

WALK 65 83

Saturday afternoon. — April 3rd 1954.

After a most unpropitious morning, the weather cleared nicely when a party of 20, including two Dutch friends, met at the top of Valley Road to set out for Wheathampstead.

The route lay over the level crossing + through the woods, crossing the railway at the second of the substantial new stiles erected by British Railways where footpaths intersect the Luton Branch line, and from there up by the golf links to the Waggoners and across into Bocket Park by the Pond. In Bocket we took the path which leads to Corner Hyde, stopping for a (very brief) moment on the bridge to admire the fine show of daffodils on the slopes leading up to the Hall.

We walked a short way up the lane at Corner Hyde, and then branched off left up a farm track and across fields to Symonds Hyde Farm. Proceeding from the farm in a north westerly direction, and accompanied by some curious + somewhat noisy Gulls, we entered a wood + then crossed some more fields to Colman Green. From there, by

field paths past Upper Bach Hyde Farm and Lower Bach Hyde Farm, we eventually came out on to the Nomanland - Wheathampstead road, where we turned sharp right down the steep hill into Wheathampstead, enjoying a charming view of the village as we descended. We reached the Bell and Crown in Wheathampstead at 5/2c, where a very good Tea was provided.

After tea, some of the party returned by train, the remainder came home by the river, past Waterend through Brocket Park, emerging in Hemsted, where the semi-darkness humps of froth from the mill stream blowing about in the wind gave an eerie appearance. The ramble finished for some members with a quick one at the Long Arm and Short Arm, and then home.

K. C. C.

KATHERINE CROUCH

when 60 85

Ramble - Easter Monday, April 19, 1954

A party of 29 assembled at 10.0 am on a sunny morning with a rather cold north-east wind, London M. Basin.

We left the town by the well known path to Digswell House, via Marks Walk + thence, left, across the field ~~in~~ at the rear of the house, to the path across the fields to Welwyn. At the Steamer, we crossed the road + took the path almost opposite, round the sports ground, emerging on School Lane just at the fork with White Hill. We followed the right hand fork past the Victoria Memorial Hospital + the Waterworks + then took a path running alongside the boundary fence of the water works. At the end of the first field the path turned left + followed the hedge, across the track to ~~Linee's~~ ~~Farm~~ Farm, + round the rear boundary of Agotbury Park. At the end of the park, we turned right for a few yards + then left along the boundary of a field. At the end of the field, we crossed a cart-track leading to Pyefields Farm + then straight along the boundary of two fields to a

haystack, where the party rested for a few minutes. Resuming, in a few yards, we joined the well known bridle path coming from Aylt St Peter Church to Aylt St Lawrence, which we followed to this latter village. Here, it appeared that many of the party were loath to pass the Brocket Arms without some refreshment, so, although it was still early, it was decided to have lunch there & then. As usual, we ~~found~~ found the Brocket Arms most hospitable, providing refreshment of an alcoholic or non-alcoholic nature without demer. We sat in the garden, enjoying the sunshine, sheltered from the cool wind.

After about 45 minutes, we pursued our way, past the new Church, which a number of the party visited, along the edge of the wood, to a gate, give access to a delightful path through bushes & scrub to a clearing known as Clagbottom Wood, & now heavily wired as protection against rabbits. The path climbed the hill & then straight across a field to

the Kimpton Road. Here we turned right for a short distance & then took a path on the left of the road, leading along the boundary of the field & then round a recreation field to Kimpton. Here we turned right for a few yards & then left up Church Lane. Just as the lane turned slightly to the right, a gap in the wall on the left showed where the path continued along past the front doors of several cottages & then into fields, rising gently uphill. Almost at the top of the hill we rested & admired the extensive view to the south.

We then turned right, alongside an electric fence, to the edge of a wood where an early show of bluebells was much admired. A track took us in a few yards to the road at the spot with the interesting name of Archoldscross. Here we turned ~~left~~ for a yard or two & then took a track on the left, round the back of a house & then followed the boundary of a large field, admiring the view to our right. Just at this time, the sun seemed to shine with unusual

warmth + we felt that it could almost have been a summer's day. Coming to a small wood, we turned to the left along its edge, till a gate on the right gave access through the narrow belt of wood, across a field & then on to the main drive to The Hoe. Here we turned left, right round the front of the house + then down to the drive to the Whitwell - Codicote road.

Here again we rested enjoying the full heat of the sun. Resuming, we took the side ~~lane~~ on the right, marked "Private" past Pigeon-end Cottages + the Watercress beds until we were within a few yards of Rimplin Mill. Then we turned left along the green lane, stopping to watch two of the party who insisted on paddling in the somewhat muddy-looking stream. Then along the green lane, to Codicote Bottom, where we admired a garden allay with anemones + pimpernel. A few yards up the road to the left, a path on the right climbed steeply up the edge of the gravel pits + then on the fields to Codicote.

We were fortunate to find a cafe open
+ a number of the party enjoyed cups of
tea and/or ice cream. There was a
certain amount of doubt whether the
whole of the party would get on a bus,
but fortunately three buses eventually
arrived + by trisecting the party we
all travelled home quite comfortably.
An enjoyable day, with one or two
paths which were new to the party.



Walk to Batchwood 40

Saturday May 1st 1954

A party of sixteen (9 ladies, six men and a boy) met at 2.30pm at the corner of Valley Rd and The Great North Road.

The single Deck bus ^{for Coopers Green} was unlikely to take so many at that time and it was decided to walk all the way.

Rain had been forecast but the weather was right for walking - Bright intervals were numerous and a cool breeze refreshing.

The route was familiar as far as Sandridge - Bocket Park, Cromer Hyde Dymondshyde Farm - path thro Great Wood (where patches of bluebells were a delight) and across fields to the road on the ridge above Sandridge village - Fine views here all around - Some of the party visited the church - a saxon site built with roman brick and flint faced - It has an arch of Roman bricks ~~at~~ above the stone chancel screen (14th cent.) which runs from wall to wall with a grave simplicity - a beautiful pointed arch in the centre carved with an old man and an old woman -

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We crossed the St Albans - Harpenden road and took the field path ~~went~~ by the recreation ground to Sandridge bury crossing a road again climbed to the ridge (333 ft) and enjoyed a very wide view. Crossing the bridge over the main line Midland Railway that was - we took the gravel road (past Cheapside Farm - (very well kept) to the Harpenden Road - We crossed this to the gate alongside the lodge into Childwickbury Park - We were now overdue for tea at Batchwood Golf House and had insufficient time to go to Childwickbury Green where there is a miniature Jacobean House close to the church -

The path across the park petered out and we came to Batchwood at the

northern corner instead of the southern side where the path is. Exploration ensued amongst brambles & bluebells and it was some time before young Barry Tyrell discovered the track and we climbed up thro' the wood to Batchwood Golf Links without losing more time. Arrived at 5.45 - ^{45 mins} late.

The fine large Golf Club House ~~was~~ afforded many comforts including a refreshing tea in a room ^{overlooking} the golf links with a view of ^{a border of wall flowers and} St Albans Abbey.

Half the party decided to walk back via Childwickbury and the others walked into St Albans and rode to Welwyn Garden City by 'bus

The ramble was over new ground beyond Sandridge Village and added a novel interest to some good countryside with a desire to rewalk it.

J. Whittenbury.

All-Night Ramble
May 15th 1954

A party of 20 assembled at the usual rendezvous. It was cloudy and cool with a north-east wind. The route taken was through the woods to Cyt Green where we took the left-hand fork toward Cyt Green. Near Sorey's Farm we heard the first nightingale and from there almost all the way to Codricti we make frequent stops to listen to them.

We left the road to take the path under the railway to Cyt St. Lawrence. The route was very sheltered and we forgot the wind and began to remove some layers of woolies. We walked through Cyt St. Lawrence and took the path across the Park to Codricti Bottom and here we caught the wind again. Some of us caught sight across the valley of the flickering fire that one of the members was preparing for us on Codricti Heath and answered it with torch flashes.

Past Codricti Mill and up the steep slope on to the Heath carrying a bucket of water which a kindly cottager had left out for us and there among the tall oak trees was a bright little fire. It was then about 2.30. Large

quantities of sausages appeared and as soon as the frying pans were emptied of their savory contents they were filled up again. One junior member consumed 15. Then coffee was made and for the next hour until it began to get light we sat round the fire or lay flat to get shelter from the wind. At 4.30 we could see from the clouds that there would be no sunrise to watch so we packed up. The return journey was along Cadiscli Bottom, through Rye field Heath and so to Cyst St. Peter & Aycliffe Green and the woods where we began to break up and go our several ways.

We got home between 6 and 6.30 am. in high spirits and no one showed any signs of fatigue. We agreed that it was one of the most enjoyable excursions we have undertaken.

F. P.
28/5/24

SIR FRANCIS PEAKE

Mid-Herts Footpaths Society meets 9.05
a.m. Sunday, 30 May, corner of Valley
Road, and Great North Road for 9.15 a.m.
Bus to St Ippolyts, London Mid Herts
Route: Telegraph Hill and the Golden
Mile. Bring lunch. Home for tea (about
5.30). Approximately 14 miles.

WALK 69

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Telegraph Hill and the
Golden Mile, Sunday 30th May
1954

This lovely walk bids fair to claim
a permanent place in the programme, for
the last Sunday in May or thereabouts.
The weather this time was cool & cloudy
after a bright early morning, & members were
telling of their changes of clothing & grabbing
of woolies & macks, as 15 of us including 2
new members assembled at the Bivouac bus stop.

There were two changes of route from
that followed on the memorable sunny
Whit Sunday last year. We alighted at
St. Ippolyts & took the side road to Gosssea,
continuing along a pleasant country road
to Well Head, where we turned left for
Temple End & Chalk Hill. Skirting Great
Offley & the grounds of Offley Place on the
south side by field tracks & footpaths
we came out on to the Offley-Luton
road at Pine Cottages, just after the
bus had passed which we had used
on former occasions. Thus our earlier
stunt had given us a pleasant five mile
walk, avoiding the bus change & delay at

Hitchin, & brought us to this point at the same time as formerly.

Two members joined us here by arrangement having left their car in Lilling to enable them to get back early. Those who were lightly clad already had wet feet from the long wet grass, & there was more wet grass & plenty of mud to come. We took the path through cornfields & lanes to Lilling Hoo & in spite of grey skies it was very delightful with the many blossoms & larks singing. Proceeding northwards we crossed the Schmied way & came to the surprise view of sudden steep overlooking Peggdon & the Bedfordshire plain beyond.

Here we picnicked in the little dells to be out of the wind, & when it began to rain we were glad to put on macks & move down to Peggdon. So many grey plastic macks appeared that someone suggested we should call ourselves the Grey Friars.

We were made welcome at the "Linc & Lat Linc" where there was a roaring log fire which helped to warm, if not to dry, wet coats & shoes.

The Golden Mile of latunum blossom along the road to Hanton was very pleasant, & we enjoyed again the scenery of slopes & plantations

on the bridle path to Luton, which this time was followed as far as Moor Grove, this being the other change from our former route. We then turned left along the road, & came again to the Schmitt way which we followed back to Telegraph Hill.

Here for the first time we felt some warmth from the sun, which however never really broke through. There were some lovely views as we climbed the hill & walked along the track southwards towards Liley. We descended the steep path on the right towards the village & turned left at the bottom along the footpath which joins the ^{main} road opposite the side road along Liley Bottom.

Hardly had we reached the main road when our bus was seen pulling up at the Silver Lion a few hundred yards away. We wondered if it would pick us up at the place where we was, & were relieved to find it would. Except for those returning by car, we all climbed aboard & were speedily conveyed to Hildon where we walked through the church yard & caught our 303 home as planned. A most enjoyable day. E.F.B.

Saturday June 12. 1954

The above shows the contemplated walk.

In fact, 13 members disregarded the weather
outlook & caught the 2.40 bus to Woburn Church.
From there the route went: across Dunsbury's
Park & then along Dunsbury Park Road a good
way owing to the proposed footpath being too
wet. We then cut across the Heath to
the Bridge at Woburn Green; over the
Great N. Rd & thro a footpath at the
back of the Green on to the road at
Maraldybury. Thence to Kitchworth Green
by which time it was pouring hard, tho
it could not damp our spirits as we all
appeared well prepared for it. We arrived
at the Horns at Bull Green at 4.25 & were
welcomed by a very good Tea.

As at 5.30 it was still falling down we
sent 2 old Stagers home by bus & walked
to Throddley Hill via Coltsfoot Farm &
caught a bus home, thus missing Dunstable
Green Tea with + Sherwood.

In spite of the weather the 13 stalwarts all
agreed it was very enjoyable. Voted that a
note of thanks be sent to the hostess at the Horns
for the very good Home made tea provided. J.F.C.