

Mid-Herts. Footpaths Society. -
 Sunday, February 23rd. Start
 9.2 a.m. corner of Valley Road
 and Great North Road, for 3.15
 a.m. Street bus route: Coughton
 Road, Little Goffey, Telegraph
 Hill, Langer, Mr. Bates, Dalwood
 approximately 12 miles. Bring
 lunch and hot drink. Score for
 100.

Sunday, 23rd February 1958.

The Icknield Way, Deacon Hill, Pegsdon,
 Hexton, Telegraph Hill, Lillers.

It was one of those mornings of steady rain
 after a wet night when it looks like going
 on all day - & then shortly before 9 o'clock
 it eased off & looked as if it might not
 be so bad after all. And it wasn't!

Mackintoshes were brought but were needed
 only for sitting on, & the fine members who
 turned out had an excellent day with even
 a little sunshine in the afternoon up on Liller
 Hill.

The leader decided to alter the route, since
 after so much rain the marshy part of the R. Angstrom
 would be a swamp, & the field paths to Liller Hill
 would be heavy & difficult going. We alighted from
 the bus near the entrance to the path along by
 the R. Angstrom & followed this path to Long Hill
 where we turned right & shortly joined the
 Icknield Way, along which we went by the
 way described on 28th August 1955, to Deacon
 Hill, along the edge of the slope to the track,

& down to the 'live & let live' where we ate
 our sandwiches & refreshed ourselves with drinks.
 A hall had previously been made for 'staves' in
 a sheltered spot along the road portion of
 the Ditchfield Way. The bar of the pub had been
 'modernised' by the new management & was quite
 out of character for a village inn, but perhaps
 they liked it & felt that they were moving with
 the times.

We continued along the road from the pub
 to a lane round the back of a house into
 the drive leading to Hanton Manor, which we
 followed for a short distance then crossed a
 field to the road, finding a path among the
 trees & bushes on the roadside to the top of
 the hill leading down to Hanton. So to the
 Signpost Pump at the cross roads, recalling the hot
 white Sunday in 1953 when some of us talked our
 feet there, but now the pump no longer works.

We took the bridle path leading off the
 Lilling Road, really paved with bricks for the
 tractor wheels across the first field, then left
 between the plantations - a charming bit this,
 with lovely views - along the edge of the wood,

& then following the ledge of the new field out on to the Stradley road, where we turned left & so came again to the Schield way & up to Telegraph Hill where we rested from our exertions & admired the view. Two cars were having mudtracks along the bottom strata, having come over the hill surveying a route for a rally.

We were now making for Liller, across the Hoo, which was very enjoyable though very wet & muddy in parts. A halt was made for finishing up drinks by some logs from a blow up tree where the path goes off to Offley Mill, & then we continued to the southern end of the plateau in order to take the steep path on the western side down to the village. We expected to find this path much overgrown with bushes, as it had been for years, but to our surprise it had been cut right back & cleared on both sides, & was now a wide open track leading down the hill to the road at the bottom. A short lane brought us to the road & so down through the village to the main road where we caught the 4.30 bus to Hitchin, just in time to connect with the Bivice bus home. The members got off all looking to walk the rest of the way, & well felt it had been a very good day.

E.P.

Saturday March 8. West End Green District.
Leader John Carter.

This was a repeat of the walk of Sept 21st last year when 18 turned out. This day began very wet & did not look very bright for walking, but at 2 the Sun shone & 13 of us boarded the 2.26 bus to the Banetts. We walked past Coombe Hyde to the Hertford - Hatfield road, across the fields to the River & then along to Essenden Mill. We then went up the Road to Essenden Vicarage where we took the Path over the stile on the left towards Howe Green passing over the Drive to Bedwell Lodge & then to Howe Green. Then down the lane to the Hertford Road again, & then we walked along to Water Hall Farm, where we missed the lovely show of flowers we had seen in the autumn. On up to West End Green where the Wood again put on a wonderful Tea. at 5pm we left, when the skies became dark & we hurried across the fields to Birch Green thro a terrific blizzard. We caught a Bus at 5.40 & strange to relate, all said it was a good walk. J.C.

Sunday March 23rd Datchworth, Watton.

Bramfield Trench. Leader Florence Shear-Brough

Bullseye - Bull - Bull Inn - Bull Green - A Bully walk.

11 menless caught the 9.50 .303 bus to Fardley Hill. It was a bitterly cold day (but bright) and only 3 of the 11 risked having tea out and walking back after the Sun had gone down. A pity.

From the North Star we followed the well known Roman Road and arriving at Datchworth Green the need for a 'cappai' was felt and a stop was made at the cafe! Feeling better after this (and a bullseye each from Sir Francis!) we strolled off on the Watton Road to just beyond Hawkins Hall. Here we turned up footpath 5 branching right on to 6 up to Stockings Farm. Turning right to Brown Hall, round the farm and on to path 19 we were confronted by a gate blocked by a large ferocious looking Bull. With the exception of Agnes we all climbed into the next field and continued parallel with our path but with the safety of a hedge between us. After a great deal of argument Agnes was induced to believe that we really did know the difference between a bull and a cow and she joined us in safety. Halfway along the field - on coming level with the Bull she peered through the

ledge at him and remarked 'yes - it is a bull - you can tell by the ring through his nose.' !!! Getting back on to the right side of the Hedge we continued along path 14 until we again hit the Road which we had left just after Dutchwood Green. Turning left ^{under} the railway we made our way to another variety of Bull in Watten village for lunch.

After lunch we followed Perrywood lane for half a mile and then turned left past Perrywood Spring down to Godkins Farm. Here footpath 14 on the map appears to be wrong as the path rather obviously skirts the farm on the South side and joins path 14 just beyond the Farm house. Almost immediately on entering the wood we made our way South down to Sally Rainbird's Bull and on to the Bulls Green - Branfield road.

Turning right in Branfield we skirted Branfield Park wood on path 7 and went direct to tea in for tea at the Rose and Crown. Only 3 stayed for tea which was very good. The sun by now had gone down and it was really bitterly cold. The icy air had been blowing on us all afternoon from the same direction and we were all feeling rather numb on one side.

After tea the 3 of us made our way home by Black Fen - arriving in the Garden City at about 7 o'clock.

M. S. B.

Mystery Ramble - Easter Monday April 7

This ramble had been advertised as a mystery ramble & had indeed been a mystery to the leader (N. Bain) until the day before when he had been able to carry out a survey of the proposed route.

Eleven members met at Woburn Garden station & were instructed to purchase single tickets to Baldock. Efforts were made to find the whereabouts of a usually very regular attendee but the train arrived & departed without her! (But we shall meet this member later).

Arriving at Baldock on a fine but cold morning we walked down to the traffic lights at the old houses, turned left & shortly right along a narrow track between houses. This soon led into open fields & we followed a clear path for about a mile with a view of the Western hills on the right. We then turned right along a track which ~~led~~ took us round the foot of Bird Hill. Up the hill, the party climbed to admire the very wide view

of scenery very different from central Herts +
 much more akin to Downland country. The
 wind was keen + we soon descended the hill,
 crossed the road + took up the track again,
 which gradually climbed to the top of
 Hickman's Hill for another very fine view.
 Here, we turned left + descended into the
 little hamlet of Clotwell, first visited on
 July 14, 1957, + which seemed worthy of a
 revisit for those members not present on the
 previous occasion. The ancient church was
 the chief object of interest + its beautiful setting
 was doubly attractive in the bright sunshine.
 We made our way from this remote hamlet
 to the even more remote inn, the Barley Mow,
 with its illumination of paraffin lamps, +
 enjoyed a pre-lunch drink. From here
 we continued S.E. along the track past the
 inn + where this track turned left to the
 road, continued the line along the side of
 a ploughed field, where there should have been
 a path. At this point, we were attracted by
 board wires + to our amusement, saw our
 missing member striding across country to meet.

us. It transpired from the account we heard that
 the train British Railways, the Telephone Company
 + many others had been in league to prevent
 her going the ramble but they had been
 circumvented by coming on the next train +
 carrying out a masterly piece of tracking
 to catch up with us. After this very
 enjoyable reunion, we crossed on down the field
 turned right at the end for a few yards along
 Benthouse Lane + then left across a field,
 where again there should have been a path, but
 where now there were only acres of ploughed
 field!! Tiring manfully + heavily across this
 field, we reached a track at a gate. Here we
 turned sharply left, past a pond, + followed
 a ~~rough~~ first track down the hedge side. This
 gradually became more distinct + eventually
 became a grassy lane. Here we found a
 barn, which provided good cover from the wind
 + we stopped for a well-earned lunch. We
 then kept on down the lane, past Howayshill
 Farm, stopping to admire a restored, thatched
 wof cottage + then left into Newell Lane.
 This gradually led up hill + into a footpath

leading straight towards Colter's Church, whose spire we had seen on the horizon for a long while & which at times had seem to be almost a mirage. A brief stop was made at the Church to see the ~~wood~~ medieval wall painting & the setting of the village green & village pump, with a surround of well kept cottages was much admired.

A path, passing the end of a row of cottages on the right, was taken leading into a recreation field & then to a stile & a very muddy lane, choked with brushwood, & finally by a path badly obstructed by barbed wire to Back Lane, an old Roman Road, here we turned left, along the lane which was running with water & extremely difficult to negotiate, until we came almost opposite to the large house, Gardner's, where we turned right through a gate, across a field, & out to a minor road, leading to Gardner's End.

At the cottages, we turned right along a track & path leading directly to Andeley. The centre of this village

with the church, village well & cottage grouped round the green make it another of the Hert's beauty spots. Sheltered from a shower by the building round the well, we had a hurried tea & resumed our way to Welham. This we reached by way of a track to Welham Bury, where the map indicates a moat & castle but, disappointingly, only a rampart remained. From that spot we joined the road leading downhill to Welham, where we arrived in good time for a bus to Stevenage & thence to W. G. C.

A tiring day because of the heavy going but one which seemed to be enjoyed by the party & which included parts of the country not previously visited in our walks.

April 12 - 1958

Mushied at usual rendezvous

13 strong, starting through Sherwood woods, through to what was, Funt's hedge, also: no more, owing to the vandalism of the Development - Corps, the only thing rotten there was their ideas.

The party lingered a long time at the river bridge as there was a Osprey sitting on nest - in nearby water.

Proceeded to Colyze Station, and up over the tunnels, on reaching a break on the bank there was some lovely grass, and party asked if they could sit in the sun, as it was sheltered from the keen N.E. wind, and ripe in the sun.

We stayed about an hour, then put our blankets out - rather for tea, so decided to curtail the walk by turning left at the end of the tunnels, to connect up with the path which runs E to from Hemmer Green, across the Warrens to Old Colyze, for as we were at the intersection, we were hindered by the fence

foreman who informed us there was no path -
 from where we had traversed, but we were
 able to show him it on the map, and
 told him if he would care to go to the W.R.D.C
 office.

So to Old Wilton, and a nice tea;
 at the Pulling, all agreed they had
 spent very enjoyable afternoon.

F. Garrod

F. GARROD

APRIL 13th 1958

The London Footrace Running Club
Titanic Hunt & Long Reading Contest
 Approx 15 miles !!!

Four of our members joined in the above contest with no previous experience of either the problems to be solved or the countryside to be covered it proved a very difficult but very enjoyable day. Out of a field of 17 we finished 11th & 15th respectively.

The Rally started at Barchet Wood Station - 2 stations along the District line from St Albans in the westerly direction & during the morning the route - planned by following map references - led us South to Colindale and then on to Tottenham for lunch and a drink at the 5 am. After lunch the return journey was made to Barchet Wood - again by means of references and clues. During the day a number of 'feetshells' had to be located, Titan was found and problems answered.

Incidentally the weather was very favourable and we returned home at about 7.30 in the evening tired but happy.

See Back of book for 'order of the day' ??

APRIL 27th

Footpath with the South Herts

Footpath Society: 15 miles. Leader, Mr. Thompson

Pie of our weather and unfortunately only five from S Herts met at St Albans at 10 minutes to ten on Sunday morning April 27th. A mixed day was promised which in the event turned out much better than expected. Sunshine & breezes all day long. No Rain although it seemed always hovering near - our first sun-sitting day of the year.

Starting from the Abbey we followed the water up to St Michaels, through Branch Road and after turning up the Drunkable road for about 100 yds we crossed & took the little road which skirts Butchwood. Giff's Lane. At the point where this crosses the Butchwood Drive we branched left into a little lane and followed this right up to Chadd's Wood. Here the daffodils were in full bloom and a wonderful sight. On emerging at the hedge we turned right for 100 yds & crossed the road on to footpath 1 - turning left on to 24(?) & on up & 7 miles we met Ayres End house. This path was badly blocked half way along and a certain amount of scrambling had to be done. At Ayres End house we turned left & almost incidentally right again over the Giff's Lane. At the first turning on the right we turned & passed

the Three Horseshoes, a tiny little pub, & so on across the railway & though a track (No. 24) noted we reached the same lane, Agnes End, that we had left half an hour before turning right & followed the road to the triangle & then left past toward Farm & on to Nonesuch Common from here we followed an river directly towards the S. bank & half way along this last path we met three men & our menials who had come so far by car.

After lunch and a drink we at the S. Hill fresh left us and the remaining 10 wandered ^{to} the lane towards the Devils Dyke. Several of the boys wanted to park to reach this objective - preferring a rest in the sun at lower Beech Hyde farm until the more energetic ones returned. From the farm we followed paths 15 & 14 to Colman Green. Here we knocked on the door & ~~was~~ were and asked politely for cups of tea. These were provided and we sat in the sun and enjoyed a quiet supper. After this we took the footpath direct to Trench Wood & through to Symonds Farm. Here we turned right through Symonds Great Wood & just before leaving the wood left. At this point the path appears to have diverged a little from the map but it is quite easy to follow. Emerging from this path opposite Fairfield Farm we turned right & took the next left fork to a point where a little

square light brick cottage stands with skyline on the right. At this point we turned left across the fields (part page 20) & continued through to the Road. Turning Right here we again ^{soon} went left through some open fields with gales leading down to Parson's Farm. Then the firm yard path etc. turned left for a few yards and then right on the firm of a little road. This was a long field and since the hedge met us from the right we climbed a stile which we had been successful in getting placed there some time back. At the end of this hedge we climbed another of "old" stiles and turning sharp left down the end of Dr. Havilland's land (have the field path in reality behind a hedge but is quite unimportant) we soon reached the Halfpenny Road opposite the 3 Hares. Here the one remaining S. Hunt's member caught a bus to St. Albans and the 9 of us caught a bus to the Golden City.

As the last part of this ramble would not commonly be of any interest to us - being away from home & looking nowhere - it was particularly enjoyable and we were most grateful to S. Hunt for having given us a reason for doing it.

Maryine & her Boykin

P.S. Butterflies were on the point of bloom everywhere & spring flowers of many kinds were already to be seen.

Symondshyde & Coleman Green

10th May 1958

Eleven members met at the Valley Road - Bridge Road corner on a bright, sunny, but somewhat breezy afternoon at 2:30.

We went by way of Lemsford and Bocket Park, where we paused on the bridge to view the scenery, and on towards Craner Hyde. Just before we came to the road, however, a slight error found us on the wrong side of an electric wire fence (fortunately not working), but this was soon negotiated. Past Craner Hyde we ~~had~~ took the path over to Symondshyde, the obstruction on this path being overcome without much difficulty. From here it was a fairly easy walk to Coleman Green where we stopped to have tea. We were joined here by a small boy and an apparently ~~a~~ very hungry dog.

After nearly an hour's rest we continued our walk towards ~~the~~ Waterend. We noticed that Bunyans Chimney had been cleaned up and was more conspicuous. From Waterend we made our way back through Bocket Park, the wood being carpeted with bluebells, through Lemsford to the Garden City