

which 30

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Ramble - Sunday Dec. 27, 1953

A party of nine assembled at 10:00 am at our usual meeting place at the corner of Valley Rd + Bridge Rd in beautifully sunny weather, leader Mr. Bain.

We walked straight down Valley Rd + at the Great North Rd corner found 4 more members waiting for us. We were now 13 but the unlucky number did not deter us.

We turned left along the North Rd, somewhat to the surprise of some of the party, + continued thence to the bridge of the river here. Just over the bridge, on the west side of the road, we climbed over some low iron railings + turned off left through a patch of scrub to a somewhat dilapidated stile in a barbed wire fence. Over the stile we turned right + kept along the track of the river until another stile beside a gate was reached. Here we bore slightly left to a track leading upwards across the field to another stile. Over this stile we went straight ahead alongside a hedge, bordering a farm, then through a gate + slightly to the right of a barn, to emerge - ~~at the~~ Church Hill, Hempsford.

We turned left for a few yards & then took the entrance to Lempford Parish Hall on our right. A stile showed where a path led diagonally to the left across the field over another stile & through a belt of trees. In a few yards, we crossed the main drive to Brachet Hall & then another short path opposite led us through another belt of trees to emerge on the Lempford - Wheathampstead road.

We turned right along the road as far as the Chequers & then took the lower Hyde lanes on the right. For the next part of the ramble to Simonsbyde Farm we kept to the route described for Aug 9, 1952. The stile on this path was still obstructed but the leader had been assured earlier by the farmer that he would clear the path as soon as possible.

Leaving Simonsbyde Farm, we turned right along the road for a few yards & then left along a rather muddy track through Simonsbyde Great Wood.

This was a pleasant part of the walk, since the winter sunshine was shining brightly down through the trees.



After about half a mile, we reached a padlocked bridle gate on the western edge of the wood. The track marked on the map as skirting the wood, was visible but completely obstructed by barbed wire + undergrowth. To avoid this, therefore, a track was made straight across the field ahead + up a slope to a small copse. Here we turned right for 50 yards + then left under barbed wire into a field which gave access to another field + then, keeping still straight ahead, over a stile into a road opposite Hammond's Farm.

From here, again our route followed that described earlier to the Three Oaks Inn, Nomanstrand, where we stopped for lunch. We were hospitably received, as always, + the Xmas spirit was still much to the fore, literally as well as metaphorically. Mistletoe hanging from the ceiling was made use of in the time-honoured way + indeed some of the exchanges were carried out without benefit of mistletoe! Resuming our walk, we turned left



out of the inn + then shortly took a lane on the left, which brought us out on the northern edge of Nomanland Common. Bearing right, we came to a gap in the hedge, from which the map showed a path crossing a field diagonally. There was no sign of the path + as the field was under cultivation, we walked round the edge to the opposite corner where we found the path continuing along the hedge into the next field + then leading into the Wheathampstead road. About 50 yards uphill, another path on the right led downhill to a lane down which we turned ~~to the left~~ to reach the entrance to Devil's Dyke.

We walked along the bottom of this ancient British fortification, speculating on the problems of its construction + then emerging on the lane leading to Marford.

From Marford, we took the well-known opposite path to Water End + then through Rocket Park to W.G.C., arriving back in good time for tea, with all the party in high spirits!



Wagon 24  
71  
Wamble Sat: 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1944

The party assembled at the usual spot to catch the 2.20, 303 to Welwyn. Sixteen members boarded the bus alighting at Welwyn Clusack.

In Welwyn a few moments were spent confirming and making final arrangements for the tea. This preliminary over, we struck off north to the Clock turning right crossing the Bye Pass, to a footpath going east across the Warren, of "Lockley's Estate" almost in a straight line to, Harmer Green, the country side was looking very beautiful. We were rather unfortunate on the walk as the three previous days had been very frosty freezing every where hard, but the night before the walk, it poured with rain making everywhere end-of-foot very muddy.

On reaching Harmer Green, the leader gave the party the option of going by road or continuing by the fields. The party were unanimously in favour of the fields.



So we crossed Summer Green down the lane leading to, Twin water Riff Range, the lane leading to the path was in a shocking state, but we carried on eventually coming to the Riff Falls, here the leader took a path to the (right), through the woods. (left. 27)

none of the party had been this way before, This takes you up a fairly steep hill on the brow of which several of the party found Odible snail shells, these they collected and carried home.

Several of the members found this a bit hard going, because of the mud. The leader raised a laugh by saying "It will! why worry about - Everest; which is nothing on this, he arrived at the Rose and Crown Tavern about 11, 30, were a nice firm awaited us as we had to wait - a few minutes for him, the leader took this opportunity of extending the apologies from the Secretary for his absence, he unfortunately had sprained his ankle on some of our wonderful paving stones in both of members hoped he would soon be fit and about again, and as this was

the first walk in the ~~new~~ year the  
 leader wished all the members a very very  
 happy New Year, and hoped we should  
 not find so much mud on all our walks  
 in 1954, at this point Lady Peate &  
 Waddy arrived making the tea party 18  
 A very nice tea was provided, and plates  
 were licked up clean.

As the night was fairly dark, and paths,  
 being very muddy, a nice steady walk,  
 home by the lanes was enjoyed by us all.

In all a very enjoyable outing.

J. L. Powell



Sunday January 24th 1954

From The Pooking Halfeld PA via <sup>Wood</sup> Woodhill, Newgate & Epping (seen to Little Beckhamstead). Home via Millyfield & Stanbore.

Owing to an oversight in the announcement of the walk it was necessary to arrange for the Secretary to meet a second party at Valley Road for the 10.00 am (see Lane Bus (7 members) which the leader (S.J. Whittaker) took the first party (9 members) by the 9.50 Bus (30) from The Cherry Tree.

The ladies (9 ladies & 7 men) met at the Pooking at 10.30 am (the first party having regaled themselves with hot tea & coffee in the Caf. here). The morning was a very breezy one - cold east wind but stimulated with bright sunshine which continued throughout the day.

By lanes alongside Halfeld PA to Woonies then east to Woodhill - 1 1/2 miles; across the Brockmans PA - Lunden road; by the farm track on to the field ridge 1/2 mile north of Cuffley Great Wood - The ground was frozen and made the waddy into hard patches. The team work was felt very decidedly here. Turning right at the second farm track we passed the farm & cottages and turned south across the fields - sloping down to Cuffley Woods 2 1/2 miles. View here to the south west where the Great Wood rises to a fine ridge - Turning leftwards we found shelter from the wind under the same ground & coffee to the east and tea in the south & eat lunch finding it surprising warm for January - 3 1/2 miles

At 1 o'clock we turned off the field on to the road rising steeply to Newgate village - picturesque stone and fine stone church with spire - leaving the tea case on our right we took the lane and turned off (at the point we previously left it for the and walked the footpath (northward) falling rising again (fine prospect to the east) on a Tipton causeway - Royal road here also



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and walked the footpath (northerly) falling &  
rising again (fine prospect to the east) on to  
Tyers causeway - Right hand here along  
the road (past another inn) and then turned  
into a field path (left) to the Epping Green

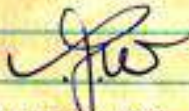


hauled joining the road <sup>to L. Berkhamsstead</sup> at the farm and turning <sup>right</sup> alongside the inn (on our left) into a muddy field track (two awkward styles) to Bucks Farm

Down the hill and up again to little Berkhamsstead village (at the folly tower) and after quiding the Irene Cafe (a Dance Hall behind Moores Stores) sat down to a substantial tea (rough & ready) at 3 o'clock. (7 miles)

After tea the party decided to divide and half went with Sir Francis Peuke to the field path way back to W.G. City, via Essenden Hill & Mill Green whilst those who wished to arrive home about 5 o'clock walked down the road to the Hertford Bus route and took the 4.13 (340) to Mill Green and walked <sup>the fields</sup> ~~via~~ Holwell Farm. Stanboro' to ~~Four~~ Kempford Rd

The sky was still clear, and the light fair and the air calm as we completed the walk



MR. WHITTENBURY



Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1954.

Harpden, Macheys End, Homeworld,  
Cromer Hyde. Leader: P. Byles.

The first part of this walk was very similar to that on 2<sup>nd</sup> May last year except for the contrast of the wintry scene. A party of 20 met at W.G.C. station & took the 2.29 train to Harpden, where they seemed surprised to see so many people alighting. Turning left from the station we came to Baljard housing estate, where formerly a footpath ran across a field, & picked up the path on the far side of the houses. This led to a lane where we turned right down the hill & then climbed ~~the~~ up the other side to Macheys End & Macheys End Farm, the latter being the place made famous in Charles Lamb's "Essays of Elia".

The often muddy track leading down to the road & the cherry trees was frozen hard & very pleasant walking. Crossing the river & railway we came to the ploughed-up path at Leasey Bridge Farm. Our secretary had written to the farmer again this year, & we were



amused at his reply, saying "he had no objection to our walking round the edges of his fields, but naturally we should not wish to interfere with the growing crops"! We took the hint, somewhat reluctantly, but feeling that insisting on our rights would probably only stir up ill-feeling. Next year we understand the field will be grass, & the foot-path will be restored.

So to an excellent tea at the Three Oaks, Nomanstant, by the route previously followed. Bush was falling as we crossed the common & took "Dink's Dyke road" as far as Lower Beech Hyde farm, where we climbed the stile on the nearer side of the drive, followed the hedge to the end of an old lane which brought us out on the road opposite Upper Beech Hyde farm. About 50 yards up the road to the right a stile in the hedge, <sup>on the left</sup> marks a path to Coleman's Green, & from there in the gathering darkness, we followed the little-used foot-path to Crown Hyde & so through Brocket Park to Lemsford & the edge of the golf course, where the party began to break up.

P.F.B.

Sunday morning 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1954

Weather fine. 28 rambblers turned out - a record for a Sunday morning

The route was through Lensford and Brocket Park and along the river to Water End. Here the quiet countryside was disturbed by a motor trial for cars and motorbikes and the lane from Waterend to Aycl Green was full of them. We walked up the lane a short distance and just beyond the farm turned left at a gap in the hedge and followed the south side of the Luton Branch railway - a footpath very little used. We crossed the footpath to Aycl S<sup>t</sup> Lawrence where it goes under the railway & continued to the second stile over the railway which we crossed. We took the path to Aycl S<sup>t</sup> Peter and then <sup>the</sup> road to Aycl Green. Some members of the party then celebrated a pleasant outing with a pint at The Waggoners

Leader Sir Francis Pecke.



Saturday Afternoon 6<sup>th</sup> March 1954

A blustering day with a hint of rain. The party  
gathered until it numbered 22

We took a 372 bus to Holwell Hyde crossing  
(beyond Gannells) then walked south past Holwell Hyde  
Farm by a wide track to the Hatfield Hertford road. Left  
along this for a few minutes then again south over the River  
Lee, passing W. of Smeadbury. Following R<sup>w</sup> along the  
river for 1/2 mile or so, then S. by a wide but very muddy  
track which leads to West End. Halfway along it,  
however, we turned left past Parkenshill Grove (a copse)  
to meet West End Lane 1/2 mile from Smeadbury. Turning behind  
the Church along the Recreation Ground, we came out on B158  
opposite the Post Office where tea had been ordered.

After tea, we went back to the Recreation Ground to  
take another path leading west through pleasant woods then  
out into the open overlooking a fine valley. At the other side  
the path crossed a very muddy lane, past a poultry farm  
& came out by the Chequers at West End. We then took the  
lane past the edge of Hatfield Park on one side & Hilland Farm  
on the other to emerge again on to the Hatfield Hertford road  
near Mill Green. The party then split up some walking  
home & some walking for buses in Cole Green Lane

The occasion served to note certain paths shown on the  
topographic maps but not very well known & somewhat obscure  
& very fine stretch of about 8 miles. Leaders Mr & Mrs Chinn

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 1954

WALK 64

80

A party of 16 (plus one small boy) met at the usual place. Mr Farnood was to have led the walk but was unable to come & the party was conducted by three members of the Committee (Mr Heath, Mr Sykes, & Mrs Chinn)

Starting through Curriers Wood, we proceeded via Monk's Walk leaving it near its northern end to take the path over Mr Sheriff's land to Digswell Lane. We then took the path running to the east (to Black Farm) over the railway. Farming operations have destroyed most of this path but the line of it can be followed without difficulty.

Turning left (to the north) into B.1000, we crossed this into Union Water Park & went straight up through the Park to the concrete path along its northern fringe. We crossed this and took another path, very obscure & not easy to find, running NNE between Cocks Wood & Dewley Wood to Brewhouse Green. (This is path N° 35 on the Regional Map)

At Brewhouse Green, some went to a local café for tea & the remainder proceeded to "The Dead" for something stronger. This break was also made into the luncheon interval.

Resuming, we proceeded along the Brewhouse Green road for a short distance then struck off by a path towards Dalsheworth



Green. Another very dreary path, at least for the last half. At Doldilworth Green, we inspected the old Whipping Post then picked up the line of the old Roman road running west. It is very overgrown & the latter part under water so one must take to the field. The line of this path is continued to the west by Hobbing Bottom Lane but about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile along we turned south by Hampstead Spinney along a track & foot well exposed (having been recently cleared of undergrowth) but on reaching the NE corner of Hamner Green wood it becomes dreary. We followed the edge of the wood to a gate & still leading into Hamner Wood, through it. Emerging, the path skirts the W & S. edge of Hamner Wood to emerge into the highway at Hamner Green near Kells Corner. (This path is understood to be under dispute with the W. Ireland). On the last  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile we were challenged by a man (apparently a farmer) who stated that we were straying from the proper path on to his land but we pointed out that the path was so much overgrown as to be completely impassable; in any case we were not doing any damage since we were walking on the yard-wide headland, at the edge of the field, which was unutilized.

Having done the road to Hamner Green we stopped for a few moments to admire the egret which has recently made its home on the pond there. From this point, some of the party walked by

New Road to Bogswell Halls & the others, leaving the mud, took the back part the old Waterloo RAIL pumping station & across a field by path 3rd north west to Bogswell Halls. (But this path destroyed by farming operations but identifiable by the line of electric power-line pylons which follow it). At Bogswell Halls the party split up to make for home according to individual preferences.

Weather was mainly cloudy & cool, though there were some sunny intervals during the morning

CATHERINE HALLS ↓  
 PETER DALBY ↓  
 CYRIL CHINN ↓  
 BARRY TYBELL ↓  
 The Comptroller ↓  
 SIR P. PERKS ↓  
 MR. DONNEY ↓  
 JOHN LADDER ↓



↑  
 CLIVE CHINN ↑  
 AGNES MITCHELL-TAYLOR ↑  
 TRUDY McLEOD ↑  
 DAVID ECKHO ↑  
 GUDOTH WADDINGTON ↑  
 MARJORIE THEN-BEACH ↑