The **Yorkshire Water Way** is a new route from outdoor writer Mark Reid he is publishing in two volumes. Volume 1 (Yorkshire Dales), now available, will combine with Volume 2 (South Pennines & Peak District) to create a 7-day long distance walk through Yorkshire from the Dales to the Peak District tracing the rivers and reservoirs of the Pennines. The first book volume describes a 41-mile walk from Kettlewell to Ilkley. This in turn is divided into 3 'day stages' ranging from 11 to 18.5 miles: Stage 1 – Kettlewell to Middlesmoor (11 miles); Stage 2 – Middlesmoor to Pateley Bridge (11.5 miles); Stage 3 – Pateley Bridge to Ilkley (18.5 miles). From the wilds of Great Whernside and the source of the River Nidd, it passes through the beautiful eastern Yorkshire Dales following the rivers and reservoirs of Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley. The book contains detailed background planning information, route descriptions and covers historical points of interest, illustrated with hand-drawn route maps, colour photographs and pen & ink drawings. The paperback of 72-pages, ISBN 1-902001-14-1, priced at £3.99 is available from InnWay Publications, 102 Leeds Road, Harrogate, HG2 8HB tel: 01423 871750 or email info@innway.co.uk or from the website www.innway.co.uk where details of the InnWay book series can be found. The Yorkshire Water Way Volume 2 – South Pennines & Peak District is due for publication in spring 2007 and will chart a 4-day walk from Ilkley to Langsett.

Bilsdale Circuit - Albert Bowes who has recently taken over the responsibility as Recorder of the Bilsdale Circuit on behalf of Cleveland LDWA, hopes to re-awake interest in the 30mile anytime challenge walk. Albert will be leading a group on the walk, as a group unsupported social walk in April 2007, see Cleveland LDWA social walks programme. The route visits Bilsdale, Bransdale and Tripsdale with the landmark Bilsdale TV mast in view for most of the walk.

An inaugural walk was undertaken on 3rd April 1977 by members of North Yorkshire Regional Group – LDWA . The initial walk was over 26miles, however after some tinkering the route was altered and increased to 30 miles, with almost 4000ft of ascent. The walk became very popular in the late 70's & 80's with hundreds of completers recorded. It is not surprising as this was, and still is, a beautiful unspoilt part of the Yorkshire Moors, just minutes from industrial Teesside.

A route description is available from Albert; send a SAE to 22 Highfield Crescent, Hartburn, Stockton on Tees, TS18 5HJ. Badges and certificates can be purchased for £1.00 + post and packaging.

SCOTLAND

River Ayr Way – The pack, reported in the August LDP News, is now available. It costs £3.99 and is available from: Outdoor Access Assistant (Tourism and Marketing), The Gatehouse, Dean Castle Country Park, Dean Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 1XB. Cheques are to be made payable to East Ayrshire Council.

'Walking the Coastline of Shetland – No 4: Northmavine', the fourth book of a seven-part series exploring the coastline of the Shetland Islands, has recently been updated by author Peter Guy. The guide includes a continuous coastal walk, divided into 14 sections, plus additional circular walks. Published by the Shetland Times, the book (ISBN: 1-904746179) costs £9.99. Further details about this book, plus the other six books in the series, can be obtained from the Shetland Times website at: www.shetland-times.co.uk

West Highland Way – A revised, and updated, eighth edition of the official guidebook, by Bob Aitken and Roger Smith, was published on the 28th August, 2006. Further details about this latest release can be found in the Book Review section of Strider.

A leaflet is now available for the **Kintyre Way**, a waymarked route that opened in August 2006 and was covered in Strider 105. It provides an outline description of the basic 88 mile route in seven sections; a route-map and contact information for bus transport and accommodation. The free A4/3 leaflet (opening to A2) is available from Tarbert TIC, Harbour

Street, TARBERT, Argyll and Bute, PA29 6UD (tel: 08707 200 624) and also from TICs in Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

WALES

The **Anglesey Coastal Path** was officially opened by Rhodri Morgan on June 9th at St Cybi's Church, Holyhead. Details about the route and guide book etc. have appeared in previous editions of Strider. It is reputed that in walking the path it would involve ascending a total of over 4,000 metres, which is equal to walking up Snowdon three and a half times.

One of the latest additions to the National Bridleway network is a new 70-mile trail called the **Radnor Forest Ride**. The route, developed from existing right of way, is mainly off-road and starts at the Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre. Heading north over the A40 and the River Usk, it links with the Eppynt Way at Upper Chapel. The trail continues east and passes to the south of Builth Wells before reaching New Radnor. The final leg of the route passes through forest before crossing the River Teme into Shropshire. Further details can be obtained from the British Horse Society.

If you are looking for circular reservoir trails in the Denbigh Moors area of North Wales two nearby walks can be linked to make a longer route. These are the 10-mile 'Round the Lake' walk at **Llyn Brenig** and the newly opened 7.5-mile **Alwen Trail** around the Alwen Reservoir. The Alwen's waymarked circular trail follows forestry tracks and paths along the water's edge and up onto the moorland at Mynydd Hiraethog (Denbigh Moors). Six illustrated panels are located along the route describing the wildlife, culture and folk tales associated with the area and there are moorland birds and rare species such as the Black Grouse, Large Heath butterfly and Red Squirrel. Links have also been created to the nearby Brenig Trail, providing over 20 miles of continuous walking and cycling: these are multi-user routes. A leaflet and downloadable map are planned for the two trails and there is information where the Brenig route starts, at the Llyn Brenig Visitor Centre (summer opening only; in winter park at the Alwen), Cerrigydrudion, Corwen, Conwy, North Wales, LL21 9TT, tel: 01490 420 463 or visit www.aboutbritain.com/LlynBrenigReservoirVisitorCentre.htm. The lengthy **Clwydian Way** follows part of the Alwen circuit as it traverses this area.

A full colour second and revised edition of the guide for the **Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail** in the Vale of Glamorgan is now available at £7.95 from bookshops or directly from Valeways (£8.49 including p&p) at Unit 7, Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, CF62 9DA tel: 01446 749000, or you can visit the Valeways website www.valeways.org.uk. The Trail is a 70-mile circular route in the Vale of Glamorgan through landscapes of historical and scenic interest. The new edition still features the original purple waymark discs, but experience has shown that these fade rapidly in sunlight and are being replaced with a different design incorporating the Roman M logo. The newest (2005) edition of OS Explorer 151 (Cardiff and Bridgend), that conveniently marks the whole of the Trail in the usual green diamonds, has an error in the route shown between St Brides Major and Colwinston and whilst this is walkable, it differs from the correct route shown in Section 12 of the Valeways guide. Valeways is producing a series of new full colour leaflets describing circular walks in the area of 3-8 miles, in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Ten of these are now available from local libraries and tourist information points. Many of these walks overlap with the Trail and greatly extend the range of options for sampling a section in a circular walk.

All future news items relating to long distance paths should be sent to:

Adrian Rayner, 11 Charleston Close, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7LJ
(tel: 020 8751 3251 email: adrianarayner@hotmail.com)

All books, book reviews and other publications should continue to be sent to me:

Les Maple, 21 Upcroft, Windsor, Berks SL4 3NH

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed leads, news, and other important details relating to LDPs during my editorship of this column. It is not easy obtaining all the information that is required, not only for the column, but towards keeping the LDP database up to date. The help of the LDP Team members, LDWA members and others is very much appreciated. You will not be losing me completely as I shall continue to edit the Book Review column and I have also offered to act as central librarian for the LDP library.

Les Maple: (for and on behalf of the LDP team and other contributors).

August 2006
News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS
& CHALLENGE WALKS
Compiled by Les Maple

GENERAL

Members of the Chilterns Conservation Board, including LDWA President Sir John Johnson who is also chairman of the CCB, together with committee members of the Chilterns Society, gathered at Hambleden on Wednesday 26 April to greet Peter Titchmarsh, who was passing through on his official launch walk of the **Shakespeare's Way**. Representing the LDWA were Paul Lawrence and Les Maple. The 146 ml Shakespeare's Way runs from Stratford on Avon to the Globe Theatre in London. An 80 page full colour guide is available from the Shakespeare's Way Association, St Mary's Barn, Pillerton Priors, Warwick, CV35 0PG. The Guide costs £7.75 (incl pp). Also available are: Shakespeare's Way Planner (£3.25) and a 32pp East-West Supplement (if you want to walk from London to Stratford) for £5.75. Cheques to be made payable to the Shakespeare's Way Association.

The 3rd edition of Cicerone's guide, **Coast to Coast Walk** by Terry Marsh, was published in May. The fully updated guide describes the route in a west to east direction but the author also includes a shortened east to west description in addition to providing variant routes and a list of useful addresses.

The **Coast to Coast Walk** printed accommodation guide is now available again. It can be obtained, for £3, from: Doreen Whitehead, Butt House, Keld, Richmond, DL11 6LJ.

Dales Way – the Dales Way Association have reported that two link routes have disappeared from the relevant Explorer maps. These are: the Harrogate to Bolton Abbey Link, and the Bradford Link, where the route is shown starting at Shipley Glen rather than at Shipley railway station. The DWA are in the process of following up on these omissions.

The **Icknield Way Association** has a new Membership Secretary. She is Sue Prigg and hails from Newmarket. Her address is 1 Edgeborough Close, Kentford, Newmarket CB8 8QY (tel: 01638 751289 or email: phil@prigg.co.uk). The IWA are hoping to launch a new walkers' guide to the Icknield Way at their AGM in October. In the meanwhile Bedfordshire County Council has produced a new trail leaflet for the route. The leaflet is available from the IWA. Check out their website on www.icknieldwaypath.co.uk.

The 2006 edition of the **Ridgeway** National Trail Companion is available for £4.45 from various retail outlets; or for £5.50 (incl p&p) direct from the National Trail Office, Environment and Economy, Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ. If using the latter, please make cheques payable to National Trails Trading.

A press release from the National Trails Office reported that over 22 miles of the **Ridgeway** through Oxfordshire and West Berkshire have become 'restricted byways. The new public right of way category has been introduced under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and applies to the whole country. Any public right of way that was previously termed a 'RUPP' is now a restricted byway.

Offa's Dyke/Glyndwr's Way Where to Stay Booklet 2006 is still available from the Offa's Dyke Association, Knighton, Powys LD7 1EN (01547 528753). The cost: £4.25. Other publications available from the same source are:

Offa's Dyke Path National Trail Guide - £12.99

ODP Harvey Maps (North & South)	- £9.95 ea
Mortimer Trail	- £5.95
Wye Valley Walk	- £7.95
Kerry Ridgeway	- £1.50
Severn Way	- £6.95
Cambrian Way	- £5.50

For those interested in hill walking, publishers David and Charles have recently produced a book called '*The Ultimate Hillwalking Skills Handbook*'. The book (ISBN: 0715322540), which contains contributions from Alan Hinkes and Graham Thompson covering guidance on fitness, route planning, navigation, first aid and dealing with emergencies, has 144 pages and costs £12.99. The word 'ultimate' in this instance could be an over-exaggeration as I would have expected there to have been more than 144 pages to cover all the required skills. I am unable to comment further as I have not seen the book.

COUNTY NEWS

Devon

The **John Musgrave Heritage Trail** is a new walking route around Torbay. Created by the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, in partnership with the Ramblers Association, from a legacy left by John Musgrove, the 35 ml / 56 km trail takes in a large section of south Devon's scenic and varied landscape. A free leaflet, or a guide costing £3.99, is available from: Discover Devon Information Service, Westacott Road, Barnstaple, EX32 8AW. Also available from the same source are the following guides and leaflets:

Two Moors Way (£6.45); West Devon Way (£4.50); East Devon Way (£6.45);
 Tamar Valley Discovery Trail (£4.50); Erme Plym Trail (£3.50);
 Two Castles Trail (£3.50); Dart Valley Trail (£3.50); Tarka Trail (£3.50);

Free leaflets: Two Moors Way; Ridge & Valley Walk; Taw-Teign Link; Templar Way;
 Devonshire Heartland Way; John Musgrave Heritage Trail; Tarka Trail; and
 East Devon Way.

Note that only four free leaflets can be requested. The prices quoted in the guides above are inclusive of post and packing.

Essex

LDWA member Derek Keeble, who often writes using various nom-de-plumes, is the editor of Pack-a-Back Bicycle Rambles in Essex by Mapjog. He has recently informed us of a number of titles he has available, or under review – all covering various routes in the county – and available from him at 9 Shelley Road, COLCHESTER, Essex CO3 4JN.

The new route among these is *Byrhtnoth's Last Essex Visit*, by Laurence S Taylor, a 49 ml walk starting at Great Chesterford, running along the Chelmer Valley, before finishing at the site of the Battle of Maldon where the Saxon hero Byrhtnoth was slain in 991. Ealdoram Byrhtnoth was a veteran East Saxon hero who lost his life leading his countrymen against Viking raiders, having been summoned from distant Ely by Maldonian's concerned that their new burh (castle) might not be enough to defend them against a splinter group of Viking raiders camped nearby on Northey Island in the estuary, after the main group had sacked Gippeswyck (Ipswich) and sailed home. Recruiting as he marched from Ely at harvest time, the six-foot warrior may have used valley routes close to the Great Ouse to Cambridge and the Cam to reach Great Chesterford where the current route starts at the entry to the then East Saxon Kingdom, now Essex. It follows the Cam valley to Saffron Walden, crossing into the Pant river valley and then near Wimbish to the river Chelmer, whose valley it follows south via Thaxted and Great Dunmow to Chelmsford. Here the Chelmer turns east, joining the Blackwater (Panta in Roman times) to reach the head of the Blackwater estuary at Maldon,

where the site of the battle is finally reached. The booklet *Byrhtnoth's Last Essex Visit* by Laurence S Taylor is A5, with 18pp and costs £2.50 incs p&p from Derek Keeble - cheques to Lexden St Leonard's Parish Church. While the walk's route follows the second part of Byrhtnoth's conjectured route, for those wishing to complete a full journey from Ely, the author, Laurence Taylor, suggests using the **Fen Rivers Way** (see LDW Handbook) from Ely to Cambridge and part of the **West Anglian Way** (Cambridge to Cheshunt) using its Great Chesterford alternative, in all an additional 36 miles or so, with OS Landranger 143 or Explorer 226 additionally needed. The West Anglian Way folder is sold by Cambridge RA Group, c/o B Hawes, 52 Maids Causeway, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8DD at £3.00 incs p&p – see Strider April 2005.

Maria Mehalah Macabre by Martina Stow is a 26 ml route from Polstead (Suffolk) that runs through Colchester before reaching its finish point at Mersea Island. (14pp - £2 + 50p p&p).

Constable Beat, by Walter Underwood, is a 26 ml route, through Constable Country, starting at Mistley and finishing at Great Henney. (14pp - £2 + 50p p&p).

Alternative A12 Corridor Walk, by Raymond Elkard, is a 108 ml route from Bow Bridge to Ipswich. It has links with the East Suffolk Railway Walk and the Angles Way (£2 + 50p p&p).

Anita's Mucking Ugley Ways... is already known to us and appears in the LDW Handbook (7th edition). *Edgar Eastell's Church Fields Walk*, is another route already known to us in Strider (April 2005) as are the *Whamblab Extravaganza*, by Megdalah Cooper, that runs for 29 mls through the Roding Valley, linking 8 villages which have the word 'Roding' in their name, and *A Winstree Marathon* by Laurence Stanley Taylor, a 26 ml circular route in an area SW of Colchester, both covered in April 2006 Strider.

Abounding Essex by Justine Wentbridge is a 450 ml route veering around the edge of Essex, starting from Southend Pier. This route was originally serialised into 101 episodes that appeared in the 'Essex Courier' under the title 'Keeble's Essex'. He plans to rewalk the route before a booklet becomes available, possibly in 2007.

Jonathon's Journey, by Willis Cole, is another route in production. It will run for 75 mls from the Thames to the Orwell. It may be available later this year.

A Walk in the Colne Zolm, by Kai-Lotte Remliff, is also under production. This 95 ml route will run from Steeply Bumpstead to St Osyth. It may be available later this year.

If you don't know Essex after walking these, you may never will.

Greater London

There is a route overview leaflet available for the **Capital Ring**. The leaflet has a map showing the 78 ml circular walk around London sub-divided into 15 stages. The map also shows convenient underground stations, handy if you want to leave the car at home. The leaflet can be obtained by phone (0870 240 6094) or via email: (walking@tfl.gov.uk).

The 2nd edition of Colin Saunders' guide to the **Capital Ring** (Aurum Press, ISBN: 1-845130758, £12.99) is now available. (A 2nd edition of his Cicerone guide 'The High Tatras' came out in June – ISBN: 1-852844825, £15).

Anyone who has successfully completed the **Capital Ring** is invited to let Transport for London know by emailing walking@tfl.gov.uk or writing to Walking Promotions, TfL Street Management, 25 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1LW. The names will be added to a register kept by Colin Saunders (Project Manager). If you require a certificate you should also include your address.

The complete set of leaflets covering the **Thames Path** in the London area, have now been published. Of the set of 4, L1 covers the route from Hampton Court to Chelsea; L2 from Chelsea to Tower Bridge; L3 from Tower Bridge to the Thames Barrier, and L4 from the Barrier to Crayford Ness.

Due out in the near future is the 2nd edition of David Sharp's guide for the **London Loop**, a route that extends into the Home Counties. The guide will include recent changes that have taken place. Further details will follow as and when available.

Norfolk

A re-issue of the **Angles Way** guide, edited by Sheila Smith, is now available. The guide, ISBN: 1901184846, includes maps, accommodation and public transport information, costs £2.70 + 30p p&p.

Somerset

Information about the **Coleridge Way** (36 mls) can be obtained by ringing 01398 322175 or by email to AMartingell@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. See Strider December 2005 for more details of the route.

Yorkshire

In a previous edition of Strider it was intended to convey change of address for Michael Cooper, co-ordinator of the **Old Crown Round**. Unfortunately the gremlins struck and we included is old address. With our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience caused, here is his new address.

Michael Cooper, Baildon, SHIPLEY, W Yorks BD17 6PE.

Airedale Way – please note the p&p for the guide, quoted in HB7, has been increased from 80p to £1.

Below are 6 walks available as 'Anytime Challenge Walks' all based in the Settle and Skipton area. Awards and details as follows.

Settle Scramble - 25 miles circular from Settle. 12 hour time limit. Woven Badge & Certificate £2.50. Full narrative route description available. Badges in stock 22

Settle Scramble Winter Challenge – 23 miles circular from Settle. 10 hour time limit. Woven Badge £2.00. A full narrative route description is available. Badges in stock. Note- it is shorter than original Scramble but tougher due to more climbing. Devised for winter, it makes backup easier as all walk lies east of River Ribble. Badges in stock 93

Skipton – Settle Linkwalk: – 20 mile linear walk from Skipton via Malham to Settle. No time limit and may be done in stages. Fabric Badge & Certificate £2.00. A full narrative route description is available. Badges in stock 49

The Loaves & Fishes Walk: 23 miles circular from Settle or Stainforth. 12 hour time limit. Fabric Badge & Certificate £2.00. Grid Point References route description available. Badges in stock 68

Skipton Saunter: 26 mile circular from Skipton. 12 hour time limit. Woven badge & certificate £2.50. A full narrative route description is available. Badges in stock: 34

Skipton Double Trigger: 23 mile circular from Skipton. 12 hour time limit. Woven badge & certificate £2.50. A full narrative route description is available. Badges in stock: 98

Details of any or all walks can be obtained by sending an A4 S.A.E to Mr.J. I.Parker, 4, Raikeswood Drive, Skipton. N.Yorks. BD231LY, or by e-mail to: jiparker@tiscali.co.uk

All badges/certificates require an A4 SAE and cheques for the appropriate amount made payable to J.I.Parker. All profit will be donated to local charities. Stock levels are indicated as of May 2006.

SCOTLAND

More island than mainland, the relatively unexplored Kintyre Peninsula of Argyll and Bute has hidden coves, deserted beaches along the wild atlantic coast, tiny fishing communities, and gentle hills. Further information is available on the new waymarked **Kintyre Way** that criss-crosses the peninsula as its first LDP (see Strider 99). Planned for launch in late summer 2006 and stretching from Tarbert at the North end of the peninsula, to Southend in the South, the walk is approximately 88 miles as a direct route, or 103 miles including all alternative options, with 4 to 7 days worth of walking. Additional spurs walk to Bellochuntuy and Peninver. Most of the trail is on forestry land with the road making up the connections. Eventually tracks will be made across from the east coast to the west coast that will give the opportunity to incorporate other local trails. Information is on the website at www.kintyreway.com and this will include details of the planned free leaflet/route map that will be available from TICs locally. Explorer maps 356 and 357 cover the area. Local bus services run back to the start from the finish, first to Campbeltown and then a bus to Glasgow leaves Campbeltown, passing through Tarbert, three times a day. [Optional detail: The bulbous end of Kintyre features some of the most spectacular scenery on the peninsula and includes the famous Mull of Kintyre, just off the route but accessible, the nearest Britain gets to Ireland, just 12 miles away. The east coast is gentler than the west, sheltered from Atlantic winds and in parts striking beautiful with stunning views across to Arran. The west coast of the Kintyre peninsula ranks among the most exposed stretches of coastline and has a mixture of rocky shoreline and deserted sandy beaches pounded by Atlantic breakers.]

Information about the **Cowal Way** (47 mls) can be obtained by visiting www.colglen.org.uk.

Exploring the Edinburgh to Glasgow Canals, by Hamish Brown, is a new title from Mercat Press. Due out in June 2006, the book (ISBN: 1841830968) costs £9.99.

The River Ayr Way is Scotland's first source to the sea path network. It was scheduled to be officially opened, by Fred Macauley, at Glenbuck Loch on the 10th June. The 41 ml (66km) Way follows the River Ayr from its source at Glenbuck to the sea at Ayr. Details about the route can be obtained from Louise Kyle on 01563 554751 or via email at louise.kyle@east-ayrshire.gov.uk.

WALES

Blacks Traverse Challenge is an established, very demanding, Anytime Challenge reaching the highest point of each of the Black Mountain ridges and descending to the base of each valley. It joins defined grid references to form a continuous 24 mile walk, with some 6500 feet of ascent, on a self-devised route, mostly off-track. It can be attempted in either direction or both ways. It is listed in the 7th edition of the LDW Handbook. The A4 looseleaf details are still free (with a SAE), but the price of the completion certificate is now £5.00 (with an A4/10 x 8 SAE). Both are available from: Richard Hill, 5/6 Blorenge Terrace, Llanfoist, Abergavenny, NP7 9NP (tel: 0779 292 7818). Cheques to be payable to: Richard Hill. 'Could be a good warm-up for the 2007 'Hundred'.'

A handy multilingual leaflet, providing a map overview of the **Taff Trail** recreational route, is available from TIC's in the area or from Sustrans Mail Order (0117 929 0888). The trail, which runs for 55 mls between Brecon and Cardiff, links with the Celtic Trail at Nantgarw and Pontypridd.

Although short by LDWA standards, the **Blaenavon Circular Walk** covers only 12 miles. However, the leaflets that come in a pack from Torfaen County Council include the Iron Mountain Trail plus other short routes that could be linked to form a longer walk. Also available from the same source is the **Torfaen Trail**, a 35 ml route that runs between Cwmbran and Pontypool. The pack and/or details of the Torfaen Trail is available from Torfaen Countryside Section, Torfaen County Borough, County Hall, Cwmbran, NP44 2WN (tel 01633 648066).

The **Llyn Coastal Path** is a 95 ml / 153 km route around the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales between Caernarfon and Porthmadog. Leaving Caernarfon there is a choice of routes; you can follow the path along the Lon Eifion cycle path, once the bed of the railway that ran between Caernarfon and Afonwen, or stay on the coast, where there are good views of the Menai Strait before joining the cycle route at Llanwnda. The path then takes you through some old villages that prospered during the boom years of the slate industry. On through Nefyn to Porth Dinllaen, from where the route now hugs the coast more or less all the way to Porthmadog. A 24 page booklet is currently available from Gwynedd Council (01286 672255). Refer also to their website at www.gwynedd.gov.uk and follow the links to Tourism/Publications. A new guide from 'Cicerone' is due to be published in July – details will follow

The following guides are available from Powys County Council, Tourism Section, Neuadd Brycheiniog, Cambrian Way, Brecon, LD3 7HR:

Wye Valley Walk Official Route Guide (with free accommodation guide)	£9.00
The Kerry Ridgeway leaflet	£1.80
The Ann Griffiths Walk booklet	£2.80
Pererindod Melangell Walk booklet	£3.25

The accommodation guide contains lists for all four walks mentioned above plus Glyndwr's Way and the Severn Way. The booklet contains sketch maps with the locations of the accommodation shown for each trail.

OVERSEAS

AUSTRIA

Here is one for the overseas contingent. The **Eagle Way (Adlerweg)** is a 173 ml (280 km) waymarked route through the Austrian Tyrol. From St Johann, the Way takes one through the Wilder Kaiser and Karwendel Mountains, to St Anton and finally into the Lech Valley. The route can be broken down into 31 stages, each taking up to 9 hours to complete. Hence it is not an easy undertaking and even the most experienced of walkers could take a month to complete it in one outing. More often than not accommodation takes the form of basic bothies or mountain hostels, thus membership of the Alpine Mountain Club is recommended. Further details can be obtained from website: www.adlerweg.at.

During May 2006, Cicerone published a number of walking guides covering a wide range of European areas. Some of the guides are new and some are updated editions.

Corsica

GR20 – Corsica, by Paddy Dillon, describes one of Europe's toughest trails. Covering 190 km it takes even the fittest of walkers about 2 weeks to complete. The guide includes high and

low level alternatives and includes the ascents of Monte Cinto, Paglia Orba and the Cirque de la Solitude. Paddy provides everything you need to know before tackling the route. (ISBN: 1-852844779, 240pp, £12.95).

Sicily

Walking in Sicily by Gillian Price is a 2nd edition of a guide that describes 42 spectacular walks on this sunny island. So if you are interested in exploring the wild valleys, pitted with Greek and Roman temples and ancient ruins, mule tracks and age-old pathways; having great views of the volcanoes Etna and Stromboli, and trying out Mediterranean cuisine this guide may help. (ISBN: 1-852843950, 256pp, £12)

Tuscany

Walking in Tuscany (3rd ed), by Gillian Price, covers 50 walks, from brief strolls to multi-day treks, in the Tuscany, Umbria and Latium regions. The guide also includes the Chianti Trail. Details include accommodation suggestions in farms, country hotels, convents and hostels, with additional notes about local food and drink. So if discovering Etruscan marvels are your forte this may be the book for you. (ISBN: 1-852844892, 320pp, £14)

Switzerland

Tour of the Jungfrau Region is a new book by Kev Reynolds in which he takes you on a journey of 9-10 days in the shadows of the Wetterhorn, Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau massifs. The 107 km tour starts at Schynige Platte and goes in a clockwise direction through the region. The 10 day stages are flexible, allowing walkers to set a leisurely pace to enjoy the pastures, mountain lakes, waterfalls and ridges seen along the way. (ISBN: 1-852844833, 128pp, £12).

Trekking in the Vosges and Jura by Les and Elizabeth Smith (ISBN: 1-852844345, 272 pp, £12) contains a 418 ml long distance route which traverses the Vosges and Jura ranges from the German border in the north to Lake Geneva in the south.

Tour of the Matterhorn, by Hilary Sharp, (ISBN: 1-852844728, 176pp, £12) contains a superb 145km trek around the Matterhorn, described in an anti-clockwise direction from Zermatt.

GENERAL ITEMS

Mountain Weather

Cicerone Press have recently published the third edition of David Pedgley's book on **Mountain Weather**. The author is a retired meteorologist and his book is designed to help hillwalkers and climbers to plan their activities in mountain areas taking into account weather conditions. His aim is to help you develop your skills in interpreting forecasts; what to look for in order to anticipate changes in the weather and how to avoid the inconvenience and dangers posed by bad weather. The book, ISBN: 1-852844809 has 160pp and costs £12.

Walking Festivals

These appear to be the in-thing these days and some offer a long distance walk or route in their programme. Here are a few for September (unchecked for content).

Pendle Walking Festival	(Lancs)	Sep 1-4	01282 661685
Gorge Outdoor Festival	(Somerset)	Sep 2-3	01934 744071
Boots and Beer Festival	(York Dales)	Sep 8-10	01423 871750

Autumn Footprints W F	(Derby)	Sep 9-24	01773 841488
Walking Wales Valleys	(S Wales)	Sep 15-18	01443 790551
Barmouth Festival	(N Wales)	Sep 16-24	01341 280787
4 Day Walks	(M Wales)	Sep 19-22	01591 610270
Cardigan Festival	(S Wales)	Oct 6-8	01239 615554
Quantock Fringes	(Somerset)	Oct 7-8	01278 435765
IOM Walk Festival	(IOM)	Oct 12-15	01624 661177

A festival programme can be obtained by ringing the appropriate number

Harvey Maps

New maps are available for the Snowdonia Rhinogs, Macgillycuddy's Reeks (£8.95 ea) and for Offa' Dyke Path (N & S) and the South West Coast Path (2 & 3) (£9.95 ea)

Revised maps are also available for the West Highland Way and Hadrian's Wall Path (£9.95)

INFORMATION

Sadly, despite two requests (in both December 2005 and April 2006 editions of Strider) for someone to take over the LDP News column, I have to report that I have not received one offer or enquiry. I have now taken on a new position with the Chiltern Society and will thus have no time in the future for chasing around for material; I have thus informed the editor that this will be my final full article. Thanks to all who have sent contributions.

April 2006
News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS
& CHALLENGE WALKS
Compiled by Les Maple

ENGLAND

General

Grand Union Canal – A new guide, published by Tempus, covers the southern section of the canal between Milton Keynes and Brentford. *The Grand Union Canal (South)* - ISBN: 0-752435396 - costs £12.99. Further details are available at www.tempus-publishing.com.

Lake District – Harvey Maps, in conjunction with the BMC, have produced a new map in a prospective new series of British Mountain Maps. The 1:40,000 Lake District British Mountain Map covers all of the mountains and fells on a single map. Major long distance paths (e.g. Pennine Way, Coast to Coast and Cumbria Way) are also shown along with other footpath routes. In addition the map contains: 1:20,000 enlargements of Scafell, Great Gable, Bowfell, Langdale Pikes and Pillar; Tips on using a map and compass; mountain incident and first aid advice; and useful local phone numbers and websites. Printed on plastic the map is durable, tear resistant, waterproof, and is less than half the weight of a laminated map. So you can sit on it or even use it as a tablecloth and it will still be as good as new. The map retails at £12.95 (or £10.95 if you are a member of the BMC).

Lands End to John o’Groats – In the December issue of ‘Strider’ a book called Follow The Spring North was reviewed. At the time of the review no price was quoted due to the fact that a price was not shown on the cover. I have since been in contact with the author, Christine Roche, and she has informed me that the publisher – Trafford Publishing (UK) Ltd – have increased the price of the book to £14. However, she is selling the book at the original price of £12.60 (incl p&p) and it can be obtained direct from her at: Christine Roche, 23 Oldfield Road, Sandbach, CW11 3LW (tel: 01270 764175 or e-mail at: chris.roche6@tesco.net, while stocks last. Cheques: payable to Christine Roche. The publisher’s address is: Trafford Publishing (UK) Ltd., Enterprise House, Wisaston Road Business Centre, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7RP (tel: 01270 251396)

North Downs Way – The 7th edition of the LDW Handbook only indicates one strip-map covering the western (Farnham to the Medway) section of the route. Harvey Maps have now also got a map for the eastern section (Medway to Dover).

North Sea Trail – During a perambulation along the Cleveland Way, LDP team member David Allen came across some benches designated as ‘North Sea Trail’ first mentioned in August 2005 Strider. A leaflet, found in a local TIC, gave some details about a prospective route running between Filey and John O’Groats. A website exists for the route – www.northseatrail.co.uk - but as yet only has details about the Cleveland Way part of the route. The leaflet does, however, refer to other websites and these are: www.northumberlandcoastalb.org, www.eastlothian.gov.uk, www.fifecoaspth.co.uk, www.aberdeency.gov.uk, www.morayfirth.org, and www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Pennine Way – Harvey Maps have produced three weatherproof maps covering this National Trail. They are: (1). South (Edale to Horton) – ISBN: 1-851374310; (2) Central (Horton to Greenhead) – ISBN: 1-851374264; and (3) North (Greenhead to Kirk Yetholm) – ISBN: 1-851374213. Each map costs £9.99.

South West Coast Path – Please note that the South West Coast Path Association (SWCPA) have now moved into a new office near Plymouth. The new address and phone numbers etc. are:
Liz Wallis, Administrator, South West Coast Path Association, Bowker House, Lee Mill Bridge, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9EF (tel: 01752 896237 – fax: 01752 893654 – email: info@swcpa.org.uk).

Thames Path National Trail – The Strategic Walks Network have announced the launch of two new walking guides covering two sections of the Thames Path N T in London. The guide leaflets, numbered 2 and 3 cover the routes between Albert Bridge and Tower Bridge (2) and from Tower Bridge to Greenwich and the Thames Barrier (3). The leaflets include details of many places that can be visited

both on and just off the routes. You have a choice of either walking on the north side or the south side of the Thames between Albert Bridge and the Greenwich Foot Tunnel. The guides can be obtained from TIC's in the Greater London area.

Walk Leaders – If you lead, or intend to lead, walks, an updated and expanded second edition of a book aimed at leaders of every kind and level of group outdoor activities is now available. Published by the Institute for Outdoor Learning, and written by Ken Ogilvie, *Leading and Managing Groups in the Outdoors* is recommended reading for any walk leader. The book costs £18.95 (£16.50 if you are a member of the R.A) and is available by ringing 01768 885800. Information is also available on the web at www.outdoor-learning.org.

If this whets your appetite why not follow it up and apply to become a walks leader with **HF Holidays**. I spent ten happy years with them before health problems brought my enthusiasm to an end. If you are interested give them a ring on 01768 214528 and ask for an Information Pack or alternatively look up www.walkleaders.co.uk on the web. A number of long distance paths are included in their program.

Walking Festivals – These nearly always include one or more long distance walks.

The Isle of Wight festival in 2006 will take place from 6th to 21st May. Details can be obtained from www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk.

Pendle Walking Festival takes place from 1st to 4th September 2006. Details can be obtained from the sources mentioned in the Pendle walks paragraph under 'Lancashire' below.

Around The Counties

Cheshire

North Cheshire Way – Waymarking of the route is now complete and it is planned that an official launch will take place during the 'Step into Cheshire' festival in September 2006. A descriptive guidebook should also be available during the launch. In the meantime, Temporary guides are currently available for this route in local libraries and TIC's. Further information can be found on www.mcfs.org.uk.

The Northwest Regional assembly's plans to promote a Northwest Coastal footpath between Chester and Carlisle have been put on hold until such time as they can obtain funding and a project officer.

Cumbria

Helm Wind Walk – note that there is a new recorder for this 20-mile Anytime Challenge walk. He is: Paul Hatcher, 4 Irthing Park, Brampton CA8 1EB. Paul is currently the LDWA Local Groups Secretary.

Michael Cooper, supplier of the free A4 leaflet for the **Old Crown Round**, an 18 mile kanter challenge over four northern Lakeland tops, has a new address of 10, Nab Wood Rise, SHIPLEY, W Yorks, BD18 4JA. A badge and certificate is also available from him at £1.50 for both together with an SAE (9x4).

South Tyne Trail – a weatherproof leaflet, costing £2.00, is available from East Cumbria Countryside Project (tel: 01228 561601 or email: eccp@carlisle-city.gov.uk).

Devon

Copper Trail – Details about this new 60 mile route were included in Dec 2005 Strider. For those who do not have access to the Internet a contact telephone number is available – 01679 321019. The official start of the walk is at the village of Minions on the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor. The circular route takes one through many picturesque villages, including St Cleer, St Neot, Bodmin, St Breward and Camelford. Note that the route is not signed and good map reading and navigation are required to traverse the open moor. The whole of the route is on OS map EXP 109.

River Teign (Walking Devon's Rivers) by Richard Easterbrook and Geoff Broadhurst (Easterhurst Publications) appears to cover a 38-mile route along the River Teign. The book costs £4.95 and is available from Easterhurst Publications, 11 Warwick Close, Feniton, Honiton EX14 3DT

Dorset

Stour Valley Way – I have been informed by an LDWA member who, with a fellow walker, recently completed a 200 mile charity walk from Nuneaton to Blandford Forum that the Stour Valley Way is not waymarked if travelling north to south. It is, however, waymarked from south to north. Another sad reflection of their walk was that of all the counties they walked through Dorset appeared to be the worst for blocked and impassable Rights of Way. I wonder if members of our Dorset Group have found similar experiences on their ‘Social’ walks.

Essex

The **Camulodunum** route description and map is now available on the web. For details log on to site: www.colchester-ramblers.com.co.uk and follow the links to the relevant section.

Two new routes from the Mapjog booklets series are the **Winstree Marathon** and the **Whamblab Extravaganza**. The 26 mile Winstree Marathon is author Laurence Taylor’s exploration of the old Winstree Hundred south of Colchester, using the remnant network of soft-surfaced highways from Tiptree along Layer Brook, passing Abberton Reservoir, then up the Colne valley seawall, returning via the Roman River valley nature reserve and Layer de la Haye. The booklet includes a list of Essex ‘Bunroes’ – the bun-sized Munroes of the county! Maps are Landranger 168, or Ex 184 covers most of the route. The Whamblab Extravaganza by Magdalah Cooper takes its name from the initial letters of the eight Roding parishes and churches that it links over its 22 miles from its nominal start at Margaret Roding. Maps are Landranger 167 or Ex 183. There are a number of shorter options. The two A5 booklets can be obtained from LDWA member Derek Keeble, to whom cheques should be payable, at 9 Shelley Road, COLCHESTER, CO3 4JN at £2.50 including postage, or £4.50 for the two, with proceeds to the RSPB, Colchester. He can supply details of other Mapjog routes in Essex.

Kent

The **Miner’s Way** is a new 30-mile route (not yet signed) from Sholden which explores the beautiful lower slopes of the North Downs between Deal and Shepherdswell, past what remains of old coal mines opened in a twenties rush for ‘black gold’. A free leaflet is available from TICs (tel: 01304 205108) or from the White Cliffs Countryside Project, 6 Cambridge Terrace, DOVER, CT16 1TT, with an SAE, and its website www.whitecliffscountry.org.uk carries details.

Lancashire

A free copy of the new Witches Walking Trail (7.5 miles) leaflet and a Pendle’s Three Peaks booklet (50p) is available from Barnoldswick TIC, Post Office Buildings, Fernlea Avenue, Barnoldswick BB18 5DL (tel 01282 666704 – 24hrs) or alternatively by sending an email to: tourism@pendle.gov.uk (tel: 01282 661685). Both routes can be linked with the longer Pendle Way. The walks to Pendle’s Three Peaks – Pendle Hill, Boulsworth Hill and Weets Hill are 5 miles, 8 miles and 6 miles in length. The pack of 8 leaflets defining the Pendle Way, which is also available from the sources above costs £3.00.

The **Hodder Way** is a 27-mile route from the river’s source near the Cross of Greet to Hodder Foot, where it joins the River Ribble. Clitheroe Ramblers are producing a book, which is scheduled to be out in April 2006. No other details are available at present.

A new guide to the **Ribble Way** has been published by Wood Education Programme Trust. Entitled Walking the Ribble Way from Sea to Source, it is by Shepley and Graham Wilkinson with an ISBN 0-9541809-1-7 and costs £7.50.

Lincolnshire

The guidebook for The **Danelaw Way**, reviewed in the Dec 2005 edition of Strider, is available from the Lincoln Group R A, 39 Fiskerton Road, Reepham, Lincoln LN3 4EF. The guide costs £5.95 (+ 80p p&p) and cheques should be made payable to ‘Lincoln Group Ramblers Association’.

Norfolk

The **Wherryman’s Way**, mentioned in previous editions of Strider, now has a new website where details of the route plus lots of other interesting information can be obtained. Simply log on to the site at www.wherrymansway.net.

Northamptonshire

The **Lyveden Way**, Northamptonshire's seventh long distance path, was officially opened in September 2005 as part of the 400th anniversary of Lyveden New Bield, an Elizabethan lodge and moated garden, situated 4 miles south west of Oundle. The official start of the walk is at the Fermyn Woods Country Park Visitor Centre and takes in Lyveden New Bield, and Wadenhoe, where it turns back across country to return to the starting point. Although the route is only 9.5 miles (15.2km) in length it does link with the **Nene Way** at Wadenhoe. A free leaflet is available from Northamptonshire County Council, Rights of Way, Riverside House, Riverside Way, Northampton NN1 5NX (tel: 01604 654465).

Northumberland

Walking the North Tyne is a sister publication to *Walking The Tyne*; both guides having been written by J B Jonas. The 47.5 miles (76 km) North Tyne route can be walked in a series of 17 short, mainly circular sections as it follows the river from Hexham to its source near Deadwater in the Kielder Forest area. The guide costs £5.00 and is available from J B Jonas, 8 Beaufront Avenue, Hexham NE46 1JD. Cheques should be made payable to J B Jonas.

Surrey

The **Fox Way** is a new 39-mile circuit of walks around the town of Guildford. Devised by Richard Fox and Win King, they have made full use of local railway and bus networks to enable the walker to break up the route into 7 short sections, if required. The official start and finish of the walk is at Ripley Village Green (GR 054569), and takes in Clandon, Shere, Bramley, Godalming, Wanborough and Worplesdon before returning to Ripley. Walkers are encouraged to look out for any unusual plant and animal series they may see along the way and to report their findings to Surrey Wildlife Trust. Details of this can be found in a laminated 28-page full colour booklet that is available. Each of the 7 sections contains a sketch map; colour photographs and places where refreshments can be obtained, in addition to the easy to follow route descriptions. The route is waymarked with the head of a fox wearing a crown on a yellow background. The booklet, ISBN: 0-955086701, costs £6.95 (it is fully laminated) can be obtained from Richard Fox, 35 Mountside, Guildford, Surrey GU2 4JD. Further information can be found on website: www.thefoxway.com.

A free information leaflet on the 20-mile **River Wey Navigations**, much of whose towpaths form part of the E2 E-Route, is now available from the National Trust, River Wey & Godalming Navigations, Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR, tel: 01483 561389 (please send a DL SAE). A useful detailed guidebook from the same source, mentioned earlier in April 2003 Strider, is *The River Wey Navigations*, now priced at £3.50 (+ 47p p&p).

Yorkshire

During 2005 a 7th edition of the **Dales Way route guide**, by Arthur Gemmell & Colin Speakman, was published. It has been fully updated following a survey taken by Dales Way Association members in 2004. The guide also includes circular day walks for virtually the full distance. The guide costs £5.99 (ISBN: 0-906886724) and is available from local area TIC's and bookshops or direct from David Smith, Dalegarth, Moorfield Road, Ilkley, LS29 8BL (email: info@dalesway.org.uk). Cheques should be made payable to 'Dales Way Association'. Also available, from Cicerone Press, is the 2nd edition of *The Dales Way* guide by Terry Marsh. The ISBN is 1-852844647 and it is priced at £10.00.

WALES

A new 288-page (softback) guide to the **Anglesey Coast Path** is now available. Called *The Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path – Official Guide*, it is published by Mara Books, 22 Crosland Terrace, Helsby, Frodsham WA6 9LY and costs £9.99. Its ISBN is 1-902512138 and its size is 135 x 210 mm. The book has been published and produced in partnership with the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path Project, who created, maintain and waymark the path.

A new pack of colour maps is also available for £1.99 from Holyhead TIC (tel: 1407 762622) and other TIC's on the island or they can be downloaded from www.angleseycoastalpath.com.

A new edition of *Coastal Walks Around Anglesey – Vol 1* by Carl Rogers is also available. This 96-page illustrated book (ISBN: 0952240963) contains 15 circular walks around the coastline of Anglesey. The book costs £4.99 (+ 75p p&p) and is available from Walking Wales Magazine, 3 Glantwymyn Village Workshops, Cemmaes Road, Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire SY20 8LY

Progress is continuing on the **Cistercian Way**, the new circular route that is being developed in Wales. Development of the route started in 1998, the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the Cistercian order in the Principality. The whole route, when complete, will be about 650 miles long, making it the UK's longest footpath. It also has links with many other existing long distance routes. 'Walking Wales' magazine (issue 4 – 2005) contained an article on the route. However, for more information and progress updates log on to the project web site at: <http://Cistercian-way.newport.ac.uk>.

Detailed information about the **Epynt Way**, a 90 km circular bridleway that follows on or near to the boundary of the Ministry of Defence's Sennybridge Training Area can be found on the web at: www.defence-estates.mod.uk/epyntway/index.htm.

If you are interested in the Mid-Wales area why not log on to www.gomidwales.co.uk and sign up for Free future issues of the Go Mid Wales Walker newsletter. It contains snippets of news, routes (Epynt Way details came from issue 1), maps, competitions, letters, events and some accommodation details. These are selective and few so don't expect a couple of pages of them.

Harvey's Maps have produced two maps covering the **Offa's Dyke Path**. The northern map covers the route from Prestatyn to Knighton; and the southern map, from Knighton to Chepstow. They each cost £9.95.

SCOTLAND

Borders Abbeys Way – the final section of the route (Melrose to Kelso) is now complete. This 18-mile section is waymarked with a 'AW' symbol (denoting Abbeys Way) as per the other sections. The 65-mile route links the four great ruined abbeys of Kelso, Jedburgh, Melrose and Dryburgh, and visits the towns of Hawick and Selkirk. Five guide leaflets describe the whole length of the route and these can be obtained, free of charge, from TIC's in the Borders area or by ringing VisitScotland Borders on 0870 608 0404. There is plenty of accommodation available along the Way. The OS Explorer maps needed for this route are 331, 338, 339 and OL 16. OL 44 listed in the Handbook was earlier replaced.

A third edition of **The Great Glen Way** by Jacquetta Megarry and Sandra Bardwell was published in the summer of 2005. The ring-back guide (ISBN: 1-898481245) costs £10.99 and can be ordered from Rucksack Readers, Landrick Lodge, Dunblane FK15 0HY (tel: 01786 824696). Jacquetta is always interested in feedback from anyone who has walked the route, so if you have any comments please email her at: info@rucsacs.com.

Also available, which I may have not mentioned previously is a guide for the **Cateran Trail**, which Jacquetta produced in 2004. Produced in the same format as the Great Glen Way mentioned above, the guide (ISBN: 1-898481210) costs £10.99. The 64-mile (103km) circular Cateran Trail officially starts and finishes at Blairgowrie and can be completed comfortably in five days. Jacquetta also includes a weekend Minitrail option and, for anyone contemplating combining Rob Roy Way and the Cateran Trail, provides a link between Pitlochry (RRW) and Kirkmichael (CT). For these, and other, Rucksack Readers books visit www.rucsacs.com.

If you are interested in walking in the Hebrides, the Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust maintains four 'crofters hostels' on the Isles of Lewis, Harris, Berneray and South Uist. Details are available on the Internet at www.gatliff.org.uk.

The **Southern Upland Way** celebrated its 21st anniversary during 2005. To mark the occasion a new book, *Writing The Way*, containing the thoughts, experiences and memories of some of the people who have walked the route was published. The book (£5.00 + 70p p&p) can be obtained from: The Southern Uplands Partnership, GCAT, High Street, New Galloway DG7 3RN or ordered online at the official website: www.southernuplandway.com.

The official guide of the **Southern Upland Way**, by Roger Smith, has been updated and includes descriptions of 64 short and medium length circular walks that take the Way as their starting point. Fully illustrated, and published by Mercat Press, the guide comes with two folding maps enclosed

within a water-resistant wallet. The 256pp paperback guide, including maps (ISBN: 1-841830771), costs £17.99. It can be ordered by email at orders@booksource.net. (See Book Reviews)

Look out in 2006 for another book on the **Southern Upland Way** from Alan Castle, he of Hillwalker's Register fame, who is just about to finish his guide for Cicerone. More details on this as and when they become available. During his research he has updated the list of the Explorer Maps shown in LDW Handbook v7. The maps required, from west to east, are: 309, 310, 319, (318), 320, 328, 329, 330, 322, 337, 338, 345, 346. Note that map 318, included in brackets, covers a very small section of the route, which can be found on the maps 319 and 320. Note also that map 322, which looks out of sequence in the above list, is correctly placed. A number of OL maps were replaced by Ex maps after the Handbook, affecting this and a few other routes in Scotland. Among other routes, for the **Gallo Way Round**, Exs 318 and 319 replaced OL 16; for the **West Highland Way** 347, 348, 364, 377, 384, 392 replaced OL 38 and 39 and as noted above for the Borders Abbeys Way 331, 338, 339 and OL16 cover the route (with OL44 replaced).

Ad Hoc Items

For those long distance members who are into camping etc, the Camping and Caravanning Club will be holding their National (NCCW) Week between 27 May and 2 June. The Club offers special deals on their sites for families and the over 55's. Up to date information about the Week can be found on their website at www.nccw.co.uk.

The C and C Club have also announced that Rhyl Certificated Camp Site have won the Best Small Camp Site Competition for 2005. This camp site could be utilised by walkers doing the North Wales Coastal Path.

A 90-minute DVD entitled *Walking With Freedom*, which covers the 2173 miles of the **Appalachian Trail**, by Michael Daniel (Barking Harley Productions), is available from www.amazon.com. The price is a whopping £25. Not having seen the DVD I am unable to comment on its quality or content so make sure you are getting good value before 'taking the plunge'. Further information can be obtained from Anni Johnson at lilpix03@yahoo.co.uk.

LDP Team Member, David Allen is now a member of the Local Access Forum for Wigan MBC.

NEW BOOKS due out in the early part of 2006 (there may be more that I don't know of):

The Thames Path (2nd edition) – (Cicerone), ISBN: 1-852844361, 224pp - £12.00

West Highland Way (new edition) – (Trailblazer), ISBN: 1-873756909, 192pp, 60 maps - £9.99.

Hadrian's Wall Path – (Trailblazer), ISBN: 1-873756852, 192pp, 60 maps - £9.99.

North Downs Way – (Trailblazer), ISBN: 1-873756968, 208pp, 80 maps - £9.99.

The Ridgeway – (Trailblazer), ISBN: 1-873756887, 192pp, 60 maps - £9.99.

2005 - December

News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE WALKS

edited by LES Maple

ENGLAND

General

If you are thinking of backpacking Wainwright's **Coast-to-Coast** walk, Rockumentary Press have produced a useful booklet containing lists of official campsites, shops and transport facilities. It is called '*Camping it Up! On the Coast-to-Coast Walk*' It costs £2.99 and is available from the publishers at 11 Cliff Top, Filey, YO14 9HG.

A One Week Coast-to-Coast Trek by Dick French, ('NOMAD' Series of Cross-country Trek and Mountain Bike Rides), is a small booklet, accidentally omitted from the Seventh Edition of the Long Distance Walkers' Handbook. The booklet describes a route from Arnside to Saltburn-by-the-Sea, a distance of 120 miles. The author himself covered the 120 miles in 8 days, the first and last days being fairly short. The route is confined to public rights of way and roads, and the description is sufficiently detailed to enable the route to be plotted on an Ordnance Survey map. The first part of the route, from Arnside to Kirkby Lonsdale, coincides with the Limestone Link, and the last part, from Osmotherley to Saltburn, coincides with the Cleveland Way. In between the route covers a variety of terrain, from the bleak openness of the Pennines to the agricultural landscape of the Vale of York. The booklet includes some interesting facts about the areas visited, some suggestions for accommodation, and advice for the novice long distance walker.

The cost of the 105 x 150 (24pp) booklet is £3.00 (+ 110 x 220 SAE) and it is available from Richard French, Wilkinstile, SEDBERGH, Cumbria LA10 5LS.

The Nelson Way is a new long distance route that links locations associated with Horatio Nelson. The 424-mile walk starts at Nelson's birthplace – Burnham Thorpe (Norfolk) and ends at HMS Victory in Portsmouth. See Book Reviews for further details.

Pennine Bridleway National Trail – This route continues to develop with the opening of the Settle Loop, which provides a 10-mile loop stretching east from Settle in the direction of Malham. Further information can be found on the National Trail website: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/penninebridleway.

There is a new contact for the **Icknield Way** Association. Requests for guide books and membership details should be sent to David Northrop, 5 Perne Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 3RY, tel: 01223 244 522 and email davenorthrop@hotmail.com.

The overall length of the epic **Monarch's Way** has been increased by 5 miles to 615 miles and is now waymarked throughout. There is a website for the route at www.monarchsway.50megs.com.

Pennine Way – '*The Pennine Way*' is the title of a new 'coffee table' book, published by Zymurgy Publishing. Written by Tony Hopkins, the book is priced at £16.99.

Shakespeare's Way – Here is another new 146-mile cross county route currently being worked on. Peter Titchmarsh, who is perhaps better known as the planner of the '**Macmillan Way**' routes, has devised the route and the publications should be available by February

2006. It follows as closely as possible the route that Shakespeare may have taken on his journeys between his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon and London, the city where he spent all of his productive years. Starting at Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon it passes such as Blenheim Park, Stonor, Marlow, Cookham, Burnham Beeches, the Grand Union Canal and the Thames and ends at Shakespeare's Globe (Theatre), London. The following maps will be required: LR 151, 164, 165, 175, 176 or EXP 45, 160, 161, 168, 170, 171, 172, 173, 180, 205 and 206. It is expected that the route will be shown on OS maps in future and will eventually be waymarked. There is an opportunity to raise funds to the Shakespeare Hospice in Stratford-upon-Avon. An 80-page full-colour guide to the route starting from Stratford-upon-Avon will be priced at £7.75 incl p&p. The Shakespeare's Way Planner at £3.25 incl p&p will cover accommodation and facilities details. The East-West Supplement. 32-page supplementary guide to the route from London to Stratford-upon-Avon will be £5.75 incl p&p and there will be a free Descriptive Leaflet and all will be available from Shakespeare's Way Association, St Mary's Barn, Pillerton Priors, Warwick CV35 0PG, with a website and outline map at www.shakespearesway.org.

A full-colour leaflet, describing the 10-mile **Thames Path Extension**, is now available. It is called 'Exploring London's Working River' and provides a detailed map and notes about features seen along the way. The Extension is waymarked with a white sailing barge logo. It links with the London LOOP and the Cray Riverway at one end and with the Capital Ring and the Green Chain Walk at the other. The folder can be obtained from local TICs or by ringing 0870 608 2000 or 01322 558676.

The **Thames Valley Circular Walk** is a 125-mile circular route around the Thames Valley passing through a variety of beautiful countryside that includes river valleys, chalk downland, woodland and heath. Some of the woodland is carpeted with bluebells at springtime. The route takes in: Windsor, Sandhurst, Winchfield, Dummer, Kingsclere, Woolhampton, Streatley, Stonor, Marlow, then back to Windsor. OS maps required are: EXP 160, 144, 158, 171 and 172. Although the route is not waymarked it sometimes shares sections with other long distance paths. With planning various points along the route can be reached via the use of public transport. Details can be obtained from www.roundreadingwalk.co.uk.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

Berkshire:

Round Reading Walks – details of the walks, which can be linked to form a circular long distance route, can be found on website: www.roundreadingwalk.co.uk. It is almost an inner circle route of the Thames Valley Circular Walk, described above, with some sections being coincident. The route descriptions are written as separate walks rather than sequentially.

Cheshire

Mid Cheshire Footpath Society are developing a route called the **North Cheshire Way**. This 110km / 70 mile route starts at Willaston and finishes at Lyme Park. The route has a yellow circle 'NCW' waymark.. OS maps required are EXP 266, 267 and 268. The North Cheshire Way provides links to the Wirral Way, Sandstone Trail and the Gritstone Trail. It also provides a potential link from Offa's Dyke Path to the Pennine Way, which could be of some advantage to those walking LEJOG. An interim leaflet is currently being prepared and there is information on the path website at www.mcfs.org.uk. Information can also be found at www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside/walking/other_walks.

Derbyshire

A comprehensive colour leaflet covering the 34-mile/55 km **Chesterfield Round Walk** is available from the Membership Secretary, 195 Old Road, Chesterfield S40 3QH. The leaflet, which has been completely revised, costs £1.50 + 50p p&p and cheques should be made payable to Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Ramblers Group. The leaflet is also available from Chesterfield TIC.

The **11 Guide Stoops of Bradfield** is the latest anytime challenge walk from the Mike Warner 'stable'. Aimed particularly for the winter months as an alternative to wading through mud, the 17-mile walk is mainly on quiet roads, although there are several footpath alternatives for purists. There are a good number of seats along the route, most providing good views. The walk discovers the 11 guide stoops (the earliest form of signposts carved from gritstone) in the parish of Bradfield, reputedly the second largest in England. A route description is available (if you send two 1st or 2nd class stamps) from M. L Warner, Redland House, Clifton, Near Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 2GJ. An attractive woven badge and certificate are also available on successful completion of the walk. These cost £4.00 and cheques should be made payable to M L Warner.

Devon:

The 60-mile **Copper Trail** is a new route that takes you around the edges of Bodmin Moor, including an old copper mine. A guidebook, *The Copper Trail – Once around Bodmin Moor*, by Mark Camp is available priced at £4.95 and book provides a six-day walking route. Details are on www.bobm.info and also see http://lets gobiking.com/copper_trail.html.

Dorset:

The missing link, in guidebook terms, for the **E9** route that runs between Plymouth and Dover has now been rectified thanks to Leigh Hatts (author) and Countryside Books (publisher). Exploring the **Bournemouth Coast Path** is the title of a new guide that covers the 37-mile stretch between Swanage and Lymington. Further details about the book can be found in Book reviews.

Greater Manchester:

The **Oldham Way** now links up with the Medlock Valley Way, a 20km / 12 mile route that runs from Wotherhead Hill viewpoint, via Park Bridge and Daisy Nook, to Paradise Wharf in central Manchester. It also links with the Stanedge Trail, which in turn links to the Kirlees Way at Marsden. The Medlock Valley Way and the Kirklees Way are shown on OS maps. Further details can be found at www.tameside.gov.uk/corpgen3/walkindex.htm.

Hertfordshire:

A revised second edition of the **Hertfordshire Way** guidebook is now available. Published by 'Book Castle of Dunstable' the guide describes the 170-mile waymarked circular route around Hertfordshire. Edited by Bert Richardson, the guide (ISBN: 1-903747619) costs £8.99 and can be obtained, via post or phone, from: The Book Castle, 12 Church Street, Dunstable Bedfordshire LU5 4RU. (tel: 01582 605670). Please add 20% to cover post and packing.

Also available from the Book Castle is: *Circular Walks along the Chiltern Way – Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire* by Nick Moon. This is a companion volume to the *Circular Walks along the Chiltern Way – Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire*, which the same author produced last year. Although both books contain short walks they do present the walker with an opportunity to walk the Chiltern Way in short easy stages. The book, ISBN: 1-90374749X, costs £7.99 and is available from the Book Castle (see Hertfordshire Way above for details).

Kent:

A new book, 'Walking The Saxon Shore Way Through Medway', guides walkers along seven short sections of the 160-mile **Saxon Shore Way** in the Medway area of Kent. The walks vary in length between 2 miles and 6½ miles. Details can be obtained by calling 01634 331470.

Lancashire:

A new route being developed in the Lancashire area – Wigan, Salford, Trafford, Manchester, Warrington, Halton and Cheshire – is the **Bridgewater Way**. The 40-mile/65 km route, starting at Runcorn and finishing at Leigh, follows the towpath of the Bridgewater Canal. The canal is owned by the Manchester Ship Canal Company, which is part of Peel Holdings. A feasibility study has been carried out and funds are being obtained to upgrade the towpath.

Further details can be obtained by ringing 0161 629 8266 or by email at enquiries@bridgewatercanal.co.uk or on the web at www.bridgewatercanal.co.uk.

Clitheroe Ramblers are developing a route called the **Hodder Way**. The River Hodder runs for about 40 miles from its source in the Bowland Fells. Further information is required.

The 36 page guidebook to the **Rotary Way**, mentioned in the April 2005 edition of 'Strider', is also available from Phil Wood, 59 Broomway, Westhoughton, Bolton BL5 3TZ. The price quoted is £5.75, with cheques being made payable to: 'Rotary Club of Westhoughton'.

A new set of leaflets, consisting of 4 separate trails, which can be linked to form a continuous 32-mile walk – **Witton Weavers Way**, have been revamped and re-issued. The leaflets for the 4 trails plus the link route can be obtained (Free) from Darwen Council, Marketing Tourism and Countryside Service, Blackburn (tel: 01254 691239). See also website; www.blackburn.gov.uk. I understand that there is a new full trail booklet available – if this is so we need one for the LDP library, which is maintained by me would you believe.

Lincolnshire:

Created by Grimsby/Louth Ramblers and local countryside services, the **Silver Lincs Way** is a signed 25-mile/40 km route through the Lincolnshire Wolds. Two free leaflets, one covering the main route, the other a series of circular walks, are available from 50 Gayton Road, Cleethorpes DN35 0HN if a stamped addressed envelope is sent.

Norfolk:

The Peddars Wayfarer is a new bus service that runs between Thetford railway station and Swaffham twice a day, seven days a week, calling at major access points along the **Peddars Way**. Timetable information can be obtained by calling 0870 608 2608.

Somerset:

Bristol Ramblers, who produced the Bristol Triangular City Walk, have produced another new route called the **South Bristol Circular Walk**. The 23-mile/37 km walk follows paths and quiet streets around the southern part of the city, starting from Temple Meads Station. A free colour booklet is available from Bristol TIC (0906 711 2191). Information is also to be found at: www.visitbristol.co.uk.

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge was born in Ottery St Mary. He moved to Nether Stowey after leaving Cambridge where he had been studying. It is at Nether Stowey, at the foot of the Quantock Hills, that a new long-distance walk starts. The 36-mile **Coleridge Way** crosses the Quantocks, via West Quantoxhead and Bicknoller to reach Monksilver where it enters Exmoor National Park. Weaving a way across the National Park it visits Luxborough, Lype Hill, the highest point on the route, Wheddon Cross and Horner before finishing at Porlock. OS maps covering the route are EXP 140 (Quantock Hills and Bridgwater) and OL 9 (Exmoor). A *Coleridge Way Guide* leaflet is available (Free) from Taunton TIC (01823 336 344) or Somerset Visitor Centre, Axbridge (01934 750833) and there is much useful information including the route on the Park website at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/, via the links to 'home page' and 'projects'. [Site not working 27 11 05.]

Staffordshire:

Stoke on Trent is cooperating with Staffordshire and Newcastle Borough to increase and refurbish the number of **greenways** around the city. Once complete the network will link all

parts of the city together. They will tie in with the National Cycle Network but I have no information as to links with long distance paths.

Sussex:

A guidebook for the new **Serpent Trail**, (see Strider – April 2005), is expected to be published later in the year. Maps of the route are planned to be downloadable from the Sussex Downs Conservation Board's website at www.vic.org.uk. TV presenter and wildlife photographer, Chris Packham, officially opened the 64-mile route, which snakes between Haslemere, Petworth, Midhurst and Petersfield, in April.

The guidebook for the **Sussex Ouse Valley Way** by Terry Owen and Peter Anderson is now available. Published by Per-Rambulations the guidebook (148 x 210) has 72 pages and costs £7.95. The ISBN is: 0-95496540X. The book, with a foreword by bushcraft expert Ray Mears, describes a walk through Sussex following the River Ouse from Lower Beeding (close to its source) to the sea, at Seaford Bay. The 42-mile route is sub-divided into 6 sections, with the walk directions highlighted in red, on a pink background. Interesting facts about the history of the area and features seen along the way are interspersed with the route directions. Coloured sketch maps and interesting photographs, also in colour, add to the attraction of the book. The back cover photograph presents an interesting view looking through the centre of the Ouse Valley Viaduct. The book can be obtained, post free, from Per-Rambulations, Larkshill, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3HL (tel: 01342 315786 or email: larkshill@btinternet.com), or from local bookshops.

Worcestershire

Eric Perks adds yet another anytime challenge to his growing list, this time with a sad tinge as it celebrates his friend and fellow LDWA member Robert Williams, who died recently at only 55. The 30-mile walk is called **Robert's Romp** and is set in an area he liked to romp around in preparation for the 15 LDWA 100s he completed. Starting from Dunley, it includes views of Glasshampton Monastery, Abberley Clock Tower and over the Teme and Severn valleys. As usual with Eric's routes, a description and certificate are available by sending a £1.00 cheque payable to 'Blakebrook Gym Club' plus a large SAE to Eric Perks (Robert's Romp), Selbhome, 10 Cordle Marsh Road, Bewdley, Worcs, DY12 1EW. The club caters for disabled youngsters.

Yorkshire:

The **Dales Celebration Way** is a new 130-mile circular route in the Yorkshire Dales. Although the Way officially starts, and ends, at Skipton, it can be started at any of the major places along the route. The website: www.walkingenglishman.com contains a synopsis and map of the route together with further synopsis of the 8 sections the route has been sub-divided into. From Skipton the walk takes the walker to Settle, Ingleton, Dent, Hawes, Reeth, Thoralby and Kettlewell before returning to Skipton. The route is described as being quite tough especially as it takes in Yorkshire's Three Peaks. [Site not working 27 11 05.]

Mark Reid has produced a revised edition of his **Inn Way – to Black Sheep Pubs** guidebook. The book contains 25 circular walks that include visits to pubs in the Yorkshire Dales that serve Black Sheep ale. The book costs £6.95 (ISBN: 1-902001109). Information about Inn Way walks can be obtained on the web at www.innway.co.uk.

An LDWA member, on a visit to Rosedale Church in the North Yorks Moors, found a route called the Lastingham Five Churches Walk. No details as to how long the route is, or where information can be obtained, are available at the time of writing.

SCOTLAND

Our Scottish representative, Alan Castle, reports that 'things are beginning to happen north of the border'.

Borders Abbeys Way – It is expected that the last section of the Borders Abbey Way should, at long last, be opened by the time this edition of 'Strider' hits your doormat. All the landowner's objections have now been resolved. Further news will be reported as and when it is received.

Rucksack Readers have published a clear, colourful, weatherproof guidebook for the 64-mile/103km **Cateran Trail**. The book, ISBN: 1898481210, costs £10.99. Further details can be obtained on website: www.rucsacs.com.

The **John Muir Way** - (NOT to be confused with the John Muir Trail in California, which is a very different matter) is a new coastal LDP being developed by East Lothian Council which when finalised should stretch from Musselburgh (essentially Edinburgh) to Cocksburnpath, so linking the capital with the Southern Upland Way, Scotland's longest official LDP. So far three sections have been opened up i.e. all signposted and with free explanatory leaflets available from local TICs : Fisherrow (Musselburgh) to Cockenzie (9.6km), Cockenzie to Aberlady (15.6km) and Dunbar (JM's Birthplace) to Dunglass (15.6km). I don't know what the final exact length will be, but I would guess somewhere around 80 - 120 km). It offers generally easy walking and part of it passes through the John Muir Country Park (1,760 acres managed by East Lothian Council on the western side of Dunbar). Further information can be obtained by phoning: 01620 827671, or see the website: www.eastlothian.gov.uk

If you are ever passing close to Dunbar (30 miles south of Edinburgh) then I can thoroughly recommend the museum (Visitor Centre) at John Muir's Birthplace, which opened in 2003 and is a great success, drawing in over 20, 000 visitors a year. It has to be one of the best museums on the outdoors and conservation that I have ever visited, and entry is gratis. Muir had an exceptional way with words and a deep love story with wilderness areas; many of his finest quotes are all there in the museum, which has three floors, dealing with his early years in Scotland, his move to the US and the establishment of the National Park movement there, and conservation work since his death. It is perhaps a little ironic that the JM Way is in an area that not by any stretch of the imagination could be called wilderness!

Roman Heritage Way - This is another of those routes, like the Sir Walter Scott Way (which is virtually identical to the eastern half of the Southern Upland Way), which pretends to be new but is really just a different (and commercially) marketed form of existing LDPs. Most of the route is in northern England with around 20 % in the Scottish Borders. It makes use of St Cuthbert's Way, the Roman Road of Dere Street, the Pennine Way and Hadrian's Way Path. The route is in the form of an inverted "T" and offers two options: 1. Wallsend to Melrose (Segedunum Fort to Trimontium Museum) via the eastern Hadrian's Wall Path, Housesteads, Bellingham, Byrness and Dere Street (103 miles). 2. Bowness on Solway (Maia Fort to Trimontium Museum) via the western Hadrian's Wall Path, Housesteads, Bellingham, Byrness and Dere Street (100 miles). The LDP is described as a walk along the Northern Roman Frontiers of 1st to 3rd Century Britain. The official website is: www.romanheritageway.com.

Scotland's first Source to Sea path network is currently being developed in Ayrshire. The waymarked **River Ayr Way** (44 miles/66 kms), which runs from Glenbuck (the source) to Ayr (the sea), is scheduled to be fully open by the end of 2005 in time for the start of the new season in Spring 2006. It is expected that a map pack and a number of leaflets describing the

trail will be available by then. Details of these publications plus more information can be obtained by phoning 01563 554751.

Three other networks are currently being developed. These are:

The Scottish Coal Cycle Route – 44 miles/66 kms between Dalmellington and Coalburn,

The Doon Valley Route – linking the communities of Dalmellington, Patna, Waterside and Rankinston with the important heritage sites of Loch Doon, the Galloway Forest and the Dunaskin Heritage Centre,

The Lugar Water Route – linking Ochiltree and Drongon to the River Ayr and providing a network around the Auchinleck Estate.

Further details will follow as soon as news is received about any of the above projects.

The **Southern Upland Way** celebrated its 21st anniversary this year. Alan Castle is currently working on a guidebook for the trail for Cicerone. News and useful information about the route can be obtained on website: www.suw21.com.

A total of 350km of new trails have been created in the Scottish Borders area. All devoid of stiles they take in some of Scotland's finest landscapes. First impressions are that most of these are fairly short in distance but there is a possibility they could link up to form longer routes. Information is available on the web at www.southofscotlandcountrysidewalks.co.uk.

[Site not working 27 11 05.]

Trails of various lengths in Scotland can also be found in the following publications:

Scottish Hill Tracks (ISBN: 0954673506 - £16),

Hill Tracks in the Cairngorms National Park

Both are available from Scotways, 24 Annandale Street, Edinburgh EH7 4AN (0131 558 1222 or www.scotways.com). There is an additional p&p to pay if obtained direct. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

West Highland Way – The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park produce an annual '***West Highland Way Pocket Companion***', which provides useful information including accommodation that is available along the way. This year's publication was the 25th anniversary edition. The 36 page booklet costs £1.00 (incl p&p) and is available from: The National Park Gateway Centre, Loch Lomond Shores, Ben Lomond Way, Balloch G83 8QL (tel: 0845 345 4978). The location of the official end of the West Highland Way has now been clarified as being at the Woollen Mill, Nevis Bridge, Fort William, (GR NN112743).

WALES

Anglesey Coast Path – The new official guidebook that was due to be launched at the Anglesey Walking Festival in June was delayed until August. The new guide breaks the 125-mile circuit into 12 sections, averaging about 10 miles per chapter. The book also gives information about the use of public transport, which allows the route to be walked from one base, if so required. The book is being published by Mara Books (01928 7237440). The author is Carl Rogers and the ISBN is 1-902512138. Further information can be obtained from walk website: www.angleseycoastalpath.com.

The Beacons Way guidebook, mentioned in August Strider, is now available. Published by Walking Wales Magazine the book costs £12.00. Walking Wales Magazine can be contacted on 01650 511314. The total route distance is recorded as 98 miles. A guidebook, ***The Beacons Way***, written by John Sansom and Arwel Michael, is available. See Book Review for details of ISBN, price etc.

Cardigan Bay Coast – A beautifully illustrated paperback guide covering this 60-mile route from Cardigan to Borth is available at £3.95 from Walking Wales Magazine. It has 32 pp, is 149 x 210mm and its ISBN is: 1-902302095

The Dee Way – Issue 2 of Walking Wales magazine included an article about this route, which runs from Prestatyn to Chester (32 miles) on the Welsh side of the River Dee, and from Hoylake to Chester (21½ miles) on the English side. At Chester the trail combines and continues to follow the river to Bala and on to its source. A guidebook is scheduled for Summer 2006.

Offa's Dyke National Trail - The YHA have produced a leaflet providing details of accommodation that is available along the route. The accommodation includes guesthouses as well as youth hostels. For details call YHA Customer Services on 0870 7708868.

Circular Walks on the Offa's Dyke Path Vol 1 (Prestatyn to Welshpool) and *Vol 2 (Welshpool to Hay on Wye)*, both by Jeff Lomax, are the first two of a set of three books that sample some of the 'finest sections' along the route. Both are 135 x 210 paperbacks. Other details are:

Vol 1: 128pp, ISBN: 1-902512014, £4.99. Vol2: 144pp, ISBN: 1-902512073, £5.99. Both books are available from Walking Wales Magazine, 3 Glantwymyn Village Workshops, Cemmaes Road, Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire, SY20 8LY.

General (Wales)

Due to open in the near future is a new upgraded circular route, called the **Iron Mountain Trail**. The 16km trail takes in many important natural and historical features in the Blaenavon Industrial area, including a loop around the Bloreng Mountain. A guide is being published and will be available from local Tourist Information Centres. Further information on this route is required as it could link up with the Cambrian Way or the Beacons Way.

Ramblers Association – Wales have moved to 3 Coopers Yard, Curran Road, CARDIFF CF10 5NB (tel: 029 2064 4308 / fax: 029 2064 5187 / email: cerddwyr@ramblers.org.uk).

AD HOC

Over The Hill Club – A revised information sheet on this challenge will be available from January 2006. To qualify for full membership a 40-mile roller-coaster circuit of seven summits has to be completed within 24 hours, starting from Sedbergh, Cumbria. Originally restricted to over 50's, in response to demand a new Associate category has been introduced for those under 50. For details: send a SAE with a second hand stamp to OTH Club, 10 Beaufort Grove, Bradford BD2 4LJ, or email: twimbush@fish.co.uk.

Dark Peak 4 County Tops – Also promoted by the Over The Hill Club, this 43-mile circuit links the county summits of Derbyshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester in a strenuous outing. Send a SAE with a 2nd class stamp for an information sheet (available from January 2006) to the OTH Club. Address as above.

The June/July edition of 'Lakeland Walker' contained an article by Jerry Rawson, which covered a 23-mile route around Haweswater. In the same edition was an article by Ronald Turnbull covering his, and Roy Clayton's, book '*Lakeland Mountain Challenges*'. The latter will, I am sure, provide some challenges for the long distance walker.

Information is required about a route in the Eden Valley called the **Eden Wheel**. Latest news that I have received indicates that it is a cycle route. The question is – is it also a suitable walking route?

I have been producing this column now for a number of years, having taking over the reins from Brian Smith. Prior to the August 2005 issue of Strider, I gave notice that it was time that some new blood was found to produce the LDP News and consequently informed the Chairman and Editor that the April 2006 issue would carry my final LDP News. If anyone out there is interested please let Tom Sinclair, Julie Welch, Paul Lawrence or myself know.

Strider will not be losing me completely as I will still be producing and/or coordinating the Book Reviews, 'Striding Back' and possible other articles for the magazine. I will also continue to act as the custodian of the LDP Library and provide information about publications for the LDP Database, maintained by Paul Lawrence.
To put it more simply: 'I am tired, 'puffed out', and need a rest.

Les Maple (for and on behalf of the LDP team).

August 2005

**News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS
& CHALLENGE WALKS**
Compiled by Les Maple

GENERAL

The official launch of the **Cotswold Way** as a National Trail has been re-scheduled for 2007. No date as been finalised as yet. A new guidebook, *The Cotswold Way*, written by Kev Reynolds and published by Cicerone Press (ISBN: 1852844493 and priced at £12) was produced in April. Kev gives the reader/walker the opportunity of walking the route in either direction. This new edition also takes into account improvements that have been made to the Way in preparation for its launch as a National Trail.

The **Monarch's Way**, an epic perambulation based on King Charles II's escape route from the battle of Worcester in 1651 snaking right across southern England, has been extended yet further by 5 miles to 615 miles. It is now fully waymarked and is shown on OS mapping and there is a path website at <http://www.monarchsway.50megs.com/> . [Site not working 27 11 05.]

Have you got your copy of the **South West Coast Path** Guide for 2005 yet? If you are thinking of walking the trail in the near future this is an essential book to assist in your planning of the walk. Its contents include a suggested itinerary; a sectioned trail description, a section detailing various types of accommodation available along the route, together with other important information. The guidebook, which is updated every year, costs £7.00. However should you decide to join the SWCP Association (Membership: Single-£11 or Joint-£12.50) you will be guaranteed future editions earlier in the year as part of your membership. The Association also produces a quarterly Newsletter. The Spring 2005 edition included a short article highlighting some of the LDWA Dorset Group events.

The LDP team continue to find new routes and new publications. Our man in the West Country, Terry Bound, recently brought two new leaflets to my attention. Both routes have links with the **South West Coast Path**. The first is the **Four Parish Walk**, a 12-mile circular route through the parishes of Marazion, Ludgvan, St Hilary and Perranuthnoe. The other is an old route, **St Michael's Way**, which runs from St Uny to St Michael's Mount. The distance varies between 10 and 13 miles depending on which route is taken.

Other Associations who periodically send me copies of their Newsletters are: *The Dales Way Association; The Heart of England Way Association; The Icknield Way Association; Monarch's Way Association, Offa's Dyke Association; The Pennine Way Association, The Friends of the Ridgeway* plus others. Their Newsletters keep me informed of what is happening along and about these long distance trails. They are Associations well worth supporting especially if you have, or intend, walking any of these routes.

The **North Sea Trail** (Nortrail) is a new European funded Project to develop walking opportunities around the coast of the North Sea Countries. Nearly 30 partners are involved from authorities in England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and possibly the Netherlands. The route starts in North Yorkshire where it uses the **Cleveland Way** (Filey-Saltburn), with planned extensions on the Northumberland coast and up through Scotland to Shetland. A parallel route is envisaged to run up the west coasts of the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Some details can be found at www.nave.no or www.northseatrail.co.uk. The North York Moors National Park Authority has produced a

10-minute DVD of the *Cleveland Way* part of the route. It costs £4.99 and is available via www.moors.uk.net or ring 01439 772737.

Offa's Dyke Path – The YHA have opened a new hostel in Kington, Herefordshire, which walkers using this route may find useful. The building was once a cottage hospital and has 30 beds.

Eric Perks, prolific developer of anytime challenge routes in the Severnside/Worcestershire region, advises us that all cheques for his route descriptions/maps should now be made out to 'Blakebrook Gym Club' to which profits are donated – it caters for disabled youngsters - as Brintons Walking Club has ceased to operate after 22 years. His walks are **Abberley Amble**, **Applecake Hill 20**, **Crooked Spire Walk**, **Mini Alps**, **Kinver Clamber**, **Chaddesley Chase**, **Carpet Baggers 50** and **Wyre Forest Alpine Walk**. His address is still Selbhome, 10 Cordle Marsh Road, BEWDLEY, Worcs, DY12 1EW and each route costs £1.00 plus a large SAE.

New editions of the guides to the **Ribble Way** and the **Dales Way** are scheduled for June (2005); published by Cicerone Press. The Cicerone guides for the **Wealdway** and the **Vanguard Way** are now out of print.

COUNTY NEWS

Cheshire

A bus service, called the *Sandstone Rambler*, runs at weekends and bank holidays from Easter until the end of September between Frodsham and Whitchurch. This service enables walkers to walk sections, or even the whole, of the **Sandstone Trail**. Information about the Trail, and other walking routes, attractions, and places to stay, is available in a Cheshire Walkers' Explorer Pack available, free, from Cheshire County Council Tourism Unit, Room 268, County Hall, Chester CH1 1SF. For 'Sandstone Rambler' bus information call the Cheshire Travel Line on 01244 602666.

Devon

The **Devonshire Heartland Way** is a new 45-mile route that runs between Okehampton and the village of Stoke Canon, just north of Exeter. Using ancient footpaths, bridleways and some minor roads the route takes in Sampford Courtenay, North Tawton, where it links with the *Tarka Trail*, Down St Mary, where it links with the *Two Moors Way*; Colebrooke, Yeoford and Crediton before finishing at Stoke Canon. The logo for the trail has a Spindle Berry Flower on it. You should be able to see many growing in the hedgerows en-route. Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council have produced a 32-page booklet, which is available from them or from Crediton TIC (01363 772006)

Greater London

The formal launch of the **Capital Ring** 78-mile London orbital route is planned for 21 September at 4pm in Highgate Woods and LDWA members will be involved in leading the longer inaugural walks. For details and leaflets call the London Strategic Walks Information Service on 0870 240 6094, visit www.tfl.gov.uk/walking or email walking@tfl.gov.uk. All the leaflets should be available by now. Those using the Aurum guidebook by Colin Saunders should note that until 2006 an enforced, signed diversion needs to be used when nearing Gallions Reach in Newham, an option described in the book.

Herefordshire

The **Herefordshire Trail** is a new 154-mile circular route that remains totally within the county boundary. Devised by a small group of members from the Hereford Group of the Ramblers' Association, the landscape varies from the Malvern Hills in the east to the Black

Mountains in the west, through rich arable land, apple orchards, hop fields, woodlands speckled with wild flowers, and river valleys. The new guidebook is reviewed in the 'Footprint' article of this edition of *Strider*. It costs £5.95 (plus £2.00 p&p) and is available from: The Book Secretary, Gawsorth, North Road, Kingsland, Herefordshire HR6 9RU. Cheques should be made payable to the R A Hereford Group. Details are also available on www.herefordshiretrail.com.

Lancashire

The **Pendle Witches Walking Trail** is one of those short routes (only 7½ miles) that links into a longer trail. In this instance it is the **Pendle Way**. Details can be obtained by ringing 01282 661685.

In the December 2005 (2004?) edition of 'Strider' there was a reference to a new guidebook and route called the **Trevine Trail**. The paragraph concerned fell foul of a writer's nightmare – the dreaded 'typo' error. The author is in fact Trevor Headley and not 'Trevor Healey' as reported. All other facts were correct. Apologies are duly extended to Trevor.

Lincolnshire

The **Danelaw Way** is a new long distance path linking Lincoln with Stamford. A new guide, written by Brett Collier, Area President of the R.A. Lincolnshire, was due to be published in the Spring. Further details will follow, as and when they become available.

Somerset

The **Coleridge Way**, the new 36-mile trail mentioned in the last edition of *Strider*, opened in April. Starting in the village of Nether Stowey in the Quantock Hills, the route passes through Exmoor National Park before reaching its finish at Porlock, on the Somerset Coast, where it links with the **South West Coast Path**. Other links include the **Macmillan Way** and the **Two Moors Way**. It was at an isolated farmhouse, near Nether Stowey, that Samuel Coleridge wrote his epic poem 'Kubla Khan'. The trail traces his footsteps, passing through a number of small picturesque villages, including Monksilver whom many of you may remember from your Exmoor 100 exploits. It has not yet been waymarked so you will need a guide and maps. The new Coleridge Way Guide is available (free) from Taunton Tourist Information Centre (01823 336344). Details can also be found on www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk, that includes a route outline and more detailed maps, plus route descriptions for download. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

Worcestershire/Gloucestershire

There is a new guide for the **St Kenelm's Way** (55 miles/88 km) that runs from the Clent Hills in north Worcs to Winchcombe in the Cotswolds. It traces the legend surrounding the death of the young Saxon prince, the grandson of King Offa. Its starting point in the Clent Hills is at GR SO945808 and its finish is at SP 024283. The Way links up with the **North Worcestershire Path** and the **Wychavon Way**. Maps required for the St Kenelm's walk are LR 139, 150 and 163 or EXP 219, 204, 190 and OL45. A new softback publication: **St Kenelm's Way** by Gerry Stewart (Countryside Matters), ISBN: 0952787040, 80pp, A5 (2005) is available at a price of £5.95 (post free). The address to contact is: Countryside Matters, 15 Orchard Road, Alderton, Tewkesbury, GL20 8NS or at www.countryside-matters.co.uk. Dave Irons also informs us of the following updates to information shown in LDW Handbook 7th ed for other items from this publisher: **Gloucestershire Way**: a new edition of the guidebook (by Gerry Stewart) was produced in 2002. The updated ISBN is 0952787059. **Three Choirs Way**: the route now has a new black on white waymark disc depicting a 'Treble Clef and musical notes'. **Wysis Way**: The cost of the guidebook as shown in HB7 is now £5.95. An additional map (OL14) is also required to cover the route, which also has a new black on red disc waymark showing a 'Cathedral between rivers'.

Yorkshire

The **Nidderdale Way** has a new walk recorder. He is Mike Warner, who has taken on the role on behalf of the Yorkshire Footpath Trust. An attractive woven badge and printed certificate is currently available to people who have successfully completed the walk, at a cost of £4, which includes p&p. Cheques should be made payable to Mike Warner, and sent to him at: Nidderdale Way Walk Recorder, Redland House, Clifton, Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 2GJ.

The **Wakefield Way** is a new 75-mile circular route devised by West Riding Ramblers, which roughly traces the boundary of the Wakefield district in West Yorkshire. The Way includes undulating Pennine pastures in the west, country estates like Walton and Bretton Halls, and woodland and charming villages. It is hoped to waymark the route. A guidebook, *The Wakefield Way*, by Douglas Cossar (ISBN: 1-901184749) is available from 11 Woodroyd Avenue, Honley, Holmfirth HD9 6LG. The price of the guide is £5.99 (+ p&p) and cheques should be made payable to West Riding RA. It has detailed route instructions and sketch maps and also includes 21 shorter circular options based on sections of the main route. News of the route is on <http://www.ramblersyorkshire.org/news.html> and an inaugural walk is planned. His *Airedale Way* and a *Bronte Way* book are still available via West Riding RA.

The **Dales Celebration Way** is a new 130-mile circular route in the Yorkshire Dales by Mike Brockhurst, designed for a week's walking. Most of the major hills are scaled, including the 'Three Peaks' and many Dales are visited including Airedale, Wharfedale, Dentedale, Swaledale and Wensleydale. Major natural features like Gordale Scar, Malham Cove, Sulber Nick, Gaping Gill and Aysgarth Falls are all on the route as are historic monuments like Skipton Castle and Castle Bolton. All the walking stages are designed to end in some of the Dales most interesting towns or villages. Route maps and an outline, but not a detailed, route description are on his website at

-- <http://www.walkingenglishman.com/dalescelebrationway.htm>

SCOTLAND

It appears that a book, *Walking The Scottish Highland Round*, by Stephen Whitehorne (Ward Lock Books) has been available since July 1999. The ISBN is 0706377753, 176pp and is priced at £12.99. You may get it cheaper from 'Amazon'.

WALES

The **Beacons Way** is a new 100-mile route that traverses the Brecon Beacons between the Holy Mountain, Abergavenny, in the east, and Llangadog, in the west. The route takes in Llanthony, Crickhowell, Llangynidir, Craig Cerrig-gleisiad, Craig-y-nos, Llanddeusant, Carreg Cennen before its finish at Llangadog. A new guidebook is due to be published in June - details to follow.

The **Bridgend Circular Walk** is a 20-mile (32 km) route that links towns and villages within a 3-mile radius (roughly) of the town of Bridgend. A set of three leaflets, each with a route description, colour map, and background information, is available (Free) from Bridgend Council Rights of Way Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Morien House, Bennett Street, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend CF31 3SH (tel: 01656 642537). Further council's website is www.bridgend.gov.uk.

A new circular route being developed in the Principality is the **Cistercian Way**. The route will link 15 old Cistercian monasteries – these include the Abbeys at Tintern, Llantarnam, Margam, Neath, Whitland, Llanllyr, Strata Florida, Cymer, Aberconwy, Basingwerk, Valle Crucis, Strata Marcella, Llanllugan, Cumbir, and Grace Dieu) – and its total distance of 650 miles will make it the longest long-distance route in the UK. An outline of the route, which

includes historical references, research material, and other details, can be found on website: www.cistercian-way.newport.ac.uk. [Site not working 27 11 05.]

During 2004, Denbighshire County Council produced a leaflet for the **Dee Valley Way**, a route that runs between the picturesque towns of Llangollen and Corwen. Although only 15 miles long the trail crosses a varied landscape rich in history and wildlife. The leaflet is 'Free' and is available from Llangollen TIC (01978 860828), Denbighshire Countryside Service (01352 810614) or it can be downloaded from www.deevalleywalks.com. [Site not working 27 11 05.]

St Winefride's Way is a new pilgrim's trail in Wales. The 14-mile route links St Asaph's Cathedral, Denbighshire, with St Winefride's Well in Holywell, Flintshire. It has links with Offa's Dyke Path. A guidebook, written by John Merrill, is available from Walk & Write Ltd, Marathon House, Longcliffe, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4HN for £4.95 (+ £1 p&p).

The **Upper Lugg Valley Walk** is a new 41-mile route, produced by David Milton, which follows the River Lugg from Leominster to the source of the river on Pool Hill, above Llangunllo. The walk, described in four stages, visits Presteigne, Kinsham and Monaughty, uses valley and hill paths through the fine country of the Welsh Marches. There is also a rail link between the start and finish of the walk. The route has also has links with Offa's Dyke Path and Glyndwr's Way. Starting at Leominster Railway Station, Herefordshire (SO 502589) and finishing at Llangunllo Railway Station, Powys (SO 209731), OS maps 201, 202, 203 and 214 are required. An 88-page (150 x 210) guidebook, full of interesting local history and poems by the author, is available from: David Milton, 214 Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 2PP. The price of £3.55 includes p &p.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

My reserve stock of Information about LDP's has now been exhausted. If you come across any news relating to long distance paths please let me or the LDP team know. Information should include brief details of route, maps required, publications available, which should include author, publisher, ISBN, size, number of pages, and price. If a route already exists then include any changes that you have noticed or come across. Any support will be much appreciated. Information is required for the **Dee Way** (Prestatyn or Hoylake to Bala).

Les Maple (for and on behalf of the LDP Team)

CHECKPOINT

It is not too late to take up the Shipwrecked Mariners' Mine Challenge 2005 organised by the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society. The challenge is to visit as many of their large collecting mines, situated along the south *West Coast Path*, as you can between 25th March and 31st October 2005. To receive your free Mine Challenge Entry pack write to: The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, 1 North Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1TL or email: general@shipwreckedmariners.org.uk. Raise as much sponsorship money as you can, and you will receive a certificate on completion of the challenge

2005- APRIL

**NEWS OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE
WALKS**

Compiled by Les Maple

ENGLAND

General

Icknield Way – The 4th edition of the '**Icknield Way Path – A Walkers' Guide**' guidebook, produced by the Icknield Way Association is now available. The guide costs £4.50 (+ p&p) and is available from the Membership Secretary, 19 Boundary Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM23 5LE. An accommodation guide for the route is also available at a cost of £1.00.

The **Pennine Way**, the first of our National Trails, celebrates its 40th Anniversary on 24 April 2005 and there are events being planned to mark it, and possibly an aerial DVD and new book of the route. For news of these look on the websites for the Way via <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennineway> and its Association at <http://www.penninewayassociation.co.uk/> or better still join it and walk this fine route in its ruby year.

Pennines – In the current (7th) edition of the LDW Handbook, included in the **Pennine Way** section there is a reference made to a 10ml **South Tyne Trail**, starting at Alston. It appears that the **South Tyne Trail** has now been extended to 23mls, ending at Haltwhistle, just south of the Hadrian's Wall Path. Haltwhistle is regarded in some circles as the geographical centre of Britain. A leaflet 'South Tyne Trail – walk or cycle from the Source via Alston to Haltwhistle – 22.75 miles', produced by East Cumbria Countryside Project in partnership with Northumberland County Council, 2004 is also available from Alston and Haltwhistle TIC's. The leaflet is A2 size folded into 12 and costs £2.00. The ECCP address is: East Cumbria Countryside Project, Warwick Mill, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle CA4 8RR. (Tel: 01228 561601, e-mail: eccp@carlisle-city.gov.uk).

The Ridgeway – The winter that has just passed saw the first seasonal ban on the non-essential use of motor vehicles on the Ridgeway. The ban, which will be operational between 1 October and 30 April, will be brought into effect every year. The Friends of the Ridgeway hope to build up a comprehensive picture of how this Traffic Regulation Order is working, so if you are walking the Ridgeway during this period, and you see a non-essential motor vehicle on it, please inform Ian Ritchie, The Limes, Oxford Street, Ramsbury, Wilts SN8 2PS.

SWCP – The SWCPA, in partnership with Exmoor National Park and the SWCPT, has published three new walks booklets. The 16-page booklets are in full colour, with maps and pictures, and depict a section of the SWCP together with two circular walks based on each section. The booklets are entitled: '*Minehead to Porlock Weir*'; '*Porlock Weir to Lynmouth*' and '*Lynmouth to Combe Martin*.' Each booklet costs £2.75 (incl p&p). Further information can be obtained from Liz Wallis on 01752 896237 or email: info@swcp.org.uk.

Trans Pennine Trail – There are now three updated guides, with 1:50,000 maps, for this long distance routes that runs crosses England from the Irish Sea to the North Sea. They are: 1. Irish Sea to Yorkshire; 2 Derbyshire and Yorkshire; and 3 Yorkshire to the North Sea. For those scratching their heads, if you intend walking from coast to coast you will only need guides 1 and 3. The Derbyshire and Yorkshire guide covers link routes to Chesterfield, Leeds and Sheffield. The guides cost £4. 95 each.

Walsingham Way (London to Walsingham) – John Merrill informs me that the guidebook for this 150ml route will be available from March 2005. The guide, ISBN: 1-903627-67-2, costs £7.95 and is available from Walk & Write Ltd.

National Trails – Digital Mapping

If you like to use digital mapping and plan to walk a National Trail or well know LDP, a new Long Distance Path series for 12 routes has been launched by Memory-Map. These digital maps are available from their usual sources - for more information visit www.memory-map.co.uk or tel: 0870 740 9040. The products include Explorer maps for use on PC and pocket PC, aerial photographic mapping (except Scotland), 3D views and route downloads to GPS. There are eight new titles for longer routes each at £99.95: Pennine Way, Coast to Coast, South West Coast Path (two parts), Thames Path, Offa's Dyke Path, North Downs Way and Peddar's Way & N Norfolk Coast Path, while four more, the Cotswold Way, South Downs Way, Pembrokeshire Coast Path, and Cleveland Way, are covered on their existing Explorer National Park Series. For shorter routes there are five more, each at £49.95, for Glyndwr's Way, Hadrian's Wall Path, The Ridgeway, West Highlands Way and Yorkshire Wolds Way.

COUNTY WIDE

Avon / Monmouthshire

Trail magazine (Dec 2004 issue) contained a 21¾ml walk written by Ronald Turnbull, a regular contributor to *Strider*. The walk starts from the centre of Bristol, crosses Clifton Bridge before heading north to Sea Mills and Henbury, arriving at the River Severn at Severn Beach and following the river to Aust before crossing the old Severn Bridge to its finish at Chepstow. There are rail links at either end, at Bristol Temple Meads and Chepstow. Maps required for this walk are EXP 154 (Bristol West) and OL 14.

Cambridge / Herts

The **West Anglian Way** is a new 64-ml route running between Cambridge and Cheshunt. Devised by the Cambridge and East Herts RA the route is designed to cater for day-trippers, each stage being linked with stations on the London (Liverpool Street) to Cambridge line. The route also links with the **Fen Rivers Way**, which runs between Cambridge and King's Lynn. The route of the **W A W** connects with the stations at Whittlesford, Newport, Bishop's Stortford, Harlow, Broxbourne and Cheshunt. A guide folder, with A4 pages describing the route, costs £3.00 (inc p&p) and is available from Bernard Hawes, 52 Maids Causeway, Cambridge CB5 8DD (tel: 01223 560033). Cheques should be made payable to the 'Ramblers' Association, Cambridge Group).

Cleveland

The North York Moors National Park has a new updated guide out covering the **Tabular Hills Link Walk**. It is called *The Link Through the Tabular Hill Walk*. The 48ml route links with the Cleveland Way National Trail. Further information can be obtained from the NYM Information Centre, Hemsley, or from the National Trails website. No details of cost available at time of going to print.

Cornwall

The recorders for the 50ml **Land's End Round** have ceased their role but would welcome someone else taking it over. If you can help keep this route alive, please contact the LDP Team.

Derbyshire

The **Derbyshire Windmill Wander** is a new 24ml anytime walk from the Mike Warner stable. Windmills were once a common site in Derbyshire, today only two complete ones remain. This walk takes you to view both of them. Starting from the unique environs of Dale Abbey, the walk follows the Portway, a route through Derbyshire that is almost as old as time itself. After passing through the old mill and nail making town of Belper, the first windmill at Nether Heage is visited. The old Roman road, Rykneild Street, is followed for two miles before passing through small communities that were formed during the coal mining days. A short detour gives one the opportunity to inspect the oldest steel blast furnace in the county. The Cat and Fiddle windmill is viewed before returning to Dale Abbey.

A route description can be obtained if two 1st or two 2nd class stamps are sent to: Mike Warner, Redland House, Clifton, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2GJ. An attractive badge and certificate is also available for £4.00 (incl p&p).

A new revised and enlarged edition of the **Peakland Way** guidebook has been produced to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the walk. The guide describes a classic 100ml multiple day walk around the Peak District National Park starting from the market place at Ashbourne. The walk is covered by OS maps OL 24 (The Peak District White Peak Area) and OL 1 (The Peak District Dark Peak Area). The price of the guidebook (ISBN: 1-903627-46-X) is £7.95 and a badge and certificate costs £4.50. They are available from Walk & Write Ltd (address in LDW Handbook).

John Merrill (Walk & Write Ltd) has also produced a guidebook for **The Pennine Bridleway (Derbyshire Section)**. The ISBN is: 1-903627-61-3 and it sells for £7.95.

Dorset

Here is one we appear to have missed. It involves the **Stour Valley Way/Path (Dorset)**. During 2003, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the route, Edward Griffiths (Green Fields Books) brought out a new guidebook. The guide shown in the 7th edition of the LDW Handbook, which at the time was anticipated, did not in fact materialise due to unforeseen circumstances. The new guide is called '*The Original Stour Valley Path*'. Written by Edward Griffiths it costs £6.95 (+ £1.20 p&p). The ISBN is 0953033864. It covers the full route from Christchurch to Stourhead.

Please note that the p&p for the *Cranborne Chase Path* and *Blackmore Vale Path* guides, also available from Green Fields Books, is now £1.20 per book.

A revised version of **The Dorset Jubilee Trail** by the Dorset Group (RA) is now available. The book describes the 90ml route across Dorset from Forde Abbey on the Somerset border to Bokerley Dyke on the Hampshire border. Introductory sections include 'how to get to the Trail, and what to wear and take.' Each section gives a detailed description of the route, accompanied by good sketch maps. At the rear of the book there is an index of the towns and villages that are on or near to the route and a list of TIC's where one can obtain details of accommodation. The guide costs £4.50 and can be obtained from Rosemary Bramah, Jubilee Trail Co-ordinator, 143 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3AG (tel: 01308 456617).

Dorset /Wilts

Under the **Wessex Ridgeway** publications entry in the LDW Handbook is a listing for a folder covering the Wansdyke Path and Tan Hill Way, two shorter routes that can be linked with the Ridgeway. The entry indicates that there are 7 leaflets in the folder. However, I have been reliably informed that the folder now contains 8 brochures, one describing the named paths plus seven covering circular walks in the area. The interesting fact is that they can be linked together to form a route of some 55ml. Now there's a challenge and idea for a new guidebook.

Essex

Edgar Eastall's Church 'Fields' Way is a new 39ml walk in the countryside north of Braintree. Starting from Panfield, the route links the churches in a cluster of eight settlement names ending in 'field' found by Edgar Eastall near his Braintree home. The detailed route description booklet, adverbially enlivened, includes schematic maps by Roy Tover. The A5 booklet by Magdalah Cooper is supplied by Braintree & District Outdoor Pursuits Club, c/o John Spratling, 3 Beaufort Gardens, BRAINTREE, Essex, CM7 9JY priced at £1.00 (+ A5 SAE) – cheques payable to BDOPC. Using public transport the route can provide two midweek linear outings each of around 20ml from Bocking to Wethersfield and back. Longer circular options are possible using part of Anita's Mucking Ugly Ways through Essex that crosses it. A keen Rambler, Eastall also co-authored the Mansell Way, intersected by this route and the **Mansell Way** booklet has the same source, price and SAE required.

Essex, Greater London, Surrey

The route description for the 43ml **Middlesex Greenway** is now available on a website for the route at <http://free.hostdepartment.com/r/redgoblin/mg/> along with other useful information. The original loose-leaf guide is now out of print but a remaining stock is still available from its author, Stephen Collins, 51 Russell Gardens, Sipson, Middlesex, UB7 0LP at £1.00 plus an A4 SAE.

Greater London

Since the official opening of its southern half in autumn 2004 at which London LDWA Group members led the longer inaugural walks, the 78ml **Capital Ring** is now fully signed north of the Thames, completing the full route. There is a revised routing from Finsbury Park to Clissold Park to make it even greener, using a section of the **New River Path** (see *Strider* 99, p31), and this diversion is signed, as are minor changes elsewhere. All 15 Ring leaflets are now available up to three at a time from TfL's ordering service (see *Strider* 100, p27). London Group is offering an event on

the Ring in July, a rare opportunity to encircle the capital on a continuous supported walk (see Event listings).

Hants

A summary leaflet for the 44ml **Test Way** was mentioned in *Strider* 100. It also has a detailed route guide by Peter Radburn called Walks Along the Test Way. As well as describing the Way itself, the handy 48-page A5 booklet includes 9 circular walks based on the Way. It is available from him at 31 Hillcrest Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 2JS, price £3.00 (plus £0.40 p&p). His guide to the **Clarendon Way** was also covered in *Strider* 100. The Test and Clarendon Ways are complementary – one N-S and the other E-W - and he will supply both his guides together at £5.00 (incs p&p).

Kent / Sussex

Although no known publications exists for the **Royal Military Canal Path** in its entirety, Romney Marsh Countryside Project have now produced a pack containing ten colourful laminated cards describing circular walks of between 2½ml and 9ml in length, which includes sections of the canal path. They have been produced to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the start of the construction of the Canal in October 1804. The pack can be obtained by post for £3. 95 (incl p&p) from Romney Marsh Countryside Project, Romney Marsh Day Centre, Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR (tel: 01797 367934 or www.rmcp.co.uk). Cheques to be made payable to: Dover District Council.

Lancashire

On 23 February 2005 Rotary International celebrated one hundred years of service to the community at local, national and international levels. In the Bolton, Lancashire, area seven local Rotary Clubs got together to promote a new route called the **Rotary Way Footpath**. The entire walk is just over 50ml and provides a wonderful way of 'Beating the Bounds' of Bolton. A 36-page colour booklet has been produced, which describes the route in eight easy stages, each stage starting/ending on a public transport (bus) route. Each stage, in addition to a brief description of the route, has a sketch map and a panel covering waypoint details with GR referenced to equivalent numbers in the text. The route takes in Affetside, Little Lever, Walkden, Hulton Park, Hart Common, Scot Lane End, Horwich and Dimple. The guidebook, cost £5 post-free, is available from: Leslie Povey, 5 The Street, Rivington, Heath Charnock, Chorley PR6 9HD. If you are in the area, the booklet can also be obtained from the Rivington Barn Information Centre. Just for interest: the world's first Rotary club was founded in Chicago in February 1905.

Leicestershire

A new revised and enlarged edition of the **Belvoir Witches Challenge Walk** guidebook has been produced to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the walk. The book describes a 25ml circular route, starting from Bottesford. The walk is covered by OS maps EXP 260 (Nottingham and Vale of Belvoir) and EXP 247 (Grantham, Bottesford and Colsterworth). The price of the guide (ISBN: 1-903627-59-1) is £4.95 and a badge and certificate at £4.50 and is available from Walk & Write Ltd (see Handbook).

Lincolnshire

The **Lindsey Loop** – Brett Collier has revised and updated his guidebook to this 95ml long distance circular route in the Lincolnshire Wolds, starting and finishing at Market Rasen. The guidebook includes some poetry as well as having interesting background notes. The book costs £5.95 (+ 70p p&p) and is available from Brett Collier, 208 Nettleham Road, Lincoln LN2 4DH (cheques to be made payable to Lincoln Group Ramblers). It makes a good read even if you don't do the walk – but you will be tempted to get your boots on.

Norfolk

Peddars Way and **Norfolk Coast Path** – details and information on these National Trails can be obtained from: The National Trails Officer, The Old Courthouse, Baron's Close, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8BE (tel: 01328 850530) or at www.nationaltrail.co.uk/peddarsway.

Information about the **Wherryman's Way**, mentioned in the December 2004 issue of *Strider*, can be found on website: www.broadsauthority.gov.uk

Northants / Cambs / Suffolk

Waendal Walkers Club have informed me that they no longer look after the **1 to 15 Link** walk and as thus the publication leaflets, badge and certificate are no longer available. It also means that this route will not be included in any future Handbooks.

The **Northamptonshire Round** is a new 50ml circuit of the town of Northampton. The route can be joined at several points about four or five miles out of the town although its official start is in Brixworth Country Park. Heading in a clockwise direction the route passes Sywell Country Park, Yardley Hastings, Piddington, Gayton, Bugbrooke and Harlestone. The route is described in a free leaflet which can be downloaded from the website of The Ten Foot Club (<http://www.tenfootclub.org.uk/>) or it can be obtained from Northampton TIC (01604 622677).

Northumberland.

A free leaflet (A3 folded into 6), covering **Isaac's Tea Trail**, is now available from Alston and Haltwhistle TIC's. The leaflet contains lists of useful telephone numbers for those walking the route.

Shropshire

By Unk and Folly is a new 27½ml circular walk starting from Clun. The route takes in Newcastle, The Kerry Ridgeway, Mainstone and uses the secretive and attractive valley of the River Unk, its surrounding hills and the valley of Folly Brook. The walk returns to Clun via the rivers Clun and Redlake. The route also links with the Offa's Dyke Path. A 48-page booklet containing a route description and extensive notes on places of interest, written by David Milton, is available from him at: Different Walker Publications, 214 Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 2PP, (tel: 0121 742 1231). The booklet costs £3.00 (incl p&p).

Somerset

Another of England's popular poets, this time Samuel Taylor Coleridge, is to be commemorated through the development of a new 40ml long distance path. The waymarked route starts from Nether Stowey in the Quantocks, where Coleridge lived for a short period, and Porlock, where it is reputed he composed his poem *Kubla Khan*. The path is due to be opened officially in April 2005. Details will follow about publications, leaflets etc.

Sussex (E&W), Hants

The Per-Rambulations colour guidebook for the new **Sussex Ouse Valley Way** (see *Strider* 100 for details) will instead be priced at £7.95 (incs p&p) and a cloth badge is also available at £3.50 (incs p&p). A few places may be available on the inaugural walks in April/May, 2005.

The new 60ml **Serpent Trail** is designed to highlight some of the finest heathland and woodland landscapes in the South East. From Black Down hill, W Sussex (near Haslemere) it follows a rough 'S' shape along the hills of the Sussex Greensand around Midhurst - snaking between Haslemere, Petworth and Petersfield, Hants in a habitat of snakes. It is part of the Sussex Wealden Greensand Heaths Project (SWGHP), restoring heathland in West Sussex, more than 80% of which has been lost in the last 200 years often by neglect and fragmentation. The project restores lost heathland whilst conserving existing areas. SWGHP has a £630,000 of Heritage Lottery Fund grant and its partners are Sussex Downs Conservation Board (SDCB), the National Trust, DEFRA, English Nature and West Sussex County Council. Opened at Easter, the route is waymarked by a white disc with a serpent in a purple triangle and encircling name and it will be shown on the new OS Explorer access mapping - Ex 120, 121, 133, 134 will cover the route, or Landranger 186 and 187. A path website is under development, to include route maps and description and a guidebook is under consideration. Useful websites are that of the SDCB <http://www.vic.org.uk/> and <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/thh/>. The new address of the SDCB was in *Strider* 100 and they supply the **Rother Valley Walks** leaflets.

The 28ml **Horsham Round** starts from the Town Hall and quickly reaches country paths encircling the town. Passing through undulating Wealden countryside, it offers views to the Surrey hills and Sussex downs. The A5 route description booklet was updated with refinements to the route in 2004 and this 4th edition is available from Andy Mallpress, 10 Kilnfield Road, Rudgwick, HORSHAM, West Sussex, RH12 3EL, price £1.00, cheques payable to Horsham Joggers, plus 9x6 inch SAE with 1st class stamp.

A new book from SB Publications, 19 Grove Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 1TP, called *Walking the Disused Railways of Sussex* includes a 32ml route between Shoreham by Sea to Shalford, via Christ's Hospital. The book, ISBN: 1-85770-292-1, by David Bathurst sells for £8.50. SB Publications have a website at www.sbpublications.co.uk.

Tyne and Wear

The new **South Tyneside Heritage Trail** provides a 26ml circular route from South Shields, initially south along the coast to Whitburn then inland partly following the

River Don west to the Tyne at Hebburn, returning via Jarrow. The Trail is fairly flat and much of it paved, passing through most of the Borough's towns and villages, but there is some interesting heritage and history explained on 32 panels en route. The 12ml waymarked **Bede's Way** commemorates the Venerable Bede, early medieval Europe's greatest scholar who lived here around 700AD, first following the Don out of Jarrow to Boldon and finishing along the coast south of Whitburn. to link the twin Anglo Saxon monasteries of St Paul's in Jarrow and St Peter's at Wearmouth, There are free leaflets for the two routes obtainable from South Shields TIC, Museum and Gallery, Ocean Road, SOUTH SHIELDS, NE33 2HZ, tel: 0191 454 6612, and www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk, while other useful websites are www.southtyneside.info and www.greatnorthforest.co.uk. The Heritage Trail has a single extended-A3 size guide (A5-folded) with schematic map. The Bede's Way leaflet is A2 size (A4/3 folded) with more detailed maps. Much of the Trail follows established shorter routes: the 6-mile River Don Walk, 5-mile Linnet Way, the 7ml Marsden Circular Walk and 7ml Coastal Walk. A separate A5 booklet, Walks 4 All Seasons, covers these.

Worcester

The guide for the new 32ml **Worcestershire Way** is now available – price is £5.70 (incs p&p). The revised route was re-launched in September 2004. The route now starts at Bewdley. The North Worcestershire Way serves Kingsford Country Park, where the walk used to start. Details are available from: Georgina Pickett, Worcestershire County Council Countryside Service, Woodside Offices, Perrywood Walk, Worcester, WR5 1ES. (tel: 01905 766879)

Yorkshire

The 40ml **White Rose Challenge Walk** links two well-known landmarks – The White Horse of Kilburn and Roseberry Topping. It is the 'White' and 'Rose' in the landmark names that give the walk its title. Much of the walk is along the Cleveland Way as it passes through the western escarpment of the Hambleton and Cleveland Hills. It is not a new walk; the Yorkshire Wayfarers first established it in 1968. However, this day challenge (or two day adventure) has been revised and researched. A new 32 page booklet (*White Rose Challenge Walk*) by Darryl Dawson is available from Connexions, Willoughby House, Saint Mary's Road, Tickhill, S Yorks DN11 9JQ (tel: 01302 759696 web: www.connexions.net) or from TIC's in the area. Proceeds from the sale of the booklet, cost not known, will go to the White Rose Children's Charity.

SCOTLAND

Cateran Trail – A new Trail Guide for this route is now available. Rucksac Readers published *The Cateran Trail*, written by Jacquetta Megarry, in October 2004. It is priced at £10.99. The Trail, developed by the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, has been marked on OS maps EXP381 and 387. Further information on the Cateran Trail, and the work of the Trust, can be obtained from the website: www.pkct.org. Blairgowrie & East Perthshire included the route in their Walking Festival in October 2004. Its success is reflected in the fact that they intend to include it again in the 2005 Festival.



Clyde Walkway – A set of 6 folded leaflets, describing this 40ml route, is available from Glasgow TIC, 11 George Square, Glasgow G2 1DY (tel: 0141 204 4400). They come folded in a pocket size pack and are available free dependent on stock.

Fife Coastal Path – Hamish Brown, the well-known mountain writer, has written a guidebook to this, (Scotland's first), long distance coastal walking route. The walk starts at the Forth Road Bridge and ends at the Tay Bridge, some 78 miles away. There are many historic sites to see or visit along the way. The book costs £12.99 and is published by Mercat Press.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority is currently (as at Dec 2004) carrying out a three-month consultation, on behalf of the Speyside Way Management Group, for an extension of the **Speyside Way** to Newtonmore. At present the route runs from Buckie on the Moray Coast to Aviemore in the Cairngorms. The route of the extension can be viewed on the Speyside Way website.

WALES

A new path, scheduled to be open in 2005, is the **Ceredigion Coastal Path**, which will run between the Dyfi Estuary (Borth) and the Teifi Estuary (near Cardigan). When complete the route it will form a link between Glyndwr's Way and the Pembrokeshire Coast path. Further details will be notified to you in the near future.

The 122ml **Clwydian Way** from Prestatyn now has a website, that includes accommodation information, at <http://www.clywdianway.co.uk/> and the address for the route guide is now RA North Wales Area, PO Box 139, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll LL61 6WR and the new price is £7.50, including p&p, with cheques payable to the Ramblers' Association North Wales Area. The guide describes an alternative 30-mile section from Llansannan to Denbigh and link paths, that together also allow it to be walked as three shorter circuits. [Site not working 27 11 05.]

All the leaflets covering the **Gower Way** are now available. Details about this walk can be found on the Gower Society's website: www.gowersociety.welshnet.co.uk. It is also mentioned in the Walking Wales magazine mentioned below.

The 16½ml **H M Stanley Trail** links Denbigh, Tremeirchion and St Asaph, three of the key places in his life. Starting from his birthplace near Denbigh Castle the route heads into the Vale of Clwyd to walk alongside the rivers Ystrad and Clwyd. It passes along the western edge of the Clwydian Hills and visits Y Graig before crossing the vale to finish at St Asaph Cathedral. The Trail is one of seven walks featured in a book, 'Denbighshire People and Places: H M Stanley Walks', written by David Berry for the H M Stanley Commemoration Project Group. It is priced at £2.00 and is available from Denbigh Library (tel: 01745 816313).

Local council's have now given the go-ahead for the development of a 60ml **Wat's Dyke** route. The path will follow the Anglo Saxon ditch and earthwork through Powys, Shropshire and Flintshire in the Welsh Border area. Further information can be obtained by ringing 01352 715723.

The second edition of the Walking Wales magazine is now available, free. Telephone 08701 211 257 and quote WA53.

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AD HOC ITEMS

There is a new reissued guidebook available from Walk & Write Ltd, which describes circular walks along the Monsal Trail and the Sett Valley Trail. Although these are not long distance walks, the book does describe two circular walks of 18ml on the Monsal Trail, and 8 ml on the Sett Valley Trail. The price of the guidebook (ISBN: 10903627-64-8) is £5.95 and a badge and certificate are available, priced at £4.50, on completion of the four walks covered in the book.

Walk & Write Ltd are now also known as The John Merrill Foundation. The address and telephone number is the same for both – so you can use whichever one takes your fancy. Amongst the new guides that John M has produced recently is one for **St Winefrides Way**, a 14ml route between St Asaph and Holywell. As it starts at St Asaph you could link it with the **H M Stanley Trail**, mentioned in the Wales section, giving you a route of some 30ml.

North Devon & Exmoor Walking Festival is scheduled to take place from 27 April to 4 May 2005. A choice of guided walks will take you into Tarka Country, Exmoor and North Devon. Details and a programme can be obtained by ringing 01271 863001.

The Isle of Wight Walking Festival takes place between 7 and 22 May 2005. It is described as UK's largest walking festival. Now there's a challenge – what do they mean by large? Information can be obtained by visiting website: <http://www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk/>.

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2004 – DECEMBER

**News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE
WALKS**

edited by LES Maple

ENGLAND

General

The dynamic Brian Smailes (Challenge Publications) has been very busy during this past year and a number of his best selling books have been updated. Details are as follows:

Land's End to John O'Groats new edition of his paperback book – *John O'Groats to Land's End – A Walker's Cyclists and Motorist's Guide* (2004), ISBN: 1903568188, 64pp. £6.95 (incl p&p).

Three Peaks Walk (Yorkshire) updated edition of his paperback – *The Yorkshire 3 Peaks Walk* (2004), ISBN: 1903568226, 43pp. £3.95. This includes a loose pullout sketch map.

Brian has also produced a simplified 3D sketch map and guide for this walk, which is intended for those who are less proficient at reading OS maps. The cost is £2.10 (incl p&p). ISBN: 1903568234.

Three Peaks of Great Britain new edition of his paperback – *The National Three Peaks Walk* (2005), ISBN: 1903568242, 95pp. £6.95. This new edition will also include the Irish peak: Slieve Donard.

The books, or information about them, can be obtained from: Brian Smailes, Challenge Publications, 7 Earlsmere Drive, Ardsley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S71 5HH (www.chall-pub.fsnet.co.uk). **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

Changes are afoot with regards to the Lyke Wake Walk Club, so Brian Smailes informs us. These details can be viewed on their website at www.lykewake.org.

Are you thinking of walking **Hadrian's Wall Path** next year? If so don't forget to get your passport. Get your passport stamped at six key locations along the way and you will qualify for a completion badge, certificate and a beer!! Further details can be obtained by ringing 01434 322002..

The **Monarch's Way** celebrated its 10th birthday in September 2004

The National Forest, which covers parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire, now has over 380 km of footpaths and trails. The National Forest Company have produced a 'National Forest Walks Guide, which features 15 trails. The Guide costs £5 and details about it can be obtained by ringing 01283 551211 or by visiting website: www.nationalforest.org.

Both the **Pennine Way** and the **Cleveland Way** now have a new free passport scheme in operation. Walkers wishing to keep a record of their venture can collect souvenir stamps at Black Sheep Brewery pubs and other tourist outlets along the way. Details of where to get the passports are not known, but you can always find a pub before you start.

The new Cicerone guide to the **South Downs Way** by Kev Reynolds that describes the 100-mile National Trail in both west-east and east-west directions has now been published (ISBN: 1852844299, priced at £10.00).

New guides due from Cicerone are: **Irish Coast to Coast Walk** (Paddy Dillon); **The Ribble Way** (Dennis Kelsall), **The Teesdale Way** (Martin Collins & Paddy Dillon). Updates for **The Cotswold Way** and **The Dales Way** are also due. Further information on these and current titles can be found on the web at www.cicerone.co.uk.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

Bucks

A pack of 19 recreational route leaflets (including the **Chess Valley Way**) can be obtained from the Rights of Way Group, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UY. (tel 01296 382171). The cost of the pack is £3.00.

Nick Moon has produced a new book to complete his **Chiltern Way** publications. This one is entitled *Circular Walks Along the Chiltern Way (Volume 1) – Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire*. Published by the Book Castle, Dunstable (tel 01582 605670), it retails at £7.99. The ISBN is 1903747481. The book contains 20 circular walks, ranging from four to nine miles, based around the Chiltern Way.

Cornwall

For those who may have missed it – the July 2004 edition of Country Walking included an article about the **Saint's Way (Forth an Syns)**, which runs between Padstow and Fowey. Although the distance of the route between the two resorts is 28/29 miles, it is possible to extend this to 40 miles, which the author of the article did. The entry in the LDW Handbook mentions the fact that the route has options at Helman Tor, but does not include the additional mileage should you want to make a circular walk along the eastern and western routes to Fowey Estuary (and back). An A5 guide pack can be obtained at local TICs or by calling 01208 73441.

Derbyshire

The 15-miles **Bolsover Castle Anytime Challenge Walk**, reported in August 2004 Strider, is a shorter version of the **Beast of Bolsover** challenge walk. The route takes in the three English Heritage properties of Bolsover Castle, Hardwick Hall and Sutton Scarsdale. A badge and certificate, priced at £4.00, is available from Mike Warner, Redland House, Clifton, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 2GJ. Cheques should be made payable to Mike Warner.

Jennifer's Challenge Walk is the latest offering from the John Merrill challenge walk 'stable'. The guidebook describes a 23-mile circular route starting from John Merrill's 'Walk & Write' office in Longcliffe. It takes in the villages of Brassington, Kniveton, Hognaston, Carsington, Middleton-by-Wirksworth and Bonsal. The main objective is to visit the two churches dedicated to St James in Brassington and Bonsal. The churches at Kniveton and Hognaston are encountered along the way. The entire walk is covered by OS map – OL24 The Peak District – White Peak. The guidebook is dedicated to John Merrill's partner and secretary who died recently after suffering from Rheumatoid Arthritis. Proceeds from the book will go to a charity connected with this malady. The price of the book is £6.00 (ISBN: 1-903627-58-3). A badge and certificate is also available at a cost of £5.00.

You can join John on his annual walk in June each year – lots of sponsorship money needed though.

Dorset

Martin Hanks (YHA) has produced a new guidebook, 'Jurassic Highlights', which covers a 3-4 day (59 miles) walking route taking in some of the best parts of the **South West Coast Path**. The guide costs £1.95 and is available from YHA Customer Services (tel: 0970 770 8868 or by email at customerservices@yha.org.uk).

Essex – Kent

A European funded initiative is looking into the possibility of establishing a **coastal path for Essex and Kent**. On the continent the trail would run from the Netherlands, through Belgium and northeast France. A companion route would run from Harwich to the Thames Estuary and then along the Kent coast. This is a long-term plan so there will not be much movement in the next year. Strider will endeavour to keep you informed on any updates with regards to this project. (See Kent below)

Kent

Initiatives by villages near the popular 19-mile **Darent Valley Path** lead in 2003 to reinstated and improved Sunday and weekday rail services to Shoreham and Eynsford. A colourful leaflet on the Darent Valley Path, highlighting sites of interest and villages on and near it has been produced by the North West Kent Countryside Project, which aims to protect and enhance the area's countryside. It is available free from them at Mead Crescent, Mead Road, Dartford DA1 2SH (tel: 01322 294727 and

email nwkentcp@kent.gov.uk) and is A2-size, folded to A4/3. The Path is on OS maps and waymarked, but the definitive guide to it remains *Along and Around the Darent Valley Path*, which includes OS mapping and is available from Kent County Council for £5.00 (tel: 01622 663306 and online from www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess) and by post from them at Environmental Management Unit, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX.

Gloucs

During this past year the **Cotswold Way** was successfully re-routed in the Seven Springs area, south of Cheltenham. The route now goes through farmland and thus bypasses the busy A436.

Details for the following walks either in, or passing through, Gloucestershire, are available on the web:
Gloucetershire Way - www.aljan.freeserve.co.uk/glosqav.html [Site not working 27 11 05.]

Severn Way - www.severnway.com

Monarchs Way - www.monarchsway.50megs.com

Macmillan Way - www.macmillanway.org

D'Arcy Dalton Way - www.walkingontheweb.co.uk/Defined%20Routes/d%27Arcy%20Dalton%20Way.htm

The following routes can be found on

www.walkingontheweb.co.uk/English%20Regions/Gloucestershire.htm

Wardens Way (14 miles)

Cheltenham Circular Walk (25 miles)

Limestone Link Path (36 miles)

Wysis Way (55 miles)

Cotswold Walk (83 miles)

Cotswold Way (103 miles).

Windrush Way (14 miles)

Glevum Way (26 miles)

Cotswold Ring (55 miles)

Donnington Way (61 miles)

Heart of England Way (100 miles)

The **Frome Valley Walkway**, an 18-mile path, which follows the River Frome from the River Avon in the centre of Bristol to the Cotswold Hills in South Gloucestershire, can be found at:

www.walkweb.org.uk/gloucestershire.htm.

Greater London

Transport for London (TfL) is providing a new service to supply information and leaflets for the six routes in their Strategic Walks Network. These are: **Capital Ring**, **Green Chain Walk**, **Jubilee Walkway**, **Lea Valley Walk** and **London Loop**, plus the **Thames Path** within Greater London. The information can be accessed via their website <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/walking>, or via e-mail to walking@tfl.gov.uk, or phone 0870 240 6094 (national rate). Four new leaflets for Walks 1, 2, 3, and 5 complete the coverage by free literature of the Capital Ring south of the Thames. A complete route description is contained in the guidebook by Colin Saunders, produced by Aurum Press (£12.99).

Hants

A new guide covering the **Clarendon Way** has been produced by Peter Radburn and is available from him at 31 Hillcrest Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 2JS, price £2.50 (plus £0.30 p&p). The 24-mile waymarked route connects the cathedral cities of Salisbury and Winchester, crossing the River Test en-route, and takes its name from the ruins of Clarendon Palace, once a royal hunting lodge. The booklet divides the Way into six linear sections, with a circular walk option of between 8-13 miles based on each. The former Hampshire CC leaflet covering the Test and Clarendon Ways together is no longer available, though by they can supply photocopies, pending a new, dedicated Clarendon Way leaflet.

The **King Alfred's Way** is a 70-mile unwaymarked route and the earlier guidebook from the same author costs £2.00 (plus £0.40 p&p) has been updated since and reprinted in 2003. The route, originally conceived by Laurence Main, links the Wessex capital of Winchester, passing via Alfred's birthplace at Wantage, to reach Oxford where he established a seat of learning. Both booklets are A5-sized.

Free leaflets previewed in recent Striders are now available from Hampshire County Council for the **Test Way** – a 44-mile route that runs between its new start at Totton, Hants to Inkpen Beacon, Berks (see December 2003 Strider); and the **Solent Way** – a 60-mile, mainly coastal route from Emsworth to Milford on Sea (August 2004). Each route is divided into eight sections with local amenity information and is waymarked. A useful general Hampshire ‘Long Distance Walks’ leaflet is also available summarising these and nine other LDPs. A further leaflet covers ‘Surrey and Hampshire’s Canal’ – the **Basingstoke Canal** (www.basingstoke-canal.co.uk) that provides 32 miles of towpath from near Basingstoke to the Wey Navigation at Byfleet. The leaflets are all A4/3-sized and they can be obtained by ringing 01962 870500, by visiting www.hants.gov.uk/walking where detailed route descriptions for the Test and Solent Ways can also be found, or if you are in the area, from local TICs and by post from Hampshire County Council, Information Centre, Mottisfont Court, High Street, WINCHESTER, Hants, SO23 8ZF. The Solent Way is part of the E9, the European coastal route.

Herts

Due to construction work taking place at Baldock, Herts it is possible that a bridleway in the area, known as Limekiln Lane, may not be accessible during the period work is in process. This will affect walkers using the **Icknield Way**. Up-to-date information can be obtained by ringing Chris Wilkinson on 01707 356313. There may also be information on the Icknield Way Association’s web site at www.icknieldwaypath.co.uk.

Lancs

Phase 1 of the new **North Lancashire Bridleway** is now open. The route starts at Denny Beck, Lancaster and takes in Caton, Salter Fell, and Dunsop Bridge before finishing at Chipping, a total distance of 45 km (28 miles). A leaflet showing a map of the route, and accommodation addresses, is available. Further information can be obtained from Lancashire Countryside Service (01772 534709) or from Forest of Bowland AONB (01772 531473).

A new long distance route in the county is the **Trevine Trail**. It is 54 miles long and starts and finishes at Whalley. A guidebook, ‘The Trevine Trail’, written by Trevor Healey (01695 574346) is available from the author at a cost of £4.50 (incl p&p). The booklet is also available at various TICs in the Ribble Valley. Trevor Healey is at: 18 Hillcrest Road, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 1NH.

Norfolk

Norfolk County Council, in partnership with South Norfolk Council and the Broads Authority, is developing a new route. Called the **Wherryman’s Way**, the 35-mile trail will run between Norwich and Great Yarmouth. There will also be a cycle trail linking the villages and communities on both sides of the Yare Valley.

Northants - Norfolk

The full route of the Ouse Valley Way was formally opened at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve in Huntingdon on May 7th. The 150-mile route traces the River Great Ouse from near its source at Syresham, Northamptonshire, to the sea near King’s Lynn, Norfolk. Dubbed as ‘Britain’s flattest walk’, the route has been split into 20 walks, varying between 4 and 13 miles in length. Information packs for each individual section are available, free, from tourist information centres in the area or, if you have access to the Internet, the information can be downloaded from www.ousevalleyway.org.uk. Further information can be obtained from: Ivel and Ouse Countryside Project, the Smithy, The Village, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 9HQ (tel: 01767 626326). At the time of the Handbook, two sections of the route were open, totalling 41 miles.

Surrey – Sussex

The price of the booklet for the 31.5 mile **Wey-South Path** between Guildford to Houghton Bridge has been reduced to £2.50 (incs p&p). Published by the Wey and Arun Canal Trust (tel: 01403 752403 and www.weyandarun.co.uk), it is available from the Trust at The Granary, Fritchfold Farm, Vicarage Hill, Loxwood, BILLINGSHURST, RH14 0RH. The previous broadsheet is now out of print. The Trust is gradually re-opening lost sections of the canal that once linked the Thames with the south coast, with a further half-mile near Billingshurst becoming navigable in May 2004. A short section of the start of the Wey-South Path forms part of the E2 E-Route.

The **Sussex Ouse Valley Way** is a new 42-mile route in E&W Sussex following the course of the River Ouse from close to its source to the sea, planned to open with an Inaugural Walk that LDWA members are invited to join in Spring 2005, to be lead over four days on two weekends starting 30 April and 7 May. An illustrated guidebook will be published to coincide with the Inaugural Walk, at a discounted price of £5.95 for those joining it (incs p&p; normal price £6.95). The Way has been developed by Per-Rambulations with the councils, the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and Sussex Ouse Restoration Trust. It runs from Lower Beeding near Horsham through the Low Weald to Newhaven and Seaford Bay and is easy and generally flat riverside walking. A leaflet for the Inaugural Walk is available from Per-Rambulations, Larkhill, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3HL (tel: 01342 315786 and email larkhill@btinternet.com). The Inaugural Walk fee of £60 includes daily coach transfers, leaders and support, certificate and badge and a celebratory reception.

The **Sussex Downs Conservation Board** has moved. Their new address is: Victorian Barn, Victorian Business Centre, Ford Lane, Ford, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0EF (01243 558700 and www.vic.org.uk). This address appears in the LDW Handbook – so don't forget to update your copy.

West Midlands / Staffs

The new guide (6 weatherproof cards) to the 25 mile / 40 km **Beacon Way** is now available. The guide to the **Forest of Mercia Way** (weatherproof cards) is also available. The distance of the latter route is in fact only 11 miles and not 20 miles as reported in Strider 96 (August 2003). Both the above walks are included in a Forest of Mercia Walks ring-binder folder called 'Routes and Leaves'. The folder is obtainable from: The Innovation Centre, Chasewater Country Park, Pool Road, nr Brownhills, Staffs WS8 7NL (tel: 01543 370737). Price is £10 (+£2 p&p).

Worcestershire

The **Bredon Climber** is a new 22-miles Anytime Challenge Walk from the Dave Irons 'stable'. The start and finish of the walk is at Elmley Castle. An intricate and unlikely 'circle' using some of the excellent footpaths and bridleways in the Bredon Hill area of south east Worcestershire. The route also visits some of the surrounding villages. Total ascent is estimated at 850m. Route Sheets are available (£1.00 incl p&p) from: Dave Irons, 57 Reservoir Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6ST.

The **Clee Climber** is a 21-miles Anytime Challenge Walk, also from Dave Irons, that circles the Clee summits of Abdon Burf, Titterstone Clee Hill and Clee Burf. Using field paths and bridleways, the route – total ascent 950m – is described as mildly strenuous. It starts and finishes at Cleobury North. Route sheets are available from Dave Irons, address as above, for £1 (incl p&p). If you send for both routes simultaneously (i.e. Bredon Climber and Clee Climber) the cost would be £1.25 (Incl p&p).

Although advertised as being available, a new guide for the 60-mile St Kenelms Way by Gerry Stewart (Countryside Matters) remains unpublished as yet. Unforeseen circumstances have delayed its production until early 2005. The route runs from Clent to the Cotswolds.

Wales

Here is a reminder of some of the new walks in Wales. Apologies if they have been mentioned before:

The **Glamorgan Heritage Coast Path** (14 miles) – details from 01656 880157.

The **Millennium Heritage Trail** (72 miles) – details from 01446 749000 or www.valeways.org.uk.

Sky to Sea over the Bwlch Walk and **Ffordd y Bryniau Walk** – details from 01656 654906.

There is also a 20-mile **Bridgend Circular Walk**. Free leaflets are available for this walk from: Bridgend County Borough Council (tel 01656 642537).

Link Walks

Arnside/Silverdale OANB Walks contains walks of various lengths including a 20-mile walk called 'Rucksack and Rail', which links railway stations along its route. Details available from: 01524 761034.

The Bewerley Industrial Heritage Trail is a 9-mile route, which links with the **Nidderdale Way**.

The Hartwith Heritage Walk is a 7½-mile route, which links with the **Ripon Rowell Walk**

Walking Magazine Features:

At least one of the three main walking magazines – TGO, Trail and Country Walking produce a feature (or features) about a long distance trail. For those who do not get these magazines, you may be interested in reading such an article. Back copies of the magazines are usually available. Features produced in the September and October issues are:

The Pennine Bridleway	(Country Walking)	Sept 2004	
The Thames Path	(CW)	Sept 2004	
Cotswold Way (part 6)	(CW)	Sept 2004	
Cotswold Way (part 7)	(CW)	Oct 2004	
Forest of Bowland Ridge Walk	(28 miles)	(TGO)	Oct 2004
A Cairngorm Walk	(24 miles)	(TGO)	Oct 2004
Mam Tor and the Great Ridge	(17 miles)	(TGO)	Oct 2004

Trail Routes section in Trail magazine included two long walks (16 miles and 21¾ miles – both in the West Highlands) - (Sept 2004) and a Dark Peak walk (17¾ miles) (Oct 2004).

No News from Scotland this time folks.

2004 – AUGUST

News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE WALKS edited by Les Maple

Here is another reminder for those looking for updates for a route or information on a new route. You can check an index that has been added to the LDP pages on the LDWA website at www.ldwa.org.uk. It is updated after every Strider issue - see December 2003 Strider for details.

Cotswold Way - Worcestershire CC have completed all the necessary work on the **Cotswold Way** in Worcestershire and this section of the Trail is now up to National Trail standard. ('On The Edge' – Feb 2004). Information about the status on the Way can be found on the National Trail website at – www.nationaltrail.co.uk.

Dales Way - earlier this year the footbridge over the River Mint, near Shaw End, was washed away by floods. Until the bridge is replaced a diversion to Patton Bridge has to be taken. Currently there are no diversion notices in place. The Dales Way Association are assessing the situation to try and determine as to when the bridge is likely to be replaced. If it appears to be more long term then they will endeavour to get diversion notices up. For up to date information you can refer to their web site: www.dalesway.org.uk.

The Dales Way Association gave a mention of the LDWA in their Spring Newsletter. For those interested in walking the Dales Way the Association produces a Handbook that is updated annually – very useful for finding up to date accommodation. Membership details can be obtained from David Smith (01943 601761 or email: davidsmith@dalegarth4.freemove.co.uk).

Greensand Way – It is reported that an alternate route in the Nutfield area (Nutfield is near Reigate). The suggested route will go from Nutfield (path 297 – GR306497 to path 177 – GR316502). It is intended that both ends of the new route will be signed at both ends.

'**Walking the Midshires Way**' by Ron Haydock and Bill Allen is a new guide published by Sigma Leisure. The guide splits the 225-mile (360km) route into 17 sections, each describing the leg in both directions. The Midshires Way, which runs between Princes Risborough and Stockport, connects with the Ridgeway in the south and the Pennines in the north. The guide, ISBN: 1850587787, costs £7.95.

Offa's Dyke / Glyndwr's Way – The Offa's Dyke Association's 2004 '*Where To Stay*' guide now incorporates accommodation lists for both Trails. ODA merchandise can be obtained through the Association's website at www.offasdyke.demon.uk. The merchandise includes guidebooks and other walking guides. An article in the Spring 2004 issue entitled '*Big Issue – Off road vehicles*' mentioned the LDWA. Although recognising that the LDWA is not a campaigning organisation it was felt that the Association (i.e LDWA) should make its views known with regards to off-road vehicles, especially where abuse or undue care and consideration has occurred. I did get somewhat confused in the next paragraph when it stated that 'The LDWA is an associate member of LDWA, which has about 100 MPs as honorary members.' Confused? So am I. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

The second section of the **Pennine Way Bridleway** is now officially open. The 70-mile southern section of the route runs from the High Peak Trail in Derbyshire to the South Pennines, where it links up with the Mary Towneley Loop. Aurum Press have produced an official guide to the route, including the Mary Towneley Loop. See the Book Review section for further details.

The **Ravenber Way** – A second edition of the guidebook, currently listed in the Handbook under the Coast-to-Coast heading, by Ron Scholes is now available. It describes a route from Ravenglass to Berwick on Tweed. If you are a YHA member then you get a £1.00 discount off the published price of £7.50 from the author. (ron.scholes@btinternet.com)

Ridgeway - Wiltshire County Council have banned motor vehicles from the **Ridgeway National Trail**. The TRO applies to the Smeathe's Ridge section, near Swindon. The campaign continues towards getting a total ban on motor vehicles along the whole length of the route. Details of a seasonal ban on all recreational motor vehicles using the Ridgeway, as from this winter, has recently been unveiled by the Government.

A portable guidebook to the 100-mile **Samaritan's Way South West** (ISBN: 0953776700 and priced at £5.45) is available from: Samaritans Way SW, 6 Mervyn Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 9EL or via email at samaritanway@aol.com. The route links Bristol with the South West Coast Path and takes in both the Mendip and Quantock hills.

Enthusiasts of long distance paths are reminded that there are some LDP guidebooks to be found in the Book Review section of *Strider*. It was intended to have a cross reference between LDP News and the Book Review section but in order to prevent duplication, which can be quite lengthy if a large number of books have been issued, we advise that you scan both articles.

ENGLAND

Berkshire

The West Berkshire Group of the Ramblers Association have initiated a new walk in Berkshire called '**The Chairman's Walk**'. The route, just below 100 miles in length, hugs the boundary of West Berkshire. The official start and finish is at Pangbourne. Running in a clockwise direction the route takes in Thames Path, Mapledurham, west of Tilehurst, The Kennet & Avon Canal, Silchester (Calleva), the River Enborne, Greenham Common, Walbury Hill, Combe Gibbet, Hungerford, Lambourn Downs, the Ridgeway and back along the Thames Path to Pangbourne. It is also possible to link sections of the walk using public transport. A guidebook is available for £6.00 (incl p&p) direct from Geoff Vince, 38 Kipling Close, Thatcham, Berks RG18 3AY. The guidebook is also available in shops at £7.00 per copy.

Cheshire

Five new glossy route cards have been produced for the **Bollin Valley Way**, which starts in Macclesfield and follows the River Bollin to Partington on the Manchester Ship Canal. Connections to the Cheshire Ring, Middlewood Way, Gritstone Trail and Trans Pennine Trail are shown. The cards are available at local libraries and TICs or via bollin@cheshire.gov.uk.

Cornwall / Devon

The **Cornwall Coast Path** by Edith Schofield, ISBN: 1874756550, price: £9.99 is a new guide from Trailblazer. The route is part of the much longer South West Coast Path National Trail.

The **Tamar Valley Discovery Trail** is a 30-mile (48km) route that runs between Launceston and Plymouth. A booklet, describing the route in both directions, is available from Tamar Valley AONB (tel: 01822 610676) for £3.00.

Derbyshire

In the December 2003 issue of *Strider* I made reference to a '**Beast of Bolsover**' 20-mile anytime challenge walk. I have been informed that there is also a 15-mile route, known as the **Bolsover Castle Anytime Challenge**, available. Details from: Mike Warner, Redland House, Clifton, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 2GJ.

Derbyshire Derwent Mills and Hills Anytime Challenge Walk – This is a new anytime challenge from the Mike Warner 'stable'. It is a 22-mile route starting from the large car park at the rear of Matlock Station and takes in Lumsdale, Tansley, Riber Castle, Bow Wood, Lea Hurst (once the home of Florence Nightingale), Crich Memorial, Cromford Canal, River Derwent, Shining Cliff Woods, Alderwasely Park, Cromford Mill, Willersley Castle, Masson Mill and the Heights of Abraham.

A free route description can be obtained by sending a self-addressed A5 SAE to: Mike Warner, Redland House, Clifton, Nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE8 2GJ. An attractive badge and certificate are available for successful completion of the route – priced at £4.00 (incs p&p). Cheques should be made payable to Mike Warner.

Devon

South West Coast Path - A new permissive path, that replaces a stretch of road walking, has recently been opened near Plymouth. The route takes walkers through the Tregantle Ranges, passing the impressive Tregantle Fort. MOD restrictions will come into force when live firing is scheduled.

Dorset

A newly revised issue of 'A Rambler's Guide to the **Dorset Jubilee Trail**' produced by Dorset Ramblers (RA) – ISBN: 1901184048 – is available from the RA main office, priced at £4.50 (+ £1.70 p&p). This 90-mile route runs between Forde Abbey and Bokerley Dyke.

Essex

The **Camulodunum** is a 23/24-mile route around Colchester. It is a route that was first created in 1974, was amended in 1990 and then went out of print. It came to light at the beginning of this year when information about it was found in Colchester Library. The route is not way marked and was originally designed by members of Colchester Ramblers. Colchester Ramblers are currently in the process of updating the route and hope to have an up to date version of the route available on the Internet in the near future. I will endeavour to keep you informed of progress.

Hampshire

A new **Solent Way** leaflet, which includes a general description of the route, is available from TICs in the area or from Hampshire County Council (01962 870500 or www.hants.gov.uk/walking). OS maps required to walk the route are EXP OL22, 119 and 120.

Another route in the Hampshire area is the **Meon Valley Trail**. Details of this walk can be obtained by ringing 01962 847717. The 10-mile Trail runs between Wickham and West Meon and has links with both the **South Downs Way** and the **Pilgrim's Way**.

Hertfordshire & Greater London

The **Jubilee Walkway**, recently extended, has been re-launched. More details regarding this route will follow in the Dec issue.

The **New River Path** has a new booklet available that now covers its full 28-mile length along the course of a 400-year old water supply aqueduct, itself based on the natural New River, from the aqueduct's start at New Gauge near Hertford to its original end at New River Head in Islington – it now ends at Stoke Newington, but the final 'heritage' section of the walk traces the remainder. The A4/3 sized booklet outlines the channel's interesting history as a continuing source of clean water for London and has clear route maps also showing useful transport links. It is available free from Thames Water, tel: 0845 9200 800, or from Thames Water, PO Box 286, SWINDON, SN38 2RA. The company has made a substantial investment in developing the path, working with local, national and waterway interest groups and the route is fully way marked with the 'NR' path logo. The new booklet replaces Thames Water's leaflet for the Hertfordshire section only and the New River Action Group's earlier leaflet that is no longer available. Two detailed publications about the New River and its history are listed in the Handbook.

Groundwork Merton (tel: 020 8687 4050 or <http://www.wandletrail.org.uk/>) have produced a new leaflet for the **Wandle Trail** (14 miles / 20km). The leaflet includes notes for wheelchair users. The route, although short by LDW Handbook standards, does have links with the Thames Path at Wandsworth and with the Vanguard Way at Croydon. (PL /LM /RA) **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

Lancs

A free walker's guide to Pendle will soon be available which could be of interest to those who want to walk in the area. Details can be obtained from 01282 661685 or tourism@pendle.gov.uk.

Hyndburn Clog/Canal Clog/Moorland Heights Clog – These routes have been discontinued. Until stocks run out the booklet, which includes these routes, are available (free) from Accrington TIC, Town Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancs BB5 1LA.

Witton Weavers Way – The four circular routes (Beamers Trail, Reelers Trail, Tacklers Trail and the Warpers Trail) that make up the WW Way have been revised and new leaflets are available (Free) from Blackburn TIC (tel 01254 691239).

Lancs / W Yorks

A new leaflet for the '**Stanedge Trail**' (listed in the LDW Handbook under South Pennine Walks) is available for £1.30 from Huddersfield Tourist Information Centre.

Lincolnshire – Alternate Coast-to-Coast walk

Details and information about the '**Hobblers Way**', which runs between Nene Estuary car park (GR 494255) and Severn View Services, overlooking the old Severn Bridge (GR 572984) can be found on website www.hobblersway.com. Details about the Hitchin Hobblers can be obtained from their website at www.hobblers.com. If you do not have access to the Internet access details of the Hobblers Way can be obtained from Fred Harris, 9 Curtis Mews, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 5PG (e-mail: Tred@hobblers.com). It is also intended that a badge and certificate be made available. The cost is expected to be in the region of £3.50. Details of these can also be obtained from Fred Harris or the website.

Norfolk

The 2nd edition of the guide to the '**Iceni Way**' – ISBN: 190118464 – is available from the RA central office at a priced of £2.70 (+ 30p p&p). This 84-mile route runs from the Brecks to the Norfolk Coast via the Great and Little Ouse valleys.

Northumberland

'**The Inn Way to Northumberland**' by Mark Reid, published by InnWay Publications (ISBN 1-902001-08-7, paperback, 216pp, RRP £7.95). This guidebook was first published in March 2004.

The 94 miles (151km) Inn Way to Northumberland is a long distance circular walk, divided into six 'day stages' ranging from 11 to 20.5 miles. It starts and finishes at Rothbury, a traditional old Northumbrian market town set in magnificent surroundings of Coquetdale. The walk then follows the course of the River Coquet down to the North Sea at Warkworth, before striking northwards up along the coast via Alnmouth, Craster, Dunstanburgh, Beadnell, Seahouses and Bamburgh. The route then turns west across the central sandstone hills via the delightful village of Chatton to reach Wooler on the edge of the Cheviot Hills from where the route meanders southwards through the Cheviots (and the National Park) to reach Alwinton in the upper reaches of Coquetdale then follows the Coquet back to Rothbury. The most southerly point is Brinkburn Priory, westerly point is Alwinton (in Coquetdale), northerly point is Bamburgh and easterly point is Boulmer.

Overnight Stops can be scheduled at Rothbury (start/finish), Warkworth, Embleton, Bamburgh, Wooler and Alwinton.

There are 48 pubs along 'The Inn Way'. Each 'day stage' is designed to include a pub at lunchtime and the Overnight Stops offer a choice of pubs and facilities, although Stage 5 from Wooler to Alwinton does not include a pub along the way as the route heads through the remote yet beautiful landscape of the Cheviot Hills.

The following maps cover the entire route and show the countryside in great detail:

OS Explorer OL42 (Kielder Water & Forest); OL16 (The Cheviot Hills);

OS Explorer 332 (Alnwick & Amble), 325 (Morpeth & Blyth), 340 (Holy Island & Bamburgh).

Shropshire

Hope House Way – Further details regarding this new route have not been received in time for this edition of Strider. If you require information – an inaugural walk is scheduled to take place towards the

latter part of August – please write to Graham Leddington, 28 Golf Links Lane, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF1 2DT.

The **Shropshire Way**, estimated to be 139-140 miles in length, has an additional spur of 12 miles taking the route northwards from Wem to Grindley Brook. It links with the Sandstone Trail near Whitchurch. The route has a Shropshire Way Buzzard Waymark. A new revised guide - the '**Rambler's Guide to the Shropshire Way**', produced by Shropshire R A - is available from the RA Central Office. Priced at £5.00 (+ £1.70 p&p). At the time of writing, there is some confusion as to what the correct ISBN is for the revised Rambler's Guide. We will endeavour to supply this in December 'Strider' The guidebook '**The Shropshire Way and Wild Edric's Way**' is still available from local bookshops.

Worcestershire

A rerouted **Worcestershire Way** was due to be launched in May 2004. The 48-mile route that used to start at Kingsford Forest Park and end at Hollybush has been reduced to 32 miles. The new route is waymarked but now starts at Bewdley, in the north, and finishes at Malvern, in the south. An updated walkers' guide is available; priced at £4.95. For further information contact: Worcestershire County Council Countryside Service on 01905 766879.

Yorkshire

The **Grassington to East Coast Walk** is a new 100-mile long distance route running from Grassington, in the Yorkshire Dales, to the North Sea coast at Robin Hood's Bay. The route takes in Upper Nidderdale, Masham, the Vale of Mowbray and Fylingdales Moor. A 96-page, full colour paperback guidebook, written by John White and priced at £9.95, is available from Fractal Press, 1 Low Mill Cottages, Grassington, North Yorkshire BD23 5BX (tel: 01756 752000).

Yorkshire Wolds Way – a new official guidebook has been produced by Aurum Press – see the Book Review section for further details.

SCOTLAND

Scottish National Heritage (SNH) has presented a proposed Scottish Outdoor Access Code to Parliament. Once approved the Access Code will be an integral part of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 which is expected to come into force later this year. Further details can be obtained from the SNH website.

Walking Wild, in partnership with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, have completed a 'Skills For The Trail' section on their website: www.walkingwild.com The section provides one with the opportunity to learn more about maps and navigation, which are essential requirements in many areas of Scotland.

'Walk Scotland' – a booklet produced by the Scottish Tourist Board provides information about both long and short distance walks. It is well worth having. Further details can be found on the website: www.walkingwild.com.

John Buchan Way – our man north of the border, Alan Castle, walked this route from Broughton to Peebles a couple of months ago. The route is detailed in the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society's Scottish Hill Tracks publication (Route 19 in the Borders section). The JBW visits Broughton Hills, Stobo, The Glack and Cademuir Hill. Maps required are LR 72 and 73. The start is at GR NT114356 and finishes at GR NT251404. Although the distance is only 13.7 miles AC recommends that it be included in the next edition of the LDW Handbook as it presents superb scenery in a lovely area of the Borders hill country. The Waymarking along the route is generally good.

A leaflet, entitled 'The John Buchan Way', produced by Scottish Borderpaths is available, free, from TIC's in the Borders area. It contains a sketch map, a route description and notes about John Buchan and places of interest along the Way.

The Loch Long Way and the Kintyre Way

These are two new routes being developed in Scotland. Very little is known about the Loch Long Way at this early stage but the Tourist Office in our Scottish representative (Alan Castle) area have promised to keep him informed of progress. The latter route will run much of the length of the Kintyre peninsula

and will probably open in 2005. We will endeavour to keep you informed of these routes in future editions of 'Strider'.

Southern Upland Way – A booklet available from Dumfries and Galloway Tourist Board (tel: 01387 253862) contains details of walks, some up to 20 miles in length, that link up with the SUW.

Mercat Press have updated their guide to the **West Highland Way**. The guide (ISBN: 1841830666) is available from the RA central office for £14.99 (+ £1.70 p&p).

Trailblazer also has a new guidebook out for the **West Highland Way**. Written by Charlie Lomax, its ISBN is 1873756542 and costs £9.99.

WALES

Wrexham Borough Council have produced a new guide booklet for the **Clywedog Valley Trail**. No details are available at this time with regards to the length of the walk or where the route goes other than it is in the Wrexham – Afon Clywedog area. Details and further information can be obtained from the Council on 01978 752772 or via email at countryparks@wrexham.gov.uk.

The **Dee Valley Way** is a new waymarked recreational footpath linking the towns of Llangollen and Corwen. The route, created by Denbighshire County Council, follows one of the loveliest river valleys in Wales. A guide booklet and information boards are currently being produced. Further information can be obtained from Nick Critchley or Samantha Williams on 01978 869618.

A new circular walk is being developed in the South Wales area. The route, to be known as the **Eppynt Way** will skirt moorland around Mynydd Eppynt between Builth Wells and Brecon. As some of the route traverses MOD land it is possible that parts of the Way could be temporarily closed during specific periods. Further details of this new route will follow in due course.

Kerry Ridgeway (Shropshire Way) and the **Ann Griffiths Walk** (Glyndwr's Way) both have new leaflets describing these two routes. They are available from Powys County Council, Saint John's Offices, Fiveways, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5ES.

Mal Evan's Way (Borth to Devil' Bridge) is a route I have mentioned in previous Striders. A leaflet, produced by Ceredigion County Council, is available from TIC's in area, price – 40p.

The **Ogwr Ridgeway Walk** in South Wales has a new publication available. The route runs for 15 miles east from Margam Country Park near Port Talbot to Mynydd Maendy, where it links with the start of the 21-mile easterly **Taff-Ely Ridgeway Walk**, under which the route was listed in the Handbook but with no leaflet then available, enabling a longer traverse across the ridges and valleys north of Bridgend and Cardiff. Both routes are waymarked and shown on OS mapping. The new leaflet (A3-sized unfolded) includes maps and local information and is available free from The Tourism Unit, Bridgend County Borough Council, Innovations Centre, Bridgend Science Park, BRIDGEND, CF31 3NA, tel: 01656 672928 – if writing a DL-sized SAE would be appreciated.

Snowdonia – A new section has been added to the **Watkin Path**, one of the major routes leading to the summit of Snowdon. The new section takes walkers through Atlantic oak woodland near Hafod y Llan Farm. Future plans include an extension of the route into Capel Curig.

There is a new spiral-bound colour route guide available for the **Usk Valley Walk**, which runs from Caerleon, near Newport to Brecon, a total of 48 miles (77km). The guide, ISBN: 0954583205 and priced at £6.95 (+ 50p p&p), can be obtained from Monmouthshire County Council, Countryside Section, County Hall, Cwmbran NP44 2XH. Further information about this route appeared in the December 2003 edition of *Strider*.

WALKING ABROAD

A new guidebook, '**New Zealand – The Great Walks**', by Alexander Stewart was published in February by Trailblazer. See 'Footprint' (Book Review article) for further details.

Interested in walking abroad? The Sunflower Books web site (www.sunflowerbooks.co.uk) contains useful information about conditions in specific areas, transport changes and photographs in addition to the availability of new and overseas guidebooks they produce.



SHORTER WALKS that have links with LDPs.

Bromsgrove District Council have produced an excellent booklet (Royal Hunter's Walks) covering three walks west of Bromsgrove. The longest and finest is the **Foresters Walk** at 12 miles. The Council have replaced stiles with kissing gates, made footpath improvements, including waymarking, which will be of benefit to local challenge walks such as the Chaddesley Chase and the North Worcestershire Hills Marathon. The booklet is available from Bromsgrove TIC, 26 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove B61 0DD (tel: 01527 831809) for £3.50.

The **Green Trail (Richmond)** is a 15-mile route that links with the **Thames Path** at Hammersmith Bridge and Hampton. Between these two points the route takes in Barnes Common, Richmond Park, Ham Common, Bushey Park and Home Park. A route description is contained in a booklet, 'Rural Walks around Richmond', produced by Richmond R.A. The booklet, priced £2.25 (inc p&p), is available from Margaret Sharp, 59 Gerard Road, Barnes, London SW13 9QH.

Details of the '**Pre-1974 Littleborough UDC Boundary Walk**' (18 miles), re-published in 2002m are available, for £1.00, from the Littleborough Historical & Archaeological Society, c/o The Secretary, 8 Springfield Avenue, Littleborough OL15 9JR. (Greater Manchester area)

Radnor Forest Valley Walk is a 6/7-mile walk that links with Offa's Dyke Path.

Suffolk: Waveney Tourist Information Centre, Royal Plain, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0AP have leaflets on the following routes: '**Otter Vale Walks**' (a series of short walks varying between 4 and 7 miles in distance and based on the Angles Way); '**Mid Suffolk Footpath**' and the '**Waveney Way**' (both of which connect with the Munnings Trail, a waymarked bridleway in the area). Further details will follow if/when we receive copies of the reported leaflets.

Halton - Spike Island - A network of footpaths has replaced the railway lines on the Island, allowing you to explore the site and enjoy expansive views across the River Mersey. The **Mersey Way** footpath and the **Trans Pennine Trail** run through Spike Island and you can follow them up the Sankey Canal to Warrington and beyond! Leaflets are available for Pickerings Pasture, Runcorn Hill, Halton Castle and Town Park. All correspondence to: Parks and Countryside Service, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5TD Telephone 0151 424 2061.

AD HOC INFORMATION

Details are required about a bridleway route in Wales – **The Three Rivers Ride** – that runs from the Brecon Beacons to Herefordshire. Is it a suitable route for walkers and, if so, does it qualify for entry in our LDP database. If the route uses more than 33% on road then it would not qualify.

The **Thames Estuary Trail** is a walk or route I have mentioned in previous striders. Details about this have now come to hand. Apparently it is not an official route but part of the title of a book – '**Thames Estuary Trail – A Walk Around the Edge of the World**' – written by Tom King, describing his experiences of walking around the estuary from Foulness to the Isle of Sheppey, via Tilbury. The book is published by Desert Island Books, ISBN: 1874287457, and priced at £7.99.

Following in the footsteps of Alfred Wainwright is a young protégé known to many of us as Mark Richards. You may well have some of walking guides adorning your bookshelves. Mark is currently in the process of walking every Lake District Fell and is recording every tarn, crag, summit and walk. Three of his books – '*Near Eastern Fells*', '*Mid-Western Fells*' and '*Central Fells*' are currently available. Country Walking magazine currently have a special offer open to UK residents in the June edition. Mid Western Fells is being offered at £10.99 (inc p&p), with the other two volumes being offered at £9.99 each (inc p&p). To order call 0870 787 1732, quoting ref dept 251Q.

Walking Festivals – the following walking festivals are scheduled to take place during the next few months:

Pendle Walking Festival:	3-6 Sept 2004.
Barmouth 2004:	18-26 Sept 2004.
Blairgowrie & East Perthshire:	30 Sept to 3 Oct 2004.
Mendip Walking Festival:	28-30 Aug 2004.
Doune Walking festival:	4-5 Sept 2004.



Scottish Borders Festival: 4-11 Sept 2004.
Kent Walking Festival: 4-12 Sept 2004

That is it for this edition folks – keep tuning in and more important please keep us informed of any new and/or interesting guides or leaflets you come across on our travels.



2004 – APRIL

**News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE
WALKS
edited by Les Maple**

GENERAL

A reminder that if you are looking for updates for a route or information on a new route, an index has been added to the LDPs pages on the LDWA website at www.ldwa.org.uk and it is being updated as each new Strider comes out - see December 2003 Strider for more details.

Also on the website, new pages are being added to cover the three **E-Routes** that include UK sections, the E2, E8 and E9, including an index of links to relevant websites for many of the constituent routes. The LDWA is the UK implementing body for E-Routes.

Aurum Press have two new guides and five updates to existing guides due out during the first half of 2004. The two new guides are:

'Glyndwr's Way' by David Perrott (ISBN: 1854109685) 168pp – £12.99 (due Feb).

'Pennine Bridleway (Derbyshire to the South Pennines)' by Sue Vickers, 168pp ISBN: 185410957X, £12.99 (due April).

The updated guides are:

'Pennine Way North (Bowes to Kirk Yetholm)' by Tony Hopkins, 168pp, ISBN 1854109626, £12.99 (due April).

'South West Coast Path (Minehead to Padstow)' by Roland Tarr, 168pp, ISBN: 1854109774, £12.99 (due April).

'Yorkshire Wolds Way' by Roger Ratcliffe, 144pp, ISBN: 1854109863, £12.99 (due Feb).

'South Downs Way' by Paul Millmore, 168pp, ISBN: 1854109669, £12.99 (due April)

'Pembrokeshire Coast Path' by Brian John, 168pp, ISBN: 1854109669, £12.99.

Cicerone Press has announced the future release of the following titles for May 2004.

'Irish Coast to Coast (Dublin to Bray Head)' by Paddy Dillon, 256pp, ISBN: 1852844337. £12.00.

'Walking in Northumberland (36 day walks)' by Alan Hall, 224pp, ISBN: 1852844280. £10.00.

'Walking The Munros (Vol1: Southern, central and western Highlands)' by Steve Kew, 224pp, ISBN: 1852844027. £12.00.

'Walking The Munros (Vol2: Northern Highlands and the Cairngorms)' by Steve Kew, 224pp, ISBN: 1852844035. £12.00.

In June they have a title – **'Walking in the Dordogne (30 Selected walks)'** scheduled for release.

Footpath Touring (Ken & Margaret Ward) has informed us that they have now completely sold out their walk guides. The routes affected are: **'Cotswold Walk'** (117); **'Exmoor & Lorna Doone Tour'** (182) and **'North York Moors Tour'** (384). The numbers shown in brackets refer to their position in the LDW Handbook (7th ed). As the publications were the only ones available respectively these routes will not appear in the next edition of the Handbook (unless of course new publications materialise).

Frances Lincoln have now published A Wainwright's five 'Lakeland Sketchbooks, each book costs £15.99. In addition they have re-published his hardback book: **'The Pennine Way Companion'**, ISBN: 0711222355. £11.99.

On the Gt Manchester website – www.destinationmanchester.com - a decision was taken to remove the Great Outdoors part of the website as the content on these pages was so out of date and therefore could be misleading to users. In the meanwhile you may wish to contact Manchester Visitor Information Centre to see if they can provide you with any information. (tel 0161 234 3157).

Guidepost – If you are looking for guidebooks – Wainwright's seven Pictorial Guides, a Coast-to-Coast Walk, 'Walks in Limestone Country' or 'Walks on the Howgill Fells' and many more – why not check out their website at www.guidepost.uk.com. You may save some money against the full commercial price charged by many bookshops.

Laurence Main – our LDP Welsh representative – was scheduled to start walking the length of Britain, starting from Callanish on the Isle of Lewis, on the 1st February 2004. He is dedicating his walk (phased in periods of two weeks walking per month) to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Vegan Society. By the time you receive this copy of ‘Strider’ he should be somewhere in the Glasgow area. He plans to coincide the completion of his walk with the Vegan Society AGM in London on Saturday 30 October 2004. If any LDWA Member would like to walk with him, on any of the stretches between April and October, please contact him on 01650 531354 (keep in mind however that he may just be out walking when you call).

National Trust – From 15-18 June 2004 the National Trust are organising a 42-mile walk along the South Coast between Cremyll and Polkerris. All participants will be bussed out from Liskeard each day. You will also have to find and book your own b&b. Although short for the long distance walker, if anyone is interested in this event early booking is recommended. Details can be obtained from: Devon and Cornwall National Trust, Lanhydrock, Bodmin PL30 4DE (tel: 01208 74281).

Sigma Leisure informs me that they do not process customer orders direct from their office. Any books they produce relating to LDPs have to be obtained from other outlets. All the Sigma Leisure publications found in the 7th edition of the LDW Handbook only show a book price with no p&p added.

Walk and Write Ltd – Price changes. All badges for the many challenge walks covered by Walk & Write Ltd now cost £4.50 each. The cost includes a signed certificate and covers p&p. Details of all their products can be obtained from Walk and Write Ltd, Marathon House, Longcliffe, nr Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4HN, telephone/fax: 01629 540991, email: marathonhiker@aol.com.

Walk & Write Ltd – packing & postage charges. May I remind readers that if/when ordering books from Walk & Write Ltd the p&p charges are as follows: £1.00 (for one book); £1.75 (two books); £2.50 (3 books); £3.00 (4 books), then for each additional book one should add 75p per book.

ENGLAND

Berkshire

Round Reading Walk – This is the title given to a series of short walks varying in length between 4 and 10 miles that can be linked to form a longer walk around the town of Reading. A website, address www.roundreadingwalk.co.uk, created by Alec Fraser and his sister in law, provides details of all 15 sections that make up the circle. The sections are 1. Ascot – Windsor (7 mls). 2. Windsor – Bourne End (10 mls). 3. Bourne End – Marlow (4. mls). 4. Marlow – Henley (8 mls). 5. Henley – Sonning Common (7 mls). 6. Sonning Common – Pangbourne (8.5 mls). 7. Pangbourne – Theale (5.5 mls). 8. Theale – Aldermaston Wharf (4.5 mls). 9. Aldermaston Wharf – Mortimer (8 mls). 10. Mortimer – Bramley (5.7 ml). 11. Bramley – Hook (7 mls). 12. Hook – Winchfield (7 mls). 13. Winchfield – Crowthorne (7 mls). 14. Crowthorne – Martins Heron (7 mls) and 15. Martins Heron – Ascot (4.5 mls). A total distance of: approximately 100 miles.

Cheshire

Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society are in the development stages of establishing a 108km (67miles) long distance footpath route from Chester City centre and Willaston on the South Wirral, across north Cheshire to Lyme Park (National Trust), linking with the Gritstone Trail, and on to Disley Railway Station. It will complement the Society's sponsored trail in the south of the country (South Cheshire Way) as an alternative east-west route between the Pennine foothills and the Welsh borders.

It is designed to incorporate many rights of way, which do not yet form part of any named trail, link with many of the wider tourist attractions en route and with only limited use of those rights of way, which already form part of established trails. The route has already been walked and established, with the exception of a small number of local sections. Route finalisation and waymarking is planned for 2004 plus liaison with all interested bodies. Final launch is planned for 2005.

Their long awaited web site <http://www.mcfs.org.uk> provides details and costs of all sponsored medium/long distance route leaflets/booklets, as well as info. on society activities, contacts and walk programme.

Cumbria

‘**Cumbria Way**’ – Miway Publishing have informed us that they have now stopped trading. As such their guidebooks, ‘**Guide to the Cumbria Way**’ by Phillip Dubock (ISBN: 0952915030) and ‘**Cumbria Way Accommodation Guide**’ by Phillip Dubock (ISBN: 0952915049) are no longer available.

‘**The Lakeland Top Ten**’ is now out of print. Challenge Publications report that they have no plans for a reissue. This walk will no longer feature in any future LDW Handbooks.

Derbyshire

Another new book by John Merrill (Walk & Write Ltd) in his Canal Walk Series is: ‘**Short Circular Walks on the Chesterfield Canal**’. Although the book consists of 19 short circular walks these can, more or less, be linked together to cover the whole 42 miles of the Chesterfield Canal, which he briefly covers in a 20th section. The Chesterfield Canal Walk exists in the LDW Handbook (7th ed) under the title of the ‘**Cuckoo Way**’. The book – ISBN: 1-903627-43-5 - has 124 pp and contains 77 black and white photographs. Priced at £7.95 (+ p&p) it is available from Walk & Write Ltd, Marathon House, Longcliffe, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4HN (tel/fax: 01629 540991).

‘**Circular Walks in the Derwent Valley**’ is another book from the Walk & Write stable. Fourteen walks explore the valley, which can be used in conjunction with the Derby – Matlock railway. The book does contain two longer walks Matlock-Derby (28 mls) and Derby-Matlock (32 mls). The book, ISBN: 1-903627-42-7 costs £5.95 (+ p&p).

Jarrold have now published the guidebook for the **Derwent Valley Heritage Way** (ISBN: 0-7117-2958-1). The price, not confirmed, is approx £10.00. Note also that successful completers of this walk (there is no time limit) can obtain an attractive certificate and badge from the official walk recorder by sending a cheque for £5.00 (payable to The Derwent Valley Trust and Heritage Way) to: Mike Warner, Redland House, Clifton, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 2GJ.

Dorset & Somerset

A further section of the **Macmillan Way** network, called the **Macmillan Abbotsbury-Langport Link**, provides a new 126-mile ‘coast-to-coast’ option from Abbotsbury to Barnstaple when combined with part of the **Macmillan Way West**. The Link has been available for some time, but is now fully Macmillan-waymarked and includes in its 42-mile length some 24 miles of new Macmillan route, running from Evershot to Langport. An A5 guide to the Link is available at £3.50 post free from the Macmillan Way Association (to which cheques should be payable) at St Mary’s Barn, Pillerton Priors, Warwick, CV35 0PG and profits go to Macmillan Cancer Relief. The Association’s website is at www.macmillanway.org.

Hampshire

The **Pilgrim’s Trail** (Hampshire) has been revised to take a more scenic route as it leaves Winchester. In addition there is an alternative route, offering an option to cross the water meadows and visit the Hospital of St Cross. Information packs which include the above revisions are available from Hampshire C.C (tel: 0800 028 0888 or email: info.centres@hants.gov.uk). Price is £2.99 (+ 35p p&p).

The **Strawberry Trail** is a new route being developed by Eastleigh Borough Council, initially in the Hamble river valley visiting its attractive villages. The Trail is eventually planned to extend well over 20 miles as a figure-of-eight centred on Botley. The first 8-mile section between Botley and Netley is waymarked with a strawberry marker: this was an important growing area. A colourful free leaflet is available from the Tourism Unit, Eastleigh Borough Council, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9YN, tel: 0906 6822001 and email hamblevalley@eastleigh.gov.uk or its route description section can be downloaded from the internet as a pdf file from www.hants.gov.uk/walking. Eastleigh plan to complete the initial circuit back to Botley, with an updated leaflet available in the spring, and work is underway to add the second circuit to the north-west to complete the route.

Lancashire

Bob Waller, the coordinator for the ‘**Heart of Bowland Anytime Challenge Walk**’, advises us that this walk is being withdrawn as and from this edition of ‘Strider’. As such it will not appear in any

future editions of the LDW Handbook. For those who have copies of the 7th edition please mark the entry (walk No. 227) as withdrawn.

Lincolnshire – Alternate Coast-to-Coast walk

During the mid 1990s a group of ex-colleagues got together and formed a walking group that eventually acquired the name of the 'Hitchin Hobblers'. With the turn of the century approaching the group wanted to do something special for the millennium. The end result was a new alternate coast-to-coast walk starting from the Wash in the east to the Severn in the west. The route, which is just under 200 miles, got dubbed the '**Hobbler's Way**'. Starting from the Nene Estuary car park (GR 494255) the route takes in Shell Bridge, Peakirk, Duddington, Cottingham, Welford, Staverton, Ratley, Broadwell, Yanworth, Cherrington, Tresham before finishing at the Severn View Services, overlooking the old Severn Bridge (GR 572984). Maps required are LR 131, 140, 141, 142, 151, 152, 162 and 163. It is hoped that a route web-site will be developed in the near future. Details about the Hitchin Hobblers can be obtained from their website at www.hobblers.com and details of the Hobblers Way can be obtained from Fred Harris, 9 Curtis Mews, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 5PG (e-mail: Tred@hobblers.com)

Lincolnshire / S Yorks

Peatlands Way: In the December (03) LDP News I reported that this route links with the Trans Pennine Way at Bramwith and Sykehouse. This was erroneous. The links are in fact with the Trans Pennine Trail (E8) as shown in the map that appeared in the Peatlands Way feature that appeared in the same edition of Strider. Unfortunately we do sometimes get our Ways, Trails and Walks mixed up despite our best endeavours. It is always pleasing to hear from members who write in to tell us 'you have got it wrong' and provide us with the correct data. It also shows that the 'News' is being read and that gives us all encouragement in providing this service.

Norfolk

In the April 2003 edition of 'Strider' mention was made of John Merrill's book '**The Walsingham Way**' which describes the 72-mile route between Ely (Cams) and Walsingham (Norfolk). Since then John has produced two further books based on the Walsingham Pilgrim routes:

'**The Walsingham Way**' (*Kings Lynn to Walsingham*) – 35 miles. ISBN: 1-903627-41-9, 72pp, £5.95 (+ p&p).

'**The Walsingham Way**' (*London to Walsingham*) – 140+ miles. Published in Nov 2003. ISBN and price details required.

Shropshire

A new route, scheduled to be available this year, is the **Hope House Way**. It is a circular walk of some 330 miles starting from Wellington, Shropshire. The walk was originated and developed by Graham Leddington, Terry Blayney and David Goodson, all members of the Rotary Club of the Wrekin. The route has been devised to cover, as near as possible, all of the counties and areas served by Hope House Children's Respite Hospice, a registered charity situated near Oswestry. The route, both varied in terrain and rich in history, takes in Ironbridge; Ludlow, Hay on Wye, Builth Wells, Rhayader, Devil's Bridge, Machynlleth, Dinas Mawddwy, Bala, Llangollen, Cragnant, Montgomery, All Streetton and Cressage before returning to Wellington. A guidebook is scheduled to be available by July 2004 and an inaugural walk will be starting on 28 August. Copyright of the guidebook is being assigned to the Hope House Charity and all nett proceeds from book sales and sponsorship from the inaugural walk will go to Hope House. So mark the date in your diaries now and support this deserving charity. Further details about the book and the inaugural walk will be included in August Strider.

Staffs – Glos - Warks

The **Heart of England Way** Association has a new website address at www.heartofenglandway.org. The Association also have badges available for the '**Arden Way**'. The badges, priced at £1.65 (inc p&p), are available by post from: The Heart of England Way Association, 20 Throckmorton Road, Alcester, Warks B49 6QA. (email: info@heartofenglandway.org tel: 01789 762840). Certificates for the route are also available for £1.00.

Worcestershire

The **Bromsgrove 30 Mile Circular Walk** is a new route in the Worcestershire area. Devised by Bromsgrove Ramblers to celebrate their 30th anniversary, the route starts at Wychbold and visits Chaddesley Corbett, the Lickey Hills, Alvechurch and Tardebigge. A booklet, price £1.50, is available via telephone requests only from Robin Woodbury (tel: 01527 873441).

The **Malvern Hills Challenge Walk** guidebook, available from Walk & Write Ltd, now costs £4.25p (+ £1.00 p&p). A badge and certificate is also available for £4.50 (incs p&p).

Yorkshire

The **Barnsley Boundary Walk** again has a publication in the form of a set of revised and reprinted leaflets. The 73-mile route circles the borough, roughly following its boundary through a variety of landscapes that include country parks, moorland and industrial heritage. Already waymarked and shown on OS maps, it is described in twelve short sections that include points of interest on the route in a six-leaflet set costing £2.00 post free (cheques to Barnsley MBC) from Countryside Unit, Planning and Transportation Service, Barnsley MBC, Central Offices, Kendray Street, Barnsley, S70 2TN, tel: 01226 772567. They also provide the **Dearne Way** leaflet pack (£1.50; see Strider 93) and a newly reprinted free leaflet for the 9-mile waymarked **Timberland Trail in the South Yorkshire Forest** linking Elescar and Wortley, that is part of the **Trans Pennine Trail** network and shown as such on OS maps. The Barnsley MBC website is at www.barnsley.gov.uk.

The publication '**The Calderdale Way**' by the Calderdale Way Association (ISBN: 0950632910 now costs £6.00 (incl p&p)). This official guide, which includes detailed maps, is available from Hebden Bridge Visitor Centre, Butlers Wharf, New Road, Hebden Bridge HX7 8AF (tel 01422 843831, website: <http://www.pennineyorkshire.co.uk/>). The contact address for the Calderdale Way Association is: 16 Trenance Gardens, Greetland, Halifax HX8 8NN (tel: 01422 373832)[**Site not working 27 11 05.**]

Harvey Maps have produced a number of long distance route maps including one for the **Dales Way**. The single map, with a scale of 1:40,000, covers the entire route including the three Link Routes at the eastern end. Although there are some who criticise Strip Maps, especially if one strays beyond the corridor, Harvey's Maps are quite generous with their corridor and one should hopefully realise that they have made an error before going too far off route. Further details of the maps produced by Harvey's can be found on their website: www.harveymaps.co.uk.

The **Dales Way** Association's website – www.dalesway.org.uk - is now available. In addition to information about the Association and what it offers, the site also includes sections that provide news about the Way plus other relevant information. It is updated at regular intervals.

The booklet – '*A Stroller's Guide to Walks along the Kirklees Way*', by C Dexter Ellis – is no longer available. However there is a new guidebook currently available. It is called '**Walk The Kirklees Way**' by Nigel Patrick & Peter Williams, ISBN: 0903603330, £8.95. Details about the book can be obtained from the Huddersfield Examiner, Market Street, Huddersfield HD1 2EH.

Challenge Publications report that there will be a price increase for their '**The Lyke Wake Walk Guide**' in mid February 2004. The 2nd edition of the guide was published in 2003. The new price will be £3.50 (up from £3.25).

The **Penistone Line Trail** is a 60-mile (96km), 'station to station', walk between Sheffield and Huddersfield. The Trail covers varied landscape ranging from inner urban to woods and farmland. Between Sheffield and Barnsley the Trail follows the rivers Don and Dearne. It continues to follow the Dearne and enters the Upper Don Valley at Oxspring. It crosses into the Holme Valley, which joins the Colne Valley at Huddersfield, where the Trail ends. A booklet '*The Penistone Line Trail*' produced and published by the Penistone Line Partnership (March 2003), ISBN: 0954479602, is available from Kirklees TIC, Albion Street, Huddersfield (price-£4.95). Please note there may be a p&p handling charge. If you want first hand knowledge of the route why not ask a member of the Irregulars Group. They have been walking it.

For the **Trans Pennine Trail** itself, updated versions of the three sectional maps (West, Central and East) will be available from April and if you are walking the full route only the new East and West

maps will now be needed. A new free leaflet is available for the Trail and the its website has been relaunched at www.transpenninetrail.org.uk. Contact the Trans Pennine Trail Office at the Barnsley MBC address above or tel: 01226 772574 for leaflets and for details of the maps. The Trail forms the UK section of the **E8 E-Route**.

The 79-mile Wolds Way National Trail has celebrated its 21st anniversary by changing its name to the Yorkshire Wolds Way National Trail. **The entry website for the National Trails is at** www.nationaltrail.co.uk.

SCOTLAND

The next phase of the **Borders Abbey Way** was opened in 2003. The 10 ml / 16 km section, from Selkirk to Melrose, takes in Selkirk Hill, Lindean Moor, Cauldshiels Loch, Abbotsford, River Tweed and Melrose. It links with the Southern Upland Way at Redbridge Viaduct and near Lowood Bridge. The two routes are then coincident into Melrose. A leaflet for this section is available from Visitor Information Centres at Selkirk and Melrose (0870 6080404) or from Scottish Border Paths (01835 824632 or e-mail: info@borderwalks.fsnet.co.uk). The final two sections of the full 65 ml route are still under negotiation.

There is a new edition of the 'John O'Groats to Lands End' official guide, by Brian Smailes, now available. See Footprint.

WALES

Last year, when referring to the Anglesey Coast Path I stated that 'Mentor Mon' had produced a new pack of route cards. It should have read 'Menter Mon' or to be even more accurate 'Mentr Mon'. Translated Mentr Mon means 'Anglesey Venture'.

A **Dee (Valley) Way**, from west of Bala to Chester and thence to West Kirby and Rhyl via either side of the Dee estuary, is being developed by David Berry with support from local Authorities in Gwynnedd, Denbigh, Wrexham, Flint, Cheshire and Wirral. The Feasibility study, including links to public transport for walking the route in stages, is almost complete, and the launch is planned for Sept.2004. Anyone available to help check the route description by walking the route or parts of it should contact David at 21 Ruthin Rd., Denbigh LL16 3EH (tel 01795 815 362).

A project that has been under development for a number of years is the **Gower Way**. Currently only two sections of the route are open: (i) the southern section which runs from Worm's Head/Rhossili to Penmaen (8 mls / 13 kms) and (ii) the middle section (south) which runs from Penmaen to Gowerton (10 mls / 16kms). A leaflet covering the southern section is available from the Gower Society for 75p. Details of the route, including the progress on the northern section, can be found on the Gower Society's website: www.gowersociety.welshnet.co.uk.

Another YHA related walk has been produced by Martyn Hanks. This one is '**The Remote Hostels of Mid Wales**', a 28.5 miles (45.5 km) circular walk linking the hostels at Blaencaron, Dolgoch and Tyncornel. A leaflet, which includes a sketch map of the sections between each hostel together with scenic drawings, is available from YHA Customer Services, P O Box 67, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3YX. The leaflet also contains an additional 10 mile circular day walk from Tyncornel.

SHORTER WALKS

This section contains brief details of walks that are too short for inclusion in any future LDP Handbook but which may be of interest to those walking in the specific area. Should any of these routes have links with a long distance route this will be stated if known.

Bromsgrove District Council have produced an excellent booklet (Royal Hunter's Walks) covering three walks west of Bromsgrove. The longest and finest is the **Foresters Walk** at 12 miles. The Council have done a wonderful job in replacing stiles with kissing gates and the waymarking is first class. Further good news is that the footpath improvements are also of benefit to local challenge walks such as the Chaddesley Chase and the North Worcestershire Hills Marathon. The booklet is available from Bromsgrove TIC, 26 Birmingham Road, Bromsgrove B61 0DD (tel: 01527 831809) for £3.50.

The **Green Trail (Richmond)** is a 15-mile route that links with the **Thames Path** at Hammersmith Bridge and Hampton. Between these two points the route takes in Barnes Common, Richmond Park, Ham Common, Bushey Park and Home Park. A route description is contained in a booklet, 'Rural Walks around Richmond', produced by Richmond R.A. The booklet, priced £2.25 (inc p&p), is available from Margaret Sharp, 59 Gerard Road, Barnes, London SW13 9QH.

Details of the '**Pre-1974 Littleborough UDC Boundary Walk**' (18 miles), re-published in 2002m are available, for £1.00, from the Littleborough Historical & Archaeological Society, c/o The Secretary, 8 Springfield Avenue, Littleborough OL15 9JR. (Greater Manchester area)

Initial notification has been received about a **Round Holmesfield Walk**, a 14 miles circular route on the outskirts of Sheffield and part of the Peak District. Further details of this walk are required.

Not sure if this one has been mentioned previously – **The Sabden Way** (Lancs), a 9 mile route starting from Clitheroe T.I.C. Details including guide (£1.50) available from the same tourist office.

Suffolk: Waveney Tourist Information Centre, Royal Plain, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0AP have leaflets on the following routes: '**Otter Vale Walks**' (a series of short walks varying between 4 and 7 miles in distance and based on the Angles Way); '**Mid Suffolk Footpath**' and the '**Waveney Way**' (both of which connect with the Munnings Trail, a waymarked bridleway in the area). Further details will follow if/when we receive copies of the reported leaflets.

Halton - Spike Island - A network of footpaths has replaced the railway lines on the Island, allowing you to explore the site and enjoy expansive views across the River Mersey. The **Mersey Way** footpath and the **Trans Pennine Trail** run through Spike Island and you can follow them up the Sankey Canal to Warrington and beyond!

How to get there: Spike Island Mersey Road, off Waterloo Road, Widnes (tel: 0151 420 370)

Leaflets are also available for Pickerings Pasture, Runcorn Hill, Halton Castle and Town Park. All correspondence to: Parks and Countryside Service, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5TD Telephone 0151 424 2061.

A free booklet '**Walks From the Cambrian Railway**', published by Cambrian Railways Partnership, is available from local TIC's in the area. The walks, nine in total, vary in length between 3.5 miles and 10.25 miles, each starting from a different point between Criccieth and Welshpool. The Cambrian Railway itself runs between Shrewsbury and Pwllheli. One of the walks visits the railway station with the longest name in the world. No it is not LlanfairPG, it is:

Gorsafawddachaigodanheddogleddollonpenrhynareudraethceredigion.

Now try saying that while chewing a cream cracker. Apparently it means 'Mawddach station with its dragon's teeth on North Penrhyn Drive by the golden sands of Cardigan Bay' (Dragon's teeth was the name given to the World War II tank traps).

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Every year Itex organise a Jersey Round Island Walk and a Guernsey Round Island Walk in order to raise money for charity. Although I suspect that the routes are fairly standard each year they are not Anytime Challenge events. In 2004 the Jersey Round Island Walk (48.1 miles) is scheduled to take place on Saturday 19 June (I do not have a date for the Guernsey Walk at this time). The Jersey Walk starts from one of the Ferry Terminals at 0300 and entrants have 21 hours to complete the walk. On route there are 11 checkpoints, which provide refreshments, including hot rolls, There is also a breakfast stop. The organisers state that it is considered as a personal challenge and is not a race. They do not encourage runners. Registration for the Jersey event opened in March. The Further details can be obtained from the Itex website at www.Itex.je.

WALKING ABROAD

The stories of John N Merrill's walks from Seville to Santiago de Compostela (700 miles through Spain), which he completed in 2002, and from Lagon, on the Algarve to Santiago de Compostela, via Fatima (650 miles through Portugal), which he completed in 2003 are contained in two books from Walk & Write Ltd. Published in December 2003 they are '**Turn Left at Granja de la Moreruela**' – ISBN: 1-903627-40-0, £10.00 (+ p&p), and '**North To Santiago De Compostela Via Fatima**' – ISBN: 1-903627-44-3, £10.00 (+ p&p).

Also available is John N Merrill's Norwegian pilgrimage along St Olav's Way. This 386-mile journey follows the route that pilgrims took from Lillehammer to St Olav's shrine in Trondheim (Nidaros) Cathedral. The book '**St Olav's Way**', ISBN: 1-903627-45 is available from Walk & Write Ltd for £10.00 (+ p&p).

Some recent guides and books from Cicerone Press include:

'**The Way of St James -vol 1 – France**' (ISBN: 1852843713, 160pp, £10) and '**The Way of St James – vol 2 –Spain**' (ISBN: 1852843721, 192pp, £10), both by Alison Raju, describe the 740 km Pilgrims route from Le-Puy-en-Velay in France to Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.

2003 – DECEMBER

News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE WALKS edited by Les Maple

ENGLAND

General

Regular readers of these columns looking for updates for a route have had to trawl through past Striders to find when the path has been mentioned. To help members track down updates, an index has been added to the LDP pages on the LDWA website at www.ldwa.org.uk. This index provides a cross-reference list, arranged by route title, for all the new and updated routes that have appeared in the LDP News and Book Review features in Strider since the research was completed for the Long Distance Walkers Handbook 7th Edition. The x-ref list will be updated as each new Strider comes out.

The following books/guides are due from Cicerone Press in the early part of 2004: The **South Downs Way** by Kev Reynolds (Jan 2004 – ISBN: 1852844299 - £10.00); **Backpacker's Britain Vol 2 – Wales** by Graham Uney (Feb 2004 – ISBN: 1852844086 - £10.00); **Isle of Man Coastal Path** by Aileen Evans (Mar 2004 – ISBN: 1852844000 - £10.00). Both the South Downs and Isle of Man guides are new updated editions. You can follow progress on www.cicerone.co.uk.

Footprint has produced new versions of their 'Coast to Coast' Stripmaps. The 1:45000 weatherproof maps have additional notes on features and facilities along the way. The two maps are: *Coast-to-Coast Walk Part 1 – West: St Bees to Swaledale*. ISBN: 1871149630 and *Coast-to-Coast Walk Part 2 – East: Swaledale to Robin Hood's Bay*. ISBN: 1871149649. Each map costs £4.50.

The latest edition of Wainwright's original route guide, with sketch maps, is now available. *A Coast to Coast Walk* by A Wainwright (Francis Lincoln). ISBN: 0711222363. £11.99.

Hillside Publications, who publish guides to a dozen or so well-known routes in the north of England, now have a website, www.hillsidepublications.co.uk, and also advise price changes to their books for the **Coast to Coast** - £9.99 (+ 80p p&p) and **Dales Way** and **Lady Anne's Way** £6.99 (+ 60p p&p) each. Their guide for the **Cumberland Way**, the route's only publication, is now out-of-print. Hillside Publications are at 12 Broadlands, Shann Park, KEIGHLEY, West Yorkshire BD20 6HX, tel: 01535 681505.

Trailblazer Publishing, known for their overseas trekking guides, has just published a new guidebook – **West Highland Way** by Charlie Loram - (see Footprint – book reviews). This is the first of a series to be produced under the banner of 'British Walking Guides'. Further titles in the series are scheduled as follows:

'**Cornwall Cost Path**' by Edith Schoffield, 192pp, ISBN: 1-873756-55-0. Due out: end of Sept 2003.

'**Pembrokeshire Coast Path**' by Jim Manthorpe, 208pp, ISBN: 1-873756-56-9 – Oct 2003.

The following titles are due out in the early part of 2004:

'**Offa's Dyke Path**' by Keith Carter (Jan); '**Pennine Way**' by Ed de la Billiere & K Carter (Feb);

'**Coast to Coast**' by Henry Stedman (Feb), and '**South Downs Way**' by Jim Manthorpe (Mar).

The 'Pennine Way' and 'Coast to Coast' books will cost £10.99 each; all the other titles cost £9.99 each. Availability updates can be checked on Trailblazer's website at www.trailblazer-guides.com, or from their address at The Old Manse, Tower Road, Hindhead, Surrey GU26 6SU.

If you are looking for guidebooks for your favourite long distance route or routes there are quite a number of 'shops' to be found on the Internet in addition to the publishers' sites. Amazon is quite well known, of course, but another I came across recently is 'Walking Pages'. They appear to have over 100 trails listed, including National Trails. You can visit their site at www.walkingpages.co.uk.

The prices quoted in the LDW Handbook are normally those of the publishers' or producers', being the cost quoted at the time the Handbook was produced. Quite often by shopping around it is possible to pick up special offers, especially on the Internet, but ensure you also visit the publisher/producers' site as they could have special offers on the go.

In the April edition of 'Strider' I reported that the price of the **Heart of England Way** guidebook by John Roberts (Walkways) had risen in price to £7.50. What I wasn't aware of at that time was that the increase was in conjunction with a new edition (6th) of the book. The ISBN is: 0947708405. The route guide contains sketch maps and an accommodation list.

Sigma Leisure informs me that the paperback guidebook '**Heart of England Way**' by Roger Noyce, originally published in 1999, is now out of print. Copies may still exist at some outlets however.

A new guidebook for the **Midshires Way** was published in March this year. It is the first complete guide that has been produced for this 225-mile long distance route. Details are: Softback: *Walking The Midshires Way* by Ron Haydock & Bill Allen (Sigma Press). ISBN: 1850587787, 160pp, £6.95. The route description is divided into 18 sections (each between 10 and 14 miles). The authors are members of the LDWA, which is interesting in the fact that they did not inform us about their book. It was only noticed when I was browsing the Sigma Press website.

If any LDWA members do write/produce any books related to walking, especially guidebooks, please let us know so that we can get the details up onto our database and thus into the next LDW Handbook.

Starting from the William of Orange statue at Brixham Harbour, Devon, the 350-mile **Orange Way** follows, as closely as possible, the route taken by Prince William of Orange and his army as they marched from Brixham to London in 1688. The route takes in Newton Abbot, Exeter, Honiton, Sherborne, Salisbury, Newbury, Reading and Windsor on its way to St James's Palace, where it ends. (See Footprint for book review).

Berks

An article –'Out of the Rut' – in the Summer Newsletter of the Friends of the **Ridgeway**, reported that a planning application to demolish Roden Farm, near Compton (Berkshire), in order to build a large country mansion on the site had been withdrawn.

Bucks

A permanent diversion has taken place which affects the route of the **Ridgeway N T** between Hastoe Cross and Wigginton. The new route takes it through Tring Park along the route of the Icknield Way. The new route, which has been waymarked, is along a hard gravel path and runs between tall, thick trees, which tends to spoil the view over Tring Park that one had from a slightly higher vantage point on the old route.

A further diversion is planned in the Princes Risborough – Lower Cadsden area in late 2003/2004.

Cheshire

The previous Guide to the **South Cheshire Way** that runs between Grindley Brook and Mow Cop has been superseded by two new publications, one for each direction. Produced by the Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society, they are available at £2 each including p&p (cheques payable to the Society), from its current Hon Sec, Mrs Marian Harris, 1 Church Rise, Sandiway, NORTHWICH, CW8 2WE, tel: 01606 883815.

Derbys

A Free leaflet is currently available for the **Derwent Valley (Heritage) Way** from 01302 752888. Details of this new 55-mile walk appeared in August Strider. A guidebook was due out in October.

The **Beast of Bolsover** is an "any time" 20-mile challenge walk, which takes in the three English heritage sites of Bolsover Castle, Hardwick Hall and Sutton Scarsdale Hall, together with the preserved pithead buildings of Pleasley Colliery. The walk straddles either side of the M1 motorway, but for most of the time this is unobtrusive. The villages of Heath, Palterton and Teversal, the setting for Lady Chatterley's Lover, are also visited making this an extremely pleasant walk, rich in this district's heritage - this is coal mining country and although the mines have all but disappeared you will find a warm welcome in the communities that they have left behind.

Start and finish at Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire. Explorer Map 269 1:25,000 scale. A comprehensive route description is available free of charge upon receipt of an A5 stamped addressed envelope from Mike Warner, Redland House, Clifton, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2GJ. An attractive woven cloth badge and certificate are available upon successful completion at £4.00. Please make cheque available to Mike Warner

The following change of address should be noted for Paul Pugh, who produces the booklet and provides the badge & certificate for the **Longshaw Limber**. It is:
Paul Pugh, 3 Harlech Mead, SHEFFIELD S10 4NT.

Devon

Another interesting publication worth having in your library is 'Discover Devon Walking', produced by Devon County Council. The latest edition contains details of some routes that are not yet on our LDP database. These are: **Devonshire Heartland Way**, **Plymouth Cross City Link** and the **West Devon Triangle**. I am still awaiting further information about these routes. The **Devon Coast to Coast** was mentioned in *Strider* (April 2002).

Durham

The route of the **Teesdale Way** is covered in a Cicerone publication written by Martin Collins (ISBN: 1852841982 / £7.99p). Leaflets are available for that part of the route that runs through Darlington. Also available are four other leaflets covering the section between Middleton in Teesdale and Piercebridge. The four leaflets cost 80p (+ 9 x 4 SAE) and can be obtained from the Barnard Castle Tourist Information Centre, Woodleigh, Flatts Road, Barnard Castle, County Durham DL12 8AA.

Essex

Essex County Council produce a Directory of Walks booklet entitled 'Our Guide - Your Countryside'. Although the current edition was produced in 2002 it is well worth having a copy if you are contemplating a walk in this part of the country. The 'Walking Your Countryside' section has been sub-divided into districts and lists many of the walks/routes that are available in that particular area. Most of the walks are short but there are a number of longer distance routes listed, most of which can be found in the LDW Handbook (7th ed). One not listed is the **Painters' Way**, described as 28 miles through countryside immortalised by Constable, Gainsborough and Munnings. The Way has been superseded by the Stour Valley Path; but some guides (50 at time of writing) are still available from H.R.P. Turner, Peddar Publications, Croft End, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5JN (tel: 01787 227823) at a price of £1.25. Please check availability before sending any money.

Gloucestershire

An attractive leaflet describing two new circular walks – the **Beechenhurst Trail** (7 miles) and the **Highmeadow Trail** (10 miles) is available for 60p + 30p p&p from RA Gloucestershire Area, Mail Order Secretary, Tudor Cottage, Berrow, Malvern WR13 6JJ. Much of the latter walk is in the area of the Wye Valley Gorge and there is a spur route to Redbrook where it can link up with the **Wye Valley Walk**.

The **Cotswold Way** is currently being brought up to National Trail standard under a 5-year plan. The launch, however, is not expected to take place before Spring 2005.

Gloucestershire County Council are improving the accessibility along the **Thames Path** in the Lechlade area by replacing some of the stiles with gates. Similar work is being undertaken on parts of the **Offa's Dyke Path** within the county.

Great North Forest (South Tyneside)

A booklet 'Walks 4 all Seasons', produced by South Tyneside MBC, describes four walks in the Great North Forest area of South Tyneside. The four walks, although individually short by LDWA standards, can be linked to form a walk of about 20 miles. The four walks are: the **River Don Walk** – a 6ml route along the banks of the River Don from the River Tyne to West Boldon; the **Linnet Way** - 5mls from Brockley Whins station (links with the River Don Walk) to the coast at Marsden, where it links with both the **Coastal Walk** – 7mls northwards along the coast to the River Tyne – and the **Marsden Circular Walk** – 7mls south along the sea cliffs and over the Cleadon Hills. The booklet is available, free, from South Tyneside MBC, Rights of Way Office, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2RL. (tel: 0191 424 7422/7423).

Greater London

In central London the **Jubilee Walkway** provides a 14-mile circuit on foot linking many sites of historical and cultural interest. Originally developed for the Queen's Silver Jubilee it has been improved and refurbished to mark her Golden Jubilee. A new large-scale leaflet/map has been produced to relaunch the route and is waiting a reprint (available from Ramblers Association HQ – Free + 50p p&p). Route details, downloadable maps, and sources where one can pick up the leaflet, including some London TICs, are listed on the website at <http://www.jubileewalkway.com/>. The Walkway links with the **Thames Path National Trail**. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

A good deal of information on walking routes in London can now be accessed on the Internet via the website of Transport for London (TfL), <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/streets/walking/walkfinder.shtml>, who have licensed use of data from the London: Definitive Walking Guide, Colin Saunders' recent directory featured in Strider in December 2002.

Greater London/Surrey/Sussex

The Vanguard's Rambling Club has published free updates to its official guidebook to the **Vanguard Way**, a waymarked 66-mile walkers' trail leading from Croydon to the Sussex Coast. There are two sections – one covering public transport changes and the other route description details and facilities. A new, colourful, redesigned badge costs £2.50 including p&p. The guidebook (£3.40 including p+p), the updates (SAE only needed) and the badges are available from Vanguard's Rambling Club, c/o 109 Selsdon Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 8JJ. The updates can also be obtained by email from: colinsaund@aol.com.

Greater Manchester/Lancs

Further sculptures have now been added to the **Irwell Valley Sculpture Trail**. However the Folder/Leaflets have not yet been updated by Rossendale Borough Council to include the new additions.

Hampshire

The start of the waymarked **Test Way** has moved to Eling Wharf, extending the route by 1½-miles from south of Totton, its original start, to the edge of Southampton Water. The route additions are being posted on the Hampshire County Council website, www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/walking, and a new leaflet (A4/3, free with SAE) will be available from Hampshire County Council, Rights of Way Section, Arts, Countryside and Community Dept, Mottisfont Court, High Street, WINCHESTER, Hants, SO23 8ZF, tel: 01962 846045. The Way follows the Test River valley for some 48 miles and finishes at Inkpen Beacon.

Herefordshire

The **Herefordshire Trail** is a new c150-miles route being developed by Herefordshire Ramblers groups. It visits many of the market towns of the county including Bromyard, Ledbury, Ross, Kington and Leintwardine and Leominster. A traverse of the Golden Valley is also included. A guide is being prepared and should be available next year (2004). Further details will be in the April (2004) Strider.

Kent/Surrey

Harvey Maps now cover the whole of the **North Downs Way National Trail**, with a North Downs Way (East) stripmap added to their West sectional map, both widely available and priced at £8.95 (+ 80p p&p if ordering direct). Harvey Maps are at 12-22 Main Street, DOUNE, Perthshire, FK16 6BJ, tel: 01786 841202, email sales@harveymaps.co.uk, or visit www.harveymaps.co.uk. The Trail celebrated its 25th Anniversary in September 2003.

A booklet with accommodation listings and transport details for the **North Downs Way** can be obtained from the Trail Manager's office. Similar information on route facilities can be found on the route's website by following the links from www.nationaltrail.co.uk, the new 'front-end' entry site for all the National Trails. This booklet effectively replaces the 'Practical Handbook' listed for the Trail in the Long Distance Walkers' Handbook. The Trail Manager is at the Strategic Planning Department, Kent County Council, Invicta House, County Hall, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME14 1XX, tel: 01622 221525.

Lancs / N Yorks

The price of Brian Smailes' paperback guidebook to the **Lancashire Trail** (walk 287 in the LDW Handbook – 7th ed) is now £5.95.

Kevin Petrie, co-author of 'A Walkers Guide to the **Ribble Way**', informs us that his booklet, which had been out of print, is now available again. Kevin also informs us that the route description and map that appears on alternate pages, now matches up. The booklet, which costs £2.20 (+ 9 x 6 SAE) is available from: Kevin Petrie, 2 Tillman Close, Settle, N Yorks BD24 9RA

Pendle Borough Council currently have packs of leaflets available covering walks in the Pendle area, including the Witches Way. The shorter routes vary between 5 to 7 miles and some can be linked up with the 31-mile **Witches Way** to make a longer walk. The pack, which includes the Witches Way, an accommodation guide and 3 circular/linking walks, costs £3.50, can be obtained from Pendle Borough Council, Town Hall, Market Street, Nelson BB9 7LG. Their website is www.pendle.gov.uk.

Lincs / S Yorks

The **Peatlands Way** is a 45-mile circular route developed by the Humberhead Levels Green Tourism Forum. The waymarked (a nightjar on yellow background) Way links the historic settlements of Thorne, Crowle, Belton, Epworth, Haxey, Wroot, Kirk Bramwith and Sykehouse. It also crosses the Thorne and Hatfield Moors, where a map and compass is essential. The Way also links up with the Trans Pennine Way at Bramwith and Sykehouse on the New Junction Canal. A leaflet (A4/3), produced by the Forum in conjunction with Doncaster MBC and North Lincolnshire Council, provides: a sketch map of the route; a facilities panel; and information about places of interest. OS maps EXP 279, 280 and 291 are required in order to navigate the Way. Although the Way can be started from any of the settlements mentioned above, the recommended starting point is at Delves Fishponds, opposite Thorne North Station. The leaflet carries a **Warning** that because old peat workings and ditches contain deep water, with saturated peat, it is important to keep to the paths; be prepared for midges and mosquitoes in summer and also it is recommended that the Moors are not the place to be in darkness. So plan your walk well. The leaflet can be obtained from TICs in the N E Lincs and S Yorks areas or direct from Thorne Moorends Town Council, Assembly Rooms, Fieldside, Thorne, Doncaster DN8 4AE.

London

The ISBN of the Aurum guidebook – '**The Capital Ring**' by Colin Saunders is: 1854108948 and not 1854108940 as reported in the April 03 *Strider*. This was due to the fact that when the pre-publication Press Release was produced it showed the last number of the ISBN as being '0' but when the book was published the last number had changed to an '8'. This can sometimes happen.

Northamptonshire

Ten Foot Walking Club, originators of the **Northamptonshire Round**, are planning to extend the route by adding a series of circular walks. Watch out for further details.

Northumberland

The latest in Mark Reid's series of Inn Way routes – the **Inn Way...to Northumberland** – was due to be published in the Autumn. No details were available at the time of writing but the route is expected to take in the Cheviots, the Northumberland Coast, Simonside Hills and Hadrian's Wall country. Towns to visit include Rothbury, Bellingham and Wooler. The guidebook (ISBN: 1902001087) will retail at a cost of £7.95. Further details can be obtained from the Inn Way website at: www.innway.co.uk.

Nottinghamshire

Following up a letter I had received informing me that a booklet covering the **Trent Valley Way** had been seen in some Nottingham shops I spoke to Nottinghamshire County Council to determine the current position. I was informed that this is an old publication, currently out of print. The good news, however, is that the council are undertaking a full survey of the Trent Valley Way and a reprint/update

of the guidebook will be considered. This is not envisaged to be available until the end of 2004. In the meantime the Trent Valley Way will continue to be shown on OS mapping.

Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council are currently carrying out a survey supporting, or otherwise, the proposal for a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Thames at Bablock Hythe. This would have the benefit of linking the Thames Path with other local footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes on the other side of the River.

Somerset/Devon

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Samaritans in 2004, the 100-mile **Bristol to Lynton Walk** (No. 54 in the LDW Handbook) has been renamed and will now be known as the '**Samaritans Way South West**'. The route has been waymarked with a Green Apple logo as far as Goathurst. The route has been waymarked with a Green Apple logo as far as Goathurst only as permission to waymark on the Quantocks and Exmoor has been denied at this time. Ordnance Survey (OS) have confirmed that the path will be shown on future editions of both Landranger and Explorer mapping. An inaugural/re-launch (sponsored) walk is scheduled to take place on 21 April 2004 to raise funds for both the Samaritans and the Ramblers Association.

The walk starts at the Clifton Suspension Bridge and will take in the Chew Valley, the Mendip Hills, Cheddar, the Somerset Levels, Glastonbury, the Polden Hills, Quantock Hills, Exmoor National Park, Doone Valley, thence on to the finish at Lynton. If you are still feeling fit there is an option to continue along the Coast Path to Croyde, adding another 30 miles.

The route was devised by Graham Hoyle, a Bristol Rambler, and the profits from the sale of his book **Samaritan Way South West – A Walk from Bristol to Lynton**, ISBN: 0953776700. £5.45 (inc p&p) goes to the Samaritans in recognition of their support for farmers in distress. To obtain the book by post send a cheque or postal order, payable to the 'Samaritans Way S W', P O Box 106, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1YP.

Suffolk

Le Grand Tour of Bures – This 19 mile route around Bures was mentioned in *Strider* last year. The route is made up by linking the outermost sections of six shorter, circular, walks, each of which starts at Bures Railway Station. The A5, ring bound, booklet: 'Circular Walks Around Bures' by Stewart Malcolm contains directions for all 7 walks, however the sketch maps only cover the six circular routes. The booklet (£2.00 + 42p p&p) is available from Stewart Malcolm, 16 Station Hill, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5DD. Cheques to be made payable to Bures Project Association.

West Midlands

Earlier this year the Ramblers Association produced the second of their Regional Guides (RGN 2) entitled 'Walking in the West Midlands Region'. It is a 20pp guide to walking opportunities in the Black Country, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. All the long distance routes mentioned appear in our LDW Handbook in more detail, however, these guides do complement the Handbook in that it (i) lists the telephone numbers of TIC's; (ii) gives details of other walking opportunities (shorter walks) and (iii) gives brief details of National Parks, AONB's, forests and woodlands etc, that exist in the respective areas. It is intended that this series will eventually cover England, Scotland and Wales. The booklets are available from TIC's in the respective areas or from the Ramblers' Association, 2nd Floor, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW.

Worcestershire

St Kenelms Way is a 60-mile route, developed by John Price, which runs through Worcestershire from the tiny, sandstone, church of St Kenelm in the Clent Hills to Winchcombe in the Cotswolds. Many places associated with this 9th century saint are visited including an ancient church at Upton Snodbury, and the ford on the River Avon at Jubilee Bridge. The route is partly coincident with sections of the North Worcestershire Path, the Wychavon Way, and the Worcester and Birmingham canal at Tardebigge. A short history of St Kenelm and a detailed route description is only available on the Internet at: <http://www.pricejb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/Kenelm/StK1.htm>.

Worcestershire County Council produce a directory of guide books and leaflets relating to Walking, Cycling & Riding in Worcestershire, and includes a number of the long distance routes that pass

through the county. The entry for the **Worcestershire Way** (page 62) indicates that the route is currently being revised to cater for public transport access and tourism. Running from Bewdley, on the River Severn, to Great Malvern, the route will include a section on the Malvern Hills. A new updated guidebook should be available by Summer 2004. Further details, plus a copy of the Directory can be obtained from: Worcestershire C. C, Countryside Services, P.O. Box 373, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2XG. It is intended that the rejected northern section of the Worcestershire Way will become part of an extended **North Worcestershire Way**

Yorkshire

The **Abbey Trail** is a new long distance walk that runs from Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds to Whitby. The 116-mile route from Leeds works its way northwards to Thirsk via Otley, Pateley Bridge and Ripon. It then works its way to Helmsley, where it follows the Cleveland Way to Rosedale, thence on to Grosmont and Whitby. (See 'Footprint' - Book Reviews).

For those who enjoy investigating shorter walks that have links with a major long distance route, I have been informed of the following two in the Yorkshire area. The **Dacre Walls Walk** is a 5-mile route that links with the **Nidderdale Way** (at Monk Ing Road – GR 183614); and the 6 ½ mile **Crackpots Mosaic Trail** which links with the **Ripon Rowell** walk (at Carlesmoor – GR 194735). Leaflets for both walks are available from Harrogate TIC for 20p and 45p respectively (+ SAE).

The **Harrogate & Knaresborough Heritage Walk**, a 22ml route that uses field paths, old railway lines, riverside, woods and tracks in and around both towns. The route starts, and finishes, at Pannal railway station (GR SE307514), which is also the starting point of the Harrogate Ringway. Map required is either LR 104 or EXP 289. Michael Best and Victor Lockie (Nidderdale Group) designed the route in June 2001, but were restricted at that time too much road walking, due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic. Since then 95% of the route has reverted to open fields and tracks and in January 2002 the original route formed the basis of a social walk which Michael led for the Nidderdale Group. An A4 size route description (+ other leaflets) is available from Michael Best, 9 Cavendish Street, Harrogate, N Yorks HG1 4NT if a 10 x 6 SAE is sent or, alternately, the route description (only) can be obtained via e-mail at mikebest@tiscali.co.uk. A badge and certificate is also available at a cost of £2.00 (+ A4 SAE).

The **Hebden Bridge Heritage Trek** was updated and re-launched during 2003. The 10pp booklet produced and published by Mountain Dawn Publications, 10 Beaufort Grove, Bradford, BD2 4LJ, has also been updated. The Heritage Trek, together with its companion walk – **The Manorlands Meander** (this 12pp guide has also been updated) –, form a South Pennines Twin Challenge. Both guides are available from M D Publications at £2.00 each (+ 35p p&p). Cheques should be made payable to W A Wimbush. The proceeds are donated to charity. Badges and certificates are also available.

The 89-mile **Inn Way. to the North Yorks Moors** route has now been signposted.

The third edition of the **Sheffield Country Walk** guide is now available. The 53-mile route guide, divided into ten sections all on separate colour route cards, comes in an attractive folder. It can be obtained for £3.95 + 55p p&p from the Ramblers' Association Sheffield Group, 33 Durvale Court, Sheffield S17 3PT.

A leaflet – 'Explore Nidderdale' – is available (Free + 42p p&p) from the Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group (01423 712950). The leaflet contains bus timetables, notes on places to visit and walks suggestions.

SCOTLAND

Scottish Borders Tourist Borders produce a booklet that contains information about the area, some long distance path information, 30 short walks and an order form for various walking publications. The booklet, entitled 'Walking the Scottish Borders, is available from the Scottish Borders Tourist Board, Freepost GL15, Selkirk TD7 0FD (tel: 0870 608 0404).

Liz Hanna, the great, great granddaughter of John Muir, officially opened Scotland's second national park, the Cairngorms National Park, on 1st September 2003. Whilst on the subject of National Parks it is reported that Kate Ashbrook, already well known for her leadership activities with the Open Spaces Society, the Ramblers Association and the Dartmoor Preservation Trust, has been elected as Chairman of the Council For National Parks for England and Wales.

A leaflet for another section of the **Borders Abbeys Way** (Hawick – Selkirk) is now available. The leaflet (Free – if a 9 x 6 SAE is sent) is available from Jedburgh Tourist Information Centre, Murrays Green, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire TD8 6BE.

Fife Coastal Path – A leaflet: ‘Fife Coastal Path – From the Forth to the Tay’, not mentioned in the current LDW Handbook, is available from Kingdom of Fife TIC’s. The leaflet, which contains a map of the route plus additional information, is Free if a 9 x 4 SAE is sent. There is a web site at www.fifecoastalpath.com or you can ring the Coastal Path Information Desk on 01592 414300.

WALES

If you are interested in walking in Wales a booklet well worth having is the Welsh Tourist Board’s publication ‘**Walking Wales**’. It contains details about all the long distance paths in the Principality as well as numerous short walks. Probably its greatest value is in the comprehensive ‘Gazetteer of Publications on Walking in Wales’ that it contains; along with two pages of Tourist Information Centre addresses. The publication is available from: Walking Wales, Marketing Division, Wales Tourist Board, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff CF24 0UY

Initial information has been received about an 18ml route (**Four Valleys Path**) that runs between Penygroes and Bethesda (Gwynedd). Leaflets were available at Caernarfon TIC but they are currently out of stock. It is possible that Gwynedd C.C. may have produced these. Confirmation, and further details, to follow,

Revised strip maps were issued earlier this year for the **Offa’s Dyke Path National Trail**. All 19 maps in the set have been revised and take account of realignments of the route that have taken place since the first set of maps were issued. The set of maps are available by mail order from the Offa’s Dyke Centre at £5.00 + £1.00 p&p. With regards to the entry in the LDW Handbook (7th ed) all details remain as is except for the date, which now reads 2003.

Carwyn Jones AM, the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, officially opened the 48-mile **Usk Valley Walk** on 24th September 2003. Running from Caerleon to Brecon this is a revamp of the Usk Valley Way that is shown in the LDW Handbook. The route is waymarked with arrows and a special otter logo. Coincidental with the opening was the launch of an official route guide that includes 72 pages of colourful photographs, maps, background notes on features of interest in addition to the route description. Future plans include an extension of the route from Brecon, across the Brecon Beacons National Park, to Llandovery. For more information about the walk or the guidebook please contact Gordon Hill, Chief Countryside Warden, Monmouthshire County Council (tel 01633 644858).

A new 60-mile walk along **Wat’s Dyke**, between Holywell, Clwyd and the Shropshire/Welsh border is currently under development. For those who have access to the Internet you can check the progress by visiting their website at www.watsdyke.co.uk and linking through to the Ramblers section, or via Sue Tierney, Flintshire County Council (01352 702133). Information can also be obtained from the Wat’s Dyke Association (01352 715723).

In the August edition of Strider I mentioned that the 2nd edition of the **Wye Valley Walk** was now available. One item of information omitted from that item was that the fact that the final section of the route – Plynlimon to Rhayader (24 miles) – has now been officially opened.

Please continue to send in any snippets of news relating to LDP News to the appropriate LDP Team Member. If you are unsure who that is please send your information to: Les Maple, 21 Upcroft, Windsor, Berks, SL4 3NH (e-mail: les.maple@ukgateway.net) or to Paul Lawrence (address details on page 1 of Strider).

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2003 – AUGUST

News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS & CHALLENGE WALKS edited by LES Maple

The following two guidebooks have been published by Cicerone Press and are now available in bookshops or direct from Cicerone:

‘The Greater Ridgeway – from Lyme Regis to Hunstanton’ by Ray Quinlan – paperback, 256pp with full colour and OS mapping, 172 x 116, ISBN: 1 85284 346 2, price £12.95. The full Ridgeway incorporates the four established long distance footpaths: the Wessex Ridgeway, the Ridgeway N T, the Icknield Way and the Peddars Way N T, which at 363 miles makes it one of the longest single inland paths.

‘The Pennine Way – from Edale to Kirk Yetholme’ (2nd edition) by Martin Collins – paperback, 160pp with full colour and OS mapping, 172 x 116, ISBN: 1 85284 386 1, £10.00. Very little in the way of an introduction is needed for this classic walk.

Francis Lincoln Publishers have now taken over the publication of the A W Wainwright books, previously published by Micheal Joseph. Wainwright’s **‘A Coast to Coast Walk’** (ISBN: 0711222363 - price £11.99) was due out in June. The Lakeland Fells series of books are also available.

Badges, as well as certificates, are now available for each guidebook section of the **Monarch’s Way** (i.e. Worcester to Stratford on Avon; Stratford on Avon to Charmouth, and Charmouth to Shoreham. The certificates are ‘Free’ – if a 9 x 6 SAE is sent. The badges cost £3.95 (incl p&p). Cheques should be made payable to Trevor Anthill and sent to him at 15 Alison Road, Lapal, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 0AT

In September 2003 the **North Downs Way** will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. The 153-mile National Trail runs from Farnham to Dover. The National Trail office is considering holding a service on the Wye Downs, in Kent, where the Archbishop of Canterbury officially opened the route in 1978.

Accommodation listings for the **North Downs Way** can be found on the route’s website by following the links from www.nationaltrails.gov.uk and selecting the ‘Facilities’ tab, where services information is arranged by location. A booklet with this information is planned for later in 2003 by the Trail Manager’s office. Similar web-based and searchable information on the **Thames Path** and **Ridgeway** is accessible from the same main website.

ENGLAND

Berkshire, Wiltshire and Somerset:

The **Kennet and Avon Walk** guidebook by Ray Quinlan published by Cicerone Press is not being revised and is going out of print, though stockists may still have a few copies. Other publications for this Walk are listed in the recent LDW Handbook.

Cheshire:

Bollin Valley Way: This route is currently being re-vamped. Due to the construction of the 2nd runway at Manchester Airport there will be some detours in this area. An updated leaflet, which will include the agreed route in the Airport area, is scheduled for the autumn.

Cheshire Ways: The Baker Way has now been extended to start at Chester Station and end at Delamere station, or vice versa, linking respectively with the Marches Way and the Sandstone Trail. It is now 13 miles/21km and a leaflet can be obtained from PROW Unit, Goldsmith House, Hamilton Place, Chester CH1 1SE. (9x6 SAE) <http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside/walking/index.html> is a useful web site with walking and PROW information.

Chilterns:

The **Chequers Challenge** is a new 'Anytime' Challenge Walk devised by Adrian Moody (BBN Group). The 21-mile route in the Chiltern Hills starts and finishes at the Main (free) car park in Tring High Street –GR SU925115, Map: Exp 181 or LR165). (**Note:** the car park is not available on Fridays as it is market day). The route takes in the Chequers Estate, a section of the Ridgeway, Wendover Woods, the County Tops of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, a Marilyn and the spiritual 'birthplace' of Aston Martin cars. A route description (9 x 4 SAE req) is available from Adrian Moody, 2 Poplar Close, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1XW. A badge and certificate (cost £2.50 + A4 size SAE) is also available from the same source. Cheques payable to: A P R Moody.

For those ordering Nick Moon's guidebook '**The Chiltern Way**' direct from the Chiltern Society Mail Order Bookshop, Norman Joyce, 20 The Ridgeway, WATFORD, Herts, WD17 4TN, please note that the p&p charge is now £1.35 (up from 85p).

Derbyshire

At last, Derbyshire has an official long distance walk and one that the county can justifiably be proud of. In December 2001, the Derwent Valley between Matlock Bath and Derby was granted World Heritage Site status due to its importance as the birthplace of the water powered factory system for textile manufacture – a milestone in the industrial revolution. The Derwent Valley Charitable Trust was set up seven years ago to promote the valley in a sustainable way and to develop a "National Heritage Corridor". By far the most effective way of taking in the area's natural beauty and rich heritage is by walking, thus Derbyshire C.C Countryside Ranger, Rick Jillings, has devised the 55 ml waymarked **Derwent Valley Heritage Way**.

The walk starts at Heatherdene on the banks of Ladybower Reservoir and follows the River Derwent through the Peak District National Park via Chatsworth and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site until the Derwent joins the River Trent near Shardlow. The Duke of Devonshire officially opened the walk, at Chatsworth House, in April. A comprehensive leaflet, which includes a coloured map of the route, is available from TICs at Bakewell, Matlock, Matlock Bath, Derby, Ripley and Buxton. Further information is available on www.nationalheritagecorridor.org.uk. A guidebook, published by Jarrold, is due out in October.

Another new walk in the area is the **Kinder Killer**. Devised by Ken Jones, the grand tour involves 9,000 ft of ascent in its circumnavigation of the 'Jewel of the Peak!' Its 33 ml route encompasses some of the finest and best that the mountain has to offer, including its trigs, stones and the Downfall. To receive a copy of the booklet (Free), send an A5 (9 x 5) SAE to: Ken Jones, Longview, 163 Long Line, Sheffield S11 7TX. If sending for a number of Ken's booklets simultaneously a small contribution towards costs would be appreciated.

Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire

We have been reliably informed that it is not possible to cross the Trent and Mersey Canal at Trent Lock (GR 490311) on the **Leicester Line Canal Walk**, as indicated in the LDW Handbook (7th ed). To get around this problem involves a long detour: leave the Grand Union Canal at Ratcliffe Lock (GR 491290); follow the road, west - north west, to Sawley Bridge (GR 471309); cross the Trent here and then follow the path (east) along the north bank of the River Trent to reach Trent Lock, to join the towpath of the Erewash Canal.

Greater London and Hertfordshire:

A further stretch of the 24-part, 144-mile **London Loop** now has a free leaflet available. This is Section 15 that runs from Hatch End to Elstree stations (10 ml), crossing several times into Hertfordshire where signing is not yet complete. Sources include Harrow LB, PO Box 57, Civic Centre, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2XF, tel: 020 8424 1102 and the Ramblers' Association London office, who have been supplying leaflets on behalf of the LWF for sections 1-8, 11 and 15-18, and their website, www.ramblers.org.uk, also provides an ordering service. This Loop section crosses the course of Watling Street, originally a sort of Roman M1, and is mostly within the designated area of the Watling Chase Community Forest. For a longer walk, it could be combined with the new Watling Chase Timberland Trail that also starts at Elstree station and crosses the heart of the Community Forest's area, going 10.5 miles northwards to Smallford, from where the Alban Way, which is also a cycle way, follows a disused railway to provide a link to St Albans and trains to Hatch End. The free Trail leaflet can be obtained from Countryside Management Service, Barnet Countryside Centre, Byng Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 4NP, tel: 020 8447 5466. Both leaflets are A4/3 size when folded.

Jersey:

The **Jersey Round Island Walk** is a 48 ml / 77km walk around the island, using cliff paths, sloping sandy bays and visiting a number of well known villages, fishing ports and castles. Details can be obtained from: Jersey Tourism, Liberation Square, St Helier, Jersey JE1 1BB (tel: 01534 500700 or on the web at www.jersey.com).

Kent

Trail videos as a medium provide a supplement to the usual paper publications and are increasingly becoming available. Promo-Video Productions offer three such following routes that include different aspects of the landscapes of the Weald in Kent and Sussex, with each providing a relaxing and pleasant memory of a walk completed or a foretaste of the scenery and points of interest in store. Videos for the **High Weald Landscape Trail** (53 minutes) and the **Wealdway** (36 minutes) add to that for the **Tunbridge Wells Circular** (35 minutes, the route was formerly called the **High Weald Walk**) previously mentioned in Strider No 91. Each video is priced at £12.50 (+ £1.00 p&p) and can be obtained direct from Promo-Video, PO Box 138, East Grinstead, RH19 4ZD or from many TIC shops in Kent.

Kent/Essex

The **Thames Estuary Trail** is an 83 ml / 132km route that runs from Foulness Point, on Foulness Island, to Tilbury; it then crosses the ferry running from Gravesend to Warden Point on the Isle of Sheppey. Most of the route can be found on OS map LR 178. A 224pp book, written by Tom King, published by Desert Island Books in 2001, is available, price £7.99. ISBN: 1-874287-45-7. Further details can be found on www.desertislandbooks.com.

Lincolnshire:

Details for the following three walks can be obtained from Grantham TIC or other TICs in the area:

The Gingerbread Way is a 25 ml waymarked walk around Grantham, divided into short sections.

Kesteven 25 is a 25 ml walk following paths links villages across two Lincolnshire districts.

The Jubilee Way is a rural 15 ml waymarked walk between Woolsthorpe by Belvoir and Melton Mowbray. The walk links with the **Viking Way**.

Northamptonshire

The **Northamptonshire Round** is a 51 ml circular route around Northampton. The route, which officially starts at Brixworth Country Park, takes in some of the prettiest villages and countryside around the town. A leaflet, available from Northamptonshire County Council, provides useful information about the walk but only includes directions for specific sections of the route. A full route description can be found on the walk website at www.tenfootclub.org.uk. OS maps EXP 207, 223, 224 are required.

Shropshire

A new Anytime Challenge Walk – “**Applecake Hill**” 20 - has been created by Eric Perks. It is a 20 ml circular (figure of eight) walk starting and finishing at Cleobury Mortimer. The route is over mixed terrain with ascents, descents, woods, villages, valleys, brooks, rivers, and visits six local churches. A route description & map is available by sending a £1.00 cheque (payable to Brinton’s Charity Account) and a SAE to Eric Perks (“Applecake 20”), Selbhome, 10 Cordle Marsh Road, Bewdley, Worcs DY12 1EW. A certificate (50p + large SAE) and a badge (£2.00) will also be available. All profits go to the Local Mencap ‘Gym Club’.

A 25 ml extension of the **Jack Mitton Way**, via Stotteston and Clee Hills to Roman Bank, is being prepared by Shropshire County Council Information is available from the countryside service <http://www.shropshire-cc.gov.uk/countryside> The revised publication will be available from Shropshire Books next spring. <http://www.shropshire-cc.gov.uk/shropbooks> [Site not working 27 11 05.]

Somerset

A publication we appear to have missed for the ‘**West Mendip Way**’ (under Mendip Ways in LDW Handbook ed 7) is the ‘The West Mendip Way’ by Derek Moyes, published by Ex Libris Press in 1999. The soft back book, ISBN: 0948578459, 138 x 215, 112pp, costs £5.95 (post free) and is available from Ex Libris Press, 1 The Shambles, Bradford on Avon, Wilts BA15 1JS (01225 863595). Also available is ‘Cheddar Valley Railway Walk’ (Yatton to Cheddar - 10 miles) – also £5.95.

Staffordshire / West Midlands

The ring binder publication for the 25ml **Beacon Way** is currently unavailable. However, an updated guide is being prepared. See Forest of Mercia Way note below.

The guide for the 20 ml **Forest of Mercia Way** is scheduled to be out in Oct/Nov 2003. The guide will take the form of a set of weatherproof cards and will be added to an existing folder entitled 'Routes and Leaves'. The route cards for the Beacon Way will also be added. The ring binder folder, which contains several short walks, is currently available from The Innovation Centre, Chasewater Country Park, Pool Road, nr Brownhills, Staffordshire WS8 7NL (tel 01543 370737). Price £10 + £2 p&p. The folder will be updated periodically at no extra charge.

A pedestrian tunnel has been constructed under the A50 Dove Bridge bypass. Amendments to the **Staffordshire Way**, at this point, can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre, Stoke-on-Trent. www.stoke.gov.uk/tourism. [Site not working 27 11 05.]

Worcestershire/Warwickshire

The **Millennium Way (Warks)** is a 100 ml route that runs between Pershore (Worcs) and Middleton Cheney (Warks). The walk takes in Stoulton, Inkberrow, Henley in Arden and reaches its most northerly point at Meriden where it turns S/SW through Kenilworth, Leamington Spa, Long Itchington, Chipping Warden and Middleton Cheney. The path connects with the Heart of England Way, Centenary Way, Warwickshire Villages Trail, Macmillan Way, Monarch's Way, Seven Shires Way, Grand Union, Oxford and Stratford Canals plus other routes. Route directions (both east to west and/or west to east) are available on the web at www.walking41club.org. Further information can be obtained from Warwickshire County Council (address in LDW Handbook) or via e-mail: millennium_way@hotmail.com.

Yorkshire:

Lyke Wake Walk – The Lyke Wake Club have increased the cost of their woven badges for the Lyke Wake Walk, Shepherd's Round, Hambleton Hobble, White Rose of Yorkshire and Cleveland Way to £2.00 each (+ SAE).

If ordering the paperback guidebook from the Lyke Wake Club please note that the cost is £3.50 (incl p&p) and not £2.99 +50p p&p as stated in the LDW Handbook (7th edition)

Author Martyn Hanks has two new booklets out covering long distance walks in the Dales, based on Youth Hostels. They are: '**Three Ways Walk**' - a 42 ml route linking Kirkby Stephen, Keld and Hawes YH's, and the '**Three Hostels Three Peaks Walk**' – a 40 ml route, also in the Dales. A third booklet, '**Lakes and Passes of Borrowdale and Buttermere**' is also available. These, along with other Martyn Hanks booklets currently in the LDW Handbook, can be obtained, at £1.95 each, from YHA Northern Region, PO Box 67, Matlock DE4 3YX.

The **Yorkshire Footpath Trust** - the source for a number of long distance guides – has some completion badges available for the following routes: Pennine Way, West Highland Way, Wolds Way, Offa's Dyke, Southern Upland Way, Minster Way, Yoredale Way, Cleveland Way, Calderdale Way, Dales Way, Coast to Coast, and Weardale Way. They are available at £1 each (+ SAE) - cheques made payable to the Yorkshire Footpath Trust – address in LDW Handbook or from website: www.yorkshirefootpathtrust.org.uk.

IRELAND

A new guidebook for the **Wicklow Way**, written by J Megarry and published by Rucksack Readers, is now available. ISBN: 1-898481-14-8, 64pp, 145 x 210, £10.99. Buy online at www.rucksacs.com. A new guide for the **Dingle Way** is scheduled for January 2004.

Following an extensive review of the 585 ml **Ulster Way**, by the Countryside Access and Activities Network for Northern Ireland, it has been announced that the DoE's Environment and Heritage Service would fulfil the coordinating role for the future management of this long distance walking route.

SCOTLAND

Further development has taken place on the **Borders Abbeys Way**. The second section of the route, from Jedburgh to Hawick (13 ml), has been waymarked and it is now fully open. A new A4/3 leaflet, 'Borders Abbeys Way – Jedburgh to Hawick' has been produced and is available from Jedburgh Tourist Information Centre, Murrays Green, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire TD8 6BE. The leaflet is 'Free' if a 9 x 6 SAE is sent.

Cape Wrath Trail – The Peak Publishing Ltd guidebook, *The Cape Wrath Trail* by David Paterson (ISBN: 0952190826) is now out of print. If you want a copy of this book, first produced in 1996, you will have to scour the bookshops. The Cicerone guide *North To The Cape* is still available.

The Cowal Way was officially opened on Saturday 10th May 2003. April 'Strider' erroneously recorded the opening as being on the 6th May. Apologies if you missed the 'opening' due to this error. Other detailed information about the route is correct.

The 73ml '**Great Glen Way**' (Fort William to Inverness) was officially opened last year. In addition to the official guidebook, written by Jacquetta Megarry, another guide written by Brian Smailes is now available. As well as the usual direction detail, all manner of planning information is included. The 55pp '**The Great Glen Way**' guidebook (ISBN 1903568137) is priced at £5.95 and is available post-free direct from Challenge Publications, 7 Earlsmere Drive, Ardsley, Barnsley, S Yorks S71 5HH.

Isle of Arran Coastal Way –The '**Guide to the Coastal Way**' plus the map, both contained in a plastic envelope, cost £7.00, and are available from: Coastal Way Books, Lochranza, Isle of Arran, KA27 8HL. Cheques should be made payable to 'Coastal Way Books'. Further information can be obtained from: Dick Sim, 8 Sheean Drive, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DH, (tel: 01770 302539)

The **Sir Walter Scott Way** is a new 92 ml / 148km long distance walk that runs between Moffat, in South Central Scotland, and Cockburnspath, on the south east coast. It is described as taking in parts of the Southern Upland Way. An initial review of the route indicates that it is coincident with the SUW for most of the way and has been designed so as to add some additional interest to the longer route. You can check it out on the website: www.sirwalterscottway.com. A leaflet showing a sketch map of the route is available from Walking Support, 2 Wembley Terrace, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9QR (tel: 01896 822079 email: info@walkingsupport.co.uk)

A new paperback book '**The Speyside Way – Official Guide**' by Roger Smith is due to be published by Mercat Press in July. ISBN: 1841830461. Further details are awaited. Details for the paperback guidebook: '**Speyside Way**' by Sandy Anton, published by Cicerone, are: 112pp, 115 x 175, £8.00, ISBN: 1852843314.

For those interested in walking in Scotland why not visit www.walkingwild.com. - for inspiration and information.

WALES

The **Clun Valley Walk** is a 34 ml route that follows the River Clun from Leintwardine to Anchor where the source of the river can be found. Described in four easy stages the route visits Clunbury, Clun and Newcastle. A 56pp publication, published by Different Walker Publications, can be obtained from the author, David Milton, 214 Brays Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 2PP, price - £3.15p.

The **Edge of Wales Walk** is a new 47 ml / 76 km coastal walk along the Llyn Peninsula between Clynnog Fawr and Aberdaron. Arrangements can also be made to nip across to Bardsey Island. 90% of the route is along sandy beaches, cliff path and over moorland, with spectacular views on clear days. Explore Tre'r Ceiri hill fort, wish at holy wells and pray in old churches. Visit Nant Gwrtheyrn's Heritage Centre or eat in Aberdaron's Gegin Fawr. A leaflet and further information is available from: Edge of Wales Walk, Taith Ymylon Cymru, 1 Dolfor, Aberdaron, Gwynedd LL53 8BP (tel: 01758 760652), or on the web at <http://www.edgeofwaleswalk.co.uk/>. The Cicerone publication, 'Llyn Peninsula Coastal Path' by John Cantrell, is a useful guide. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

David Milton has also written two guidebooks covering walks in the Knighton, Powys area. The first, **A Knighton, Bleddfa, Knighton Walk** is a two-stage, 25-mile, circular walk from Knighton to Bleddfa and back, taking in the valleys of the Rivers Lugg and Teme. The guidebook, produced by Different Walker Publications in 2002 contains 48pp, including 2 maps and costs £2.60

The second, **A Knighton, Lingen, Presteign, Knighton Walk** is a tree-stage, 27-mile, circular walk from Knighton, taking in Lingen, Presteign, and the valleys of the River Lugg and its tributaries. Also produced by Different Walker Publications in 2002, the guidebook contains 60pp, 3 maps and costs £3.10p

Both the above books are available from bookshops or direct from the author, David Milton, (see Clun Valley Walk for address). If ordering direct please add £1.00 to cover p&p.

The **Offa's Dyke Path** pocket size booklet, '*Where To Stay* – How to get there, and other useful information', 2003 edition is now available from the Offa's Dyke Association, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1EN (tel: 01547 528753, web site: www.offasdyke.demon.co.uk). Price is £4.00 (+ 20% p&p).

Their 2003 Publications & Sales List leaflet is also available. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

The **Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail** celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2003. The whole of the National Trail is now accessible by public transport via a service operated by Pembrokeshire Greenways. Backed by CCW the service started on 12 April and will run until 28 September. Details about this and other National Trails can be obtained from a new website: www.nationaltrail.co.uk.

The 2nd edition of the **Wye Valley Walk Official Guide** is now available. It has 128pp, is A5 spiral bound and contains 42 detailed route maps. It costs £7.95 (+ £1.05) and can be obtained from: Wye Valley AONB Office, Hadnock Road, Monmouth NP25 3NG. A free 26pp Accommodation and Services Guide will be sent with all book orders received. Cheques should be made payable to Herefordshire County Council.

Short Routes having links with Long Distance Paths

Herts:

A leaflet for the **Alban Trail**, a 9 ml walk in the Ver Valley following in the footsteps of St Alban, is available from Hertfordshire CC, or from the Ver Valley Society (tel: 01582 712001). The route runs from London Colney to St Albans and is partly coincident with the Ver-Colne Valley Walk.

Isle of Man:

A folded map and leaflets describing circular walks, with links with the **Isle of Man Coast Path**, are available from the Isle of Man Department of Tourism & Leisure, Tourist Information Centre, Sea Terminal Building, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 2RG. The cost is 75p.

Oxon:

The **Cherwell Valley Walk** is a 14 ml figure of eight route, starting from Heyford Station and visiting Steeple Aston, Middle Aston and North Aston. It is partly coincident, and links, with the Oxford Canal Walk. A leaflet, showing the route, is available from Leisure Services Dept., Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA (tel: 01295 252535 ext 4193) or from libraries and TICs in the area.

Sussex:

A new leaflet for the 9 ml **Forest Way** (Sussex), which has a link with the **Sussex Border Path**, is available from East Sussex County Council (tel: 01273 482670).

West Yorkshire:

The **Silsden Circuit** is a 12 1/2 ml waymarked route having links with the **Millennium Way – Bradford** and the **Burley Bridge Hike**. A leaflet, costing 30p, is available from TIC's in the area.

AD HOC ROUTES (Town walks, Bridle routes etc)

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (West Midlands), who have produced an excellent series of leaflets covering countryside-walking possibilities in the area, have also published a 9" x 6" folded map that includes notes on places of local interest to cover the **Dudley Borough Trail**, a 26 ml circular route (at least 50% on road) within the borough. Information can be obtained from: Kevin Clements, Environmental Management Officer. Tel: 01384 814189, or email: Kevin.clements@dudley.gov.uk

The **Sabrina Way** bridle route (200ml / 320km) and the **Claude Duval** bridle-route (50 ml / 80km - it could be longer) are both available to walkers. The Sabrina Way runs from Hartington (Derbys), where it links with the Pennine Bridleway, to Great Barrington (Gloucs). Here it links up with the Claude Duval route, which runs to Quainton (Bucks), where it links up with the Swan's Way. Leaflets for both routes are available from: The British Horse Society, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth Warwickshire CV8 2XZ. (tel: 08701 202 244). Cost details should be checked with the BHS.

2003 – APRIL

**News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS
& CHALLENGE WALKS**
edited by Les Maple

GENERAL

Aurum Press – The following National Trail Guides were due out in March 2003:

‘**Cleveland Way**’ by Ian Sampson – paperback, 144pp, 210 x 130, £12.99, ISBN: 1 85410 854 9.

‘**Pennine Way South**’ by Tony Hopkins – paperback, 144pp, 210 x 130, £12.99, ISBN: 1 85410 851 4.

Aurum Press are at 25 Bedford Avenue, London WC1B 3AT, email: sales@aurumpress.co.uk or on web site: www.aurumpress.co.uk

Cicerone Press – The following guidebooks were due out in March 2003:

‘**The Coast to Coast Trail**’ by Terry Marsh (2nd edition) – paperback, 192pp with colour maps and photographs, 172 x 116, £10.00, ISBN: 1 85284 367 5.

‘**The South West Coast Path**’ by Paddy Dillon (2nd edition) – paperback, 224pp with full colour and OS mapping, 172 x 116, £10.00, ISBN: 1 85284 379 9.

‘**The Pembroke Coast Path**’ by Dennis Kelsall – paperback, 224pp with colour photographs and OS mapping, £10.00, ISBN: 1 85284 378 0

‘**The West Highland Way**’ by Terry Marsh (2nd edition) – paperback, 160pp with full colour and OS mapping, 172 x 116, £12.00, ISBN: 1 85284 369 1.

‘**Scotland’s Far North**’ by Andy Walmsley (due April 2003) – paperback, 160pp with full colour, 172 x 116, £10.00, ISBN: 1 85284 377 1. (The book contains 62 mountain walks in Scotland’s northwest peninsula. Although they are mainly day walks there are three longer mountain traverses; the Assynt Horseshoe, a Reay traverse, and a long ascent of Cranstackie).

For those living in, or visiting, the Manchester area, **Stanfords** (the map people) have just opened a branch at 41 Spring Gardens, Manchester.

Walkways – John Roberts (Walkways) has informed us of some price changes of some of his books currently listed in the LDW Handbook (7th edition). These are:

‘**The Birmingham & Aberystwyth Walk**’ by John Roberts – is now £7.50 (was £6.95).

‘**The Centenary Way**’ by Geoff Allen & John Roberts – is now £7.50 (was £6.45).

‘**Heart of England Way**’ by John Roberts – is now £7.50 (was £6.95).

‘**North Worcestershire Path & Midland Link**’ by John Roberts – is now £5.95 (was £5.75). The Link is now waymarked and will be shown as a LDP on future editions of OS maps.

All the above prices include p&p and they are available from: Walkways, 67 Cliffe Way, Warwick CV34 5JG.

Walk and Write Ltd – Price changes. All badges for the many challenge walks covered by Walk & Write Ltd now cost £4.00 each. The cost includes a signed certificate and covers p&p. Postage costs for Walk & Write Ltd books have risen from 75p to £1.00 for one book. If ordering more than one book the p&p charges are £1.50 (two books), £2.00 (three books) and £2.50 (four books). If ordering more than four books: please add 50p per additional book.

A change of address for Walk & Write Ltd was recorded in the Dec (2002) ‘Strider’- here it is again: Walk and Write Ltd, Marathon House, Longcliffe, nr Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4HN, telephone/fax: 01629 540991, email: marathonhiker@aol.com.

The annual **Isle of Wight** Walking Festival is scheduled to take place from 10-25 May. In the programme there is bound to be a few long-distance walks (approx 20 mile). For further information log on to www.islandbreaks.co.uk, or call IOW Tourism on 01983 813818

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION – The web site for the MBA is now: www.mountainbothies.org.uk. This supersedes the address that was shown in the August 2002 edition of ‘Strider’, which was incorrect.

PENNINE BRIDLEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL - This National Trail is designed specifically for horse riders, cyclists and walkers. It is planned to run between the High Peak Trail in Derbyshire and Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria, a distance of 206 miles (330km). It is due to be fully open in 2004. The **Mary Towneley Loop**, the first section of the Trail opened in 2002. A pocket size A5 leaflet that folds out to A3 size provides a map and Services Guide for the 42 ml/68km Loop. The leaflet is available (Free) from the Pennine Bridleway Team, Countryside Agency, 7th Floor, Bridgewater House, Whitworth Street, Manchester M1 6LT (tel: 0161 237 1061). I believe that a booklet should be available shortly – details to follow. The route is also shown on the 2002 edition of the South Pennines Explorer Map OL21.

MIDLANDS

Derbyshire

A guidebook for the **Bonnie Prince Charlie Walk** now exists, courtesy of John Merrill (Walk & Write Ltd). The route extends that shown in the LDW Handbook (7th ed) by 7 miles, making the new distance 25 miles. Starting at Ashbourne the route goes via Shirley, Lees, Mackworth, Derby and finishes at Swarkestone Bridge. A new 40pp guidebook – *Bonnie Prince Charlie* – in the ‘Famous Derbyshire People’ series has been produced and is available from Walk & Write Ltd. ISBN: 1-903627-34-6, price £4.50 (incl p&p). In addition to providing route descriptions and sketch maps, John also provides a short history of Bonnie Prince Charlie’s exploits in Derbyshire.

Lincolnshire

One of the latest offerings from John Merrill, in his excellent challenge walk series, is the **Lincolnshire Wolds ‘Black Death’ Walk**. 26 miles in length, the circular walk is described, in a guidebook, starting from St James Church, Louth (which has the highest church spire in England). It takes in several medieval village sites ravaged by the Black Death plague in the 14th century. The whole walk is covered by 1:25000 Explorer series map: 282 (Lincolnshire Wolds North – Louth and Market Rasen). The walk is designed either to be completed in a day or over a weekend and those successful in doing so may obtain a badge and certificate by sending £4.00 (incs p&p) to Walk and Write Ltd, Marathon House, Longcliffe, nr Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4HN. The guidebook (ISBN: 1-903627-19-2. 40pp) can be purchased from the same address at a price of £4.25 (+ £1.00 p&p). It is also available in a wide range of bookshops that stock the John Merrill walk and historical guides.

Peak District:

The rather strange title of the **Happy Hiker Challenge Walk** is that it is a companion to John Merrill’s first ever White Peak Challenge Walk, devised some 20 years ago. This second White Peak Challenge Walk is 26 miles in length, circular and is described in a guidebook, written by John Merrill. The walk starts from the village of Over Haddon, near Bakewell, and explores the quieter side of the White Peak, taking in the villages of Flagg, Earl Sterndale, Longnor and Pilsbury. The route involves over 2,000 feet of ascent and looks a mouth-watering prospect. The whole walk is covered by OS map EXP OL24 (The Peak District – White Peak Area. The guidebook (ISBN: 1-903627-29-X. 44pp) can be purchased from Walk & Write Ltd, Marathon House, Longcliffe, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4HN at a price of £4.50 (+ £1.00 p&p). Designed to be completed- either in a day, or over a weekend, with a stay at Longnor. Those who are successful may claim a badge and certificate by sending £4.00 (incs p&p) to Walk & Write Ltd.

Staffordshire–Shropshire-Worcestershire-Gloucestershire

The North Cotswold Group of the Ramblers Association has published a new edition of the guidebook, for the 60-mile **North Cotswold Diamond Way** circular walk. Written by Elizabeth Bell, this second edition, subtitled as 30 sparkling walks, was published in Nov 2001. The book describes the Way in a series of 30 short circular walks. The route, which starts/finishes at Moreton-in-the-Marsh, uses less

frequented footpaths and passes through many small villages. It was devised in 1995 to celebrate the R A Diamond Jubilee. This latest guide contains 100 pages, is spiral bound, and costs £5.95 (+ 70p p&p) and is available from: Geoff Smithdale, Tudor Cottage, Berrow, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6JJ.

Warwickshire

The **Avon Valley Walk** (listed in the LDW Handbook (7th ed) under Heart of England Way) is a walk of 9 miles (not 30 miles as stated in HB7). It follows the left bank of the River Avon from Stratford-upon-Avon to Marcliff, a short distance beyond Bidford-on-Avon. The route is shown on OS Explorer map 205 as the Avon Valley Footpath and is waymarked with AV astride a river symbol. It is a pleasant walk and one can return to Stratford via the Heart of England Way and the Stratford Greenway, a 5-mile dismantled railway now surfaced for walking and cycling. Leaflets for the AVW could be in short supply; however the LDP team do have a copy (dated 2000).

NORTHERN ENGLAND

One of the omissions from the LDW Handbook (7th ed), which would have been listed under the **Coast to Coast** publications, was a guidebook by David Maughan entitled: *On Foot From Coast to Coast – The North of England Way*. The reason for its omission was due to the fact that the book is currently out of print. However, the author, David Maughan, informs us that he has copies of the book available. So if you are interested in a coast-to-coast walk from Ravenglass to Scarborough, the above guidebook (ISBN 0718141512, 178pp) can be obtained from David Maughan, 21 Hunters Close, Dunnington, York YO19 5QH (tel: 01904 488455 email: djm12@york.ac.uk). The price is £6.00, which includes p&p.

The eagerly awaited opening of **Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail** will take place on 23rd May 2003. The 84-mile Trail runs from Segedunum Roman Fort, Wallsend, Newcastle-upon-Tyne to The Banks, Bowness-on-Solway, west of Carlisle. Brian Smith will represent the LDWA, at the opening. The opening will be followed by a series of events over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. For information about visitor attractions, events and activities please contact Hilary Norton at the Hadrian's Wall Tourism Partnership, tel 01434 602505 or on e-mail at info@hadrians-wall.org. There is also a website at www.hadrians-wall.org.

The guidebook 'Hadrian's Wall Path' written by Anthony Burton and published by Aurum Press is due out in March. The paperback book, 210 x 130, contains 144pp and costs £12.99. The ISBN is: 1 85410 893X

Lancashire / Yorkshire

The '**Lancashire Trail**' comprises a series of short walks linked together to form a 70 miles long route between St Helens and Thornton in Craven. Created in 1980 by Arnold Richmond with assistance from members of the St Helens & District CHA and HF Rambling Club, the route has stood the test of time and a new fully updated guide is now available. With cooperation from Arnold, Brian Smailes of Challenge Publications has published the new guide, which additionally includes planning advice and other useful information. The route itself takes a line passing Billinge Hall, Horwich, Whalley and Barley to Thornton in Craven with links from Wigan, Bolton, Burnley and Sawley also described. There are connections with the Ribble Way at Sawley and the Pennine Way at Thornton. An updated 56pp guidebook for The Lancashire Trail (ISBN1903568102) is available from Challenge Publications at 7 Earlsmeare Drive, Ardsley, Barnsley S71 5HH for £5.95 (incs p&p).

North Yorks / Cumbria

The **Wadsworth Millennium Walk** is a new Anytime Challenge Walk that includes hills, dales, woods and open moorland to the north and west of Hebden Bridge. Taking in some of the spectacular scenery in the South Pennines, the 21-mile walk follows as near to the Wadsworth Parish boundary as existing footpaths permit. The walk directions are divided into three separate 7-mile sections, with an official starting point at Hebden Bridge. An A4/6 leaflet, containing the route directions and sketch maps is available (Free – with SAE) from the convenor. For those successfully completing the route a badge and certificate, costing £3.00, can be obtained from the convenor: Dave Bell, 7 Duck Hill, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8RD, (tel: 01422 842597). Part of the cost will be donated to charity. This same walk will also take the form of an annual event and will appear in the Calendar of Events in Strider. This usually takes place in September.

SOUTHERN ENGLAND

Beds/Herts

Walkers on the **John Bunyan Trail** should note that there is a diversion after crossing the railway bridge at Oakley, due to the construction of the Clapham by-pass.

On the **North Beds Heritage Trail**, a new footbridge, over the busy A1, has been erected at Tempsford. Good news not to have to dodge in between the traffic any more.

Leaflets for both the above trails are available from: Gordon Edwards, 10 Howard Close, Haynes, Bedford MK45 3QH.

Bucks

The **Bernwood Jubilee Trail** is a new 61-mile walk in the west of Buckinghamshire. It goes from Buckingham, south to the north of Thame and on to Shabbington before returning north via Brill and Marsh Gibbon. This is surprisingly rural country, flat and agricultural in the north and attractively hilly around Brill. Not, perhaps, ideal walking in soft winter conditions but splendid in dry weather. The Lord Lieutenant, Sir Nigel Mobbs, opened the Trail at Brill on 25th October 2002. President, Sir John Johnson, represented the LDWA at the opening.

The theme of the Trail is historical and has been well researched and presented by Bucks County Council. It celebrates the medieval Forest of Bernwood, an ancient hunting forest from the time of Edward the Confessor up to the reign of Henry III. A memorial stone was unveiled near the site of Edward's royal manor at Brill.

Bucks County Council has produced an excellent ring-bound guidebook with the aim of increasing the enjoyment and understanding of the county's historical heritage. The one disappointment is that the guidebook, '**Bernwood Jubilee Way**', written by Mark Bailey, although excellent in what it provides, ten short, separate, sections of the route, it does not describe the whole route. This is covered by a map, attached to the inside back cover, which shows the whole route with the ten detailed sections highlighted. Apart from that the guidebook is well worth the cost. The route is covered on OS map LR 161 or on maps, EXP 180, 181 and 192.

The guidebook costs £7.50 (incl p&p) and is available from: Bernwood Jubilee Way Guidebook Sales, Buckinghamshire County Council, Countryside Services, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UY. Cheques payable to 'Buckinghamshire County Council' If you wish to pay by credit card the book can be ordered from: Anne Crag on 01296 382165. It is also available at local Tourist Information Centres and Libraries. Information is also available on-line by visiting the Bernwood Ancient Hunting Forest Project web page at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/>. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

Cambridgeshire/ Norfolk

The Walsingham Way is another new route from the John Merrill 'Walk & Write Ltd' stable. Having a long fascination with Pilgrim routes, John virtually found one on his doorstep and in November 2002 devised (and walked) a route that would take him from Ely (Cambs) to Walsingham (Norfolk) via the Fens to Brandon, Swaffham, and Rougham and to the finish at the Slipper Chapel, Walsingham. OS maps required for the route are: EXP 228, 229, 236, 238 and 251. A 56pp guidebook *The Walsingham Way* has been produced and is available from Walk & Write Ltd, as are the usual badge and certificate. The cost of the book is £4.95 (incl p&p), ISBN: 1-903627-33-8. See item at the beginning of LDP News for the address and for badge & certificate cost.

Chilterns

The dynamic Chiltern Society who work, in partnership with the Chilterns Conservation Board, to promote rural enterprise and walking in the countryside opened another in their series of shorter walks in August 2002. Although only 5 miles long the **Beacon View Walk** has links with the **Grand Union Canal Walk** and the **Ridgeway**. Starting at Wigginton the route heads in a westerly direction to meet up with the Ridgeway; it then turns north east and follows the Ridgeway to Tring before heading south along the Grand Union Canal Walk to Cow Roast Lock, where it turns west to return to Wigginton.

A leaflet, 'Chilterns Country – Beacon View Walk' is available from the Chiltern Society Mail Order Bookshop (address below).

Greater London and Hertfordshire

The new guidebook to the 75-mile **Capital Ring** by Colin Saunders has now been published by Aurum Press and should be in the bookshops. The ISBN is 1-85410-894-0 and the price is £12.99. August Strider will include more information. Aurum also publish the companion guide to the LOOP by David Sharp and Aurum's books can also be obtained by mail order, from Littlehampton Book Services, Mail Order Dept, Faraday Close, Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 3RB; please first call check the small p&p cost by calling 01903 828503 or emailing mailorder@lbsltd.co.uk

Isle of Wight

The current ISBN for Challenge Publications' guidebook '**The Complete Isle of Wight Coastal Footpath**' is: 0-9526900-6-3. Please note that this is an update to that shown in the LDW Handbook (7th edition). The price remains at £3.75.

Challenge Publications have also produced a new guidebook relating to the I.O.W. It is called: '**Isle of Wight, North to South, East to West**'. It covers two picturesque walks across the centre of the island in both directions; i.e. from Bembridge to the Needles, and from Cowes to St Catherine's Lighthouse. ISBN: 1-903568-07-2, cost is £3.75.

See entry for Lancashire Trail for the address of Challenge Publications

Kent, Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex

The **Brighton Way** is a new 56-mile route in Sussex starting from Horley station and ending in Brighton. The illustrated guidebook by Norman Willis is published by Walk and Write, and it includes sketch maps and additional notes by John Merrill. The author developed the route to fulfil his ambition to walk the countryside that he saw on journeys to and from Brighton on the train. The A5-sized, 40 page book is priced at £4.50 (+ £1.00 p&p), the ISBN is 1 903627 23 0 and Walk and Write's new address is given above. A badge is available on completion at £4.00 including p&p – full details are in the book.

The **North Downs Way** has a further, compact, illustrated guidebook available, from well-known author Kev Reynolds, who has also revamped his previous guide to the **South Downs Way**, this time focusing on the Way itself without the previous additional coverage of the Downs Link. Both include sketch maps and the ISBNs are 1 85284 316 0 (North) and 1 85284 324 0 (South) and each is available at £8.00 (+ £1.00 p&p) from Cicerone Press, 2 Police Square, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7PY; tel/fax: 01539 562069/563417; email info@cicerone.demon.co.uk and website www.cicerone.co.uk.

The **North Downs Way** provides part of the E2 European long distance route from Dover as far as Guildford, from where the E2 continues north to the **Thames Path** at Weybridge, going briefly via the **Wey-South Path** and then the 15-mile **River Wey Navigation**. No publication was listed for the Wey Navigation in the recent Long Distance Walkers' Handbook but being a towpath walk it is easy to follow. However, the National Trust, which owns the Navigation, do produce a useful guidebook that includes detailed maps and historical information and it also covers the Godalming Navigation. The River Wey Navigations, priced at £3.00 (+ 41p p&p), can be obtained from the National Trust, River Wey & Godalming Navigations, Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4RR, tel: 01483 531667 By 1816, the Navigations had been extended to link the Thames to the South Coast for military purposes, first via the Wey & Arun Canal - though it soon became obsolete - and then the Arun Navigation and River Arun. Walkers can use parts of the Wey-South Path, marked on OS maps, and then of the Arun Way to reach the sea by this route. Alexius Press, producers of the guide to the 22-mile Arun Way, *Along the Arun* by John Adamson, listed in the Handbook, now have a website, www.alexius.co.uk, where its details can also be found. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

The Sussex coastline between Chichester Harbour and Hastings has lacked a single publication that describes a continuous walking route, though the waymarked **South Downs Way**, **Monarch's Way** and **Vanguard Way** each have short sections on this coast. A new guidebook, *Walking the Coastline of Sussex* by David Bathurst, fills this gap, providing a route of some 138 miles from Emsworth on the Hampshire Border to Broomhill Sands on the Kent border. Written with the 'end-to-end' walker in mind, it includes route details, sketch maps, transport, accommodation and much descriptive information, and illustrations. Though this coastline is extensively developed, it has great variety, with high cliffs, wooded glens, beaches, dunes, marshland, harbours and historic towns. The 120 page, A5 sized book is published by S.B. Publications, 19 Grove Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 1TP, tel:

01323 893498 (fax: 01323 893860); website www.sbpublications.swinternet.co.uk. It is priced at £7.50 (+ £1.00 p&p if ordered direct) and the ISBN is 1 85770 255 7. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

South West England

South West Coast Path – Silver Jubilee

The year 2003 heralds the Silver Jubilee of the South West Coast Path; the 630ml National Trail around the coastline from the shores of Poole Harbour to Minehead in Somerset. Developing this epic walk was a long process, and the last piece of the jigsaw was put in place with the opening of the Somerset & North Devon section in 1978. To celebrate this occasion a series of events and activities have been arranged throughout the year at locations all along the path to raise the profile of the benefits brought to the south west region both to the local population and visitors, national and international. Already many events will have taken place following the launch at the beginning of the year. A striking marker is now in place at South Haven Point at the Dorset end of the path to complement the one unveiled at Minehead in 2001. The wonderful scenery, wildlife and history to be enjoyed are appreciated by the many thousands of walkers who use the path each year, some out for a short stroll others undertaking the epic journey from end to end which takes about eight weeks to complete. The South West Coast Path Association, which was formed nearly thirty years ago to encourage the development and improvement of the path, as part of the celebration, is holding a 'walk the path in a day' event on Easter Saturday, 19th April. Members of the Association, Coast Path Rangers and others will be leading walks along sections of the path varying from 5 to 14 miles, approximately seventy sections in all, to cover the whole of the path in a clockwise direction – South Haven Point to Minehead. It is hoped that members of the public will join in and discover the beauty of the path and, perhaps, be encouraged to return again. For further information contact the Association Secretary, Eric Wallis, tel: 01752 896237 or email: wallispenquit@beeb.net or why not visit the website: www.swcp.org.uk. For information on events taking place during the year contact: South West Coast Path Team, c/o Devon County Council, Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW, email: swcpteam@devon.gov.uk.

The price of the paperback guidebook 'The **Wysis Way**' by Gerry Stewart now costs £5.95 (incs p&p) and not £4.95 as shown in the LDW Handbook –7th ed). The route links Offa's Dyke Path, at Monmouth, with the Thames Path, at Kemble. Note also that the **Gloucestershire Way** guidebook, by the same author, has also increased in price to £5.95 (incs p&p). The above guidebooks, together with the Three Choirs Way and the Cotswold Canals Walk (both £5.95 ea), are available from Countryside Matters, 15 Orchard Road, Alderton, Tewkesbury GL20 8NS (tel: 01242 620598; email: gerrystewart@countrysidematters.co.uk)

SCOTLAND

The Cowal Way is a new 47ml/75km long distance route being officially opened on 6th May 2003. It is a partially waymarked route covering the west area of the Cowal Peninsula and includes hillside, hill, lochside and woodland walking. It incorporates six separate sections and seven circular walks. The sections are (i) Portavadie – Tignabruaich, (ii) Tignabruaich – Glendaruel, (iii) Glendaruel, (iv) Glendaruel – Glenbranter, (v) Glenbranter – Loch Goilhead, (vi) Loch Goilhead – Ardgarten.

A guide to the route has been published and retails for £4.99. It is available by mail order from: info@scottish.heartlands.org or tel: 08707 200 620. It is also available at TICs and other outlets in the Cowal Peninsula. Further details on this route will follow in August *Strider*.

Isle of Arran Coastal Way – This is a new 60-mile long distance route round the coast of the Isle of Arran. Developed by local enthusiasts the route is 70% on footpaths and takes in a combination of many varied habitats that the island has to offer. One can also visit archaeological sites including Iron Age Forts, at Dun Fionn and Meallach's Grave, and the Brodick Standing Stones, which are thought to be about 4000 years old. Two inland routes have also been developed between Sannox and Lochranza, and between Brodick and Corrie to provide alternatives to the Coastal Way. A 24pp coloured guide to the Coastal Way and a coloured, waterproof 1:40,000 map of the Isle of Arran have been published. The guide divides the route into 7 daily walks, approx 15km each in distance. The '**Guide to the Coastal Way**' plus the map, both contained in a plastic envelope, cost £7.00, and are available from: Coastal Way Books, Lochranza, Isle of Arran, KA27 8HL. Cheques should be made payable to 'Coastal Way Books'. Further information can be obtained from: Dick Sim, 8 Sheean Drive, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DH, (tel: 01770 302539)

The following amendments to the **Southern Upland Way** entry in the LDW Handbook (7th edition) have been brought to my attention:

In the walk description the highest point of the SUW is Lowther Hill (725m) and not The Merrick as stated.

The Freesheet publication - Southern Upland Wayfarer - is no longer available and....

The Leaflets entry should now read: The Southern Upland Way – short walks on the Way and various wildlife/history etc. It is available from the Scottish Borders Council in addition to the Dumfries and Galloway Council.

WALES

Mentor Mon (Anglesey) have produced a new pack, which includes 12 laminated maps, showing newly designated sections of the Isle of **Anglesey Coast Path**. The aim of the main leaflet, also laminated, is to inform the reader of the newly designated sections that have been created. It is not intended to be a definitive guide to the whole of the path and should be used either with the guide booklet or the appropriate OS map. The new sections are listed on the centre-page map and the fully detailed map cards include information about parking, bus stops and toilet facilities. The new pack, which costs £1.50 (inc p&p), is available by mail order from Mentor Mon, P O Box 11, Llangefni, Anglesey LL77 7XA. Cheques should be made payable to Mentor Mon.

Close Encounters with Long Distance Paths

Those looking for a supported holiday, walking recognised, waymarked long distance trails and staying in YHA accommodation, may find what they are looking for from Bob's Walking Holidays. Bob Close, who runs the operation, provides coach transport to the start from Bristol and London with possible pick-ups en-route, and each day the coach carries the baggage, staying with the group to enable rendezvous so that daily distances can be tailored. The walks are not lead but path guides and maps are available. A dozen or so well-known trails are on offer across England between April and October, from parts of the South West Coast Path and the Monarch's Way to the Cumbria Coastal Way. He can be contacted for a brochure on 01179 672459 (fax: 01179 671986) or write to R. Close, 40 Spring Hill, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1XT. He also welcomes enquiries from organisers of private groups looking for such support on routes of their choice or from anyone interested in out-of-season trips using hostels rented on a self-catering basis.

2002 – DECEMBER

**News OF LONG DISTANCE PATHS
& CHALLENGE WALKS
edited by Les Maple**

THE NEW LDP TEAM

Having lost the services of both Sue Hazell and Brian Smith the LDWA now have a new team in place. Both Sue and Brian, put in a great deal of time and effort towards helping to keep the LDP database up to date through research and their contribution in helping to produce the latest LDW Handbook (7th edition) was invaluable. Brian was also very much involved in the production of the 6th edition of the Handbook. Brian has been involved with LDP's for over 8 years and will continue to represent the LDWA at the Hadrian's Wall meetings. Sue was virtually thrown in at the deep end when she joined the team, as she had not been involved in anything like this previously. They both deserve a well-earned rest; but I somehow think that we will continue to hear snippets of news from both of them in the future.

The country has been sub-divided into areas and each team member has been designated both an area and a number of LDP's within that area. The new team, with their respective areas are:

Northern England:

Barbara Blatchford, 16 Howe Bank Close, KENDAL, Cumbria, LA9 7PU

Lancashire & IOM

Margaret Waller, 33 Haslemere Road, Fulwood, PRESTON, Lancashire, PR2 9UL

E-mail: Bob.waller@care4free.net

East Central England

Mike Warner, Redland House, Clifton Cross, Clifton, Nr ASHBOURNE, Derbyshire, DE6 2GJ

West Central England

Dave Allen, 8 Bollin Court, WILSLOW, Cheshire, SK9 2AP

E-mail: dave.eallen@btinternet.com

West Midlands/South Welsh Borders

Dave Irons, 57 Reservoir Road, Selly Oak, BIRMINGHAM, B29 6ST

South West England

Terry Bound, 3 Alpha Street, Heavitree, EXETER, EX1 2SP

E-mail: terry.hazel@btinternet.com

South East England and LDP Handbook Editor

Paul Lawrence, 15 Tamarisk Rise, WOKINGHAM, Berkshire, RG40 1WG

E-mail: paulmlawrence@aol.com

Wales

Laurence Main, 9 Mawddwy Cottages, Minllyn, Dinas Mawddwy, MACHYNLLETH Powys, SY20 9LW

East Central England, Scotland, N Ireland and LDP Information Officer

Les Maple, 21 Upcroft, WINDSOR, Berks, SL4 3NH

Tel 01753 866685 E-mail: les.maple@ukgateway.net

Mapping (LDW Handbook & Harvey's Chart)

Ann Sayer, 29 Twickenham Road, TEDDINGTON, Middlesex, TW11 8AQ

In the April 2003 *Strider* the above areas will be described in more detail; until that time if any LDWA member comes across any new LDP routes, new publications (books, leaflets, brochures etc), amendments to existing routes or existing publication information please let the LDP Information Officer know and he will forward it on to the relevant LDP team member.

LDP NEWS

GENERAL Long Distance Routes

If you want a good challenge then this has to be as good as anything you can find in the UK. Think of the largest perfect circle that you can fit into the outline of mainland UK and you will come up with the **Great Millennium Circle**, a route devised by Robert McCaffrey. At 750km, he regards it as the longest possible circular route in the country and is based on a central point just outside Kidderminster. The GMC is constrained by three bodies of water, the River Severn, the Wash and the Dee/Mersey, which have to be crossed. It also passes through some beautiful scenery, as well as several towns and cities. However, anyone attempting the walk needs to be a good map-reader, as he/she would need to devise their own route between the specified coordinates and to keep within 2000m of the 'central line'. Robert calculated the radius of the Circle and used some elementary geometry to calculate map coordinates for each degree of the circle. The challenge then is to find a route between each point. Details about the Great Millennium Circle, including the coordinates, can be found (only) on the Internet at www.greatmillenniumcircle.com. A Soft back book, 'Great Millennium Circle – A Walk on the Mild Side' by Robert McCaffrey, privately published in 2000, is available from Robert McCaffrey, GMC, 6B East Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 1HH. The cost is £9.99 (+ £1.29 p&p UK or +£2.49 for orders outside the UK). UK cheques only should be made payable to 'Robert McCaffrey'. Excerpts from the book can be found on the website. Note, however, it is not a guidebook.

A couple of queries have been received from LDWA members asking what has happened to the **Alternative Pennine Way** as it is no longer listed under the Pennine Way entry in the 7th edition of the LDW Handbook. The route still exists but a publication no longer exists for it, having gone out of print. It has been, and still is, standard policy (unwritten) that any route, which does not have a publication for it, be it book, booklet, leaflet etc, will not be included in the Handbook unless the route is shown on OS mapping. There are occasions when a publication goes out of print after the Handbook has been printed. A prime example of this happening is the Oxbridge Walk in the current edition. It has been suggested that these could be listed at the back of the Handbook. With the plethora of long distance paths currently available it is almost impossible to list them all in the Handbook BUT it is quite possible that the route may still be held on the LDP Database.

For those who enjoy long distance town or city walks, why not try the 18miles/28 km **Bristol Triangular City Walk**. Devised in 2001 by the Bristol Group of the Ramblers' Association it provides an opportunity for the walker to explore the waterfront, Avon Gorge, Durdham Downs as well as the heart and history of the city. The circular walk starts from Bristol Temple Meads Station. A leaflet, showing the route, is available from Bristol City Council, Transport Planning DETL, Wilder House, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8PH (Tel: 0117 9036449) – Free (+ SAE).

MIDLANDS / PEAK DISTRICT

Derbyshire

The full length of the **Dark Peak Snake** is now 21 miles/34km. The walk ends along the Alport Ridge, where it passes the spectacular landslip of Alport Castles. Navigational skills are appropriate when going over Bleaklow. A 17 miles long variation is included in the booklet produced by Ken Jones. This alternative avoids Bleaklow and takes a line along the wooded Alport Valley.

Warwickshire

The distance of the **Avon Valley Way**, which appears in the LDW Handbook (7th ed) as an indexed route under the **Heart of England Way**, should read 9 miles and not 30 miles as shown. The Avon Valley Way, which is shown on OS mapping, runs between Stratford on Avon and Bidford on Avon. The confusion arose due to the fact that there is an Avon Walkway, indexed under the Community Forest Path/Kennett & Avon Walk/Two Rivers Way entries, which is 30 miles long.

NORTHERN ENGLAND

Cumbria

A new **Cumbria Way** leaflet has been produced. It contains overview maps, background notes, and divides the route into five one-day stages. The leaflet, useful as a planning guide, is available free from Ulverston Tourist Information Centre (tel: 01229 587120 or e-mail: ulverstontic@southlakeland.gov.uk).

Northumberland:

Brian Smith will continue to represent the LDWA at **Hadrian's Wall Path** meetings up until its official opening, scheduled for May 2003. He will also respond to any documents that are sent to him relating to the route. The most recent document relates to the alignment of the route between Rudchester Farm and Whittle Dene Reservoirs in Northumberland. For those interested in the development of this National Trail ongoing information can be obtained on the Internet at www.hadrians-wall.org.

Tyne – Estuary to Source. An updated 2nd edition of the guidebook 'Walking The Tyne' has been produced. The ISBN is 1 901184 56 0. It is available from the RA Northern Area, 8 Beaufront Avenue, HEXHAM NE46 1JD. The cost is £4.50 plus £1.00 p&p. Cheques should be made payable to the Ramblers' Association.

Yorkshire

The **Rotherham Ring Route** is a 50-mile way marked, circular, route around the boundary of the Metropolitan boundary of Rotherham. The way marks feature a distinctive green bell and a white arrow to indicate the way. The route has been created by the Rotherham Metro Group of the Ramblers' Association. The route information is supplied in an anti-clockwise direction in ten guide leaflets. A pack, containing the guide leaflets, public transport links, footpath issues etc., is available from the Tourist Information Centre, Central Library, Walker Place, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1JH (tel: 01709 835904). The current cost is £2.00 but this could rise when the next edition is produced. Achievement badges are also available but no details about the cost of these are available at this time.

The **Sheffield Round Walk** is a 14-mile circular walk through the picturesque southwest area of Sheffield. The route officially starts and finishes at Endcliffe Park. The Walk takes in Porter Valley, Ringinglow, Limb Valley, Ecclesall Woods, Graves Park, Gleadless Valley and

Chelsea Park before returning to Endcliffe Park. Sheffield City Council Leisure Services, Parks, Woodlands and Countryside Section have produced a lavishly illustrated colour guide. Priced at £2.95, the booklet is available from good bookshops in the Sheffield area; Sheffield Tourist Information Centre (tel: 0114 273 4671); or direct from Sheffield City Council Leisure Services, Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, S8 9FL (tel: 0114 250 0500).

SOUTHERN ENGLAND

Beds, Bucks

The **Clay Way** is an 11.5-mile walk stretching along the Bedfordshire Clay Ridge of the Marston Vale Community Forest. It is currently shown in the LDW Handbook as an indexed path under the John Bunyan Trail. The A5 leaflet for the Clay Way is free and can be obtained from: Marston Vale Community Forest, The Forest Office, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Beds, MK43 9LZ (tel: 01234 767037) in addition to the Forest of Marston Vale address shown in the Handbook.

The **Icknield Way Trail** leaflet, produced by the North Chilterns Trust, is A4/8 in size. The leaflet is available (Free + SAE) from the Trust, c/o Three Valleys Water, Crescent Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 0AD. When sending the SAE, please ensure that it will take an A4 (12" x 4") sized document. The Trust informs me that there are still a number of sections of the route still to be improved before the whole of the 28-mile Trail is complete.

The **Round Aylesbury Walk**, reported in the April 2002 issue of *Strider*, is also coincident in part with the **Oxfordshire Way**.

Cotswolds

There is a new edition of the Soft back guidebook '**North Cotswold Diamond Way**' by Elizabeth Bell. Published in Nov 2001 with a new cover and spiral binding, the guide includes '30 Sparkling Walks', which are all based on the original 60-mile route, thus allowing the route to be walked in sections. The book (ISBN: 1 901184 37 4) costs £6.95 and can be obtained from the RA Gloucestershire Area, c/o Geoff Smithdale, Tudor Cottage, Berrow, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6JJ.

Greater London

A new directory entitled 'London, the definitive walking guide' compiled by long-standing LDWA member Colin Saunders and published in October 2002, is aimed to guide both the serious and the casual walker through the 'urban jungle' of walking routes within and passing through Greater London, summarising some 300 routes totalling over 1400 miles. While the countryside was closed during foot and mouth, many of us discovered, perhaps to our surprise, that there are some worthwhile, easily accessible and often family-friendly longer walks in urban areas, providing additional interest from local history, buildings, heritage, nature and wildlife, or simply through seeing a familiar area from a new perspective on foot. They can also provide a route near home to fill a long summer evening. But we also found that urban routes can be very variable in visual quality and can involve much pavement pounding, so focused on the few well-known routes, missing out on the variety of Greater London's urban trails. This new compendium includes the author's 'green and blue' factors to help to assess a walk – 'green' for the proportion of countryside, parks and woods and 'blue' for the waterside element – as well as terrain and surface indications, points of interest and first-hand thumbnail descriptions to provide a feel for the 89 main named trails that feature in the London Walking Forum's 'strategic network'. Sectional maps show the

locations of all the routes. It gives the sources of the routes' guidebooks and leaflets – as it's not a step-by-step guide to any path. Also very useful to the urban walker are transport information and path links, and details of walking festivals and challenges. The illustrated 320-page book is published as an approximately A5-sized laminated paperback by Cicerone Press and is priced at £12.95. The ISBN is 1-85284-339-X. Cicerone Press are at 2 Police Square, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7PY; tel/fax: 01539 562069/563417; email info@cicerone.demon.co.uk and website www.cicerone.co.uk. Colin Saunders is now working on a guidebook to one of main London long-distance routes, the 72-mile **Capital Ring**, due out in Spring 2003 from Aurum Press.

Isle of Wight

The variety of longer walking routes on the Isle of Wight has been extended by the newly launched **Yar River Trail**: its theme is to follow the island's longest river over its 19 miles from source to sea. This is the Eastern Yar, currently the subject of a river restoration programme, that flows from Niton, not far from the south coast, to Bembridge harbour on the eastern edge of the island; the Isle's other Yar, the Western Yar, meets the sea at Yarmouth. The new Trail is way marked and also features stone-carved milestones and six sculptures. It uses a variety of surfaces – mainly paths and the course of a dismantled railway. Links from the main Trail could be made with the well-known **Coast Path**, and with the **Bembridge Trail** that forms a part of an E9 (European route) variant. A well illustrated 28 page, A5 booklet, priced at £1.99 (including p&p; cheques to 'Island 2000 Trust') describes the new Trail and can be obtained from Island 2000 Trust, The Gatehouse, Forest Road, NEWPORT, Isle of Wight, PO30 5YS, tel: 01983 822118; email: enquiries@island2000.demon.co.uk. Some of the proceeds are donated to an associated wildlife conservation scheme. The **Trail** links with the shorter Godshill Trail, a 4-mile separately way marked route, and which is a pilot for up to 6 other shorter routes that are being considered. A laminated route card for it is available along with the booklet.

Kent, East Sussex and Surrey

To promote the use of the **Wealdway**, an 82-mile route that connects the Thames Estuary with the English Channel, and its accompanying guidebook, Kent County Council is offering the route guide 'Along and Around the Wealdway' at £5 post-free (reduced from £10.95). The laminated booklet is well designed, illustrated and includes maps, and is produced to the usual high quality of Kent's series of similar path guides. Availability should be checked by calling 01622 663306 (Mon-Thurs 11am-3pm) before ordering from Kent County Council, Environmental Management Unit, Invicta House, County Hall, MAIDSTONE, Kent, ME14 1XX, email: env.publications@kent.gov.uk and website www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess. The parallel guide, 'Along and Around the **Greensand Way**', remains at £6.00 post-free from the same source, reduced from £7.95 earlier. **[Site not working 27 11 05.]**

The free leaflet describing the 22-mile **Ashford on Foot** route (No 2 – Longer Walks) is no longer available, having gone out of print, and no reprint is planned. Ashford TIC had been the distributor.

Suffolk

At Bures the 19-mile circular **Grand Tour de Bures** meets up with the **Stour Valley Path**. A booklet – 'Circular Walks Around Bures', produced in 2001, is available from the Bures Project Association, 16 Station Hill, Bures, Suffolk. The 60pp, A5 booklet costs £4.00 (+ A4 SAE with a 44p stamp).

The contact for the **Newmarket Circular Walk** is now: Peter Addison, 38 Peterborough Avenue, Cranham, Upminster, Essex RM14 3LL. This amends the address, shown in the LDW Handbook (7th ed), under HavAC Walkers.

SCOTLAND

Mention was made in a recent edition of the paths and routes on offer in the Callander / Balloch area. At the time of making those comments, it was not fully realised that the same tracks formed part of the **Rob Roy Way**, of which mention has also been made previously. This newly created Way links Drymen, and, in effect, the West Highland Way (Milngavie to Fort William via Drymen), with Pitlochry providing a 79 miles long route passing many lochs and glens. (The distance was erroneously given as 93 miles in April 2002 strider). Use is made of tracks, footpaths, part of a moderately used Sustrans cycle route and some minor roads. The development of the Way has been a joint effort and really brought together the efforts of a few who had initially been individually involved in attempting to create a suitable route in the area. The name of the Way is truly attractive in itself but it goes no way towards describing what could be a magnificent journey between the two points. From Drymen, the Way visits or passes close to Aberfoyle, Callander, Strathyre, Lochearnhead, Killin, Ardtalnaig, Kenmore, Aberfeldy and Strathtay providing many opportunities to visit local attractions. The route is well described in a publication by Jacquetta Megarry (ISBN: 1 898481 13 X / published by Rucksack Readers / 64pp + mapping / £10.99p) who has also written books on the Great Glen Way and other long distance routes in Scotland. The book content comprises sections on planning, historical background, including that of Rob Roy MacGregor, the Loch Katrine water scheme and railway heritage; contact details and, of course, the route in detail. Like her other publications, the presentation and content is pleasing to the eye. Brian Smith's personal point of view is that the Rob Roy Way has as much to offer as the fully supported West Highland Way and other long distance routes north of the border.

WALES

When seeking information about the **Dylan Thomas Trail** walkers are advised to be aware that there are two Dylan Thomas Trails. One route is for motorists and links various places in S W Wales and the other is for walkers etc. There is a web site where you can find out numerous facts about Dylan Thomas and the places that are linked with him in South East Wales but please note that the site covers the motorists' route and not the walker's route. Please ensure that you get the one you want. The web site is: <http://www.dylanthomastrail.co.uk/> [Site not working 27 11 05.]

Peter Robins reports that **Glyndwr's Way** still has some teething problems. Although various improvements have been made to the route (e.g. the way into/out of Welshpool has changed) these did not get to the Ordnance Survey in time and consequently they are not shown on the latest OS maps. A series of free leaflets (and an accommodation guide), showing the new route has also been published, but because some of the places shown are still in dispute another sheet has been issued giving corrections to the new route, which in some cases reverts back to the old route. (Are you confused?). Peter does add that, on the section he walked recently, there are some nice new information boards and way marks.

There is a proposal that the **Mal Evans Way**, currently 15 miles, be extended to Devil's Bridge, which would increase the distance to 20 miles. Mal Evans was once the chairman of the Aberystwyth Group of the Ramblers' Association, who have way marked the route. It offers some fine scenery and passes through some old mining areas to join Ystumtuen, which is on the route of the Cambrian Way, to join the sea at Borth. There are links with the **Dyfi Valley Way** and the **Cardigan Bay Coast Walk**.

Ceredigion County Council have published a new set of walks leaflets, some of which have text written by Laurence Main. Although these are mainly short, circular, walks one of them refers to a new way marked route that runs between Lampeter and Aberaeron, a distance of 21.5 miles. It is proposed that the new route, which is partly coincident with the Dylan Thomas Trail, will be called the **Milky Way**. The route has good bus connections at both ends

(including the 701 TransCambria service out of Cardiff) and links up with the **Cardigan Bay Coast Walk** at Aberaeron and with **Sarn Helen** at Lampeter.

Leaflets for the Mal Evans Way and the Milky Way are available from TIC's in Ceredigion or from Ceredigion County Council, Information Centre (CW), Aberystwyth SY23 2AG (tel: 01970 612125). Leaflets are 40p each + SAE.

A seminar on the 'Future of National Trails in Wales, organised by the Countryside Council For Wales, was held at Builth Wells, Powys on Monday 9th September 2002. The decision to hold the seminar was prompted by the publication, in August, of the consultation paper, which set out the Countryside Agency's proposals to establish a National Trails Trust to oversee the management of the National Trail in England. LDP team member, Laurence Main, represented the LDWA. Wales currently has three National Trails: the **Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Offa's Dyke Path** and **Glyndwr's Way**.

The LDWA will have the opportunity to comment on the consultation paper, relating to English National Trails, mentioned above.

Ad Hoc Information – minor walks and general information

Laurence Main is proposing to set up a **Dyfi Valley Way Association** in the hope that this will lead to the route being better way marked. The Way runs through the counties of Ceredigion, Powys and Meirionnydd and it is felt that greater support could come from walkers in these counties as well as from elsewhere by setting up an Association. If any walkers are interested in supporting this venture please write (enclosing a reply sae) to: Laurence Main, 9 Mawddwy Cottages, Minllyn, Dinas Mawddwy, Machynlleth SY20 9LW. (tel: 01650 531354).

A Heart of England Tourist Board gold award for improving countryside accessibility for disabled people has been won by the **Greenwood Community Forest, Notts**. Two packs, with relevant information about the trails, are available from Gill Grievson on 1623 758231, or you can e-mail her on gill.grievson@nottscc.gov.uk

The **Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service** has created three new circular walks, varying between three and six miles. Three leaflets, detailing archaeological and historical highlights along the routes, are also available. For further information contact: Helen Gamble, Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service on 01507 609740.

For those walkers who want to use public transport to get to various places along **The Ridgeway** and **Thames Path National Trails**, the National Trails Office, Cultural Services, Holton, Oxford OX33 1QQ (tel: 01865 810224, fax: 01865 810207; e-mail: mail@rwaytpath.demon.co.uk) have produced a guide brochures for each Trail that summarises the public transport services that are available to get to various places along the routes. Each brochure contains a map that highlights the various services (by number) that run and there are boxes that show the frequency of service (note not a timetable). The brochures (2002/2003) are available Free from the National Trails Office, as detailed above.

Have you ever thought of walking some of the longer National Trails and have found that you can't afford the two or three weeks that are required to walk the route in one go? Why not check out the **YHA** website: www.yha.org.uk. The YHA quite regularly run 3-5 day walking treks along sections of the route(s), staying at Hostels along the way. In some cases baggage couriers are available to carry your baggage on to the next hostel.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS INFORMATION

MIWAY PUBLISHING, previously based in Cumbria, producers of a guide booklet and an accommodation guide to the Cumbria Way, both by Phillip Dubock, have changed their address to PO Box 51, BUILTH WELLS, Powys, LD5 4WE.

WALK & WRITE LTD, producers of numerous publications relating to John Merrill walks and others, have changed their address to: Walk & Write Ltd., Marathon House, Longcliffe, Nr Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 4HN.