

arriving at about 6.30. The distance was just
 off over 7 miles

James Thompson.

WALK 175

Whit. Sunday Ramble near the
Bedfordshire Border.

25 MAY
 Mid-Herts. Footpaths Society.
 Walk Sunday, May 25th. Meet
 8.05 a.m. corner of Valley Road
 and Great North Road for W.11
 a.m. March, then to Icknield
 Way. ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~ ~~to~~
 Chalfont Water, Telegraph Hill
 and the Golden Mile. Drive
 Perch. Back to late tea. Approx.
 11 miles.

London Transport buses were not
 running owing to the strike, but fortunately this
 did not affect either the British buses or United
 Counties service between Luton & Hitchin, & elsewhere.
 Ten people turned up for the walk, a very good
 number considering that several regular members
 were unable to come, & it certainly was an
 attractive ramble in a very lovely district on a fine
 day, as it turned out to be.

We got off the bus at the stop near the
 R. Broughton (Bedford Way) on the northern outskirts
 of Hitchin, & followed the delightful path along
 the riverside to Broughton Road where the springs
 bubble up out of the ground. First, may blossom
 & buttercups by the clear chalk stream, then a marshy
 part with sedge-warblers chattering in the reeds, &
 finally a grove of tall trees surrounding the tower.

Oh! those the chestnuts, summer through,
 Beside the river make for you
 a tunnel of green gloom -

By this time the leader was well behind, musing on the beauties of nature & what not, & self-appointed leaders in the front had to be called back & told where to go. We crossed the Piton Road, following the path shown on the 1" map alongside a hedge to the Heaton Road turning right & taking the second lane on the left for Little Offley, as described on the walk for 18th March 1956. The manor house is now occupied & looked very well as we passed across the field in front of it.

A short & easy way through the thicket fringing Lilley Wood was taken, by walking along the bottom side of the field to the second horse-chestnut tree; & then along the edge of the wood to the main path along which we turned right. Nearing the Ichmill Way we heard two or three nightingales singing in the tangle of bushes beside the path.

Lunch was enjoyed on Noon Hill with a wonderful view in front of us, but the wind was cold when the sun went in, & we were glad to move down to the "Linn & Linn" at Pagedon for drinks.

About 2pm we set out again, turning up to the Heaton Road by the Manor Gates, & this was the beginning of the Golden Mile of Laburnum blossom which we had come to see. Although it is said to be nothing like it used to be, it was very lovely & made the walk along the road very enjoyable. Down the hill to the Signpost pump at Heaton, & thence by the path used on 23rd February this year to Telegraph Hill where we rested in the sunshine. Noisy motorcycles scrambling about the steep parts were voted to be a nuisance.

We allowed 40 mins to cover the 400 & take the path to Otley Mill at a leisurely pace, but 45 mins would have been more comfortable, as we did hurry the last bit, & caught the 4:25 (time at St. Otley) into Britain, hurried across to the Rivet stop, & were in plenty of time for the double-decker & a comfortable pleasant ride to Valley Road Corner.

Much of the route, & in some cases all of it, was new to most of the members taking part, & coupled with the good weather & the lovely time of year, it was a most interesting & delightful ramble.

E.J.B.

Saturday, 7th June 1958.

Leeds R. Then-Tuesday.

The first kids' Ramble - by train at Doole to Knebworth (present 6 children and 8 parents & friends) - thence by footpath through the house-backs to Lipay Lane as far as Ninningswood Lane. Through Normans Lane, through the woods, to Rabley Heath where a pause was made to allow the grown ups to sit down & rest whilst the children mostly went on ramping around, apart from eating the odd chocolates biscuits and toffees which on such occasions appear in even the best conducted parties.

Thus refreshed we stumbled on alongside the edge of the gravel pits, and eventually down to the end of Roundabout Lane, & so on to, and after a while over, the Great North Road just above Robbery Bottom Lane. From there the obvious route was up the hill and over the tunnels - tea break being taken on the embankment overlooking the railway between the two tunnels. In spite of sitting over our picnic tea for about an hour, fate decreed that few worthwhile trains should bless the engine spotters amongst us - one Cleethorpes express, 2 locals and a couple of goods were our bag. And so after tea back to Welwyn North station to catch the quarter to six back to the Garden City.

A finish day with a couple of short showers - ideal walking weather - the children seemed to enjoy it, and the others agreed that it had been a most pleasant outing.

Mid-Herts. Footpaths Society.
 Saturday, June 14th. Meet 2.15
 8 a.m. corner of Valley Road and
 Bridge Road, Leighton, Herts. 11th
 Ave. Leighton, 100000. The Ayles-
 bury Lea. Approximately 7
 miles.

14th June 1958.

In spite of it being a gloriously sunny day the party numbered only seven when we set off from the advertised meeting place, & this included one young fellow out with us for the first time.

Proceeding through Sycamore Wood via Side Ways we saw the woodpeckers at their best. Coming out onto the Lt. North Road we crossed at the Red Lion & followed the footpath going straight across the field to the Ayst of rear Lane & then up the path to Manns Lane. Here we turned right & kept to the lane as far as Soings Lane where we entered the field on the right by the gate opposite the farm buildings. Across the field to the fence alongside the Railway line, then left until we reached the Railway bridge, encountering rather a lot of nettles on the way.

From here we followed the familiar footpaths to Ayst St. Lawrence. Most of the way the paths are easy to follow and even the one between the hedges near Ayst St. Lawrence we found less overgrown than usual. We stopped for our picnic tea near the Village Church & while there were entertained by a large gathering of Rooks.

Retracing our steps over the meadows we proceeded through the Village & down the lane, stopping to inspect the two old cottages which

Have been empty for a very long time & are now up for Sale. The condition of the property both inside & out was found to be in a bad state of disrepair & looked most unattractive.

A little further on we reached the footpath on the left which goes in a more or less straight line to the corner where the round Church used to be. Turning left & following the base for a short distance past the entrance to Byattbury House we came to the well defined footpath on the left which we were to take but before proceeding we inspected the condition of the path immediately opposite & except for a gap in the Hedge the path was non-existent. The path across the meadow brought us out on the highway) by St Peter Lane & crossing this we entered Rectory Wood (the proper entrance is a little way down the Lane) and picked up the the path leading through the wood. On emerging into the open we followed the path up the right side of the Hedge to Little Hill Lane. Turning right we continued along this lane & then along Home Lane as far as the Milk Farm, turning right the path brought us to Byatt Station. Crossing the Railway we went up the side of the Hedge to the Red Lion.

By an almost unanimous vote we then made for the highway & shortly afterwards continued our journey home via the golf course. Although the distance covered was rather more than the advertised mileage no one complained & all agreed that it had been a most pleasant walk, certainly the weather could not have been more perfect for walking.

John

Old Berke Footpaths Society. —
 Sunday June 22nd, 1902. Leaves
 of Valley Road and Bridge
 Road at 7.40 a.m. for 9.30 a.m.
 200 bus to North Star. If bus
 under way on road 9.2 a.m.
 WTC station via 9.7 a.m. to
 Weston North, Buxton, Dutch-
 worth, Green, Watton, Har-
 vease, Lepton, Mrs. Bates, Biting
 church. ~~via~~ via. Approximately
 12 miles.

Nobody turned up for the bus at 9.50
 so Peter and I went on alone picking
 up James at Applecroft Rd.

We went to the North Star crossed the
 road and continued up Tompin's Ridge
 through the woods and down a lane to
 the Roman road beyond Mandley Hill.

We went on through fields to
 Dutchworth Green and picked up Esther
 & Margie England.

Our way to Watkin's Hall led thro'
 fields & along wet lanes to Watton
 where we were glad to have lunch
 at the Bull.

Afterwards we walked on to the pier
 to Worsdale Park — Abel Smith's place
 crossing a pretty bridge in the grounds
 along the pier.

Along the way we noticed a spotted
 fly catcher & our dog Tinka had some
 fun in the pier in spite of a Swan.
 Later we had a picnic & watched

five cypripeds with their mother soil
majestically up stream.

Then were swallows, house martins,
sand martins & Swifts. This was at
a pretty stretch of the river below
Stapleford Church which is near to
Cluster tolls.

A Roman stone bridge and we
decided to cut through Barnardson
groves & up the road to Herby-
fordbury where we caught a bus
to Hestryne Garden City Station.

In spite of the rain which persisted
most of the day we enjoyed ourselves &
felt well exercised & reasonably tired.

Strange to relate we all went
home pretty much the same way -
Barby off Green - Athorne Close & Melbourn
Cont.

C. H. B.

Saturday - July 5th. 1958.

235

Footpaths Society
Sabbath, road 2.00 am corner
of Valley Road and Bridge
Road, London, Min. Church
Road, 4.00 am, 1.00 am
Westminster, 1.00 am
The 3.00 miles

WALK 179

Five members met at the usual place and went up through the woods to the Reunion and across the field to the remains of Aylet Station. From there, along the road to Dept St Peter Church, it was the intention to walk down the path beside the church (8), but it was much too overgrown and wet to attempt.

We therefore decided to take the route, & return to the road we took the footpath over to Dept St Lawrence. With the wet weather this year everything has grown to gigantic proportions, and along this path we had our arms up to our shoulders! Two girls who had spent the night at the St. Albans Youth Hostel where Mrs. Goldman is warden, caught up to us along here, and at Dept St Lawrence we saw them on their way to Kingston & Whitehall across the meadow where the new church is.

We, ourselves, were making for Home Park, and there should have been a path we could take across this field, but it was non-existent, so we went round by the road, turning the corner at Bernard Shaw's house. Along here, we were bothered by some curious cows being driven from a field, and at the request of the cowman the Secretary manfully turned and drove them back to the way they should have taken.

We entered Lamer Park where the lane turns sharp right and went down the avenue of trees. There should be a path branching off to the left but this is lost, as is also the path leading down to the wood immediately opposite the house. The site of ^{the} path was discernable by a change in crop but it would have been impossible to walk it without damage. We therefore kept to the road down to the farm. $\frac{1}{2}$ We could have taken the footpath for the last $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or so, but it was very damp overgrown, and we were told by someone on the farm that no one had walked along it for 20 years! We put him right there, and proceeding on our way had our tea just before we left Lamer Park.

We then crossed the road and after an attempt to find a way across the railway via the rubbish dump, retraced our steps to the correct path (entrance "round the corner" — the stile is overgrown), we crossed the railway and returned home along the well-known way through Water End or Brocket Park.

This turned out to be a walk of lost paths, and whereas Lamer Park is too far off for us to walk over continually, we might well bear in mind that paths in the ^{St. Albans} Agst. district could be fairly frequently visited during the autumn & winter months before nettles and crops are fully grown!