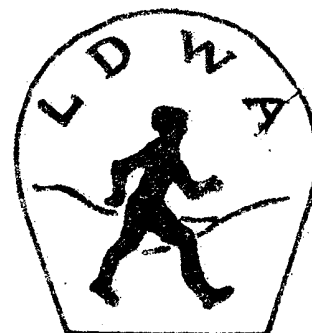


# LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER ONE

FIRST EDITION



## NEWSLETTER

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# CALENDAR OF ORGANISED WALKS

This feature covering twelve months will be updated and included in each newsletter. Events not in capital letters are either provisional or no data has been received. Fuller details of events up until June are given on another page.

JAN 15	RESERVOIR ROUNDABOUT	20 miles	West Central Wales
FEB' 6	TANNERS-HINDHEAD WALK	23 miles	S.W. Surrey
FEB	Three Peaks Trial	22 miles	Breconshire
MAR 11	HIGH PEAK MARATHON	40 miles	Derbyshire
APR 1	MANX MOUNTAIN MARATHON	30 miles	Isle of Man
APR 8	Kennedy Memorial Test	50 miles	Lincolnshire
APR 8-9	FOUR INNS WALK (scouts)	48 miles	Yorks/Derbyshire
APR 29	MID-WALES MOUNTAIN WALK	22 miles	West Central Wales
MAY 6	RIDGEWAY WALK	40 miles	Wilts/Berkshire
MAY 7	SIX SHROPSHIRE SUMMITS	35 miles	Shropshire
MAY 14	CHEVY CHASE	17 miles	Northumberland
MAY 21	PUNCHBOWL MARATHON	30 miles	S.W. Surrey
MAY	Fellsman Hike	50 miles	Yorkshire
MAY/JUNE	Mourne Wall Walk	22½ miles	Co. Down, N. Ireland
JUNE	Peak Marathons	25 & 50 m.	Derbyshire
JUNE 19	FOUR 3000' PEAKS WALK	42 miles	Cumberland
JUNE 29	INTERNATIONAL FOUR	Variable categories of walks up to 26 miles. Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Fire	
JULY 2	DAYS WALK		
JULY 2	TANNERS MARATHONS	50 & 30 m.	Central Surrey
JULY 15	NORTH YORKS MOORS CROSSES	50 miles	Yorkshire
JULY 18- JULY 21	INTERNATIONAL FOUR? DAY MARCHES	variable distances	Nymegen, Netherlands
SEPT	Purbeck Plod	20 miles	Dorsetshire
SEPT	Across-Wales Walk	45 miles	
SEPT 24	CHILTERN MARATHON	25 miles	Buckinghamshire
OCT	Masters Hike	45 miles	Yorkshire
OCT	Long Mynd Hike	50 miles	Shropshire
OCT	Vectis Marathon	30 miles	Isle of Wight

Readers who organise or know of other events not mentioned are invited to send details for inclusion in the next issue.

# EDITORIAL

This is, I believe, the first publication to be devoted exclusively to the interests of the long distance walker although of course several magazines do include small sections on various aspects of walking. With the growing number of organised walks and long distance footpaths coming into being I eagerly awaited the day when someone would collate all the available data and publish a paper perhaps once or twice a year. By September '71 nothing had appeared or was rumoured to be in the pipeline so I felt that I would have to start the ball rolling and this, the first newsletter of the Long Distance Walkers' Association, is the result.

The format may seem a little unpretentious but depending upon income from subscriptions and possible support from sponsors or advertisers, newsletters may appear more attractive in the future. This issue has been sent out free to over 200 potential members but subsequent numbers will be sent only to those who subscribe to the Association. As will be seen on the enclosed membership application form, the subscription is 35p minimum which will allow those more affluent to donate a few extra pence. It is also hoped that event organisers may offer a small donation for advertising their event.

For the majority of readers the main items may be the "List of Events" and the reports of organised walks. However it is intended to include material that will be of interest and use to those who "go it alone". The newsletter will, space allowing, be available to all members to air their views, advertise for walking companions, arrange transport, or submit any relevant article. Each issue will contain the latest information on organised events, an article on one of these, reports on those held in the previous four months, a list of all new members and a description of a long distance route.

Regarding the organised walks and marathons, it is hoped to eventually publish a comprehensive list of those that exceed 20 miles in length and are not specifically races. Anything that is advertised as being either a road race, cross country run, fell run or orienteer is outside our scope and is adequately covered elsewhere.

Although our title includes the word "Walkers" this is not intended to preclude those who trot around the course of an organised walk. Some organisers specifically say that competitors must not run but there can be no real check when most walks go over remote areas and of course when going down a 30% gradient it is often impossible not to run. Provided that each entrant wears the specified clothing and abides by the other rules of the event, his speed should be governed by the opening time of the checkpoints.

Looking ahead there seem to be several ways in which the L.D.W.A. can benefit the walker. The newsletter will keep people up to date with details of walks and new long-distance paths. Parties to walk in certain areas may be arranged, as may travel to and from events. An insurance scheme covered by the subscription is being looked into. If there is sufficient demand a cloth badge for rucksacks or jackets will be ordered. All event organisers have been asked for enough copies of their entry forms to send to each member. This should help organisers and save members postage. Whilst on the subject of postage, would people who require answers to letters please send a stamped addressed envelope.

I thank those who contributed to this prototype and hope that others will for the next editions (to be published in May and September). I would also thank my co-founder Chris Steer for providing the printing facilities and dispatching this issue.

Alan Blatchford.

# FORTHCOMING ITEMS

January 15th (Saturday) RESERVOIRS ROUNDABOUT (Mid Wales)

A winter walk over hill and moorland in the remote Elenith area. Walkers find their own way between several checkpoints using maps O/S 127 and 128. Safety equipment to be carried. Distance about 20 miles, circling the Elan and Claerwen Reservoirs. Entry limited by accommodation to about 40 and there is a closing date of January 8th. Certificates to finishers. Entry fee 30p to N. Tandy

February 6th (Sunday) TANNERS-HINDHEAD WALK (mid Surrey)

Competitors set off at one minute intervals to walk the 23 miles between Tanners Hatch and Hindhead youth hostels. O/S 169 and 170 to be brought. Walkers choose own route between several checkpoints. No awards. Time limit 6 hours. Entry fee 10p to G. Peddie

April 1st MANX MOUNTAIN MARATHON (Isle of Man)

Twelve mountain summits to be climbed within a distance of 30 miles. Time limit 10 hours. Prizes to first three home and to first team plus certificates to all finishers. Start in Ramsey and finish at Port Erin. Limited to over 16 years. Partly waymarked but O/S 87 to be used. Organised by Island Marathon Association and Boundary Harriers. Entry fee 80p. Entries to G. Broderick

April 29th MID WALES MOUNTAIN WALK (West Wales)

22 miles over nine summits (2000 ft). Starting at Dinas Mawddwy and finishing at Dolgelleau. Find own way between checkpoints using O/S 116. Accommodation at youth hostels at start and finish. Entry fee 30p. Certificates to all successful finishers. Safety kit to be carried. Entries to N. Tandy

, who also takes hostel bookings. Y.H.A. membership necessary.

May 6th (Saturday)     RIDGEWAY WALK (East Wilts - Berks)

.40 miles along one of the ancient trackways of Britain. Generous time limit. Route instructions issued but O/S 157 and 158 to be carried. Start at Ridgeway cafe near Marlborough and finish at Streatley youth hostel. Walkers can be transported by coach (inc. in 70p entry fee) from Streatley to start. Fee is 35p if not going on coach. Certificates issued to all who complete course. Entries to Norman Griffin

Organised by Reading Y.H.A. Group  
and Ridgeway Country Group.

May 14th (Sunday)     CHEVY CHASE (Northumberland)

17 miles. A circular course in the Cheviots with no time limit but most entrants finish within nine hours. No route details issued and competitors have to find their own way to the four checkpoints with the aid of O/S 71. There are prizes for the first three home and also to the first two teams. Other prizes go to the first R.A. member, the first lady and the veteran (over 50). Certificates to all finishers. Practising athletes barred. Whistle, anorak and sustenance must be carried. Start and finish at Wooler youth hostel. Entries (25p indiv., 40p team) to A. Morgan by  
28th April. .

May 21st (Sunday)     PUNCHBOWL MARATHON (S.W. Surrey)

30 miles of footpaths mainly over heathland to be completed within 10 hours. Route maps, description sheets issued and course waymarked. (O/S 169 covers). No awards apart from certificates to all finishers and teams. Start and finish near Guildford Surrey. Entries (Over 14yrs) to Alan Blatchford  
Fee 20p per entrant. Organised by the Guildford and Godalming Athletic Club.

### The Fellsman

The Fellsman has been going now for ten years, and it takes place in Yorkshire usually in early May, having a reputation for being one of the toughest walks in the country.

The route varies little from year to year though originally it started at Threshfield and finished at Ingleton.

Though tough it's in great demand and to get a place in it you really have to have your entry form in during January. The casualty rate is high thus in 1970, 364 started but only 95 finished, this year 371 started and 244 finished. Last year the weather was terrible, this year good but even when the weather is perfect there is still a big drop out, thus you will realise that it is well worth an attempt and quite an honour just to have finished even though it might take you thirty hours.

Some years ago when I suggested that I might go in for it there was rather a lot of laughter, however to my amazement I did manage it in around 24 hours and have been doing it ever since whatever the weather. Out of this first minor triumph the following account was born. I hope that it will encourage rather than discourage.

### EIGHTH FELLSMAN HIKE

by

John Needham

I went up to Ingleton the day before the walk. I felt the need for good and easy living and a few cheroots. I had already dusted my Life Policies and seen my Solicitor. The Hollin Tree supplied my every need including a hot water bottle, that last touch of the true Sybarite.

Armed with several pounds of glucose tablets, a rucksack full of regulation equipment, I reported to the Ingleton Institute to be checked and cleared for the walk.

Outside on the car park people were beginning to assemble. I looked around, watching and noting groups and wondering how many amongst all those present would make it. I started a game, picking out those I didn't think would manage it; the Army Cadets headed my list with the rather elegant group in bowlers and trailing scarves a close second.

11.45 arrived and the car park was a mass of bodies - round about 300. 11.59 and we were all out in the road, milling about like a swarm of bees. 12 o'clock and off we went, a surging mass sweeping up the road, sweeping all before it. Later, I learnt that a car was found abandoned on the top of Ingleborough, left there no doubt by the receding tide!

Up I went. There were too many in front of me. I could not get up for bodies. However after what seemed an age I was on top of Ingleborough. I looked back and saw to my infinite satisfaction lots of walkers strung out as far as the eye could see ..... it was like a tonic.

I handed my disc to the officer at the Check Point and smiled as I heard the first 'clock' of the punch against Ingleborough. Only another 19 Check Points and 50 miles to go. The time was 1.10 p.m. The sun was out and my brakes were off. I flew down on my way to the next Check Point at the Hill Inn. My progress was halted for a few moments after an argument with some barbed wire. I arrived in a lather and was soon off on the long haul to the top of Whernside. I felt full of life, and here was I, 42, pushing past a very red panting over-weight 20 year old! I sped down like the wind to Kinsdale Head and arrived half an hour after leaving Whernside.

Soup. Soup. Soup. I was foolish. I had the soup, bitter and not very good...a mistake. It remained with me, repeating for several hours. Ten minutes and I was off. Gregareth next. What a hard pull it seemed to be and yet soon I was up and past it, and on my way to Great Coum, a nice easy few miles along the top.

As I dropped to Dent, it was 5.30. Across the valley I could see the steep rise of Aye Gill Pike. Dent looked beautiful in the late afternoon light and I made a note to spend a week sometime, that was it - sometime - the end was never. So many places to see and so little time left. "Number please", "54". I was at Dent Bridge; my day dream was over.

Aye Gill Pike will figure in my dreams. The summit never seemed to get nearer. It was like going up the side of the house at home, but in the end, I made it - one and a half miles of torture.

On my way to Dent Station I met them; Bill, Mick, Norman and I forget the other. We nattered along and by the time we arrived at Dent Station, we had fixed our group for the night. After Aye Gill, Great Knoutberry seemed knout at all, and at 9.20 we were heading for Redshaw. It was still light. You really couldn't miss it. The tents stood out of the landscape and beckoned.

The tea wasn't ready. We had soup - NOT tomato. Extra sweaters, clean stockings, and off we went for Snaizholme. Looking back, we could see long trails of glow worms, strings of fellsmen in procession; little groups huddled together. A little space of flashing lights surrounded by a threatening darkness.

After Snaizholme we dropped to Snaizholme Beck probably an 800 foot drop in half a mile, and then an equally dramatic climb of 1100 feet to Dodd Fell. I need hardly say that we had a few rests.

Dodd Fell - Fleet Moss. I looked at my compass. I had heard all sorts of things about this section. Someone shouted out a bearing. It seemed different from the one I had worked out. I consulted Mick. Yes we were right, off we went and were soon in a fine mess of bog and language. Still we arrived. We really could not help arriving. Fleet Moss Check Point looked like Blackpool Tower illuminated.

Plenty of room here. Plenty of tea. On a form across the way sat a clump of tired fellsmen. We settled comfortably on the floor, a little damp but easier on the end.

Reluctantly we left Fleet Moss and headed for Middle Tongue. This was the most difficult section. If you are going to go wrong, here is the obvious one on which to make a mistake.

As that wonderful crow goes, it is four miles, but if you play for safety and follow the border fence, it is more like six miles. The first mile was boggy. We were careful, but quite often we were up to our knees in peat.



Sometime on this stretch, Bill said "It's snowing" I laughed, but it was, and in a matter of half an hour there was a good covering of snow. We arrived at Middle Tongue in the fullness of time - very full really... a little like snowmen. Still, we arrived, though some of us were felling fragile.

The day had already dawned and one of the Check Point Officers said we could disband. However, such had been our ordeal by snow that we all declared we would live or die together. In other words, we decided to prop one another up until Threshfield.

Cray, Buckden Pike, Park Rash, Great Whernside and the last long downward crawl to Threshfield, and we were home and dry. We had done it!.

"Let's all do it again next year, and really try and knock a few hours off our time".

We all agreed it was a great idea.

As the Certificate reads:

TWAS A GRADELY WALK.

.....

#### HUNDRED MILER ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Apart from the Vectis Marathon (mentioned elsewhere) there have been several other long distance events recently on the I.O.W. and we are indebted to Mr. H. Peel (Centurion 196) for this information.

In 1970 a "Round the Island Walk" of 65 miles was held with the main awards being for those over 50 years. The only finishers were G. Gamble aged 64, E. Higgs (54) and H. Peel (68) ! The time of the first two was 13.45 and the third man 14.20. The next best performance was by a 14 year old who covered 50 miles in 16 hours. Seven weeks later another walk was held over a similar distance but starting from Ventnor. This time H. Peel was the only finisher in 14.38 despite the challenge from several "youths, boys and young men". These two events were entirely on the road but there have been a number of cross country events including a full east to west walk organised by the Island Group of the Ramblers Association, but we have no details. In 1971 the 65 miles "Round the Island Walk" was again held starting from Ryde. Among the 19 starters were a few marines but once more E. Gamble was the first home in about 14 hours, followed by H. Peel in about 15 hours. Third home was a 20 year old marine who took 18.15. Later in the year six boys from Ottershaw School in Surrey came over with the intention of doing 100 miles of footpaths in a weekend! Harry Peel, then aged 69, was asked to lead them. On the Friday evening they walked for 3 hours, on Saturday 10 hours, and by lunch time on Sunday they completed a 75 miles circuit. After lunch they did 25 miles on the road to complete the ton.

Some of these walks are intended to become annual events but as yet there is no definite news from the organisers.

RESERVOIR ROUNDABOUT (See list of events)

The Reservoir Roundabout came into existence as the result of an urge to organise something a little different from the usual marathons. It varies in the area used and the fact that it is done in the middle of winter.

The walk is held in the Elenith, a little known area of hill and moorland rising to about 2,000 feet situated in central Wales. It is a wild and lonely place with practically no population and distinguished by the fact that it cradles the Elan Valley and Claerwen Reservoirs, the main water supply for the City of Birmingham.

The route starts at the Claerwen Dam and follows in a westerly direction the crest of the ridge which forms the southern boundary of the lake. In clear weather the ridge affords extensive views of this immense sheet of impounded water over three miles in length.

The route then descends to the deserted Claerwen farm at the western end of the lake, and climbs again to the North-east, following the Carn Ricet to a height of over 1,800 feet. This is an ancient track used by Cistercian Monks many centuries ago, probably travelling from Strata Florida to Abbey Cwmhir, two of the greatest Cistercian Monasteries in this part of Wales in their day. In modern times the track is difficult to follow as it wanders through bogs and the long yellow grass that carpets this lonely and desolate moorland plateau.

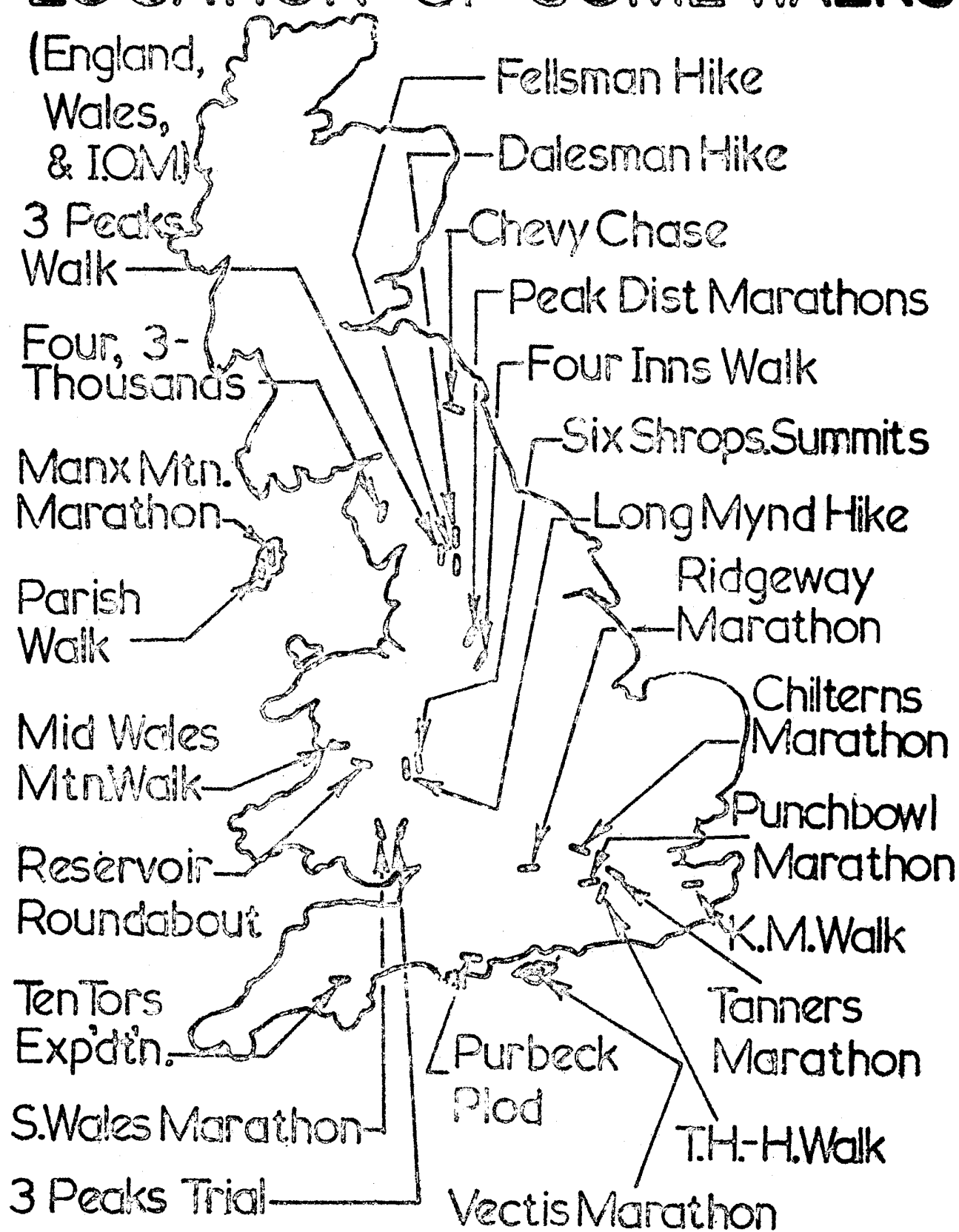
After about five miles the track descends and crosses the Afon Elan at the point where the river is lost in the Craig Gouch reservoir. Here the Monks Way is forsaken in favour of a more southerly route to the summit of Esgair Pen-y-G rreg, a flat topped hill rising to 1,747 feet. Then all that remains is a sharp descent to the finish, a short drive - and some dry clothes if the weather is up to its usual standard!

As this event is organised in the middle of January the weather is of course all important. In the six years that the walk has been in existence the weather has been good on only two occasions with clear skies and sharp frosts giving exhilarating but easy walking. On the other four occasions conditions were more appropriate to the season, with thick mist and cold penetrating rain, in which case the average walker needs most of the hours of daylight available to complete the twenty miles involved. Navigation is a particular problem owing to the featureless nature of the terrain. In 1969 the worst conditions for 15 years were experienced, a rapid thaw of a considerable depth of snow followed by 24 hours of torrential rain with thick mist to make things worse. This resulted in only ten people finishing out of a field of 40 - I said it was different!

With conditions like that, an efficient system of marshalling is essential. In this respect I am fortunate in having the assistance of various mountain rescue teams from the Beacons National Park in South Wales whose skill, equipment and radio communications are very much appreciated by everyone involved.

Neville Tandy  
(Organiser)

# THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF SOME WALKS



# WALKING SHORTS

LAKES AT EASTER There are a few places available in a party of sixteen travelling from London (Thursday evening) to walk in the Lake District for Easter Holiday. Accommodation at youth hostels. Also there are a few seats available on the coach for independent walkers. Fare about £3 return. Details from Editor.

WALKING IN THE HIGHLANDS? David Ramsey will be interested to hear from any individual or party that is planning to walk in the Scottish Highlands this year.

SOUTH EASTERN WALKERS are informed that Petersfield Ramblers Club are introducing walks of 25 miles or more into their extensive programme. Details from David Turland

PENNINE WAY David Allard (Watford & District H.F.) is hoping to arrange for a party to walk a section of the Way as a follow up of his group's walk last year. The week long walk will start near Dufton and go northwards. Youth hostel or bed and breakfast will be booked. Probable date 5th - 13th May. If interested in joining party contact David at  
as soon as possible.

SOUTH DOWNS WAY K. Thompson of London has recently completed the full length of this long distance footpath in about 28 hours. Have any other walkers covered the Way in one stage? If so what times have been recorded? Mr. and Mrs. Crick of Kettering have also walked this footpath plus the Cleveland Way and Offas Dyke but in easier stages. They offer to supply details of accommodation to be had whilst en route.

S.E. LONDON & KENT GROUP (R.A.) must lay strong claim to being one of the most active long distance walking clubs anywhere. David Eley informs us that the group has walked the Pilgrims Way, South Downs Way, (in both directions) Lyke Wake Walk (twice), and the Berkshire Ridgeway. In addition they have pioneered their own North Hants Downs Way and have walked from Dunstable to Bridport via Chilterns and Ridgeway!

CANAL TOWING PATH AS A FOOTPATH Alan Fenton of Aldershot suggests that the 37 miles long towing path beside the Basingstoke Canal could be utilised as a long distance walkers route. Although it may lack the appeal of the Pennine Way etc. it is far safer than the notorious London to Brighton road. It extends from near Weybridge, Surrey to Greywell near Basingstoke, Hants, and despite being "hill-less" passes through some attractive countryside. At present the future of the canal is uncertain but in Alan's view the chance of turning the path into a recognised route should not be lost.

Walking Shorts continued.

SMALL GROUP "We are a small group of Mum, Dad, three teenagers plus a few neighbours and friends" writes Mrs. Betty Hood of Norton, Yorks. The group have completed several walks including the "Fellsman", Lyke Wake", "White Rose" and the "Cleveland Way". Last October the "North Yorks Moors Crosses Walk" was tried for the first time and six men completed the 54 miles within 23 hours. This year (see calender) an organised walk is to be held over a similar route and Betty has been appointed entry secretary. Due to the group's knowledge of the local moors they have become involved with the Rescue Team for their area, and any money made from entry fees for their new promotion will be donated to the team. Full details in next edition.

CHARITY WALKS Although we do not wish to concern ourselves with the many charity walks that are held on the main roads of this country it is probable that a number of readers have taken part and may do so again. With the ever increasing volume of traffic on even the lesser roads such events pose quite a problem to both organisers and participants and if they had the power, most police forces would ban them despite their valuable contribution to deserving charities. Where possible the route should go cross country, and all checkpoints should be away from roads. A useful guide "Safety and Sponsored Walks" is available free from police stations, libraries etc.

ENTRY RESTRICTED TO.... Several interesting events such as the "Four Inns Walk" (Derbyshire) etc. are unfortunately restricted to members of the organisation that promote them. This is, of course, understandable when safety, available facilities etc, will restrict numbers. If the organisers could accept "other entries" their income would be swelled thus more than providing for extra facilities. Alternatively, other walking enthusiasts in the area could consider holding a second event based upon the existing one later in the year.

WALKS MAP The map showing a number of organised walks in England was the first page of this newsletter to be printed. Unfortunately we have not recieved information from the organisers of every event shown, and at least one walk, the "K.M." (Kent Messenger sponsored Margate-Maidstone) has been discontinued. At the second issue it is hoped to be able to fill in the missing data and include another map of either more walks or long distance routes.

NEW NAME Readers are invited to suggest a name for our newsletter when they subscribe. Some names already put forward include "Walking", "Marathon" and "Endeavour". If a name is adopted it will probably be used from next January onwards.

Walking Shorts continued.

HIGH PEAK MARATHON March 11th Saturday (Derbyshire)

A 40 miles walk along the Derwent watershed for teams of four. All competitors must be experienced and physically fit for this test of stamina. The event starts and finishes at Bamford, Derbyshire. This new promotion which was first accomplished in 1918 includes Kinder Scout and Bleaklow in its route. A challenge trophy will be presented to the first team home and certificates to all successful individuals. Entries must be received by Feb. 1st. Other details (send large S.A.E.) are obtainable from H. Prosser

Organised by the University of Sheffield Youth Hostels Society.

# INSURANCE

Negotiations are being made to insure each member of the L.D.W.A. against personal accident whilst taking part in organised and private walks. No premiums will be payable by members as the annual subscription will include this.

The proposed benefits would be £2000 to next of kin for death, £1000 for loss of limb or eye and £15 per week for 26 weeks for incapacity to work as a result of accidents whilst walking. Charity walks and athletic races are excluded.

NOTICE FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO L.D.W.A.

To economise on postage, membership cards (your receipt of joining) will be sent out with the second newsletter so do not worry if you are an early subscriber and receive no reply. Any letters to the editor that require a reply should be accompanied by a S.A.E. Membership numbers 1 and 2 have been allocated to the founder members. A full list will appear in the next issue.

# NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will contain details of the events to be held in the period June to October and reports of the events held in the period January to June.

This edition of the newsletter was edited by Alan Blatchford and printed and dispatched by Chris Steer and family. All communications and material for the second newsletter should be sent to: Alan Blatchford before April 10th.

# PAST EVENTS<sup>15</sup>

## THE FIRST GUILDFORD BOUNDARY MARATHON Sunday September 19th 1971

Years ago, before accurate maps had been drawn, it was commonplace for a party of local inhabitants to take an annual walk around the perimeter of their particular village or parish. This bygone custom was reenacted in part when 169 enthusiasts set off on a sunny September morning to trek the 22 miles around the Guildford (Surrey) municipal boundary. Because considerable lengths of the line lay within private property the most suitable rights of way were used and this produced a most varied course that bypassed the built-up areas. All but 10 finished to claim their certificates, the youngest being eleven and the oldest 65. The first home were: P. Robson (Southampton O.C.) in 4.44, and J. McQuillan (Belmont) and G. Storey (Acton) in 4.48. The first lady was Simone Lyon (St. Pauls School) in 7.19. It is proposed to hold this event to alternate with the Punchbowl Marathon. Organised by Guildford and Godalming A.C.

## THE THIRD VECTIS MARATHON WALK Sunday 9th October 1971

In glorious summer weather 91 starters set off from the famous Carisbrooke Castle in the Isle of Wight to try to cover the 30 miles route within 10 hours. The way led over Brightstone Downs to Niton and then along the coastal path to Ventnor. From here the route went inland to Wroxall and then back to the coast at Shanklin to finish at Sandown youth hostel. There were 53 successful finishers with P. Roberts leading the way home in  $5\frac{3}{4}$  hours. The first lady back was Marjorie James of Woking ( $8\frac{3}{4}$  hours) who walked with husband Sidney. The event is the third such promotion of the Hants/Berks Sub Region of the Y.H.A.

THE SECOND CHILTERN MARATHON - 3rd October, 1971

The weather was dry but overcast as 92 people set out on the 25 miles Chiltern Marathon. Among the number was Don Thompson who was first in the 50 k. walk at the Rome Olympics. The start was from an open-air H.Q. at one end of a recreation ground, and once the local factory estate had been left behind the way led along the chalk ridges that one associates with the Chiltern Hills.

Each walker was issued with a route description and a rather sketchy sketch map which came in useful for the odd compass bearing if you assumed that grid north was "to the top". From the start at West Wycombe the way led to near Princes Risborough and then turned south to Stokenchurch. After passing through several interesting villages the route turned north to finish back at the starting point. There were only four checkpoints but the distance walked between them was rewarded by the selection of drinks available there.

71 successfully completed the marathon which is the second such promotion by the Middle Thames Ramblers. First home were J. McQuillan and A. Blatchford in 5.42 but local man M. Gerrard was actually faster by 7 minutes because he started later. The latter was accompanied by his dog. The promoters are intending to hold the event annually using a new route each year.

THE ELEVENTH THREE PEAKS TRIAL Saturday 27th November 1971 (Breconshire)

In poor conditions one hundred and eleven people set out to walk the "Three Peaks". As usual the start was from Crickhowell youth hostel. at 8 a.m. (approx).

The route consists of 22 miles of mixed hill and road "Bashing" and includes ascents of the three dominant peaks around Abergavenny The Sugar Loaf (1955'), Skirrid Fawr (1596') and Blorenge (1833') The total ascent is about 4500'

The majority of those taking part came from S. Wales and the Border country, and were mainly youth organisations. Several familiar faces from the Midlands and Southern England were also there.

The weather was bad with mist, rain and a cold wind scouring the summits. Thirty eight retirements were recorded. If the successful finishers, Chris Steer and son Martin (Woking, Surrey) were the first home, taking 8 hours 40 minutes, which was reasonably fast for the conditions. Of the fair sex three of the fifteen starters completed the course. The first back being Mrs. Ann Tandy (Stourbridge) in 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. As if to give mum some competition eight-years-old Bruce became the youngest ever to complete the walk. He was accompanied by father Neville and his 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours promises better things to come. At the other end of the scale sixty-two year-old Jack Spackman (Sleaford, Lincs) became the most senior ever to finish this event. He had one advantage over young Bruce - he was able to stop for a pint. Must try number one son on beer.

N. Tandy.

ED. Owing to popular demand it is proposed to hold this event again at the end of February, (Anti-clockwise direction) Details from Dilys Hutchinson