



Surrey Group

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010



Spring: At last!

### 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](http://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

### **Christmas Dinner 2009**

Every year the group have a Christmas celebration: a brisk walk to stimulate the appetite followed by a sumptuous repast at a suitable hostelry. The year 2009 was no exception and it was more popular than ever as the following photo shows:



### **AGM news**

This year saw the retirement of our secretary of many years, John Lay, and the appointment of Avril Stapleton to replace him. Fiona Cameron also gave up the post of treasurer and was replaced by John Stovell.



## **A Midhurst Meander      Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

There was promise of a lovely Autumn day as I drove down to Hampshire on my birthday to meet my fellow walkers for the 15 plus 2 miles Meander. Sixteen gathered in the car park to hear our Leader's announcement, then much to my joy Molly presented me with a nice birthday card signed by the walkers, then followed a harmonious chorus of Happy Birthday from all of them. What more could I wish for, and yes believe me, I had not even mentioned it that morning!

Soon we were on our way passing the remains of Cowdray House enhanced by misty sunshine. Then continuing northeast up to Mill Farm where the fields were filled with young polo ponies, on to River Park Farm which had a bridge! This rotten wooden plank certainly would not have passed 'the Health & Safety' rule. However our Chairman needed his traditional picture for the website so we were requested to all gather together. As the little bridge creaked and cracked with the weight, the last walkers decided wisely, it was safer to stand it in the stream. I'm afraid that my fear was not expressed quietly, thinking it may be my last birthday! Coffee was enjoyed with nowhere to sit in a wooded area called 'The Palsh'. We travelled south to Lodsworth hearing music in the distance, a cheerful band was welcoming us as we made our way to the Hollist Arms. By the pub an eco-friendly village shop was opening called 'Lodsworth Larder'. It was built by local people, provided local produce and employed local people. It was certainly interesting and fun to look around.



We enjoyed good food, drink and company together on a very large table in the friendly cheerful pub; by the time we left, I think almost everyone knew it was my birthday!

We saw the pretty house of E. H. Shephard as we left the village in the beautiful sunshine to walk south over the River Rother, cross the dismantled railway to Selham Common then Ambersham Common. The hedgerows were heavy with colourful berries, spindle wood, holly and others, all in their prime as we followed the footpath along the Rother. The sun was getting low in the sky, which seemed to enhance the autumnal beauty, when we made our way back along the track to Midhurst after a hilly but lovely walk. Needless to say some of us rushed to the nearby tea-room before it closed to enjoy well earned refreshments to which they kindly treated me.

A big thank you to Elizabeth who lead us and Molly our back marker for a delightful day.

*Gillian Bull*

## **Rakes Return      Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

There were not many brave souls who gathered that Saturday morning at Liphook station car park in the pouring rain. This was rain that was to last all morning, although that was not known at the time. Having started from Liphook on a number of occasions, the walk took us along the standard route southwards and then eastwards on to tree covered Stanley Common. At Stanley Farm the route turned southwards to leave the forest for a brief respite at Elmers Marsh. We were soon back into the trees on our southwards journey to Olden Hill. We were assured by our leader that under normal circumstances the view from Olden Hill was good. That was not the case on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November! A brief downhill stretch followed to Redford.

The route turned to the west and we headed for Milland. Now we were in open fields and it was no longer raining but the problem now was soaking wet ground and numerous stiles.



We finally reached New Barn Farm and turned northwards. Still in open country we passed Maysleith to climb the 77 steps to reach Milland Church at the top of the ridge. There followed a mile of track parallel to the A3070 to reach The Flying Ball at Rake. A most hospitable pub; a very welcome sit down and excellent food.

After lunch our leader decided to take the shortened route back to Liphook. A wise decision as it was nearly 3pm and we still had some four miles to cover. The return route took us through Langley Wood and along the edge of Chapel Common to pick up the Sussex Border Path near Ripley House and onwards to Liphook.

Our thanks go to our leader, Glenys Kirkpatrick who looked after us well on what was a trying day. This walk write up is based on an outline provided by Glenys.

## **Sussex Stride      18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

This is a 51 mile walk over the Sussex Downs that is part of the KSS Southern Triple Challenge. The start is in Rottingdean at 10.00 on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

It was agreed at the AGM that the Surrey Group would host the Glynde check point, GR 458082. The check point 15.1 miles from the start and is open from 11.30 to 15.00.

Offers of help to Janet Chapman 01276 65169 07770807137

## JR's return to the border country      Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

A total of 7 walkers started this walk and 8 finished the 18mile circuit since Richard popped out of a bush and joined us after lunch.



A few regulars, some newer members and one person giving us a trial; but Mike enjoyed it so much (he had the perfect leader of course!) that he said he would join immediately. The weather was glorious with bright morning sunshine and crisp clear views. We climbed up Hydon's Ball, the first of many places to revive Surrey Summits memories. Passing the ancient yew trees in Hambledon churchyard, we headed south into woodlands east of Chiddingfold and then a long loop round to the Sun Inn at Dunsfold for an early lunch. The leader wanted a longer break but the group were keen to be off so another loop led to Hascombe Hill and the infamous gully, which, despite the recent heavy rain, is much improved, and not such a boot sucking slog as some remembered. A brief stop by the church and duck pond and then the Greensand Way, with quite a few stiff climbs to test us all, to Thorncombe Street and return through Winkworth Arboretum to a well earned pot of tea at the National Trust café.

*Jerome Ripp*



### Welcome to new members

The following members have joined the Surrey Group since the last Newsletter.

Please welcome them on our walks

Andrew and Lynn Beaumont	29516	Ashford, Kent
Yin Hai Cheung	28567	Sutton
Bruce Kennedy and Susan Wells	28583	Wraysbury
Phillip Summersell	28620	Fleet
John Power	28624	Purley
Maggie, Tim, Lucy & Alex Howe	28633	Woking
Pamela Withers	28641	Gatwick
Sally Partington	28672	Godalming
Mary Dumble	28699	Tongham
Julian P Thomas	28717	Caterham
Malcolm Currie	28738	Addlestone
Audrey Nice	28776	Windlesham
Paula Redmond	29003	London
Stephen Marais	29026	Raynes Park
Victoria Starr	29027	Bramley

### Surrey Inns Kanter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January

Our new venue at Tilford proved ideal. The Lutyens Hall was well equipped with all mod.cons. We had 66 entrants and no one complained of any difficulty finding us.

The walk was enjoyed by all including Timba, who Jackie and Ted kindly took and, I gather, was allowed a crisp! Most walkers managed the route in good time. The last two ladies caused a little concern not arriving back until 6.15pm.

All in all a very successful day with brilliant weather. One party, including our chairman, was enjoying the weather so much that they decided to do an extra circuit. We would hope to receive more entrants next year.

A big thanks to Pat and John for their sterling support.

*Molly and Elizabeth*



**Surrey Inns Kanter**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January**



## **Victoria's Adventure      Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Eleven members assembled in the car park of the Victoria Club at Lingfield, duly excited about the title of the forthcoming walk. What adventure would come our way – and who was this Victoria? All would be revealed as we made our way down to St Peter's Church, dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, but largely rebuilt in 1431. Beyond the church were a collection of fascinating buildings dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, some of which were until recently shops. One of these, the Star Inn is now Church House.

I had not walked in this area before, and it came as a pleasant surprise as we made our way south-easterly, and then southwards as the landscape unfolded in a series of delightful mini valleys, with the North Downs providing as attractive backcloth in the distance. Snowmelt continued to feed the rivers and brooks. We made our way via Dry Hill, a rather barren heath area but suitable for an iron-age hill fort to repel invasions from Kent, and then on to Hammerwood Ponds with a delightful church. The ponds were made for the iron industry which was at its height in the seventeenth century, declining entirely when guns were unpatriotically supplied to France, and the government transferred the contract to Scotland. Then by way of Owlets Farm we made our way to Ashurst Wood and the Three Crowns for lunch. The fertile sub-soil in this area of the Weald provides the nourishment for orchards and hopfields which once provided agricultural wealth for the region. The gentle rolling countryside continued to delight after lunch as we made our way back north via the Sussex Border Path and Stoke Brunswick school, which cares for children with severe epilepsy, and Old Surrey Hall. Some of the group took a detour to view the Hall, built by the Gaynesfords in 1450, but substantially restored and extended in the 1920s with a new wing being a very skilful imitation of the Tudor style. This part of Surrey is very rich in old houses. Back to Dry Hill to repel a few of those Kentish invaders! – and then a detour via Dormansland and Lingfield racecourse. The racecourse was constructed for National Hunt Meetings in 1890 and was extended for flat racing four years later. The racing industry brings Lingfield into public focus, particularly now the all-weather track allows the sport to continue throughout the year.

We then returned to the Victoria Club and a welcome cup of tea, glass of beer for some. Many thanks to Jackie and Ted for leading us on a delightful walk through new territory for some, where the walking was on easy paths over elevated open farmland, with lovely views at various points. This is an oft neglected area of Surrey for walking, and I certainly think that I will return to the area in the future.

*John Stovell*





## **The Punchbowl Marathon      Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Overnight entrants were rudely awakened as the five marshals woke from the warmth of their sleeping bags, having spent a night sleeping on the stage of Chichester hall, and switched on all the lights.

**This was the 34th Punchbowl Marathon AND it was Valentines Day.**



The kettle and urn are switched on in time before our commuting entrants start arriving. Val and I are ready for the already growing queue of people waiting for their numbers standing at the front of our desks. Ted is doing his usual of running around and sorting out any last minute problems.

The morning outside is looking like a promising start to the day with the early sunshine on the frost. Glenys was in the kitchen making hot and cold drinks for the early starters with biscuits to set them up, later to be joined by Elizabeth who also starts on cooking the marshals their sausage and egg sandwiches for breakfast. The first of the 30 mile walkers have already moved off and are on their way all wrapped up for the cold weather; there are flakes of snow in the air to add a bit of romance to the day. A lull appears in our queue long enough for us to grab a cup of tea and regain a little organisation to our desks whilst a few more trickle through for numbers, before the last wave arrive which are mainly the runners, clothing removed rather than added, Vaseline and characteristic odour of embrocations being applied, bags stowed around hall walls, then all of a sudden there is peace and quiet to the hall. Now was time for Val and I to start filling out the names on the finishing certificates for all entrants

All checkpoint marshals have now taken their designated CP boxes and had gone to their posts for the day to feed and water competitors.

This peace did not last for long as the first person was back in just over 4 hours having completed the 30mile route. The next few hours were a blur of individuals returning, muddy, smiling, tired, hungry, elated, and wet but the majority extremely happy with their day – you name it they poured in.

It goes without saying these events could not happen if individuals had not given up their spare time to help Ted and I and as this is only our second year of having taken over this already unbelievably successful and popular event, everyone's input and help before, on and after this day are the reason this continues to be such a success, [as you can see by comments below](#).

**The Punchbowl Marathon      Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

**Entries:** 295.   30 mile - 172.   20 mile - 123.   **Retirements** 2 (one from each distance)

**The willing team of helpers**

**Marshals**

**Start/Registration :**

Ted Swift, Jackie Barker, Val and Chris MaClaren, Fiona Cameron, John Westcott

**Cateres :**

Glenys Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth Bryan, Ian and Cindy McLeod, Chris Hayward, Keith Chesterton

**CP1    Little Cowdray Farm**

Pat and Dave Challenger, Chris McLaren, Mervyn Harvey

**CP2    Tilford Village Hall**

Tony Cartwright, Jan Chapman, Glenys Kirkpatrick, Vala West, Gillian Bull, Molly Groundsell, Elizabeth Bryan

**CP3    Puttenham Village Hall**

Richard Ireson, Joan Wrenn, Bill Grace, John Dixon, Ray Rowe

**CP4    The Moat**

Pat and Dave Challenger, Andy Fogel

**Routes 20/30:** Dave Challenger

**Closing Marshal:** John Lay

**Results:** Mike Diebel

**Photographer:** Reg Chapman

**PBM Secretary:** Joan Wrenn



**The Punchbowl Marathon      Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

**Comments received**

Hello I just wanted to drop you a brief line to say thank you so much for organising a wonderful event on Sunday. I was really nervous coming in to it, as it's only the second time I've attempted 30 miles and I knew this would be a 'testing' course. I had a lovely day out though despite the snow – mostly due to the wonderful atmosphere on the course and your very supportive and friendly marshal team. It took me a bit longer to get round than I would have liked but looking back I stopped to chat on a few occasions and sat down to have tea and biscuits at two check points – Brilliant!

The scenery was just lovely even in the low cloud and it was a refreshing change from the usual races I take part in. I very much hope to be back again next year.

Thanks again to you and your team for a lovely experience.

Best wishes

Jill Holliday

Charlton, SE7 7UE

Hello Jackie

Just to say Thank You for a great event yesterday.

My son James is going to Costa Rica and Nicaragua this summer for a month with World Challenge where they will spending time on local community projects, plus some exciting sounding rainforest and volcano trekking.

Yesterday was James' first event of that distance as preparation and he got a tremendous experience out of it. We'd both like to thank you and the Marshalls for such a well organised, friendly and enjoyable event. We met some tremendous people along the way and had a great time.

Thank You

Best Wishes

Kim and James Johnston

Thoroughly enjoyed today's excellent event and will certainly be back again. Could I ask you to pass on my thanks to all the helpers who did a first class job and seemed to be providing an endless and most welcome supply of sustenance at the CPs and Chichester Hall.

Thank you also to the organizing team, I know that events like this don't just happen and the hard work is really appreciated.

See you at Tanners.

kind regards

Paul Allen

**The Punchbowl Marathon      Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Comments received**

Just to say that at a time when the 100 Marathon Club is debating the increasing trend of adventure company's organising events, and charging usually in excess of £30, what fantastic value your event remains.

My view is that most LDWA events are probably too cheap, which is why I always make an effort to buy a badge when available. I do understand the concept of putting on events by using volunteers, as I have arranged many LDWA type events, plus several for the restricted use of members to fill in empty spots in the calendar.

This was my 5th Punchbowl on the bounce, and hopefully not my last. It was certainly the best underfoot conditions of the 5, although not my fastest. A back strain dictated speed more than the course this year.

I've done well over 100 events of this nature, and while it's difficult to compare backwards, your event is right up there at the top.

Well done. See you next year!

Regards      Roger Biggs,    Chairman 100 Marathon Club

