



Southam and District Group News and Views

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Southam Group AGM.

The following are informal notes of events and not the official minutes. Our AGM was held on 6th. December, 2013. Colin Haywood opened the proceedings at 8-00 pm and welcomed those attending. There were 21 members present and 4 apologies.

The Minutes of the 2012 AGM were taken as read.

Ann Hayes presented her Treasurer's report which showed that the finances were healthy. Ann said that money was available and that walk leaders should be encouraged to claim expenses on pre-walks. Alan White gave a vote of thanks for Anne's report and her work during the year.

John Maughan gave his Footpath Secretary's report, commenting on the Area activity on the proposed wind farm at Wormleighton. He also referred to the proposal for 81 homes at Gaydon; the development at Plough Lane, Bishop's Itchington; the large proposed development at Lighthorne and the well publicised one at the Holywell. All of which were considered to have insufficient impact on walkers for the Ramblers' Association to make a valid objection. John advised us that the re-routing of a path at Napton had been accepted by the RA, as had the proposal for solar panels at Depper's Bridge. A report has been sent to Warks CC regarding the alteration by a farmer of the line of a footpath by some 20 yards. The blocking of the path, SM85, at Bishop's Itchington has been referred to the Enforcement Officer for investigation. Finally, a man, who is not an RA member, has sent a report to WCC about dangerous dogs on SM 17 at Green Farm, Stockton.

For publicity, Di Weaver sends reports of walks regularly for inclusion in the "Advertiser". Di's proposal for our annual dinner was discussed and approved.

Richard Lillystone had previously announced that he would be standing down as Wednesday Walks Organiser. Fortunately Nigel Chapman had agreed to stand. He was proposed by Richard, seconded by John Bushnell and voted in unanimously. There were no volunteers for Social Secretary or Area Representative, but all of the other officers agreed to continue. Alan White gave a vote of thanks to Richard for his efforts in organising the walks over the last six years.

Colin's Chairman's Report to Area is published in the Area Annual Report, a copy of which accompanies your "News and Views".

Colin thanked Isobel Whittaker and John Bushnell for their efforts in support of our Group.

Under "Other Business", Colin advised that the Area AGM is on 14th. February, 2014 at Hampton-in-Arden. Full details are in the Area Annual Report.

Bill Pease proposed that the Group purchased two pairs of heavy duty secateurs for use when reconnoitring walks. It was approved.

Bob McCauley suggested that we purchased a "Dog deterrent". It was agreed to pursue it.

Alan White proposed that we purchase a hand held Sat-nav instrument. He had investigated and obtained leaflets illustrating his recommendation. After significant discussion it was agreed by 16 votes to 4 to proceed with the purchase of a device from Satmap Systems Ltd., for £434-45.

Colin wished everyone a Happy Christmas and enjoyable walking in the New Year. The meeting closed at 9-35 pm.

Angie Bull



Angie writes:-

"Dear Fellow Members,
It is with some sadness that I have decided to 'hang up' my walking boots for the 5 mile walks. I hope to do some smaller walks which do not pose any problems for me. I have made so many friends, past and present, and thank you all for your help, especially in later years in getting over the styles. I have some wonderful memories of the social side of the club and also the 'giggles' on many walks. I wish the club success in all you do and hope to meet up with you all from time to time.

A very grateful member,
Angie Bull"

We will miss you, Angie; your company, your giggles and your smile. We wish you the very best

for the future and look forward to seeing you from time to time

John Bushnell

Soups 'n Puds.

Isobel Whittaker again organised what has become our annual soups and puds walk for 9th. October 2013. We had a full turn out and good walking weather for the walk from Birdingbury to Long Itchington, unlike 2012 when the countryside was awash. On our return, we meet up with the non-walkers to enjoy the excellent fare that, as usual, was provided by Jackie. The charity to benefit this year was the the 'African Oyster Trust Gambia'.

Our grateful thanks go to Isobel and Jackie for yet another enjoyable day out.

Well, we've got the walking sticks, but I don't think we look that old!
Smiling members anticipating the food at the end of the Soups 'n Puds walk.



Angie and Ray, who also hung up his boots recently, obviously enjoyed the soups 'n puds.

Sherry Walk

John Gymer again organised the walk. It took place on the 18th. December and we walked from Stockton to Long Itchington, where John and his wife did us proud. We had sherry, hot punch, hot mince pies and hot sausage rolls – wonderful. Unfortunately, I don't have any photographs – I was too busy eating (and drinking). Many thanks too them both for a highly enjoyable morning.

Winter Dinner

Di Weaver has arranged for our Winter Dinner to be held at the King's Head at Napton on 27th. February, 2014. The full details, including the menu, are on the accompanying flier. If you would like to attend, could you please complete and detach the counterfoil at the bottom of the flier and let Di have it with the money by 20th. February.