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An LDWA KENT GROUP

15 MILE HIGH WEALD CHALLENGE

A WALK WITH THE SMUGGLERS

SUNDAY 12th JULY 2015

TAKE CARE CROSSING AND WALKING ON ROADS

Compass bearings are figures in brackets, e.g. (CB 230)

Abbreviations (alphabetically):

ahd—ahead; **BL**—bear left; **BR**—bear right; **btw**—between; **cnr**—corner; **cont**—continue; **enc**—enclosed; **fld**—field; **flw**—follow; **FL**—fork left; **fp**—footpath; **fsp**—footpath signpost; **FR**—fork right; **GR**—grid reference; **GT**—gate; **HWLT**—High Weald Landscape Trail; **immed**—immediately; **jcn or jnc**—junction; **kg**—kissing gate; **L**—left; **LH**—left hand; **LHS**—left hand side; **opp**—opposite; **R**—right; **rd**—road; **RH**—right hand; **RHS**—right hand side; **ST**—stile; **thru**—through; **TK**—track; **TL**—turn left; **TR**—turn right; **wmk**—waymark; **X**—cross; **yds**—yards.

NB The three routes (15, 20 and 26 miles) intertwine – so please follow *your* route, and *not* the person in front, else you could end up walking the wrong distance.

- 1 From Village Hall, ahd to BL past pond. With **GREAT CARE**, X main rd and TR to War Memorial. TL down driveway to KG. Thru and at top of fld, BL to descend fld (going behind tree) on obvious fp. Ahd to KG into wood, and flw to rd. BR across rd and TL into private drive. BL on TK, pass iron gates, TR and flw TK to just before farmhouse (seat in garden on L). TR thru GT (WC35) and ahd on grass TK to reach drive.
- 2 TR on drive, thru GT and flw to jnc where TR. Ahd on gravel to X new ST on L, and ahd on fp around top, then far side of fld, and down to TL to X ST. Ahd on RHS fld and in 150 yds, at

- low wooden post (before end of fld), BR and over ST. TL and btw fences, ahd to X wobbly ST and around RHS of GT to reach main rd. **GR 709 372**
- 3 With **GREAT CARE**, X main rd to TR (*best to be in pub car park*) and then ahd on verge for 45 yds to TL (sp Finchcocks). Ahd on driveway to jnc where BR over bridge. Keep ahd on rd for 500 yds to cnr where TR and immed TL over ST into fld, and ahd - passing 3 visible large trees - heading diagonally up fld (CB 230).
- 4 At top of fld, pass optional ST, then TL over ST and ahd into green lane, passing cottage and ahd at jnc, now on narrowing fp ascending. After 150 yds, at fvsp on L, TR (WC 50) and up concrete steps to X ST. Ahd along top edge of fld, then B½R making for R bottom cnr of fld. Find gap in hedge just to R of cnr, X ST and TL to X next ST. Immed TR (*on bank – do not descend to fld*) and ahd to X ST by GT into wood and descend on fp. At end, over ST and BL down fld to find ST in far L cnr. To TK, TL and over bridge, and immed TR and along dirt TK, soon with hops on R. **GR 697 364**
- 5 At end of first hop fld, ahd on grass fp in second hop fld. After 80 yds, TL uphill (NT24) with hops on R. At top TR alongside hedge on L. At end thru GT (please close) and immed TL with fence. At 3 way fvsp, keep ahd and BR to obvious ST ahd. X ST and ahd to X next ST into rape fld, pass tree and downhill towards River Teise. At T-jnc, TL (still in fld) and ahd on RHS fld (with A21 to R), passing one fvsp. At next fvsp, BL uphill through vegetation to trees.
- 6 Ahd over driveway with hedge on L, ascending and ahd thru gap, TL and X ST into second fld, by GT. Ahd btw fence and hedge. At cnr (3 way fvsp, Scotney Castle to R) - **20 & 26 milers TR here** - ahd to small GT by large GT. Thru and ahd along LHS fld. Ignore GT on L and BR to bottom of fld to X ST onto access rd. TL, and in 100 yds, at 3 way fvsp, TR thru GT and down LHS fld, thru GT and across bridge, thru GT and ahd to next GT. X ST and ahd uphill on clear fp (red marks). At top (pew!), TL to reach rd at Kilndown. TR on rd for 200 yds to reach Village Hall. **Meet with 20 & 26 milers**

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| <p>Checkpoint 1 – seating <u>outside</u> Kilndown Village Hall – 4.8 Miles GR 700 352</p> |
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26 milers take a different route for next few miles

- 7 Retrace steps, to reach rd jnc. TR and fillw rd as it swings L at next jnc (Rough Road). At foot of hill (fld on L), over brook then TL at fvsp, over bridge and on fp uphill. At dogleg, go R then L and eventually TR down to rd. Go straight over on rd ahd (ie do not TL) to end. TL on rd (**CARE**) (B2079) and TR after 50 yds to go past garages, thru KG into fld. Downhill to prominent trees ahd (look for small white box on L), where TR in opening and TL (to Hawkhurst). Ahd with lake on R, over ST and up to next ST, then uphill (R of trees) and BL to cnr by shed (**Three Chimneys Farm**). **GR 727 347**
- 8 X ST and TR along TK, then L on enc FP. At end, TL on fp thru trees and up to main TK. **TR** and keep ahd on main TK for 1,500 yds - going thru logging area, ignoring all turnings and keeping R at major jnc (after 1,000 yds) slightly uphill - eventually to reach barrier (which may be open). **26 milers re-join you here** **GR 739 334**
- 9 **TL** on main TK, passing cottages (**Louisa Lodge**) and fillw main TK, soon uphill. At top of rise (after 600 yds), with small car park on L, TR along TK and ahd on TK btw open flds. Cont into second fld, then TL by telegraph pole (and hidden fvsp) down RHS fld to bottom cnr, where TL for 50 yds (approx ½ way along) and TR into trees (beware large footholes) down into gully and up other side to fvsp. Ahd across fld to join TK coming in from L, nr cnr, and

uphill on TK with trees on L. Thru tree gap and ahd on faint fp across crop to rougher vegetation, where B slight L and, at brow of hill, TR on fp downhill, soon with hedge on L, and cont downhill.

- 10 Over TK and ahd on mown grass strip (LHS fld). After next large tree, 150 yds before end of fld, TL thru GT and along RHS fld and thru GT, over ST, down fld. **Unlikely, but if motocross rally / races actually taking place (you would hear before you saw), please TL at top of this fld and go L around racing TK to reach opposite side – please do not dice with the riders (or officials)!** Over TK, steeply down, over bridge and steeply up, over TK again, up 2 dirt steps and ahd to L of house ahd. Thru GT and down to rd. **(Gill's Green) GR 756 324**
- 11 TL and after 20 yds TR into next rd (Limes Grove), gently rising. At end, BL and with **GREAT CARE** X rd (A229) and TL (single file please) along verge for 45 yds. TR into minor rd, Potters Lane **(GR 757 324)** and ahd for 500 yds to

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| Checkpoint 2 – roadside – 10.2 Miles GR 762 328 |
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- 12 Leave Checkpoint (heading same direction, eastwards) on rd for further 550 yds to end. **(Four Wents) GR 766 328**
- 13 At Xrds, TL (sp Cranbrook) and in 150 yds (at end of hedge on R) TR over ST (beware exposed nail) into fld. Ahd, soon meeting fence on R, ahd in same direction and down to GT. Thru (lift LHS GT) - **please close GT as best you can**. Continue down middle of fld. Over bridge and up to go thru small GT on R and ahd on RHS fld to X ST. Down to X bridge and up and over rickety ST (barbed wire), and ahd up fld (electric fence on R).
- 14 At top of fld with **GREAT CARE X ELECTRIC FENCE** and thru GT (**please close**). **Beware possible Bull in fld**. Ahd and, at hedge cnr, BL down fld to fsp and ahd thru woods, Xing earth bridge. Immed TR in next fld, downhill (CB 040) to centre of trees ahd, over ST down to X bridge and up steps to fld. Ahd uphill with trees on L and fld to R. At first hedge cnr, go **ahd** across gap to join (line of) trees, now on R. At top of tree line, TR for 15 yds, and fillw main TK to L. Pass wmk, ahd into green avenue and, at end, over ST and ahd with large trees to reach ST. **(Swattenden Centre) GR 774 344**
- 15 X rd and thru gap into fld. Fillw down LHS fld, TR at bottom cnr then TL at KG. Keep R and TR at cnr to find next KG on R after 100 yds. TL along fld edge. At end, TL down fp and ahd along LHS fld. Ahd, soon uphill, on TK btw trees. Dogleg R and L and, in 80 yds – **26 milers carry straight on here** – TL along driveway (Mt Ephraim Farmhouse / The Freight).
- 16 Over ST and ahd to TR thru KG just before barn, heading downhill just to L of largest tree. Thru KG down, across bridge, TL on main fp and ascend fld to pass defunct gatepost and ahd to wmk post. Ahd on RHS fld to KG, X fld to next KG and TR on grassy TK to end. **(Cranbrook)**
- 17 With **CARE** X rd to New Road (HWLT) and ahead on this minor / unmade rd. With **CARE** X next major rd and ahd on TK thru squeeze GT. **GR 768 359**
- 18 After 220 yds, TL at fsp (HWLT) – **20 milers carry on ahd** - and fillw winding fp to end. **Fillw HWLT to outskirts of Goudhurst** TR on TK and after 15yds TL at HWLT fsp. After 25 yds, BR at fsp, remain above gully on R, and soon BL downhill (with sunken TK on L), to X plank bridge, soon TR for 10 yds and at jnc TL on main forest TK.
- 19 Keep ahd for 550 yds, ascending, ignoring all turnings, fillwing L at one major bend. At HWLT fsp at T jnc (with logging area on ½R), TR down broad TK, passing fallen trees. At bottom,

- X fps and ahd going uphill on narrow fp (under power lines and btw rhododendrons) to end. B½L and ahd on main TK (passing woodcutter's hut on L). **GR 757 366**
- 20 TK becomes driveway, descends and ascends. Just before driveway at Glassenbury Hill Farm, TL inside fld (hedge on R) and flw fence round to go thru GT. X plank bridge.

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| Checkpoint 5 – roadside – 14.2 Miles GR 749 364 |
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- 21 With **CARE**, X main rd (B2085) and up steps to fld opp, descend RHS fld to bottom, to look for narrow fp going to bridge (under trees) and TR up RHS next fld. At top, pass GT and TR on farm TK and ahd (btw GTs L and R). At end of hedge on R, ahd on TK for 150 yds, to TL with main TK, at gap. Flw TK with hedge on L. At T-jnc, TR on TK and in 200 yds, T½L leaving main TK to go thru open gateway. Ahd on RHS fld to pass rickety ST and BR to soon rejoin main TK, passing first pond (and ducks?) on L, then second pond (and ducks?) on R. **GR 734 365**
- 22 Pass first fld on L and at cnr with second fld, go ahd in fld on clear fp (CB 280), cutting off fld headland. Cont similarly in next fld. Rejoin main TK and TR to pass 3 gas canisters and ahd on RHS of fld (becoming very rutted). Aim for far R cnr and over bridge, over X TK and negotiate fallen tree. BR (CB 350) heading down middle of fld. Over bridge and BR on mown strip of grass to cnr of hedge and ahd on RHS fld.
- 23 TR on TK, 'uphill'. At jnc with lane, BL and immed TR to X ST and ahd up fp. Keep R and pass on RHS of sandy paddock and ahd to X ST and TL up lane. At top, at jnc, **TR** along lane (Maypole Lane). After 200 yds, TsharpL along Tiddymotts Lane to end. With **CARE**, X main rd and TR thru car park, past toilets, and uphill for 50 yds to TL to Goudhurst Village Hall. **GR 722 376**

16.2 miles

Congratulations