

20 JUNE

Mid-Herts Footpaths Society: Excursion
to Tolleshbury, Sunday, 20 June. Special
bus leaves Cherry Tree Car Park at 9.00
a.m. Leader: Mr Carmel. Bring lunch, tea
provided.

This was the third annual
visit to Tolleshbury, Paul left Cherry Tree car park
at 9.00 clock a.m., 32 members turned out
on this annual visit. We were very favoured
with the weather. We arrived at Tolleshbury
about 11.15, some of the party made
strangers for the sea to butter.

Others visited the ancient church
and were lucky enough to find the tower
unlocked, and open to visitors.

We were able to see the bells, and
get a very fine view of the village
and the Blackwater estuary, this
was particularly fine as the tide was
flowing. Members then asked the leader
to find them some strawberries after
some consolation was of the members
were all supplied with this most luscious
fruit. After a pint and high refreshments
at the "Ship & Sled" we wended
our way to the sea. The elderly, and
the children, stayed at Woodup, bath,
in the Marine Lake, and visited

the yacht racing, at Rickhouse's head.
 Steve Lady Peter, experienced
 a rescue, she thinks of having a lovely
 map, on the Grid Iron, wrote to find
 herself completely marooned, and had
 to be taken off by boat.

The staterooms, walked
 to Single Hill Point, and spent the
 rest of the day in solitude, sunbathing
 and sea bathing, quite close to our
 Rendezvous, was found 4 Ringed Plovers
 eggs, and an Oyster Catchers nest
 with 2 lovely eggs.

about 4 o'clock
 we made our way back to the village
 where the boats engaged at the Bussard
 Cafe, in Carl-Is.

after collecting fruit etc, we left about
 7 o'clock, arriving home about 10-11 P.M.
 every body having a very enjoyable
 day.

Travis
 F. Gansell

Saturday July 3rd - Hestingsfordbury to Allimore Hall

The club members met at Woolson garden City Station (Bus Stop) at 2.25 for the No. 272 Bus to Hestingsfordbury (The White Horse bus)

Nineteen made a good party - Seven ladies, six men, one Teenager and a boy -

The route was to via Hestingsfordbury Church, ^{under} ~~across~~ the railway and then by the right? footpath \rightarrow left hand beyond a copse high ground with the Lea Valley on the left and ahead. View of Bayfordbury House and parklands and a glimpse of the River ^{along} ~~in~~ the Lea - Thru a small wood and on to the pasture of Water Hall Farm. Beyond the Farmyard a good track at a right angle climbed up again to the original level, and a bit higher. Good wheat and oats growing and waving in the breeze - Picture clouds with blue patches and gaps in the horizon. View here of the ridge from Epsom, Epping Green, Little Berkhamstead - Barnet - all very green with darker woods.

Over a stile into long grass + narrow path approaching the small village of East End Green - A farm and four cottages and a caravan - A notice indicated 'Tea with Hois' but no sign of a welcome or of anybody at all.

The first cottage was reported to be a deserted one - Both sides of the path shut off by trees + shrubs etc. A peep thro the letter box + fanlight gave no indication of a habitant - Then a strange weak voice repeated 'Go Away!' The party returned and left the ghost in peace.

A cinder path eastwards brought us to Woolson Park where the house in 1852 founded a place - The ground looked very strange large flat short grass and...

and left the ghost in peace

A cinder path eastwards brought us to Woolmer Park where Mr Arthur Lucas in 1952 founded a Polo Club in his park. The ground looked very pleasant - large & flat short grass and boundary posts - and the members discussed the prospects of seeing a game one Sunday.

The path between bungalows led to Betty Green Church at the Cobro Roads and we continued ahead along the road which dropped down to Colegreen Station and to the Cowper Arms where tea had been booked.

The clouds were down and rain started so it was arranged to have tea in the Dining Room instead of in the Teagarden - We were before time arranged so the party had a solid half hour around the five tables and the chatter was very happy -

At five-thirty the rain appeared to be passing SE and we started off again to Colegreen and crossed the Hertford Hatfield Road and continued to the west of Panshanger Park -

The path at the northern end of the wood (east side of the road) had been wired off, but after discussion it was decided to climb it and the path thro' the wood shewed no other hindrance - Foxgloves and rose bay brightened the way and sunshine was of sight in the wet grass & leaves

Fine open walking to Attmore Hall farm with too many signs of the extensive building of the Garden City. By the public path to Knells Road and to Bridge Road East Seven o'clock and a fine evening

J. Whittier

Sunday 18th July.

After one of the wettest Saturdays for some considerable time it was pleasing to see 15 members assembled for this well favoured walk. It was cloudy, with rain threatening, but nothing daunted we set off by way of Valley Road, the Golf course & Kearsford Village to enter Broomet Park by the Old Mill.

Taking the Cromer Hyde path we paused at the bridge to view the water fall & of course the new cygnets. Resuming our walk we left Broomet Park near the thequers. Up through Cromer Hyde taking field path on right across to Warren farm - an unusual feature observed here was cylindrical bales of hay - it was here also remains of an old stile were discovered by Peter Byles & Eric Davin.

Along the road about 200 yards we re-entered Broomet Park by way of a gap in the fence intending to follow a path that had been in use for many years but now disputed as a right of way & therefore overgrown with nettles & brambles. The path was successfully trodden, not without minor injuries to some

members in the shape of scratched legs & nettle-stung ankles, & we arrived at Flint Bridge. Here we paused for a short rest & were entertained by a baby new-ly hatched frog frantically struggling to swim against the stream.

Continuing across the Water End path (Blue bell Wood on our right) we followed an uphill track for some yards then down to a gate on our left which we entered; turning right we proceeded along the edge of the field till we came to the corner of the wood, turning right again through a gap, keeping the wood on our left, we joined the road - another halt to admire the lovely view - then on to Ayst Green & most welcome refreshment at "The Waggoner" taken in sunshine in their cosy little garden over-looking the Golf course.

G.M. Stannard.

Sunday 26th July 1954

Surely the wettest day since the Flood!
It was first intended to go on a double
decker bus, hired from London Transport, to
Camden Town, where a barge was waiting
for the 53 'travellers'. (Mr De Jongh had gone on
ahead & was already on board)

How relieved we were to see that the
boat had a stout weatherproof cover. That
was equally important, there were seats for
all and a neat little galley in the stern
where we could get tea. Mrs Thierberg nobly
took charge of the latter & kept up a constant
supply of hot cups of tea which were very welcome.

When we left the evening to peer out
into the rain, the view we had of the
country from an unusual angle gave us all
the desire to repeat the voyage on a fine day.

Our double decker was waiting for us
when we arrived at the bridge after four hours
on (and under!) the water and soon whisked
us home.

The cost per head was £5/6, inclusive of

Up to the barge & her crews.

The "holerage time" the following Friday
was marked up the occasion with fitting
bravity, thus:

Outing On A Barge

With the deluge streaming from the awning of their specially chartered barge, the Mid-Herts Footpath Society held their annual summer outing on Sunday.

Fifty-four members took a trip along the Grand Union Canal from Camden Town to Uxbridge.

L. M. ...

1 AUGUST
Mid-Herts Footpaths Society, Sunday.
1 August, additional ramble. Meet corner
of Valley Road and Great North Road at
10.10 a.m. fee 10.15 a.m. Birch bus
Leaves: St Ives, Route: Kings Walden,
12-13 miles. Bring lunch.

Royal Oak, Kings Walden,
Breachwood Green, Kimpton,
Ayot St Lawrence

This was an extraordinary ramble, in the sense that it was not on the list of fixtures but was arranged on the barge trip in response to a request for a walk at the Bank Holiday week-end. The route was for the greater part new to the leader & everybody else, & proved very interesting, adapting itself to our needs in spite of a missing foot path, which altered the plan, & delayed our lunch.

We found an extraordinary number of flies, which swarmed & buzzed round the heads of those at the front, but were much less numerous further back. We saw some extraordinary pigs near Poynders End in brown hides covered with hair, & some extraordinary sheep, black & white with horns like goats, in Kings Walden Park, where we thought to see some deer also & a stag that waited for us & then bounded away after the herd. Fifteen members took the Birch bus (a

very comfortable single deck coach on this occasion) to the Royal Oak, Chapelfoot. We walked on a short distance to the path on the left for Poyndas End (as on 4th Oct 1955) where we saw two large Guernsey bulls tethered & continuing past the farm we turned ~~left~~^{right} along a track at the far end of the field, where the odd-looking pigs were, & on to the road into which we turned left. First right, first left for the lane to Prestmill Farm & a path through cornfields out to another road, where a foot-path should lead across to Whitehall Farm. There was no sign of it & we did not wish to plough through standing corn, so followed the road to Frogmore, & then through the long park at King's Walden.

No bear at King's W., so the leader decided on a forced march by road to Broadwood Green, in spite of murmurs from the ranks about dangers of collapse from hunger. Lunch & drinks were greatly enjoyed about 1 pm at the Red Lion. Then on to Bendish by road & paths, into Long Lane leading south by another Red Lion. This we followed, escorted by swarms of flies, to the Holt,

One of the party, suddenly finding herself in familiar surroundings, walked ahead to visit some friends, & rejoined us as we paused for a rest. A little way down the road we went through a farm gate on the left - to join the path leading down to Kimpton, & from there up the side of the recreation ground & across to the bend in the road where the path leads off on the left for Ayt St. L. Here we looked in vain for a path marked on the draft map leading across to Bibb's Hall. There was no sign of it, only a field of mustard.

So we took the path to A. St. L. & the leader went ahead & ordered tea at the Bocket Arms, in the garden, & very pleasant & refreshing we found it.

Some drizzle came on as we followed the path to Ayt St. Peter but it cleared off again. Some took the bus at Ayt Green (6 pm) & others the path to Brockwood Lane, & so home after an excellent day out.

P. J. B.

FRANK
STANWARD



PETRA
BYLES



DAVID
EVANS



MRS. EVANS



MARJORIE
THOM-BEACH



MR. BARNARD



ERIC BAVIN



AGNES
RITCHIE-TAYLOR



LINDA
CHINN



18

GLADYS
STANWARD



1954

CLARE
BYLES



SIR FRANK
PEAKE



30th
CATER



The Paddle to Hodsonston

Saturday August 7th. 1954.

7 AUGUST

Meet corner of Valley Road and Bridge Road at 2.10 p.m. for 2.20 p.m. 003 bus. Ladies' Mile Group. Route: Knebworth Park, Hodsonston, Colkovic (bea). Approximately 3-4 miles.

Preparations for this ramble commenced the previous evening when four members went over to Old Knebworth by car, armed with bill hooks and secateurs, to clear the very much overgrown "Public Footpath to Hodsonston". This was about an hour's hard work.

Twenty members caught the 2.20 pm Bus to Broadwater, from where we walked up the lane to Knebworth Park. Our first heavy shower occurred just as we were leaving the avenue of limes by the open stretch! After a brief pause at the lake we continued up the drive, turning left through the churchyard and out on to the road.

Entering the road, we turned right and shortly came to the signpost indicating the footpath to Hodsonston, the scene of the previous evening's activity. We found that further cutting back had since been done to the hedge on one side. At the end of this stretch of path there was once a stile, but it is now necessary to negotiate a spiky line balancing precariously on the stumps of the erstwhile stile. From there the path runs by allotments and open fields to a road, where it should continue straight across. Here again, there is an impossible stile and the footpath has entirely disappeared. Accordingly, we turned left and a few yards down the road entered what should have been a "green lane" through to

Hogsorton. This again is completely overgrown with nettles, so we skirted first to one side and then to the other, getting feet and legs thoroughly wet in the undergrowth. It was here that we were overtaken by another very heavy shower, from which we attempted to shelter for about $\frac{1}{4}$ hour under trees. We finally reached Hogsorton, a hamlet of about three houses, and it was decided to continue into Godicote by road. Even so the road was practically under water, and it was almost a matter of wading.

At the George Dragon in Godicote a welcome and generous tea awaited us, and then revised the bills to the party elected to walk round the lanes into belwags, from where we caught the 303 bus home. A somewhat damp, but on the whole, enjoyable afternoon.



LEFT TO RIGHT

22 AUGUST

Mid-Herts Footpaths Society, Meet
 corner of Valley Road and Hodge Road
 at 9.00 a.m., Sunday, 22 August, for 9.30
 a.m. 201 bus. Leader: Mr. Clain. Route:
 Mardley Hill, Datchworth Green, Perry-
 wood Farm, Stapleford, Towner. Approxi-
 mately 12 miles. Bring lunch. Home for
 tea.

WALK 76 111

A 'Pioneering' effort

Sunday 27th Aug 1927

For once the weather was kind to the 14 members who turned out to confirm (or otherwise!) the existence of a number of paths shown on the Deposited Maps.

Leaving the bus at the North Hill, Mardley Hill, we went by Rothery Bottom Lane & the old Roman way to Datchworth Green, then by path 13 (Datchworth) to Green Green. Path very overgrown so members with sticks went ahead and knocked down the nettles etc as much as possible. Crossing the Belle Green - Datchworth road, a pleasant path (28 + 27 Mathon) took us by the pond in the old lay-out on to Back Lane (No 30 Watton). We turned S.E.

Wide at first; Back Lane narrows & becomes extremely muddy in places. Turning on to the open track down hill to Perrywood Farm, all unanimous on the pleasant open view ahead. This track (path 29 Watton) becomes a road (Perrywood Lane) at the Farm. A little beyond, we turned off to the right by path 33. (Path 25, which should branch off to the left at Perrywood Spring, could not be located). We stayed on path 33, also not visible on the ground and intersected by pasture gates. It follows a hedge (becoming path 13 in Knapford parish) & emerges on to the Bramfield-Knapford road immediately to the east of Pilgrims Farm.

We stayed on the road for the short distance to Knapford,

Mid-Herts Footpaths Society, Meet
corner of Valley Road and Bridge Road
at 8.45 a.m., Sunday, 23 August, for 9.30
a.m. 2003 bus. Leader: Mr Chinn. Route:
Mashley Hill, Datchworth Green, Pesty
wood Farm, Stapleford, Tewin. Approx-
imately 12 miles. Bring lunch. Home for
tea.

(could)

walking, however, that path N^o 7, which should go off the road
to the right & follow a S.E. course to Stapleford, could not
be seen on the ground. At the "Woodhall Tones" in
Stapleford we were hospitably received and formed a pleasant
hour with our lunches, & something from the bar, in the
garden at the side of the inn.

Reminding, ~~we~~ short distance down the main road as
far as Stapleford Place turn us to the start of path 6. A
muddy ditch under the railway led us to a fine open field to
Cope Spring, where we should join path 5. A short section
of this across the field S. of Cope Spring had disappeared
under the plough but the line was picked up by a gate
on the far side. In the next field, there is again nothing
to show the line of the path but a gap in the hedge on
its far side but this field was under grass & pleasant to
walk over. It leads to Row Wood Cottage where we joined
the Bramfield-Stapleford road again. The road runs through
Row Wood on the S.W. side of which we left it for our
old friend Badde Lane.

Turning on to it and steering N.W., we found it better
going than the morning section. After a mile or so,
we crossed the Berrywood track & shortly afterwards
turned S.W. over a delightful heath - like stretch by

path No 30 (Denin) to the Brampton - Brill green road, which we crossed & entered Brickpond Wood. The path through this wood is not absolute, plain but we found it without much trouble. The path (still No 30) emerges on to the Denin - Brill green road. We crossed this, walked a few yards to the south and picked up No 30 again on the other side of the road whence it runs in a westerly direction along the southern edge of Throuscup Wood & across an open field to Towanhill Wood. At the edge of this we left No 30 (which continues to Denin Wood) & turned south on No 32 to Denin Upper Green by the "Plume of feathers".

Here the party unanimously voted that a cup of tea would be welcome and finding that the "Plume of feathers" was already booked, we adjourned to the "Rose Crown" which readily supplied all we needed in its pleasant garden. We then took the path at the side of this hotel (No 16 Denin) and the convenient path along the N. side of Denin Water Park to Bigswell

C. G. Chinn



↑
MRS. BOWNEY

↑
ALNEE
RICHIE-TAYLOR?

↑
GLADYS
STANNARD

↑
MORA
SONNERS

↑
MARGARET
THEW-BRACH

After lunch amusements at the
"Woodhall Arms", Knapford

22nd Aug. 1954