

Guildford Boundary Walk - Sunday October 1st - Results

125 walkers and runners started our relaunched Guildford Boundary Walk, the first since 1989, when increased traffic on the roads made us stop organising it. The walk was originally devised by Alan and Barbara Blatchford and first run in 1972.

The Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Angela Gunning, started our 20 mile walk from Surrey University sports grounds at 9am in nice sunny weather. Unfortunately, this was about the only part of the day that was sunny!

Fierce storms battered walkers on the route. Helping at the Newlands Corner checkpoint, I got soaked just getting from car to café. And sheltering there, the unflooded space was getting smaller and smaller. I admired the cheerfulness of the walkers continuing on with their journey.

And at the finish, many said they'd relished the challenge and really enjoyed the day out. Roy Barnsley recalled the 1980 event, just after Alan Blatchford had died, when the tiny streams then on the route, were torrents, and we all said Alan must be sitting on a cloud laughing at us all. Well I think he was laughing again this year!

The walk was held partly to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Charter of the University. It was organised jointly by Surrey Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association and Unisport at the University.

We were very pleased with the turn-out on such a bad day, especially the number of younger people taking part. Tony Cartwright, Surrey Group Chair said that after this success, we hope to organise this event in succeeding years, too.

The event is definitely not a race, but a personal challenge. And times taken ranged from 3 hours 15 minutes by Alistair Doyle and Ben Smith to a more leisurely 8 hours 55 minutes by Christine and David Hewson. And Jonathan Charteris-Black celebrated his final week working at Surrey University by doing this walk – and stopping in 2 pubs on the way!

The marshals' walk to do a last check of the route and to give a chance to helpers on the day, to walk it, was held on Sept 2nd. It was good weather, but we took 8 hours 20 mins as we stopped for lunch at the Bull's Head for an hour.

Thanks

Car Park Marshal, Posters & Signage - Gavin Baker

Registration - Tony Cartwright, Louise Cartwright & Mervyn Harvey

Start - Keith Chesterton & Molly Groundsell

CP1 - Janet Chapman, Bill Grace & Gavin Baker

CP2 - Reg Chapman, Molly Groundsell & Vicki Simpson

CP3 - Richard Ireson, Louise Cartwright & Mervyn Harvey

Finish - Tony Cartwright, Bill Grace, Mervyn Harvey, Gavin Baker, Vicki Simpson

Closing Down Marshal – Keith Chesterton

Route Description - Keith Chesterton, Tony Cartwright & Dave Challenger

Entries – Fiona Cameron

And grateful thanks to University of Surrey for generous use of facilities.

Keith Chesterton, Oct 4th