

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

[www.northantsramblers.org.uk](http://www.northantsramblers.org.uk)



Welcome to the December Newsletter. Compliments of the season to all!

### The Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at Weedon Village Hall

Despite the very misty conditions at the start, the two walks prior to the meeting led by Roy Talbot and David Yeomans, were very well supported. Thanks to Roy and David. This support was rewarded when the sun came out much earlier than expected. Attendance at the Meeting itself was slightly lower than the previous couple of years.

Our Vice Chairman Sue Alcock stood down after three years service and received warm applause in recognition of her hard work and commitment. Fortunately Joy Tripp came forward to fill the role, indicating that she was prepared also to continue Editing the Area Newsletter. Anita Reynolds had resigned as Minutes Secretary for personal reasons during the year and unfortunately no-one could be persuaded to take her place. George Tripp was elected to fill the vacancy created by Joy's move to the Vice Chairman's position. The updated list of the composition of the Executive Committee is given below.

Our Guest Speaker was Rodney Whittaker, pictured, National Chairman, who gave an excellent and



well received address covering the financial position of the Ramblers, Membership issues and marketing initiatives aimed at retaining existing Members and attracting new ones. He also explained how a number of market research exercises recently undertaken had given them a better insight into who the Ramblers should be targeting as potential recruits and the reasons why existing Members did not renew.

Our thanks go to David Yeomans for arranging the splendid venue, David again and Thea Young for setting up the room, Gwilym Thomas for organising the display material and the team of ladies who so efficiently dispensed the refreshments. Finally thank you to the Daventry Group as

a whole for hosting the event

David Craddock

## Area Executive Committee 2012

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

### In Memory of Margaret Brown

For a number of years Margaret and her husband Peter organised the refreshments at our Area AGM's. Returning walkers were grateful to be served these efficiently and with good humour, whilst long-standing friends also took the opportunity to catch up on things, and new acquaintances were made welcome.

Margaret and Peter made a great team, actively supporting our Association in many other ways, over many years. During Peter's spell as our Area Footpath Secretary, for example, meetings were held monthly at their home in Great Houghton and the welcome given became a byword for generosity of spirit and hospitality.

Margaret became seriously ill towards the end of 2010 and passed away at her home in August this year. The Ramblers have lost a valued supporter and on behalf of us all I extend our condolences to Peter and family.

David Craddock

### The 'Missing Link' at Lilford

I am sure many of you will recall that in June last year we held a very successful Area Rally at Lilford in support of our claim for the restoration of this 'missing link' which, when restored, will result in a huge improvement to the rights of way network, including scope for a vastly better route for the Nene Way.



Picture: June 2010 rally

Following this rally the Area Executive agreed to the Commissioning of an independent report on the risks associated with the 2 crossings of the A605 which walkers are forced to make on the existing

route of the Nene Way. This concluded that diverting the Nene Way via the 'missing link' was the most practical solution to eliminating these risks.

We forwarded this Report to NCC and at a meeting held in March 2011 with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Rights of Way, Cllr Heather Smith, and David Farquhar, Head of Transport and Highways they agreed to give priority to progressing our claim, and this work has now begun.

This is a superb outcome to our long running campaign and there is no doubt that the Report mentioned helped our cause considerably. But most credit has to be given to our Walking Environment Officer, Dr. Will Lovell. NCC recognised they had little work of their own to do in verifying the authenticity of our case due to the immense amount of research he had already undertaken, simplifying their task enormously.

It may be some time before the matter is finalised as there could well be a Public Inquiry. But we are getting ever closer to the day when we can all legally walk this short stretch of missing footpath, opening up new routes presently denied to us.

David Craddock

## Future events

### Corby Walking Festival - B/H weekend 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012



In the last newsletter I said that the Festival was looking for a Walking Champion to help promote it. Cllr Paul Beattie (pictured), already the Corby Borough Council Champion for Walking and Cycling, has now come forward and joined the Festival Working Group. He has already used his influence to identify a source of funding and his involvement will greatly raise the profile of the event. He is a great believer in 'practising what you preach' as he is a keen walker and cyclist and a committed environmentalist.

Next year will be the Festival's 4<sup>th</sup> and a 3 day walking programme has been organised with a range of rural and urban walking activities for all abilities

and interests. The event concludes on the Monday with a Community Fun day, backed up by Display Stands from participating organisations, at East Carlton Country Park. The event and walks are free of charge but the Lakelands Daycare Hospice based in Corby has been appointed a beneficiary of any voluntary donations.

Ramblers Leaders from this Area are putting on no less than 8 walks and details of these should appear in Group programmes in due course. Last minute information on the event will be given in the April newsletter, but in the meantime why not make a note of the dates in your diary. If you have access to a computer you can view all current information and keep up to date by visiting our area website [www.northantsramblers.org.uk](http://www.northantsramblers.org.uk) and following the link or by going direct to

[www.corbywalkingfestival.org.uk](http://www.corbywalkingfestival.org.uk)

David Craddock

### Area Quiz-Date for the Diary-26<sup>th</sup> May 2012

This is by way of a short advance notification that next year's Area Quiz is to be held a little later than previous years on **Saturday 26 May** at the usual venue, Moulton Village Hall. Groups and Affiliated Clubs will receive their invitations to enter team(s) in due course but would team organisers and others interested in attending please kindly note the date.

Our Area Website [www.northantsramblers.org.uk](http://www.northantsramblers.org.uk) will be updated as and when new information is available and fuller details will also be given in the April newsletter.

David Craddock

## Great Glen Way 9 - 16 June 2012

John Churchman, a member of the Northampton Group, may have some places on a trip to walk this trail next June. If interested, and want to know more then please get in touch **ASAP**.

01604629323 or [johnc46@live.co.uk](mailto:johnc46@live.co.uk)

## Ramblers Discounts

### Ramblers Discounts with Ramblers Membership cards

The Area Committee recently discussed the issue of Ramblers discounts and it was agreed to compile a list of shops/outlets which give a discount of some sort on production of a valid Ramblers membership card. . If you know of others please let me know for inclusion in the next Newsletter. This is intended to be helpful and not to endorse/advertise any particular organisation

You may find that if the store is doing a promotion of some sort such as 2 for the price of 1, or a Sale, then Ramblers discount does not apply as well. Also some items may be exempt from discount such as G.P.S. equipment. Many stores have websites with further information.

Blacks 21 Fairground Way Riverside Business Park Northampton NN3 9HU 01604 409842	Blacks Unit 4 The Kingston Centre Milton Keynes MK 10 0BA 01908 587934 Also at Bedford	10%
Cotswold Portway Milton Keynes MK9 1EN 01908 671700 (near Railway Station)	Stores also at Bicester and Peterborough	10%
Milletts 315 Newland St Kettering NN16 8JH 01536 481261	Milletts 24 Market Square Northampton NN1 2DF 01604 621898	Stores also in Rugby, Coventry and Banbury 10%
Northampton Footwear Distributors, Unit 1 Summerhouse Place, Summerhouse Rd, Moulton Park NN3 6WD 01604 641910	They sell, amongst other footwear, Northwest Territory Footwear  Monday to Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm	10% discount on production of Ramblers card
The Outdoor Shop 27-31 High St Stony Stratford Milton Keynes MK11 1AA 01908 568913		10% with valid card Discount does not apply to Sale items (items already reduced)
Trespass, 16 Princess Walk, Grosvenor Centre, Northampton 01604 634562.		10% off on production of a Ramblers card Does not apply on 2 for price of 1 offers
White and Bishop 13-17 Bridge Street, Northampton Free phone 0808 1442636		Up to 15% on most items

It is possible to use Tesco vouchers to help pay towards the Ramblers membership fee.

### Items for next Newsletter to the Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012

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