



ramblers
at the heart of walking

Northamptonshire Area Newsletter April 2011

"The Ramblers' Association promotes rambling, protects rights of way, campaigns for access to open country and defends the beauty of the countryside."

Daventry, Kettering, Northampton, Wellingborough & 20s/30s Groups

www.northantsramblers.org.uk

Annual General Meeting held on 23rd January 2011 at Irchester Bowling Club



Prior to the meeting there was the option of participating on two walks, a 10 miler led by John Ledger and the other 4.5 miles led by Sue Alcock. Both were very well supported and the returning walkers were welcomed back with light refreshments served by Jackie Timpson and Pauline Riley, grateful thanks to them.

The venue, Irchester Bowling Club, was superb and the Meeting was attended by around 60 Members, another excellent

turnout. Bob Coles, in his capacity as President, opened the Meeting with a short address and the formal part of the proceedings got under way with the approval of Officers reports and elections to the Executive Committee. Roy Talbot stood down as General Secretary and Pauline Riley as Minutes Secretary and both received warm applause in recognition of their hard work and commitment. We welcomed on to the Committee Paul Waterton as Webmaster and Anita Reynolds as Minutes Secretary whilst Fiona Rawlings stepped in to the General Secretary's post and Andrew Knapman took over her role as Treasurer. Pam Barrett had previously been elected Wellingborough Group representative and had already attended two meetings.

Our Guest Speaker was Keith Wadd, a founder member of the 'concerned ramblers' grouping and former Chairman of its Steering Group. He explained how and why the grouping came about and the role he played, going on to describe how he continues to work to advance the policies he believes in as a 'concerned Rambler' whilst fulfilling his role as a Member of the Board of Trustees. So a very big thank you to Jim Timpson for arranging the venue, John and Sue for leading the walks and the Wellingborough Group as a whole for hosting the event.

David Craddock

Area Executive Committee 2011

President	Bob Coles M.B.E.	Three Members from the floor	Chris Eilbeck, Gwilym Thomas, Joy Tripp
Chairman	David Craddock		
Vice Chair	Sue Alcock		
General Secretary	Fiona Rawlings	Group Reps-up to 2 per group	
Treasurer	Andrew Knapman	Northampton	Peter Keeble, Jo Hammond
Membership Secretary	Alan Ede		
Footpath Secretary	Maurice Tebbutt		
Publicity Secretary	No Nominations - remains Vacant	Daventry	David Yeomans, Thea Young
Webmaster	Paul Waterton	Kettering	Hazel Patenall
Minutes Secretary	Anita Reynolds	Wellingborough	Pam Barrett
Walking	Will Lovell	20/30s	John Hadley, Mark Wallace
Environment Officer			

Area Quiz night- March 5th at Moulton

A full Moulton Village Hall again saw a hugely enjoyable and entertaining evening with 17 teams taking part in the Area Quiz. Our new Quiz Master Graham Edmonds set eight varied (who said tough?) rounds together with a music marathon which resulted in a nail-biting finish, only two points separating the first three teams! The Duston A team eventually triumphed with 101 points, beating Wellingborough A into second place and the reigning champions Northampton into third; the second Duston team were a creditable fourth. At last, a new name on the shield!

Many thanks to Graham for taking on this demanding task, without his efforts we can say with certainty the Quiz would not have happened. And thank you to everyone who participated in, helped with or supported the event.

Steve Sayers

Discovering Lost Ways Project

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a cut-off date of 2026 when any ancient public rights of way not appearing on the Definitive Map (the official record of rights of way) will be extinguished.

This may seem a long way off but it can often take several years of research to obtain sufficient evidence to prove that a "lost" right of way is indeed just that, and then several more to go through the various processes of getting it officially recognised as such.

Dr Steven Hollowell, Definitive Map Team Leader at Northants County Council, realized that the Council would need outside help to identify possible paths and ways for which historical evidence might be found, and contacted us.

When a number of volunteers came forward Dr Hollowell then arranged and conducted a series of Saturday morning seminars to give them a good grounding in the main historical sources of identifying 'lost ways' and an introduction to the catalogues and indexes held by the County Records Office.

These finished in February and the volunteers are selecting likely prospects on which to make a start with their detailed research. The door is always open for volunteers to come forward. So if you already have experience of this type of research or would like to learn more with a view to getting involved please contact our *Area Footpath Secretary Maurice Tebbutt on (01604) 643352.*

Thank you.

N.B. Additional information about the Definitive Map-Chris Eilbeck has noticed that the new definitive map produced last October, unfortunately, failed to show the many changes in and

around DEENETHORPE airfield. There was also an additional path created. The diversion orders were confirmed by N.C.C. in February 2007. There is way marking but it is inadequate in some places.

High Speed Rail Link (HS2)

I am sure very few of you are unaware that the proposed HS2 linking London to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds will pass through Northamptonshire. It enters the County South-East of Brackley and exits to the West of Upper Boddington. En-route it bisects 18 footpaths and 8 bridleways, with 3 other footpaths indirectly affected. A sub-Group of the Area Footpath



Committee examined each of these locations and agreed the measures they thought should be taken to minimise the impact the route will have on them. These measures were refined slightly by the full Footpath Committee and at a meeting with Steven Hollowell, NCC's Definitive Map Team Leader.

In discussing HS2 the Area Footpath Committee also formulated a number of policies on how we as an Area should respond to HS2. These were discussed and endorsed by the Area Executive Committee at its meeting on the 17th February and are:-

- we are not anti-rail
- we are not in a position to judge the rights and wrongs of the economic

arguments / business case

- if the Government decides to proceed we should not seek to have the route moved from our Area to someone else's 'patch'

- we should do our best to achieve a good outcome for the rights of way affected

We hope to have a meeting with South Northants Council and other affected parties soon whilst at National level Central Office has written to HS2 Ltd (the Company set up by the Government to consider the case for high speed rail services between London and (ultimately) Scotland) raising concerns about the impact of HS2, rather than opposing it outright. They sought a meeting with the Company and at the time of writing it had still to be decided if and when this will take place.

We, of course, will be seeking local level meetings in due course.

In the meantime on the 28th February HS2 Ltd launched its consultation on their proposals which includes a number of public road shows along the route. In Northamptonshire there will be 5 of these, as follows:-

Greatworth Sports and Social Club - Tuesday May 17th

Chipping Warden Village Hall - Tuesday May 24th

Upper Boddington Village Hall - Wednesday May 25th

Brackley Leisure Centre- Friday May 27th / Saturday May 28th

David Craddock

Around Corby Walking Festival -Saturday 30 April, Sunday 1 and Monday 2 May 2011

We have been closely associated with this event since its beginning and it is now in its third year. This time children are being specially catered for on Saturday morning with a story telling walk and on Sunday with a Fun Day with many children's attractions (see our Area Website www.northantsramblers.org.uk or www.aroundcorby.co.uk for last minute details). The walking programme has gone from strength over the 3 days and many of the walks are being led by our Leaders. Details of these are given below:-

Saturday 30 April - Circular day walk - 14 miles, brisk pace

9.30am start from Deene church (GRSP951928). Lunch at King's Cliffe club where own food is OK.

The walk takes in Apethorpe, King's Cliffe, Blatherwycke and Bulwick. Leader Chris Eilbeck (01536) 743009

Saturday 30 April - Circular day walk - 7.5 miles

10.00am start from East Carlton Country Park. Meet at the Wishing Well near the Visitor Centre / Café (GRSP833893). Walk takes in Drayton area and Middleton. Bring own refreshments. Leader Bob Seaton (01832) 273170

Sunday 1 May - Circular day walk: 14.5/15 miles, brisk pace

9.30am start from Rockingham, verge on the B670, Cottingham Road (GRSP863918). Walk is via Gt. Easton, Stockerston, Lyddington and Gretton. Lunch break at Lyddington Village Green - bring own refreshments. Leader Chris Eilbeck (01536) 743009

Sunday 1 May - Morning walk - 6.5 miles, leisurely pace

10.00am start from East Carlton Country Park at the Wishing Well near the Visitor Centre (GRSP833893). Walk is via Wilbarston and open countryside to the south and east. Some road walking. Leader David Craddock (01604) 455443

Monday 2 May - Circular day walk - 15 miles, brisk pace

9.30am start from Stoke Albany church (GRSP806883). Walk is via 6 ways, Sutton Bassett, Welham, Medbourne, Nevill Holt and Wilbarston. Lunch break at Medbourne, bring own refreshments. Leader Chris Eilbeck (01536) 743009

Monday 2 May - Afternoon walk - 6 miles, leisurely pace

14.00 start from Great Oakley, lay-by at Spread Eagle pub (GRSP862856). Walk via Little Oakley. Leader David Craddock (01604) 455443

The full programme includes a selection of short 'health walks' and a variety of other walks to suit all tastes and abilities. This can be found on the website addresses given above. David Craddock

Northamptonshire County Boundary Walks-sections 9 to 12 inclusive

Mon. 30 May	Titchmarsh	Caldecott	15.1	Contact Chris Eilbeck for further details on 01536 743009
Sun. 26 June	Caldecott	Bozeat	14.6	
Sun. 24 July	Bozeat	Hartwell	14.1	
Mon. 29 August	Hartwell	Deanshanger	13.0	

Area Event - Salcey Forest - Friday 3 June 2011 'Enjoy Your Woods with The Ramblers'

At its Meeting on the 17th February the Area Executive Committee noted with great pleasure that on that very day the Government had announced that the consultation on the planned sale of Forestry Commission land had been dropped. This massive re-think was brought about by the successful campaigning of The Ramblers and other like minded organisations. An independent panel is now to be set up to debate the future of England's woodlands and The Ramblers is looking forward to playing its part in this to ensure that future access to the forests is secured in line with Government indications.

In the meantime there is much to be thankful for and the Executive Committee agreed that we should hold a celebratory event at Salcey Forest on Friday 3 June 2011.

Our display stand will be staffed from 10.00am to 4/00pm and we are being joined by Anastasia French, Campaigns Officer at Central Office. In addition you and the general public are invited to come and explore the delights of Salcey Forest with us. Led walks will leave from the Information Point at the main car park (NN7 2HX) at the following times:-

10.45am and 1/30pm - 2.5 miles - Leader Will Lovell	10.45am and 1/30pm - 5 miles - Leader Sue Alcock
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We chose a Friday to avoid clashing with the normal weekday walks programmes so please come along if you possibly can and give us your support on this special day. Thank you.

Contact: David Craddock (01604)455443 Email: chairman@northantsramblers.org.uk

Items for next Newsletter to the Editor by 30 June 2011.

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