



John and Bill relaxing in the children's playground at Stockton on 28 Sept. 2011, on a walk from Southam lead by Isobel Whittacker.



Pam, also relaxing in the children's playground on the same walk.



Southam and District Group News and Views

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WEDNESDAY WALKS PROGRAMME – SUMMER 2012

All walks start from Wood Street car park at 9-30am, unless stated otherwise.

Date	Area of Walk	Miles	Leader	Tel No.
11 Apr 12	Priors Hardwick	5	John Bushnell	01926 814409
25 Apr 12	Wroxtton	5	H Gerrard	01926 814226
9 May 12	Cropredy	5.2	Richard Lillystone	01926 817529
23 May 12	Cubbington	5	Nigel Chapman	01926 813765
6 Jun 12	TBA		Polly Truslove	
20 Jun 12	Barby	5	Molly Greenhill	01788 814050
4 Jul 12	Wellesbourne	5	Mike Newsham	01926 813621
18 Jul 12	TBA		John Gymer	01926 813646
1 Aug 12	Ettington	5.2	John Maughan	01926 612901
15 Aug 12	Knightcote	5	Alison Cragg	01926 817516
29 Aug 12	Welton	5	Alan White	01327 311078
12 Sep 12	Braunston	5	Di Weaver	01788 890383
26 Sep 12	Bretford	5	Bill Pease	01926 813873

Organised by Richard Lillystone

Tel. No. 01926 817529

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.

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SOUTHAM SUMMER STROLLERS

Thursday Evenings

The walks will start at 7.00 p.m. from Wood Street Car Park
All are welcome No transport required

Date	Area of Walk	Miles	Leader	Telephone
3rd May	Southam Holt	3	Vib Clarke	815790
17th May	Ufton Woods	4	John Bushnell	814409
31st May	Ladbroke	4	Richard Lilleystone	817529
14th June	Long Itchington/Bascote	5	Nigel Chapman	813765
28th June	Stockton/Blue Lias *	5½	Bill Pease	813873
12th July	Bascote	4	Mike Newsham	813621
26th July	New Zealand/Stockton	4	Bob McAulley	01788 817136
9th August	Stoneythorpe Estate	3	John Gymer	813646

* The walk on 28th June will have a short break at the Blue Lias

Editorial

At the last Area meeting, the members were informed that, due to the retirement of Michael Bird and editor, John Garret, the area newsletter, "Walker", will no longer be produced. The current issue is the last one. It is hoped that it may be replaced by a bulletin of some sort, but so far no arrangements have been made.

It has made me think about our own news letter. It seems to be becoming more difficult to find anything to put in it. With no Social Secretary and no social activities, there is not a lot to report, other than the walks themselves. I was discussing the situation with Isobel during our last walk and we concluded that people joined the Ramblers for a variety of reasons. Some wanted more than just the opportunity to walk, but the Southam members appear to be quite happy with just the walking. We have an enthusiastic group who continued to support the Wednesday walks through the Winter, with numbers in the middle 20's. Long may it remain so.

John Bushnell

Another Winter Walk

A very pleasant walk from Grandborough was lead by Margaret on 18th. January, 2012. I think about 30 people met by Woodbine Farm that is along going West from Flecknoe Station. There is plenty of parking along the road that leads back to Grandborough. Oposite to Woodbine Farm, the footpath goes across a large grass field to a stile in the fence, then carrying on around a large arable field. Look for the old farmhouse at Calcutt. You will pass this on your right and carry on along the trackway going South, approximately ½ a mile. The footpath sign takes you over a stile to a very large field going at 45° to the road. This large field contains the remains of the ancient village of Calcutt; like other mediaeval villages, long deserted.

The farm on the left is the site of the old mill. A friend of mine who lived there found all the old millstones, gearing, etc. It must have been a windmill as

there is no water in the area. On hitting the road, go left to the old railway bridge. The line was the one from Leamington Spa to Weedon. Take time on the bridge and look around. A new marina is on one side of the canal. It seems to cover a huge area that used to be good farmland. To carry on, cross the bridge and follow the old trackway to Calcutt spring, keeping the hedgerow on your right hand.

At the far end of the spring, do not go through the gate, turn 45° to you left, towards a gateway at the other side of the field. Look hard at the farmhouse on your right. It is of identical design to the one where the mill was. These two houses were built by a father for his two daughters in the early 1800's. Lucky girls!!

Having got to the gate you are now going North across the next railway bridge. Watch out for the badger holes. Don't break a leg! Following on the path around the next two fields, keeping the hedge on your left, you will come to two gates at right angles to each other. Go through the one ahead of you and turn right, keeping the hedge on your right. You will arrive at a footpath gate, one field away from your car. The area covered by the walk is full of mediaeval history, but I'm afraid that I don't have the time to write it all here....Another time, maybe.....

Di Weaver

Having mentioned breaking legs – how is Joan Edwards getting on? We do hope you are progressing satisfactorily and all wish you a speedy recovery.



And I said.....

Margaret, Heather and Wendy dressed for the weather on a walk lead by Richard Lillystone from Frankton in March, last year.