

left and walked for half a mile along it. We took the footpath signed to the right, opposite a farm drive. Going uphill on a lovely grass field, we arrived at Fawsley, near to the lake and church.

Going right handed, we crossed to a footpath gate and turned North, going up a long hill to the top of the skyline to Badby Woods along the Knightley Way.

This old track-way goes from Green's Norton in Northamptonshire through Fawsley and on to Offchurch Bury in Warwickshire, celebrating the Knightley family, who had homes in all three places and connections with Lady Godiva. Arriving at the wood which looked very bare and wintry, we followed the signs that took us out by the lovely village church on the hill.

This walk was approximately six miles long. If we walked it again, I think it would be better in the opposite direction. Not only would you get the beautiful views over Fawsley and beyond from the top of the long hill and whilst descending, but the hilly part of the walk would be completed, leaving the easy- going flat -section along the Nene Way for the end of the walk.

Di Weaver



Mike and Richard pausing to enjoy the scenery during our pre-walk around Cropredy on 20th. October, 2010

John Bushnell



Southam and District Group News and Views

ISSUE No. 69

DATE: MAR 2011

Editorial

This is the first issue of the News to include the walks programme. As you probably will recall, John and Isobel Whittaker are not able to continue printing and distributing the programme. I am putting it on the first page hoping that it will be easier to refer to. Bob Dodd has found that he will not be able to lead the Summer Strollers' walks this year. Fortunately, other members have volunteered to lead a walk each; the programme is on the following page.

MID-WEEK WALKS PROGRAMME

All walks take place on Wednesdays, starting from Wood Street car park on dates indicated, at 9.30 am., unless stated differently below

Date	Area	Miles	Leader	Tel No
30 Mar 11	Frankton	5.2	Richard Lillystone	01926 817529
13 Apr 11	Hellidon	5	Alison Cragg	01926 817516
27 Apr 11	Wolvey	5	Bob McAully	01788 817136
11 May 11	Winwick		Polly Truslove	
25 May 11	Eydon	5	John Bushnell	01926 814409
8 Jun 11	Ettington	5	Heather Gerrard	01926 814226
22 Jun 11	TBA		John Gymer	01926 813646
6 Jul 11	Ratley	5	Mike Newsham	01926 813621
20 Jul 11	TBA		Bill Pease	01926 813873
3 Aug 11	Chipping Warden	5	John Maughan	01926 612901
17 Aug 11	Weedon	5.3	Di Weaver	01788 890383
31 Aug 11	Crick	5	Joan Foweather	01926 812703
14 Sep 11	Priors Marston	5.2	Alan White	01327 311078
28 Sep 11	Southam	5	Isobel Whittaker	01926 814234

Organised by Richard Lillystone

Tel. No. 01926 817529

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; Second Floor, Camelford House, 87-90, Albert Embankment, London. SE1 7TW

SOUTHAM SUMMER STROLLERS

Thursday Evenings

The walks will start at 7.00 p.m. from Wood Street Car Park

Date	Area of Walk	Miles	Leader	Tel No
5th May	Southam Holt	3	Janet Green	01926 814669
19th May	Ufton Woods	4	Alison Cragg	01926 817516
2nd June	Ladbroke	4	John Bushnell	01926 814409
16th June	Long Itchington/Bascote	5	Nigel Chapman	01926 813765
30th June	Stockton/Long Itchington	5	John Gymer	01926 813646
14th July	Bascote	4	Richard Lillystone	01926 817529
28th July	New Zealand/Stockton	4	Bob McAulley	01788 817136
11th August	Stoneythorpe Estate	3	Mike New sham	01926 813621

Organised by Bill Pease

Tel No 01926 813873

For walk leaders, Bob Dodd is available for assistance regarding the walk routes. Tel 01926 812381

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. Dogs are not allowed on rambles.
4. Walks are subject to change if circumstances dictate.

Our thanks are given to John and Isobel Whittaker for producing the walks programmes and distributing it together with the "Walker" and the Group newsletter over the last five years, or so, and to Bob Dodd for organising and leading the Summer Strollers walks for the last twenty.

It is my painful task to report a bereavement.



Mike Ridley passed away unexpectedly in the early morning of 25th. February, 2011. Mike joined Southam Ramblers in 1998 and has been a very active member, both walking and leading walks on Sundays and Wednesdays. He was also our representative on the Area Council. He had a lively interest in the countryside and had a wide knowledge of wild flowers and trees. He could usually be found at the back of the group, inspecting something unusual or a rare plant. He and I had similar interests and I always enjoyed talking to him. He was interred at the Sun Rising Natural Burying Ground, near Tysoe, at 11.30 on 17th. Mar., 2011. The ceremony was well attended by family and friends, including many in the

Mike, in a pensive mood on a walk from Hampton Lucy, in late October, 2009

Ramblers. It was more a celebration of Mike's life than a mourning of his passing. His close relatives related humorous anecdotes from his life, but Mike had the last laugh; the hole wasn't quite big enough and had to be enlarged before he could be laid to rest. I'm sure I could hear Mike having a chuckle. He will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy goes to Margaret and his close family.

John Bushnell

Southam Ramblers on the Web

The walks programme and any other current notices can be viewed via computer by visiting <http://southamnews.org/ramblers>, with or without www.

Area Council Meetings.

These take place four times a year. The dates for 2011 are:

Saturday, March 12th.

Saturday, June 4th.

Saturday, September 10th.

Saturday, December 3rd.

Janet Green and John Maughan, usually attend these meetings, together with Mike Ridley, who was our official representative. The meetings are open to all members, but if there is anyone who is free on the remaining dates and is prepared to volunteer to take Mike's place, please let Colin Haywood know. We would all be very grateful.

At the March meeting the problems relating to the cuts in the Warwick Council's budget for the Countryside Access Team was discussed. Warwick Council plans to downsize the Team, which will seriously affect footpath improvement and maintenance. We are urged to sign a petition, opposing the cuts to the Team's budget. The petition can be viewed by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/warwick-paths>. Janet reports that there was also a very interesting talk giving the case against the HST2 link.

Rambling in the Wind

In the first week of February a goodly crowd of Southam Ramblers, including a new lady from Harbury, met as usual in Wood Street car park. Sadly, Mike was unable to lead his walk, because of ill health, so Richard and John took on the task and as usual did it very well.

We all regrouped at Badby and left the village walking towards Newnham along the Nene Way. Arriving at the village, we went past the pub and disused shop, crossed the Preston Capes road and took the footpath going East. Walking through the fields below Lime Farm, we were lucky to see two new-born lambs with their mother, a real sign of Spring. We went through a number of gates and crossed the hard road leading to the sewage works. At the next stile we turned South-east to a stile over a brook (a large white disc marking the way) going due South towards a small wood; there were no footpath markers on the gates, but the path is marked on the map.

On reaching the Everden road, we turned right. At the end of the wood we turned left past a lovely newly built stone house. Going South-west towards the Newnham-Preston Capes road, the wind was blowing a South-westerly gale, so we stopped along here to have a coffee in the shelter of the hillside. Arriving at the road, we went