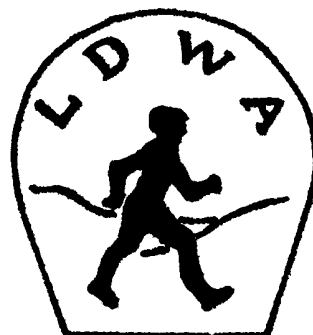


LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER SEVEN

DECEMBER 1973



◀ NEWSLETTER ▶

CONTENTS

PAGE

COVER	CALENDAR
1	EDITORIAL
2	MAKING OURSELVES KNOWN
3	CONSTITUTIONALLY
4 5	FUTURE ACTIVITIES
6 7 8 9	PAST EVENTS
10 11 12	THE PILGRIMS WAY
13	THE CHEVIOTS
14 15	SOUTH AFRICA
16 17	NEW ZEALAND
18 19	MEMBERS CLUBS 4
20 21	COMMENT
22	VIEW POINT
23	THE FOREST WAY
24 25	ACROSS DARTMOOR
25 26	LETTERS
27	BOOKS
28	LONG DISTANCE SCENE
29	HIGH PEAK
30	NEW MEMBERS
31	ODDS AND END

CALENDAR

This feature is updated at each issue of the Newsletter as information is received. Where the event is in capitals the date etc. is confirmed. Any member who knows of any other event worthy of inclusion in the next calendar is invited to send details to the editor.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>APPROX. MILEAGE</u>	<u>APPROX. AREA</u>
JAN. 12	RESERVOIR ROUNDABOUT	22	MID WALES
FEB. 16	THREE PEAKS TRIAL	22	SOUTH WALES
FEB. 23/24	TANNERS - HINDHEAD WALK (AND BACK)	30(60)	MID SURREY
April	Four Inns Walk (Scouts and Scouters)	48	Yorks/Derbys
"	Ten Tors Expedition (under 21's)		Devonshire
"	Manx Mountain Marathon	30	Isle of Man
APRIL 20	MID WALES MOUNTAIN WALK	25	MID WALES
MAY 4	RIDGEWAY MARATHON	40	WILTS/BERKS
May	Chevvy Chase	17	Northumberland
MAY 18	FELLSMAN HIKE	50	YORKSHIRE
May	Parish Walk	80	Isle of Man
"	Royal Leamington Spa Walk (roads)	50	Warwicks
MAY 12	BERKSHIRE TWENTY-FIVE	25	Berkshire
MAY 27	LDWA HUNDRED	100	Yorks/Derbys
May	South Wales Marathon	47	South Wales
JUNE 2	PUNCHBOWL MARATHON	30	S.W. SURREY
June	Six Shropshire Summits Walk	35	Shropshire
"	Welsh 1000 metres Event	20	North Wales
"	Mourne Wall Walk	20	N. Ireland
"	McGillycuddy Reeks Ridge Walk	11	Eire
"	Peak District Walks	50/25	Derbys
"	Lake District Four 3000's	45	Cumberland
June/July	Nymegen Marches (roads) 4 Days	Variable	Netherlands
July	Mallerstang Marathon	25	Yorkshire
JULY 7	TANNERS MARATHONS	50 & 30	MID SURREY
July	North Yorks Moors Crosses Walk	53	Yorkshire
"	White Rose Walk	40	Yorkshire
"	Purbeck Plod	26	Dorset
July/Aug.	LDWA EIGHTY-FIVE	85	BEDS/WILTS
Aug.	Roman Circuit	50	Yorkshire
"	Dalesman Hike (Scouters, Scouts)		Yorkshire
Sept.	Petersfield Border Marathon	30	Hants/Sussex
"	Across Wales Walk	45	Wales
"	Chilterns Marathon	25	Bucks

LOCAL EVENTS

Yorkshire Area

JAN. 12	HELMSLEY WALK	18-25	YORKSHIRE
---------	---------------	-------	-----------

South East Area

JAN. 1	LONDON COUNTRYWAY (Section 1)	15-20	SURREY/BERKS
FEB. 3	LONDON COUNTRYWAY (Section 2)	19-21	BERKS/BUCKS
FEB. 10	KETTLEBURY CANTER	12/21	SURREY
MAR. 3	LONDON COUNTRYWAY (Section 3)	15-18	BUCKS/HERTS
MAR. 17	THREE COUNTIES WALK	25	WILTS/BERKS/HANTS
MAR. 31	LONDON COUNTRYWAY (Section 4)	17/22	HERTS/ESSEX
APRIL 9	ACROSS SURREY WALK	50	KENT to HANTS

OTHER EVENTS

June	Leicester - Skegness (race)	100	Leics.-Lincs
JULY 6	LYKE WAKE RACE	40	YORKSHIRE

EDITORIAL

1

As we approach the end of the Association's second year, many of us will be wondering what 1974 has in store for us. If the threatened fuel crisis materialises we may find that the walks that we planned to make in far off places will have to be deferred until more equable times. Petrol rationing would undoubtedly curtail travel to the most desirable walking areas for many people but at the same time an appreciable lack of motors on the country lanes might make walking along these byeways the pleasure it once was. Unfortunately, some of the more remote challenge walks would suffer, but this might be the gain of those events near high population areas.

On the more optimistic side, those who enjoy the ultra long distance walks will be interested to hear that two more are proposed for the new year. The first is expected to be another hundred but in the north this time, and the second, one of eighty-five miles in the south. Also, a number of new shorter walks are planned as a glance down the "Calendar" will show. The regional walks are hoped to be instrumental in forming local groups.

The walking route around London, as projected by Keith Chesterton in the previous newsletter, and also in the "Rucksack", has been officially backed by the committee and a sub-committee has been formed to produce a suitable route. It is planned to complete the scheme next year and publish the results in the form of a booklet. If other members have any ideas of possible long distance routes for walkers, the committee will be pleased to consider the question of support.

At their most recent meeting (at Edale) the committee voted to terminate the insurance policy that covered members for personal accident and death. It was felt that the impending 100% increase in the premium cost was too great a drain on the funds, and that the money saved could be put to better use by, possibly, publishing an extra newsletter, backing more projects, and promoting more events etc. If members require a personal accident policy they will find that most assurance companies can offer them something suitable at a fairly low cost.

It may come as a surprise to members to learn that the Association now has a President. The committee have been considering inviting a suitable person to this office for some time. From a short-list of people deemed appropriate, Lt Col Richard (Dick) Crawshaw was by far the most popular choice and he has kindly consented to become our first President. Apart from his political activities (M.P. for Toxteth, Liverpool), he is a keen climber, free fall parachutist and long distance walker. In fact he is the longest distance walker anywhere. Not so long ago he set a world record for the longest non stop walk and more recently was forced to abandon an attempt to better that performance. We hope to include more about the President in the next newsletter.

It seems that the Association is gradually becoming known. We have been asked our views on long distance footpaths by an agent working for the Countryside Commission, and hope to reply in detail. At a recent walk my wife was asked about her visit to the U.S.A., but not having visited that country she was puzzled. The questioner had noticed her badge with the word IOWA on it but on closer inspection he saw that it was "LDWA". This led to a family of three all joining the Association. So remember the wearing of the badge can help to advertise the LDWA.

Although the many challenge walks that members take part in vary greatly from event to event, it has been suggested that a framework of conditions should be drawn up to ensure that each walk meets a desired general standard. The majority of walks are well organised, but occasionally there have been reports of people travelling hundreds of miles to an event only to find that their pleasure was marred by a poorly arranged meeting. Perhaps we may see at sometime in the future an advertisement, featuring the "Bogwalkers Hike" under LDWA rules. It would be interesting to hear organiser's views.

The best tip for the new year is to buy another pair of boots now, or two pairs if possible. You may not be able to get leather ones even if you can afford them soon.

The committee wish all members a Happy Christmas. A. BLATCHFORD Ass. Ed.

2. MAKING OURSELVES KNOWN.

Enclosed with this Newsletter members will find a copy of the Association's new publicity handout, "LDWA - What it is and What it does". This has been produced to publicise the work of the LDWA and to help answer some of the questions raised by those who enquire about the Association, and ask for details of membership and activities.

Hitherto, enquirers have had the benefit of a personal letter in reply, but this is laborious and time-consuming. In future those who enquire in general terms will be sent one of these handouts, which should answer most queries. It is also hoped to have copies available at marathon and on other occasions where the LDWA advertises its existence.

In order to help publicise the LDWA, when you have finished reading your copy of the handout, please pass it to a non-member who you think might be interested in joining. For those members who can assist further by distributing copies to other friends, or through their local clubs, additional copies are obtainable on request from the Membership Secretary (please send s.a.e. of adequate size.)

There is just one small point to note, under the heading "Are there any local events?". Regional representatives and local groups are still in the process of being appointed, or set up, as the case may be, and thus the arrangement described in the handout whereby new members are given the name and address of their regional representative, and details of their nearest local group is not yet fully in operation.

KEITH PENNYFATHER
(Publicity Officer, LDWA 96)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

We are pleased to announce that the following members have been appointed Regional Representatives:-

SOUTH EAST Peter Rickards (LDWA 176)

SOUTH WEST Anthony Rowley (LDWA 21)

NORTH Michael Smith (LDWA 336)

Thanks are due to these members for offering their services, which we hope will keep members in touch on a regional basis, will encourage events and activities and lead to the formation of local groups. Members will be notified by the Regional Representatives of any Regional Meets or events.

The 1974 Membership Cards will, for each LDWA member, indicate the Region by an appropriate letter. We also hope to publish a map showing the boundaries of the five regions in the next Newsletter. No Regional Representatives have yet been appointed for the Midlands or for Scotland.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION continued.

CHAIRMAN Hadyn Morris

Apologies to Hadyn for omitting this information from the previous Newsletter

CONSTITUTIONALLY SPEAKING.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, the LDWA formally adopted a Constitution at the AGM held at Edale last April. The finally agreed version was based on the draft Constitution circulated to all members with Newsletter No. 5 prior to the AGM, but incorporated a number of amendments raised at the meeting. The draft itself had incorporated many suggestions from members made at earlier meetings.

Members who still have in their possession the draft Constitution (headed "4th Draft") should bear in mind that this has now been superseded. For those who require it, a copy of the revised Constitution is available from the Membership Secretary on request (s.a.e. please). The main points are summarised below.

Aims and Policy - The aim of the Association is to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking. The LDWA's interests are to lie mainly in extended walks in rural areas, and especially those over 20 miles. No emphasis is to be placed on any form of racing or road walking. The Association is to cater equally for (a) organised events and (b) open challenges and walks along long distance footpaths.

Membership & Subscriptions - Each member is to receive a membership card and a number (which is retained on renewal). The annual subscription of 50p minimum may be varied by a General Meeting. Subscriptions run from 1 January and may be renewed up to 30 April in the following year, failing which membership lapses. Those joining after 30 September are entitled to membership for the remainder of that year as well as the following year from 1 January.

Office Bearers & Committee - The office bearers are to include a Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer and Editor, and these, together with 5 others, comprise the committee. All retire at the A.G.M. but are eligible for re-election.

Local & Regional Organisation - Local groups may be formed with the committee's approval. There is provision for the appointment of regional representatives to serve the interests of members living in different parts of Britain, to maintain contact with members, and to keep the committee informed of events and activities in each region.

Procedure for General Meetings - 28 days' notice is to be given of General Meetings, for which a quorum is 15. The AGM is to be held before the end of May, and the venue is to be varied at the committee's discretion. Nominations for the committee are to be received in writing, signed by a proposer and seconder, and accompanied by the nominee's consent. There is provision for Special General Meetings to be called.

Amendments to Constitution - The Constitution may be amended by resolution passed by two thirds of those present at a General Meeting, 28 days' notice of any proposed amendments is to be given to members.

K.R. PENNYFATHER (LDWA 96)

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Preliminary Notice)

The Association's second Annual General Meeting will be held in the Town Hall (1) Ivinghoe, near Leighton Buzzard, Beds., on Saturday, April 7th. It is expected that this venue will be associated with the proposed 85 miles walk along the Ridgpath next summer.

4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

RESERVOIR ROUNDABOUT - Wales (Builth Wells, about 15 miles) - Jan. 12th.

A winter walk of about 20 miles set in the remote Elenith area of Mid-Wales. Using O/S maps 127 and 128 walkers choose their own route over moorland and hill between several checkpoints. Safety equipment to be carried by all starters. The route encompasses the Elan and Gaerwen Reservoirs. Certificates to all finishers. Full details from N. Tandy

THREE PEAKS TRIAL - Wales (Abergavenny) - February 16th

A 22 miles test that involves ascents of Skirrid Fawr (1596'), Blorenge (1834'), and the Sugar Loaf (1956'). Only first 100 entries accepted. Full details from R.B. Turner

TANNERS-HINDHEAD WALK - Surrey (Dorking, Guildford) - February 23/24

A lowland walk of about 30 miles where walkers are given map refs. for one direction and a route description for the other way. Both walks may be done on consecutive days or one day only. Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel to Hindhead Youth Hostel on 23rd and reverse on 24th. Reserve own beds at hostels by Feb. 9th. Entry 10p - send to G. Peddie

FELLSMAN HIKE - Yorkshire (Settle and Skipton) - May 18th

The most popular upland walk in Britain. Included here in detail because entries must be in by Jan. 1st to ensure a chance among the 400 entries. The 50 miles walk starts at Ingleton and finishes at Threshfield about 20 miles away. A number of trophies are awarded for performance but all who finish this gruelling event will be satisfied. Write now for full details to Mrs P.J. Carroll

DETAILS OF EVENTS IN APRIL WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

INFORMAL EVENTS - South East Region.

A number of informal walks and other meetings are planned for the South-East Region in 1974. Whilst being primarily for members in this area, other members and friends are welcome to attend. It is hoped that, as a result of these meetings, a local group of members will be formed.

KETTLEBURY CANTER - Two circular walks starting from Witley. February 10th

These walks are for individuals or teams. Using map O/s 169 a number of points must be passed through. Start and finish near station (from London and Portsmouth). Walkers will start at intervals with the first being off at 09.30 and the last at 11.00. Refreshments and showers after. Distances about 12 and 21 miles. There will be a meeting afterwards to form the local group.

THREE COUNTIES WALK - March 17th

A fine walk along one of the lesser known chalk ridges that passes over the highest chalk summit in the country. Walk will start in Wilts, pass through Berks. and finish in Hants. Distance about 25 miles. Meet at Basingstoke for transport (coach if enough walkers) to start. Finish at Basingstoke.

SURREY HILLS WALK - April 9th

A repeat of one of last spring's successful across Surrey Walks. This is an opportunity to gain experience in night walking and a longish route. A party ramble of some 18-20 hours duration. Start at Tatsfield on Kent border and finish at Frensham Pond on the Hampshire border. Passes over the highest point in Kent and follows the North Downs Way/Pilgrims Way for several miles. Distance about 50 miles. Details from Chris Steer after February 1st.

No further meetings are planned until October because there are a number of challenge walks already fixed for the intervening period. Other events planned for late 1974 include a canal walk, the Ten Towers Tour, a Thames to Sussex walk and the Milestone Medley. For details of the first two walks above and further suggestions contact Alan Blatchford

FURTHER NOTES ON THE FELLSMAN 1974

As is now generally known, the "Fellsman Hike" has been over subscribed to for the past few years and the number of accepted entries is 400. With prospective entrants applying as soon as it was possible an unfair advantage was gained by those people living in the north and so the organisers have devised a new method of entry selection. Thus the names of entrants who have filled in the form and paid the fee will go into a hat and be drawn out at random on January 26th until the allocated number of places have been filled.

THE LONDON COUNTRYWAY

Now that the Association has officially adopted the around London walking route (London Countryway) work is underway to map the route along existing rights of way and to check the proposed line. A small sub-committee under the leadership of the originator of the idea, Keith Chesterton, has been formed to draw up the route and ground work is being delegated to members and other walkers. The complete route which is approaching 200 miles in length is hoped to be finalised sometime next year. As will be seen in the Calendar a series of walks over various sections are being held next year, and all members are welcome to attend. For details of these walks contact K. Chesterton

REQUIRED: YOUR VIEWS ON LONG DISTANCE ROUTES

The Countryside Commission have appointed Mr Brunson Yapp to make a review of Long Distance Routes, and he has written to our Association to obtain both the views of the committee and members on this subject. His terms of reference are:-

"To consider the needs of walkers, riders and cyclists for footpaths and bridleways of more than a local nature in the countryside of England and Wales; to examine how far the present system of long distance routes and associated facilities meet those needs; and to make recommendations e.g. with regard to routing, length and type of path, maintenance, wardens, information, accommodation, and car parks etc. The report may contain suggestions for the amendment of legislation directly affecting the provision of these paths, and for the improvement of the existing procedure and machinery for creating long-distance paths, so as to achieve quicker results."

The points suggested by the committee are:-

1. The concept of routes should be geared to a national network rather than the creation of "perfect" routes in isolation. Routes should be opened along existing rights of way and subsequently improved upon where possible. There should be a greater readiness to accept routes pioneered by such bodies as the R.A. etc. (e.g. Wolds Way). Commission needs greater power to override recalcitrant local councils, possibly removing part of their central government grant.
2. Improved maintenance by more (discreet) signposting and clearance.
3. Access paths to be created or improved such that a "good days" walk may be made along a circular route.
4. Pressure to be applied to local authorities to obtain 100% grant available for constructing bridges, and installing ferries to avoid long detours around creeks and estuaries (e.g. S.W. Peninsular route).
5. A number of Commissioners should be appointed who have a special interest in walking and long distance routes (e.g. T. Stephenson replacement).

If any members wish to air their views, and we hope that many of you are concerned with this topic, please send your suggestions to W.B. Yapp before the end of the year.

6. REPORTS ON PAST EVENTS.

CYPRUS "WALKABOUT" - April 5th/6th

This a 50-60 miles, 2-day event organised by the Royal Anglian Regt. based in Cyprus. The 3-man teams set off at 1 minute intervals from the British base at Episcopi which is just inland in the south west of the island. Each team carries the usual survival/first aid kit and water. From the start the teams have to pass through 5 checkpoints to finish on the first day at the Leave Centre, over 5,000 ft up in the Troodos Mountains. The location of the checkpoints are not revealed until the team are issued with checkcards with map references. On the second day a different set of controls is visited with the event finishing back at Episcopi. Each year the distance varies but the object is to complete within a total time of less than 24 hours.

This year about 80 teams took part, with some travelling from Germany and Britain. The first start was at 06.00 hours and our team was drawn 35th. We were the first team up, with a time of 5.35 and the next day we were the second team down in 5.30 hrs. Overall we finished 2nd some 8 mins behind the Royal Horse Artillery. I was quite pleased with the effort as it was my first attempt at this sort of thing. The winning team received an inscribed boot to be held for one year.

S.A.C. MANANCOURT (LDWA 521) Akrotiri,
Cyprus.

PEAK DISTRICT MARATHON - June 9th

There was low cloud and mist as 50 Y.H.A. members set off at 06.30 on the 50 miles Peak Marathon that started from Crowden Youth Hostel. Soon after the start the Bleaklow Plateau was crossed and, with visibility poor, a compass was essential. After passing Kinder Scout walkers dropped down to the Edale checkpoint at the hostel. Next came an ascent to the fine ridge that includes Mam Tor and Lose Hill and then another drop, this time down to the Castleton hostel checkpoint. Here soup, tea and jam tarts awaited the walkers. Those that were left in pushed on along Cave Dale, over the Peak Forest and eventually to Ravenstor hostel, which was about half way. Now the way was a little less demanding as it crossed the limestone hill and dale country. The final checkpoint was at Elton hostel where the first to finish was 15 years old Paul Fitter (LDWA 277) who took 13½ hours. There were 19 other finishers including several LDWA members.

Based upon "Hostelling News" report.

CHASLEAN A'BHARRA 7th FOUR DAYS WALKS - June 28th to July 1st.

Castlebar is the administrative town of Co Mayo, Western Ireland, and every year it organises its own walking Festival, attracting people from as far a field as Holland, Germany and Sweden. There were six of us from England this year; three "Long Distance Walkers" - Dennis Ring (184) Doug Bone (126) and myself.

The Festival was officially opened on Wednesday, 28th June, by the Dutch Ambassador, His Excellency Baron Schoothdon, but the walks did not start till the Thursday. These were of various lengths ranging from 6-8 miles for the children, 12-16 miles short walk, 22-27 miles long walk and 15-17 for the ramble. All the walks, except the ramble, were along quiet country lanes which took one through this picturesque corner of Ireland. Each day took the competitors a slightly different route and, although the weather was changeable, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. The organisers did an excellent job of supplying check and drink points where they gave out free soup and rolls, Coke and Fanta, donated by local and international firms. The entrance fee was only £1 for the four days

PAST EVENTS CONTINUED

7.

Chai-lean A'Bharra walks contd.

which included free admission every night to the Welcome Inn where the local talent entertained.

Finishers for the first days walks were as follows:- 99 The long walk (22 miles), 13 The ramble (16 miles), 63 the short walk (12 miles). On the second there was an increase in the number of finishers, 81 the long walk (22 miles), 18 the ramble (17 miles) and 90 the short walk (16 miles)

Although the Saturday poured with rain and the ramble was cancelled, my personal view was that this days walk "Long Walk" was the most rewarding of them all as it took one through some truly beautiful countryside. 91 finished the long walk (27 miles) and 48 the short walk (12 miles) On the last day the weather improved slightly and 70 finished the long walk (23 m.) 9 the ramble (15 miles) and 50 the short walk (13 miles). On the Sunday night they held the "Prize Giving" when all the "first timers" who had managed to complete the full distances of either the long walk or the ramble were given medals and all participants a certificate stating their total mileage walked.

Many thanks to the organisers, especially Kathleen of the Tourist Information desk, who helped to make everyone welcome.

ALAN HOARE (LDWA 131)

THE NORTH YORKS MOORS CROSSES WALK - July 14th

The North York Moors Crosses Walk continues to grow in popularity, 225 walkers entered this year. The weather was dull, with a few odd showers during the night, and in the early morning the walkers also had to contend with some mist. This did not stop 127 walkers successfully completing the walk to receive their certificates and tallies.

There was fierce competition for the Moorcock Trophy between David Hine (LDWA 285), who eventually won it, Louis Kulscar and Richard Puckrin. Louis and Richard shared the Team Trophy with S. Longbottom representing the Lyke Wake Club. The Ladies Trophy went to Gail Partington who narrowly beat Marguerite Pennel by four minutes. The Trophy for the youngest competitor went to Michael Robinson who was 16. Sixty nine year old John Stainsby won the Old Man of the Moors Trophy again. He was followed home 6 minutes later by 68 years old Harry Schofield. You can't keep these young 'uns down!

MALCOLM BOYES (LDWA 132)

ACROSS WALES WALK - 1st September.

Those who set off on the tenth "Across Wales Walk" with the expectancy of seeing some of the finest views in mid-Wales were to be disappointed: the previously sunny weather changed as a low pressure system developed and conditions approached those usually reserved by Neville Tandy for the Reservoir Roundabout event. From dawn until evening there was mist and driving rain that soaked most walkers to the skin in the first ten miles.

So bad was the weather that seven retired before the fourteenth mile. The stretch over Plynlymon (2468') required careful compass work and most people who felt strong enough to tackle it were wearing shorts. In view of the conditions, I was thankful that nobody went seriously astray: as it was there were two mild cases of exposure and plenty of blue kneecaps.

Only 24 of the 57 starters finished the walk, the lowest number ever, and for the first time there was no female among them. The first finishers were Cedric Lawton (LDWA 274) and Paul Fitter (LDWA 277) who took $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the 45 miles.

8. PAST EVENTS CONTINUED.

Across Wales Walk continued.

For those who dropped out, the next day proved rather galling when it dawned fine and clear giving views of the mountain tops, as the coach took walkers back to the English border.

The walk was efficiently organised by West Birmingham Y.H.A. Group. Special thanks must go to those who spent an uncomfortable day checking-in, and to the wardens of Clun, Newtown and Borth Youth Hostels without whose co-operation the event would not have been possible.

J. EDWARDS (LDWA 281)

(There were no reports of anyone tackling the return journey as advertised!)

Our thanks to John Leather (LDWA 12) who also send us a report on this event. Ed.

PETERSFIELD BORDER THIRTY - September 2nd.

Despite the lack of publicity and "end of holidays" date the inaugural promotion of the Petersfield Ramblers attracted nearly forty entrants: the vast majority of these being LDWA members from the S.E.

At the start, near the centre of Petersfield (Hants), walkers were issued with route sheets indicating the way between the nine checkpoints. Due to differing interpretations of the instructions most people went astray at some point and several retired after finding themselves well off route.

The first checkpoint was at the Butser Hill (888') summit and from there the way led east to join the South Downs Way. Later the route turned south and eventually described a figure-of-eight shape to finish at the starting point. Although there was some pre-event rain, the weather remained sunny throughout the walk. Some of the checkpoints were beautifully located on little village greens: number seven was sited outside Chalton church overlooking the 600 years old Red Lion, and number eight beside the picturesque duckpond beside Buriton church.

The first home of the twenty-five finishers was Ken Stead (LDWA 122) who took about $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours, followed by John Moore (LDWA 71). Three committee members took part: Messrs Steer, Brown and Barbara Blatchford (joint first lady)

Petersfield Ramblers, mainly through the efforts of Bill Spears (LDWA 30) are hoping to hold a similar walk next year but possibly during another month. The walk covers some of the best downland country of the Sussex/Hants border area and should enjoy greater support next year.

ALAN BLATCHFORD (LDWA 2)

GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WALK - September 16th (Surrey)

The second promotion of this annual walk around the town attracted, rather surprisingly, well over 300 people. With there being no time or age limits a large number of youngsters and those normally used to covering shorter distances took part.

The start and finish point was atop the Hogs Back which is the hill forming the backcloth of the calendar pictures depicting Guildford clock. At ten o'clock His Worship the Mayor started the $22\frac{1}{4}$ miles walk and having performed this duty he joined the crowd and duly completed the circuit, carrying the six feet long staff that was used to Beat the Bounds in 1933. His time for the walk? A brisk 6.38.

Guildford Boundary Walk continued.

Never more than four miles from the town centre, the route included a riverside section, two steep ascents, and a mile or two along the Pilgrims Way.

The first finishers were LDWA members D. Sudbury and D Mullen (4.15), followed at intervals by more than thirty more members. The eighteenth arrival at the finish was Sue Rayner (5.31) the first lady back. By the close, 246 of the 285 starters had been checked in. The youngest finisher was six years old Ian Blatchford who raced his mother to the finish to record 9.09. The most heroic (?) effort was surely that by Bill Harman who man-handled a pushchair around the course. Sometimes four years old Paula took a ride and occasionally six years old Claire. Despite shedding tyres and other parts, they all finished in 9.37. Among teams that finished, six or more walkers was an all female squad, and seven members of Tim Ambroses' (LDWA 263) family plus their two dogs. The walk was quite a family affair for some folk: there being over thirty family groups taking part. The furthest travelled were David (LDWA 217) and Ann Tomkinson from Lancashire.

ALAN BLATCHFORD (LDWA 2)

CHILTERN MARATHON - September 23rd (Bucks)

The weather for the fourth Chiltern Marathon was ideal - not too hot but sunny enough and with a slight breeze. A record 310 entries were received and this led to a record number of starters (266) for the 25 miles trek over the chalk hills. The route was somewhat similar to those of before but minor alterations reduced the amount of road work.

Unlike some events, the actual start is a little diffused with there being a number of groups and individuals starting out at self chosen intervals of anything up to three quarters of an hour after the first away. A good sprinkling of LDWA members took part although many of them appeared as "Ind." on the results sheet. The shortest time was recorded by P. Birch (LDWA 568) who took no longer than 4.30. In all 192 finished within the nine hours time limit. The youngest finisher is believed to be an eleven years old girl and the oldest a seventy-two years old man. It was reported that many walkers much younger than the latter had a hard job to keep up with the old 'un. The event is organised by the Middle Thames Romblers whose member is Vince Smith (LDWA 342) puts in a great deal of overtime to make the walk a success.

Based upon Organisers Report.

LONGMYND HIKE - October 6th/7th 1973

This year saw the seventh Longmynd Hike with a record 224 entries accepted and a further 60 potential entries turned away due to lack of facilities. 202 people actually started the walk on the day and of these, 125 finished. First man home this year was N. Henton (LDWA 82) of Manchester Associates in a time of 14 hours 9 minutes. The team award went to the Saddleworth Fellwalkers team comprising J.R. Jackson, the 1972 winner, accompanied by N. Kane and B. Tomlinson in an aggregate time of 46 hours 25 minutes. J.R. Jackson is the present record holder for the course with his 1972 record of 13 hrs 56 minutes. The Junior award went to I.P. Fitter (LDWA 277) with a time of 15 hrs 36 mins. Ladies prize was taken by Margaret Hall walking for Wolverhampton Y.H.A. in 18 hrs 1 min. The Novices prize was taken by P. Bettney who is also a Saddleworth Fellwalker. The organisers were naturally pleased that the individual Scout award went, for the fourth year running, to a member of the 2nd Longmynd Scout Group. The winner was Kevin Tranter, son of the Entries Secretary Win Tranter and Organiser Alan Tranter, in a time of 18hrs 32 minutes. It was pleasing to see so many LDWA walkers in the field - at least seventeen were recorded finishers.

Now that the event is well and truly established it is hoped that facilities can be improved for the greater comfort of entrants. We have tried to obtain use of the Secondary Modern School with its showers and kitchen facilities but this has not yet proved possible. Suggestions for 1974 welcomed!

MICHAEL ALLEY (Church Stretton)

10. WALKING THE PILGRIMS WAY.

Dedicated long-distance path walkers will no doubt, at some time, wish to follow in the footsteps (or hoofmarks) of the medieval pilgrims along the Pilgrims Way between the cathedrals of Winchester and Canterbury. From Farnham to Canterbury the path largely co-incides with the route of the North Downs Way thus allowing two paths to be walked for the price of one. The route is well served by train and coach services to and from London to key points so that the walk may be planned in convenient stages to fit in with the time available. Alan Hoare and I did it in three stages - Winchester to Dorking, Dorking to Otford and Otford to Canterbury during the weekends of 10th/11th, 17th/18th and 24th/25th March 1973. Even so there was much of interest lying just off the route of the Way which we were unable to explore due to lack of time. Several weekends, or at least a continuous week could be devoted to this project as there is much to appeal to the historically minded as well as those with antiquarian or archaeological interests.

We followed closely to the route described in Christopher J Wright's book "The Pilgrims Way" published by Constable at £1.90. Starting from the great West Door of Winchester Cathedral the first two miles of the route through the old City and by footpath beside the River Itchen are pleasant enough, but the remaining 26 miles from Kings Worthy through Itchen Abbas, Bishops Sutton, Four Marks and Alton to Farnham is entirely along roads and so is best forgotten. We think Chris Wright surveyed this stretch from his car! Although Farnham is an interesting little town with a castle and many fine Georgian houses, accommodation is not easy to find. After some trailing around we got B. & B. at a price at the "Blue Boy" near the Station. In contrast, the next stage, Farnham to Dorking has much of interest - Seale Church, Puttenham and Compton (well known to Punchbowl Marathon walkers), and the ruined St Catherine's Chapel above the River Wey. A sunken way leads down to the riverside and in the absence of a ferry a detour has to be made along the river bank to the outskirts of Guildford. This makes a splendid excuse to visit the "Jolly Farmer", which supplies tasty snacks including jacket potatoes with various fillings. Then follows some fine walking through Chantry Wood and up the long sandy ascent to St Martha's hilltop Chapel. From there the Way goes by Shere, traverses National Trust property on Hackhurst Downs and then runs below White Downs and Ranmore Common to a slow descent to Dorking. From Dorking the Way crosses the River Mole by the familiar stepping stones and continues along the lower slopes of Box Hill via Brockham and Betchworth Chalk Pits to the commanding heights of Colley Hill, Reigate Hill and Gravelly Hill with their extensive views.

Crockham Hill Youth Hostel makes a good overnight stop, but a diversion has to be made through Limpsfield with a corresponding long trudge back up the hill next morning to rejoin the Way near Titsey Church. Chevening Park contains a fine 17th century mansion soon to become the country home of current Chancellors of the Exchequer. Otford has an interesting church, some remains of a Tudor building (once a palace belonging to the Archbishops of Canterbury) and last but not least the "Bull" which scorns not to serve the Canterbury Pilgrims and stocks some hefty filled rolls, as well as beverages of a spirituous nature. There is also a railway station with a good service to London.

Only a couple of miles away is Kemsing with an interesting church and a Youth Hostel whose front gate opens hospitably upon the Pilgrims Way. Further along still is the Church of St George of Wrotham beloved of brass-rubbers and worth a diversion to visit. Unfortunately, nothing is visible of the once great Tudor Archbishop's Palace.

After rejoining the Way there are magnificent views over the valley of the Medway. The environs of Trottiscliffe (locally "Trosley") are rich in history going back not only to the times of Offa, King of Mercia but, by reason of the Coldrum Stones, to the Neolithic period of pre-history. After all this it is a severe anti-climax to arrive in the distinctly unlovely village

Walking the Pilgrims Way continued.

of Snodland, as ugly as its name, with hedges covered in cement dust and depressing mud flats. Nothing, not even the pubs, dispose one to linger here and the only obstacle is the Medway. There is some controversy as to where the Pilgrims actually got across and Chris Wright discusses four likely places. The modern pilgrim, unless he knows somebody with a boat or fancies a swim, either has to go north and cross by the motorway bridge near Rochester, or proceed south to the medieval bridge at Aylesford. We chose the latter and in a chill rain got a train to Aylesford station. From the station there is a riverside walk, passing on the opposite bank some buildings called "The Friars" which looked as medieval (but much more complete) than anything we had passed, but were, I suspect, comparatively modern. We crossed the ancient grey-stone bridge at exactly 13.45 by the church clock. (For the record it commenced to rain and continued unabated and with increasing wetness for the rest of the day).

We passed the prehistoric "Countless Stones" and later on in Westfield Wood the curiously shaped "White Horse Stone". (Keen archaeologists could divert to visit Tottington Stone Circle and "Kits Coty House" - the remains of a large Neolithic period burial chamber). Connoisseurs of rubbish will be delighted by the sight of some splendid wayside dumps of rusted domestic ware, old prams, disintegrating mattresses and the odd refrigerator. Some furtive looking motorists could very well have been disturbed in adding to the piles.

The subsequent track, viewed by us through a pitiless downpour, passes above a string of fascinating villages - Boxley, Detling, Hellingbourne, Harrietsham, Lenham and Charing - all crying out to be visited. Suitable diversions, depending upon weather and time available are recommended. Pilgrims desiring a bed for the night should divert to Lady Margaret Manor (Doddington Youth Hostel) a recommended stop. The Warden is a brother of John Parfitt, National Chairman of the Y.H.A.

Rejoining the Pilgrims Way, near a Hospital, leads to what is probably the most attractive stretch of all. Speaking personally, if we had to repeat a particular day's journey this would be the one. The Way is a charming track, well above the A20 where the motor car runs in sight but mercifully out of sound. Eventually Eastwell Park is reached. St Mary's Church stands in ruins at the edge of the lake. Nearby is a tomb reputed to be that of Richard Plantaganet, son of Richard III who died in 1550. According to legend Richard, then aged 16, escaped and made his way to Kent in disguise. He worked as a mason and bricklayer on the Eastwell Estate and when he died a record of his passing was made in the parish register and his body laid in the church. Eastwell Park Mansion, if you can get near enough to see it, was rebuilt (as late as 1900) in imitation Tudor style. The first mansion was built in the middle of the 16th century.

From here there is a stiff climb up to Soakham Downs (which mercifully did not live up to their name). On our visit the sun was so hot we were glad to get into the shade of the State Forest of Challock (some 5,000 acres). The Way overlooks the beautiful Godmersham Park, a Georgian mansion connected with Jane Austen the novelist. Where the ground opens out an exciting glimpse of the far distant Canterbury Cathedral may be obtained.

Chilham is a most attractive village, designated the prettiest in Kent. The Castle dates to the 12th century. The church is 15th century perpendicular and contains some notable monuments. In the summer the car-borne tourists will easily beat the Canterbury Pilgrim to the tea shops. Famished pilgrims may well be forced to fall back on packets of potato crisps and cans of coco-cola supplied by the local filling station. After traversing a particularly nasty length of busy main road the wayfarer can gratefully turn off through beautiful orchards and eventually arrive at Chartham Hatch.

Walking the Pilgrims Way continued.

The road runs through the earthworks of Bigbury Camp, an early Iron Age Hill Fort, the scene of Caesar's victory over the native forces which opposed his second landing in Kent in 54 BC. The road leads to Harbledown, where Chaucer's Pilgrims looked down upon Canterbury spread out below. From the top of Golden Hill, a National Trust Property, the Way descends through leafy Mill Lane and soon into the A2 London Road, formerly Watling Street. Then by the ancient church of St Dunstons-Without-the-Westgate which contains the head of St Thomas More in a lead casket, and so enters Canterbury by the impressive West Gate, the only survivor of six medieval gates in the city walls. Further along the magnificent Christchurch Gateway, glowing with heraldic colours, leads directly to the west front of the Cathedral and journeys end. Accommodation can be had at the superior Canterbury Youth Hostel on the New Dover Road.

From Canterbury it is possible to continue along the North Downs Way, well waymarked with "mushrooms" and acorn signs, through orchards to Patricbourne (surely one of the most architecturally beautiful villages to be seen anywhere) by Bridge Hill and Womenswold churches to Shepherdswell (where the "ploughman's lunch" at the Bell is recommended). Then by St Pancras at Coldred, through Waldershare Park, where the Earl of Guildford's vast red brick mansion stands empty and forlorn, and so to Ashley and along the narrow "Roman Road" to Dover. But that is another story.

ERNIE FOSTER (LDWA 26)

P.S. My companion remarked on the absence of buxom serving wenches bearing jugs of mead and platters of venison.

OFFA'S DYKE PATH

In 1971, Offa's Dyke Path became the fourth long-distance path to be 'officially' opened by the Countryside Commission. It is the only one which actually follows an historic feature - that of a ditch and a mound - the mound sometimes being as much as 15 ft above the level of the ditch. The Dyke was built in the late 8th Century A.D. by Offa, King of the English Midland Kingdom of Mercia and runs for 168 miles along the Welsh border from Chepstow to Prestatyn. The Path does not follow the Dyke all the time, as the latter enters unsightly coal-mining areas or uses the river instead as an adequate boundary in places. Away from the Dyke the Path takes to the hills resulting in fine ridge-walking on the Black Mountains and the Clywdian hills.

I walked the entire route in 1969 with a Y.H.A. 'Adventure Holiday', and have led parties and taken part in progress surveys since, in addition to completing the Pennine Way, Cleveland Way and South-West Peninsula Coast Path. I shall be leading another party along Offa's Dyke Path in the summer of 1974 under the auspices of the Y.H.A. We shall be making use of hostels, farm-houses and guest houses and the dates are as follows:-

1st Week: 20th July, starting from Chepstow

2nd Week: 27th July, starting from Knighton

If anyone is interested please write to me in the first instance so that I can gauge the likely support, and the Y.H.A. will be publishing their 'Adventure Holidays' brochure with further details in the new year, to whom final bookings should be sent.

CHARLES MORRIS (LDWA 628)

A NEW CHEVIOT ROUTE ?

A few years ago I had been browsing over the maps of Northumberland, when it struck me that all the hills in the Cheviots over 2,000' could surely be walked over in one day. Now the time had come to prove this could be done, for a few people I had talked to had never heard of such a walk.

The four of us met outside Wooler Youth Hostel at 7.45 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, September 8th 1968. Kathleen and I had stayed overnight and our companions were two locals, my cousin Roland Smith and his friend Jimmy Miller, not forgetting his dog Dino. We drove into the foothills of the Cheviots to the farm of Langleeford, a popular place for hikers and picknickers to visit. From the road end a track leads right up to the foot of Cheviot itself, with Hedgehope Hill towering over the valley on the other side. We took this track but branched right before the old farm of Langleeford Hope up the skiers path onto the ridge leading to the edge of the summit plateau. By now the previously misty weather had cleared and we saw the trig. point on the top, just half a mile ahead of us. It did not take us long to reach the column but the bogs were knee deep in places. Our first mountain was conquered - The Cheviot 2676'

Our route now lay around the edge of the plateau, passing the deep gash in the side of Cheviot called the Henhole, to Auchope Cairn, 2382' high, split down the middle by the Border line between Scotland and England. A well earned rest was taken in the new Bothy erected by the Black Watch, just below the summit. For the next few miles we hugged the Border Fence in misty conditions to Windy Gyle our next objective. On its top is one of the largest cairns in the Cheviots and a trig point at 2034' made it our second mountain. We retraced our steps for a while and had lunch by an old Border crossing called Cocklaw Gate on Clennel Street.

Clennel Street was followed for some distance after lunch, then we left it for Uswayford Farm, the half way point on the walk. An uphill climb of over a mile brought us to mountain number three, Bloodybush Edge, 2001'.

Two miles further on lay Cushat Law, across fairly level ground. It was here that we saw a wild goat, probably rejected by the herd that lives in the College Valley area. The cairn marking the top at 2020' soon came into view, as also did an R A.F helicopter which circled overhead then landed on a nearby hill. The next mountain was over four miles away and after a long drag down to the River Breamish and a sharp climb up again, Comb Fell 2132' was reached. On the map the actual summit was shown as a cairn on a fence corner; the corner was found but no cairn

An easy downhill then a gradual uphill brought us to Hedgehope Hill, which at 2348' high was our sixth and last mountain top for the day. We quickly overcame the mile and a half back to the car, arriving back at the Hostel for 6.45 p.m.

We had been walking the hills for ten hours, with a break of an hour all told. The distance was about twenty-three miles and total climbing in the region of 5,000'. In distance and time this walk is similar to the "Three Peaks" but the height climbed is about half. Nevertheless in these miles all the main Cheviot peaks are ascended over rough country - but were we the first to do it?

SOUTH AFRICAN MOUNTAIN

This account might prove useful to some members of the LDWA, with our wide and varied membership it is always possible that a member will find him or herself in South Africa.

Towards the end of March, after a few hot and sticky days in Durban, I made tracks to the DRakensberg Mountains, an extensive range on the borders of Natal and the Orange Free State. The approach to the Cathedral Peak is some 35 km of dirt road from Winterton.

A guide is available at the hotel the charge being 1 Rand, roughly 50p shared by a party, minimum charge, however, per person - 50 cents.

Not having a 2½" map, I put my name down in the request book for a start at 7.30 a.m. the next morning, objective - Cathedral Peak, 9,856 feet.

The next morning a native guide appeared on the stoep, and the only walker was myself. The guide was quite willing to take one alone, so off we went and crossing two small rivers started up.

The morning was bright and clear and the varied proes's cactus, huge 'ericas', that is heather 6 ft tall, multi-coloured butterflies, slow worms with red heads, red and green grasshoppers, was interesting, with small patches of our familiar bracken.

During our first spell 'O' I asked the guide his name, Johannes it was, and on enquiring his age received the astonishing reply - 98!

Our next stop produced - "You have good boots Baa's".

"You have a good coat Baa's. How much?", being told about 20 rand

"Much, much money Baa's"

His own boots were unique, having small pockets with clip over flaps on each ankle, made to carry small coins.

The next stop was to fill the billy at a stream, with which, incidentally, he managed to scramble some 2,000 ft without losing too much.

The views on either side of a long ridge climb were magnificent, and after a scramble here and there we made a saddle named the ORANJIE GAP about 9,000 ft. The stop here was to brew up the 'billy' for tea, for which I was mighty thankful feeling, due to age and altitude, a bit clapped out.

Johannes scrambled down a gully, an African Rossett Ghyll, and with an armful of erica, got the fire going and produced the tea.

The clouds now rolled down with tremendous thunder, lightening and hail. "We go not baa's, will baa's be much careful across mountain," so off we went in thick mist. Fortunately Johannes struck off in the right direction and losing about 1,500 ft of altitude we emerged in the clear.

Crouching under an overhang in pouring rain Johannes said "Look Baa's, Zulu boys;" across a tremendous gulch were four small black dots on the mountainside.

"Plenty trouble" said Johannes, "Zulu can't climb mountain, no legs for climb".

Being asked "Are you Zulu Johannes?" I received the reply "No Baa's, me Basuto", emphasising the age old gap between the mountain men and the lowlanders

The afternoon now cleared away revealing magnificent scenery, Johannes pointing out the various named peaks and yodelling occasionally to produce quite spectacular echoes.

He now asked if he could take a photograph of Baa's with my camera, so there is now extant a copy of the LDWA badge somewhere in Africa.

We finally came to a plantation of gum and pine trees and, scrambling over the windfalls, reached the UMLAMBONJA river which, after wading across, left only a short walk back to the hotel.

We failed to make the summit, due to the conditions, and the start obviously should be made not later than 06.30 a.m.

W. SPEARS (LDWA 30)

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

The Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, whose aims are clear from its title, was founded in 1865. Its main object at that time was to save London commons from development, however its work soon spread to cover commons in the rest of the country and at the turn of the century it widened its scope to include public bridleways and footpaths.

Its principal work is to advise local authorities, voluntary bodies and the public on the preservation of commons, village greens and public paths. A well informed public is essential for the improvement of the environment. Whilst legislation has given considerable protection to the public the existence of statutory rights is often unknown to a local organisation or individual. The Society publishes guides to the law on aspects of its work which can be understood by the interested layman. A watching brief is kept on the position of the survey of rights of way in all counties. With over 1800 closures and diversions of public paths during 1972 an essential vigilance is maintained through local correspondents.

Membership subscription for local amenity societies and individuals is £1.50 per annum; which includes the Journal.

Mrs M. McArevey (Ass. Secretary)

(Among the objects of the Society are the following: "to obtain and preserve public access to the open country, and to secure the creation of new footpaths and bridleways for the benefit of the public" - Ed.)

--- oOo ---

VENTNOR WALKER'S REMARKABLE "FEAT" - Mr Harry Peel, of Upper Ventnor, on his 72nd birthday, on Saturday, successfully walked the 70 miles round the Isle of Wight coastal footpaths. He was accompanied by members of the Ramblers' Association, and his wife Midge, who took turns in stretches of about five miles. Mr Peel started at the Winter Gardens at midnight on Friday, and as a result of his walk hopes supporters will send donations to the British Heart Foundation.

WALKING IN NEW ZEALAND.

The journey began in leisurely style when we embarked on the launch 'MOANA' at Queenstown in the Southern Lakes District of the South Island. This took us up Lake Wakatipu to Elfin Bay where we arrived just before nightfall and quickly found ourselves a camp site.

There were twelve of us, eight men and four women, all members of the Tararua Tramping Club based in Wellington, the capital city in the North Island. For most of us this was our first trip to the Southern Alps and Lakes and the leader George had planned a two-week introductory tour covering some of the more well-known valleys and scenic attractions near the head of Lake Wakatipu. Each of us carried packs of some 40 lbs., each containing personal gear and our share of the group equipment such as cooking stores, pots, fuel, food, tents and ropes. No high climbing was intended but the ropes proved invaluable on several occasions.

The first full day, Christmas Eve, saw us heading up the Caples valley, through large beech forests and across grassy park-like clearings, occasionally spotting afar off herds of red deer. We camped for two days beside the river and the most important items in our packs soon came into use - insect repellents, creams and sprays and muslin cloth - all to try and keep at bay the dreaded sandfly, a most gregarious insect which operates at all lower valley levels. Its bite is so fierce that I wondered if it is one reason why New Zealand has produced so many fine high-altitude climbers, as it is rarely found over 4,000 feet.

Christmas Day was hot and sunny and we took advantage of not carrying the packs by ascending to the main ridge at Bold Peak (6,990 ft) from where there was a fine view out over the Lake and across the Caples valley to the Ailsa Mountains. On the way down we took a refreshing dip in a mountain tarn, which still had traces of winter snow round it. All this gave us an appetite to down the heavy Christmas puddings, one member being doubly glad as he had lost the toss to carry them in.

Our route then followed up the Caples River, over the pass and into the Greenstone valley, the ropes coming into use for the first time to negotiate a series of bluffs. We then entered the middle reaches of the Hollyford River, one of the most spectacular valleys in the country. The river rushes along a narrow valley floor in a mad dash to the sea, dropping 5,000 feet in only 30 miles. Thick bush extends up the steep valley sides giving way to tussock grass, then rock, snow and ice. There is very little 'alp' or 'terrace' halfway up as is found in the continental European Alps and the main peaks of the Dorrn Range rise sheer on the western side, Mount Christine (8210 ft), Mount Madeline (8380 feet) and Mount Tutoko (9042 feet) the highest peak in Fiordland.

We spent three days camping in the valley, visiting Hidden Falls and Humboldt Falls, the latter dropping nearly 900 feet, relaxing in the hot sun and swimming in the swift-flowing river but remembering to stay near the bank. Then after six days fine weather, the holiday aspect of our trip came to an abrupt end and from there on it became a struggle against the elements as the heavens opened and the rain torrented down, non-stop for the first 36 hours. We continued our journey as soon as conditions allowed, climbing up the eastern side of the valley and when above the bush line contouring round the mountainside to reach the comparative luxury of the hut at Lake Mackenzie.

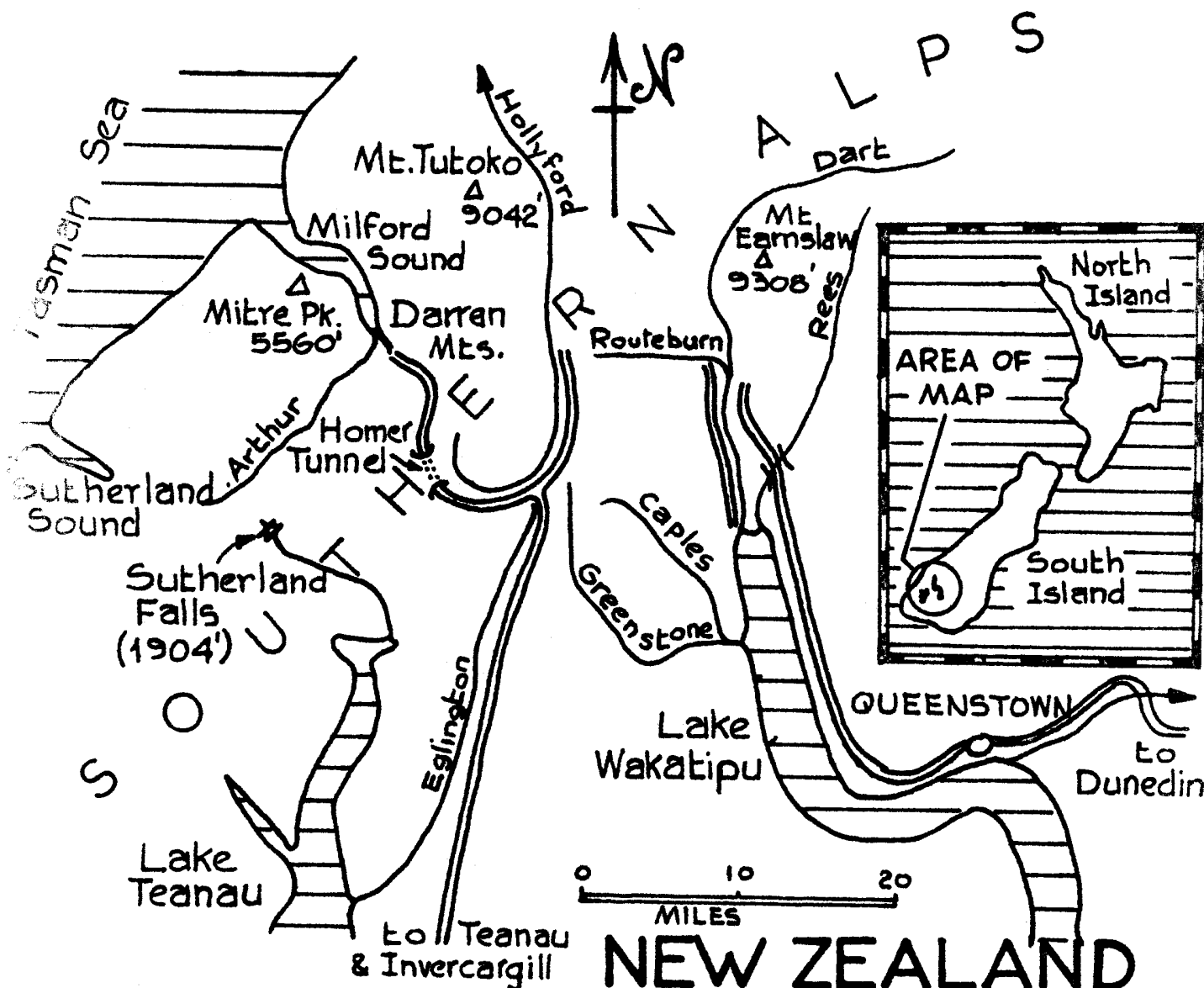
It was about this time that the full meaning of the word 'tramping' rather than 'walking', sunk in. This adequately describes one's progress over rocky, boggy bush tracks, stumbling over great moss-covered tree roots, carrying a heavy pack, the rain driving at you from all directions and the view restricted to the muddy pair of boots in front.

Walking in New Zealand continued.

After resting at the hut for a couple of days we retraced our steps slightly, crossed the Harris Saddle and entered the Routeburn valley. Again the rain came down by the bucketful and one understood why one year at nearby Milford Sound, 300 inches of rain had been recorded. The ropes were used to cross quite small side-streams which would otherwise have been uncrossable and we were glad of the shelter provided by an old, delapidated but dry hut. The weather showing no sign of abating we decided to cut short our trip and hurried on down to meet the small section of road running up the lower Dart valley. After drying off in a farmer's hay barn the local bus took us to the boat landing at the head of Lake Wakatipu, from where the steamer 'EARNSLAW' took us back to Queenstown. All the camp sites in the town were full up, flooded out or both but the schoolmistress in our party managed to get us in to the local schoolhouse. We had enough food left over for a veritable feast which we ate to the accompaniment of a crashing thunderstorm.

It was obvious that our party had enjoyed the trip, for the following Christmas, when I was with another group, I encountered most of the others on the landing stage at Queenstown laden up once more for a further excursion into the Southern Alps.

BOB DOWNS (LDWA 43)



18. MEMBERS CLUBS 4

THE MIDDLE THAMES RAMBLERS

A wider circle of persons will now be acquainted with the Middle Thames Ramblers through taking part in the Chiltern Marathon. It is not surprising that the M.T.R. should choose their home ground, the Chiltern Hills, in which to hold this event.

The club was formed in 1952 and was originally called the Slough and District Rambling Club. On the very first walk there were thirty people and in the early days the membership stood at about forty. Rambles were held once a fortnight and there were Youth Hostel weekends further afield, as well as a lively social programme.

In those days not so many club members owned cars so that public transport was used to convey members to and from the terminal points of a walk. As bus and train services declined with the increase in car ownership, the club took advantage of this situation to increase the range and interest of its walks. Nowadays the programme is so arranged that car owning members provide transport for every walking event, thus enabling these rambles to take place within a radius of seventy miles of the meeting place, at either Slough or Maidenhead. This gives us access to the entire Chiltern area, North Bucks, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, the Berkshire Downs and many parts of Wiltshire. We also walk in Surrey, Hampshire, North Sussex and part of Kent. The great London conurbation limits our walking to the east, but enthusiasts have arranged rambles in the cities of London and Westminster, where the historic building offers the attraction.

The M.T.R. programme has always included weekends further afield at intervals of about six weeks. At Easter and Whitsun we have walked in mountain areas such as North Wales and the Lake District, as well as the rugged coasts of Cornwall, Devon and Pembrokeshire. Other weekends have been along the coasts of Dorset, Hampshire, Sussex and Kent, usually in the winter months, when there are less people about and accommodation is easier to find. We have enjoyed weekend walking on The Black Mountains, the Brecon Beacons, the Mountains of Central Wales, the Derbyshire Peak District and the moors of Yorkshire. We must also mention weekends on the hills and coast of North Somerset as well as the Cotswolds and the Wye Valley.

As the club membership became more affluent Youth Hostel accommodation gave way to the small hotel and guest house. On one occasion club members rented two cottages in Central Wales. This arrangement was a great success, since we cooked all meals ourselves and the cottages were well placed for walking in that area.

The club has always maintained a lively social programme, including theatre trips, dinner dances, slide shows and lectures. There have been many lively Christmas parties and Guy Fawkes evenings, as well as barbecues and other similar events. Perhaps the most ambitious social occasion was a weekend visit to Paris, an event which involved some very strenuous walking in that most interesting city. Special mention must be made of an evening at a gliding club, when all club members present enjoyed a flight in a glider, towed off by a tug aircraft.

M.T.R. have also arranged a week's holiday on two occasions for its members. Once in the Lake District and the second in Kerry in Southern Ireland. Both unforgettable experiences for those who went and I hear that the club is arranging another week of mountain walking in the Torridon area of Scotland.

The club has never failed to produce a lively programme of events, so that it is not surprising that membership over the years has increased to

Members Clubs continued.

around the eighty mark. In 1965 it was decided to change the name of the club to the Middle Thames Ramblers, as this reflected more accurately a much larger area from which the club now draws its membership.

In 1970 an enthusiastic member added the Chiltern Marathon to our already crowded programme. The number of entries for this event has doubled each year, so that the number in 1972 was 194. Mention should also be made of the annual orienteering event, which the club arranges for its members and which is always well attended.

So this is the story of the Middle Thames Ramblers. We hope to see you all at the next Chiltern Marathon.

DENNIS LAMB (Chairman - Middle Thames Ramblers)

RANMORE TO HINDHEAD.

(Melody - Villikins and His Diane)

From Tanners to Hindhead we walked yesterday,
Chris and I found it was quite a long way
The wind it was keen, but the sun shone so bright;
We walked and we walked, from morning to night.

The woods were beguiling with spring in the air,
With small groups of snowdrops, standing so fair,
The buds on the trees were about to burst forth,
But we had no time for just standing of course.

Wootton first check, where Pete Campbell did die,
Then cross fields to where Old Gate cottage does lie.
Then down past the pump and up Holmbury Hill top,
What was the date there? I wished I could stop.

Miles saw an owl at the aviary below,
Me, I saw nothing but just an odd crow.
At last at the Four Elms we stopped for a break,
Our legs were beginning to tire and to ache.

We tramped on to Hascombe for over four miles -
To this best kept of villages - through fire, over stiles.
But stop not a moment, just take that as read -
Next Hambleddon Church - 'St Peters' it said.

We followed the power-lines for just half an hour -
Blue was the clock face on Witley Church tower.
The last but one lap now, as night slowly fell,
Two point five miles was it - was it like Hell!

'Twas at least a mile longer to Thursley I swear.
We could just see the shape of the sundial clock there.
Then down the dark lane where the owls hoot all night -
At last Hindhead Hostel with welcoming light.

Now what makes us do this I really don't know,
I swear that on no more of these walks will I go.
But still it was fun meeting friends once again,
Perhaps the achievement was worth all the strain.

MERLE MARSDEN (LDWA 243)

20. COMMENT

SO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH EVENTS?

There is an article in the August/September issue of "Mountain Life" entitled "Where have all the Walkers Gone?" which then proceeds to deal exclusively with various running records! It is perhaps a good time to take a closer look at some of the problems associated with walking when applied to "events". Many of the events are called "Walks", "Hikes", "Marathons" and on first acquaintance appear very interesting for the walker. However, when one turns up at the event and stands around waiting for the start you realise by the equipment that many of the people are in fact runners. Even if it is not apparent prior to the start it is obviously immediately afterwards as there is a quick surge and you are left breathless watching figures vanish in a cloud of dust out of ones vision and away into the distance. Disconcerted one continues on at ones own satisfactory pace only to find on some courses that the runners are coming back again having reached the check point and are now returning by what is the most popular route. This is particularly bad with the "Lakes Four 3,000ft Peaks Marathon". Surely it would not be beyond the organising capabilities of the organisers to have two starting times and two finishing times whereby the runners would set off first and be out of the way of the walkers, and therefore not cause them any inconvenience. By having two different duration times for the courses it would give ample incentives to both the walkers and the runners, particularly in the case of the walkers who will NEVER get decent placings or any prizes.

This raises the question of whether walkers should be allowed to run at all or runners to be allowed to walk at all. Personally I feel that it doesn't really matter whether there is some walking and running particularly if you have a clear objective in view and if there were two classes in events you would have to categorically state which one you wished to enter and then stick to it; thus if you tired of running you wouldn't be considered in the walking class if you came in late for a runner but fast for a walker. So what happens to the runner who walks or a walker who runs? I feel that if runners want to walk up the steep hill sections or the walkers trot down easy sections it isn't very important to the outcome of the event as you have two opposing propositions. On the one hand you would need to be extremely regimented and allow NO walking or NO running, whilst on the other hand you could be completely flexible.

A different type of problem is the one where you have one class of event but with two different mileages to be covered, e.g. Tanners Marathon 50 or 30 miles. If the major part of the course is used for both classes do you want the participants to end simultaneously using the same finishing part of the course? If the longer distance competitors set off early and do an extra circuit or distance prior to the end 30 mile route then they will in time catch up with the slower 30 milers. This presents both advantages and disadvantages. It is very nice to be able to dispense with accurate map reading and make use of seeing where the other competitors go. Naturally this is not infallible but if you see people on the horizon or the middle distance then it certainly saves you time by your needing no more than a cursory glance at your map or route instructions. It is pleasant to meet people you know who are attempting the shorter course and to have a cheerful word with them. However, this in itself is one of the disadvantages if they wish to

Comment continued.

prolong the chatting and try and engage you in a long conversation. There is one major disadvantage in catching up with the slower walkers - some people even though they have entered for the shorter distance quite pointedly resent the fact that you are taking part in the longer event. On occasions I have been held up by morose and sullen, but undoubtedly tired walkers, who will not allow you to pass in narrow restricted places in woods or boggy areas where single file is the order of the day. They fail to realise that the overall time limit for the longer event does not increase in the same ratio and therefore your overall rate of walking has to be faster than that allowed for the shorter event if you are going to have enough time to finish within the allotted time; i.e. 30 miles in 10 hours entails a walking speed of 3 mph whereas 50 miles in 15 hours comes out at 3 1/3rd mph which doesn't sound very significant. If, however, you continued to walk at the rate of 3 mph you would be an hour and twenty minutes too late! Naturally these times are the absolute time limits and no allowance is made for rests, route finding, or having ones card stamped or punched at the check points, which all take up time and the speed of walking must be faster to compensate. This is of academic interest only as the really competent walkers will be trying to better their own times and will have finished the course well in advance of the stipulated finish times. A further fact that the slow walkers have yet to appreciate is that even the writer had difficulty in finishing and was a very slow walker. Over the years by doing many walks you certainly get fitter and also get to know the type of situations and course the organisers will be presenting you with, and that by trial and error you do become a more efficient map reader and a fitter faster walker. Let me hasten to add that not all slow walkers are so awkward as some that I have met, and that many people are quite content to have been able to take part in the event, some just finishing in time and some not even managing to get all the way round.

Quite a number of "walks" are held with the major part of the event taking place during the night with the added restriction that all walkers must join up into groups for the night section. The size of groups can vary from a couple to six people. With the large group this creates unfair handicaps in this way; if you know that the event is going to cover a long distance and therefore take a large number of hours it is foolish to bolt along for the first few hours and use up all your energies. If, however, you are a bit more conservative and take things just a little slower in order to have reserves for the final stages of the event you will get lumbered when night falls by being grouped up with people who have dashed off at the start and have worn themselves out already. During the night stages they become slower and slower whereas you know you are capable of maintaining your original pace but are prevented from doing so by the stipulation that you must remain in a group. In this way you can be handicapped anything in the region of 2-3 hours! Would it not be possible for walkers who have completed the course in a previous year to be allowed to go along in pairs - afterall they know where they are going and in the unlikely event of an accident there will be enough competitors around to take a message on to the next checkpoint.

Perhap members would like to give their views and any helpful comments. Finally, it is a pity that the author of the article Chris Brasher wasn't a partaker/spectator for the Downsman Hundred.

22. VIEWPOINT.

AN ORGANISER'S VIEWPOINT

In reply to some of the points in Dianne Pegg's letter (having had the advantage of seeing it prior to publication) concerning the participation of "runners" in challenge "walks", I would ask those interested in this form of "walking" to consider my personal guide lines for the organisation of such events.

The basic object should be to cover a known, or unknown, route within the rules made by the organisers and the prime reward of a successful accomplishment should be the personal satisfaction of completion either as an individual or as a member of a team. Because it is impossible to enforce a "no running" rule, and possibly undesirable anyway, any reference to mode of travel should simply state that "walkers" should travel on foot. As soon as prizes for fast times are offered (as at most highland events) the event becomes a race, although only the more athletic entrants are likely to be in contention for such rewards. Strictly speaking no runner who is bound by the laws of the A.A.A. or W.A.A.A. is allowed to enter for an event of this nature which is probably the reason why some of our more notable marathon runners never take part in these "walks". If they did we would soon see 100 miles events being done in sub 20 hour times and fifty-milers completed in under 8 hours.

The problem with attempting to cater for both slow walkers and fast runners is one of time: the longer the route the greater the period that the later checkpoints and finish must remain in operation. This may mean a requirement for more officials or more patience on the part of those who have to be on duty longer. There are a number of ways of overcoming this question and the two most obvious are, to set intending runners off at a later time such that they finish with the walkers, or to keep rigidly to opening times of control points. If the latter scheme is operated a runner getting to a point too early either has to wait, or if he carries on does so unofficially as far as further participation in the event. There are, of course, factors which may preclude running - the nature of the terrain, the equipment to be carried, darkness, etc.

Most events that I am associated with have a massed start with those who wish to run the route being recommended to start at a later time to suit themselves but at the Punchbowl Marathon (30m) a three-hour-late start is arranged for the faster travellers. Whilst no extra merit is placed upon those credited with fast times it is often found convenient to show the list of finishers in order of finishing along with their finishing "position" and this is what most people want although to the uninitiated it might appear to be the result of a race.

I think that it is generally accepted that the challenge walk is not intended to be a race although, inevitably, there will be some vying for "first place" or an attempt to "beat" old Bill, or to improve upon last year's time. In the end, the only criterion is the personal achievement of successfully meeting the test, and the longer and more demanding the event the greater the feeling of satisfaction.

For those who seek something more there are such promotions as the Lyke Wake Race, the London to Brighton races, and at least one hundred miles race walk each year.

THE FOREST WAY.

Two new long distance footpaths were opened in the countryside to the north of London during 1972; the Essex Way, running from Epping to Dedham on the Suffolk border, and the Forest Way linking the forests of Epping and Hatfield.

The second of these routes was designated by the Essex County Council to mark European Conservation Year. It follows existing rights-of-way and was designed to join the two great forests of south-west Essex. Extensive signposting has been carried out by the County Highways Dept. and an attractive guide produced.

Epping Forest, at the southern end, covers about 6,000 acres and consists mainly of oaks, beech and hornbeam. The bulk forms a continuous strip penetrating deeply into metropolitan London. It is possible to walk nearly twenty miles through the forest from its southern end, near Leyton, to the other end, north of Epping, with only one stretch of road, although there are several crossing highways.

The start of the Way is in Epping Forest, near to the Wake Arms (P.H.) on the A11 (grid. ref. 421995, O/S sheet 161). It can be reached by bus from Epping, and by three miles walk from Central Line station at Loughton. High Beech Youth Hostel is about a mile to the south.

The Way goes roughly for just over two miles before swinging North-east to cross the A11 south of Harlow on the Latton and Harlow Commons. Continuing in this direction it later turns northwards again to lead towards Hatfield Forest. The end lies just north of a small village called Woodside Green. From here it is a three miles walk to Bishops Stortford, where there are buses and trains to London.

The Forest Way offers a pleasant walk in gently rolling countryside with good views at several points. Some of the sections along green lanes are very attractive, and in particular the Epping Long Green, which runs almost straight for two miles. An advantage is that the complete route can be covered in one day from London. Signposting is excellent throughout and there is no difficulty in following the Way. Signs are either hand carved, on top of six feet high oak posts, or black plates on smaller posts. Unfortunately, one or two of these signs have been damaged by vandals: one actually being chopped in half with an axe.

Despite its charm, this route does not compare in length or character with the major long distance footpaths, but with more imagination the planners could have made it much better. Why, for example, did they include such bad lanes (very muddy in winter) and a fair stretch of metalled road in the early sections? The latter could have been avoided by using first class footpaths already in existence. The same applies to another section of road near Harlow.

A guide to the Way may be obtained, free of charge, from Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. This measures 12" x 5½" and includes four black and white 2½" maps with the route marked on in green. Please send a stamp if requiring a guide.

FRANK DUERDEN (LDWA 75)

(The maps in the guide highlight buildings of interest and viewpoints.
Eleven pubs are clearly located' - Ed.)

24. ACROSS DARTMOOR.

The Across Dartmoor Walk is an annual event of the Dartmoor Rambling Club. I was leading the walk this year and for the first time the walk was advertised on a nation-wide scale in the LDWA Newsletter. By the time I finished answering all the letters I received on the subject, I almost began to wish it had not become so well known !

Eleven of us eventually started on the walk, which began on the Meldon Quarry road, near Okehampton. There were six Dartmoor Ramblers, two LDWA members from East Devon and two ramblers from the Isle of Wight who brought along with them a young American walker they met the night previously at the Plymouth Youth Hostel.

After half a mile we left the road and followed the West Okement River through Meldon woods. Then under the old railway viaduct and up to that supreme example of 'official vandalism' in a National Park - the Meldon Dam. After scrambling up the slopes of the valley in order to by-pass the dam we walked alongside the reservoir, on the slopes of Longstone Hill. We crossed the Fishcombe brook and walked around Hamerton Hill to Velleke corner where the West Okement river enters the reservoir. We followed the river to Black Tor Coarse, which is one of the three Oak woods of Dartmoor, where we had a short rest before carrying on to Kneeset Nose where the river divides. At this point we crossed the stream and climbed up to avoid the bog from which the river rises. Still going south, we crossed Black Ridge Brook, walked over Little Kneeset and down to Cut Coombe Water at the foot of Fur Tor.

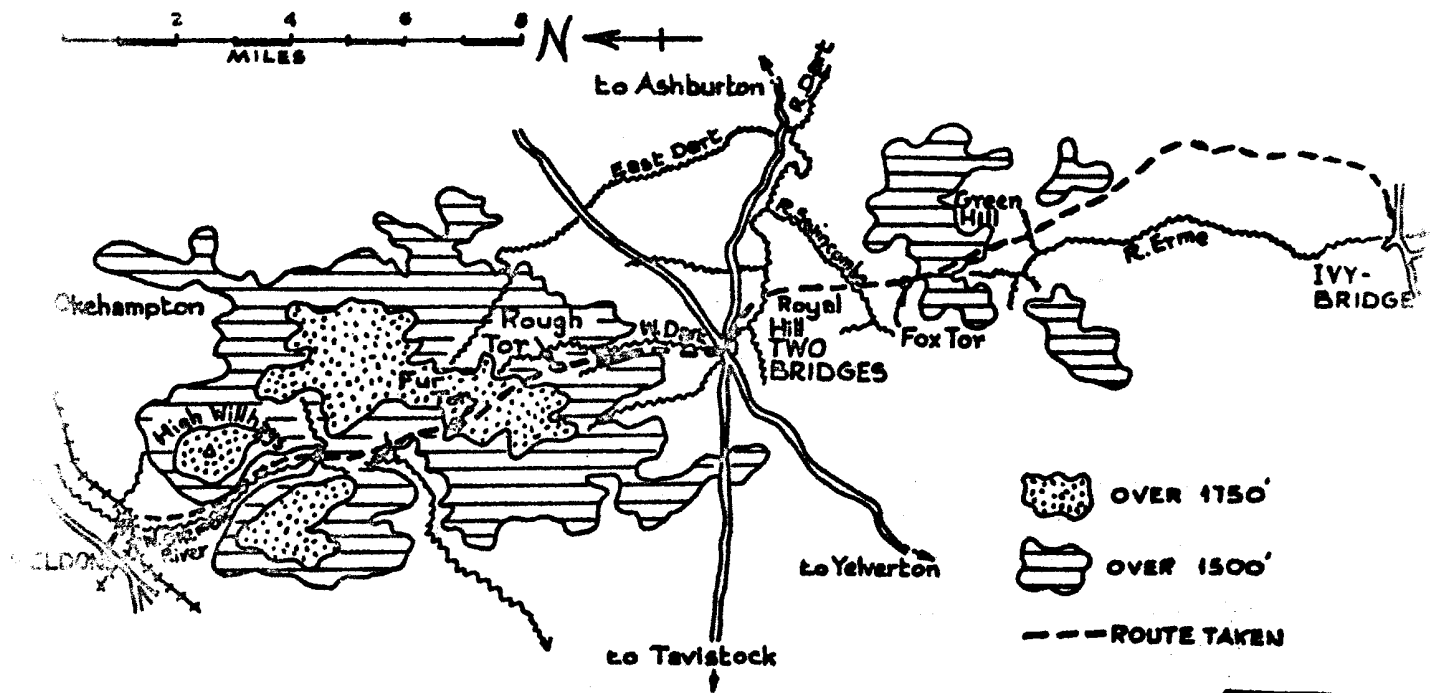
At this point the weather decided to make its presence felt! We were soon battered by driving wind and rain as we struggled up the steepest side of the most remote tor on the moor. At the top (1877 ft) the rain suddenly stopped, so we looked for and signed the 'Visitors Book' which is kept in a tin, hidden in a crack in the rock. After a short lunch, the rain started as we set off across the peat cuttings, which were, of course, filled with water, towards Rough Tor (1791 ft) at the head of the West Dart valley, which was covered in clouds. We crossed the river below Crow Tor and then walked straight into a bog below Wistmans Wood so, when we reached the road at Two Bridges, nobody had dry feet and it was still raining!

The main Tavistock-Ashburton road runs through Two Bridges; we went along this for about half a mile then down to the river. This was in flood so we plodded on to the Prince Hall Adventure Centre, where there was a stone bridge. A track took us from Prince Hall to Moorlands Farm and then we were back on open moorland again. We had to climb over several wire fences on Royal Hill before descending to the River Swincombe, which was eventually crossed after a few near-disasters in mid-stream. By now the rain had given up and the sun came out for the first time as we plodded through the swampy ground past Child's Tomb and climbed up to Fox Tor (1350 ft).

Leaving Fox Tor we walked or rather waded across Caters Beam, which was an absolute morass. We finally reached solid ground on the banks of Black Lane Brook, where we rested at Philpotts Cave. Because it was getting late, I abandoned my original route down the River Erme and crossed over Green Hill to the old tram-way which runs from Red Lake clay tip across the southern part of the moor. At last we were able to speed up on the flat even track till we reached the Hangershall Rock where we left the track, walked around Weatherdon Hill and onto the footpath which leads off the moor into Ivybridge where we arrived about 9.10 p.m. We had walked for 12½ hours on Dartmoor during which we covered 28 miles in weather conditions which were the worst I had ever encountered at that time of the year.

I would like to thank those who turned out and made the walk a success. Next year bring flippers and a snorkel!

CHRIS PINDER (LDWA 361)



-ACROSS DARTMOOR-



LETTERS.

22.9.73.

Dear Chris,

This may be of interest to your readers. On my 72nd Birthday, with the aid of the I.O.W. Ramblers Group, I set out to walk the coastal trail round the Isle of Wight. It consists of footpaths, bridleways and a little tarmac road.

A team of ramblers consisting of the Secretary, Les Wickens, Minutes Secretary, Barbara Buckingham, and our Treasurer, Group Capt. Murray, and a mini-caravan; also my wife. These four relayed at various distances throughout the walk. Also a Rambler from the New Forest kept me company for 40 miles. We started from Ventnor on Sat. 15th Sept. at 00.10 following the Beach and Landslip to Shanklin Pier 01 20. Sandown Pier 01 50. Then over Culver Down and Cliffs, past Whitecliff Bay and Coastwise to Bembridge. Crossing Bembridge Harbour via the Causeway, on to the Duver and after a little trouble with an housing estate, along the sea wall to Sea View, thence coastwise to Ryde, about 06.30. Skirting the two via Binstead and Quarr Abbey to Wooten Creek. Then via lanes and Whippingham to the Floating Bridge at Cowes, 08.20 hrs. Over the Medina to West Cowes, along the coast via Gurnard to Thorness, across the fields to Bunts Hill and Porchfield. Then by lane and footpath to Shalfleet and Yarmouth, 12.20 hrs. By footpath, bridleway and lane to Headon Warren, Alum Bay and over Tennyson Down to Freshwater Bay. Then along the cliffs except when rain and wind made walking dangerous, when we used the road, to Chale, 7.00 p.m. Along the cliffs then in the growing darkness to St Lawrence Shute taking to the road for the last mile to finish at 21.15 - overall time being 21 hrs 5 mins. This time could be cut by a few hours but it is a start. It had been my intention to walk it alone, but the help from the Ramblers made this walk possible and reasonably easy. The official distance is supposed to be 60 miles. Our map experts say 66, I say over 70, so lets call it 66. If a 100 Km. cross country walk was ever on the anvil this could be the course.

All the best, HARRY PEEL (LDWA 15) Centurion 196.

26. MORE LETTERS.

30th July, 1973.

Dear Mr Editor,

Having read with interest Mr Volwerk's letter re the walking feat of Robert Dick, I am reminded of a similar one, also (I understand) around the turn of the century, by the late H.C. Hart, who was reckoned to be Ireland's outstanding hill walker. He once accepted a wager - and won it - that he would walk from the centre of O'Connell Street in Dublin to the summit of the highest mountain in Wicklow, Lugnaquilla (3,019') and back again inside 24 hours. The distance involved was 78 miles a great deal of which must have been by hill tracks in those days.

Two other claims to fame have been recorded by Mr Hart. He walked the entire Maamturk range from Maam Cross in south Galway to Leenane at Killary Harbour in 14 hours. This range is divided into three sections, the first two divided by a deep pass being the Maamturks proper, a long line of summits mostly over 2,000 feet, and a poor, nondescript section which is "off-line" to the north and (in my experience) merely a six or seven mile tramp to avoid coming down to the more convenient tarmaced road.

Mr Hart also did a traverse at the 1,000 foot level of Slieve League, the second highest cliff in Europe, taking three days to accomplish this and having to ascend to the cliff top each day. Having traversed two or three miles of this far from sheer cliff myself I have wondered why he bothered and why he took so long - unless he was sticking strictly to the 1,000 foot mark - which WOULD have occupied his time and attention - provided he had some fair and proper means of assessing the height!

Yours faithfully,

J.D. GLOVER (LDWA 419)

--- oOo ---

August 24th

Dear Editor,

As one of the thirty incandescent blundering idiots on the Fellsman this year, I would like to reply to A. Melling's comments in last issue of Newsletter.

The situation he describes has happened for the last six years to my knowledge on Dodd Fell, and most likely will next year.

The summit is not an easy one to find even by experienced walkers, so one has to back track if it is missed. Anyway experienced walkers know all about situations like this - you all "muck in" and help each other, not blame them for your own errors of navigation.

So come off it Andrew, let's keep the Spirit of the Fellsman and other challenge walks on a friendly level, not a personal one.

Yours sincerely,

PETER H. RILEY (LDWA 340)

"THE ICKNIELD WAY" - by Anthony Bulfield, pub. Terence Dalton Ltd - £2.80

A 168 page hardback printed on glossy paper with a photograph on nearly every page. The author, a botanist, traces the line of the ancient Icknield Way from Hunstanton, near The Wash, along the Chilterns and Berks/Wilts uplands to its end near Marlborough. The actual route is not described in detail but the six sketch maps, if used in conjunction with the appropriate O/S maps, provide the necessary information for anyone contemplating a walk along the Way. The length of the Way is about 200 miles, of which nearly half is along metalled surfaces, and in some cases along main roads. In the northern section the Upper Icknield Way runs parallel with the Lower Icknield Way, and in the southern section the Way is parallel with the Ridgeway. The book gives potted histories of many towns and villages near the Way and traces the careers of several famous people who were born or lived near the route.

"ALONG THE PENNINE WAY" - by J.H.B. Peel, pub. Pan Books Ltd - 60p.

This 236 page paperback is not another guide to the first long distance footpath, nor is it a step by step account of the author's journey along the Way. It is more a countryman's collection of glimpses of things seen and heard along the route. J.B.H. Peel, who writes regularly in the Telegraph, is said to know more about the English countryside than any other living man. The text is divided, county by county, into very readable chapters, and supplemented by 28 photographs taken by the author and four sketch maps.

"THE HIGH FELS OF LAKELAND" - by Walt Unsworth, pub. Robert Hale - £2.50

A fairly comprehensive description of the Lakeland Hills by an experienced fell walker, mountaineer, and author of a number of books. The area is divided into nine hill-groups and each has its own sketch map to complement the text. Many walk routes are given and the whole book is threaded with personal reminiscences. Among the 200-plus pages are nearly thirty excellent photographs showing all the well known features such as Scafell, Helvellyn, Great Gable etc.

Brief book reviews by members are always welcome.

DESIGN A WALK COMPETITION

Although there were only six entries for the walk competition it was soon realised that it would be impossible to place them in order of merit without actually walking each route and as this was impractical, the judging was done in armchair fashion. Points were awarded for originality, interest, accessibility to start and finish points, route description and presentation.

The five members judging voted that John Lookes' "Dorset Archaeological Walk" came top and it is hoped to publish this in the next Newsletter. The other entries (in random order) were "North Downs to Thames" (Robin Mosses), "Lakeland Stroll" (C. Richardson), "Nidderdale Horseshoe" (P. Gilks), "Croydon Caper" (R. Compton), and "Pentland Peaks Walk" (K. Rutter). Because of the slightly unsatisfactory method of judging no prize was awarded. All these walks will, in due course, be included in the Newsletter, and the Editor and Ass. Ed. thank those who spent time preparing their entries to support this competition.

NORTH YORKS MOORS CROSSES RAFFLE.

(£20)

A.P. Kett (£10)
Burt (£1)

"Yvonne" (£1)

Prizes for the raffle went to R. Reffitt

B. Johnson (£5), Miss M. Robinson (£1)
P.D. Jefferson (£1) and

28. THE ULTRA—LONG SCENE.

Following upon the success of the Association's "Downsman Hundred" walk, we hope in the next newsletter to announce details of two more "super-walks". The first of these is expected to be another hundred over the Spring Bank Holiday with the venue being in the Yorkshire/Derbyshire area. The event will be organised by members from the Sheffield area. The second walk will be further south and probably along the route shown in the previous newsletter, i.e. Ivinghoe-Marlborough. The length of this route is about 85 miles and the date is likely to be July/August.

On July 26/27 John Moore (LDWA 71) successfully completed his version of the Downsman Hundred in the creditable time of 28.50. He started at the official start and followed the route to its halfway point at Rackham Hill, then returned in the reverse direction. His effort was achieved without any form of support party. Previously he had had to retire from the official walk in May with a knee injury.

August 11/12 had been fixed for an "Organisers' Downsman Hundred" to be led by Alan Blatchford but, unfortunately, he was immobilised by a back injury and so the representative from the officials was Chris Steer. He was joined by Keith Wilkinson (LDWA 111), Sue Rayner (LDWA 282) and Thomas Harding (LDWA 204) and these four set out from Winchester at 6.00 a.m. on Saturday morning. There were a number of helpers supporting the walk. Sue who had previously retired at 78½ miles was forced to call it a day at 35½ miles this time. Another casualty was Thomas who bettered his previous mark of 21½ but retired at 52½ miles. From this point veteran walker and Centurion John Henderson accompanied Chris and Keith for much of the remaining distance. Tim Mozely also walked some of the way with them. Their final time of 36.50 was only just outside the first class time despite the hot conditions.

There will be a further attempt on the Downsman walk on December 8/9 when Alan Blatchford will be making his belated effort. Any member wishing to join him should ring

A number of members have enquired about the qualifications for becoming a Centurion. As mentioned in previous newsletters a Centurion is one (male only) who has legitimately walked not less than 100 miles within 24 hours along a road or track (athletic) during the course of a recognised walking race. The next such race will probably be the Leicester to Skegness event in June (?). In the most recent race for qualification, the Bristol Walking Club event, 36 of the 53 starters finished, including Fred Gerrish (LDWA 350) who recorded 23.27. Twenty new Centurions were created to bring the total number up to 525. This number covers all 100 mile walks since about 1880.

In the recent attempt on the worlds running record for 24 hours at Walton, Surrey, the mileage was pushed up to 161 by veteran Tipton Harrier Ron Bentley who beat the old figure after 23 hours. Other runners included members Derek Funnell (LDWA 396) who covered 123 miles, Don Turner (LDWA 245) with 130½ miles and Brian Kemp (LDWA 287) on 103 miles. Alan Blatchford was unable to be considered for the run due to injury. The walking record for the same time is 133 miles!

It has been suggested that a name be given to those who complete any of the 100 mile events that are organised by the LDWA or similar bodies, and a list of such walkers be kept, as do the Centurions Club. The name of "Centriman" has been put forward. Any other suggestions to editor please. To date, the number of those who have completed a hundred is 68.

PENNINE WAY AGE RECORD? During the summer of this year Christopher Ward (LDWA 539) and two companions all aged 16 walked the complete length of the Pennine Way from north to south in 16 days. Of this time two days were lost due to inclement weather conditions and their actual walking time was 105 hrs. and 35 minutes for the 270 miles. Can any members quote better times for walkers of this age or, in fact, for any age? In the next newsletter we will include an account of this walk which Christopher says took six months of planning.

HIGH PEAK NEWS

22

HIGH PEAK GROUP

The first LDWA local group is just becoming established in the Sheffield, Peak District area. The first main event which the group hopes to organise is an extra-long-distance walk in the North similar to the Downsman 100 held this year in the South Downs. It is proposed to hold the walk on Spring Bank Holiday weekend - 25/27 May 1974 and a route has yet to be decided.

We will discuss the group and the marathon at 8 p.m., Saturday, 26th Jan at room B.20, Stephenson Hall (address below) and anyone interested would be very welcome. It will be possible to find accommodation for a limited number of people for Saturday night and a walk in the Peak District will be arranged on the Sunday.

Other events include social gatherings at Fox House Inn near Sheffield at 8p.m., 6th February and 6th March; the Round of Kinder Scout (20 miles) meet at the Old Nag's Head, Edale 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 17th February.

Anyone wanting further details of the events or interested in joining the group should get in touch with Haydn Morris

HIGH PEAK MARATHON, 9-10 November, 1973.

"The most featureless, disconsolate, bog-quaking, ink-oozing moor you ever saw".....(from Fieldhead, Edale).

This was the second High Peak Marathon and high winds and heavy rain made it an arduous event. Thirty-five teams of four started from Yorkshire Bridge around the forty-mile Derwent Watershed at about 10 o'clock on the Friday night, but half the teams retired at Edale Cross, a quarter of the way round. In 1972 only four teams had retired at this point and twenty-one teams completed the Watershed route. This year most of the walkers followed the bad weather route from Snake over Alport Castles and down the Derwent Valley to Yorkshire Bridge with nine teams completing the marathon by this route and two only completing the Watershed route proper.

The team with the best time to the Snake was awarded the trophies, which was Rucksack Club, with M. Cudahy, E.W. Dance (LDWA 257), J.H. Richardson and D. Talbot (LDWA 424) - one minute better than Clayton-le-Moors Harriers.

It was certainly an achievement to finish in such conditions.

HADYN MORRIS (LDWA 155)

INVITATION.

All members and friends are invited to meet at Helmsley (in the S.W. corner of the N. York Moors National Park) at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 12th January from where a walk will commence. Helmsley is about half an hours drive from the A1 and about two hours from Teeside, Humberside and the Leeds/Bradford area. The walk will be of about eight hours duration depending upon weather conditions, and intending walkers should bring their own refreshments. The walk is being organised by Philip Gilks and Mike Smith. Any member interested in joining the party should contact Mike (also mentioning if spare car seats are available or if lift required)

NEW MEMBERS.

302

LDWA 502 P. SUMMERS
" 503 M. ELLINGHAM
" 504 J. M. BREARLEY
" 505 J. R. HARE
" 506 A. J. NEAL
" 507 E. F. ENGLER
" 508 W. D. RENTALL
" 509 H. M. H. McCleary

" 510 P. A. FOWLER
" 511 R. W. JEANS
" 512 J. B. WALKER
" 513 M. F. CLARKE
" 514 O. B. BRAVEY
" 515 A. G. PADDON
" 516 P. DAVES
" 517 J. FILBY
" 518 J. V. H. ASHTON
" 519 R. C. D. HANKINSON
" 520 BRIAN COVELL
" 521 P. J. MANANCOURT
" 522 G. T. FARMER
" 523 R. STRINGER
" 524 A. J. PROBERT
" 525 R. H. KNIGHT
" 526 K. OLLEY
" 527 D. A. WHITEHAM
" 528 L. LEWIS
" 529 A. C. D. KAY
" 530 T. R. HEARD
" 531 D. R. WARDLOW
" 532 G. A. PEATY
" 533 D. BUCKLAND
" 534 J. L. GILLMAN
" 535 P. SCOTT
" 536 F. C. BOWERS
" 537 C. WARD
" 538 R. MOORE
" 539 J. CAMPBELL
" 540 LEEN VOLWERK
" 541 A. ALLAN
" 542 A. RIDDLE
" 543 C. A. SIMPSON
" 544 R. I. THEW
" 545 G. H. PARTINGTON
" 546 J. LOAKES
" 547 K. L. DAVIS
" 548 DANIEL DOHERTY
" 549 B. ALLEN
" 550 J. M. BRISTOW
" 551 P. RODGER
" 552 D. W. DUNCUM
" 553 D. J. DOWLE
" 554 P. A. WILLIAMS
" 555 C. G. BEEFON
" 556 J. T. SYKES
" 557 G. R. DEA
" 558 I. R. WINTERFLOOD
" 559 T. HAWKES
" 560 A. G. MILLER
" 561 D. KEITH
" 562 J. K. MICHELL
" 563 M. J. MIDDLETON

NORTH BUCKS WAY

It is a safe bet that all but the real connoisseurs of long distance paths will have heard of the N.B.W., despite its closeness to the capital. The 30 miles route runs from the Chilterns, at Chequers Knapp, to Wolverton with most of it being along rights of way. Where these do not exist diversions have been agreed to and the way is now continuous. The N.B.W. has been developed by the Ramblers Association and by Jean Jeffcoate (LDWA 121) in particular. A 12 page leaflet which includes photographs, and O/S maps, and describes the route, is available from the Ramblers Association, 1/4 Crawford Mews, London W1H 1PT at 10p.

REQUEST

Would it be possible for one of our Yorkshire members to erect a stake on the summit of Dodd Fell, preferably painted with luminous paint and before May 18th .

Have you heard about "Accolade"? A drink which is claimed to obtain all the elements necessary to replace those lost when you sweat - Ask your chemist.

If you are thinking of walking the Manx MM at Easter you are advised to watch the short cuts, even if you do want to catch the midday plane out.

SHORTS

After reading the Across Wales account do you think they should be banned from all mountain events?

We couldn't resist asking you - are you Fitter than Paul?

Many thanks to all who sent reports, accounts and articles for the Newsletter. If your's has not appeared yet it is probably because we have run out of space.

WANTED

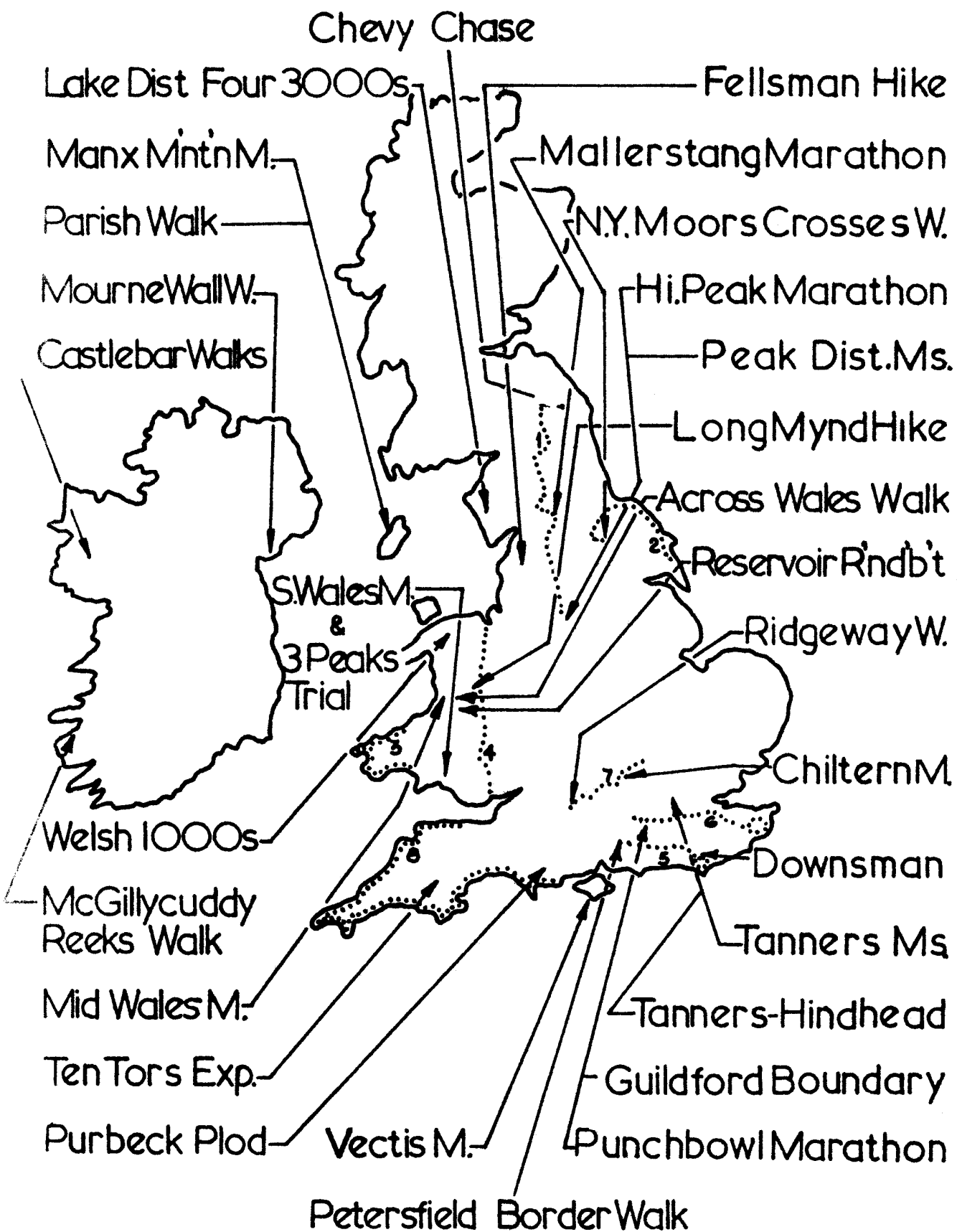
by Alan Melsom (LDWA 79) anything associated with railways. Alan is willing to pay any reasonable price. Any member having any such item is requested to write to Alan (stating exact article and price required)

WANTED SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE -

NEXT ISSUE

The Eighth Newsletter is expected to be despatched in mid March but it is hoped to produce a "Pennine Way" Special about February next year. Contributions should be sent to the Editor by the end of December.

This edition was edited and duplicated by Chris Steer assisted by Alan Blatchford and Margaret Steer. Collated and despatched with the help of local members.



Long distance footpaths 1. PENNINE WAY 2. CLEVELAND WAY
 3. PEMBROKE COAST PATH 4. OFFAS DYKE PATH
 5. SOUTH DOWNS WAY 6. NORTH DOWNS WAY 7. RIDGE PATH 8. S.W. PENINSULAR COAST PATH

EVENTS and LONG DIST. FOOTPATHS in Great Britain & Ireland