



Long Distance Walkers Association

Kent Group

www.ldwa.org.uk/kent

White Cliffs Challenge 2018 - Report



Heavy rain and very strong winds disrupted this year's White Cliffs Challenge, held on 26-27 August. The bad weather, which had been forecast, began two hours after the event was started off by the Mayor of Deal, Cllr Nick Tomaszewski, at Deal Town FC's ground in the middle of Deal. It did not let up for 12 hours and made for some difficult going on the 12-mile stretch of the route along the iconic White Cliffs.

There were two routes – 53 miles and 18 miles – and despite the bad weather, there were only 16 retirements out of 125 starters (100 on the longer route and 25 on the shorter one), a lower figure than organizers had feared. But the bad weather was responsible for the high level of no-shows – 31. There were only eight on the day entries, a figure which would have been higher if the weather had been better.

The White Cliffs Challenge was the showpiece of the White Cliffs Walking Festival, organized by the White Cliffs Ramblers and which this year comprised 44 walks (ranging upwards from 1.5 miles) spread over seven days. The longer route was also the Kent leg of the KSS (Kent Surrey Sussex) Triple Challenge of 50-mile walks to be done in successive years, the others being the Surrey Tops and the Sussex Stride, which takes place next year.

Both of this year's WCC routes went to Deal seafront and took the cliffs to Dover. The longer route followed the North Downs Way to Farthing Common, dropping down to follow the Elham Valley Way to Elham and Bishopsbourne, before going under the A2 to pick up the NDW again to Shepherdswell and Maydensole Farm, near the village of Ashley, then taking footpaths, bridleways and minor roads back to Deal. The shorter route went by the Duke of York's Royal Military School – venue of this year's Cinque Ports 100 – to take the NDW to Maydensole Farm, where it rejoined the longer route.

The event could not have taken place without the help of an army of marshals, and Kent LDWA is very grateful to them all.

HQ (Deal Town FC's ground) – Graham Smith, Helen Franklin, Don Arthurs, Brian Buttifant, Peter Jull, Phyl Butler, Joy Davies, Brenda Trew, Audrey West, Jean Bobker, Tony Rowley, Susan Wilkinson, Michael Jones, Mary Shillito, Eve Richards, John Gilbert, David Thornton, Mike Attewell, Mike Pursey.

Road crossing marshals – Sarah Smith, Henry Williams, Helena Trevelyan, Rhona Hodges.

CP1 (Langdon Cliffs) – Sussex LDWA: Chris Baines-Holmes, Anthony Mitchell, David Hodge, Paul Collis, Trevor Beeston.

CP2 (Capel-le-Ferne) – Surrey LDWA: Fiona Cameron, Mary Dee, Roger Sage, Tim Bedwell, Tony Cartwright.

CP3 (Etchinghill) – Eve Richards, David Thornton, Steve Russell, Paul McAuliffe, Phyl Butler.

CP4 (Elham) – Peter and Inge Corkhill, Christine Upson, Ros Humphreys, Edward Benham, Mike Pursey.

CP5 (Bishopsbourne) – Janet Field, Cliff Huggett, Cathy Waters, Mary Larkin.

CP6 (Shepherdswell) – John Gilbert, Dale Moorhouse, Andrew Melling, Jane Dicker.

CP7 (Maydensole Farm) – Neil Higham, Eric Rolfe, Peter Jull.

Special mention must be made of Dale Moorhouse, who entered the 18-mile event and got lost. But he had the presence of mind to ring HQ, then declined the offer of a lift to make his own way back in the terrible weather – thus completing his first LDWA challenge event, and earning his certificate. After a hot shower and something to eat, he worked through the night at the Shepherdswell checkpoint.

And mention must also be made of Jean Bobker and Michael Jones, who both retired early but helped at HQ throughout the night. Jean was still serving tea and coffee and taking breakfast orders to the last walkers. Michael was a dab-hand with the dustpan and brush, shooing people back to the tarpaulin to take their boots off as they arrived. Jean and Michael, once showered and fed, mucked in as if it were their own group running the event – true LDWA comradeship!

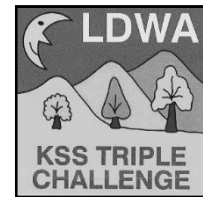
Graham Smith



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White Cliffs Challenge 2018 - Results



18 miles (25)

Caroline Cattini, 3:09
Robin Dow, 3:09
Stephanie Steele, 3:59
Janine May, 4:21
Peter Cane, 4:22
Roderick Smith, 4:26
Mike Scott, 4:34
Sonia Galloway, 4:34
Chris Glen, 4:57
Merrian Lancaster, 5:40
Michael Headley, 5:45
Caroline Russell, 5:45
Ravi Cautick, 5:46
Catherine Kelly, 5:50
Fabrice Leistner, 5:50
Terry King, 5:51
Robert Woodward, 5:51
Annick Leistner, 5:53
Dawn Richardson, 6:26
Ann Oates, 6:26
John Wrigglesworth, 6:26
Amanda Bradnam, 6:50
Claire Bradnam, 6:50
Robert Bradnam, 6:50
Dale Moorhouse, 6:57

53 miles (84)

Lisa Joanne Walbridge, 10:28
James Smith, 11:49
Geoff Williamson, 11:56
Marty Turner, 11:56
Robert Cameron-Wood, 12:07
Rob Jones, 12:07
Charlie Carter, 12:48
*Malcolm Dyke, 13:18
**Bryan Darney, 13:46
Mark Bennett, 13:53
Chris Denison, 13:53
Jodie Jackman, 13:53
David Findel-Hawkins, 14:01
Ian Hull, 14:01

*Tara Williams, 14:01
Andrew Boulden, 14:01
Alistair Gillan, 14:24
Julian Catmull, 14:24
Raymond Hickman, 14:25
**Marta Kunicka, 14:31
Rachael Messenger, 14:31
**Andrew Moore, 14:31
Jo Bontoft, 14:51
Martin Bingle, 14:51
Chris Pitt, 15:09
Sally Grainger, 15:13
Chris Matthews, 15:13
Vaughan Wade, 15:17
Anne Wade, 15:17
Anthony Gardner, 15:55
*Nina Lambrou, 15:55
Nick Hooton, 15:56
**Manfred Engler, 15:56
Malcolm Baker, 16:12
Jeff Campbell, 16:17
David Whitehead, 16:17
Melissa Butcher, 16:17
Clifford Gray, 16:22
Christopher Blackwell, 16:23
Mark Farrar, 16:23
Richard Spear, 16:24
Wendy Spear, 16:24
Kevin Mullins, 16:37
**Helen Abbott, 16:52
John Munday, 17:04
Roger Utting, 17:04
Alan Mattison, 17:05
Marshall Elliott, 17:20
Simon Fraser, 17:54
Liz Davies, 17:55
*Mike Tuke, 17:55
John Bell, 17:59
Paul Remmer, 18:01
Mark Dyke, 18:44
Debbie Stirling, 18:49
Kate Clipstone, 18:49

Virginia Powell, 18:55
Gill Struthers, 18:55
*Jackie Barker, 19:02
Robert Abrey, 19:57
Rosemary Abrey, 19:58
*Mick Dodge, 19:58
Edward Short, 19:58
Terence Outridge, 19:58
Peter Singleton, 19:58
Steve Coey, 20:01
*Sonia Edwards, 20:01
Graham Sherwood, 20:29
Alzbeta Benn, 20:29
Jenny Austin, 20:30
Sammy Dawkins, 20:37
Courtney Harris, 20:39
Catherine Shepherd, 20:50
Peter Lawson, 20:50
Francis Thomason, 21:10
Ed Barnes, 21:28
*John Gorman, 21:36
*David Weatherley, 21:36
Mark Helie, 21:43
**Chris Munt, 21:43
Elaine Todd, 21:43
Philip Todd, 21:43
Elaine Oddie, 22:18
John Elrick, 22:18

Marshals' 50 (7)

***Mary Dumble, 19:28
Helen Franklin, 19:28
Paul McAuliffe, 19:28
Steve Russell, 19:28
Graham Smith, 19:28
Tim Bedwell, 19:40
Michael Headley, 19:40

* KSS Triple Award (10)

** KSS Silver Award (6)

*** KSS Gold Award (1)