

February 2019 No.471

*The Gazette and Record of  
the Surrey Walking Club*



*Walking*



**Our newest racing member, Francisco Reis, came 3<sup>rd</sup> in  
the Enfield Open 7 miles (photo Mark Easton)**

## **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD 15th APRIL 2019 COMMENCING 6.00 PM**

At the Civil Service Club, 13/15 Great Scotland Yard, London, SW1A 2HJ

Surrey Walking Club, like all other organisations, is subject to and affected by the General Data Protection Regulation (May 2016). It has been proposed that Article 9 be rewritten to take account of this new situation. The matter could not be completed at the AGM and this EGM will take place before the normal April 2019 Committee Meeting.

Amendment to SWC Rule 9. Affiliation to England Athletics.

Old Version

Within the rules of UK Athletics, and under the control of England Athletics, the Club is required to furnish the name, address and date of birth of all active athletes, officials and Committee members for their registration scheme. In the case of first claim active athletes over 10 years of age an annual payment is required. The Club will register itself as a Club for Race Walking only and will submit the details of such members who agree that they should be registered under the England Athletics Rules. The payments paid by the Club on behalf of active athletes will be recovered from these individuals through a supplement to be paid each September in respect of the amounts to be paid during the ensuing year. Non-payment by the due date of payment to England Athletics (currently 1st April) will mean that the athlete will not be registered. Apart from this the Club will continue to register each individual until they confirm to the Hon. Secretary, in writing, of any change in their situation in relation to this registration scheme.

## Draft of Proposed New Version

As an Athletic Club, SWC is affiliated to the governing body for this sport which is currently United Kingdom Athletics and its local subsidiary, England Athletics (EA). The Club will register itself as a Club for team competition for Race Walking only. The Club will abide by the rules of these bodies. In particular all organizations, including UKA and EA and Surrey Walking Club itself, are bound by the General Data Protection Regulation (2016) and applying from May 2018. This formalises the way in which the Club handles the personal information of all of its members as interpreted by EA. In particular SWC shall have a privacy statement defining what data is held and for what purpose and also how it is handled and protected within the Club. This statement will be available to all members by its publication on the Club website and summarized on its application/renewal forms. All members shall inform the Club in writing on initial application and at each annual renewal of their membership that they have read and understood the privacy statement. In order to maintain the database of member information they shall also verify and if necessary correct the data the Club holds. In an exception to the normal maintenance of members' private information within the Club, the Club is required by EA to furnish to them the name, address and date of birth of all active athletes, officials and Committee members for their registration scheme, having established that the members in question wish to be so registered with EA. This exception shall be clearly detailed in the Privacy Statement. In the case of first claim active athletes over 10 years of age an annual payment is required. The payments are made annually by the Club on behalf of active athletes and will be recovered from these individuals through a supplement to be paid each September in respect of the amounts to be paid during the ensuing year. Non-payment by the due date of payment to England Athletics (currently 1st April) will mean that the athlete will not be registered with EA or able compete for the Club in any events except under the minor exceptions specified by UKA.

**Welcome to Gazette no. 471** Any material Emailed to p.crane7w@hotmail.co.uk would be welcome. Also see our website [www.surreywalkingclub.org.uk](http://www.surreywalkingclub.org.uk) .

We welcome new members  
Malgorzata Dos Santos  
Ron Horn  
Bola Baruwa  
Charlotte Mitchell  
Natasha Green  
Francisco Reis

### **HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO AUGUST 2018**

Surrey Walking Club continues to maintain or even increase its presence on race results sheets in relation to other Clubs despite a fall of about a quarter in our actual participation. It is of little comfort that other Clubs are having even more difficulties and in fact SWC is currently showing signs of getting more out competing as people return from injury and we are gaining the occasional racing member. The Strolling section continues with generally increasing numbers with new leaders coming through and new Strolls Secretary Helen Franklin successfully mixing familiar and new routes in different regions.

At the beginning of the year we had 142 members and have since elected 5 new applicants all of whom are on the strolling side. There has been 1 death, 4 resignations and we have deleted one name for non-payment of subscriptions, which is

a similar pattern to last year except with two fewer elections. The net result has been a decrease in membership of 1 to 141 at the end of August. Past-President Keith Fraser died at 83 after 56 years of membership. He had been a regular 'A' team member in the 60s when SWC had its finest competitive years. He subsequently had demonstrated his great administrative gifts as President and Secretary over many years. He retained a keen interest in the Club's affairs for the rest of his life. A full obituary is contained in the Autumn 2018 Gazette.

Surrey Walking Club held the usual five races this year with two at Norman Park, Bromley, two at Tonbridge and the seven miles at Addiscombe. The 7 miles saw only 9 out including 7 SWC and the Open 5km had a fair number of young near-novices but few others and only 2 SWC. The other races were up to their usual levels. Once again the Christmas Cup was popular and included quite a few youngsters in the shorter distances but only 5 SWC out with Malcolm Martin taking the Cup. The two summer races were held at Norman Park with reasonable numbers but insufficient SWC participation. Chris Flint won the Albury Cup Competition, having like two others, competed in four out of five of the Club races. Twelve members took part in at least one Club race. Looking at all Club and other races 21 members competed at least once with a total of 208 performances. The search for a good home course where we can hold races on a Saturday continues.

If the main focus of our athletic performances were the National Championships, as in former days, it would have been a poor year not just because of little SWC interest but because the events themselves have attracted little interest at all. Timing, inaccessibility and very strict judging of older walkers has led to events with Senior participation unworthy of their titles. The most prestigious events these days appear to be the International Masters' events and Continental Ultras. In the former the Club has seen the Martins and Roger

Michell achieving some success while in the latter Sandra Brown and Kathy Crilley have, as usual, done credit to the Club name. Otherwise it has been the Enfield league where our name has appeared frequently with overall team placings in the first three. Coaches Shaun Lightman and Peter Selby have been active in their localities and are producing interested youngsters although they are members of other Clubs. We trust that these move across the difficult transition to the Senior ranks and possibly join SWC.

The Strolls Section organised 25 Strolls over a variety of locations with slightly more on Saturdays than Sundays when public transport is so unreliable these days. On average about 10 turned out which seems a popular number. There is a need to increase the number of conductors to maintain the current variety of locations and routes.

The Gazette Night Auction this year was, in contrast to last year, a great success both in terms of the numbers and the enthusiasm of the attendees but also in raising a healthy sum of money. The organiser was Trevor Sliwerski and the Auctioneer was Peter Selby and our thanks are due to them particularly as Trevor always has the unenviable prior task of ringing round to invite the members individually.

Gazette Editor Peter Crane produced the usual three issues and this year and the members are grateful for his efforts which keep us all informed and interested. Meanwhile Mark Easton, our Webmaster, continues to regularly update the site and looks forward to improvements for our benefit.

Your Committee has met five times this year, under the Chairmanship of our President, David Hoben. The main discussion this year concerned our racing programme which it is felt needs change to come into line with the members' and

visitors' requirements. With fewer 'ordinary' races the national programme is weighted towards Championships with strict judging ('A' rules) and which many members feel will not suit their ageing styles. With such heavy traffic on our roads we also need to find safe venues. The other less productive focus has been our legal requirement to ensure our members' private information is securely held and not misused and also that the members are reassured that this is so under the General Data Protection Regulation.

While this report may, in some places have been a little depressing, there are positive aspects and with one of the largest active group of walkers in the South we hope that the 2018/19 year will again bring success to the Club. The UK now has a fairly solid racewalking squad with some good results and several groups of enthusiastic youngsters and we hope this translates into more general public interest and that the Club may benefit from this interest.

Peter Hannell - Hon. Secretary

## **HON. TREASURER'S REPORT 2017-2018**

The Club finished the 2017-2018 accounting year with a total net deficit of £58.81 and total net assets of £9,642.24. This compares with a net deficit of £635.17 and total net assets of £9,678.05 in the previous year. The small deficit was helped by an increase in receipts (up by £202.74) and a decrease in payments (down by £373.62). Cash at bank fell slightly from £8,118.02 to £8,082.21.

Points to note are that:

Members' subscriptions and donations generally held up well. The Club received £605.00 (2016-17: £565.00) in annual subscriptions and £405.00 (2016-17: £462.00) in donations. We had some success in collecting arrears of subscriptions but donations are showing a year on year decline. Thanks are due to the continuing hard work of the Membership Secretary. Gazette Night receipts produced a net surplus of £312.00 following the problems of the previous year (2016-17) when the event had to be rescheduled and the net surplus fell to £89.50. Thanks are due to the Social Secretary for managing the event.

Administrative costs decreased to £695.96 from £933.08 in 2016-17, mainly due to a reduction in the costs of Committee accommodation. There were two main reasons. Firstly, in 2017 UJC wrongly invoiced SWC for a July 2017 meeting which I had cancelled when the Committee rescheduled the dates. UJC agreed the error but asked me to pay the invoice in return for which they did not invoice SWC for the September 2017 meeting. Thus I paid £100.00 too much in 2016-17 but paid £100.00 too little in 2017-18. Secondly, after leaving UJC we benefited from two free meetings at Willis Towers (thanks are due to Chris Flint).

Two editions of the 'Gazette' (nos. 468/469) were paid for in the year compared to three in the previous year (normally three). Costs therefore decreased by £238.35 to £465.20.

**John Elrick SWC Hon. Treasurer**

## RACE RESULTS

### 22 September Enfield One Hour Race, Lee Valley :

The annual hour race at Lee Valley was held in steady rain with gusts of cold wind. This did not put off the stalwarts of Enfield as they recorded the laps of the 37 walkers who started the event. With so many on the track there was competition right through the field and performances were generally on the positive side. We had seven out with David Crane going furthest in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a distance he was pleased with and not far from 7 miles. Just into the top half was Dan Maskell only 30 metres short of 9km and well above recent form as he held David Kates (Ilford) to within 50 metres. Mick Harran, now 80, started near the back but had a strong race to finish in front of Arthur Thomson in the same age group. Shaun Lightman also started cautiously but came through as he begins a return to form. Overall a good result for the Club particularly in respect of participation.

#### Men

1. G.Wilkinson (E&H) 11.971 km; 2. D.Annetts (N Herts) 11.835 km; 3. **D.Crane** 11.040 km 11. **D.Maskell** 8.967 km; 15. **M.Harran** 8.591 km; 17. **C.Flint**) 8.547 km; 19. **S.Lightman** 8.470 km; 21. **P.Hannell** 8.276 km; 25. **D.Hoben** 8.168 km.

#### Women

1. H.Middleton (E&H) 10.084 km; 2. P.Cummimngs (AFD) 10.076 km; 3. M.Peddle (Loug) 9.833 km.

## **6 October Macclesfield Shield 10km :**

Dan Maskell and David Hoben travelled north for this race where Dan is a regular although the hilly course is not inviting. Both overcame the difficulties to perform well, especially Dan with his best 10km time for several months. One of the main attractions of the visit was the friendly atmosphere where a fairly small group of walkers get together having known and raced each other for many years.

1. A.Edwards (Lancs WC) 57.21; 2. M.Fisher (Redc) 59.19; 3. A.Bell (Lancs WC) 64.14; 5. **D.Maskell** 66.02; 10. **D.Hoben** 74.15

## **13 October Enfield League 5 miles Race 10**

The weather at Lee Valley was quite exceptional for the October 5 miles with warm sunshine as 34 faced the starter. TVH's Fransisco Reis was soon well ahead only to suddenly fade to third with a recurrent injury while newcomer David Annetts pulled away from young George Wilkinson. The front of the field was stretched away down to Surrey Walking Club's first man home, Dan Maskell, who was slightly down on the previous week but battled with David Kates to finish 40 seconds clear. From this point there was a much more crowded competition. Shaun Lightman set off unusually quickly and might have caught Dan. However this time fatigue caught up with him as he fell back after the halfway point and lost several places to competitors whom he might expect to beat. In fact he was not far ahead of David Hoben who was having an above average race less than a minute and a half behind. Mick Harran, who started late, and Peter Hannell found the competition too strong and trailed in towards the back of the field.

1. D.Annetts (N Herts) 40.37; 2. G.Wilkinson (E&H U20 M) 42.29; 3. F.Reis (TVH) 44.01; **9. D.Maskell** 54.02; **14. S.Lightman** 57.21; 17. **D.Hoben** 58.47 20. **M.Harran** 59.18; 22. **P.Hannell** 62.52

## **10 October Enfield 7 miles, Lee Valley**

Despite morning rain and more as everyone left the Athletics Centre the race itself was dry, sunny, cool but not cold with only a light breeze as the 40 starters set off for the 92<sup>nd</sup> staging of the Enfield 7. Surrey Walking Club had excellent representation with 11 out including a visit from our Spanish member Carlos Corrales and also racing but not yet scoring for SWC, new member Francisco Reis. This meant we had over a quarter of the total field and had two full teams of four in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> places and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place was only 1 point behind 2<sup>nd</sup>. First home for SWC were Francisco in 3<sup>rd</sup> and David Crane in 4<sup>th</sup> despite both of whom being isolated and not at their best. Generally results were very good and on average a minute or so better than usual. In particular Dan Maskell, just behind Paul Gaston, was inside 75 minutes with the latter continuing his excellent form inside 74. Chris Flint, Mick Harran and Shaun Lightman finished in adjacent places and all in the 79 minute bracket although Chris has been rather further up but faded in the last few of the one mile laps. David Hoben was only a couple of minutes back after a fast start and finish having fallen back in the middle while Peter Hannell, in poor form, was content with five laps along with the others at the back of the field.

1. Dom King (Col H) 52.33; 2. G.Wilkinson (E&H) 54.41 3. **F.Reis** 60.09; 4. **D.Crane** 62.15; 11. **C.Cobo-Corrales** 72.30; 13. **P.Gaston** 73.58; 14. **D.Maskell** 74.42 21. **P.King** 78.39; 22. **C.Flint** 79.10; 23. **S.Lightman** 79.19 24. **M.Harran**79.35; 26. **D.Hoben** 81.19  
**P.Hannell** 60.22 (5mls)

### **Mixed 7 miles 4 to Score Team Result**

1. 50pts Enfield, 2. 59 Ilford, 3. 60 **SWC 'A'** and 4. 120 **SWC 'B'**.

## **18 November Surrey Walking Club Christmas Cup & Open 5km Tonbridge**

Although a little early for Christmas our race attracted 33 finishers with many family supporters as half of the field were youngsters or under 20/23s. It was sunny but quite cold due to a strong Easterly breeze. The main race included the SWC championship won by Francisco Reis and handicap for the Cup which was won narrowly by Ian Statter. The overall winner was unsurprisingly Guy Thomas (Tonbridge Under 23) walking comfortably for 21 to lap the field at least twice. Francisco, almost 40 years older, had a fair race to hold off David Crane, also at his expected speed, by less than half a minute. Jacqueline Benson (Ashford) had the best performance although unable to hold Blackheath's Isabelle Bridge. These two filled the women's frame behind a clear, three minute, win by Abigail Jennings (AFD). SWC themselves filled 9 of the 33 results which was a good turnout to welcome the large number of visitors. It was good to see Martin Malcolm and Ian Statter turning out after a considerable time out for injuries. In addition to the main event the younger racers were able to complete 1, 2 or 3km and among several good times were Katie Brash's (B&B) win in the 3km.

This was an enjoyable, well organised event with good racing, many family members supporting and plenty of friendly conversation.

### **Men 5km (SWC Handicap in Brackets)**

1. G.Thomas (Ton) 21.26; 2(3). **F.Reis** 25.12 3(2). **D.Crane** 25.37; 4(9). **M.Martin** 29.51 5(4). **C.Cobo-Corrales** 30.01; 6. M.Culshaw (If) 30.15; 7. D.Kemp (Arena) 30.49; 8(6). **D.Maskell** 32.28; 9. R.Penfold (Steyn) 32.54; 10(1). **I.Statter** 33.10; 11(7). **C.Flint** 34.46; 12. S.Cartwright (Col H) 34.40 13(5). **M.Harran** 34.49 14(8). **D.Hoben** 37.00

### **Women 5km**

1. A.Jennings (AFD) 26.01 2. I.Bridge (B&B) 29.00; 3. J.Benson (Ashf) 29.17; 4. L.Carty (AFD) 29.17; 8. A.Smith

(B&B) 30.54; 6. S.Davies (AFD) 31.56; 7. R.Lawless (If) 32.54; 8. G.Legon (Bexley) 34.18; 9. A.Hinchcliffe (AFD) 35.20

### **1km**

1. C.Perry (Lewes) 6.36;

### **Mixed 2km**

1. K.Stringer (M&M) 11.24; 2. H.Perry (Lewes) 14.15; 3. E.Cooper (Ashf) 16.15

### **Mixed 3km**

1. K.Brash (B&B) 17.08; 2. D.Nova (Ashf) 17.59; 3. M.Morris (M&M) 18.16; 4. C.Wallis (AFD) 18.26; 5. R.Harding (Ashf) 18.43; 6. G.Heaton (H'field) 22.36

## **20 October Steyning 10km**

On a bright sunny October afternoon, 14 competitors faced the started on the annual Steyning 10km walk which ventures into pleasant if hilly Sussex countryside. From the off Ian Richards (Steyning) took the lead and was never headed. New comer David Kemp (Arena) battled with Paul Gaston (Surrey Walking Club) for the first half and then drew away. Further down the field Mick Harran kept a 1 minute lead over David Hoben to the finish. Chris Flint was up with Ann Jones for the first 4 kilometres when Ann tripped, fell and badly cut hands and feet and was forced to retire. Chris and Sean Pender (Enfield) stopped to help and after a few minutes husband Trevor arrived and took Ann off in his car. Flint continued to finish 12th in 75m 32s including his time looking after Anne. In 13th position Kathy Crilley who was recovering from her 12 hour race in Royan France still finished in a creditable 76m 93s 2 secs faster than last year. Prizes were awarded to competitors who walk an even paced race. This was won by Chris Flint whose halfway time was exactly the same as his return journey.

1. I.Richards (Steyn) 53.01; 2. D.Kemp (Arena) 65.48; 3. **P.Gaston** 66.18; 10. **M.Harran** 72.22; 11. **D.Hoben** 73.34; 12. **C.Flint** 75.32 13. **K.Crilley** 76.03

## **8 December Steyning AC, Alf Palmer Races, Horsham**

These races attracted even more than usual this year with almost 40 out over half of whom were youngsters. Although Senior involvement of five from SWC was rather down their coaches Shaun Lightman and Peter Selby had, between them more than twice this number of coaching charges from Blackheath & Bromley and Lewes in the lower age groups. It was good to see Malcolm Martin well up the field in 3<sup>rd</sup> as he puts recent injuries behind him although not yet at his best. Wife Angela also turned out for the 1km as a first step after a longer break.

The large contingent of youngsters, including a number of newcomers, performed in the ideal conditions, rather better than their elders and there were several personal bests. These included a sub 17 minute time from Abi Smith in the 3km which was over 15 secs. faster than her previous best.

### **Men 5 Km**

1. L.Legon (Camb H) 23.44; 2. J.Ball (Steyn) 27.50; 3. **M.Martin** 29.35; 10. **C.Flint** 34.24; 11. **S.Lightman** 35.39; 12. **D.Hoben** 37.01.

### **Women 5km**

1. L.Carty (AFD U17G) 28.48; 2. J.Benson (Ashf U20W) 28.56; 3. M.Morris (M&M U17G) 29.00.

### **Girls Under 15 3km**

1. K.Stringer (M&M U15G) 16.34; 2. A.Smith (B&B U15G) 16.46; 3. K.Brash (B&B U15G) 19.44.

### **Boys Under 13/15 2km**

1. E.Purser (Ton U13B) 12.08 ; 2. L.Burr (Ton U13B) 13.41 ; 3. J.Ellison (B&B U15B) 14.01.

### **Girls/Women 1km**

1. A.Ingram (Lewe) 6.36; 2. N.Geary (Lewes) 6.41; 3. R.Gaugham (Lewes) 6.55; 4. **A.Martin** 7.24.

## **1 January 2019 London Indoor Games, Lee Valley Indoor**

The first event of the New Year was held on the indoor track at the Lee Valley Sports Arena with its first rate facilities. Surrey Walking Club had one entry, Francisco Reis, and one of Shaun Lightman's coaching group, Abi Smith, among the 14 starters. There was a big range of performances with some like newcomer Dave Annetts in second place with a one minute p.b.. Abi was a little below average which is not unusual on this difficult banked surface. Francisco, well used to this sort of venue, was nearer to expectation but about a minute below his best but this was the first sprint of the season with several other, more important races not far ahead..

### **Mixed**

1. L.Legon (Camb H U23 M) 13.41.42. D.Annetts (N Herts M50) 13.44; 3. J.Hobbs (Ashf M) 14.15.4 5. **F.Reis** 14.58.8; 9. A.Smith (B&B) 17.29.6

## **12 January Enfield League 5 miles, Enfield**

The first Enfield League event of 2019 was held in cold, dry conditions with a slight northerly breeze, and saw Surrey Walking Club's David Crane finish fourth after catching third placer, George Wilkinson, in the last mile but Wilkinson had just enough to hold off Crane who finished in 42m 41s in line with his other recent races. Surrey's only other competitor, Shaun Lightman, started steadily and held Lesley Morris (Ilford) for three laps but then faded to be passed by three other competitors in the last mile. He finished in 28th place in 57m 41s down on his 7 mile time but around his current average.

After the race the final 2018 annual presentations were made and David Crane lifted the cup as champion of the Enfield

League. Surrey Walking Club finished third team overall with a large contingent taking part in the races despite the not inconsiderable distance to Enfield from our Croydon base.

**Men**

1. D.Annetts (N Herts ) 38.54; 2. G.Wilkinson (E&H) 42.31; 3. **D.Crane** 42.41; 14. **S.Lightman** 57.41..

**Other results**

**3 November Bill Jackson 10km, Simister 4. D.Maskell**  
32.10

**10 November Midlands Winter League 5km, Perry Bar**  
10. **R.Michell** 31.41

**1 December Dick Maxwell 10km, Simister**  
6. **D.Maskell** 66.58

# **Annual Strolls Report – Gail Elrick**

## **1. Core Activity**

The core activity of the strolling section remains the provision of fortnightly strolls throughout the year. This general format has changed little over the years although older members will see that the details have changed (see para 3 below) Weekends away and social activities also are arranged although none occurred during the period under review.

## **2. Operation of the Strolls Section**

The strolls programme is drawn up by the Strolls Secretary (currently Helen Franklin) who undertakes all liaison with conductors including support and training required by the conductors as well as leading strolls herself. A key element of the job (and perhaps the hardest) is the maintenance of a sufficient number of conductors able to lead to the standard required to enable her to produce an attractive and varied programme.

Gail and John Elrick provide support to the Secretary by providing representation at SWC Committee meetings, dealing with the actual production of the newsletters (Strolling News) updating the website -including the strolls database/archives of strolls reports and photographs, and circulating e-mail updates on the programme. They also deal with membership applications.

Mark Easton provides help and support on the strolls element of the website and this is much appreciated.

**3. Strolls organised during period 1st September 2017 to 31st August 2018.**

25 strolls took place during the period to a variety of locations. One stroll was altered at short notice following the knee injury of the original conductor added to which a railway strike and severe weather, it was decided by the replacement leaders to move the stroll to a central location. During the 'Beast from the East' all strolls ran and had reasonable numbers.

Not surprisingly, Guildford was the starting point for 3 strolls, Haslemere for 2, plus 2 to Box Hill/Dorking, but there were several strolls to Kent, and others to the Chilterns, the South Downs, Hampshire, Henley and Kingston. A new stroll was led in St Margaret's Hertfordshire, one from Gravesend to Borough Green and another from Pitsea to Thorpe Bay giving strollers a good choice of locations.

All strolls were accessible by public transport and 10 were linear. The majority of attendees now use public transport. Of the 25 strolls, 14 took place on a Saturday and 10 on a Sunday and 1 on Bank Holiday Monday. The increased use of Saturdays is due in part to better public transport on Saturdays but also the need for flexibility to avoid clashing with other walking groups.

There are several conductors who lead regularly for the club as shown by the following analysis of this period: 4 conductors led 1 stroll, 4 led 2, 3 led 3, 1 led 4 (2 of these being stand in for injury and work commitments of original conductors)

Details are not available for attendees on all strolls but numbers average about 10. Regulars seem to like this number.

#### 4. Future Developments

Regulars seem to like the variety of strolls and the good leadership, so numbers attending strolls are generally

buoyant. However, there is a need to increase our pool of conductors. This would give current regular conductors a break if they want, develop back-ups and to maintain the variety of the strolls. To this end, we are intending to launch a recruitment drive for new conductors from within the organisation and possibly from outside.

As part of the drive, we are investigating the use of an on-line time management software system. There are several advantages to using it such as:

conductors could book their preferred strolls dates well in advance,

conductors would see where others have chosen to lead, helping develop an attractive and varied programme,

the software could provide information on walks being planned by other groups to avoid clashes in location.

We envisage this time management system could provide increased transparency and member involvement and support the work of the Strolls Secretary.

## Stroll Reports

### **Haslemere Circular – Sunday, 19 August, 2018**

Conductors: John and Gail Elrick

Participants: Andy, Carol, Dave, Debbie, Jill, Kate and Lynne

*This stroll, originally devised and led by Roger Moss, includes some of the best scenery in Surrey, including the Devil's Punchbowl, Gibbet Hill, Golden Valley and Whitmore Vale.*

*Having made use of the new car park at the station we met the group from the train and set off in a northerly direction into the woods. After passing across Weydown Common the first stop was at South Park Farm, about an hour's walk from the start, where there are the remains of a medieval moated site. At first glance it is difficult to see how this site was used but it is thought to date from around 1300, acting as the prestigious residence of the Lord of the Manor, the moat marking the high status of the occupier and also deterring casual raiders and wild animals.*

We continued through open farmland and then made our way via woods and lanes up to Gibbett Hill. Those of us who came here prior to 2011, when the Hindhead Tunnel was opened, will remember the busy traffic of the A3, but now the site is landscaped and peaceful. We turned left along the ridge of the Devil's Punchbowl passing the memorial stone to the Unknown Sailor who was murdered here in 1786. After a brief stop for elevenses outside the National Trust café we continued through woodland and along lanes to Churt where we stopped for a picnic lunch on the village green.

Whilst sitting on one of the benches an elderly lady emerged from her back garden to ask if we could help fix her television because she wanted to watch the Test Match. John and Jill went into her bungalow to see what we could do but clearly there was a problem with the signal. At that moment her son happened to telephone from Perth, Australia and we stood there somewhat helpless whilst she asked advice from him.

We bade our farewell and headed over to the Crossways Inn, a friendly, traditional pub with plenty of real ales (but no food on Sundays).

Leaving the pub we headed through the heavily wooded Golden Valley back to the National Trust café where we stopped for tea. This had been virtually empty when John and Gail had stopped here on their recce due to competition from an England World Cup match. Now it was much busier but still a good opportunity to buy some ice lollies and cold drinks in the hot afternoon. From here we crossed the road and spent the last hour descending through more woods and along the Greensand Way to reach Haslemere station.

### **Loop de Lewes - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Conductor Helen Franklin.

Participants: Lilian, Gail and John, Kate, Gillian, Dave, Mary-Anne, Nick.

This circular walk from the pretty town of Lewes will be a memorable one for me as the conductor. The day couldn't have been bettered. The published train ran on time (wow!) and we were greeted by Lilian and Mary-Anne in the ticket hall. Without delay we set off up through the town towards the Greenwich Meridian Trail. This relatively new long-distance trail was inaugurated in 2009. Beginning at Peacehaven and ending on the coast at Sand le Mere in East Yorkshire, its 273 miles distance cuts through some of our familiar strolling counties of Sussex, Surrey, Kent, London, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and beyond to Lincolnshire and East Yorks. We continued our route to Blackcap, by which time we were all down to shirtsleeves and t-shirts as the warmth of the sun began to be felt. We were lucky enough for a passer-by to offer to take the group photo, better than the ones I took, as we faced the sun.

We then picked up the South Downs Way, and continued down to the busy A27, passing cyclists and youngsters doing their DofE. A spot of first aid was required when the conductor snagged a dry bramble across her ankle, which needed cleaning and dressing. This was swiftly and expertly carried out by Kate, Lilian and Gail. It was not too long to lunch, and the village of Kingston near Lewes. The weather allowed for

picnics in the church, and the Juggs Inn pub some refreshment. We resumed our walk with a steady climb back onto the South Downs Way at Swanborough Hill. We were all taken with the number of paragliders who were enjoying the warmth of the day. Some of us, I think, would have been happy to have had a go, others not! But it was wonderful to see other groups enjoying the countryside, scenery and good weather as we were.

Our afternoon was a little shorter than the morning, so we were soon in Rodmell for our break at The Abergavenny Arms, for an expensive, but delicious cream tea. It was a simple four miles back to Lewes station along the Sussex Ouse Valley Way. We were all making good pace to catch the train, when a couple ahead were pointing in the river. We could see an animal with a fish, it looked like an otter, but then we realised it was a seal. We couldn't quite work out what he was doing here so far up from the sea. I since found out that seal spotting in Lewes is by no means an unusual phenomenon, and it has something to do with the high tides. We arrived at the station in good time for our train back to London, having had a full day of sunshine and fresh air. It was my pleasure to be able to lead such a wonderful group, on such a beautiful day in the stunning South Downs.

### **Clandon Circular– Sunday, 28 October 2018**

Conductors: Gail and John Elrick

Participants: Bozena, Kate, Neil, Nick, Paul, Rachel and Scottney

The conductors have led several strolls over the years using Clandon as a hub but always in the summer months. They thought it might be a good idea to use one of their routes as a winter stroll as a change of season creates a quite different walk. In this case, although the scenery during the daylight was much the same, new sight lines were available with the lack of foliage but apart from that it was not very different. However, the end of the stroll was quite challenging as it had become overgrown since last used on a stroll and quite difficult in poor light/darkness.

John was also not quite at his best with coverings on his face and the remains of a black eye from recent minor surgery to remove 2 moles from his face (that was his story) but it did not affect his walking!

The first part of the route passed through Clandon Regis Golf Club and East Clandon village to cross the A246 and head into undulating farm land with some lovely views. After a slightly convoluted route along lanes and footpaths we skirted meadows to enter the Sheepleas. Avoiding the myriad of paths going off in all directions, the conductors headed through the woods to join the lane at Honeysuckle Bottom and from here we joined the Lovelace Bridges Trail through the woods. This trail takes in the bridges built by Earl Lovelace, the owner of the East Horsley Estate in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, to facilitate the transport of timber by horse cart from his woods to the depot. Our route took us under some of the restored bridges which are notable for their Moorish design and use of local flint and brick and we were pleased to see that there appeared to have been some conservation work on the bridges since we last passed this way.

Emerging from the woods we continued eastwards across fields and lanes as far as Hogden Cottage where we turned southwards to head for lunch at Westcott. On beginning the descent from the Downs we passed a Ramblers walking group of which Nick was a member and some banter ensued! As they were also going to Westcott we carried on at a good pace to the lunch stop! On entering the village we paused to look at a plaque on the wall of a house where the actor Leslie Howard, one of the stars of *Gone with the Wind*, lived until his untimely death in 1943, aged 50. As Bozena sagely remarked, looking at the very attractive and well located house, he did well for himself taking the part in that film!

We took possession of the tree in the village green with its tree seat before the Ramblers Group arrived but there was room for all. In the event our picnic was somewhat truncated

with the arrival of a heavy shower which caused a rapid departure by all for the pub. Here some delays ensued as the staff found it difficult to cope with the demands for drinks and coffee by the combined groups so we were quite glad to scamper away. The afternoon route took us westwards along the left side of the valley with fine views of the nearby North Downs on the right.

Our original intention had been to take tea at the Abinger Hammer village shop/tea rooms. However, in the course of a recce undertaken during the previous weekend Gail and John discovered that the end of the route, which would need to be walked in the dark, was very overgrown. A further visit during the week had found an alternative path but still the final part was quite over- grown and the conductors felt it would be preferable to complete it before it became completely dark. The group stoically agreed to forego tea and to press on and at top of the Downs a short stop was taken on some handy logs and to the consumption of biscuits from M and S!

Good progress was made by the group along the North Downs Way and the 'problem area' along the top of Clandon Downs was reached as dusk was falling. This was circumvented without incident and the quite large animal holes (big bunnies or badgers??) were also avoided in the descent along the edge of the field and we regained the easy walking of the golf course to walk to the station.

All reached the station by dark without incident!

Distance 20 miles.

## **Harrow on the Hill to Trafalgar Square - 25th November**

16 Strollers started, 11 Strollers finished and 9 partook of refreshments in The Lord Moon of the Mall. 19 miles A Victorian Clerk was the inspiration for this Stroll. Nathaniel Bryce, kept a diary in the year 1846 which was published online by Westminster Council. On the 12th July that year he walked from Soho to Harrow on the Hill via the villages of Kilburn, Willesden, Neasden, and Kingsbury and back along the Harrow Road. The Conductor of this Stroll acknowledging how unrealistic this route is now, changed it to utilise the availability of open spaces and walk it in the opposite direction to finish in Trafalgar Square so that we could visit St Mary's Church, Harrow on the Hill Here is part of Nathaniel's diary entry pertaining to his visit of St Mary's church.... Arrived at the church as the clock struck twelve; walked about churchyard taking down a few inscriptions from tombs until half past 1 o'clock, when I went into the church and was shown over every part of it by the door keeper or church manager (an elderly gent, a more civil and obliging man I never met with). He, seeing my taste for antiquities, humoured my fancy and was not sparing of trouble neither, a brief account which I will give. He first showed me the age of the doors and locks, the keys whereof were ponderous, with curious wards. Next the tomb of a brother and sister kneeling, painted alabaster, date 1609. Then the pews which were put up in the reign of James I, but some of the seats for poor folk were about as old as the church. The ceiling was carved wood with the twelve apostles with their faces sawed off in the time of Cromwell.

We entered the church prior to the Sunday Morning Service and met a 'civil and obliging' lady who showed us the sawn off faces of the 12 Apostles and the tomb of a brother and sister Nathaniel to which Nathaniel had referred. We then proceeded across the playing fields of Harrow School, Northwick Park and Fryent Country Park to stop at Barn Hill. The view backwards thence we had come showed St Mary's towering over the landscape which excited the imagination of some Strollers wondering upon the journey and the

countryside in 1846. The view forwards to Wembley Stadium excited the sole Spur's fan. After 7 miles, our refreshment stop was at the Cafe at Hendon Park where we took a break until a Stroller's toasted Cheese sandwich had been delivered and eaten. 7 miles later having crossed Hampstead Heath and paused to take in the view at Parliament Hill we arrived at our lunch stop which was disappointedly busy but nevertheless getting out of the cold was welcomed. After lunch it was down hill all the way except for the up bits (the biggest up bit being Primrose Hill which has a similar view to Parliament Hill but a bit closer) and after crossing Regent's Park we availed ourselves of backstreets and alley ways to avoid Shopper-mania and finished the Stroll walking across Green Park and St James's Park to The Lord Moon of the Mall where the Conductor had a very strange rendition of fish and chips.



**The group photo on this well attended stroll** (Gail Elrick)

**Christmas Stroll – Beckenham to Greenwich (linear).  
Saturday 22nd December 2018.**

Conductor: Helen Franklin.

Participants: Alice, Casilda, Cathy, Charlotte, Chris, Corinne, Gail, Gillian, Janette, Joelle, John, Lilian, Nick, Ron and Simon

For a route which I had not originally planned to be a stroll, I really enjoyed our Christmas walk. The route was plotted when I challenged myself in the summer to start a walk from my front door and not feel as if I was walking in suburbia. The first part of the route uses sections of the Green Chain Walk, linking green spaces in this part of London. It's not one continuous path and not well signed or waymarked in places. We began at Beckenham Junction. It's quite a good station to start from as it is well served by trains and trams.

Unfortunately, on arrival, Gail realised she had mislaid her pass, having possibly left it on the train. Simon stepped up by asking the station staff to contact the terminus station in case it was handed in (sadly not). I agreed to start the stroll and led the main group through Beckenham Place Park picking up the Green Chain and Simon, Gail and John soon caught us up. It was a bright and sunny morning and as we followed the route through playing fields and local parks, over roads and into woodland, we all chatted with one another, perhaps without realising how green and pleasant this corner of South East London is.

This stroll had a different format than most in so far as we had a longer than average 'coffee stop' at Oxleas Wood café, around 11 miles in, rather than an hour lunch break. This was so we could 'save ourselves' for a meal and drink at the end of the walk. We were lucky enough to be able to sit outside in the sunshine. We were joined by Chris Dent in his fetching purple beanie. Cathy kindly offered round some biscuits and homemade mince pies which went down well with all.

We left the café and headed past Severndroog Castle, built on one of the highest points in London and would make a good stop for another day for a trip to the top of the 18<sup>th</sup> century tower with views over London, and a cup of tea in their Terrace Tearoom. We continued down towards

Woolwich Common, at which point Corrine left the group as a social engagement was planned. We continued towards Woolwich to pick up the Thames Path at the Thames Barrier. I was pleased to know before the stroll that the Thames Path from here to Greenwich has now reopened after several protracted months of closure for a housing development. It was great to be able to use the path properly again, and not the rather grim diversion alongside the Blackwall Tunnel approach road. However, we did need to take a short diversion as we approached Greenwich, just before the Trafalgar pub, but we used this to our advantage and walked on through the Old Naval College which also happened to be a more direct route finish our walk in the Wetherspoons Gate Clock pub.

Joelle and Janette dashed upstairs to find us a great table in the corner, and we all squeezed in for a group drink and meal. We were joined by John, Lilian's husband and Neil Cook who had led a walk for the LDWA.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the slightly different stroll. It's wonderful to get out of London, but this stroll allowed folk to come and go, the weekend before Christmas is a busy time for social events after all.

Many thanks to Simon for helping with the mislaid pass, Gail for back marking- without being asked, and Joelle and Janette for bagging the great table in the pub.

Helen.

## Future Strolls

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Little Kimble to Haddenham.**

Linear walk in North Chilterns.

Conductor Lynne McKenzie Start Little Kimble Station 09:10 (London Marylebone 08:13). Return trains to Marylebone from Haddenham and Thame Parkway at 13 and 38 minutes past the hour. Buy a return to Haddenham and Thame Parkway.

*Route description: In the morning, we follow the Aylesbury Ring north through farmland to Dinton where we can admire the Manor and church while we partake in cake. We continue on to Waddesdon for lunch at The Lion pub or the Coffee Shop (10 miles). After lunch we head up and over Lodge Hill passing the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Waddesdon Manor. Heading south we reach Nether Winchenden and on to Cuddington for a potential tea stop at the Crown Pub, light permitting. It is then just over 2 miles to Haddenham and Thame Parkway Station following the Outer Aylesbury Ring.*

Explorer 181. Distance approx. 17 miles.

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Henley Circular.**

Conductor: Kate Copeland Start: 09:50 Henley Station. (08:42 from London Paddington, change Twyford). Return trains every 30 minutes. Parking at Henley station is about £4.50 per day. Free on-street parking can be found with a little determination and time to spare.

*Route description: We leave Henley via the Oxfordshire Way, taking in Middle Assendon and Bix Bottom. At Maidensgrove we pick up the Chiltern Way, passing through the pretty deer park at Stonor. Thence onto Southend, Turville and Fingest where we stop for lunch at the Chequers PH. From here we head south to Skirmett, and Hambleden. Then at Mill End we cross Hambleden Lock to walk along the Thames back into Henley for an optional tea stop at The Chocolate Cafe. Lovely*

*views, some of the prettiest villages in England, plus this is the land of kissing gates rather than stiles!*

Explorer 171. Distance approx. 17.5 miles.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Sunningdale and Windsor Park Circular.**

Conductors: Gail and John Elrick. Start 09:30 at Sunningdale Station (London Waterloo 08:39). Return trains at 25 and 55 minutes past the hour.

*Route description: We spend most of the day exploring some of the very attractive 2,020 ha. (5,000 acres) of Windsor Great Deer Park. We will of course visit the well-known attractions, including Virginia Water, The Valley Gardens and the Long Walk but we will also visit some of the less frequented areas of the park. Lunch will be taken in Windsor and tea in the Park, details to be advised nearer the time.*

Explorer 160. Distance approx. 20 miles.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. At the Chalkface - an Eastbourne Circular.**

Conductor: Clare Kirkbride Start Eastbourne Station (meet by ticket barriers) at 09:46 (London Victoria 08:16). Trains at 01 and 25 past the hour to London Victoria. Assistance dogs only because of livestock.

*Route description: Through historic Eastbourne inland on the South Downs Way to Jevington, Cuckmere Valley for lunch. Then Friston Forest, panoramic viewpoint above Exceat, the Seven Sisters, Birling Gap (tea), Beachy Head, finally returning inland to the railway station.*

Explorer 123. Distance approx. 20 miles with drop out at 12 miles.



