



Surrey Group

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008



Tony Youngs Boxing Day 2007: Pitch Hill Toposcope

Items for Newsletter

The Newsletter is published three times a year, February, June and October. 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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Visit the group website at www.ldwasurrey.co.uk to see more pictures of events, links to other groups and organisations, an archive of past events and lots of useful information

Obituary

Tony Youngs 1921-2007

We are sad to record the death of Tony Youngs (626) on New Years Eve. He was 86 and a member of the Surrey Group since its early days. Tony was secretary of the Group between 1977 and 1979 at which time he became chair until 1981; he was elected an honorary member in 1993. He joined the LDWA in 1973.

For many years Tony walked with his great friend Percy Pavitt and when Tony retired from the Civil Service in 1981 he and Percy walked from Santander to Italy covering over 1000miles averaging 22miles per day. He was away for 47 nights, 33 camping and 14 in hotels (Strider 32, April 1982). He wrote several accounts of his and Percy's exploits in early Striders.

Tony was well read across a diverse range of topics including natural history and geology, all of which he could impart in an engaging, informal but precise manner. He was an accomplished artist and many of his Strider writings and Surrey Group literature were embellished by his delightful pen and ink drawings for which he was renowned. The sketch of Tanners YH on the current Winter Tanners certificate is his. He always wrote with a dry wit capable of evoking images and typical of this was Keith Chesterton's recollection of Tony's description of a man jogging up a hill as "a follower of the new religion in search of eternal life, or at least an extra year or two"!

During his active life with the LDWA, Tony completed five of the early Hundreds and several 50's. For those that keep their Striders, the picture on the cover of no.19 features an immaculate and dapper Tony leading a typical group of scruffy walkers. It baffled all that knew him how he remained so clean when all others around him soon became mud-splattered! Tony devised the Founders' Challenge now organised by the London Group and with Chris Steer led the 'middle speed group' on the first Surrey Summits in 1976 (in that year a social walk).

His love of walking in the UK centred on the South Downs and between 1978 & 1994 he devised and led a series of nine walks along them. Each featured a hand drawn route map annotated with literary quotations, sketches and information about things en route. In 2004 the Surrey group began to repeat these walks. In a letter he wrote to Dave Challenger in 2006 Tony said "I don't enjoy this old age lark, but it's a comfort to me that I'm still making some contribution, however remote, to the Surrey Group programme"

Adding another string to Tony's bow, Keith Chesterton reminded us that Tony was a particularly active and determined footpath campaigner. He wrote many well-argued letters to his local Reigate & Banstead Council urging them to do their job properly!

For those that knew him Tony was a 'true and gentle giant' of a man, revered by both old and young alike. I well remember the young Cartwright boys who were then about 8 and 10 on an early Mardens Marathon racing up Butser Hill trying to beat *the great* Chris Steer and Tony Youngs to the top!

Tony kept on walking to the end. He made the ascent of Pitch Hill on Boxing Day to visit the toposcope built in memory of LDWA founders, Alan Blatchford and Chris Steer and to once again gaze out towards his beloved South Downs.

Perhaps a paragraph from an article "A wet week in Wales", Strider April 1980, encapsulates Tony's spirit. "It was after dinner, Percy turned in & I sat in that great rocky amphitheatre sipping brandy and drawing contentedly".

The LDWA has lost one of its pioneers, a dedicated walker, a tower of a gentleman and someone whose company was cherished by all.

He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with Tony's family.

Tony Cartwright

Dave Challenger

Keith Chesterton

New members of the Surrey Group

The following members have joined the Surrey Group recently. Please welcome them on our walks

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Anthony | Butterick | Woking | 26347 |
| Nicole | Carbonara | London | 23798 |
| Lynne | Cordy | Ockley | 26624 |
| Norman | Corrin | Milton Keynes | 4527 |
| Stephen | Cox | Merton Park | 23681 |
| Carol | Coyne | Walton on Thames | 23635 |
| Simon | de Cintra | Kenley | 26785 |
| Richard | Donovan | Hove | 26166 |
| Steve | Douglas | Richmond | 22226 |
| Lois | Ellliott | London | 22041 |
| Mark | Goble | Monk Sherborne | 26553 |
| Dave | Goodfellow | Bookham | 26338 |
| David | Hancock | Farnham | 26429 |
| Steve | Plested | Ruislip | 3195 |
| Mike | Quick | Sandhurst | 26456 |
| Mary | Reeves | Coulsdon | 24816 |
| Alan | Robinson | Capel | 26294 |
| Roger | Sage | Normandy | 25693 |
| Paul | Salmon | Twickenham | 26780 |
| Neil | Scott | Purfleet | 24982 |
| Chris and Gill | Stone | Aldershot | 24130 |
| Tracy and Kim | Sanders Hurst | Godalming | 25966 |

Hay on Wye weekend Friday 3rd October to Monday 6th October

Peter Waterhouse has taken over from Molly as the organiser for the Surrey LDWA Group Autumn Break.

Accommodation has been booked provisionally at Baskerville Hall, Hay-on-Wye for the weekend Friday 3rd October to Monday 6th October. Baskerville Hall is a Countrywide hotel just as was the hotel in Church Stretton last year.

We will travel to Hay-on-Wye on Friday 3rd October and plan to have an afternoon walk. This will be followed by two full days walking before our return after breakfast on Monday 6th October.

Will those who wish to participate please let me know as soon as possible and I will send you the booking form. Once I have sent the name to Countrywide Holidays they will deal directly with you for all the administration.

The cost for the weekend will be approximately £172 with a supplement of £18 for single occupancy. A deposit of £75, cheque payable to Countrywide Holidays, will be required from all who wish to participate.

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Midhurst Lurgashall Loop Thursday 6th December 2007

Twelve of us, plus dog, gathered in the car park at Midhurst, huddled in the warmth and protection of our cars providing respite against the heavy rain and wind outside, Eventually an intrepid soul ventured forth and the organisers were asked – should we curtail the walk and spend more time in the pub? A compromise was reached and we duly set forth.



This region of West Sussex is one of the gems of the southeast, an area largely devoid of railways and their related commuter towns, with many pretty villages and farms dominated by the South Downs.

Midhurst is a delightful old town with many good half-timbered Georgian houses. There is a pleasantly old-fashioned feeling about its street, with the number of small family businesses more reminiscent of forty or fifty years ago. Initially we headed for the ruins of Cowdray Castle, formerly a grand country Tudor house, completed in the reign of Elizabeth I, but destroyed by fire in 1793. We headed north past the polo grounds of the Cowdray Estate, passing Eastbourne Church, and going along “The Race”, a delightful sweet-chestnut lined avenue. Then towards Bexley Mast by way of Vining Farm, Hoe Hill, Ovis Common and Bexley Hill Common, the countryside still attractive despite the weather, a pleasant undulating landscape, interspersed with farms and woodland. Unfortunately the fine views of the South Downs were hidden from our view. It was about this time that I asked whether there existed a fully waterproof anorak, and with no replies in the affirmative, we plodded on becoming more drenched by the minute. On, steeply down, through Verdley Wood, requiring careful navigation on account of its numerous rivulets cascading down, and east to Haewych Farm. Here we headed southeast to Lickfold accessing Highslead Lane to Collyers Cottages and south to Lodsworth with lunch at the Hollist Arms. Lodsworth is a most attractive village with a good mixture of old and new, with St. Peter’s Churchyard containing a very large Monkey Puzzle Tree (Peruvian Pine). The Hollist Arms has been described as one of the best-kept secrets of West Sussex, and after sampling the delicious macaroni cheese with an excellent service and welcome, we could hardly disagree.

After lunch we went east by way of Cowdray Park Golf Course passing Steward’s Pond and a diversion to the “old oak tree” planted during the reign of Elizabeth I, then back to Midhurst for a hot cup of tea in one of its attractive teashops.

Many thanks to Molly and Elizabeth for a very enjoyable walk in spite of the weather, with a good turnout and banter all the way.

John Stovell

Long Mynd Weekend 5th to 8th October 2007



Friday saw Dave Challenger leading us off from the Long Mynd Hotel through Church Stretton to climb Caer Caradoc, on a clear day. John Lay, after his recent operation, found the Shropshire stiles too steep and sensibly retreated. A picnic looking across the valley and then over the summit and back to the hotel Ted & Jackie showed us up by doing Ragleth as well.

Saturday morning gave a superb view from our bedrooms across to Ragleth with the valley in mist. Then we set off to climb it and look back to the hotel. This was the prelude to our ascent of Long Mynd. Chris Hayward took us up & then down the same steep slope before we found a pleasant stream & followed it to the top. There we met the earlier runners on the 50 mile Long Mynd Hike – 450 entrants this year.

It reminded me of my doing this event in 1973 being with Chris Steer as he led a group up Black Rhadley on an alleged path through thick forest on a very dark night. And in 1976, with Jeff Ellingham, but with much slower times than people do now.

We returned to the hotel, well tired after our 14 miles and met 3 shirkers, who'd spent the afternoon in a pub watching England beat Australia in the Rugby World Cup!

Sunday we used cars and did a circuit, led by Dave, finishing with a trek along the Stiperstones ridge with its rocky summits on the way. I tried to recapture my youth by scrambling up them – but unsuccessfully – in both ways!

A great 3 days of walking with a good hotel. The countryside is as good as anywhere in England, but to my surprise, most of our Group hadn't been there before. Yet, it's one of my favourite areas.

As usual, Molly Groundsell made the arrangements immaculately and was thanked properly for this. But she has been organising these for many years and now needs to hand over to someone else.

Keith Chesterton

A Christmas Walk Saturday 15th December 2007

The Surrey LDWA and friends set off briskly from Peaslake to an early morning start on a cold December Saturday in the attire of serious walking boots, bright jumpers 'n jackets topped with flashing Santa head gear or jangly flashy bits, or both. At the helm, strode Louise Cartwright, intrepid leader to this thirty odd strong optimistic bunch who seemed determined to enjoy a circuitous route along Surrey's mud churned paths, through dull winter woodscape and beneath grey laden skies. All were cheered by the rejoining to our ranks of John Lay as he regains his strength and mileage after a hip replacement in the summertime.

Stops were welcome but never too long as smidgens of snow were brushed away, zips pulled tight and after a welcome coffee break on a bleak Leith Hill summit, our festive crew wended their way, the further four miles through farm and field to Ewhurst, and to The Bull where a suitable room to receive mud splattered travelers had been prepared. So as not to deter this merry crew on their journey, heating was not on offer and previously ordered fayre was soon on the tables.



A friendly Chelsea Tractor stopped in the village main street and offered assistance when one of our party, Elton Ellis blocked the general thoroughfare while immortalizing Christmas 2007 on the several digital appliances presented for the task as our party clustered around the village signpost.

After pacing up Pitch Hill and a round onto Reynard's Hill, we happened on the car park to Tony Cartwright's hot mulled tippie and Louise's star and heart-encrusted tarts. Our mud encrusted mascot, Harry, the corgi, once again was disappointed as every crumb was licked from our lips but he satisfied his enjoyment of the day by an afternoon dip in a cool, clear pond we passed as we made the final leg of our journey as dusk and temperatures fell and our flashy bits and torches lit our way back through the woods into Peaslake. Louise had saved some of the best muddy bits for last as though to test us for our final treat!

To celebrate a good year by cheery walk-loving folk, a really excellent, well presented Christmas dinner was proudly served to the walkers and their partners by the Hurtwood Inn in Peaslake, only yards across the road from that fateful encounter of Chris Steer and Alan Blatchford all those years ago. Tribute should be paid to Louise and Tony Cartwright for organising this very successful, thoroughly enjoyable and memorable event and for all their similar hard work with the many walks and events throughout the year.

Juliet Eberle

31st Winter Tanners: Sunday 13th January 2008

Congratulations to all those who completed the 31st Winter Tanners. Whilst the weather on the day was unexpectedly dry – if a bit blustery – the recent rain ensured that the going was soft underfoot, to say the least. As walkers and runners returned to the car park in Leatherhead, it was clear that memories of the mud encountered on the routes would stay with them for some time! Due to the time of year and the minimal support, the Winter Tanners is never an easy event, but the conditions meant that even hardened walkers and runners found WT08 a particularly tough outing.

The rain also resulted in a sleepless night for Dave Challenger, who, in the wee small hours of Sunday morning, realised that the River Mole would probably be over it's banks on the riverside path, where it goes under the A246. Before arriving at the start to clock you out, Dave managed to produce a route amendment for the outward and return routes to detour around this hazard. I'm told, by those who chanced the original route, that the water was mid-shin height in the morning, although it had dropped considerably by the return leg.

There were a number of dogs who took part, getting a slightly longer walk than usual – well done to Parsley and Ben, in particular, who completed the 30 mile route.

The route, as in previous years, was devised by John Westcott, who also wrote the route description. John produces a new route each year which is used for the Winter Tanners and the Tanners Marathon (see below). An archive of previous year's Tanners routes is available on the LDWA Surrey Group's web site (www.ldwasurrey.co.uk).

In spite of the weather forecast (which may have contributed to the higher than usual number of 'no shows') and the conditions, 189 entrants completed their chosen distance. The stats line up as follows:

| | 20 mile | 30 mile | Total |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Entries in advance | 68 | 72 | 140 |
| Entries OTD | 58 | 27 | 85 |
| Total entries | 126 | 99 | 225 |
| Starters | 111 | 81 | 192 |
| Retirements | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Change of distance | +4 | -4 | |
| Finishers | 112 | 77 | 189 |

Despite being a low-key event with minimal support, the Winter Tanners could not have taken place without the considerable efforts of the following, to whom thanks are due:

John Westcott, for devising the route, writing the route description, and closing down the checkpoints on the day

.Dave Challenger, Tony Cartwright and Ian McLeod for checking the route.

Dave and Pat Challenger, and John Lay at Checkpoint 1 (Friday Street).

George Evans, Jacky Griffin, Reg Chapman and Colin Saunders at Checkpoint 2 (South Holmwood).

Paul Lawrence, Peter Russell (& Holly), Dave Williams, and Peter and Betty Waterhouse at Checkpoint 3 (Ranmore Common).

Thanks also to:

The National Trust for the use of their car parks at South Holmwood and Ranmore Common. Donations by entrants totalling £129.50 will be passed on to the NT.

The Wotton Estate for the use of the Mundies Car Park at Friday Street. A donation has been made to the Wotton PCC for the benefit of Wotton Parish Church, which you passed on your way to CP1.

The **Tanners Marathon**, following the same routes as the Winter Tanners, (with an additional 10 mile Family walk route), will take place on Sunday 6th July 2008, starting from Leatherhead Football Club (near the Leisure Centre). For those who are navigationally-challenged, the route for the Tanners Marathon is partially way-marked.

Provisional date for the Winter Tanners 2009 – Sunday 11th January

Fiona Cameron
Organiser, WT08

It's PUNCHBOWL MARATHON, time again.

Arriving with an hour in hand, only to find the grass verge almost full all the way down the road! As luck would have it, the early morning sun was shining on us and there was a space right opposite the hall. A queue for registration! Surely this is not normal? So many entrants queuing? This is also unusual, sunshine outside, that's not right either for this event, must be down to those weathermen being so accurate. Time for a cup of tea, then – time for off.

What a cracking day, sunshine streaming down and frosty underfoot. A deviation from the original route involved crossing the A3 rather than going under but playing dodgems with the traffic only slowed things up a tiny little bit whilst we waited for a safe gap, as if it REALLY mattered in the great scheme of the day. Continuing onward, we realised you should not ALWAYS rely on memory and follow the route description thoroughly, as we took our FIRST wrong turn of the day just before **Checkpoint 1** at Little Cowdray Farm. It was a scenic little route we took downhill, to the river and back but hey, it is sunny SO sunny, so what did it matter. The morning had warmed up very quickly; the sun was burning away any fog leaving the most glorious day ahead of us.

The next section is off to a good start, the sun was in such a position as we ran down the Punchbowl that it made it very hard to see ahead –NOT complaining you understand, as the traffic ahead was moving freely. Then that climb, up the steps to the rim of the Punchbowl which never gets easier, but the view was worth it today. Squinting through the sun towards Hindhead Common, we are now heading north. Dropping downhill with pylons, it was a strange feeling underfoot; with no river of water and the bottom track, it also was dry unlike many other years. Kettlebury Hill was bit a stroll up with a stunning view towards Thursley Common and the nature reserve. Then it's the long flat section across Kettlerbury Ridge with more wonderful views, this time towards Hankley Common and Rushmore. Next, we are going over Hankley Common Golf Course, then on to **Checkpoint 2**, Tilford Village Hall. Tony is sunning himself outside whilst taking everyone's numbers. Boiler's now refuelled, with Marmite sandwiches and drinks, thanks to all the helpers being very busy inside, and then it's off across the village green, via Janet, who is counting out the 30 milers, also enjoying the sunshine.

With a quick glance at the paperwork it reads "up stepped path" to summit of Crookbury Hill, no mention of how steep it was to the top! If we look hard and far enough, our next objective can't be seen. All that lay between us was Puttenham Common. This is where we totally lost the plot and had to try out YET another new route but using our bush skills and sense of direction – **Checkpoint 3** was eventually reached. Well on the way now, almost 22 miles down for most people, others about 24, plus another wrong turn before Rainbows End! Still, what's another extra mile at this stage, although the look on Ted's face did not agree with me on this one!

It's easy to see why **Checkpoint 4**, Moat Car Park, gets its name. Navigating our way through the lakes and rivers beforehand, proved to be great fun. It was good to see our wonderful checkpoint people standing in the woods, dishing out much needed food, drink AND jelly babies. The woods were full of peace and quiet, broken only with bird song and beauty of our surroundings, we had only 4 miles to go, the sun was **still** shining, and it made a perfect end to yet another great day.

Many thanks *as always*, to everyone who takes time out to organise and help run this fantastic event. Let's hope we can arrange the same weather for next year.

This was co-written by Jackie and Ted.

Punchbowl Photos
Time to start



Check point 4 Moat Car Park



More Punchbowl Photos
Check-in time



Certificates for all



A3 – Punchbowl Works

Most of the following information comes from the Highways Agency website.

You can see a map of the cycle routes – which will be useful for walkers, too – on www.highways.gov.uk/roads/projects/3841.aspx

Most of the new paths below were put forward in the original HA plan, but the Ramblers' Association was successful in getting some additions – especially the Greensand Way underpass. The cyclists (CTC) didn't get what they wanted – the ability to continue to use the old A3 past Gibbet Hill (the National Trust wouldn't agree), but they did get quite a lot (which the NT manager was peeved about!)

The new A3 will not be useable by walkers in and near the tunnel but a lot of crossings will be provided.

The main features of interest to the LDWA to be provided are:

The Canadian Memorial Underpass - which passes under the existing A3 about 1km south of the scheme allowing free access between the two halves of Bramshott Common, which are currently split by the existing A3 dual carriageway;

Hammer Lane Underpass - this also passes under the A3 near Bramshott Chase and has a route for horseriders in its south verge;

High Pitfold Underpass - this crosses under the new A3 connecting Kingswood Lane and High Pitfold, an important route into Waggoners Wells and Ludshott Common;

Hazel Grove Junction Bridge;

Miss James Footbridge - which carries Miss James Walk across the road and allows local people to continue using this popular footpath which runs along the edge of Tyndall's Wood (the National trust have agreed to dedicate the remainder of the route as a Bridleway);

Blackhanger Underpass - which takes Boundless Road under the new road, connecting the network of paths and country lanes to the east of the new road with those on the west, and in particular with the new bridleway and cycle path which running along the line of the existing A3 and the Old Portsmouth Road which leads up to Gibbett Hill;

Greensand Way Underpass - this is located just south of the new Thursley Junction and provides a safe crossing for the Greensand Way;

Closure of the existing A3 across Hindhead Common will also mean that the Common is no longer divided and walkers, cyclists and horse riders would be able to use the network of paths across the Common without disturbance from traffic noise and without the risk of road crossings.

A3 - Punchbowl Works cont.

New Paths and Routes

One of the greatest difficulties that walkers, cyclists and horse riders face at present is getting to destinations along the line of the existing A3.

The A3 Hindhead Scheme design includes new largely off-road routes along the entire scheme, i.e. from the Canadian Memorial Underpass to Thursley comprising:

A 3m wide cycleway from the Canadian Memorial Underpass to Knockhundred and Hammer Lane along the east verge of the road, and a further cycleway in the west verge connecting Bridleway 71, which runs across Bramshott Common, to Hammer Lane Underpass;

A 3m wide cycleway in the west verge of the existing A3 from Hammer Lane all the way through to Hindhead Crossroads, providing cyclists with a safe route from the Grayshott and Hindhead residential areas to the network of paths and lanes in the Bramshott and Woolmer Hill areas. At Hindhead Crossroads, toucan crossings would be installed to allow the safe crossing of both the existing A3 and A287;

London Road, which would be reduced to an access only for motorised traffic, from Hindhead Crossroad to the National Trust Café;

The “old road” that goes almost to Gibbet Hill top & is terribly rutted, will be made much better – suitable for wheelchairs

Progress and timetable

The Boundless to Thursley link road is now open.

The Southern part of the Canadian Memorial Underpass should now be open (I've not checked)

During 2008, the Greensand Way should be re-opened, and work started on the Blackhanger Underpass, the north part of the Canadian Memorial Underpass, the Hammer Lane Underpass and the Hazel Grove Overbridge.

The tunnelling itself should start.

If you want to see what's going on, there is an observation platform built, accessible from Begley Farm or Gibbet Hill.

The new A3 is planned to open in 2011