

Sherry Walk

John Gymer, again, organised the Sherry Walk, which this year took place on 19th. December. There was some difficulty in sorting out a walk that didn't involve swimming or sinking in the mud, but he managed admirably; he didn't lose anyone. The mince pies, sausage rolls and the nice range of sherries provided at the halfway mark were very welcome and enjoyed by all.

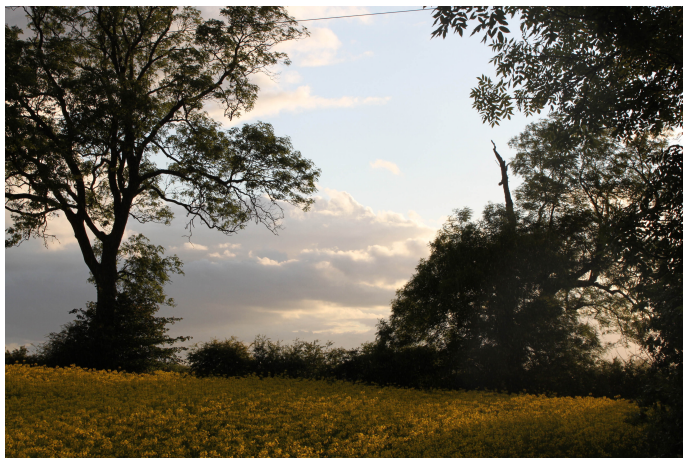


Alison and Pam just checking the Sherry.

Winter Dinner 2013

Di Weaver will be on the walk taking place on 16th. January. For those who will be on the walk also and wish to attend the Dinner, it will be a convenient time to give Di the money for the meal.

John Bushnell



An evening landscape taken on 16th. June, 2011, on a Summer Strollers walk in the Bascote / Long Itchington area, lead by Nigel Chapman.



Editorial

Our AGM was held on Friday, 7th. December. The attendance was better than last year, with 20 members, comprising mainly, committed Wednesday Walkers, with 6 apologies having been tendered.

The following is not the official minutes of the meeting, but a few notes to give an indication of events.

Colin, wearing his Chairman's hat, opened the meeting by welcoming the members. He expressed his concerns about the future of our group and outlined the possibilities as reported in our last newsletter, particularly the one regarding the transfer of our members to another group for administration purposes. No decisions were taken and the subject was left pending.

Each year Group Chairmen submit a report of their groups' activities to Warwickshire Area. Colin read out his area report, in which he described our activities and gave thanks to the members who carry out various tasks in support of our group. The full text can be found on page 19 of the Warwickshire Area Annual Report for the years 2011 – 2012. This document will accompany our Southam News and Views.

Ann Hayes presented the Treasurer's report, which showed that our finances were in a satisfactory state, with no cause for concern.

John Maughan then gave his Footpath Secretary's report. It had been a quiet year. A footpath in Harbury had been ploughed up, but the Council had been in touch with the farmer to have it restored before John could take action. Michael Bird, Area Footpath Secretary, had supplied John with maps, showing the proposed route of HS2 and where the rights-of-way paths crossed in our area and asked if we would identify the points and comment.

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This was done, including finding six crossings that HS2 claimed they could not. John thanked the volunteers, Alan White, John Gymer, Richard Lillystone, Bill Pease, John Bushnell and Nigel and Kath Chapman for their assistance.

Di Weaver submitted reports of walks throughout the year for inclusion in the "Southam Advertiser" and monitored the entry in its events section for publicity.

The Committee members and other officers were all re-elected. A vote of thanks was extended to Isobel Whittaker and John Bushnell for their particular contributions. The members and officers are listed below.

Chairman & Secretary	Colin Haywood, 44, Pendicke St., Southam, Warks. CV47 1PF	01926 812820
Treasurer	Ann Hayes	01926 813036
Footpath Sec	John Maughan	01926 612901
Publicity	Di Weaver *	01788 890383
Membership Sec	Janet Green	01926 814669
Social Sec	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Wednesday Walks	Richard Lillystone	01926 817529
Thursday Strollers	Bill Pease *	01926 813873
Area Council Rep	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Newsletter Editor	John Bushnell *	01296 814409

* Not a Committee member.

Under AOB, Di Weaver said that she was arranging our annual Winter Dinner again this year. It is to take place on 29th, January 2013 at The Countryman at Staverton. More details are given on the flyer which accompanies this newsletter. If you wish to attend, please let Di have your details and money according to the flyer.

Alan White asked if members would be interested in a "soups and puds" style lunch at the Barn Restaurant after the walk he is arranging on 27th. March 2013, in the Upper Stowe area. A significant number responded positively.

Colin, as Group Secretary, said that he had received a questionnaire from the Group Walks Development Officer to be completed for the Ramblers' 2012 Group Survey. He said that he would fill it in and return it as appropriate. There being no further business, Colin wished everyone a safe journey home, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

The distribution of the Newsletter to everyone will be by post, rather than some by e-mail for this Quarter. Warwickshire Area has supplied the groups with the "Annual Report and Accounts" as hard copy, together with all the

printed address labels, so it is more convenient to send all the documents by post. I intend sending as many as possible of the next issue by e-mail. Thank you to those who replied to my request for addresses. I note, that on the list of members that Janet Green receives from Area, there are more e-mail addresses available. I will be using these, unless you let me know that you do not want to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

It's a bit late to wish you a Happy Christmas, however, I hope you had a good one. I do wish you a Happy New Year and a good year's walking.

Soups and Puds Walk.

A "capacity crowd" of 37 members and friends turned up for the soups and puds on 21st. November, but, unfortunately, because of the awful weather and the absolutely sodden state of the fields, the walking had to be cancelled. Even though we were not able to work up an appetite, there was not a lot of the excellent food left over. It was a very pleasant social occasion and we all had a "good bit chat", as my friend, Richard, might say. The proceeds this year were sent to "Guide Dogs for the Blind". Our thanks go to Isobel for arranging the event and to Jackie for providing the food.



Everyone having a "good bit chat" at the Soups & Puds