

Woolly Hat

I have gained a woolly hat - I assume removed from the boot of a car in which I have had a lift. It is black with a very dark blue welt and labelled "Thinsulate" If you have lost one, please let me know.

John Bushnell

Southam Group - Walks Programme - Winter 2019

Date	Leader	Location	Miles	Tel No
12/Dec	Alan White	Weedon Area + Heart of the Shires Shopping Centre	4.2	01926 941729
19/Dec	<i>Bob & Margaret McAulley</i>	<i>Sherry Walk</i>		<i>01788 817136</i>
09/Jan	Nigel & Kath Chapman	Cropredy	4.5	01926 813765
23/Jan	Bill Pease	Warwick		813873
06/Feb	Nigel & Kath Chapman	Harbury	4.5	01926 813765
20/Feb	Nigel & Kath Chapman	Marton	4.5	01926 813765
06/Mar	Nigel & Kath Chapman	Cubbington & Weston Mill	4.5	01926 813765
20/Mar	Fos & Janet Cooper	Berkswell		01926 812008
03/Apr	Jeff Round	Chipping Warden	4.1	817734 07799 771778

Walks Programme Organiser :- Nigel Chapman Tel. No. 813765

All walks start at Wood Street car park at 9.30 am.

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, which are usually advised via email. For members without access to the internet, a call to Nigel or Kath would provide an update

You will see that Nigel and Kath have their names down for 3 walks, which is above and beyond the call of duty. It has been done in order to issue a meaningful programme. If anyone is able to take pity on them and take on a couple of the dates, Nigel and Kath would be grateful and delighted. Please help if you can.

New Members

We give a warm welcome to new members Wendy Burrows, Richard Clarke, Sylvia Hatfield, Ann Hickman, Annie Lane, Ann Patterson, Claire Maxim and Gerry Unwin, who have joined us in 2018. We are a friendly, chatty group and look forward to meeting you all on our walks.

Last but not Least

I'm sure that you will all join me in giving a huge "Thank you" to Bill Pease for all the work he has done for the Group as Chairman and Thursday Strollers Organiser.

John Bushnell



Editorial

On my last visit to the Hearing Clinic at Warwick, my hearing loss was described as profound. Even with an aid, I have great difficulty understanding verbal communication. I can only correspond effectively by the written word, which makes the production of the newsletter particularly difficult. I am therefore resigning as editor and asking for someone else to take on the duty. I will be happy to give whatever assistance I can to the new editor. If you are prepared to fill the post, could you please let Bill Pease or Margaret McAulley know.

John Bushnell

Southam Group AGM

The following are not the official Minutes, but general notes of the proceedings. Our AGM took place on Thursday, 1st. November, 2018 at Southam's Sport and Social Club. 21 members attended with 6 apologies. The minutes of the AGM in November 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Hayes presented a comprehensive report which indicated that we had no financial concerns, but the Group would benefit if all walk leaders would claim their pre-walk expenses – an often repeated plea. Please note! Ann was thanked for her report and all that she does for the Group.

Footpath Secretary

John Maughan reported on enquiries and problems from January onwards this year. Path SM163 was diverted at Shotteswell and Fenny Compton. Paths SM138 and 138b have been modified to avoid the railway line and a doctors' surgery built across the path unnoticed. A footpath at Butler's Marston has been washed away and the Council says it can do nothing. (Path now runs through the river) The Ramblers had no grounds for objecting to the Stockton Solar Farm. Wendy Rumsey claimed that a path had been lost at Stockton, but we could find no historical evidence and advised her to contact the Council. The Council has declared a bridge at Saxon Mill to be dangerous and has closed the path to Old Milverton. In May, Hayfield Homes closed Wattons Lane for 24 months, but have built an alternative, linking the riverside path to the Holy Well. Vib and Richard Clarke reported further difficulties on the path to Southam Holt. Last year, John added 10 waymark arrows; this year the path is obstructed by the rape crop. The application to build on land south of Welsh Road West has been withdrawn. Stratford and Warwickshire Councils plan to open the Avon from Alveston Mill to Warwick. Landlords dead against – Ramblers approve.

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

Polo Grounds are still trying to build a small town between the HS2 line and Southam. The Ramblers are objecting as it is not in accordance with the local plan. The hearing was held on 23rd. November.

On everyone's behalf, the Chairman thanked John very much for his diligence in performing his role.

Wednesday Walks.

Nigel Chapman reported that the walks had been well attended, with numbers normally in the 20s. We had 29 + a youngster for the walk at the Welcombe Hills and 32 for the one from Staverton.

The Soups and Puds events of last year and the 14th. November this year were very successful as usual. Our grateful thanks go to the organisers, Jackie Westcott and Isobel Whittaker, and to Di Weaver for the very enjoyable walks.

Bob and Margaret McAulley arranged the very successful Sherry Walk last year and have agreed to do it again on 19th. December this year. I can recommend it.

Special walks went to Leamington and Lower Slaughter in the Cotswolds, both well supported and well appreciated – our thanks to Jeff Round and John Gymer

Nigel appealed again for volunteer leaders to enable him to issue a more long term programme, rather than the frequent short term ones as in the past.

Thanks are due to the members on the Harbury and Ufton walk who gave £63 for Children in Need. If anyone is able to add to the total, Kath will ensure it is sent to CIN.

Nigel was thanked for his continued hard work for the group.

Membership

Kath Chapman reported that we have 84 paying members, 13 more than last year, and that around 40 are regular walkers. Kath thanked members for their patience and humour when opting for receipt of emails etc. We nearly had to make a register for each walk, but fortunately it was made optional. We will still do a head count, however.

Kath was thanked for taking on the role. The work she does is much appreciated

Publicity and Newsletter

Di Weaver continues with her much appreciated walk write up in the Southam District Advertiser

John Bushnell agreed to edit this issue but has asked to be relieved of the task of Editor because of problems related to his loss of hearing.

Southam Group's Website

Eric Forgan reported that route maps for all our walks over the last two years are available to download, enabling members to repeat the walk for their own enjoyment and/or friends and family. A walking app on their PC or smart phone would be required. Downloads must be for personal use only.

Our website is kept up to date with the walks programme and our walk details are published on the RA's national web site.

Eric asked for good group pictures to be sent to him to enable him to refresh the sites with new material.

A proposal for a "What's App" group for Southam Ramblers was discussed, but there may not be enough people with the necessary smart phone enabling them to participate to make it viable. A "yes/no" poll may be conducted by email

Eric thanked everyone who supplied routes, photos and other information.

The Chairman thanked Eric, Di and John for their work.

Chairman's Report

Bill Pease thanked everyone for their work over the year.

The details of his report to Warwickshire Area may be read in the accompanying Annual Report. He paid tribute to Ray Prentice, a loyal member over many years, who died recently and to Richard Lillystone who has resigned from The RA after many years organising the

Wednesday Walks Programme. We are pleased to have presented him with an appropriate gift and to hear that Richard is still happy to help out with pre-walks.

Bill gave a big thank you to Joan Foweather for volunteering, the fantastic job she has done as Secretary and the particular help she has given him. Kath then made Joan a presentation on behalf of the group.

He hoped for good health for us all and for many good walks to come.

Elected Committee

Chairman: Bill Pease – Secretary: Margaret McAulley – Treasurer: Ann Hayes – Footpath Sec: John Maughan – Membership Sec: Kath Chapman – Wednesday Walks: Nigel Chapman – Committee Member: Janet Green – Summer Strollers: Bill Pease – Publicity: Di Weaver – Web Master: Eric Forgan – Newsletter Editor: Becoming vacant

Any Other Business

The dates of RA meetings are: Area Quarterly Meetings 1 Dec '18 and 2 Mar '19; Area AGM 2 Feb '19 and General Council Meeting in Manchester 14 and 15 Apr. '19

If any member is able to attend one of these meetings, please contact Bill or Margaret.

The possibility of Honorary Membership for past members was discussed, but because of the difficulties it was decided to leave things as they are.

Alan White suggested that our annual dinner could be held at Galanos House. They have experienced staff and the food is highly recommended. The parking would be sufficient and the suggested price would be around £25. Alan will investigate a date in February '19 and will advise the committee.

Members suggested the walks programme includes regular longer walks on Wednesdays. It was agreed that if anyone wanted to lead a long walk, they should liaise with Nigel to arrange a date on an "alternate" Wednesday.

Eric suggested travelling further afield for Wednesday walks, making areas for new walks available. After discussion, a travelling time of 35 minutes was considered acceptable.

Date and Venue for Next AGM

Alan White stated that committee meetings and AGMs could be held, free of charge, at Galanos House. He will verify the possibility and advise Bill accordingly.

Unless advised differently, the next AGM will be on Thursday, 7th. November 2019 at the Southam Sports and Social Club. Otherwise, it will be on Wednesday, 6th. November 2019 at Galanos House. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9-30pm

Ray Prentice

It is with great sadness that I have to announce Ray's passing.

John Maughan wrote-

In August a group of us attended Ray's funeral at Oakley Wood. Ray had hung up his boots several years ago after many years walking with Southam Ramblers. His enthusiasm was such that everyone knew that Ray was always first on Wood Street car park on walking Wednesdays and that he always enjoyed the pub lunches afterwards.

We also knew that he was a keen Bowler, but at his funeral we were surprised to learn how skilled he was and how many cups and prizes he had won at his sport. We then drove to Galanos House where he had spent the last months of his life. They hosted a splendid buffet organised by Wendy, his daughter, who had also arranged a comprehensive display of his awards and photographs, in celebration of his life. He will be sadly missed. Southam Group sends its sincere condolences to his family and close friends.



PS from The Chairman

John's first newsletter was Issue No. 51 in February, so he has kept us informed through 37 issues over nearly 13 years. Thank you, John, for all your hard work and dedication and we are glad it is just your editorial boots that are being hung up and that you will join us on many more walks. Bill