

Guildford Boundary Walk - Sunday October 11th 2009 - Report

66 walkers and runners started our 4th relaunched Guildford Boundary Walk (& the 19th overall). The walk was originally devised by Alan and Barbara Blatchford and first run in 1972.

It was organised jointly by Surrey Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association and Unisport at the University of Surrey.

There was a walk-out to do a last check of the route and to give a chance to helpers on the day, to walk it, on September 19th. Keith Chesterton, still being careful with his Policeman's Heel, did half of it. Janet Chapman & Richard Ireson completed the walk with a stop at a pub to replace checkpoints. It was so sunny that we had to have the sunshade out in the garden to stop us getting too hot.

The weather forecast for the main event was just as good, being for a sunny Autumn day. Unfortunately, this didn't arrive till after 3pm. Until then, it had been heavily overcast, cold & with a faint occasional drizzle. Ideal weather for runners & fast walkers, but less so for saunterers.

Fabrice Leistner again did the fastest time, running it in 5 minutes under 3 hours – 4 minutes faster than his time last year. 1 or 2 people went a little astray, but most found the route description straightforward to follow. Most participants were from nearby, but we did have 1 from Ipswich, another from Colchester & 2 from Weymouth. All the comments we received were favourable & walkers (& runners) all said they enjoyed the event.. You who took part are the discerning few.

We restarted this event in 2006, hoping that local walkers would like this opportunity to make a step-up in distance from local rambling groups. In particular, we hoped to attract students - & staff – from the University to take on a challenge & get a feel for the local area. But, having tried for 4 years, we have not succeeded. The number of entrants does not justify the effort involved in putting it on.

So, regretfully, we have decided that we will not be organising this event again.

Can we take this last opportunity of thanking all of you who have supported us by taking part, and again thank the volunteers who worked on checkpoints & helped in other ways.

I hope we will see you on other events that the Surrey Group organise.

Thanks

Organising Committee – Gavin Baker (Unisport), Tony Cartwright, Keith Chesterton,

Posters & Signage - Gavin Baker

Registration - Tony Cartwright, Pat Challenger, John Lay
Start - Keith Chesterton, Dave Challenger
CP1 - Janet Chapman, Molly Groundsell, Elizabeth Bryant
CP2 - Jackie Barker, Ted Swift, John Lay
CP3 - Dave & Pat Challenger, Joan Wrenn
Finish - Tony Cartwright, Reg Chapman, Joan Wrenn, Keith Chesterton
Closing Down Marshal & Photographer – Keith Chesterton
Route Description - Tony Cartwright
Entries – Fiona Cameron
Results – Tony Cartwright
Report & Finance – Keith Chesterton
And grateful thanks to the University of Surrey for the use of their facilities & to the owners of Wareham’s Farm, for allowing us to site CP1 on their land.

Pictures of the walk can be found by going to the Picture Gallery on www.ldwasurrey.co.uk

Tony Cartwright & Keith Chesterton, October 12th, 2009