

Wednesday Walks Programme – to 26 th . Jul. 2017				
Date	Leader	Location	Miles	Tel No
11 th Jan	Jeff Round	Charwelton	5	01926 817734
25 th Jan	Ann & Eric Forgan	Northend & Fenny Compton	5	01926 642334
8 th Feb	Alan White	Daventry	5	
22 nd Feb	Nigel & Kath Chapman	Braunston	4.5	01926 813765
8 th Mar	John Maughan	Chipping Warden	4.5	01926 612901
22 th Mar	Peter & Jay Webster	tba		01926 814063
5 th Apr				
12 th Apr	<i>John Gymer</i>	<i>Leamington</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>01926 813646</i>
19 th Apr	Heather Gerrard	Broughton Castle	5	
3 rd May	Bill Pease	Bilton & Cawston Woods Bluebell walk		01926 813873
17 th May				
31 st May				
14 th Jun	Jan & Fos Cooper	Princethorpe, Wappenbury & Eathorpe	4.8	01926 812008
28 th Jun				
12 th Jul	Linda Doyle / Kath & Nigel Chapman	Ladbroke		01926 813765
26 th Jul	Peter & Jay Webster	Frankton, Birdingbury & Draycote	4.3	01926 814063

Walks Programme Organiser :- Nigel Chapman Tel. No. 813765

All walks start at Wood Street car park at 9.30 am.

Please Note:

1. Leaders have full control and are responsible for all arrangements.
2. All members of the Ramblers' Association are welcome. Potential members are invited to attend two walks before membership application is necessary for continued Group activity.
3. Registered Assistance Dogs only are allowed on rambles.
4. Walks are subject to change if circumstances dictate.

Eric Forgan is now maintaining our website, www.ramblers.org.uk/southam, which includes an up to date walks programme. If you do not use a computer, then a phone call to Nigel or Kath Chapman will provide the up to date information.

Walks Expenses.

During the AGM, both Bill Pease and Nigel Chapman urged walk leaders to claim for expenses incurred on pre-walks. Fuel costs should be claimed at 28 pence per mile.



Southam AGM - 10th. November, 2016.

The following is not an official report of the meeting
The meeting, held at the Sports and Social Club in Southam, was opened by the Chairman. He welcomed the members who then took time in remembrance of Colin Haywood and his dedicated service to the group.

21 members attended and apologies were received from 12.

The minutes of the last AGM were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report.

Bill Pease first gave an appreciation of Colin Haywood's considerable contributions to the Ramblers, followed by a resumé of some of the Wednesday walks, commenting particularly on some of the "special" walks. He said the Thursday Strollers' walks had been more successful than in recent years, with some 30 different people walking with us over the season. The weather allowed all of the walks to take place, but one walk revealed problems with SM31 and SM32. John Maughan is on the case!

The full text of Bill's report can be read in the Area Annual Report for 2016.

Treasurer's Report.

Ann Hayes presented her report on the financial activity for the year. We spent a small amount more than the funding that we received from Group. This is of no concern as there is more than adequate money in the main account.
We have a Social Account which was derived from week-ends away and subs that members used to pay for each walk. The National Committee have instructed groups that they should have only one account. After a committee discussion, it was suggested that the Social account could be used to subsidise the annual dinner for members only, which was agreed at the meeting.
Members thanked Ann for her work as Treasurer.

Footpath Secretary's Report.

John Maughan gave a detailed resumé of the enquiries and problems raised over the past year. He received a report on the Pathwatch survey, which included a

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footpath diversion, 80SM143, at Hill Farm, Fenny Compton. John was asked to check and found that the diversion was better than the original. More detail can be seen on the Website - maps.warwickshire.gov.uk/rightsofway/ (then path numbers).

Ron Large, ex Southam Rambler, ex Footpath Sec., reported a problem on SM52 near The Folly Inn, Napton. Warwickshire team's solution is to build a bridge over the deep ditch and charge the land owner. (If given approval).

Southam will give its support to the Ramblers' objection to Burston Dallas' planning application for 700 dwellings, 99 care units, an 80 bed care home, a primary school and a 100-bed hotel.

Bloor Homes arranged a signposted diversion to S33 after Bill Pease complained that their building activity had blocked the path.

At Southam Holt the paths, SM32/SM31, have not been reinstated and waymarkers are missing. A footpath officer is monitoring and Alan White volunteered to contact Mrs. Moore. Southam will support a recommendation to join up three paths at Lighthorne Heath. SM69, SM69A should align with Feldon cycleway E6071.

The RA recommends that each group should have a volunteer path maintenance team. We don't have one. We need a volunteer to join Alan White on a short course in order to form a team. If there is anyone who can help, please contact John Maughan.

Southam Parish Council has not had a footpath officer for the last 15 years, whereas Long Itchington is still active. Bill to ask questions.

The members thanked John and showed their appreciation.

Wednesday Walks Report.

Nigel Chapman commented on walks that had taken place during the year and also on some to come. The "special" walks that were previously built in to the programme will not be a feature in the future. If a member wishes to organize a special, the details can be given to Nigel who will then add them to the programme. Two such walks are already entered, one to Leamington and another for a day in the Cotswolds. It will be seen that the current, regular programme is incomplete. Nigel said that he has to send out appeals for volunteers periodically, but fortunately, so far, the gaps have been filled in time.

He thanked those who had organized walks during the past year.

Members thanked Nigel for his hard work over the year.

Membership Sec.

Janet Green reported that we had lost two members in the year 2015/2016, but had had new members joining, so that the overall number to date is 88.

Publicity and Newsletter.

Di Weaver continues to submit reports of our walks to the Southam and District Advertiser. The one about our walk from Preston Capes resulted in enquiries on how to join the group.

John Bushnell's efforts in producing the newsletter were appreciated.

Members thanked Di and John and showed their appreciation in the usual way.

Election of Officers

Although Bill Pease stood down to allow members to elect someone else, none came forward and the current committee was re-elected. The list of officers is as shown in the newsletter issue 83 and dated March 2016.

Any other Business.

Ann Forgan and Margaret McAuley indicated an interest in representing Southam at the quarterly Area meetings and undertook to give a decision in time for the Area AGM taking place on 4th. Feb. 2017. They have now confirmed that they will attend. If any member has an item which could be included in a Southam Ramblers' Group archive, please contact Joan Foweather.

Di Weaver agreed to arrange our Group Dinner at the Countryman at Staverton, which was the member's choice of venue. See below for more details.

Isobel Whittaker and John Gymer were thanked for organising the Soups and Puds and the Sherry Walk, respectively.

Nigel Chapman said, in future, he will include leaders' mobile telephone numbers in the programme to aid possible late arrivers on walks. He also has a lot of data on walks; OS maps, leaflets, written instructions, etc., which aspiring leaders are welcome to look at for inspiration.

Eric Forgan has begun a register of walks, past and present, with maps. Bill Pease and Eric agreed to liaise on this.

Date and Venue of next AGM

To be held at the Sports and Social Club in School Street, Southam, on Thursday, 2nd. November, 2017.

Group Dinner

The Dinner will be at The Countryman at Staverton on Wednesday, 15th. March, 2017, 7-30pm for 8-00pm. The cost for members is subsidised and will be £15. For non-members, it will be £20. Please see the accompanying flyer for the menu and ordering procedure.

Thursday Strollers

As Bill Pease has increased his work load as our group Chairman, he is asking for a volunteer to take on the organisation of the programme for the Thursday evening walks. If you can spare some time and can help, please contact Bill, who, I am sure, will be very pleased to explain what is involved.

Soups and Puds.

After the walk from Birdingbury on the 16th of November 2016, Jackie and Isobel again conspired to provide us with an excellent range of soups, puddings and cheeses to satisfy our appetites, heightened by our walk. We had been advised that the club staff would not be able to provide a bar this year so that we should take our own fruit juice or mineral water. I noticed that several members, like me, took water flavoured with hops and malt. The proceeds were again given to a charity. Thank you, Isobel and Jackie, for a lovely day out.

Sherry Walk.

Our walk this year was on 14th. December and ably led by Jeff Round, who was able to step into the breach when, unfortunately, John Gymer had a fall in his garden and broke his arm. It didn't prevent John and his wife providing the very welcome hot mince pies and sausage rolls, together with an excellent punch. It set us up perfectly for the walk back to Southam. Our thanks to Jeff, John and his wife, not forgetting the other helpers, for a very satisfying event. I would like to add my personal thanks and appreciation for arranging the gluten free pies.

We wish John a swift recovery and an early return to walking.