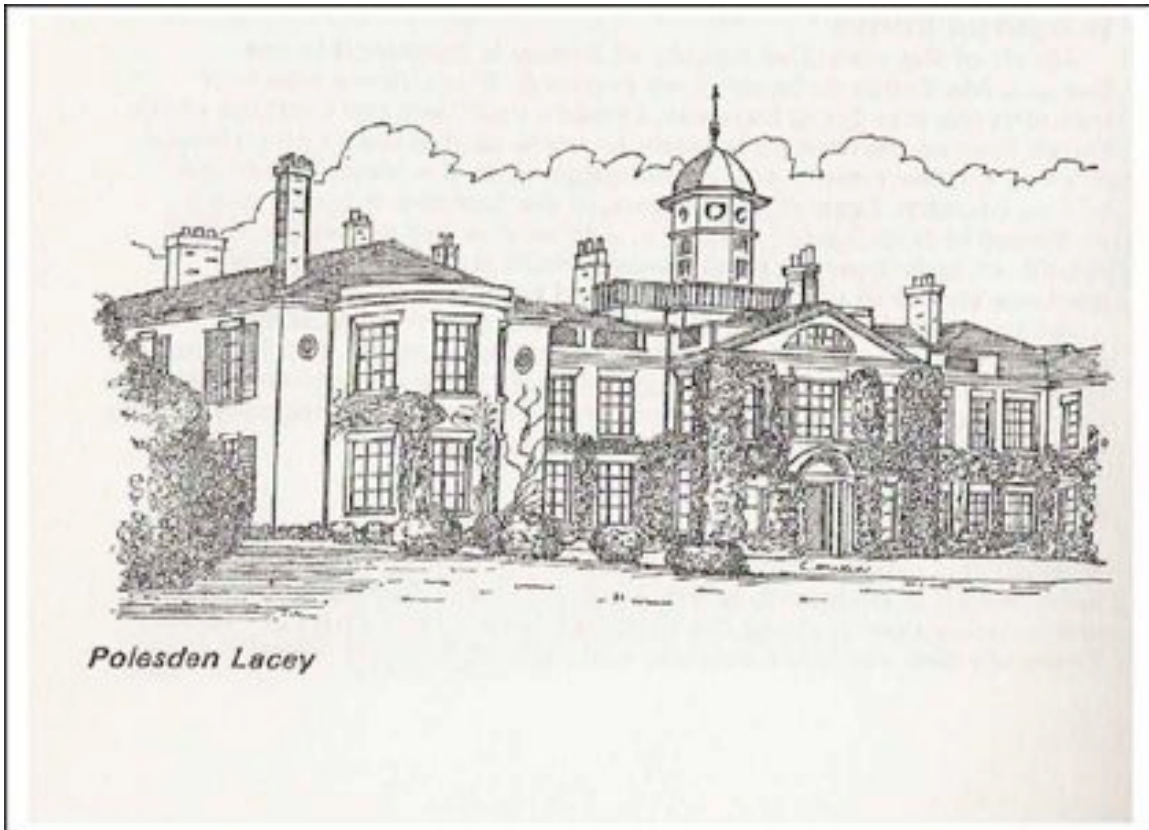




Surrey Group

# **NEWSLETTER**

Autumn 2006



### **Items for Newsletter**

The Newsletter is published three times a year, Spring, Summer and Autumn. Reports of past events, letters, and other items should be sent to the Editor one month before the publication date of the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be sent by email or typed, but manuscript will be accepted.

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## **Editorial**

The hot days of summer are now over and the season of mellow fruitfulness is upon us. At least walking should be more comfortable if a bit wet underfoot and overhead!

The last programme saw the unusual Portsmouth City Marathon, which has a write-up in the next issue of Strider, and two celebratory walks organised by two of our older members; Young Mr Grace's 75<sup>th</sup> celebration and Ian McLeod Guildford Parishes Walk. A write-up of the latter is contained in this edition of the Newsletter. The summer season saw the revival of the Guildford Boundary Way which was held in conjunction with the University of Surrey in commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its relocation to Guildford from Battersea. On a sadder note this edition also contains an obituary of David Mitchell.

The new programme contains details of our winter stalwarts: the Surrey Inns Kanter, the Tanners Marathon and the Punchbowl Marathon. Also included are a further exploration of the Surrey Border Path, a repeat of one of Tony Young's walks, Amberley Amble, another of the very enjoyable walks in Windsor Great Park and another ramble around Ashted. We go back into London for another visit to Richmond starting at the Diana Fountain in Bushey Park and there is the intriguing two part Fox Way details of which are to be given later. In fact there is a total of 23 walks organised for the next few months, four of which are on a Sunday, five on a Wednesday, ten on a Saturday, one on a Monday and three on a Thursday; thus providing a wide choice for members

## **Insurance**

Members, walkers and walk leaders might be interested to read the following pointers provided by the LDWA's insurers for our "information and protection".

- 1 Any group walks/activities published in Strider or shown on the Website are covered by the LDWA insurance.
- 2 A guest is covered if their names are recorded at the start, which walk leaders should do. However, after three walks, they will only be covered if they join LDWA.
- 3 Dogs that come on walks are not covered by the LDWA insurance, nor are any incidents they are involved in, so they are the owner's responsibility on a walk. If a dog trips someone, LDWA insurance does not provide cover and the owner would be considered responsible/liable.
- 4 Any incident or accident during a walk should be mentioned to the leader who will notify the Group Secretary, who notes it in an accident book and informs the insurer.
- 5 Generally, any young people aged under-18 should be accompanied by a responsible adult. We should be supportive and positively encouraging of them at all times and avoid comments like "we all get sore feet so get off your butt and walk the last ten miles" which could be considered abusive.

## Dave Mitchell



We are sad to report that David Mitchell collapsed and died while participating in the LDWA Northumberland 100 Challenge on 27th May 2006. Dave, who was only 58, was a very fit and experienced walker and was determined to complete his first 100. He will be greatly missed by his friends, not only in the Wessex Group, where he was its much-valued secretary, but also in the Surrey and Sussex groups for whom he led many walks. He was also an active leader for other walking associations such as the South Downs Society and the South East Hants Ramblers.

Dave had extensive knowledge of footpaths and trails in the Hampshire and Sussex areas, and his walks were always full of variety and interest. Conservation was a major focus of his life with his voluntary work for the National Trust at Uppark and footpath work for Rogate Parish Council. He was an active man in many ways. He worked an allotment from which he produced wonderful veggies, he had an intense interest in cricket and would travel widely to watch matches, and he was involved in life in the West Sussex village where he lived.

For those of us who were privileged to enjoy Dave's company during many walks and perhaps over a beer in lunchtime pub stops, his death has come a dreadful shock and we all feel a great sense of loss. Our hearts go out to his wife Linda'.

Wessex LDWA

(A personal tribute from John Lay, Surrey LDWA)

If you ever followed Dave through a wood, or across a field of crops, he could tell you, straightaway all you could ever wish to know about the surrounding countryside, what type of tree? which crop? how long before harvest? If you were walking through a farmyard he'd know who the farmer was? why had he moved from cattle to horse liveryes?, or arable? all that knowledge! It never ceased to amaze me.

Apart from that, over the years that I knew him he became a true friend, kind, always considerate for other walkers and always willing and full of enthusiasm about leading another walk whenever he was asked.

Perhaps the main reason for his popularity was down to his calm temper and always appearing to be at ease with the world and all about him.

I shall miss him a lot, and I know also that he will be sadly missed by all his many friends from within the Surrey Group.

Our deepest sympathy is sent to his wife and family.

## **Milford Meander Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

What could be better, a lovely sunny day, beautiful Surrey countryside, and all the old familiar faces, sorry, the familiar faces. We set off from Milford in a SW direction, through Thursley Common, to Thursley. Then we used the Greensand Way to cross the busy A3, but we were soon deep into the wilds of the vast Punchbowl. I always like to keep the pub secret, but I had the pub menu, which I passed around as we walked. I had cut the heading off the menu, but suddenly I heard a loud shout, “it says here, the Wheatsheaf Special”, so that’s where we stopped for lunch at Grayswood. More luck than judgement, the walk was 16 miles, except for the many trips to the bar for some. From Grayswood we went NE to Sandhills, Witley and on to Milford. There were thirteen of us, plus the lovely dog, who seemed the freshest of us all, after spending the whole walk diving into every pool, and chasing every thing that rustled.

**Mervyn Harvey**



## **Sussex Seasonal Seaside Saunter    Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Ten of us, plus Timba the dog, met under perfect blue skies and bright sunshine at Chichester Marina off the A286 to Witterings. Before starting we were warned that we may have to wade through an area of water if the tides were wrong but this did not materialise. After saying goodbye to Reg. C and Ann Lay we set off north through woodland to Del Quay where we thought we would get our first pint of beer but no, the publican assured us they didn't open until 11 o'clock - it was only 10.15am!

North along the harbour to Fishbourne, and across fields west to Bosham where some settled in the Anchor Bleu for lunch and others in the seafront café. Because of the high tide, all was looking lovely. Bosham is an attractive village and yachting centre. The partially Saxon church has a fine Norman font and appears on the Bayeux Tapestry. King Harold sailed from to Normandy from Bosham.

After lunch we followed the coast path south to cross, by ferry, to Itchenor. Timba was a bit nervous walking up the narrow ramp onto the ferry but she made it in the end. From Itchenor we made our way north to our starting point at the marina where we met up with Reg. and Ann surprisingly at the Quayside café for afternoon tea.

A thoroughly enjoyable day and so different for we Surrey walkers unused to the coast and the flat terrain. Many thanks to Elaine and Peter Edwards for a really good day and we all look forward to next year's event.

**Elizabeth Bryan**

## **Home and Back    Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

After a delayed start, while we waited for walkers to arrive who had been delayed by road closures for the London-Brighton Cycle Ride, eleven walkers set off by climbing steeply up to the North Downs Way. This was to be the first of many such climbs.

Places passed during the morning included Happy Valley, Coulsdon and Kenley Commons, Whyteleafe and Warlingham Golf Club. Lunch was at Chelsham where the landlady had agreed to make sandwiches for us, the pub being one of many now that only do roasts etc. on Sundays. After a wait we were very pleased when she produced a large platter of sandwiches, which disappeared rapidly.

After lunch an undulating route took us through Woldingham to eventually pick up the North Downs Way to go over the Caterham Bypass and back to Jackie and Ted's where we enjoyed tea and cakes.

Thank you Jackie and Ted for an interesting walk over an area new to most of us and for the delicious refreshments at the end.

*Dave Challenger*



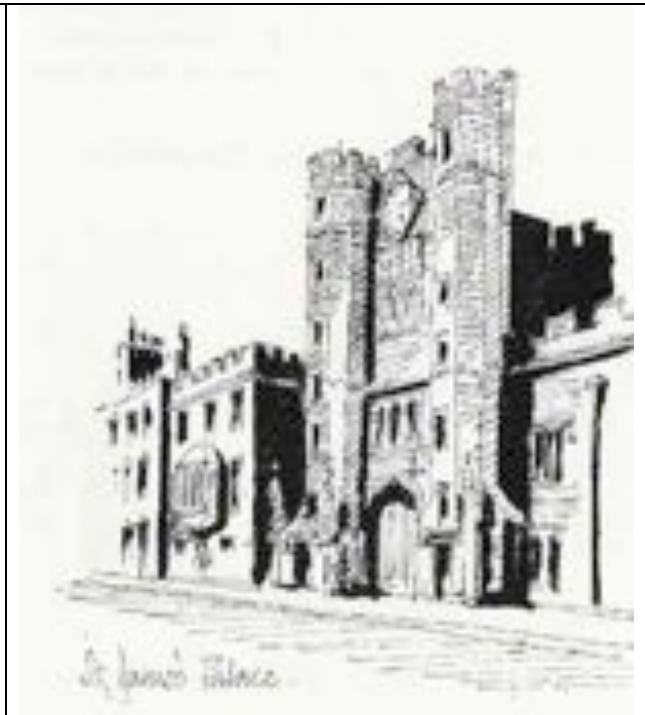
## Primrose Hill Perspective

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June fourteen intrepid walkers set out from Waterloo Station to brave the streets and parks of London having first endured the stares of the posh folk all dolled up in their finery for Ascot. Mollie and Elizabeth lead the way over Waterloo Bridge and through the throng around Westminster tube station into the quiet, almost empty, St. James Park. On we walked through Green Park followed by Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Morning coffee was taken in the Serpentine restaurant. The Princess Dianna memorial was viewed as was the Albert Memorial and the Peter Pan statue. Leaving Kensington Gardens the walk passed through the roads near Paddington Station to the canal side at Paddington Basin. A canal walk now followed eastwards to Regents Park and a climb up Primrose Hill for a picnic lunch. A walk through Regents Park, dodging the many Hindu wedding parties, followed the descent of Primrose Hill. Back to London streets to Baker Street tube station followed by Marylebone Station. Southwards now through the streets of Marylebone and once more into Hyde Park for a walk along the east side Under the road, down South Audley Street and into Shepherd's Market for afternoon tea. Over Piccadilly and into Green Park once again. Out to pass St. James Palace, on through St James Park and Horse Guards Parade to cross the Thames on the down streamside of Hungerford Bridge and so to Waterloo Station for the return journey.

Our thanks go to Mollie and Elizabeth for a delightful walk, enlivened by many scraps of information about the places we visited and sights we saw.

**Jacky Griffin**



## **Ryka's Roundabout      Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

This was to be my first walk as a leader. The party numbered 12 in all, plus Harry the corgi, and it included several LDWA members from the London branch, a walker from Stamford, and one from Poland.

The walk started from the car park at the bottom of Box Hill, hence the name of the walk, and passed though Denbies Wine Estate where the grapes were ripening in readiness for the forthcoming harvest and conversion into excellent wine. From the top of Ranmore the route ran southwards to Leith Hill for a welcome coffee break and then northwards descending through the woods to the Stephen Langton for lunch.

The walk continued in the same general direction to climb back onto Ranmore and then down through the Polesden Lacey woods to pass Tanner's Hatch Youth Hostel and so via Norbury Park to the starting point in Ryka's car park.

The weather was warm but not oppressive and it was appreciated that for a lot of the walk the trees provided welcome shade. However, the trees did not spoil the many views.

As for Harry, well a two-year old corgi is close to the ground and does require a lot of drink, but he survived.

**Juliet Eberlie**



## **Downsman Revisited, Part 6    Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August**

Nineteen walkers having heard of the feast that had been available on the Downsman Revisited Part 5 joined the walk hoping for a repeat performance. They were not to be disappointed. The walk had been checked backwards and forwards with three walkouts looking for coffee-, tea-, picnic- and pub locations.

From Chanctonbury Car Park on a humid August Sunday morning, not being sure of what the weather had in store, the intrepid group climbed, at a leisurely pace, up Chanctonbury Hill to pass the Ring and join the South Downs Way. This was followed until the walk left it to drop down into Steyning to continue to just before the field that led to the river. Here they were greeted with morning coffee and biscuits, by the Surrey Group (Master of Checkpoints out of a car boot) Reg. At this point the only rain of the walk (note, not the day) fell. This did not last long and by the time the walkers had climbed back up to the South Downs and on to Truleigh Hill it had stopped and the sun shone.

The Pub Stop was in Fulking. The pub could be viewed from on high, as we peered over the South Downs at the steepest descent down (or up). Although excited at the thought of lunch, care was taken on the steep zigzag path down.

The sun was still shining and we were all able to eat outside the pub, or at a delightful picnic park 100 yards up the road.

The return to Steyning followed footpaths beneath the downs. The route was flat, through dried parched fields with huge cavernous cracks, woods and a cooling stretch along the river, (this all allowed for lunch to digest). This was necessary as reaching Steyning a cream tea was waiting to be enjoyed, (the leader when passing through Steyning during the morning had informed the owner that there would be nineteen for tea at 16.30).

Suitably refreshed the walkers continued another three miles back to Chanctonbury.

You may have noticed my reference to rain! Prior to many of the walkers reaching home, they were caught up in floods, stranded, or had to wade to their front doors.

Never a dull moment on the Downsman revisited day. See you in 2007 at The View Point Car Park, Devils Dyke for the next exciting instalment.

**Janet Chapman**





**Tanner Twins**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

A total of five walkers and one dog left Leatherhead on a very warm but overcast morning. They were to be joined by one other walker at lunchtime.

The walk went over Hawk's Hill and past Polesdon Lacey, where a photo opportunity break was taken in the bright sunlight. The walk then followed part of the Founder's Challenge route in the reverse direction into Abinger Hammer for a substantial lunch. After lunch the route went eastwards along the valley towards Dorking now in bright sunlight and very warm. At the appropriate point the route turned towards the north and climbed the North Downs escarpment to Steer's Field. Past Ranmore Church to descend through Ranmore Common Woods towards West Humble. Another turn in the route took the walk up Chapel Hill and into Norbury Park. Another stop was taken here both to admire the view and to take more photos. The route now dropped down to the River Mole and back into Leatherhead.

The walkers thanked Don Bolton, for a most enjoyable route. The dog, even with his short legs, appeared to enjoy the walk as well.

*Don Bolton*



## **Guildford Parishes Walk 19-20 August**

Designed as a celebration of Ian McLeod's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday, this was a 71km(45mile) route around the Guildford parishes. The aim was to set foot in all 24 civil parishes within the Borough of Guildford. In order to help him achieve this original feat Ian assembled most of the survivors of his 2005 epic walk around Surrey and a core team of willing supporters.

The other walkers were: Bill Grace, Tony and Louise Cartwright, Gail and John Elrick, Janet Chapman, Avril Stapleton, Jacky Griffin, George Evans and visitor Elton, Ian's daughter, Heather, also accompanied us in the afternoon and evening. The essential support came from Cindy McLeod, Heather and Reg. Chapman. Cindy and Heather provided us with excellent support around the route, including helpings of birthday cake for Saturday tea and fish and chips for Saturday night. Reg. manned the checkpoint on Puttenham Common on Saturday night whilst keeping his car doors firmly locked against unwelcome 'visitors'.

The walk was a clockwise, circular one starting and finishing at Wanborough Station. The route went as far eastwards as RHS Wisley before turning round to go westwards, via Effingham and Horsley, to West Clandon and then up onto the North Downs Way to Seale, with a loop added in to rescue Reg. at Puttenham Common, and from Seale back to Wanborough via Tongham and Ash.

Starting promptly at 8.30am on Saturday morning we headed through Hanley Park and the grounds of Merrist Agricultural College to reach Worplesdon. Ian generously allowed us a 6 minutes stop on Whitemoor Common before we continued to Sutton Green to join the Wey Navigation. On reaching Cartbridge just outside Send we came off the towpath to cross the busy road bridge on a blind bend where a van narrowly missed some of the group. Ian skilfully avoided road walking through Send by taking us in a loop via Papercourt Lock to his local pub, The Saddler's Arms, close to Send Marsh Green. Here, at the 12 miles point at 12.30pm, we met Cindy and Heather and John Lay and family in the comfortable surroundings of the main bar.

The post-lunch route took us via Ripley Green around the edge of RHS Wisley to the Semaphore Tower at Chatley Heath. The route continued through Effingham Junction and east Horsley to the Barley Mow pub in West Horsley where we stopped shortly before 6pm for much welcome liquid refreshment after about 4 hours of walking in the hot sun.

At this point we were about half an hour behind Ian's tight schedule and so we continued rapidly across Hatchlands Park, the Long Walk, and the golf course to West Clandon. There was an unscheduled, but welcome, pause by the A246 as Heather was collected for the ride home. We then headed up onto the North Downs Way where we reconnoitred past Surrey Hills Brewery at New Scotland farm, briefly set foot into Shere parish and headed for Newlands Corner which we reached at about 8.30pm. This was a meal stop with a difference, as we tucked into excellent fish/sausage and chips cooked at Ian's local and specially delivered to us by Cindy and Heather. The next planned stop, The Ship in Guildford, was reached at 10.30pm after following The North Downs Way westwards. The customers looked quite askance when they saw us come in and even more so when we told them that we were

continuing overnight

Fortified by alcohol and coffee, we set off along the well-trod route through Pickards Farm to Puttenham. Instead of continuing along the village High Street, Ian turned past the Priory and headed across fields to the edge of Puttenham Common where Reg. awaited us with hot drinks and cakes. One would not have thought twice about this in the daytime but standing in the middle of nowhere at 1.00am whilst hearing the National Anthem and the BBC World Service News on the car radio seemed a novel experience.

We left the North Downs Way at Seale in order to make our approach to Wanborough via Tongam. Just behind the Hog's Back Hotel we lost the track as the path narrowed and disappeared from the fields into the trees. We found the right exit and, as the sky lightened, we followed the route of the dismantled railway into Christmaspie and onto the finish at Wanborough Station shortly before 4.00am.

A marvellous event and we would like to thank Ian McLeod, 'The Laird of Send' for his hard work in designing and leading the walk and inviting us along.

**John Elrick**



## **Easebourne Easy Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

On a humid and warm Sunday morning about twelve walkers plus Timba gathered in the car park at Haslemere station under the watchful eye of Chris Hayward. They were about to set off to walk to Easebourne and back. There had already been a slight drizzle and only 30 minutes into the walk it started to rain. However, experienced walkers that they were, they knew that it would come to nothing and so rain gear was not donned. The walk started with a climb southwards out of Haslemere to pick up the Sussex Border path on the edge of Black Down. This was soon left and after crossing the highest point the descent was made into the lowlands to the south of Black Down to reach Lurgashall. Still going south the route went past two artificial lakes, relics of a long gone industrial past, and on to Smithbrook just north of Lodsworth. The route now turned to an easterly direction through the 'Vinings' and so to Easebourne for lunch in the only pub left in this large village. After lunch a northerly direction was taken to Verdley Farm and then east to the little village of Henley. More woodland and field edge walking took the party to Fernhurst. The northerly direction continued with Marley Heights to the west and Black Down to the east to reach Valewood Park and so to join the outgoing route.

Our thanks go to Chris Hayward who devised and led the walk.

