



Surrey Group  
**NEWSLETTER**  
Spring 2006

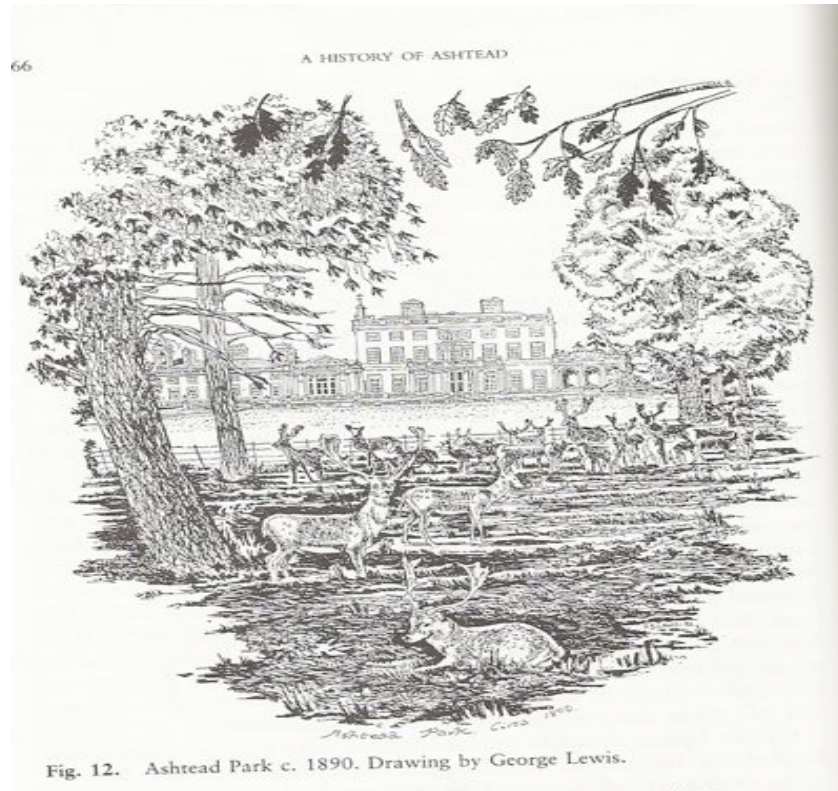


Fig. 12. Ashted Park c. 1890. Drawing by George Lewis.

**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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**Surrey Group LDWA**

**Branch officials**

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<b>Treasurer: Barry Harrison</b> 58 Arundel Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey. KT1 3RZ. Tel. 0208 9491547	<b>Membership: Reg. Chapman</b> 63 Yockley Close, Camberley, Surrey. GU15 1QQ. Tel. 01276 65169

**Editorial**

The 2006 walking season is well underway. The Surrey Inns Kanter and the Winter Tanners have both taken place and walkers are gearing up for the annual Punchbowl Marathon. Those who took part in the Tanners know that parts were very muddy underfoot particularly on the path down to Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel but, as one who was a marshal at the YH, I can assure everyone that although many slipped and slithered down that path no-one fell. Having marshalled at the YH for many years now one thing gladdens my heart and that is the large number of families out walking: from mid-morning to mid-afternoon there is a constant stream of walkers passing the Youth Hostel even on a drizzly day as it was this year. However one thing that is irritating is the assumption that we must be a sponsored walk of some kind or other; many people appear to believe that if one does a long walk then it must be a sponsored one and not one that is done for the enjoyment of walking.

Including the extensive social walks programme, we are offering a total of 26 walks, two initiatives stand out: the Portsmouth City Marathon and the re-launch of the Guildford Boundary Challenge Walk. The sketch map of the Portsmouth City marathon is printed in this Newsletter to whet the appetites of those planning to participate in this rather unusual walk. As is pointed out in the article on the Guildford Boundary Walk, this walk had to be suspended because of the increasing danger from speeding traffic in crossing the two main roads, but now Keith has found a way around this problem. Not to be outdone by Ian's exploits, Bill Grace is giving us his 2-part 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration walks during the summer

Another one of Tony Young's walks, Trundle Trek, will take place in April. These were first devised in the 1980s and all were illustrated with finely drawn sketch maps of the route and of the features that could be seen along the route. The sixth part of the Surrey Border Walks takes place in May. There is the usual collection of walks with titles that are either alliteration or sufficiently tantalizing to whet the appetite. In the latter part of the year we have the seventh of the Surrey Border Walks and the sixth part in the series of the Downsman Revisited. We thought we had walked all the Surrey Tops, but no; Keith has found three more that meet the criteria and these will be walked in the autumn.

**To all group members**

Will all group members please email Reg Chapman at [Reg@the-chapmen.co.uk](mailto:Reg@the-chapmen.co.uk) to confirm their current email address? It will also help if group members could include Reg on their notification list should they change their address.

### **The Moonwalk**

As some of you know, I have recently run some *Wellbeing* (life coaching) workshops for the Breast Cancer Care charity. The women were all under 40 years of age and I suspect some were in their early twenties. In the UK, some 2000 women in their 20s and 30s are diagnosed each year and their prognosis may be poor as the disease is particularly aggressive in this age group.

This got me thinking – these young women could be our children, and there is still much to do in terms of research – so to make a small contribution, I have entered the (Playtex) Moonwalk that takes place in London overnight on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. I shall be joining 15000 women walking the marathon to raise money for breast cancer research and care (see [www.walkthewalk.org](http://www.walkthewalk.org)) If you would like to support it too then I would be delighted to accept your donation. Please include a signed piece of paper with your name and address so I can fill in the necessary donations form.

A big thank you to those who have contributed already – it really is a worthwhile cause if it can help to keep our daughters and granddaughters free from disease.

Louise Cartwright  
12 East Meads  
Guildford  
GU2 7SP



The Stonebreaker: John Brett

### **Guildford Boundary Walk – Relaunch**

Those members who were at the 1980 Guildford Boundary Walk event, will always remember it. Alan Blatchford, the event organiser and LDWA founder, had died suddenly in the week before the event. Surrey Group members stood in to run it, but Alan's death was so unexpected many couldn't believe it, even when we had 1 minute's silence at the start.

And the other reason is that the conditions under foot were the worst we've ever known on an event. There were no dry feet at the end and some walkers, having failed to detect ditches hidden by the floods found themselves submerged up to their necks. I helped pull walkers out in 2 places – on the path across the corner of Sutton Place and near the Shalford allotments. Even so, 228 out of 251 starters finished the 21.5-mile course. 6 years old Matthew Cartwright, son of Louise and Tony, was the youngest to complete it on the day. My 2 boys, Alexander and Nicholas, and Erica and Ian Blatchford did it a few times too.

The twenty-mile walk especially appealed to youngsters and this age range is why we stopped doing it in 1989, as increased traffic made crossing the roads increasingly hazardous.

The walk was devised by Alan and Barbara Blatchford and went on a footpath course as close to the 1933-1974 Guildford boundary as good walking allowed. It took place first in 1971, and Alan and Barbara published a booklet on it (and associated walks) in 1979. The Mayor of Guildford in 1973, Bill Bellerby, started it and walked it with the traditional 6 feet staff once used to beat the bounds.

I am walking out several alternative routes, with easier road crossings, for our relaunched event on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This year is also the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Surrey in Guildford gaining its Royal Charter. To mark this anniversary the event will be organised in conjunction with the University where it will start, and Guildford's Mayor for the coming year, Angela Gunning, has agreed to start it. She may walk it too!

This is a good chance for Surrey Group to get new people interested; so all volunteers are welcome

### **Keith Chesterton**

PS I have also done a preliminary route on the map for the Greater Guildford Boundary Walk, following the present day boundary. This is about 60 miles and I'll be checking this out when I've done the present one.

### **Christmas Walk 10<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

This was my 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas walk and I have enjoyed them all but I must admit the most enjoyable bit is in the evening, if everything has gone right.

I had ordered a coach for about 20 and I sat in my car waiting for the members. The cars kept coming and the roadway was getting crowded with boots and rucksacks. So I panicked and started clearing out my car expecting to have to follow the coach with a car load. However, a 39-seater arrived so the 25 walkers and one dog had plenty of room.

We started along the canal at Loxwood, and I like to think that the hundreds of Father Christmases and decorations that filled the tress were for our benefit. It was a lovely crisp Surrey morning as we set out off north. We got to Cranleigh for lunch and had a bleary two hours in the area set out for us. We used a bit of the old railway track and over the years it has matured into a pleasant byway.

My friends were waiting for us near Bramley with hot drinks and cake, unfortunately all the cake had gone when the last three arrived. The dog even licked up all the crumbs.

It gets dark very quickly in December but we all arrived at the Parrot ready for our Christmas Dinner.



### **LDWA and MABAC Running League**

Alan Blatchford and friends founded the MABAC Running League in 1977 and from the start LDWA was one of the main groups making up the League, which organizes monthly cross-country runs in attractive Surrey locations.

In the first years some 25 runners made up the LDWA contingent with seasoned runners as: Bryon Alden, Tony Cartwright, Dave Challenger, Keith Chesterton. Bob Mottram. Mark Pickard. John Robinson, Dan Hatfield, John Westcott and Kathleen Wartnaby.

Looking up a MABAC Annual Report from 1980, the year Alan died, LDWA was 'top of the league' closely followed by BAe. Groups taking part in the MABAC League came and went, BAe and LAG (Legal and General) were merged with LDWA in the early 90s but within 3-4 years our group of runners had diminished to less than 5.

During the last 5-6 years we have been temporarily 'married' with Pyrford Puffers and Ranelagh Harriers. Both of these groups are now running under their own names and the Surrey LDWA is down to only a small handful of entrants

Each group within MABAC is responsible for organising at least one event per year and LDWA's slot is the September venue at Walking Bottom (Peaslake). We are setting out the five-mile course using the late Mike Mardle's convenient marker posts, providing marshals and assisting Jenny Bell, the timekeeper, with recording finishers. Recently we have had to lean on other groups to help us out with such personnel on the day but we would ideally like to be able to stand on our own two feet for this event.

I feel that LDWA is an important part of MABAC and that we should aim to continue as an active participant in the regular event. All levels of athletic ability are catered for in MABAC, some runners perform at 5-minute mile pace whilst slower runners and joggers are just as welcome as indeed are family groups with children. There is no entry fee and an individual and group point scoring system is operated just to spice up the friendly competition.

So if you feel like stretching your legs on a Sunday at around 11am, we would very much like to see the Surrey Group revitalised

The dates for the events in 2006 follow

Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Richmond Park
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Cranleigh 15/21 miles open event Start 9am
Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Winterfold Forest
Sun. 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Lightwater Country Park
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Holmwood
Sun. 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Surrey Slog XC half marathon open event Start 10am Holmbury Hill area
Tues. 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Wimbledon FRC 7.30pm
Sun. 13 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Leatherhead Pairs Relay and BBQ
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Peaselake (Walking Bottom)
Sun. 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Epsom Downs
Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Puttenham Common
Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Ashted Common followed by AGM
Wed. 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Windsor Winter Wander Start 9/10am

All details can be found on [www.mabac.org.uk](http://www.mabac.org.uk)

Erick Falk-Therkelson; Tel. 01932 347639, email [erikft@tesco.net](mailto:erikft@tesco.net)



### **Richmond Roundabout 10<sup>th</sup> November**

We arrived at the Diana Fountain Car Park to find Bushey Park shrouded in mist. As we sat in our cars strange forms appeared through the mist exercising in preparation for an annual 5k running event. Undaunted by the weather, we set off around the western end of Bushey park. We left the park at Teddington Gate and passing the church where Dave was married reached Teddington Locks and the River Thames. Several canoeists were in training and the occasional houseboat cruised by. Dave had done his homework and valiantly pointed out places of interest but these were all shrouded in mist so we had to take his word for it! We left the Thames passing through the Terrace Gardens at Richmond and then the Star and Garter Home. What a huge building that is and what a view it commands! We entered Richmond Park and headed for Pembroke Lodge and lunch. Miraculously at this point the sun shone and three brave souls sat at a sheltered terrace seat for a picnic lunch later joining the others for a delicious pot of tea.

The sun continued to shine as we descended to Pen Ponds and then up to and through Isabella Plantation to Kingston Gate. Leaving the park we walked down to the Thames and crossed at Kingston Bridge. From there the walk took us through Howe Park to Hampton Court and back to Bushey Park.

Our thanks to Dave for an excellent walk which we hope will be repeated when the visibility is better.

*Molly Groundsell*

### **JACK AND TED'S ROUND 13<sup>th</sup> November**

The first question you might ask would be 'round where'? It is well known that I pay no attention to where I am being led so that even after several hours studying the map I remain only vaguely aware of where 'round' was!

But to give you some idea, I know we started at Lingfield because that is mentioned in the newsletter, I remember Crowhurst and I remember The Royal Oak and I remember Staffhurst Wood (but only as they made me write it down before I was allowed to drive home). At some point in the morning I asked Ted where we were going and he explained that we were going north then west then north again then east then south and then west. Not surprising I suppose given that it was a circular walk!

It was a chilly start to the day and a few woolly hats and gloves appeared for the first few miles. But it soon got a little warmer and after declining an invitation from the local vicar in Blindley Heath to join his church parade and after a couple of hours we were called to a halt in a car park to discover to our pleasant surprise that Jackie and Ted had parked there earlier and loaded up their truck with tea, coffee and cake. So once again elevenses came as a special treat. I commend the idea to walk leaders everywhere.

We moved on after elevenses but to stop again as 11 o'clock approached and to pause for the customary moments of silence for Remembrance Sunday.

As seems quite normal for Surrey LDWA walks there was a lot of chat so that it didn't seem too much longer before Jackie announced that there were only another two fields to cross before lunch-time. She did not make it clear if that meant that we would reach the pub after two fields or just that after two fields it would be lunchtime but no pub. Luckily the pub was there and the Royal Oak gave the impression that they were pleased to have 17 assorted, noisy, muddy booted walkers invade their hostelry. I can recommend the sausage and mash but then I always have sausage and mash for a pub lunch and Ian was able to approve of the Adnams pint. Sadly he muttered later in the day that we had not been given enough time for his second pint!

After lunch we discovered that 8 of the original 17 had decided they had walked far enough and were heading for home. Although 7 of the 8 were ladies I am assured that there was no truth in the rumour that they had talked so much in the morning that they were too tired to walk any further!

And so we ambled pleasantly on over a golf course, over muddy fields, splashing through wet grass and over bridges.

Rumour had it that one of these bridges was booby trapped so that our leader out running on another day but talking too much to her friend Mary, fell through the slats on the bridge and was left hanging by her finger nails eventually to plunge into the stream and to be rescued by the in-shore life boat from East Grinstead! It is only a rumour!

And so we returned safely to our start after another most enjoyable walk on the wild boundaries of Surrey and Kent.

My only remaining concern is whether or not I am the only survivor or have all those who picked what they thought were mushrooms suffered an untimely fate?

Our thanks again to Jackie and Ted and we look forward to another excursion to the exotic environs of east Surrey.

*John Dixon*



**WINTER TANNERS 20; 8<sup>th</sup> January**

It was going to be one of those wet and skiddy Tanners that come along once in a while, the skidding and slipping began soon after we started along the riverbank after passing MOLE BARN, although it was still quite a bright morning it was supposed to be raining according to the forecast, so we thought, misguidedly, that we might just stay dry. Bearing right uphill over the knoll we began to be passed by a series of young, and not so young, runners who would all no doubt be passing us again later in the day when they would be belting past, bent on beating last year's time: for me I was happy just to finish.

The really good thing about this winter walk is that every year John and Barry come up with a new and mysterious route where we all get lost and where you never know what's going to turn up beyond the next farmyard, and you know when they're coming too, although it was not very windy on this particular morning the air was endowed with some very rural fragrances.

The swampland south of the railway crossing near SPECTACLE WOOD certainly gave us added value, the very high grade mud here must surely be given a \* \* \* \* \* rating.

We kept plodding on in a sort of general southerly direction towards the traffic noise of the A25 and after turning left at the end of MILTON STREET it looked as if we were to be directed through the centre of DORKING HIGH STREET, first though we had a welcome break at Checkpoint 1, thanks to Mervyn, Pat, and Dave, before continuing on our way passing the litter basket and joining the wide track.

The route took us through parts of DORKING that I never knew existed, I think perhaps this is where the stockbroker belt must have originated, we eventually emerged from these salubrious suburbs to pass PARK FARM and then re-crossed the railway line to make our way over the immaculate fairways of the BETCHWORTH PARK GOLF CLUB with the BOX HILL trig point looming up on the horizon.

Surprisingly, this was not to be our objective and we were diverted for a comfortable saunter along the riverbank of the MOLE passing the BURFORD BRIDGE HOTEL and then under the A24 subway towards WEST HUMBLE.

After this we crossed various streams and negotiated various swamps culminating in an invigorating climb up the '79 steps', actually I counted 81, to continue in the general direction of BLAGDEN FARM and the second checkpoint at TANNERS HATCH Youth Hostel: thank you Betty for a very welcome mug of tea.

An unusual route back along the lane, we nearly turned right back towards Blade Farm, force of habit I suppose, but fortunately one of us was still reading the route description! A new and interesting route back along the last few miles over DENSHIRE HILL, along through UPDOWN WOOD and so back along the river to the lights of LEATHERHEAD.

Thanks John and Barry for yet another great Winter Tanners

*John Lay*

### **Punchbowl Marathon Marshals Walk; 21 January**

Just for once the forecasters had got it right and we were able to set off on a very bright and cold and typical January morning.

The ground was frozen hard so this would make for a brisk pace to cover the ground, there were just the twelve of us on the lookout for broken stiles, broken bridges, fallen trees, etc.

It became obvious that much repair work had been carried out during the last year where this had been funded by the new farm subsidies, although it must be pointed out that there are not many stiles on our new route and the few that remain are very user-friendly, also, along with these there are several new kissing gates.

Having walked around the PUNCHBOWL AMPHITHEATRE where erosion repairs had been completed along the western edge of the Bowl we reached the KETTLEBURY trig point at about 11.00am and it was here that we stopped briefly for a photo shot. (Tony Cartwright [top, by pillar] and Dave Challenger [3<sup>rd</sup> from left]) devised the route and although it hasn't changed much from last year the wording of the route description has been made more explicit.

After this we continued northwards over the MOD firing range following the GREENSAND WAY for a couple of miles before diverting across HANKLEY COMMON golf course towards TILFORD. By this time it was approaching mid-day and time for lunch.

This was supposed to have been a self-supporting check walk, no time for loitering about in pubs! I was overruled and so we stopped at the first Inn that just happened to be along the route, for some peculiar reason the landlord here did not want our custom, we looked like a bunch of muddy pirates and we might just spoil his carpets!

We moved swiftly on to the BARLEY MOW on TILFORD GREEN, an excellent old-English pub where they could not have been more welcoming and where we spent a very pleasant hour.

After leaving the pub we had just seven miles to go in the afternoon and so with three hours of daylight left this could be taken at quite a leisurely pace.

All appeared in order along the route and the afternoon sun made it ideal for winter walking. We completed the twenty miles in just 6 hours and 20 minutes, add on an hour and a bit for pub stops (plural) which meant that we averaged just over 3 mph, just about the right pace for us Surrey Softies

This must be the first social walk where we've ended up going to two pubs and it was meant to have been self-supporting!

*John Lay*



## Minutes of the AGM of the Surrey Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association held on Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2006 at The Parrot PH, Shalford

### Present:

Tony Cartwright (Chair)	Gillian Bull
John Lay (Secretary)	Peter Bull
Barry Harrison (Treasurer)	Janet Chapman
Reg Chapman (Membership Secretary)	Keith Chesterton
Peter Waterhouse (Newsletter Editor)	John Dixon
Dave Challenger	Erling Hanson
Molly Groundsell	Richard Ireson
Mervyn Harvey	Ian McLeod
Sue Boyman	Peter Short
Elizabeth Bryan	

### Apologies for absence:

There were none.

### Officers Reports:

**Chair** – Thanked all officers and all those involved in contributing to the running of our events both challenge and social. Particular thanks were extended to our secretary for his unstinting work on the walks programme.

**Secretary** – John reported that in 2005 there were 15 Sunday walks, 10 Saturday and 8 mid-week. The average distances were 19,27, and 17 miles. He commented that the 27 miles for the Saturday walks had been somewhat distorted by Ian McLeod's 70 mile birthday walk! John extended his own thanks to walk leaders.

**Treasurer** - Barry presented the annual statement of accounts which showed a healthy balance of £4590. He explained the salient points on the spreadsheet which showed an accumulated surplus of £342 for the year 2005. Although 'Donations' was discussed during the planning meeting which followed the AGM it is reported here that following discussion our donations for 2006 would remain unchanged at £100 to each of the National Trust and Hurtwood Control **ACTION Barry Harrison.**

The accounts were adopted and the Chair thanked Barry for his efforts on our behalf. The Chair also thanked Sue Boyman for auditing the accounts.

### Membership Secretary's report:

Reg Chapman reported that the '05 membership stood at 97 with honorary members. Membership subscriptions are now due for 2006 at £2. Reg raised the issue of sending a 'welcome' letter to new members in the Surrey area, a process that at best was sporadic. Following discussion Peter Waterhouse volunteered to re-introduce the process. It was agreed that John Lay would forward email notifications of new members from the National Group to Peter who would then send out a current Newsletter, a membership form and a welcome letter inviting them to join our walks programme. **ACTION John Lay, Peter Waterhouse**

The issue of members knowing when they were paid up until was also raised. It was agreed that Tony Cartwright and Reg Chapman would put forward a proposal for a clearer notification of paid-up status at the next planning meeting.

### **ACTION Tony Cartwright, Reg Chapman.**

It was also noted that email addresses would be collected as part of the membership renewal to aid faster and more efficient notification to walk changes etc. **ACTION Reg Chapman**

### Election of Officers:

There being no written nominations received for Officer and Committee posts and the willingness of the present officers to continue, all existing officers, Chair (Tony Cartwright), Secretary (John Lay) and Treasurer (Barry Harrison), together with the Committee, Dave Challenger, Molly Groundsell and Mervyn Harvey were all re-elected. The membership Secretary, Reg Chapman, Newsletter Editor, Peter Waterhouse and Auditor, Sue Boyman were also re-elected.

**Date of next AGM** – This would be in January 2007, the exact date to be advised.

### AOB:

The question of minutes for the AGM was raised. Although official minutes of the AGMs had not been taken for several years it was recognised that these were both important and useful. Janet Chapman volunteered to take minutes for future AGMs with the present set being compiled by the Chair. Janet also volunteered to take notes of the planning meeting decisions in terms of an aide memoir rather than full minutes. Thanks to Janet for both of these. **ACTION Janet Chapman.**

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

**Date of next planning meeting** – Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> – The Parrot PH 1930, Supper afterwards as usual.

