

A Wednesday Walk

The 17th of February saw 12 members leaving Wood Street car park at 9.30 am. On their way to Middle Tysoe. The weather was not at all promising, but the clothing we wore kept us warm and ready to take on the journey under Richard Lillystone's leadership!

From Tysoe, we took the bridle way, South-West from Home Farm, gradually climbing up the side of Edge Hill. As the large snowflakes started to fall, we entered a small wood and continued uphill until we came to a concreted area. This was where they stored the Shennington Airfield planes during World War 2. We then crossed the road to the industrial site, keeping to the right, past Sugarswell Farm and carrying on, crossing the old airfield runways, to Shennington village. We then turned left, over a post and rail fence, passing the ancient quarry that was evident by the huge steps cut out of the hillside. We travelled North-West to join the Macmillan Way on the Upton House Estate. We continued West until we joined the Centenary Way at Old Lodge Farm. We decided to change the walk slightly, taking the track to Hopkin's Farm, because the field paths were too muddy. This route took us back onto the road at Upper Tysoe, where we turned left and back to the cars. The snow was a bit of a worry at the start, however, by the time we had finished the 5.2 miles, the sun was pushing through the clouds. We all agreed we had enjoyed ourselves and Richard said he would lead the walk again in the Summer, so why not come and join us?



Mike telling the Boss what he thought of the weather!

Di Weaver



Mike, negotiating permission from the horses to open the gate on his walk around Tadmarton, on the 3rd of February, 2010.



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Editorial

Our AGM was held on 12th. February, 2010, after having been postponed from 8th. January, due to problems at Craven Lane Hall (the old Welfare hut), caused by the bad weather.

Colin Haywood opened the proceedings by welcoming the new Area Secretary, Ian Wilkinson, and his wife, to the meeting and introducing Linda Doyle. Last year, you may remember, Linda gave us a very interesting talk about the origins of Southam and the history of the manor house (now Taylor's Pharmacy). This year, we were treated to an equally interesting talk, illustrated with photographs, showing what Southam was like at the beginning of the twentieth century. Certain areas have changed significantly, but quite a lot of the town is easily recognizable from the early photos. When I came to Southam in 1975, there was a garage on the site where Budgen's is now, so I was surprised to learn that, previously, it had been the site of "The Blue Pig", yet another pub in Southam. A pub crawl in those days must have been a wonderful thing! It was nice to see what the Old Rectory looked like and exactly where the Public Weighbridge was on Market Hill. Our thanks to Linda for another fascinating talk.

The meeting continued with a presentation of Colin's report to Area, details of which appeared in the December 2009 issue of "News and Views".

We welcomed our new Treasurer, Ann Hayes, who kindly volunteered to take over from Lis Kirkwood at the end of September. John Maughan was elected for the vacant Footpath Secretary's post and since Colin Haywood has effectively been carrying out the function of Chairman for some time, he agreed to become officially our Chairman. There were no nominations for the post of Social Secretary, but Di Weaver volunteered to arrange the Annual Dinner later in the year. All of the other officers agreed to continue with their

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duties. We extend our thanks to the Committee and the others who will ensure that the Southam and District Group will continue for another year. Ian Wilkinson thanked us for his invitation to attend our meeting and gave us kind words of encouragement. He noted that we didn't have a Website and offered to try to find a volunteer to act as Webmaster. Isabel Whittaker was thanked for her work in preparing and printing the programme and the distribution of the Newsletter.

Website for Southam & District Group.

It seems that Southam is the only group in the Warwickshire area without a Website. It is suggested that we may attract new members and keep our existing members better informed, by making details of our activities available on-line. Is there any member willing to maintain a web-page, or better still, to design and maintain one? If so could you please contact Colin?

Get Walking Day.

As part of the celebrations for the 75th. Anniversary of the creation of The Ramblers Association, Sunday, 23rd. May, 2010, has been declared "Get Walking Day". To mark the occasion, Warwickshire Area is arranging a picnic. Each of the 12 groups is organizing its own walk to arrive at the Obelisk on the Wellcome Hills at 12.30pm. There will be no speeches or media intrusions; just enjoy your food and chat to like-minded people. Colin Haywood is arranging our walk, details of which, can be seen on the new Walks Programme. Please come along; it should be a nice day out.

Snippet.

It may be of interest to you that a 50 acre native woodland, consisting of poplar, hazel, wild cherry, field maple, dog rose and guelder rose, is planned for Long Itchington. It will extend from the top of Thorn Way across to Bickley's Bridge on the canal and on the South side of the canal, as far as Bascote Road.

It is hoped that, in addition to the existing footpath from Thorn Way to the canal road bridge by the Cuttle Inn, some new, permissive footpaths will be created. Something to look forward to! Planting is due to start in early Spring.

Pam Bunker

Bereavement.

It is my sad task to report the passing of Joe Grant, another early member of Southam Ramblers. He was an active member in all aspects of Rambling in the early days and an eager participant in the social activities in later years. He died on 19th. January, 2010 and his funeral was on 26th. February. Our deepest sympathy goes to his relatives and friends.

Joe Grant
1925 – 2010



A Winter Walk

On Wednesday, 6th. January, 2010, the snow lay about 4 inches deep, with the threat of more on the way. Three intrepid (or foolhardy?) members turned up at Wood Street car park for the walk planned to start at Lighthorne. However, because of the uncertainty of the road conditions, it was decided to walk locally. Thus, we set off across the fields towards New Zealand farm,



Richard, John & John, with Very Rosy Cheeks After the Stop at the Crown

until we reached the Harry Green Way between Napton and Stockton. There we turned left and after some time, found ourselves in the bar at the Crown in Stockton. Following suitable sustenance, we made our back over the fields to Southam, where we all agreed we had had a grand day out. We learned later that the landlord had wondered whether we would make it back!



I'd normally rub in meths and sand; the little beggars get roaring drunk and stone each other to death.

Curious goings-ons between Wednesday walkers, photographed by Mike Newsome on a walk from Hampton Lucy on 28th. October, 2009, led by John Maughan.