

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

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

Welcome to the August Newsletter.

#### **Around Corby Walking Festival - Sat 30 April - Monday 2 May 2011**

We were very pleased with the attendances on the 6 walks we led over the three days. Our National Chairman, Rodney Whittaker kindly stepped in at the last minute to co-launch the event with the Mayor of Corby, Cllr. Ann Brown, resulting in excellent coverage in the local newspaper, The Evening Telegraph.

This was only the 3rd year the event had been held so it is still in its infancy and we hope it will not only continue but get bigger and better. To help this process along we are looking for a dedicated individual, a WALKING CHAMPION, to promote and celebrate walking and put the Festival 'on the map'

This is a volunteer position with the individual participating in the planning meetings which are scheduled very 4-6 weeks plus giving whatever other time he / she can. Good interpersonal and communication skills are needed as well as of course an understanding and appreciation of all the benefits of walking. Access to a PC and email/internet facility is essential.

This is a great opportunity to help raise the profile of Corby as a town that welcomes walkers both locally and nationally. If you are interested in taking on this role or would like further information please contact Suzanne Preston at Corby Borough Council on (01536) 463177 or email [Suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk) Thank you.

Next years' dates are the B/H weekend Saturday 5 - Monday 7 May 2012.

David Craddock

#### **Salcey Forest Event - 3 June 2011**

We were very pleased with the response to our invitation to come and join us in celebrating the Government's withdrawal of their consultation exercise on the sale of England's woodlands. Around 70 people joined the four walks, including a number who were first time walkers with the Ramblers. The feedback we received was excellent, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to explore the delights of Salcey Forest guided by our two experienced walks leaders Sue Alcock and Will Lovell. Many thanks to everyone who came along to show their support.



Our display stand was also staffed throughout the day thanks to Gwilym and Marilyn Thomas, Peter Keeble, David Gardiner and Brian Fletcher, enabling visitors to call in and find out more about the extensive walks programmes organised by our local Groups. David Craddock

## High Speed Rail Link (HS2)

In the last Newsletter I reported that we were due to discuss HS2 with Officers from South Northants Council. This meeting duly took place and was very constructive and we now have an agreed stance on what mitigation etc. we will be seeking in respect of all the rights of way affected in the County.



HS2 was also debated at The Ramblers General Council and it was unanimously agreed that The Ramblers should support the Charter for High Speed Rail published by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. This Charter also has the backing of many other organisations. In summary it calls for a national transport strategy, better future-proofing of big transport proposals, effective public participation and a more strategic approach to minimising adverse impacts. Its supporters seek to engage positively with the Government, as they believe the approach to High Speed Rail currently falls well short of the Charter's principles.

By the time you read this the Government's period of public consultation will have ended so we await further announcements. David Craddock

## South Northants Council - Walking Trails

Stemming from our discussions with the SNC Officers in connection with HS2 we learned about a new development on the Council's website which gives information on walking trails in their area - the address being <http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/2703.htm>

This is an excellent initiative which we are happy to publicise in this Newsletter. Paul Waterton, our Area Webmaster, has also put a link to this site on our website [www.northantsramblers.org.uk](http://www.northantsramblers.org.uk) and SNC have reciprocated.

Paul has already approached Wellingborough Borough Council seeking a similar arrangement and intends to develop further links as and when he can. David Craddock

## The Ramblers Annual General Council

This was held at Keble College, Oxford in April and our delegates were Anita Reynolds, our Area Minutes Secretary, and me.

There were 17 motions up for debate, including the one on HS2 mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter. The Guest Speaker was Derek Twine, Chief Executive of the Scouts Association, who gave an excellent presentation on how the Scouts turned round the ailing fortunes of their organisation. If you would like further information on this Meeting those of you with access to a PC can find an account of the proceedings on The Ramblers national website, or contact me.

David Craddock

### **Purchase of a Gazebo for use at Events** (see photo on first page)

Recently we have been fortunate to have had the loan of a gazebo in which to display our promotional material when attending events held outdoors. This was really only suitable for when the weather was kind, however, and at the Inland Waterways Association Event held at Beckett's Park over the Spring B/H weekend we had to curtail our participation and dismantle the stand because it was becoming unstable in the very windy conditions.

This experience prompted an urgent investigation into purchasing our own gazebo and, following initial research by Gwilym Thomas, Fiona Rawlings, our Area General Secretary, arranged the purchase of a suitable one via the internet. This is much stronger and better built and should be capable of withstanding more adverse weather conditions - although of course there is a limit to what even the toughest gazebo can tolerate.

The new gazebo had its first outing at the Salcey Forest event and proved very functional.

David Craddock

### **Area Annual General Meeting - Sunday 20 November 2011**

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find formal notification of our forthcoming AGM and directions on how to get to the venue, Weedon Village Hall. The Hall has its own car park and on street parking is also available. Daventry Group is hosting the event this year which we have brought forward, holding it nearer our financial year end, which is the 30 September.

So two AGM's in one year - how good is that!! Seriously though if you read Note 1 to the Agenda you will see we are trying to improve the efficiency of these Meetings (thereby reducing their length!) We have had excellent support in recent years and all of us on the Executive Committee hope that this will continue. Please come along if you can. Thank you.

Two walks precede the Meeting, as follows:-

10.00am start - 9.5 miles, bring packed lunch      Leader Roy Talbot      (01327) 340836

11.00am start - 6 miles, bring packed lunch      Leader David Yeomans (01327) 300394

The walks will start from the car park and the Hall will be open before the walks for the use of toilets.

We are very pleased that our Guest Speaker is Rodney Whittaker, National Chairman of The Ramblers who will be able to give us an update on current and future policy issues. This will be your opportunity to question him on matters of interest to you so please don't let the occasion go by without grasping it. Look forward to seeing you there.

David Craddock

### **Ian and Julie Goodall**

Many of you will know and have fond memories of Ian and Julie from walking with them over the last 12+ years they have been members. They recently moved to Broughton, near Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales and have since emailed me to ask that I pass on via this Newsletter their thanks for the friendship, companionship and marvellous walking they enjoyed with us. They say they have a lot to thank the Ramblers in Northamptonshire for, which is nice to know.

Their new home is on the Heritage coastal footpath and there is lots of other great walking in the area to explore, and from their Chalet at Padstow in Cornwall.

They asked me to say that if anyone plans to be in the vicinity of these areas in the future they would be very pleased to see them. I hold their full address and contact details so if you would like to get in touch some time give me a bell.

David Craddock

THE RAMBLERS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AREA  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEEDON VILLAGE HALL, WEST STREET, WEEDON, NN7 4QU

15.00hrs on SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2011

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 23 January 2011
3. Matters Arising
4. General Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Footpath Secretary's Report
8. Walking Environment Officer's Report
9. Election of Officers and Members of the Area Executive Committee
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner
11. Any other Business

After the formal business there will be an address by Rodney Whittaker, National Chairman of The Ramblers.

Notes:

1. As far as possible a summary of each report will be presented followed by any questions from attendees. To improve the efficiency of this meeting all those attending are asked to read the reports beforehand.
2. Nominations are invited from Members for the above posts. Officers on the Area Executive Committee are:- Chairman, Vice Chairman, General Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Footpath Secretary, Publicity Secretary, Walking Environment Officer and Webmaster .
3. Motions for inclusion on this Agenda should be forwarded to reach the General Secretary not less than 4 weeks before the Meeting.
4. For a copy of the previous AGM Minutes please send s.a.e. to the General Secretary  
General Secretary: Fiona Rawlings, 13 Wold Road. Burton Latimer, Northants, NN15 5PN or email address below

Directions to Weedon Village Hall

From the traffic lights at the crossroads of the A45 and A5 (Watling Street) take the A5 southwards in the Towcester direction, then 1st right into Bridge Street. Pass under the bridges and continue following the road round. Turn right into West Street and the Hall is on the left hand side, past Manor Road.

Items for next Newsletter to the Editor by 5 November 2011.

Newsletter Editor :	Joy Tripp	01604 585419	joy.tripp@hotmail.co.uk
Area Secretary :	Fiona Rawlings	01536 398514	gensec@northantsramblers.org.uk
Area Chairman :	David Craddock	01604 455443	chairman@northantsramblers.org.uk