

Sunday, 21st June, 1953.

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Tewin Church, Marden Hill, Panshanger Park,
Cole, Letty and Mill Greens.

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Eureka! A spot of sunshine and warmth to give strength to 14 pairs of legs which set off through Sherrards Woods to Digswell Water and along the concrete path, crossing the Tewin road and along the footpath to Tewin churchyard. Leaving the churchyard by the south kissing gate on to the Archer's Green lane, we crossed this and went through another gate on to the well defined path now luscious with ripening barley.

On the far side, we went through a little copse to a broad avenue of trees leading to Marden Hill Farm. The path is here well signposted now, with new stiles, and turns right down to the River Mimram. The little bridge and the water dancing over the weir enticed us all to paddle and have "elevenses".

Then turning left at the Hertford road for a few hundred yards, we entered Panshanger Park. When the path through the park fizzles out after climbing a high stile, we made our way diagonally across two fields to the Cole Green Garage. The path is not very clear from here. We went through a gap in the hedge, alongside a cottage garden to the left of the Garage, and made for Cole Green Station.

Here at the Cowper Arms, which we reached at one o'clock, we sprawled on the garden to eat and drink.

Turning left along the road to Letty Green and then right when we reached the main road, we walked

about 1 1/2 miles of unavoidable road. When the road turned left to go up the hill to Essendon, we plunged into the wood and alongside the river to Mill Green. Arriving there at four o'clock, we had tea in the Old Orchard Tea Gardens and afterwards wandered home along the footpath through Woodhall Farm to Stanborough where we dispersed.

Linda Chinn

LINDA CHINN



↑
TRUDY
MCLEAN

↑
ELAC
AYLES

↑
GLADYS
SEANHARD

↑
LINDA
CHINN

↑
MARGARET
POLLARD

Ramble - Sunday, July 12, 1953

This was our long-awaited return visit to Tollesbury, led & organised by Mr. Gayard.

Just party of 45 (39 adults, 6 children) met at the Motor Car Park at 8.45 am in drizzling rain. The weather forecast was very unpropitious but nobody seemed discouraged.

Soon after the two special buses left W.G.C, the rain came down in earnest. The route lay through Hatfield, Bishop's Hatfield, Braintree, Dunmow, Coggeshall, & Kelvedon.

We arrived at Tollesbury about 11.30 in pouring rain & advised the Mrs. Gunton of the Hope Inn (Tollesbury 238) where we were to have tea of an exact number.

The weather outlook was depressing in the extreme but after some discussion (during which time the bar of the Hope Inn opened), it was decided to take the buses down to the edge of the estuary, so that something of the marshes

could be seen. This was done + a few have spirits exploded a little + get very wet in the process. Lunch was eaten on the buses + the rain having eased slightly, a return to the village was made where the party divided into three. The first party, walking, set off well equipped with waterproofs along the sea wall, the second party under the leadership of Mr. Lynton went in one of the buses to Colchester + had a very enjoyable afternoon visiting the Roman sites + museums. The third party in the other bus went along the coast to Maldon where the weather had eased sufficiently to allow of a motor boat trip.

All the parties reassembled at 5 p.m. at the Hope Inn for a very ample + enjoyable tea. All the parties expressed themselves as having had a very enjoyable time + the return journey was made with all in a most contented frame of mind after a very good outing. This attitude spoke very well for the spirits of the company in view of the really dreadful weather.

WJ

Saturday 29th July 1953

WALK 47

38

The Aycliffe Challenge


The afternoon was blustering but fine when 12 met at the usual place. We were glad to welcome some prospective new members.

led by Mr Chinn, we went through the woods via six ways to the Great North Road. Crossing this & taking the path to the left of the "Red Lion", we went across the fields ~~at~~ ^{over} the road and by the path to Little Green. Following the bank to Torrey Farm we went over a field path to Hunter's bridge where the path goes under the Hutton Branch railway. From here the path is, in places, somewhat overgrown but not difficult to find except for a short stretch through the bracken & undergrowth of Madden Wood.

Hinting the edge of Dowdells wood we crossed the Coxcote - Wheelthorpe road and followed the path by Stokings Spring. As there was time in hand we sat for a while to rest and admire the fine prospect towards Norfolk woods. The path emerges in Aycliffe fence near Shaw's Corner from where it is a short step to the "Appled Acres".

where tea had been ordered. In spite of having a party of over 50 to deal with, the "Brevet Clones" moved in with its usual cheerful efficiency.

The next stage lay along the path over Mill Farm to Ayr St. Peter. A new water main for the benefit of Ayr St. Lawrence has recently been laid under the line of this path which it is hoped will preserve this path, once in danger of disappearing. After a few minutes on the road, we took the path by Ayr St. through Reding Wood to White Hill, then dropped gently down past St. Mary's School to Welwyn, emerging into the main road by "The Steamer". A pause for more refreshment here put us in good shape for the last leg through Bigswell Park to the Mounts Walk.

 - CYRIL CHINN



Sunday 9th Aug. 1953.

all day ramble led by Mr Byles - Airfield
(Panshanger), Marden Hill (Tennis), Bramfield
Forest, Mardley Hill.

Eleven set out from the usual meeting place
at 10 a.m. along Bridge Road (East) enjoying the
quiet sunny industrial area at peace, turning
left into Kettle road & across the railway to
Attermore Hall. Straight through the farm
along a gated farm track which disappeared
in the field from which it formerly joined the
lane (Green Lane) from Holwell Hyde crossing.

Over hedge & wire into the lane & along the
edge of the airfield to Birchall Wood. Small
private biplanes were taking off, & a pause was
made for rest & reconnoitring.

Following the side of the wood we came
to derelict buildings & were asked to leave
by the main gate as we were trespassing
on Air Ministry property. All footpaths had
been walled up long ago, we were told.

So down to the valley, Newford Rd (B1000),
& back a short distance to the weir below
Marden Hill, which we had hoped to reach
by footpath. There had a dip in the shallow
wet-cold, clear waters of the Minnow, while

others rested & sampled their provisions.

As we were about to move on, Mrs Chinn arrived by bicycle bringing iced orangeade & beer - drinks much appreciated on this bright summer day.

Across the stone bridge & up the pleasant but little used path to Marden Hill Farm, over the Fair-
hurst road & along the bridle road to West End Farm, the path led straight into Bacon's Farm but some wooden rails in the fence evidently marked the right of way, & across the field was another set, a third set, on the corner of the lane to West End Farm, was badly obstructed by thorn bushes though ditto, though not by wire which was on both sides of it.

We walked a short distance along the lane to the east & took the footpath to Bramfield, where we ate & drank on the green beside the Grandison Arms, visited the church & village, noting a new but pleasing tiled shelter marking the site of the old wall, ^{erected} to commemorate the Coronation.

Up the road on the north side of Bramfield past the Stapleford turning, & along an overgrown lane on the right, emerging into the broad & pleasant Back Lane through Bramfield Forest. A delightful walk with

good view to the north-east in the latter part where we turned off to Bull's Green.

Thence we took the road to Collesfoot Farm & the track across the fields in the direction of Welch's Farm (& the road to Woolmer Green). Crossing the field south of Welch's Farm we had some difficulty in finding an entry to Barnes Green Wood, but eventually found one in the corner where it joins Barnes Wood. Turning north in the direction of the late afternoon sun, we at length came upon the line of the tunnel & so down to the North Road & 5.38 but home. A very good day.

P.B.

Half Day Ramble Saturday Aug. 23rd 1953.

Led by Mrs Byles.

None of us caught the 2.45 bus at the usual meeting place. Two of the party got on at Valley Rd. corner.

We went to old Lockwood Church, walked along the High St. and entered Lockley's End Drive at the end keeping left by some allotments.

Outside was a narrow path to the left leading to the Great North Rd. This we crossed and went directly up on the other side passing innumerable bee hives belonging to Taylors.

Then we walked along the edge of a cornfield and passed through a narrow gate into a wooded field down the hill & over the stile into a clover field.

Up the hill we went and down Baron's Drive to Harrow Green.

Along the road we came to Kit's Corner and went along the lane at the side into a cornfield & following the edge we came to the wood which we skirted until we came to a path at

at the end which we followed and down is
 Turpin's Road & into the Great North Road
 Cape Crossing over we had ^{Saskatchewan} view of the Civic
 Centre. Three of the party left us after
 refreshments & we continued our ramble
 into Marley Heath on the left - across
 Heath Rd. into Mannings wood and coming
 out we walked back along the edge into a
 lane & out on to a footpath to the right
 & through a gate into a road.

Soon we climbed over into Arnold's
 Farm field & went left of the house along
 a path to Potters Heath House.

Turning off here from Danesbury Park
 Rd. we found the path down through the
 Park and caught the bus on the Great
 North Rd.

C. H. B.

WALK 50 45

Ramble - Sunday Sept 6, 1953

Hatfield - Wadesmill - Sacombe Park -
Chapman End - Waterford.

A small party of 5 met for the bus
to Hatfield (Leader Mr. B. Bin) + thence by
bus to Hatfield. Six more members were
picked up en-route, + the party of 11
started off from Hatfield in brilliant
sunshine. Passing Hatfield East station, we
turned along the footpath along the canal
until the first foot-bridge where we
took a well marked path across the
meadows until coming to the stile leading
to Ware Park Sanatorium. Here a path,
well marked as a Public Path, led up
the hill through woods, passing the Hospital
close on the left + then forward on to a
clear track + just short of a white gate,
we entered a little used path, through
a iron swing gate. Keeping a hedge close
on our left, we came to a wooden swing
gate, then diagonally across the meadow,
crossing a track, to another iron kissing
gate.

The path led to the left of old gravel pits & gave a very extensive view of Ware & the surrounding countryside. We then crossed the Ware road & forward to a farm track leading to Downfield Farm. Passing through this farm-yard, we kept along the track on the edge of Longlands Wood. After about 3/4 mile, we came to & crossed the main Hertford & Cambridge road. Down a little side road, we came to a little inn, outside of which we had our lunch in beautiful weather.

After lunch, we moved downhill, en route admiring a beautifully reconstructed ancient house. Rejoining the main road, we walked 200 or 300 yards northwards, & then, on the left, we found a little track leading past a cottage marked "footpath only". Along this & in a few yards turning to the left, through a gap in the hedge obstructed by barbed wire. Through the gap, we turned right along the hedge & followed the deep ravine of the river Beane. This was a deep gully 20 feet or more deep & crossed at one point by a footbridge. After half-a-mile, we came to a road & turned

left of the hill. At the top of the hill, the
 lane shown on the left of the road was
 quite impassable between two ledges, so we
 kept along the line of the ledge & then right
 along the edge of a wood. At the end
 of the wood, we came to a clear track
 leading through a wood, passed the houses
 of Cold Harbour, to Sacombe Park. Here
 we passed the houses & then turned
 left in front of Sacombebury, down the dune
 to the Ware Road. Here we turned left
 almost to the village of Trowell & just
 before the first house on the right, took a
 path across meadows with pleasant
 views to the little hamlet Chapmoor End.
 Here we walked along the main street
 until we came to a narrow passage on
 the right, leading to the fields to Stanghills.

Here, at the Three Hearts Inn we found
 a very welcome tea awaiting us.

After tea, with a perfect evening in front
 of us, we took the path immediately in front of
 the inn & then the narrow lane leading
 steeply down hill to ~~Wantage~~ ^{Wantage}. Here, at
 the Church, the party divided, some taking
 the riverside path, through the churchyard

to Waterford + Hartford + these boxes
to W.G.C.

The remainder of the party crossed
the main road ahead, under the railway
bridge, + then by a poorly defined path
of Branfield + then via further footpaths
to Tewin, Digswell + W.G.C.

For this latter party, the day's walk
had been about 18 miles + it was
almost dark when we arrived home, well
satisfied with our day's activity.

Saturday pm - September 19th

Twin, Bull's Green, Datchworth Green

We started off, a party of 12, from the top of Valley Road, & thence through the woods & down Mow's walk to Digswell Village, where we lost one member of the party at a lookback watch! From Digswell we continued along the Bridle Path by Twin Water until about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile before the road is reached. It was noted here by several members of the party that a footpath which used to lead diagonally across the field has been ploughed up since the ground was planted with large & flourishing mangolds. It was not possible to force our way across, & we had to keep to the east of the field & to turn sharp left by the hedge to reach our objective. It was suggested, however, that a post would be made to mark out the original path when the ground was next ploughed up.

The footpath led into Twin by the Rose Crown, & at here we turned left & followed the road until we reached the turning to Green Ho. A short way up this road we entered a field on the left through a gate, from where a path leads up to Bull's Green, behind, & for a short way, through

Tasie Wood. This is quite a pleasant path, with nice views, but towards the end, after leaving the wood, it has unfortunately been ploughed, & the going is rather heavy. On reaching the road, past a market garden ablage with chrysanthemums, we turned right up to Bull's Green village, where welcome tea was laid on at 'The Horae' (Tel. Tasie 367).

After tea, we passed through a gap in the hedge to the north-east of the Inn, & followed a path by a dried up stream as far as Bull Lane, where we turned left & soon had a good view of Dutchworth Church village at the top of the hill ahead of us. When we reached the road at the foot of the hill, however, we again turned left to Dutchworth Green, & from there followed the Roman Road to ~~the~~ ^{Robbery} Station. Just before we reached the bridge under the railway, the party split up, four continuing to catch the bus home, while the remainder went along the footpath towards Dunham Green. Before reaching the village, we turned right across the field, & through a double gate into Barnes Wood, where the path runs between hedges, across the drive, & between hedges again, until just by Kitt's Corner we turned right & so

followed the path across the tunnels, through
Drip well & the woods, home, by which time it
was quite dark (about 8 pm). The day was
well finished for two of us with a glass of
Sir Francis Pease's barley wine - 1938 brew!

KC

KATHERINE CROUCH

Saty. Oct 4th 1953

Preston, Offley, Telegraph Hill, Lilley, Whitwell

A party of 22 caught the 10.10 bus to The Royal Oak between Langley & Ippelton for a long walk of about 18 miles which not all of them finished. We took a path just north of the Royal Oak & then by permission of the owners went first through Pogdens End and then through Temple Dinsley - near a school, where we walked through the paddens & came out at Preston.

Half a mile of road west of Preston and we turned right along Dead Woman's Lane for half a mile. From this point a footpath runs north west for about 2 miles to Offley. It is difficult to trace but we followed the line of it. On reaching an inn the leader decided to stop for a drink but the whole party were so hungry that they started at once - their sandwiches like a pack of wolves. After that we walked down through Offley to the Luton road & took the little road to Little Offley but branched off left along a track to Lilley Moo.

Here, just short of the top of Telegraph Hill we finished our lunch & decided in view of the distance of Whitwell (the tea place) to start back from there first via footpath to Lilley, then by a long footpath which skirts the Putteridge Bay Estate. Here on a long path with a high unscalable wall on one side we met at close quarters a very large fence looking bull

The whole party walked steadily past it without blinking an eyelid but feeling a certain amount of internal disturbance

Almost entirely on footpaths we pressed on without rest through Mangrove Green, Cockenbore Green, past Cockenbore Farm, Darleyhall & Brownings to Breachwood Green

Here there was some panic as the party was so short but we arrived round a corner before any search began.

Then we took the footpath to Bendish & the road from there to Whitwell where we were a bit late and we were told that the Landlady of the Eagle & Child kept looking out to see if we were coming.

We arrived there in twos and threes and had a good tea. Afterwards as the light was bad we walked into Corick by road & in consequence had to wait for the bus

We decided that the distance covered (about 18 miles) was too much and left no time for rest or staying about.

SIR FRANCIS PENKE

(The Bull 27th)