

Mid-Herts. Footpath Society:
 Whit-Monday June 10th. Meet
 8.45 a.m. at Welwyn Garden
 City Station for 8.50 train to
 Hitchin. Ladies, Mr. & Miss
 Route: Hitchin, Duxford, Duxton
 Road, Telegraph Hill. Bring
 lunch and drinks home about
 6.30 p.m. 10-12 miles.

Rain poured down steadily from
 dawn (or earlier), until about 8.30

a.m. & this, combined with holiday engagements, was
 no doubt why there were only four members who
 turned up for this ramble. It was fine at the
 station & remained dry all the morning. Coming
 out from Hitchin station we took the Letchworth
 road under the railway bridge for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, & then
 a footpath on the left brought us through some
 allotments to a grassy common at Letchworth, so that
 although we were not quite clear of streets & houses,
 we seemed to be out of Hitchin in no time. Here
 we found the river big & followed it more or less
 closely to Selsford - under the Letchworth line & thence
 on to a lane, which $\frac{1}{2}$ mile further on crossed under
 the main line to the North & the Bedford line. Here
 were some gipsy caravans & the occupants drying out
 their various things after a wet night. The lane
 became a pleasant path among the bushes, just wide
 enough to walk on & then we took a path through
 the fields along the river to Selsford. Birds were
 singing, & conditions much pleasanter than had seemed
 likely earlier in the morning.

In the village we turned left along part of the

Ichinield Way, leave the village street, & came to the Redford
 road which we followed southwards for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the
 R. Doughton, along the bank of which we walked to
 Doughton Head where the stream bubbles out of the
 ground: a very pleasant walk, with sedge-warblers
 & other birds in plenty. Continuing to the Piton road
 we turned right for Pinnell's Cross & again took the
 Ichinield Way, here a path through the fields, &
 a mile or so further on it becomes the Heaton
 road for a mile then turns off at the side
 of Beacon Hill. We found some partridge chicks
 on the road, unable to get back up the bank
 from which they had fallen, so we caught them
 & returned them to safety in the long grass.

It was somewhat chilly for June on the top
 of Beacon Hill, but there was a good view, & we found
 a sheltered spot for lunch. Just as we were finishing
 our picnic it began to rain, so we donned our coats
 & proceeded along the path to Horn Hill overlooking
 Pagodan & the Redford plains. Then back to the Ichinield
 Way again & to Telegraph Hill proper. The rain had
 now let in & we decided to turn our backs on it, &
 took the track across Liley Hoop & the path to Offley
 Mill. Here we got a bus very quickly & just caught
 the Birch in Hildon so getting home about 3.30 pm

E. B.

Mid-Merch. Festschick Society
 Saturday, June 20th. Meet 2.00
 Dep. corner of Valley Road
 and Great North Road for 2.33.
 Birch. Bus. Leader - Mrs.
 Thompson. Route: 25. Paul's
 Walden, Whitwell. Cost: 10/-
 Bring picnic tea. Approx-
 imately ten miles.

← SIR F. PEAKE

Right turned up at the starting point, which, considering the intense heat, was more than was expected by the leader. In view of the temperature the party decides to shorten the walk and left the Birch coach at Codrington instead of The Royal Oak. The route taken was along the main road to the lodge on the left hand side of the footpath which joins the Whitwell road at the top end of Codrington Heath. This was a dreadful mass of gravel workings & mounds of stones & the footpath down to Green Lane was lost in the complete devastation of the area. But at last we got to Kimpston Mill & some batted and paddled and one member liked it so much that she decided to go no further. She rest took the track up to Libbottley (the Duck farm) & about 200 yards beyond it found the path completely blocked. We scrambled through and had a pot of tea at the Brocket Arms on Ayst S. Lawrence - in the bar because it began to rain quite hard just after we got there. We took the path home near Shaw's (over and eat our tea (which we had taken with us) at the top of the Hill looking over Wheatthorpelead

The rattle in the narrow lane were so bad that we had to climb through the hedge and make our own way along the edge of the fields. We duly arrived at Agst Green & all enjoyed a long cool drink at the Waggoner before going our several ways home.

Another path in this area has been blocked - the one which runs from the drive near the Lodge in Agst P Lawrence down to Coricote Bottoms. The iron wicket gate has been removed and a high barbed wire fence substituted - apparently by the Cullinstone Silk worm farm. Representations concerning these two obstructions have been made to the County Council.

M. D. Baker.
 7/2/57

Ramble to Weston, Clithell + Walkern July 14th

This ramble had been arranged at the last minute to take the place of the trip to Tollerbury, cancelled because of inadequate support. (Leader N. Bavin)

Eleven turned up at the starting point + caught the green line to Stevenage. There had been no time to survey the ramble + to ensure taking the right route out of Stevenage, the leader used the street plan in the local bus time-table! We took the pleasant road past Alleyne's School up to the Bury + just past the church, took a footpath on the left which led into a cart track. This shabby tunnel right + led us to Uxfield Manor, where we directed to a path not shown on the map but which was quite clear leading round the northern edge of Harbottle Wood + then through two bridle gates to join a cart track which brought us out on the road opposite an entrance to Weston Park. In spite of a "Private" notice, we walked down the drive for a short distance + then picked up a crossing path to the left. This took us across the park in a N.E. direction + finally into the village of Weston.

Here we had our lunch at the inn +

dodged a heavy shower. After lunch, we retraced our steps a short distance down the hill from the inn & took a rather indistinct path through a gateway on the left. The path shortly crossed a stile on the right, then diagonally across a field to another stile & then slightly right across the next field & down the hedge. Very soon we came to a field completely sown with wheat, across which the path was supposed to run. Being unwilling to tramp down the crop, we walked tediously round the field & came out on an old green track (? Roman Road) clearly very little used.

Turning left in this & after about a quarter of a mile, right again, we came to the whitewash inn "The Barley Mow" at Clothall, surely one of the most isolated hostelmies in Hertfordshire.

We carried on to the village of Clothall & took a path to the church, which we only just reached before a heavy storm broke. We sheltered in the church, a most interesting building, for nearly an hour & then ventured forth after the rain had stopped.

The view from the church over the surrounding hills was very good & further exploration was called for in this part of the county. We took a path down-

hill from the Church, over the main Baldock Road + up-hill again to
 Birchwood, a delightful spot. Here we turned
 right, over a stile + through a gate to the top of
 a field containing a number of ponds. Here, we turned
 through a bridle gate in the left hand corner +
 followed a very indistinct + rough path through
 Bush Spring Wood. Emerging into a large field
 we kept straight ahead + then tried to turn
 right at the top of the field to follow a
 path over Wallington Common. This proved to
 be completely impassable + a detour had to
 be made round the edge of Cole's Wood into
 Shaw Green lane, in which we turned right
 + followed past the hamlet of Shaw Green
 + then the lane became impassable. We
 followed the line of the lane on the outside of the
 hedge + then cut diagonally across a rough
 field to the a cross roads on the road to
 Walkern.

By this time, the party were rather weary of difficult
 + rough field paths + gladly decided to hark to the road
 for a mile or two to Walkern. We stopped for a picnic
 tea shortly before Walkern, where we eventually arrived in
 nice time for the bus to Sturage + here we stopped immediately
 on to a Green Line for W.G.C. A route of 13-14 miles,
 hard going in some places, but very enjoyable country. D.

Mid-Herts. Footpath Society
 Saturday, July 21st. Meet 2.30
 p.m. corner of Valley Road and
 Appledorf Road. ~~Location~~
 11.000 Route: Symondsbyce,
 Hazyar, Chisney, Drayner's
 Lane, Water End, Hira picnic
 tea, 3-4 miles.

(See map for walk to Coleman's Green
 Oct. 22nd 1955.)

Ten of us set out in the direction of Hemstead &
 went on to the waterfall in the Park where we
 saw eight cygnets and many duck.

Reaching Crown Hyde we walked
 up this the village? & bore off left as in
 former walk.

We found obstructions at B (on map)
 removed for which we were thankful.

We got very wet through the long
 grass and walked in single file to Titnol's
 wood.

A way had been hacked through this the
 previous Sunday.

Coming out of Titnol's wood we decided not
 to cut diagonally across corn to pt X (on maps)
 and after keeping to the hedge we eventually
 arrived at the corner of Sprite Field Spring (see map)
 and then followed the path to Coleman's Green.

Here we ate a picnic tea on the benches
 outside the local pub which supplied us with
 an extra one.

Being refreshed we passed Bunyan's Chimney
and walked down half of Jones' Lane &
came out when the path goes up to Church
Dell Farm.

Continuing our way down the road
past the glen we came to Water End
having noticed the variety of wild flowers in
the hedge rows.

We went home through the Blackball woods
and back to Lonsford again but this
time along the path skirting the Hall.

This walk to Coleman's Green is better
done in the Autumn after the corn is cut.

C. M. B.

Morning Walk to Teanin - Sunday 11th Aug 1957.

The party numbered five when we started off from the meeting place to walk through the woods in the direction of Morket Walk & increased to seven en route.

Continuing past the Conference House & down the drive we crossed the main road which seems to run in and in all directions at this point, and came out onto the old lane. Turning in the direction of the road we made our way by the familiar path up towards the Tunnels at Welwyn North Station.

While walking along the path leading over the Tunnels one's attention was attracted to the variety of wild-flowers in bloom at present & particularly the splash of colour made by the bright blue flowers of the chicory.

At the first hedge we followed a short path on the right, then through a gap in the hedge & landed out on the well known path leading past the Riding Stables & out onto the road. Going left to Warner Green we turned down Pennyfather Lane & followed the path down the hill & up the other side, taking shelter under a tree from a shower which only lasted for a few minutes.

On emerging from the wood at the top of the hill we

stopped for a short time to admire the field of view, and the expanse of country beyond. Following the cart track we turned sharp left on reaching the path between two hedges which eventually brought us out onto the green near the "Plum of Heathens" where a halt was made for some refreshment & a drink.

On the return journey we followed the road through the village & over the meadow to the Church, passing through the Churchyard & out onto the well defined path which crosses a field to Wesley Wood. Passing through the wood & out onto the lane we turned left down the Hill to the Hertford Rd. Proceeding right for a short distance then followed a track on the left in the direction of Black Ham but before reaching the Sewage Farm we branched off to the right & followed a path over a field to a new road, named "Mundells" on the latest edition of the N. Y. C. Strapplan. The appearance of the country had altered so much at this part that one might declare it as lost!

Here the party divided to take the nearest way back to their respective homes, one group going along the "new" road towards Stagswell & the other along the field path towards Town Rd. It was just at this time that the rain came down quite heavily but up till then the weather had been quite good for walking & everyone declared it had been an enjoyable morning walk, distance approx 6 miles.

G. Ritchie Taylor

Mal Herby Footpath Society,
 Meet 2.30 p.m. corner of Bridge
 Head 2nd Valley Road, Leasing
~~Footpath Society~~ Route 234
 Avey and Kington, Brigg 262-
 1111 104.

K. CROUCH

The Aytos (minus Kington)

Saturday August 24th 1957.

Six of us met at the usual place and walked up through the woods to Ayt Green. Making for Ayt St. Lawrence, we decided to take the left-hand road across the Green, & creeping down to the bottom of the hill, we struck right across the field, under the railway bridge, and along the well-known paths to the village. These are getting very overgrown, especially after crossing the Codicote - Wheatthorpe road. The commencement of the path here is impenetrable, and a diversion through the wood is necessary. Further up, where a hedge has to be crossed, we made our way by back against brambles, nettles, etc., to make a way through for the others. Shortly before reaching Ayt St. Lawrence, also, the pathway between the hedges is rapidly disappearing & needs careful negotiation.

From Ayt St. Lawrence we took the path through the grounds of Ayt House in the direction of Codicote Bottom, crawling under the wire fence which has been placed where the gate used to be ~~the~~ beside the loop. After a picnic tea at the far

corner of the Grounds, we changed our direction and instead of continuing down to the road, we struck across to the right along an inviting stretch of greenward, and crossing a road skirted round corn-fields until we came once again to the Cadicote - Heathampton Road. A short way to the right along here brought us to the path to Ryefield Farm, and we turned up here made for home via Ayot St. Peter.

It was a delightful afternoon for walking - sunny, with a strong fresh breeze - and although we did not keep strictly to the itinerary, nor, I am afraid, all the time to official footpaths, quite enjoyable.

The Grounds

Ramble to Wadesmill + Wareside - Sept 8, 1957

A party of seven at the bus station for the first bus to Hartford, where we arrived just before 11 a.m. on a beautifully sunny morning (Leader Eric Bavin)

We took the canal towing path, just beyond Hartford East station, until we reached Hartford Lock, a pleasant spot although somewhat overshadowed by the local gasworks, & then struck off diagonally across the meadows until we reached the road leading to Berger. In this we turned left for a short distance, & then ~~to~~ right along a track which led us shortly to the main Hartford - Wadesmill road, which we crossed to follow a track opposite. This followed the line of low hills above the Rite valley & gave us some good views, & a very pleasant stretch through St. John's Wood. Arriving at Chalfmore Pond soon after opening time & seeing a convenient hostelry, it was decided to have an early lunch in the sunshine.

We were well received by the landlord & two of the party decided to return after lunch on account of convalescence after flu.

The remainder followed a well marked path to T. small
 + then on tracks to Boyce Temple, a moated
 farm-house, with the moat still in a fair
 state of preservation. Passing through the yard
 of the House, we took a track downhill
 until we reached a crossing track, where we
 went straight forward, up a slope + then followed
 an individual path along the hedge, finally
 emerging in a large field with Chelving
 Farm in the distance on our left. We crossed
 the field to the farm, passing through a gate
 just to the right of the house + continued
 the path along the hedge on our left.

Wadesmill came in sight in the valley below
 us + a turn to the left brought us to the
 bridle road from Sacombe + down to
 Wadesmill.

Here refreshments were purchased at the
 village shop + the way resumed through
 the yard of the Feathers Inn opposite.
 This led us to the drive through Youngsbury
 Park + just after passing through a white
 gate, we left the drive + took a path
 shown on the map but quite invisible on the

ground, to the right which led down to two shaly footbridges over the River Rib. Crossing these we reached the bridle road on the other side of the river, having first to negotiate a gate well provided with broken wine. Whether this path is a public one is not known, but it is daily little used.

On the bridle road, we turned left & visited the ruins of Thundersleybury Church, noting from our last visit that the tower has been closed, presumably because of its dangerous condition. Shortly we turned up hill to the right & emerged on the main road in which we turned left & then right shortly to a track past Swingle's Farm.

This led us on to Achridge Common, where we turned right along a clearly defined grassy path, which took us easily & pleasantly down hill past Fanham's Hall to the outskirts of Ware.

We stopped in the warm sunshine for a picnic tea, then returned over way into Ware, where we caught a bus for Hertford & thence another bus to W. G. E., arriving home about 6.30, after a very enjoyable walk of 12-13 miles.

18 walked this day

After a foul morning, the weather cleared up, & by 2 pm the Sun shone & 18 folk turned up at the Bus Station for the above walk.

The leader had to contend with a great deal of lack of confidence, some said we waited for a 2.20 bus that never came, others that John didn't know where we were going.

They were confounded in the first instance, as the bus did run & we all trooped in, in the second they were right, as until we arrived at the Garnets I had not made up my mind definitely which way to go. I wonder whether all leaders of walks have to contend with so much insubordination.

We went past Hobwell Farm to the Holford Hatfield road, & over to the River, & along its banks to Bessenden Mill. Then up the road towards Bessenden, turned left at the Rectory over a stile, & crossed to the gravel pit, where we turned right & came to the Down leading down to Bedwell Lodge. We followed this a few yards only, & found a stile leading over a small meadow in the direction of Horse Green.

We followed the old lane through Horse Green down to the Westford Road, which we followed to Water Hall. After admiring the Garden at Water Hall Farm, we climbed the rise to East End Green. This turned out to be a

* Mr Wood at the Cottage had promised to lay on Tea & had been duly warned by phone of the Army approaching, & he did us proud. We had Bread & Jam, flap-jacks, & 2 kinds of Cakes & bags of jolly good Tea which we were gasping for. Everyone agreed it was an excellent report for the price of 2/6 & tipped accordingly. Mr Wood informed us that this cottage was listed by the Authorities as an Ancient dwelling & dated it to the 15th Century.

Taking our departure, we took the path leading over the rail to Birch Green where we all caught the 6-9 PM bus to WBC & home. All agreed it was a most pleasant afternoon, & it was most gratifying to you truly, to see 18 people, including some new faces come along.

John Hunt

* Mr Wood
The Cottage
East End Green

Sunday 6th October 1957. A Day in Epping Forest.

Leader Ralph Penn. 11 came.

Valley Road corner Green Lane to Potters Bar, thence London Bus 242 to the Volunteers, which lies at the Waltham corner of the forest.

One starts off across an open space which sweeps up to a tree clad hillside, and makes a very fitting first approach to what now remains of what was formerly a very extensive forest. Keeping at first to a track we soon branched off and made our way through the trees and undergrowth in a rough bearing for High Beach which we duly hit. For walkers this method of going through the forest is the most effective way, as there are focal points every here and there and a rough line through the "uncharted" parts usually brings one to within a couple of hundred yards of a known spot in time.

From High Beach in a due southerly direction, across Fairmead Plain, the only portion of the forest which is a wide open expanse of un-treed land, and through the woods again to Connaught Water.

Across the Chingford Road and up to the Woodman for lunch which was eaten in the open followed by a drink in the pub.

Having up to this point walked in a generally southward direction we now faced about and set off to the north, up the "other side" of the forest, from ~~the~~ Buckhurst Hill, past the back of the Nurseries, and along a part of the long "drive", which passes several of the small ponds which abound. Just past the crossing Eads Drive, instead of staying on the main line we followed the stream to the right and had to cross it back and forth several times in its meanderings along the valley.

At one point overlooking one of the larger pools we paused for a rest, and having observed a troop of scouts actively engaged in some obscure kind of pioneering activity their leader came and asked for our name & the signature of our visitor from Germany - Keotin, from Hannover — as this would be another "find" for their list of events of the day.

Up again and on to have a quick glance at Queen Madrina's Amberbury Banks, and then into Dryden Bois for a tea at rough tables & benches in the back garden of the Rosary Café. The tea was most satisfying — three different fillings of sandwiches and cake and a pot of tea refilled several times, all of which we thought very good value.

After tea a short mile in the fading light back to the White Arms in comfortable time for the return bus to Potter's Park & Home.

(About 12½-15 miles).

R.T.B.