

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

It only seems like 5 minutes since I was last sitting at my computer scratching my head trying to think of something to put in the newsletter. Today I am scratching away again and getting yet more splinters under my finger nails.

I think that it has been a reasonable year for walking. I would say that as I did not have to experience the high temperatures that the southern half of Britain had in June. We went to Scotland and suffered deluge after deluge the only saving grace was that the wet kept the midges at bay. The only decent day in 3 weeks was in Glen Nevis in the shadow of the Ben himself when we woke to a temperature of 2C under a clear blue sky. Going up Ben Nevis was tempting but we decided to walk along a bit of the West Highland Way into Fort William and were glad we did as walkers were coming down from the top of our highest mountain drenched in sweat.

Mud has not been a feature of my walks this year until this week when Julie took us on a ramble from Chiddingstone. We had only gone about a mile when I gave her 10 out of 10 for mud. I should say some of the ground was not really mud but more like the primeval swamp that would have been an ideal breeding ground for long ago life forms to emerge from.

I was looking for inspiration for this newsletter and came across this unlikely scenario:-

How to Cross a River

One day three men out were hiking and came upon a wide, raging river. They needed to get to the other side, but it looked impossible to ford, and they had no idea of how to do it.

The first man prayed: "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river."

Poof! God gave him big strong arms and legs and he was able to swim across the river—though it took him two hours to do it.

Seeing this, the second man prayed: "Please God, give me the strength and ability to cross this river."

Poof! God gave him a rowing boat and he was able to row across the river—though it took him three hours to do it.

The third man had observed how this had worked out for his two hiking friends, so he also prayed, saying, "Please God, give me the strength, ability and intelligence to cross this river."

Poof! God turned him into a woman. He looked at the OS map, and in a minute walked across the bridge.

Seriously now. Please see my note at the end of the Newsletter about the position of Treasurer.

Celestine, our Secretary, enjoys visiting outdoor shops and during her shopping expeditions has managed to negotiate a number of money saving discounts for Club members. See the list towards the end of the Newsletter. Many thanks Celestine.

JILL ROUSE MEMORIAL WALK

On 30th July some members of the Club met at Scotney Castle to have a walk in honour of the memory of Jill.

Jill had been our Vice Chairman for many years and a member of the Committee for even longer. She was very involved in the social aspects of the Club organising the Summer Supper and Coach Trips. She was also a volunteer at Scotney so it was very fitting that the walks started and ended there. Two walks were undertaken a longer one led by Joan and a shorter one by Janet. Jill's daughter, Sally, and other family members joined Joan's walk.

Following the walks we met in a room provided by the National Trust where tributes were paid to Jill for all her work for the Club.



Editor

SUMMER SUPPER

This year's Summer Supper was held again at the High Rocks. Attendance was down on the previous year at 50 and this made for a more comfortable and sociable atmosphere as we were able to have the preferred round tables.



Once again the service from High Rocks was very slick and efficient and we had a very enjoyable meal. I cannot say that the entertainment was enjoyable as Len produced his usual impossible to answer quiz and, yet again, I was on a table that failed to win (Nick boasts about the Friday walkers winning in his report but I think there must have been some Russian involvement somewhere!). As the old saying of Pierre de Coubertin goes "The most important thing with Len's Quizzes is not taking part but winning" or something along those lines.

Many thanks to Janet for organising such a good evening and, of course, to Len.

Editor

LONGER WEDNESDAY WALKERS

We have enjoyed an interesting and varied selection of walks this summer with new walks starting from Tenterden, Wittersham and Udimore and some new walks from old starting points. Two new members, Jane and Anne, managed to find a beautiful new walk from Goudhurst which was very surprising considering the number of times we have walked from there.

In September we had a particularly lovely walk from East Dean which was in memory of Jeremy. We have never walked from here before and we had perfect weather and marvellous views looking down on Eastbourne and over the coast. It was made even more enjoyable by being invited by Pam and Colin to tea and cakes afterwards in the garden of their house in East Dean. Colin was a regular Wednesday walker but sadly he can no longer do it.

I am pleased to report we have several new members and they have even led walks this summer so many thanks to Jane, Anne and Bob. In fact on one of Bob's walks he managed to break my record for the longest Wednesday walk on record not getting us back to 4.30pm. Thank you for that Bob but please don't do it again!

We did our boat trip again from Newenden to Bodiam which has become a fixture in our calendar but, unfortunately, Gwen had a bad fall and broke her wrist and was out of action for some weeks but I am pleased to report she is now back walking again.

We are always pleased to see ex walkers join us for tea after the walks. It is always nice to see them again and not lose touch.

Eric Botley

WEDNESDAY 5 MILE WALKERS

Our Wednesday group continue to plod around – I sometimes think if they get any slower they will go backwards! Much nattering goes on and as long as they are enjoying themselves everyone is happy. I sometimes think the picnic in the middle is the best part and the tea that Jackie & Bob provide afterwards, many thanks to them.



The second half of the year started with a visit to the coast courtesy of Sheila & Ron who always lay on a spread at the end of the walk from their caravan. We have enjoyed a full and varied programme. Numbers, having slumped, have now risen again as some of those who have been unwell recover and a few new members have joined us who we welcome. On a recent walk we had 30 walkers and it took a fair while getting them all over the stiles of which there were only about half a dozen but it seemed more!

Janet Wilson

FRIDAY WALKERS

As usual we have ranged far and wide. Sad individual that I am, I spent a morning plotting on Google Earth the start of all 50 Friday walks scheduled for this year in an attempt to identify neglected areas. Apart from the frustration of failing to save all this information correctly and in a fit of incompetence losing it once I had taken a very crowded 'screenshot' of my handiwork, the main lesson I learned is that our walks are spread remarkably evenly around the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells area. If there is any relatively under explored area, it lies mainly to the north west of TW i.e. Penshurst and beyond. Over the year the furthest south we have been was probably the excellent Good Friday walk led from East Dean by Maggie. Other 'outliers' included Luddesdown, led by Maurice in June, the Bexhill link of the 1066 Country Walk, led by Sarah W (whom we are delighted to see getting back into her stride), Ulcombe (with its wonderful yew trees in the churchyard) again led by Maurice, Chiddingstone led by Claudette & Nigel in July, Ashdown Forest led by Susan P in August and Wateringbury led by Brenda in October. Our numbers continue to hold up well. For understandable reasons, remoter, hillier walks with stiles attract the lowest numbers but if the weather is good and the terrain moderate 20-30 walkers is common. For the second year in a row, the Friday Group won the quiz at the Summer Supper. (We're just limbering up for a go at University Challenge!) At Christmas we are venturing into uncharted territory and having our Christmas Lunch at Hever Golf Club, primarily for a change of scene rather than out of dissatisfaction with previous venues and then resting on our laurels for a couple of weeks before the beginning of the New Year and the new season.



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Nick Churchill

ALL DAY SUNDAY WALKERS

Starting from Westerham in June this section is closest to home and almost follows the route of the ancient Pilgrim's Way as well as the modern M25, M26 and M20! But being above these modern highways, the sound was not too obtrusive, and we enjoyed extensive views. Having passed some of the planets in Otford's Solar System, we decided to climb the steep path up Otford Mount before lunch. We also met lots of runners taking part in the Green Belt Relay, an annual event circumnavigating the whole of the M25-it's funny what people do in their spare time, don't you think! From Wrotham the Way passes through Trosley Country Park with its welcoming cafe, and the Neolithic burial chambers of Kits Coty and the Coldrum stones, before crossing on the Medway Viaduct, beside the M2 and the high speed railway line, where a plaque proclaims that a Eurostar train set a new UK Rail Speed Record of 208 mph in 2003.



In August five members completed the 20 mile challenge from Canterbury to Dover, part of the North Downs Way loop, after sheltering in the pub during a very heavy downpour! Our November section from Wye to Etchinghill was one of those perfect autumn days with views stretching from the Fire Hills above Hastings to the French coast. We finished in the pub roasting round the log fire and look forward to completing the last section of the Folkestone loop using trains to finish in Dover in December.

Many thanks are due to Janet and Dermot for their wonderful organisation enabling us to complete this scenic and historic route as modern day pilgrims.

Mary Blinks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER SUPPER

SATURDAY 18th AUGUST 2018

THIS WILL BE AT A NEW VENUE

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES NOW

FURTHER INFORMATION NEARER THE TIME

COACH TRIP

The committee has pencilled in **Saturday 12th May** as the date for our coach trip. No destination has been decided on as yet so we wish to throw the floor open to the Club membership for any ideas as to where you might like to go.

Suggestions by email to Celestine at twrc@outlook.com or to any member of the Committee, please.

Editor

FOOTNOTES

WORLD RECORD

It is not often one of our members achieves a world record, that well known Irish Drinks Company might disagree, but the proof is here. I was unreliably informed by our very own Jenny that the chip was 12 inches long or was it 8 inches? – she could not remember which. I also show a picture of the potato that it might have come from.



Our very own Poet Laureate, Sheila Woods, has yet again produced a superb poem:-

This is a nice 4.7 mile walk that I think you will like
Bring your wellies and sticks but not your bike
The forest is dressed in her Sunday best
Purple heather round her waist and yellow gorse round her chest
There is a stream we cross by stepping stones
So take great care no wet feet or broken bones
There are 2 hills we must ascend
One before lunch and one at the end
There is also a bit of road so please take care
Why not bring something bright to wear
See you there

Sheila Woods

WANTED

Unfortunately Linda our Treasurer will not be standing for re-election at the Club's AGM on 26th March so we will be looking to elect a new one. This is a very important position in the running of the Club and the Committee would ask if there is any member who would be prepared to undertake this role or if they know somebody in the Club who might be too shy to put their name forward but might be persuaded. You don't need to be an accountant to do the job but need to be happy dealing with figures.

If you would be prepared to do the job or know somebody who would please speak to any member of the Committee or contact Celestine, the Club's Secretary, by email at twrc@outlook.com

Many thanks.

CLUB DISCOUNTS

Paramo – Wadhurst Shop only, have agreed a 15% discount for club members.

Cotswold Outdoor – Tunbridge Wells branch have agreed a 15% discount. A pin code is being setup so that it can be used in all stores, this is not available yet.

Millets – Tunbridge Wells store have given a verbal agreement to 15% discount to include Sale goods.

Blacks – Tunbridge Wells store have given a verbal agreement to 10% discount.

Thanks for reading if you managed to get this far. Any ideas, articles etc for the next Newsletter would be appreciated. Answers on a postcard, snail mail, email, shank's pony or verbally to the Editor or any member of the Committee.

Have a very good Christmas and here is looking forward to a Happy, Prosperous and, most importantly, a Healthy 2018.

Editor