



Obstructed Path ??? The Bull was with them too !



ramblers
at the heart of walking

Southam and District Group News and Views

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Editorial

I rather like the Autumn. The pace of life seems to slow down and the weather becomes softer somehow, neither too hot nor too cold. When the trees start changing, I love the Autumn colours. I have many happy childhood memories of camping and fishing with my parents and particularly of collecting conkers with my father at this time of the year. It is probably this which gives me these rather romantic notions of Autumn. We also get some ideal days for walking. Richard Lillystone and I were on a pre-walk, just out of Stretton-under-Fosse on just such a day, when we met a lady who was walking with her dog. We made contact, as you do, through the dog, whose name was Oliver. She identified Richard's Geordie accent immediately and said that she was originally from Handsworth in Birmingham and that it was a very different place then, in 1930, to what it is now. She also said that she had been a Land Girl during the war, which was when she moved away. She said that she had always wanted to walk the Pennine Way, but had never got round to it. She then told us this extraordinary story about a gentleman who had recently knocked on her door asking if she would fill his water bottle as he had walked from Solihull that day. It seems that he lived in Berwick on Tweed, was retired and she judged him to be between 65 and 70 years old. At some previous time he had already walked coast-to-coast across the narrowest part of Scotland and had now decided to do the same through the wide part of England (and Wales). He had used his bus pass and something like 19 or 29 buses, neither Richard nor I can remember which, to get himself to Aberystwyth and had been walking for 9 days on his way to Yarmouth, where he planned to use his bus pass to get back to Berwick-on-Tweed. He had a small tent with him so it seems he camped along the way. She gave him a cup of tea and he went on his way.

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I have walked the length of the Harry Green Way two or three times and thought that was a small achievement, but it pales into insignificance compared to this man's efforts. I have the utmost respect for him.

Autumn also brings our AGM; please note our return to the Nelson Club at Stockton!

Southam and District Ramblers' Group
AGM
on Friday 26th. November, 2010
at 8.00 pm
at The Nelson Club, Stockton.

The speaker will be from the Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve. Please make every effort to attend; your support is vital.

Di Weaver is again arranging what is becoming our annual luncheon. The details are on the accompanying flyer. Your family and friends will also be welcome. If you would like to attend, please complete the counterfoil and return it to Anne Hayes.

John Bushnell

Soups and Puds Walk – 27th. October, 2010

After the Birdingbury walk, Jackie has again offered to provide soups and puds. The cost will be £6. The proceeds will be going to a charity. As there are only 35 limited places, would you let me have your name, together with the £6 (cash preferably) by the 13th. October, 2010 to 16, Napton Rise, Southam? The first 35 will be successful.

Parking will be available behind the club and there will be a bar.

Isobel Whittaker

The All Weather Southam Ramblers.

Well, the sun shone all Summer long until the start of August. When meeting at Wood Street car park, it was a bit damp, but 22 of us piled into cars to go on Bill's walk starting at Shotteswell. It got a bit damper, not to say even wetter, as we got booted and gaitered in the old school yard. Noticing what a lovely remote village we were walking through, we headed for the B4100, Banbury road, a busy road, to cross to the footpath leading to the bottom of the valley and Sor brook. A couple of ladies did decide to turn back and go home and do the ironing as by now the rain was pelting down. At the bottom of the valley, we turned South and walked along the West side of the valley, through barley and rape, not yet harvested, to the short bridle road (covered in trees so that it was a relief from the now very steady rain), which had taken the three members doing the pre walk, about an hour to cut back the nettles and overhanging branches, to provide comfortable access for the rest of us on the day. The path took us up to the road leading to

Horley. We took refuge in the church porch for a quick coffee break. What a fantastic church it is! The door was open so I looked inside to see some lovely mediaeval wall paintings and a wonderful screen, brightly painted. I was inspired to give myself the job of learning more about its history! We took the road out of Horley that leads to Hanwell. Just where the brook goes under the road, we took the footpath heading North-East, over the B4100, back to Shotteswell, crossing the Shotteswell airfield. The rain started to ease up, stopping altogether just in time for us to take off our wet things to get into the cars for our return to base. Yes, we got wet, but good company can charm the most miserable weather.

On driving home, it became very apparent, that between Southam and Staverton, very little rain had fallen!!

Di Weaver



Sopping wet but still smiling!

The members, just as the rain was easing off at the end of Bill Pease's walk on 4th.
August 2010

Golden Wedding Anniversary.

We extend our congratulations to Margaret and Mike Ridley, who were married 50 years ago this month. We wish them all the very best for the future.