

8th May 1958.

We were, for this occasion, graced with the presence of the press representative who came to photograph the Society in action on a "local" ramble. Thirteen of us set out by the well-known way through the woods, across the top end of the golf course to the Waggoners. Crossing the Gt. North Rd we entered Porcket Path, to the crossing of the two main paths where we turned right to Water End. In the "Bluebell" wood, the bluebells were out en masse - this was obviously the well-end for them.

At Water End we paused a few moments to watch the water flowing under the bridge. Then on by the Porcket Road's footpath alongside the Lea up to inside shot of Wheatthorpestead, where we had a rest on a straw stack. Here the press came into action (vide cutting). Then on, into the farm track to the northward direction, and just short of the railway crossing pushed left through the bushes of the roadside waste, over the fence and into the field path no 13 on map. So across the Rly. line + beyond by the side of the old gravel pits. Crossing the Aylesbury road we entered the drive to, and past, Lushy Home Farm, then by path 28 leftward, across the drive and over the fields finally coming out onto the lane at the bottom corner of Guttered Wood Common.

Lunch was taken out on the Common, sheltering from the wind behind bushes - the "Plough" supplied drinks.

After lunch we meandered across the common - it must be one of the pleasantest golf courses existing - to the far north-eastern corner

OUT FOR A WALK

Out into the open country led by Mr A. Wootby, Headmaster of Applesell School, a party of walkers approached Ayot St Peter. *W.B. This walk is related in the programme, or the Log Book!*

A stream and a bridge always have a fascination and members of the Mid-Herts Footpath Society are seen below on the bridge over the River Lea at Water End.

Time for a rest and a chat on a comfortable haystack. Some of the members of the Mid-Herts Footpath Society whom fortnightly walk recently took their tea near Wheat-knappstead. L-R: Sir Francis Peake, Miss Nora Johnson, and Mr C. G. China.



the footpath which
road came out
to the end first
got St. Lawrence,
lady in the



... and part, around 1955
... and over the fields
bottom corner of map

... from the
...

... it must be
... for north-eastern



the coming generation;
very pleasant, though
in place, and to
Station - Red Lion

bluebell.

E.T.H.

and past the Cross Keys. From here we followed the footpath which skirts the northern edge of Lames Wood + Park, and came out onto the road at Shaw's Corner. Here we had to do our first bit of road walking - through the village of Ayot St. Lawrence, pausing to inspect the effigy of the knight + his lady in the ruined Church, and admire or criticise the modern wrought iron gates.

From here we took the shortest way, i.e. the footpath which runs practically straight to the old St Peter's Church, thence a couple of minutes to the hedge gate at Ayotbury. Here we went into the gardens which were today open to the public, and where we were to be met by another dozen people consisting of some of the married members and their children who had proposed joining us at tea. We found however that the tea accommodation, whilst very pleasant, was rather cramped, so as the others had not yet arrived - the leader traipsed all round the estate to make sure - we had our tea first. After the meal we came up against the others who had meantime arrived and made the acquaintance of the coming generation; then a quick look at the gardens which were very pleasant, though one would say more live-inable than Shawplace, and so set off for the last lap home via the usual Ayot Station - Red Lion path and back through the woods.

Weather - windy, cool, but dry.

Highlights - the fresh green of fields + trees, and bluebells.

Distance - about 12 1/2 miles.

RTB.

22 MAY

Mid-Dover Footpaths Society, Saturday
 11 May. Leave my home (Lambert) by
 10.15 AM. Arrive Dover at 11.15 AM. Meet
 1.20 PM. Refreshments at 1.30 PM. For
 details see the notice board in the
 club room at the club.

22.

NO WALK ON THIS DATE

The morning was dull but it was clearing
 as 49 people boarded the special bus at
 the Cherry Tree. The journey to the bridge was
 uneventful though owing to a slight delay at
 the start, the crew of the boat, "Thomas" which
 was all ready & waiting at the bridge, thought
 we might not be able to go the whole way
 to Thurston Bridge as planned.

The sun was now shining though the wind
 was cool. We soon left the bridge behind and
 found ourselves passing through delightful
 country, the scenery being reminiscent of
 the upper reaches of the Thames rather than
 a canal. This indeed, was the case for
 pretty well the whole trip.

Passing through the many locks was a
 never-fading source of interest, particularly to
 the children in the party. In canal here is
 beginning the ascent which eventually takes us
 through the Chullocks as the locks are all rising.
 The tea & other refreshment arrangements were
 all satisfactory and most appreciated.

The boat arrives at Carno Bridge, Walford, about 6.30 pm and after consultation with the crew, it was judged best to end the trip there and get in touch with the bus, parked in Walford. While waiting, the party took a short walk.

The bus soon came and in a short time everyone was seated and we started off on the last "leg" of the trip, which everyone appeared to have enjoyed. There was certainly a cold wind but the sun had shone brilliantly all the afternoon - a decided change from the previous year.

In the record, the cost was 14/- per head.

L.B.G.



More pictures
overleaf



MARGARET
RAVIN



PETER BYERS

LINDA CRINA

DAVID
DUNN

TRUHY
MULLER



CLARE BYLES

PETER BYLES

"SMITHY"

MC-ATCHE

JO
THOMPSON

JOHN



MR. STEVEN

WILSON
MAY 22 1952

WILSON
MAY 22 1952



← PETER
GYLES

↑
SIR. P. PEAKE

↑
DOROTHY
WABINGTON

↑
CLIVE
WABINGTON



← SIR. P. PEAKE

↑
MICHAEL
MIRIS

↑
MARJORIE
TREN-BERGH

4 JUNE
 1941. Herts. Postpaths Society, Saturday
 4 June. All night ramble. Meet 10.15
 corner of Valley Road just Bridge Wood.
 Leader: Sir Francis Cook. Route
 Colney Hill. Special extension to
 Bowley Wood Inn. Bring food for supper,
 also torches if joining the extension,
 hot drinks, torch, warm clothing.

WALK 96

It was a pity that only eleven turned up on such a beautiful evening - apart from Mr. & Mrs. Quinn who met us at our rendezvous for supper & flashlight photographs. Two of the party went on by car to light the fire.

We took the same route as last year along the Water End road & left through a gate & across the fields to Ayot St. Lawrence. When daylight faded there was a bright moon and the song of nightingales most of the way. From Ayot we went down to Codricle Bottom & having collected a bucket of water which a cottager kindly left out for us we were soon in sight of a bright fire among the trees with sausages sizzling. We had supper & after the Quinns left rolled up in blankets & sleeping bags near the fire & most of us had a few hours sleep. One restless individual put on a pot of water over after four o'clock & made tea which stirred up everyone & we sat in our rugs drinking tea & watching the sunrise. It had been a lovely night - with very little wind & now the sun rose through a golden mist & we soon began to feel its warmth.

We had a very early breakfast of eggs and bacon (soon after 5 o'clock) and packed up. Except for the party that took the car home we set out at 7 o'clock to Kniphlin Mill where we bathed or paddled according to taste then along the road to Kniphlin - by path ~~to~~ through Prior's Wood to Capt. St. Lawrence's so across the fields home. It was a hot day - the best day of the year - and we needed many rests on the way home, with the result that it was after twelve before we got back to The Garden City. We covered 13-14 miles - a thoroughly enjoyable excursion - moon light, nightingales, the birds' morning chorus and a beautiful sunrise.

J. M.

Ramble - Saturday June 11, 1955

Unfortunately the leader, N. Barnard, fell ill at the last moment + was unable to join the party, but it was decided to carry on with the walk on the proposed route.*

Only six members turned out on a somewhat cloudy + ~~pleasant~~ ^{fine} afternoon. We started off through the woods + admired the rhododendrons + then by devious paths + ways which could scarcely be called paths we arrived at the Wayzners Inn, crossed the North Rd + took the path into Bracket Park + so to Water End. At Water End House, we were rewarded by a magnificent show of lupins + a beautiful water-side garden.

We proceeded along the well-known river side path, looking for a ~~place~~ ^{hay}-stack which two members declared to exist + which was thought to be a good spot for tea. Long before the hay-stack was found, however, it was decided to be tea-time. A very enjoyable picnic

* No named leader.

meal was fed, slightly interrupted by three inquisitive horses. A rain-storm cursed us to like shelter but when it abated, it was decided we should continue the walk a little further.

On reaching the Manor Lane, we turned left off this, across the Wheatthorpe road + then to the Devil's Dyke. After traversing this, we turned left down the lane for a short space + then left along a path which took us by the side of Beech Hyde Farm to a cottage at the corner of a lane. Eastward from this cottage, there should have been a path (no. 86) but of that there was no sign. However, we followed its approximate position to the Moat + Slad; with some difficulty we crossed the moat + found an obvious bridle gate on the other side. Through this we followed the hedge down the field + right, through a gate to Samuel's Farm. Here there should have been a path leading diagonally across a field of wheat to Colman's Green but again

There was no sign of it. We followed a wire fence to a rail stile at the corner of a wood + then round the edge of the wood to a cottage, where we found an old stile, good evidence of the correct position of the missing path. Turning right along Colman Green, we took the well known path (no 57) past Colman Green Spring + Kent's Dale to Upper Crown Hyde, noting a slight diversion at the last field, where the path now, ~~where~~ goes to the N.E. corner of the field + then turns S.E. past the farm to the road.

From here, we adjourned to the Dequens for refreshment + an interesting talk to an old inhabitant regarding the decay of footpaths. Returning our way through Bocket Park, we were caught in another rain-storm but suffered no damage, arriving home about 8.30 p.m. after a very interesting walk.

The weather was perfect but the muster was
far otherwise - only three!!

We decided to start off as programmed, reserving
the right to modify the plan later. To begin with
three of them the familiar hollyhock bottom lane running into
the path to Duckworth Green. The next stretch, to Givers
(13) Green, was badly overgrown again - chiefly with nettles,
calling for some strenuous work with a stick to clear
the way.

Crossing the road, we took the path round the old
clay pit & so into Back Lane. Running right &
continuing along this for about 1/2 mile, we turned off
it for the track leading to Walker's Hall. The first
few hundred yards cannot be seen on the ground but
(14) a hedge gives the line. After that, the track becomes
clear, being a cart track; the views all around were
lovely & the country side was looking its best.

After passing the Hall (now a farm) the track becomes
a road, which, however, we soon left for a path past the
kitchen of Walker at Home; passing outside at a
typically English scene - a village cricket match.

Watton has no lack of facilities for refreshment. Which

we enjoyed to the full. Over our lunch we agreed on a modification of the plan, and instead of going to the Perrywood Road and on to Lewins, decided to make for Hertford and Hesse.

A pleasant path took us first to Watton Church where we spent a most interesting quarter-hour among the many ancient memorials and other bits of history. Then taking the road up to Watkins Green, we turned off into the fields to the left (eastward). In some distance the only

- (9) evidence of a path was the mark on the map. Then we joined a good cart-track & emerged on to the Hertford-Hessing road opposite the Hertford Forge entrance to Woodhall Park. The track goes on into the Park, skirt the Home Farm and hugs the pretty River Beane to Stapleford Church. Beyond this, the path returns to the river bank and we followed it again, rejoicing in the shade of the trees and the sound and sight of the stream on our right to pleasantly enough to Bulls Mill & Waterford where we took bus to Hertford. A wait of 1/2 hour in the bus station gave us the chance of a welcome "cuppa" & on by the 372 bus, back to ~~home~~. An easy & wholly pleasant day

Billings

(Note: Numbers in margin are page numbers)

July 10th

32

no organized walks

This was our fourth annual meeting and
outing to Follisbury.

About 200 Members and friends turned
out on a lovely morning, we had
quite a pleasant run down, especially
through the seed growing country, where
there was a wonderful display of fields,
full of lovely flowers of all colours.
We took our way to Woodroffe,
the party were able to go and
inspect a hotel - being built by
the Follisbury, Yacht and Power Building
Co. and were shown over by Mr
J. Frost, one of the firm, most of
the party took a keen interest; and
quite a lot of questions were asked.
The price rather about £3000.
From here we adjourned for refreshments
at the Bar of the Follisbury Sailing Club.
After this the party split: some
stayed by the Marine Lake, others
walked to Shingle Hill farms;
and spent the rest of the day,

belly in the sea, and Sam & Dally,
we returned to the village about 12:30
and enjoyed a good meal - tea, and strawberries
and cream.

After walking around the village for
about half an hour, we eventually
struck out for W. G. by arriving
about 10:15, after a very enjoyable
day.

J. J. Gould

" Visit to the Estate of Luton Hoo July 23rd 1955 "

A party of 10 met at the station W.P. & took the train 2.29 pm to Luton Hoo. A very pleasant walk of 2 miles, some on private roads brought us to the park via the back way passing the farm buildings & kitchen garden. Lady Zia was entertaining some of the children of the estate to a sports day. ———

We entered the residence which has historical associations — dating back to the Roman conquest. In 1523 the Hoo family sold the property to Richard Tamer. It again changed hands several times & in 1771 and 1843 it was ravaged by fire. After the second fire, the Marquis of Bute sold it to John Shaw Leigh who did most of the rebuilding. In 1903 Luton Hoo was bought by Sir Julius Wernher, — whose second son — Sir Harold Wernher is now in possession. His wife Lady Zia is the daughter of the Grand Duke of Michael of Russia. His mother the late Lady Ludlow gave the famous collection of English porcelain. The Park retains the natural grandeur for which Robert Adams it depicts was famous. Dr Johnson visited the house in 1781. ———

We party of ten moved with grace from room to room. First — the English Room where are hung paintings by British Artists — such as Sir Joshua Reynolds P.P.R.A. 1723-1792. — also Sir Peter Lely & John Hoppner 1758-1810. ———
We passed into the Dutch Room & saw Franz Hals 1580-1666

Peter Kees 1577-1657, etc. We were amazed at the work we saw in the wavy room, mainly the work of German & French Artists, between the 12th + 15th Centuries.

We next passed into the Blue Hall, - the most impressive item is the large 18th Century "CHANCELLARIA" tapestry woven at the Gobelin factory. The Dining Room has a similar atmosphere of sumptuousness. It has three large 18th Cent. crystal and smoky chandeliers. A long dining table set with English silver gilt dessert service of George III period, also a set of beautiful tapestries made at Beauvais towards the end of the 18th Cent.

Passing through the Marble Hall and elegant staircase we came to the Upper Gallery and balcony & into the State Bedroom. Returning to the ground floor we entered a room kept as a memorial to one of the greatest race horses called "Brown Jack." It won 25 races & £23,150. It was the property of Sir Harold Wembar. On one of the walls is a fine oil portrait of the horse by Sir Alfred Munnings P.P.R.A. also one in bronze.

Passing into the corridor we saw a fine collection of Enamels, pottery & German wood carving of the 16th Cent.

Finally we entered the main gallery which occupies the northwest corner of the house & was formerly the Chapel. In place of the altar - are 3 of the most important pictures.

in the collection. In the centre is seen "St Michael slaying the Dragon" by the 15th Cent: Spanish master. Bartolomeo Bermejo. On the left is a large canvas by the name German master Albrecht Altdorfer (1480-1538). (Christ taking leave of his Mother before the Passion.) On the right "The Annunciation" by the 15th Cent: Venetian Artist.

By this time we were getting a little tired, and in need of refreshment, after one hour's viewing of this wonderful collection. We went downstairs into the old kitchen now transformed into an attractive restaurant with mural paintings by Mary Adshhead completed in 1950.

Having had a very nice tea we set off to walk the 2 miles back to the station in glorious sunshine, having agreed that we had spent a worth while afternoon.

David Evans.

10 MILES FROM LONDON, VIA ST. ALBANS.



This House was built in 1762 by Robert Adam.