

50th Lunch Speech

Good afternoon everybody, I would like to thank you all for coming and being part of this momentous occasion as we celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Personally as you have properly guessed I have not been around for 50 years, but I certainly feel like it after walking 9.5 miles yesterday. I have always been told things were a lot harder years ago; this definitely was the case with Quiz Walks.

I would like to start with a round of applause for all those who completed the whole walk, 26 people and 1 dog managed to climb Colley Hill, we had about 45 people turn out in total making the day a great success.

I am not going to talk very much about the past 50 years for several reasons, firstly, because I have only lived for just over half of them, secondly because shortly I am going to hand over to our very own Roger Heath who will be entertaining you for the rest of the afternoon with his full account of the clubs history.

Roger's devotion to Quiz Walking has spanned over 50 years, in fact he is the only member that completed the first walk in 1957 and yesterdays re-walk.

He has completed 47 seasons, took part in over 300 walks. He has personally organised 73. I am not going to mention how many times he has won the league.

Roger is still very much involved in running the club as membership secretary I think he deserves a round of applause for his commitment and achievements.

About 18 months ago I formed a sub committee whose task it was to plan and organise the 50th anniversary celebrations, The main members were Roger Abbott, Roger Heath, Alan Reeves, Geoff Hunt and Peter Rose. We first meet in June 2006 and on seven occasions afterwards.

It was soon decided that it would be a fitting celebration to re walk the original route of the first walk that took place 50 years earlier to the day, which luckily this year fell on a Saturday and then have the lunch on the Sunday so becoming the grand finale weekend.

I would like to give a personal thank you to all committee members who worked incredibly hard to make this weekend a great success and one not to forget.

We were posed with a logistical problem when organising the re walk because the original walk was over 10 miles in length, about 3 times longer than a Quiz Walk today.

We managed to shorten it slightly to about 9.5 miles by finding a more scenic way of descending the North Downs to Betchworth Station.

To maximise participation we decided to do two separate walks within one, encouraging those who couldn't do both walks to do one or the other.

Roger Heath organised the outward half which is almost 6 miles in length, to speed up this longer section no cryptic clues were to be set, only three token clues at Betchworth Station.

We also provided an alternative starting point from Margery Wood car park. For those who did not want to climb Colley Hill.

The return route from the Dolphin pub back the Reigate is just under 4 miles, organised by Alan Reeves & Geoff Hunt, this was an ideal length for making it a showcase Quiz walk which is exactly what they did.

To make walk a little quicker it was decided to have clues at land mark points rather than all the way around the route.

I would like to give the three of them a round of applause for their hard work and effort in making yesterday a great success.

The sub committee also decided to create the 50th Anniversary Walk Souvenir Edition, to give members a permanent memento of the events that took place 50 years ago and the reconstruction of yesterday's celebration walk.

Roger Abbott undertook the huge task of designing this booklet including all the photography and with the assistance of Roger Heath they worked many hours to complete it.

I then printed the copies on my Companies laser printer, my brother who has a printing background folded, stitched and trimmed the booklets.

These are completely an amateur creation, costing virtually nothing only people's time. So I would like to give a big thank you to all involved.

We have enjoyed some fabulous walks this year, through some of the country's finest countryside, personally I have not been able to attend many, as we have been busy raising the next generation of Quiz walkers.

I would like to thank all walk organisers and club officials who have worked very hard to make this 50th year special.

This lunch was organised by Roger Heath, the memorabilia displays by Roger Heath and Roger Abbott.

I would like to thank them once again for there hard work and effort to make this anniversary weekend a success.

The Christmas walk will be held on and organised by.....

Roger Heath's Speech

Awards and trophies

I am going to end with a quote from our booklet

Now for the next 50 years! But we mustn't be complacent, let's resolve in the future to do all we can as individuals to keep alive a unique pastime that has brought interest and pleasure to so many down the years. Thank you