

WEDNESDAY WALKS PROGRAMME – SUMMER 2015				
Date	Leader	Area of Walk	Dist.	Tel. No.
8th April	John Maughan	Farnborough	5.5	612901
15th April	John Gymer	Southam to Leamington	†††	813646
22nd April	Vib Clarke & Shirley Bird	Church Stowe	5	01788 823830
6th May	Bill Pease	tba		813873
13th May	Joint with Cardall Collection	Holy Well and Stoneythorpe history trail	tba	813765 814214
20th May	Nigel & Kath Chapman	Badby/ Everdon	5	813765
3rd June	Jeff Round	Oxhill	5	813765
10th June	Nigel & Kath Chapman	Stoneythorpe/Bascote 30 th Anniversary Walk	5	813765
17th June	Mike Newsham	Edgehill	5	813621
1st July	John Maughan	Ettington Park	6	612901
8th July	Peter Mason	Fenny and Farnboro'	7	815073
15th July	Bob Mc Auley	Lower Brailes	5	01788 817136
29th July				
5th Aug	Alan White	Welton	6.4	01327 311078
12th Aug	Peter Webster	tba		
26 Aug 15	Nigel & Kath	Chipping Warden	5	813621
2 Sept	Pam Bunker	Leek Wootton	5	
9 Sept	John Bushnell	Preston Capes	5.3	814409
23 Sept				
30th Sept				
Walks Programme Organiser – Nigel Chapman Tel. No. 813765				

All Wednesday walks start at Wood Street car park at 9-30 am

††† Notes for John Gymer's Wednesday Walk

April 15th Walk for all abilities

Mainly level ground (Footpath and towpath). Meet as normal 9.30 Wood St.

Stage 1 Circular walk, Polo ground via Holywell. Total 2.5 miles

Stage 2 Continue to Ufton. Return Bus 10.59 or 11.26. Total 3 miles

Stage 3 Continue to Radford. Return Bus 12.20 12.52 1.10. Lunch opportunity at the White Lion. Total 6 miles

Stage 4 Continue to Sydenham. Bus back. Total 7 miles

Stage 5 Continue to Leamington. Celebratory pint or lunch Jug & Jester (Wetherspoons).

Bus back from Church (approx half hourly). Total 8 miles

You can drop out at any stage and return by bus or continue by bus to meet up in Leamington. Bus 63 or 64. **Remember your bus pass!**

Any queries? Contact John Gymer 01926 813646.



Editorial

in issue 49 of the Southam newsletter, dated March 2005, Harry Green wrote "Where are all the volunteers?" . The Group was having difficulty in arranging a full walks programme. Ten years later, we seem to be in exactly the same position. The walks programmes are on the last two pages, but the Wednesday programme is incomplete, which means that unless some volunteers come forward, there will be no organised walks on the blank dates. If you can spare the time but worry about finding the paths, then Richard Lillystone and I and Bill Pease, if you ask him nicely, would be pleased to accompany you on a pre-walk. Nigel or Kath Chapman would be delighted to hear from you if you can volunteer. To find out if the vacant dates become filled, it will be necessary to either ring Nigel or go on to the Southam website "southamonline.org.uk" and search "Ramblers". When Harry wrote issue 49, it was the Group's 20th anniversary of the founding of the Southam Ramblers' Group; this year is its 30th. Harry described its beginning. It seems appropriate to repeat it here. (Especially as I'm struggling to find something to write about). I find it interesting, I hope some of you do too.

Southam and District Group History.

Twenty (now thirty) years ago the Midland Area of the Ramblers' Association decided to investigate the possible formation of a new group based in Southam. This had been brought about by the representations made to them by various members who lived in or near Southam, but who belonged to the Stratford Group. There had also been enquiries by people interested in walking, but who were not keen on joining the Stratford Group.

It was decided that a public meeting should be held on Tuesday 21 May in the Welfare hut in Craven Lane to measure the likely interest. At that meeting, organised by the "Midland Area – The Ramblers' Association", it was proposed that a local branch of that association be formed to cater for the growing interest currently in evidence; for the walking of footpaths; conservation in general and an all round appreciation of the countryside.

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The proposal was approved and an initial Steering Committee set up to promote the success of the venture. The steering committee consisted of Denis and Hazel Montgomery, Mary Van Garderen and Michael Pritchett.

The inaugural meeting of the steering committee was held on 28th May attended by Steven Walsgrove, Footpath Secretary Mid-Warwickshire and Michael Bird, Midland Area Secretary. A letter was sent on 3rd June to all who had attended the public meeting, giving details of the meetings that had occurred and listing four walks. The first was on 16th June, 1985, meeting at Wood Street car park at 2.00pm led by Denis Montgomery and Mike Pritchett and was 5 miles in length, taking in footpaths in the Bascote and Stoneythorpe estate area. The second was a 6 mile walk starting from Harbury Parish Church at 2.20pm led by John Richards on 30th June. This was followed by a 10 mile walk led by Steven Walsgrove in the Napton/Stockton area on 14th July and the final one was also 10 miles in the Horton area with the Warwick Group, led by Peter Larkin. These last two walks both started Wood Street at 10.00am. The numbers attending these walks were encouraging; 24, 23, 15 and 5 respectively.

The Steering Committee decided that there was sufficient interest to allow them to proceed and issued a notice inviting everyone to attend a general meeting at the Beeswing Vaults on Tuesday 12th November, 1985 at 8.00pm to create a formal group of the Ramblers' Association. This meeting was attended by three Area officers (Michael Bird – President, John Watson – Secretary and Steven Walsgrove – Vice-Chairman and County Footpath Secretary), the four member Group Steering Committee and thirteen others. Steven Walsgrove chaired the meeting, welcomed everyone and explained the reason for setting up a group in the Southam area (lack of representation, too far from existing Stratford Group and local interest in rambling) The Chairman then said it was up to the meeting to decide whether they wanted their own group. It was accepted that they did since there were no dissenters. He then called for volunteers to form a committee and the following came forward:- Denis And Hazel Montgomery - Joint Secretary, Keith Brailsford – Publicity (Not present, but willing to stand), Lorraine James – Treasurer, Pete James, Harry Green and Sue Shaw. Harry Green was nominated as Chairman but refused, saying that the Chairman should be appointed by the committee at their first meeting. The first Committee meeting was held on 28th November and Harry Green was elected Chairman. Some interest had been expressed for mid-week walks but as none of the committee members were available mid-week, it was agreed to ask Mary Van Garderen to set up a sub-committee to draw up a programme of walks. These started in 1986. In 1987, Harry started the Southam Summer Strollers' programme and in 1988, the Group published “Southam Country Walks” written by Harry with maps and cover by Denis. This is also the “Southam Circular Way” guide.

Harry Green

Winter Dinner & 30th. Anniversary.

On 19th. February some 24 members enjoyed a varied menu of very tasty dishes at the “King's Head” at Napton. We were entertained by Pam Miller with her humorous rhymes and anecdotes; had a free scratch-card and raffle and, of course, a good bit chat. Our thanks to Pam and particularly to Di Weaver for all her hard work in organising the successful and most enjoyable event.

John Bushnell



Is **this** what they mean by “getting your leg over”?

Members negotiating an awkward stile on a walk from Eydon on 11th. March 2015, led by John Bushnell.

SOUTHAM SUMMER STROLLERS 2015. Thursday Evenings

Date	Area of Walk	Miles	Leader	Tel
14th May	Southam Holt	3	Vib Clark	815790
28th May	Ufton Woods	4	Sheila Goatley	811645
11 th June	Ladbroke	4	Nigel & Kath Chapman	813765
25 th June	Stockton/Blue Lias (6.30 p.m. start with a break at Blue Lias)	6	Bill Pease	813873
9 th July	Bascote	4	Richard Lillystone	817529
23 rd . July	New Zealand/Stockton	4	John Bushnell	814409
6 th . Aug	Stoneythorpe Estate	3	John Gymer	813646

All but one walk will start at 7.00 p.m. from Wood Street Car Park. All are welcome. No transport required

Organised by Bill Pease

Tel. No. 813873

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.