



*So would you if you'd just sat on a thistle!*

Ray, definitely put out about something whilst taking a break on the walk on 6<sup>th</sup>. July, 2011 lead by Mike Newsham. It couldn't have been the walk – Janet, Joan and Alicia are very happy with it.



John Bushnell



## Southam and District Group News and Views

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**DATE SEPT 2011**

### WEDNESDAY WALKS PROGRAMME – WINTER 2011/12

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

| Date           | Area of Walk  | Miles | Leader           | Tel. No.     |
|----------------|---------------|-------|------------------|--------------|
| 12 Oct 11      | Combrook      | 5     | Pam Bunker       | 01926 812016 |
| 26 Oct 11      | Badby         | 5.5   | John Bushnell    | 01926 814409 |
| 9 Nov 11       | Offchurch     | 5     | Bill Pease       | 01926 813873 |
| 23 Nov 11      | Birdingbury   | 5     | Isobel Whittaker | 01926 814234 |
| (Soups & Puds) |               |       |                  |              |
| 7 Dec 11       | Flecknoe      | 5     | Di Weaver        | 01788 890383 |
| 21 Dec 11      | Sherry Walk   | 4.3   | John Gymer       | 01926 813646 |
| 4 Jan 12       | Fenny Compton | 5     | Nigel Chapman    | 01926 813765 |
| 18 Jan 12      | Grandborough  | 5     | Molly Greenhill  | 01788 814050 |
| 1 Feb 12       | T.B.A.        |       | Bob McAulley     | 01788 817136 |
| 15 Feb 12      | T.B.A.        |       | Mike Newsham     | 01926 813621 |
| 29 Feb 12      | T.B.A.        |       | Polly Truslove   |              |
| 14 Mar 12      | Bearley       | 4.5   | Alan White       | 01327 311078 |
| 28 Mar 12      | T.B.A.        |       | John Maughan     | 01927 612901 |

**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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## Editorial

I'm sure that you will have noticed that there was not a June issue of the news letter. This was because there was no news or views to pass on. We also missed out on the "Walker" for reasons we are not entirely sure of at the moment. Fortunately, this quarter, we have the current issue of the "Walker" and there are several items to report in our news letter; my thanks go to the contributors.

The Wednesday walks have been well supported throughout the summer, with usually between 20 and 25 members turning out for each walk. We have had some lovely walks and the weather has been kind most of the time. We managed to dodge the spots if there were any showers about. As you will have seen, the new programme is on the first page for easy reference. If you enjoy a good walk, do come and join us. We are an easy going bunch and I'm sure you would enjoy it.

## AGM

**RA Southam and District Group AGM  
Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. December, 2011  
Commencing 8.00 pm at the Nelson Club, Stockton.**

The offices of Social Secretary and Area Representative are unfilled and the Committee needs your input. Please make every effort to attend.

John Bushnell

## Soups and Puds Walk Wednesday 23rd November 2011

After the Birdingbury walk, Jackie has again offered to provide soups and puds. The cost will be £6. The proceeds again will be going to charity. As there are only 35 limited places would you let me have your name together with the £6 (cash preferably) by the 13th of November 2011 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

## Winter Dinner.

I have arranged for the Dinner to be held at The Countryman at Staverton on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>., 2011 at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. The cost will be £22.00 per person. There is room for 40 people and places will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Menu; Starter. (Soup)  
Carvery. Beef and Turkey  
Choice of Pudding.

It has not been established yet if the price includes coffee or not.

Please send payment in full to our Treasurer, Ann Hayes, by 12<sup>th</sup>. November, at the latest, as I have to pay in full, one week before the event. Please see the flyer attached for details

Di Weaver

## Summer Strollers

Having been unwittingly catapulted into the position of Summer Strollers co-coordinator I would like to thank all those members who have led and supported the walks. With one stroll to go numbers have ranged from 10 to 15 which proves it was worthwhile continuing especially as a good proportion of those taking part were people who are not able to join our Wednesday walks. We have been very fortunate

with the weather; there was the odd light shower on the Bascote walk led by Nigel and Kath but otherwise the conditions have been excellent. On the whole we found the state of the paths around Southam to be very good. One exception was the return journey from Southam Holt on walk one where no path had been left through the crop. Worse was the Ladbroke walk, led by John Bushnell, where he had to amend the route after a very difficult pre-walk.

I initially had so many volunteers that I thought I would not get to lead a walk. However someone went on holiday so I led the walk billed as Stockton and Long Itchington which I found was actually Stockton and the Blue Lias. According to John's pedometer this was just over 6 miles but it was a beautiful evening and everyone enjoyed the walk. On my sunny afternoon pre-walk the previous week I had taken the precaution of timing the duration of a swift but relaxing half at said canal side pub, a precaution that was invaluable on the evening of the walk! Perhaps this short break should be advertised next year in view of the length of the walk.

William Pease

## Late Summer Walk

Walking in late August can be very pleasant; not too hot, lovely blue skies and wonderful views from the ridgeways. We all met up at the Holy Bush Inn at Priors Marston, a lovely old pub in a very pleasant village, with lots of little footpaths amongst the stone and thatched houses.

We left the pub car park going left, then right up through the village to a footpath that went up a very steep hill over a couple of stiles. This path is part of the ancient salt way that leads from Stamford in the North to Droitwich in the Midlands. I believe it was also used by the Romans. According to the Roman writer Pliny the Elder, Roman soldiers are supposed to have been paid in salt. It is likely where the expression "worth your salt" comes from. After dwelling on the view over the whole of Warwickshire to the South, we crossed the road at Hill Farm and took the bridleway over Marton Hill towards Firtree Farm.

At the lane, turn right to the crossroads, go right here along the road for a few hundred yards to the footpath on the left, dropping down the arable fields to the Marton / Byfield road. Cross straight over and follow the signed path to Grange Farm over some lovely grassland, with some very smart livestock. (Dogs on leads, please). Carry on, going slightly South-West to a converted barn. Here, take the path going North-West to the Priors Hardwick road. At the crossroads, take the path heading North. When it joins a path from the West, go East; don't go as far as the road, take the path going North-East to Westover Farm.

At the new houses, cross the Marton Doles road and follow the old village path, over stiles and past a Greengage tree (not ripe!) to the phone box and back by road to the pub. The walk was just over 5 miles and apart from the first up-hill, mainly on the flat or downhill – most enjoyable.  
Our thanks to Alan for leading it.

Di Weaver