

Notes on Area Council Meeting- Saturday, 6th. June, 2010.

(Held at Friends Meeting House, Westgate, Warwick)

The Footpath Department is undergoing a review. One staff member will be made redundant and the Department is to become controlled by the Divisional Engineer. Footpath reports, complaints and queries are to be e-mailed. Only one footpath diversion was discussed; a new bridge over the railway at Shustoke. (Birmingham-Leicester-Peterborough – East Coast Line) The rail company intends to replace level crossings with a bridge, causing an extra 386 metres walking. The meeting voted to object by 10 votes to 7. The motion was not supported by Southam as the extra distance was considered relatively negligible.

The Treasurer reported that the bank balance was £1400; the reserves were now spent, complying with the Head Office policy diktat. Branches are requested to submit the Budgeting Packs by 16th. To 31st. July.

There was a vote taken on the formation of a 40-50 group, 20-4 (Southam against on grounds of “ageism”; no account taken of ability, preferences, e.g. 45 – still fit and wishing to walk with younger friends in the 30-40 group. How long before 60-70 and so on? (Goodbye 71?)).

The Packington estate has conceded at last to recognise a path that has existed since 1930.

General Council meeting 2013 – please think about it!

Next Area meeting 11th. September, 2010.

Mike Ridley.



The Obelisk – The Welcombe Hills. You can just see the Ramblers gathering



Southam and District Group News and Views

ISSUE NO 66

JUN 2010

Editorial

I must apologise for the lateness in issuing this quarter's news letter; the fault is entirely mine. I have kept putting it off, I suppose, because I can't think of anything interesting to write about. What with shopping trips; holidays; the bedding plants to put out; lawn mowing, scarifying and fertilizing; hospital appointments to keep; the World Cup and Wimbledon to watch, there always seems to be a reason, I convince myself, (however flimsy) to be doing something else.

I am, therefore, very grateful for contributions from Di Weaver and Mike Ridley, supported with photographs from John Smith.

Web Site

The fact that Southam and District Ramblers do not have a website has been commented on previously. Now, although we still do not have our own site, we have our walks programme on “www.southamnews.org”. To access it, go to the website and select “Diary and What's on” from the main menu on the left hand side. A monthly diary appears with all the events on it; it's possible to scroll through, month by month to find the full published programme. It seems that we could also add any notices that we wished to publicise.

Di Weaver “reporting on three very pleasant walks”

(Via the “District Advertiser”).

The first, on 28 April, was from Lighthorne, a five miler on a cool but dry day. Parking is a problem here so for the sake of this report, I will start off at the village green. Leave going West towards Church Hill Farm. At the end of the lane, take the footpath that goes through the grounds of Northbrook House, going South to Westfield farm over nice pasture land. On meeting the road,

The Ramblers' Association is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company registration no; 4458492. Registered charity in England and Wales no; 1093557. Registered office; 2nd. Floor, Camelford House, 87-90, Albert Embankment, London. SE1 7TW

go straight over and follow the bridle road past Banister's Meadow farm; keep to the right hand bridle road, over some quite rough arable land. We were going to do this walk in the winter, but it proved to be far too muddy, so it's really just a Spring or Summer ramble. Keep going until you meet the Kinton road. You have a lovely view of Compton Verney ahead of you. At the road, turn left and after a few yards, turn left again, on the bridle road past Dryclose Coppice; keep going to Lower Pool and on past Upper Pool. When you get to Poolfield Coppice, go North via the bridle road, then the footpath up to the road; turn right at the sharp left hand bend in the road, taking the track to Bishop's Gorse. Then follow the footpath which takes you to Newbold farm, the road to the village and back to your transport.



Members having a refreshment break in the sheltered sunshine near Upper Pool

On the May Bank Holiday, we again celebrated our founder by walking the Harry Green Way, under the guidance of Bob Dodd. This year we split the walk into two days; Saturday 1st. and Sunday 2nd. I walked the first day (12½ miles). The weather forecast was not good, so we left Wood Street with waterproofs, etc., etc., but we were blessed with fine dry weather all the way. The first day was from Southam to Harbury, via Ufton; (coffee stop at the railway cutting) Bishop's Itchington; Ladbroke (lunch in the playing field) then on to the Southam/Priors Marston road and back to Southam. Pam pointed out that eight had started out, but that only five returned, the reason being that three of the group had gone on to complete the whole 21 miles in one day, arriving back in Southam at about 6'o clock in the evening. Sunday, weather wise, was awful; I had other fish to fry, but the brave few turned out to finish the last twelve miles.

On Wednesday, 12th. May, eighteen of us, under Mike's guidance, followed

the Jim Watson walk from Radway to Rately and back. Another lovely day, but the wind was still with us all the way. I have been suffering from dreadful hay fever, caused by all the fields of yellow rape flower around my village, so I was very glad to be up on the hills, away from the potent flower. Both of these villages are a delight to walk around and the views Northward are magnificent.

Di Weaver

Rambler's 75th. Anniversary.

Following our walk from Snitterfield to the Obelisk in the Wellcombe Hills Country Park, Southam and District was represented by a small but vociferous band at the 75th. Birthday Picnic on Sunday, May 23rd. When asked to announce our presence, we gave such a shout as to convince most others that we had indeed brought along many more, who were hiding in the long grass! The day was warm, 240 Ramblers were gathered, 40 – 50 from some of the larger groups; it's easy for them, though, isn't it? (Downhill from Brum and a cooling, following breeze!)

Ted and Keith were doing a charity walk elsewhere, so, lacking our regular pacesetters, we (regretfully?) declined to complete the full stretch. The unaccustomed heat and recent exertions on the bowling green and/or garden combined to propel us, rather laboriously, back to Snitterfield, very pleased to be able to collapse, fittingly, at the War Memorial, while John and Eileen collected the car: our thanks to them for the transport and to Colin for enabling us to mark the occasion.

Mike Ridley



At the Picnic; Eileen, Colin and Mike in the foreground; any more were in the long grass! (except for John, taking the photograph).