

The Gazette and Record of Surrey Walking Club

Racing and strolling on roads and trails



Surrey Walking Club
founded 1899

Committee news

a summary of the
Committee meetings

Race walking news

The race walking section of the Surrey Walking Club competes in races on track and road in the UK and overseas

Strolling news

An active group of walkers who take to the paths and hills, not only in Surrey but beyond...



(Past) President's Stroll, summer 2022

During the Summer and autumn months in 2022 Surrey Walking Club members were able to get out and about more frequently in races and strolls.

Fingers crossed that athletics and other outdoor events will continue throughout the winter months of 2022 with no COVID in sight!

The inside pages cover a round up of races and strolls which have taken place since the last Gazette published in the Spring of 2022.

Sadly, Lyn Atterbury, who was instrumental in setting up the "Blast from the Past" interviews with fellow club members, passed away earlier this year. The column proved popular and hopefully we can continue to keep this valuable tribute to fellow club members alive.

President's Christmas Message



At the recent 2022 AGM Roger Michell, SWC President, nominated me to be his successor and I was duly elected. I feel privileged to take up this position of a club which has a historically significant race walking heritage. It has achieved huge success at all levels and continues to encourage race walking through its development races and participation in events; the strolling section is equally important as it draws together those who enjoy a lengthy walk over rough land in a spirit of comradeship.

The club owes Roger a debt of gratitude for his hard work to ensure the club flourishes. In many respects I aim to build on his work and I have three objectives:

- a) to see our core races better supported by holding more development races to encourage young athletes.
- b) to prepare for the club's 125th anniversary in 2024 by hosting a 100 miles in 24 hours national championship race at a venue which reflects the clubs unique position as a pioneer of long distance competitively judged races,
- c) to achieve the establishment of a new headquarters, acknowledging that the new Norman Park building will have both facilities and track and may be a possible contender.

The invaluable work of the committee is all-important and will increasingly be so as we strive to increase athletic participation and get members to be judges and coaches to ensure the club can attract more to our discipline. I am very pleased that we have a new Strollers secretary in Samantha Clark who has been a member for some years, and has taken on the role held jointly by Kate Copeland and Lynne McKenzie to whom we warmly thank for their leadership. In a recent message to the committee Gail has decided to stand down from any involvement in the organisation of the Strollers. On behalf of all club members I acknowledge the huge amount of time, energy and commitment she has devoted to the section resulting in its healthy membership. Thank you Gail.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year which I hope will bring us success and happiness.

Chris Flint

SWC President.

Surrey Walking Club Committee

President: Christopher Flint

Vice-Presidents: Kathy Crilley, Gail Elrick, John Elrick

General Secretary, Press & Trophies: Peter Hannell

Captain: Nolan Simmons

Vice Captain: Ian Statter

Race Secretary: Chris Flint

Membership Secretary: Pam Ficken

Strolls Secretary

Webmaster: Mark Easton

Gazette Editor: Kathy Crilley

Treasurer: John Elrick

Committee News

Throughout the year, the Committee continued to meet “virtually” via Zoom. And despite best endeavours, the last Committee meeting - destined to be an “in person meeting, was scuppered by a train strike!

However, the 2022 AGM did meet at the Civil Service Club in November.



Notable items discussed during 2022

A new Surrey WC website (web master Mark Easton) launched February 2022.
[\[surreywalkingclub.org.uk\]](http://surreywalkingclub.org.uk).

As ever, Race Secretary Chris Flint has been looking at race venues for our future SWC races.

Norman Park, one of the Club's regular venues, has been out of action due to building works - but is still a (future) possibility.

The committee meeting of 17 January 2022 debated the proposition of a 125th Anniversary event. Should we hold a 100 miles/24 hour race?" "Can we hold a stroll in conjunction with a race - same start /finish locations?" question and the Committee was in agreement that we certainly should celebrate our 125th anniversary.

Past President Roger Michell and Vice Captain Ian Statter put forward some good suggestions but the hunt is still on for an accessible and suitable venue. Any suggestions gratefully welcomed - so do contact Chris (our new President) and Ian.

At the April Committee meeting it was noted in the MEN'S CAPTAIN'S REPORT that there has been very low participation in races from SWC members recently with several regular athletes being absent. It does seem to be a feature of the Covid situation. More generally there are considerable numbers of people who were prevented from racing and now have now taken the opportunity to terminate their activity. The result is that a smaller number of SWC (usually 3) still represent the same historical fraction of the total field.

race walking news

race round up March 2022 - December 2022

VAC Summer Series 5Km, Battersea Park (5/4/22):

The first race of the 2022 Summer season was held over 5km on a slightly cold but bright evening so good for racing. The running section saw over 100 out and the walk with 13 entries and 8 finishers was an average turnout and included three Surrey Walking Club members. Times generally were a little down on pre-Covid but better than last year which was probably due to the low number of racing opportunities but a current move towards normality. SWC's David Hoben and Chris Flint and newcomer Artur Olszewski formed a competitive group towards the back of the field but held together for the whole race with David 10 seconds clear at the end. A couple of minutes later Peter Hannell came in just slightly outside of his last 5km time.

Results: 6. D.Hoben (SWC M65) 38 min 3 sec; 7. C.Flint (SWC M75) 38 min 14 sec; 9. P.Hannell (SWC M75) 40 min 11 sec

Blackheath & Bromley Harriers Johnson Bowl 4 miles (29/6/22):

During a period of unreliable weather the Blackheath & Bromley Annual Johnson Bowl race and match against Surrey Walking Club was held in ideal conditions with the evening sunshine moderated by a slight cool breeze. This race which has been held for over 100 years in various formats also contained the SWC 4 miles championship for the Gazette Cup and attracted a relative healthy number of 13 starters. It also included an element of coaching for the youngsters courtesy of Ashford's Chris Hobbs. For several years Roger Michell had won the BBHAC race but this time was no match for under-17,

Johnny Ellerton, with a final margin of just under 3 minutes. The conditions and the friendly competition yielded good times from many of the field although the main SWC group of three were as usual well packed but also well down the field.

Mixed 4 Miles: 1. R.Michell (Sy WC / B&B M70) 40 min 26 sec; 2. D.Hoben (Sy WC/ B&B M65) 47 min 33 sec; 10. C.Flint (Sy WC M75) 47 min 55 sec; 11. P.Hannell (Sy WC / B&B M75) 50 min 34 sec;

2 miles (retired): 1. N.Simmons (Sy WC/ B&B M75) 28 min 34 sec.

Johnson Bowl result: 1.J.Ellerton, 2. R.Michell, 3. M.Ellerton

Surrey Walking Club Gazette Cup & Championship: 1. R.Michell, 2. D.Hoben, 3. C.Flint.

Surrey Walking Club Jubilee Cup (Handicap): 1.C.Flint, 2.D.Hoben, 3.R.Michell.

Surrey/Sussex/VAC Masters Championship, Kingsmeadow Track (5/6/22):

With 13 entries and 10 starters this was a comparatively good field. Weather conditions were ideal and the competition gave rise to several personal bests with judging on the full basis but with some allowance for age etc. Surrey Walking Club was represented by Chris Flint and Peter Hannell.

Surrey/Sussex/VAC Masters Championship, Kingsmeadow Track(10 starters).

05 June: 5th C.Flint (M75) 21 min 56.41 sec; 8th P.Hannell (M75) 23 min 7.87 sec;

21st Moulton 5 miles (11/6/22):

On this hot Saturday 27 walkers started this traditional country course. Surrey Walking Club was represented by Chris Flint and David Hoben and despite there being only two of them similar standards made this a good Club competition finishing just 4 seconds apart. It was good to see several newcomers and this had the effect of our two being a little further up the field. David's time was fractionally better than expected and Chris' rather more so. We look forward to further battles between these members and hopefully more SWC folk turning out. SWC - 10. **D.Hoben** (M65) 1 hr 1 min 30 sec; 11. **C.Flint** (M75) 1 hr 1 min 34 sec

Veterans AC League 5 km, Battersea Park 12th Jul 2022

The field was a little down, but the usual Surrey Walking Club trio appeared. The first home, David Hoben, had a rather better race and Chris Flint was only just 12 seconds behind this time.

SWC Results Mixed 5 km: 5. D.Hoben (SWC M65) 37 min 40 sec; C.Flint (SWC M75) 37 min 52 sec; 8. P.Hannell (SWC M75) 39 min 54 sec.

104th edition of Nijmegen Marches 20-23 July 2022

In total four SWC members took part in the daily 50km event - Centurions Kathy Crilley and Chris Flint in uniform as members of the Metropolitan Police Walking Club team and Spanish member, Carlos Cobo Corrales and David Hoben as civilians. Due to extreme heatwave conditions, the



Chris Flint, Kathy Crilley, Carlos (kind provider of the photographs) and David



organisers wisely decided to abandon Day 1 of this event, which was unprecedented. It was special march for Chris Flint who completed his first Nijmegen in 1967 and this year completed his 25th.

Veterans AC League 5 miles, Battersea Park 2nd Aug 2022

With more tolerable temperatures than recently this, the last of the 2022 series was held on a typical, beautiful evening on a shortened road loop in Battersea Park. Numbers were low but typical and included Surrey Walking Club's current racing team and on this occasion Chris Flint, despite catching David Hoben early on, finally had to let the 'youngster' reclaim a 20 second victory.

Results: 5 Miles: 8. D.Hoben (Sy WC M65) 1 hr 2 min 29 sec; 9. C.Flnt (Sy WC M75) 1 hr 2 min 52 sec; 10. P.Hannell (Sy WC M75) 1 hr 6 min 3 sec

Surrey Walking Club 3km Championships, Tonbridge Track 17th Aug 2022

Surrey Walking Club held its track 3km for the first time after Covid and it was at Tonbridge rather than the usual Norman Park with Blackheath and Bromley as the latter venue is currently being upgraded. The more important great feature of the event was the size of the field with 18 starters overall of whom three competed over shorter distances. This last group included U11 Sofia Crane who was accompanied by M75 grandfather Peter – surely a very unusual if not unique situation. This was not the end of the Crane tribe as Peter's two sons, David and Steven, led home the SWC competitors so winning the Championship and the Handicap respectively. Both their times represented improved performances, particularly Steve's They were close during the race before David managed a final acceleration to win by 7 seconds.. Amongst the competitors were SWC President Roger Michell whose performance was limited by a short, enforced break. M80 SWC member Kevin Burnett put in a rare but pleasing appearance, and he comfortably completed the distance at 10-minute kilo pace. Slightly younger Chris Flint used the race as a fast warm-up for the following weekend's UK 100-mile Championship.

Results: Mixed 3km: 2nd D.Crane (SWC M40) 14 min 25 sec; 3rd S.Crane (SWC M40) 14 min 32 sec; 9th R.Michell (SWC M70) 19 min 55 sec; 11th I. Statter (SWC M65) 20 min 52 sec; 13th C.Flnt (SWC M75) 22 min 42 sec; 14. P.Hannell (SWC M75) 23 min 18 sec; 15. K.Burnett (SWC M80) 30 min 14 sec.

Mixed 1km: 1st Sofia Crane (SWC U11G) 8 min 1 sec; 2nd P.Crane (SWC M75) 8 min 1 sec.

Surrey Combined Events, Relays, Steeplechase & Walks Championships, Carshalton Sun. 4 Sep 3000m. Chris Flint, 8th place, 22.47.4

EMU 6 days race, Balatonfüred, Hungary 8-14 September 2022

report by David Hoben.

Four members of Surrey Walking Club participated in the 6 day race in Hungary running race held on a circuit round a holiday camp site situated next to the popular lakeside

resort on Lake Balaton. Whilst it was not a judged race walking event, many runners were soon walking after 24 hours!

With 66 on the start line, the organisers were delighted that with eight entries, Britain had one of the largest teams outside Hungary.

Sandra Brown, who is no stranger to ultra-distance events, was pleased to achieve 48 hour national and 6 day WR for W70, coming finishing in 15th place with 610.964 km.

Richard Brown, who has enjoyed innumerable ultra-distance marathon successes had a good result, coming in 45th overall. He completed 432.894 km, and set a new M75 category 48 hour national record.

Kathy Crilley, who specialises in this kind of event, walked a good focused race with a consistent style from the start throughout the race coming in 50th overall and completing 381.493 km. Whilst an increase from her previous 6 day race in the spring, it was down on her previous EMU 6 day race in 2019. She achieved W75 category 48 hour and 6 day national records. (Plus other distances!)

David Hoben walked a total of 317.629 km in 57th place overall, a decrease from previous years, but part of his celebration of 50 years in ultra-distance events.

The tough event was largely blessed with fine weather, with lots of sunshine and temperatures between 17C and 29C on day one, but rainstorms on the first 2 nights of the race made walking rather uncomfortable.

The event was held at the tail end of the holiday season at the lakeside, there were families who spectated the race every day and it became part of their routine. The support crew of other competitors all showed their appreciation of fellow runners and walkers.

The start of the race was dominated by the sad news from the UK, which the organisers also felt very keenly and lit candles in honour of Her Majesty's seven decades of public service. Very much appreciated by the British contingency.

Ryan Cup, Birmingham: 28th September (1 SWC) the first SWC was Chris Flint.

SWC Mark Easton 7 miles (10km in), Woodcote School, Coulsdon 1st October.

Only SWC Paul Gaston was present . No handicap, but Paul was Champion. There were terrible traffic problems everywhere and they particularly affected the Race Secretary.

Enfield One Hour Race, Enfield, 15th October with David Hoben in 16th place

Forthcoming races & Events

26 December Southend Pier Race 2 miles

15 January Annual General Meeting of the Race Walking Association will be held as a virtual (online)

14 January Enfield League 5 Miles + 2022 Series Presentation. Donkey Lane. 11am start

4 February Steyning 15k/10k/5k

12 February Southern Counties Vets Indoor Championship. Lee Valley

Full reports and results for some of the above races can be found on the [Surrey Walking Club website](#)



The Strollers page on the [Surrey Walking Club website](#) has full reports and news of forthcoming strolls



The group from Kate's earlier Oxted Circular

news from the Strollers

Sadly the Surrey Walking Club Strolls Secretaries, Kate Copeland and Lynne McKenzie, resigned in August. This is a great loss to the Strollers as they had brought a fresh look to the Strolls programme whilst they were in office. However, the Strollers do now have a new Secretary - Samantha Clark who has been a member of the Club of or some years. I am sure we will all welcome and support Samantha in her new role.

Strolls reports round up

Ashtead to Epsom - 2 April Conductor and report from Carol Buss

Early morning broke with a harsh frost and a winter chill. By 9.40am though, it was blue sky and warm sunshine, making it a perfect day for walking. The four of us set off across Ashtead Common. Entering the eerily quiet Princes' Coverts the muddy condition were beginning to dry. Due to a flooded railway subway a detour to the residential roads of Claygate had to be made. Esher Common brought a change of scenery. Crossing into Fairmile Common we descended steps to the winding River Mole. Arriving at West End Common dark clouds brought a short sleet shower just in time for lunch.

We set off for the 2nd half of the walk and a long boardwalk defined an area used for rifle training for the First World War. Crossing the main road it was back through Esher and Arbrook Commons, then the long climb uphill via Claygate to Winey Hill for a well-earned sit down. Now downhill past the busy Chessington World of Adventures it was back (via Russet Farm) to the mud of Ashtead Common. Finally arriving at the pretty village pond of Stamford Green Epsom. It was tarmac all the way to the Station. Distance 19 miles.

The Wealdway Long Distance Path (LDP) - 15th to 18th April



A 4 day crossing of the Wealdway starting at Gravesend and finishing in Eastbourne. This is a LDP that links the Thames Estuary to the English Channel so it is the south-east's very own coast-to-coast path. SWC members together with the London Group LDWA who were invited to join the walk spent the 4 days of the Easter Holiday walking the way. Five strollers completed the full walk and others joined for parts of the walk.

Conductors for the various sections were Gavin Fuller, Kate Copeland and Lynne

McKenzie

The total distance was 92.2 miles (148.4 km) with 4,869 feet (1,484 m) of ascent. In all 23 people walked at least 1 stage of the 4, and of this 5 walkers, David H, Cathy, Carrie, Gavin and Gillian completed all the stages.

Circular South of Haslemere – 30 April. Conductor Nigel Heys. Distance 20 miles

Nigel, John, Gail, Steve, Ian, Jeff. Stroll Report from Nigel.

The six strollers assembled at Haslemere Station in bright sunshine at 9am, then climbed steeply up to Marley Common and joined the Serpent Trail for the first time. They soon switched to the Sussex Border Path and followed this to Linchmere crossing Stanley Common to join the New Lipchis then on to the slopes of Telegraph Hill before cutting across to Henley and rejoining the Serpent Trail to Bexleyhill and on to a well earned

lunch break at Lurgashall. After lunch the group continued past Northchapel to the slopes of Black Down with Tennyson's Aldworth House visible ahead. The final stretch back to Haslemere was again on the Serpent Trail.

Farnham Circular – 14 May Conductor: Jill Goddard

Participants: Jeff, Mary Anne, Gosia, Carol, John, Gail and Jill

Stroll report from Jill:

On a beautiful late spring day, a group of seven enjoyed a 22 mile circular walk to the south of Farnham. We left the town via Lower Bourne, passed through the woods of Alice Holt Forest and then across the heathlands of Farnham Heath and Tankersford Common, where we paused to admire the Exmoor ponies. We stopped at the renovated Pierrepont Farm to sample the local cheese before a coffee stop at Frensham little pond. After crossing the open heathland at the Flashes we climbed Stony Jump to enjoy far reaching views in all direction, and then started the steady uphill to reach the head of the Devils' Punchbowl for lunch. More wonderful views! Our afternoon route took us round the east edge of the bowl and then onto Hankley Common. By the time we reached Tilford for a tea stop, we were all carrying rather a lot of sand in our boots! Our path back to Farnham was on a bridleway with views of Waverley Abbey and then along the historic Moor Park trail. We joined the North Downs Way for the final stretch. The sun was still shining as we finished!

Sevenoaks Circular - 29 May

Conductor: Richard Levett. Participants: Richard (Conductor), John, Gail, Rachel, Gina, Christine, Keith, Neil, Gavin, Adam and Barry.

Stroll Report from Richard:

We started from Sevenoaks railway station, We should have left at 9:15 but trouble with trains we left at 9:45. Rachel kindly was back marker and what a great job she did, thank-you. So set off following the Darent Valley Path to Shoreham Cross for elevenses. Then up the steps, lots of them, to Dunstell Farm, and across to the Pig and Whistle, reputedly an old smugglers 'pub'. We arrived at the Rising Sun for lunch where we were able to eat our own food in the garden. On leaving the pub our route took us to the North Downs above Kemsing with great views, Down the then up hill to hill to Knole Park, unfortunately no tea stop as they were closed, and back to Sevenoaks Station. Distance: 19 miles

Goring Circular - 12 June

Conductors: John and Gail Elrick. Participants: Gail and John, Gavin and Stephen.

Stroll Report from John:

The stroll commenced at Goring and Streatley station. We crossed the bridge over the River Thames. On the Streatley side we followed the Thames Path as far as Moulsoford. From here we turned inland to take a good surface footpath that wended its way up into the hills and woods to reveal the first of many wide views. We made brief contact with the Ridgeway Path and then quickly left it to follow tracks and fields to the hamlet of Aldworth. Here we stopped for lunch at 'The Bell Inn'.

Leaving the hamlet we passed through the lych-gate of Aldworth Church to view the remains of an ancient yew tree thought to be 1,000 years old. Another impressive sight

greeted us at the hamlet of Ashampstead where we entered the Church to admire the impressive medieval wall paintings dating from the 13th century. The paintings were covered with plaster during the Reformation and only revealed in 1886 when some of it fell off. From the small hamlet of Stubbles we embarked on the final stage of the walk through a variety of woods and little used lanes. A sharpish descent took us back into Streatley and Goring where we stopped for refreshments at 'The Miller of Mansfield' before departing home on the 1700 hours train. Distance 17 miles.

Guildford Circular – 26 June

Conductors: John and Gail Elrick

Strollers: Gail, John, Carol, Stephen, Tony, Andy, Debbie, Gavin, Jeff, Jill and Rachel

Stroll Report from John:

This was almost the stroll which never happened! Lynne, the original conductor, tested positive for COVID the day before and Gail and John stood in to lead the stroll at the eleventh hour. Despite a Sunday rail service of sorts as it was far from certain whether all the trains would run, nevertheless, eleven walkers assembled at Guildford Station on a warm and sunny morning and we started from the station at 10.00 a.m. The conductors opted for a route via Chinthurst Hill and Hascombe which they had last led in February 2018.

We headed over the top of Pewley Down where we were rewarded with long views of the London skyline on the horizon. We made a brief stop at the tower on the top of Chinthurst Hill and continuing through Bramley we stayed on the Greensand Way to Hascombe where we ate sandwiches by the village pond. Given the somewhat late start to the stroll the conductors, with help from Jill, decided to cut out the planned loop to Hambledon Church and take a shorter, more direct route to Hydon's Ball.

We descended through the woods to Winkworth Arboretum where we stopped for tea at the National Trust café. Leaving the Arboretum, we followed the track which runs alongside Alldens Lane and continued uphill. We continued on to Farncombe and followed the tow path along the River Wey back into Guildford. A very good route (originally designed by Roger Moss) and a successful day. Distance 22 miles

Tring Circular – 9 July

Conductor: Bola Baruwa; Participants: Gavin, Christine, David, Jeff and Camilla

Stroll Report from Bola:

The morning part of walk took us to the Ivinghoe Beacon via Aldbury Nowers and Step Hill - one of Bola's sadistic hills as Gavin describes it. From the beacon, we proceeded to Dagnal and Little Gaddasden. We also walked through a never-ending barley field to Nettleden Potten End then to Frithsden, our lunch stop. Frithsden is a historical hamlet in the Chiltern Hills. It boasts of a vineyard (always closed when I'm there). The hamlet is also graced with 'Little Manor'. The afternoon was rather uncomfortably hot, though less hilly but more woodland walks through Berkhamsted, (past the cricket club and remnant of the iconic castle), Northchurch and Aldbury back to Tring. Distance: 19.5 miles.

The Presidents Stroll Epsom Circular via Surrey Hills 23 July

Conductor: Roger Michell (The President)

Participants: Roger and his wife Linda, Carol, Dave T, Cathy, Gina, John, Gail, Paul and Ian.

Leaving via Epsom Common, the Racecourse, along the Roman road, Juniper Wood and Juniper Bottom and up to Box Hill for a picnic lunch.

Returning via Langley Lane and Headley Park.

Distance: c 20miles



Hastings Circular via Pett Levett - 6 August

Conductor: Barry Eade. Participants: Barry Kate, Marion, Mari (joining member), Rachel, Gavin, Christine, John and Gail.

Stroll Report from Barry: It was with great trepidation that I set off to lead my very first group walk. We were greeted on the concourse by a pleasant surprise as Peter Crane a member of the SWC for 60 years now living in Hastings came down to say hello and wave us off.

We started off by heading through Hastings town at a brisk pace before climbing the East Hill via the first of many sets of steps. The weather was perfect, sunny with a nice breeze and excellent visibility and we were able to see Eastbourne when looking out to sea. We proceeded through Hastings Country Park where we ascended and descended many steps, up and down the glens and through the rolling countryside followed by the Fire Hills. The views were absolutely breathtaking, both out to sea and inland.

The next stage took us through the quaint village of Fairlight followed by the descent at Cliff End down to Pett Level beach- location for our lunch break. We then walked along the sea wall walkway nearly all the way to Winchelsea before heading inland through some sheep fields to the Royal Military Canal which we followed back to Pett Level. We then headed cross country and along a few country lanes for several miles before climbing The Mountain up to Battery Hill for a short water break.

It was then back to the Country Park, a brief tea stop at the Bale House before the walk back into Hastings through the Country Park taking a more inland route this time. The final leg was back through the town centre to Hastings train station. Distance 19 miles.

Oxted Circular - 21 August

Conductor: Kate Copeland. Participants: Chris, Jill, Paul, Rachel, Carol, Stephen, Jeff, Nick, Gillian, Christine, Kate

Stroll report from Kate: We had perfect weather for this walk. The morning involved the steepest climbs up and down (and up and down!) the North Downs, the sun then came out for our sandwich stop on Westerham Green and stayed with us for most of the afternoon, which comprised the gentler hills over Limpsfield Chart. We were on a mix of

well-known paths such as the North Downs Way, Greensand Way and Tandridge District Path and some smaller paths, yet passed very few other walkers all day.

The route was designed to take in some steep ascents and those wanting hills felt they'd got their money's worth. It also meant that we had many lovely views over Tandridge and beyond in the morning and then over the Weald of Kent in the afternoon. We stopped to admire quite a few of these, and to avail ourselves of the laden blackberry bushes.

It was one of those walks where everything falls nicely into place and there are no problems so we were a happy band of 11 who returned to Oxted at around 5pm.

Amberley Circular via Slindon Estate - 3rd September.

Conductor: Nick White. Participants: Nick, John, Gail, Marion and Chris.

Stroll Report from Nick: We arrived at Amberley station more or less on time and immediately set off to join the South Downs Way and our first climb of the day up Bignor Hill. Near the summit we passed a memorial to Toby Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, the secretary of the Cowdray Hounds known locally as "Toby's Stone".

We then began a gentle descent along part of The Monarch's Way following the route of the old Roman road, "Stane Street" and the raised causeway known as the "Agger", built to connect Londinium (London) to Noviomagus Reginorum (Chichester).

At the Six Way Post, we diverted through Northwood, an area that was ploughed and planted to increase food production during World War 2, but is now a woodland restoration undertaken by the National Trust. Leaving Northwood we continued on the main footpath past the Slindon Folly, a stone construction that resembles a gateway but is a decorative piece which leads to nowhere. We were soon in the village of Slindon for our lunch stop of a picnic and after lunch we continued on through Rewell Woods to the market town of Arundel, sitting on the banks of the River Arun. It is famed for its magnificent castle, which is the ancestral home of the Duke of Norfolk. Passing over the bridge, we followed the River Arun before diverting to Burpham and a stop at The George for a drink. Continuing along the river, we crossed the Gurkha bridge to North Stoke and finished with a short stroll back to Amberley station.



Chichester Hills - 17 September Distance: 22 miles.

Conductor Gavin Fuller. Participants: Gavin, Barry, Bola, Cathy, Marion & Rachel

Stroll Report from Gavin: After a stop-start preparation, being cancelled due to a rail strike and then put back on when said strike was postponed, five walkers met conductor Gavin at Chichester for the Strollers' first walk in the reign of King Charles III. The walk went alongside the city's medieval town wall before heading out on a disused railway channelling times even

further past, the Centurian Way. Having passed a selection of sculptures on the way, it was then across country steadily rising to the National Nature Reserve Kingley Vale, with its notable collection of ancient yews, accentuated this day by fine views across to the Isle of Wight. After lunch on one of the ancient barrows called The Devil's Humps it was across rolling downland to the afternoon's pub stop at the quiet Partridge Inn in Singleton. The group then made the ascent to the iron age hill fort of the Trundle. Arriving back in Chichester earlier than planned proved fortunate, as the intended train was cancelled but the group reached the station in time for the one before.

Leatherhead Circular – 2nd October

Conductor: Kate Copeland. Participants: Kate, Jill, Gillian, Kate, Steve, Nigel, Gavin
Stroll Report from Kate: We set off in rain and there were a few doubters as to whether the weather would clear within half an hour, as forecast, but it did and we had sunshine from then on. It was a little muddy underfoot given the overnight downpour and it was rather a novelty to be negotiating this again after the summer we've had.

We followed the Winter Tanners 2022 Challenge route and it seemed to be a hit with all who were doing it for the first time. Gavin had done the Founders Challenge the previous day, which took in many of the same paths, so he was having flashbacks! It was fairly enclosed for the first 90 mins and we were pleased to get to White Downs where things open up and we had fantastic views across the valley. We then followed the NDW into Shere. Here we all made a beeline for our lunchtime treat – be it a brownie from the Dabbling Duck, a pint in the pub or an ice cream (or a combination of the above!). It was lovely to sit eating our packed lunches by the river with the sun warming our backs. The route is long and thin so we returned on the opposite side of the valley and could see our morning path for much of the afternoon. There was frequent discussion about whether autumn had started and just as the grass is always greener, the orange-tinted trees always seemed to be on the side of the valley we weren't on! We had a couple of great views of Polesden Lacey and although we were never close. We had time for a quick cuppa at Bocketts Farm, still bathed in sunshine, before getting back to Leatherhead at 6pm. Distance: 22m or just over.

Strolls were also held on the following dates but no reports:

Saturday 29 October: Christs Hospital to Billingshurst Conductor: Lynne McKenzie

Saturday 12 November: The Thames Down Link: Kingston to Dorking. Conductor: Keith Lane

Saturday 26 November: Petersfield Circular Conductors: Jill Goddard

Saturday 10 December: Epsom Circular, Conductor: Lillian Chelli,

full reports of all strolls with great photos, can be found on the [SWC website](#)

Forthcoming strolls - see website [Surrey Walking Club](#) for further details of all strolls

Saturday 31 December: New Year's Eve Festive Stroll - Victoria to Tower Hill

Conductor: Keith Lane

Meet at The Willow Walk, Wetherspoons for breakfast/coffee prior to the Stroll which starts at 10:00

Route Description: St James's Park, Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, St Paul's Conservation Area, Tower Hill for coffee. Then follow the north bank of the Thames - St Catherine's Dock, Canary Wharf to Greenwich for lunch in The Gate Clock, Wetherspoons. Then follow the Southbank of the Thames - Surrey Docks, Stave Hill, Tower Bridge. Stroll finishes in The Goodman's Field, Wetherspoons, Mansell Street. Distance: 14 miles.

Do check this out with Keith as there are different routes advertised!

Obituaries

Sadly, the club has been notified about the death of Surrey Walking Club member, Lyn Atterbury

Lyn passed away 21st April 2022 in Poland after losing his battle against cancer. Lyn had been a member of the Club for 54 years.

Over the last year, I had been in regular contact with Lyn and he did tell me the prognosis was not too good. He initiated and was responsible for the "**Blast from the Past**" interviews in the SWC Gazette. Sadly, I have never met Lyn but he was certainly very helpful with the Gazette.

Hopefully we can continue Lyn's initiative and relive our memories!

**This is your club magazine.**

The Editor welcomes any contributions, letters, news, comments, photos or reports which could be of interest to other club members. Just send them to the [Editor](#). Reports of strolls are especially welcome as these are always popular with readers.

Many thanks to those who have sent contributions to past editions of the Gazette.