

Southam & District Ramblers Wednesday Walks Programme Winter 2018

Date	Leader	Location	Dist (miles)	Tel No
07/Feb	Bill Burton	Kenilworth	4	07917 517310
21/Feb	John Gymer	Wappenbury	4.5	01926 813646
07/Mar	Fos & Jan Cooper	Cawston	4.8	01926 812008
21/Mar	Kath & Nigel Chapman*	Holmes House & Bishops Itchington	4.2	01926 813765
04/Apr	Bill Pease	Bretford & Brandon	4.8	01926 813873
18/Apr	Peter & Jay Webster	Upper Boddington & Priors Hardwick	3.76	01926 813765
02/May	Heather Gerrard & Denise Nunn	Shutford	4.5	
09/May	John Gymer	Southam to Leamington	3,6 or 9 miles	01926 813646
16/May	Dave & Sandra Gillard	Stockton & Tomlow		01926 813765
30/May	Kath & Nigel Chapman*	Marston Dots & Napton	3.57	01926 813765
13/Jun	John Bushnell	TBA	5	01926 814409
20/Jun	John Gymer	All day Special		01926 813646

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.

You will note that Kath and Nigel Chapman have put their names down for several walks. They have the routes sorted, but they would be very, very grateful if someone could volunteer to take on the walks marked with an asterisk. They would fall over themselves to provide the details. Please volunteer if you could help out.

Annual Dinner will be held at the Bell at Ladbroke on 22nd. March. Further details will be sent out by gmail in due course. The event is for members and their guests. Those members, who may be interested and do not have access to the web, should phone Margaret on 01788 817136 for the information.



Richard Lillystone Richard joined the Ramblers in 2003 and has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the group. He was our Wednesday Walks Organiser for a number of years and somehow always managed to persuade members to commit to a full programme. He has decided to let his membership lapse, although not quite to "hang up his boots", in that he has offered to help with pre-walks, if you ask nicely. We will miss his cheery smile and cheerful company. We offer him our sincere thanks for his service to the group and wish him the very best for the future.



Southam and District Group News and Views

ISSUE No.87

DATE Feb 2018

Southam and District Group AGM

Our 32nd. AGM was held on 22nd. November, 2017 at Southam's Sports and Social Club. 25 members were in attendance with 3 apologies tendered. The following is a brief account of the proceedings.

Our Chairman, Bill Pease, opened the meeting, welcoming the members and giving a special welcome to Bill Burton, the Warwickshire Area Group Secretary and Liaison Officer, who joined us. Copies of the minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated before the meeting. They were taken as read and signed by our Chairman.

Ann Hayes introduced her **Treasurer's Report**, which showed there was little change from last year. Cash in Hand was down, due mainly to walk leaders claiming expenses, as they have been encouraged so to do. Copies of the report giving full information were distributed prior to the presentation. Thanks were given to Ann for her work and for arranging the auditing of the books.

John Maughan gave his **Footpath Secretary's Report**, which indicated a deal of work in resolving problems and enquiries from ramblers and other Southam residents. The problems included a large fallen tree near the Holywell, which took six weeks for the Council to fix; missing path signs at Southam Holt - now reinstalled; path diversion at Chesterton Wood-not yet resolved; liaison with Mary Stevens of the British Horse Society regarding HS2 problems; path S85 blocked by farmer-resolved by the Council; proposal for 175 houses near the Holywell – insufficient grounds for the Ramblers to object officially and a 12 months old "temporary" restriction to path SM33 leading to Ladbroke – resolved by Bill Pease contacting the builder who erected it.

Other information is that path problems can be reported to Warwickshire CC via the internet, but please let John know as well. Also, **Mike Bird**, the Area Footpath Secretary, has asked to be informed regarding footpaths through new building sites, which have been changed to cycle paths. The concern is that speeding cyclists and walkers is not a desirable combination. Members thanked John for his continued hard work on behalf of the group.

Nigel Chapman opened his **Wednesday Walks Report** saying that the walks had been well attended, with numbers normally in the twenties, and that they have been well planned by the leaders, covering varied locations.

Last year's (2016) Soups 'n Puds event was very successful, as usual, and our grateful thanks go to the organisers, Jackie Westwood and Isobel Whittaker. (The 2017 event took place on 13th. December, see details below).

The Sherry Walk was also well attended and equally successful; a big thank you to John and Pauline Gymer for organising and hosting it. The special walks were to Leamington and in the Cotswolds; both well supported. Our thanks again to John Gymer and also Jeff Round.

Thanks, also, to members on the Napton walk (dedicated to Children in Need) and the walk on 1st. December, when a total of £130 was collected for the charity. If anyone wishes to add to this, Kath will be happy to send it on to CIN.

We have received and will circulate new Walks Leaders' booklets and ICE (emergency) cards which should be carried on walks.

It was proposed that if a walk had to be cancelled, it could be walked the following week, subject to the leaders' availability. This was agreed. Notification will be given by Nigel via our gmail facility.

Display boards showing pictures and text explaining our activities were available in the room to see, in advance, the presentation we made at the John Turner exhibition on 4th. November at the High School in order to encourage new members.

Thanks go to Eric and Ann for all their hard work on the group's behalf.

Attention was drawn to the fact that we used to have Winter and Summer walks programmes. We have a rolling list because sufficient members do not volunteer to lead walks or commit to locations. Nigel has no other option. Richard resigned the post because of the difficulty in obtaining support. The Harry Green Way is no longer walked because the team that organised it, Southam's "Sunday Walkers", disbanded. Members thanked Nigel for his hard work over the year.

Eric Forgan will be posting route maps of this year's walks on the web site.

Unfortunately, the site does not allow down-loading; owners of a suitable app can and subscribers to Country Walking can obtain OS maps from their website.

The group joined in a vote of thanks to Eric.

The **Membership Report** showed that we had 77 paying members, of which some 45 were walking members. It also revealed that Janet Green is our longest serving member with 32 years; Heather joined in 1990 and 60% of members are ladies.

Janet had previously stood down as Membership Secretary but remains a committee member. Bill repeated his request for a volunteer to take on the task, but there were no takers. He will continue to cover the work hoping that a volunteer will come forward soon.

Thanks were given to Janet for her long years of service to the group.

Publicity and Newsletter. John Bushnell sent his apologies as, due to increasing deafness, he is not able to contribute to a group meeting. He is prepared to continue editing the newsletter and would be very grateful for any photographs, personal views or items of interest that members could send for inclusion.

Di Weaver also sent apologies, but continues with her reports of our walks in the District Advertiser, which is distributed locally, to encourage new walkers to join us, which is also the purpose of having our stand at the John Turner Festival.

Members thanked Di and John for their continued effort which is much appreciated.

The **Chairman's Report** has two parts. The first can be read in the Warwickshire Area Annual Report, which is delivered with the newsletter. In the second, Bill said that although he had been on only two walks this year, his Chairman's duties had kept him well occupied. Much of what he would have said had already been covered in the previous reports. He went on to thank all of the committee and non-committee officers for their work, not forgetting all the leaders for their contributions. He gave special thanks to Janet Green for serving as Membership Sec. for such a long time and pointed out that she was the only one to have been a member since the group's formation. He hoped that Nigel would have more volunteer leaders so that no-one need lead more than two walks a year, unless they wished to.

Election of Committee. The current members and officers were formally re-elected. There are vacancies for Membership Secretary, Thursday Strollers Organiser and Area Council Rep. Eric Forgan was included on the list as Web Master and non-committee member.

Bill Burton. Warwick Area Group Secretary and Liaison Officer, said that although Southam is a small group we had a strong turn-out for the AGM. He recommended that we have a representative(s) to attend the Area Group and Annual General Meetings for the extra information they provide. Ann Forgan is considering attending the Area AGM, which is taking place on 27th. June, 2018 at Sutton Coldfield.

Any Other Business. John Gymer drew attention to difficulties related to the different walking speeds when a large group was on a walk. He suggested that the group could be split into two, so that each could walk at its own preferred pace. Alan White expressed concern about walkers being careless about their own safety when on roads. They should walk facing the traffic and in single file.

Bill Burton said this was a problem found in all rambling groups.

Eric Forgan proposes setting up a WhatsApp Group for Smart Phone users, to give last minute information on cancellations, etc. He will send an email and assess the response. Nigel will continue to send the information by gmail.

Date and Venue of Next AGM. The next AGM will take place on 1st. November, 2018 at the Southam Sports and Social Club

The Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9-25 pm

I'm sure that all the members will join me in giving a big thank you to Bill and Joan for all their hard work throughout the year.

Soups and Puds took place on 13th. December, 2017 and, as always, was very successful, with, I'm sure, good company, good food and a chance for a good natter. £66-60 was donated to Global Care, a Christian organisation training teachers to educate children in the Sudan, supported by St. Leonard's Church, Birdingbury. Our thanks to Isobel, Jacky and Di Weaver, who led the walk.

The **Sherry Walk** was on 20th. December. We had a lovely walk, an excellent hot punch accompanied by hot sausage rolls and mince pies at the half way point. Our thanks to Bob and Margaret, who were the organisers this year. I add my special thanks for Bob, who went on a trek to find gluten free rolls and pies, They made my day.