

MID HERTS FOOTPATH
SOCIETY

10 JANUARY 1953 TO
28 DECEMBER 1954

VOLUME TWO

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Rambles with The Mid-Herts
Football Society

10/1/53 — 28/12/54

VOLUME TWO

Ramble - Saturday Jan 10, 1953

A small party of five met at 2.30 pm for the bus to Woolmer Green, Leader ~~by~~ Mr. Byles.

A few minutes was spent at Woolmer Green looking at the curious designs of the local wood-carver & then we started up the lane alongside the large pond. Shuttly, we climbed a stile on the right hand side of the road. We followed a faint path across the fields to another stile & then to a muddy gate leading into a lane. Immediately, across the lane, a swing gate gave access to quite a definite path, which brought us to a lane within sight of Ditchworth Church.

Here we turned left for a short ~~time~~ space, until at a cross-roads we turned right until we reached the Datchworth lane, where we turned left for about 1 mile until we reached the main road at Braybury End.

Here we crossed over to a lane almost directly opposite leading to Aston. After about half a mile, we passed

through a gate on the left hand side of the road & made our way along the side of a small copse, to the remains of a swing gate. Here we turned right along the rear of the copse, & then, from its corner, carried on in a straight line to the corner of a large brick cistern & then over a wooden stile in good repair. This took us on to an asphalt path which led us past an apparently deserted army camp to a point just west of St. John Church.

On the road, we turned left & in the gathering mist & darkness set off to gate the remaining two miles which lay between us & our tent at Broadwater.

Here we found a very pleasant welcome at the Rochester Hotel & spent a very congenial hour in front of a large log fire.

Evening into the night again, we found that the fog had become much thicker, but fortunately buses were still running & we arrived back in W. G. C. at about 7 P.M.

W.B.

W. H. H. 23

Ramble - Sunday Jan. 25, 1953

3.

The morning was a beautifully fine crisp +, no doubt, stimulated by the welcome sunshine, a party of 14 met at 10:00 am, with Mr. Lyman as leader.

We started on the well known path over the level crossing in Bridge Rd + up the Dignell track, stopping to commiserate with another member who was heavily engaged in the garden of his new house in the woods. At the top of the hill, our leader, instead of following the usual track, led off to the right + then to the left + finally rejoined the normal way just before the entrance to Monk's Walk.

After passing the Conference house, we turned left + then right into the Dignell Rd for a short space. We then took the stile on the left of the road + the well known path leading to Welchyn. After crossing the first field, we turned to the right, emerging on the Tain Rd, in which we turned right for a short space before reaching the entrance to Lochley's Park. Our leader had been given permission to traverse the Park, so we walked confidently by the entrance lodge.

We walked along the main drive, digressing for a few yards to get a very effective view of the house & a vista of lawns & statuary. The house itself called forth diverse views on its beauty or otherwise.

We continued along the ~~drive~~ drive, emerged on the Great North Road which we crossed & carried along a rough track into the village of Wchyn. At this point, one of the party who had twisted his ankle in Gheerards Wood, found that it was becoming too painful to proceed & decided that he must return home by bus.

The remainder of the party turned right at Wchyn Church, past historic Gueskens House & then we turned left over the Mibram, keeping left at each of the two next forks in the road. This brought us to Lincees Farm & we proceeded to follow the cart track leading through the farm as we had done on previous rambles. This time we were hailed by the farmer, Mr. Baron, & told that there was no right of way along the track.

A fairly lengthy & not entirely amicable discussion ensued. Mr. Baron said that there never had been any right of way through

the farm, that he had always turned walkers
back when he had met them + that there
was, in any case, two other public foot paths
crossing his land, which, he said, served
the same purpose as the track so far as
walkers were concerned. We pointed out
that some of our own members had walked
over this track without hindrance for 20 years
or more, that there were many cases of
acknowledged rights of way passing through
a farm yard, + that the two ~~other~~ paths
did really nothing to do with the matter.
Eventually, we pursued our way along the
track, resolved to investigate the matter fully
+ to resolve the proper status of the track
once + for all.

After reaching the road, we turned
right + on passing Rectory Wood we saw
with surprise that the path through
Rectory Wood, which we had used on
a previous ramble, was now obstructed
by a wire fence. Further matter for
investigation!

We continued our way along the
road to Hyat Green, where some of the
party made their way home directly through

the woods to home, whilst the remainder
retired to the Waggoners for refreshment. Here
we were pleased to obtain further evidence
of the right of way at Linces ~~Way~~ Farm from
the landlady, who recalled using it as a
footpath many years ago.

From the Waggoners, we returned via
the golf links to W.G.C. after a very
pleasant walk & with the feeling that the
Society was now in a position to justify its
existence.

W.S.

CLASH OVER A FOOTPATH

A PATH which is claimed to have been in use for twenty-five years has been disputed at Linces Farm, Welwyn.

The farmer, Mr George Baron, on Sunday challenged the right of members of the Mid-Herts Footpaths Society to use the path.

He claimed that it had always been private.

Several local residents have stated to officials of the Society that the path has been in constant public use for thirty years.

The evidence is to be put before the County Council when the draft footpath plan for the county is published.

Welwyn Times 30/1/53

Ramble - Saturday Feb 7, 1953

A party of 9 assembled at 2:30 pm in sunny but cold weather. Sir Francis Peake who should have led the ramble was prevented from doing so by reason of a sprained ankle received on the previous ramble. It was decided to place today's walk in the hands of one or two members jointly.*

We caught a bus to Robbery Bottom & walked along Robbery Bottom lane, under the railway until we came to the point where the road bends sharply to the left uphill. Here we followed a cart track turning to the right which led into an enclosed track & then, through a gate, into a meadow. Here we kept to the line of the left hand hedge, followed up hill, with pleasant views away to the left, past a small copse & through another gate.

Here we found a stile, of two wooden rails, over which we climbed & turned sharply to the left along the edge of a ploughed field to emerge shabby on the road from Burnham Green to Woodme Green. Here we turned left for a short distance & then took a cart track on the right, climbing a

* No Named Leader.

gentle slope, to emerge opposite Coltsfoot Farm, just outside Bull's Green. We turned right along the road, recalling that it was at this spot that we had a rather lively encounter with a bull, recorded in a previous account.

In Bull's Green we turned right for a short distance & then just past the Mount Farm, we took a track on the left which bore diagonally away from the road.

Following this rather muddy lane for a few hundred yards, we came into Back Lane & stopped to admire the view away to the east & north. The sun was still very bright & almost warm, & the sky as blue as that of summer.

After this short halt, we turned right along Back Lane & continued along its rather muddy length for about half a mile. Two steep stiles were then seen, one on each side of the lane & we took the one on the right leading into a delightful track through a woodland clearance. This eventually brought us out on the Bramfield road, directly opposite another road signposted "Tevin". We turned down this & after about

a quarter of a mile, came to a fork in the road & straight ahead was Queen Hoo House, looking delightful in the sunshine. We took the hedged track on the right of the Hall, & again paused to admire the building from the rear. The path led into an open field giving a beautiful view over the valley in front in the direction of Braunfield & Painshanger. We followed the line of the ledge downhill until a gate gave access to a track running along the edge of Braunfield Park Wood.

We noticed that this track had been greatly cleared since we last used it & the going was now much easier. Obviously, by the hoof marks, it ~~was~~ was well used by horses. The track continued for about half a mile & then led into an open field. At this point, a sunken track led away sharply to the right along the edge of two fields to the road.

Here we turned right & in a few minutes reached Tim, where we joined by Sir Francis & Lady Peaboe, who had come over by car. All the party then sat down to a very good tea at the Rose & Crown ^{at 5 p.m.}. The meal was very enjoyable & had an almost festive

air + we greatly appreciated the hospitality of the landlord.

After tea, some of the party returned home by ~~taxi~~ bus or car. The rest of the party took the path leading from the side of the inn, diagonally to a stile & then on to another path running almost due west along the edge of a ploughed field.

It was a beautifully clear starlit night by this time with a rapidly increasing ~~but~~ frost, but an ideal night for a country walk.

Coming to a track we crossed straight over this by the side of a bungalow + continued in a slightly south westerly direction until we reached the well known circular path running along the northern edge of Tevin Water Park.

¶ We kept to this path to its end at Digswell, where we took the road leading under the viaduct & up the hill to W.G.C. which we reached about 6.45 pm.

WJ

Ramble - Sunday 22nd Feb 1953.
Brockett Park, Water End, Aycl Green.

There was a fairly good muster for this popular local walk, led by the Committee,* some joining the party on the footpath across the fields to Lamsford. It was a fine sunny morning with a touch of spring in the air, though there was a cold wind which became noticeable when clouds obscured the sun from time to time.

Fourteen members came into Lamsford & entered Brockett Park by the stile near the Mill. When however we took the path past the Hall to Water End, two members, one of whom had recently sprained an ankle, took the Aycl Green path, & met us on our return.

The walk was very pleasant without any outstanding occurrences. In the "bluebell wood" the tips of the bluebell leaves were seen pushing up through the dead leaves. At Water End there was quite a crowd of cars, & people enjoying the scene & watching cars splashing their way through the ford.

* NO Named Leader

From Water End we took the pleasant undulating narrow road, hardly more than a lane, which leads to Ayot Green. We had to line the sides of the road whenever a car came along, which was quite frequently this fine Sunday morning for a road usually so quiet.

Some of the party chose to go straight home to see about lunch, when we reached Ayot Green, but the majority went to "the Waggonet" for some liquid refreshment. The more hardy partook of their drinks outside, looking over the golf course, where it was quite pleasant, others preferring the shelter within. Then, in small groups, members made their way home, after a very enjoyable little outing.

E.F.B.

WALK 36 13.

Ramble - Saturday, March 7, 1953

A party of 12 met at the meeting place at 2:15 pm & caught the Birch Bus. Three more joined us en route. The weather was rather dull & cold, but fine. Leader Mr. Brown.

We left the bus at Langley Lane end & took the lane on the left hand of the main road for a short distance & then a cart track leading off on the left, uphill along a hedge. The track was very clean & grassy, leading up to the top of the slope, down again, round a small copse, up hill again & eventually emerged on a road. Here we turned right for about half a mile until we came to a cross roads. Here we turned left, along a rather muddy track known as Norton Street Lane. We followed this for about half a mile & then took a path on the right, leading ~~the~~ along a broad double avenue of trees leading downhill to the road between Whitwell & St Pauls Walden, & giving a fine view of St Pauls Walden house, known as the Bury. On the road, we turned right, for a few yards then, just short of the hedge & a

road marked "Pintree", we turned through two ~~to~~ iron hand gates on the left into the Park, skirting the "Pintree" road on our right. 100 yards ahead another iron gate gave access to a road junction in the park. We took the right hand road, gently uphill past a house + finally out on a road, opposite St. Paul's Walden Church. We spared a few minutes to visit the Church, but were somewhat disappointed + smoky heating stoves filled the place with fumes + the architecture, although decorative, was not particularly distinguished. We noticed, of course, the plaque recording that Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, worshipped here when a member of the Bowes-Lyon family. From the church, we took the route as described in a previous ramble, 15/11/52, past Kingshoe + then through the Park + by a ~~plain~~ plainly marked track back to Whitwell.

Here we thoroughly ~~enjoyed~~ enjoyed the tea at the Eagle + child + were pleased to welcome three new members.

After tea, we turned right through Whitwell, past the Youth Hostel, where we said good bye to two members, over the road junction + then

up a track on our left, rising fairly rapidly up hill. This track was the latter end of Norton Street Lane & we soon came to the scene of trees traversed earlier in the week. A few yards past here, on the right, a cart track gave access to a footpath leading to Three Houses Lane & fully described in the reverse order in the week of 15/11/52.

Arrived at Three Houses Lane, we turned ~~right~~ left for about $3/4$ mile & then reached the main Hitchin road. It was now about quite dark & we turned along the road in the direction of Codicote, knowing that a bus would soon overtake us.

We were a little taken aback when the first bus shot past without stopping but the ~~first~~ duplicate bus a minute or two behind picked us up & we reached W.G.C. (Valley Rd Corner) about 7.30 pm.

B

Sunday March 22nd - 'Lamer' Round

Twelve in the party - 6 men + 6 ladies
ideal weather.

Mr Ash

Mr + Mrs Biles

Mr Beynon

Mr Hawkesford New member

Mr McClain

Miss Marsden New member

Sir Francis Penke

Miss Pollard

Mr + Mrs Stannard New members

S.J.W. (leader) Mr. Whittetbury

303 Bus. (to Mandley Hill) 10-20 from Cherry Tree

to Welwyn Church. Mr Ash joined us there at 10.30.

By Fulking Mill Lane, up + down into Kinslan Valley road - Colony of seagulls - a few periwinkles - a look up - bursting with spring -

Turned south near Codrict bottom - 'Good Morning' to lodge keeper at Ayot Park Gate. Party stopped at top of rise to enjoy view of the Valley (Minroom) still misty to eastward.

Through gate into ~~Lamer~~ Ayot Park - Sat 10 mins to rest in warm sunshine and sweet air. Mr Beynon + Sir Francis indulged in a few great thoughts on 'Reality'.

Across park to Ayot St Lawrence - a deserted village - met + saw nobody until out of Church field. A lady with some bulbs of wild daffodils and a family out for a walk - Two cars (full) perhaps making for Shaw's corner.

Left road at corner for track to gate into Lamer Park - on cleared ground of a plantation hundreds of wild daffodils - green sheen + many buds but no daffs in bloom - full of promise - Along avenue towards the big house - Fine South down sheep by with lambs - Very pastoral -

* Mrs. Stannard later became

Mrs. Gladys Lloyd still a member

1909 - this was presumably

the work. See names vol 1
Page 86.

Found a square of tree trunks very suitable for a party to sit, eat & converse - Half an hour very enjoyable picnic - Grace said for the beautiful sunshine the chief contributor to our felicity - S.W. expressed regrets of Secretary for his absence - Party were very sorry for the cause. Each one said what was his or her wish in respect of a coach trip in the evening of June 6th to London to see Coronation decorations & perhaps go to a theatre -

Land House rebuilt - more modest and better style than old mansion - By new (breezy) road to Gustard Wood. Short stop at the Plough for refreshment - Very comfortable saloon - Whistling Golf course to a kissing gale (SW corner of common) took field path down to Wheathamstead - Fine view of ridge towards Harpenden -

Under railway, turned left before 'Bull' Inn thro' Hemphry Chemical works to field path north of R16 to Marford. Thro' gate on left of lane - Found footpath ploughed & harrowed over - Rusty walk to riverside. Then the familiar but good walking alongside river to Water End - on way Mr. Beyony discovered his tweed hat had fallen from his pocket - He had taken it off just before reaching Wheathamstead - He did not wish to lose it & decided to go back to try to find it. Apologised to party.

At water end the river ripple was beautiful & induced three of the men to take off their shoes & socks & walk in - Quite a holiday resort - Beautiful walk thro' Broken Park & Hemford - Plenty of froth in the lee from mill race - over the 'cliff' to Valley Road. Good byes about 4 pm