

# 1993 Report

REPORT I had the customary worry before the event of not being able to find new courses, but decided to use the Wey towpath, now that the Weybac walk isn't run any more and so is not overused. This gave me the opportunity to take the walk along Highcotts lane - the lane you went on after crossing the A3, behind all the houses in West Clandon. This was totally obstructed a few years ago, with neighbouring householders encroaching on the path and building on it including a swimming pool. It took a 3 day High Court case by the parish Council to force Surrey to recognise the path, do its job and get all the obstructions removed. (As local footpath secretary for the RA, I helped get this done!)

When I walked the route out the 1st time, I found I'd done 16 miles and as I liked it, I thought I'd offer it as an extra medium route. 25 people did this, 20 the long one and 99 the 14 miler, making 144 starting in total. A record number of 23 failed to complete all the clues before returning, possibly because of the fog or perhaps because the route was 2 miles longer than normal. I tried to shorten it, but couldn't without too much road walking or forcing walkers to walk straight across the A3. However, the route was easy to follow.

Last year, some entrants complained about lack of mud and I promised to improve this year. The 20 milers had the best of this going across the golf course construction and up to the Downs, but I know everyone enjoyed the Sendmarsh crossing. I'm told the only person to keep dry feet was carried across.

The clues were meant to be easy, but the renovation at the Elm Tree, after I'd walked it out 3 weeks ago, took away not only the clue but the Elm Tree name. Some people also failed to find the stone at Newlands Corner and 1 group even failed to see the one at Pewley hill (which used to have a direction indicator on it till it was vandalised) There were also differences of opinion about how many poles there were at the canal bridge. I was offered 1, 7 or 14! I accepted them all, but had expected 14.

Can I thank very much helpers on the day - Peter Bull and Ian Ditchfield, who did the morning, before walking the route, and Louise and Tony Cartwright, Pat and Dave Challenger and Brian Haigh after doing the walk, and especially to Joan Wrenn and Derek Bowdell who helped throughout the day. Derek also checked out my routes beforehand. Without you I would never have managed! With your help, I did not feel as exhausted as I often have felt after previous events.

Thanks also to St. Catherines Village Hall Committee for hiring us such good facilities - with a beautiful new kitchen, but with some of the old jugs and containers we used to use gone! A thank-you once again to Barratt's who allowed us use of their carpark for overflow parking and saved problems for local residents. But, especially, thanks to you the participants, whose enjoyment makes the work so rewarding.

## NEXT EVENTS

10th Jan 30 miles Winter Tanners

7th Feb 33 miles Punchbowl Marathon (LDWA members only)

Entry details for both the above from John Westcott, 31, Bracken Way Chobham, Woking

7th Mar 15/25 miles Chiltern Kanter - Gill Bunker, 1, Abbey Way, Bradville, Milton Keynes MK13 7AN

27/28 Mar 62.5 miles Surrey Summits details - Dave Challenger, 44, Agates Lane, Ashted Surrey KT21 2ND

LDWA SURREY GROUP MEMBERS - Don't forget the Surrey Group AGM (+quiz) 14th Jan at Prince Of Wales, Shere 7.30 for 8pm.

For shorter and sociable walks, John Quinton 176, Guildford Park Av., Guildford GU2 5NH will send details of the Guildford RA programme.

3rd January, 1994 (Bank Holiday). 20th Surrey Inns Kanter, same venue.

I intend to organise 2 more Inns Kanters and stop after the 21st event (on Jan 2nd 1995). I will not be putting on new courses for my last 2 events, but will be using "2 of the Golden Oldies - the best of the past". I hope this event will continue to be organised, but by someone else, perhaps from a different venue. Meanwhile, see you in 1994 and a Happy New Year and Good Walking to all.

Keith Chesterton - Organiser, for Surrey LDWA, Gld 63392

Jan 2nd, 1993