

Ramble to King's Walden & Loddicote
Oct 9, 1955

Leader Eric Rawin

This ramble was planned to enable the party to meet the week-end party for lunch & tea.

A party of 10 caught the 9.15 Busch bus to Langley Lane end. Here we took the lane on the left of the main road & very soon a track on the left took us over a valley & up the hill to a road where we turned right & soon right again to Easthall Farm. Opposite the farm, a path led straight across the fields to rejoin the road, just above the steep little hill leading into St. Pauls Walden. Here we crossed straight over the main road & up a road opposite leading past the church. We spent a short time visiting the church which has close associations with the Queen Mother. We continued down the lane to the Stagershoe estate & then on reaching a crossing drive, went through a deserted iron kissing gate to a narrow lane which led us round the back of the cricket field, & down on to the broad track, leading to Whitehill, known as St. Albans Rd. Just before the little

stone bridge, we turned right along a cart track which eventually brought us out against a lodge, on the Whitwell - Preston road. Here we turned right for a short distance & then left to reach King's Walden Park. This was looking delightful with warm sunshine, autumn colouring & a fine herd of deer away in the distance. On leaving the park, we avoided the obvious step-stall leading into the private drive of the King's Walden Bury & made a small diversion to the right, where two iron kissing gates led us into a paddock at the back of the house & thence to the main road. Here we were intercepted by the owner of the house who congratulated us on being one of the very few parties to keep to the public path!

We turned left, down the hill, to the church, which we visited. This was a delightful building, obviously well kept. We then carried on down the road a few yards till it turned sharply right, where we went forward through a gate into a park. Following an obvious track to the left, we kept straight forward up the hill, along the edge of the wood on the top &

then through a gate + almost immediately turned right through another gate. This led into a field with an obvious stile straight ahead, then down into a delightful valley, across a road + up the hill on the opposite side. This part of the path had been badly ploughed up, but we regained it at the edge of the wood on the top of the hill. The path led us in another half mile to Breachwood Green, where, the weather being so warm, we had lunch out of doors close to the Red Lion. Very soon, Mr. Byles arrived to tell us of the proximity of the week-end party. We joined them for cups of tea + then decided to precede them on the route to Cadricote + tea.

We took a very clean footpath to Bardish + then by Long Lane + footpath to The Hall. From here we went by the well marked path to Cuckhold's Cross + then followed its track round the head of the fields to How Park Cottage. This track had been badly ploughed up in parts + the going was tiring. At the cottage we crossed the drive to a gate opposite, which led us by ill-defined tracks between Christmas Hill

+ Hoo Park Woods, across a field + then down
the edge of Coronation plantation. At this point,
the party were feeling a little tired, so a short
cut was made to the Kimplin Rd + a bus
to Codicote was boarded at Kimplin Mill.

At Codicote, we enjoyed a very good tea
at the Red Lion. The week-end ~~had~~ party
arrived rather later, rather tired, but very
ready for tea.

Then the bus to W.G.C. was boarded at
6 pm + all felt that both parties had
had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

W.G.



The two parties join forces at Breakfast from

Walk to Coleman's Green.

led by C. Byles.

Rain during the morning had made us wonder whether anyone would turn up.

Nine of us left Applecroft meeting place at 2.20 p.m. for Hempsford. We walked to Chequers through Brooklet Park and followed through Crowned Hyde. Taking a left hand turn into some fields where cereal crop trials had been held.

We noticed the different colours of the straw left after harvesting.

Our first obstruction was the first hedge which had been heavily wind.

The diagonal path from here to Symond's Hyde was not followed but we kept to the hedge until we came to the end of the field where a lane comes in beside the wood.

There was a gate we noted particularly for we wished to enter the lane from the Crowned Hyde end later on.

We could see how on this side of the gate the lane continued & we tried to follow it up towards Symond's Hyde but the fence crossed it.



There was also another barbed wire fence which we crawled under.

We climbed the first gate on the right and walked diagonally across the field to the corner and entered into Titmol's wood.

Keeping along a fairly obvious path it led us out into a ploughed field which we crossed by way of the last broad furrow.

Entering the opposite field by a gap in the hedge we cut the corner as shown on map and went round the bend through another gap.

Percy Butterworth remembered how that three years ago we had tried to find this particular way.

Here we were walking along towards Coleman's Green along a path parallel with the one we know so well.

It was very exciting to know that we were on a new - old path.

On Coleman's Green we discovered a place for tea. It was a pleasant stopping place under some trees.

Afterwards we took the path to Kent's Dell and found the stile which had been dug out.

by a small holder. we could not cross the field diagonally to corner trees as Kale was growing so we followed up right side from stile and at the end of Kale crop we cut along pasture ^{edge} to trees.

Then, the other side of fence was then and came out at corner of Fletcher's Wick where there should have been a stile so we walked back along the track to the corner of Tisdal's wood.

From here we walked two diagonal paths deliberately (one was ploughed.) we left our mark to show line of path. It brought us out at Crooner Hyde Lane.

We investigated the lane leading off toward's Symond's Hyde and found it not too bad and rather pleasant. Retracing our steps after getting to the gate we felt that we should walk it often to keep it open.

Going home through the Park we decided that there has been many obstacles to discuss with farmer.

C. Byler.

"The Chilterns" had been left

out of the programme this year, after two dressings
in previous autumns, & this walk was arranged
at short notice, using the bus service instead
of hiring a coach. We were well rewarded
with a fine day, though cold, Sunshine & lovely
autumn colours, & a beautiful full moon for
the last part of our walk. One member brought
his son & a friend - the young man who made a
lively addition to the party.

Eleven of us alighted at the bottom of Scott's
Hill, Rickmansworth, opposite the recreation ground
& walked along to the church, at the back of which
a wide fenced path led us through the grounds of
the Royal Malvern School for Girls & along by the
R. Chess to the Ladbroke road. We went down
to the bridge & then back up the road to pick up
the path down a steep bank on the other side of
it, overtaking some stragglers from a large & rather
noisy party of young ramblers, the main body of
which we passed at the next road crossing half-a-
mile further on.

The path led on through pleasant fields beside
the river, crossed another road & entered Chorley.

wood Estate, at the end of which the other party crossed the river by foot bridge, & we continued on the same side, through the grounds of a small pumping station, across the road by Sarrattmill Bridge, along through Mount Wood & Holloway Lane & up the hill, taking a path marked by a stile on the left across the fields to the Red Lion at Chawes, where we had our lunch.

It was decided not to go to Flaunden with the limited daylight remaining, & we strolled along to the green with its lovely trees, & looked into the church where recumbent effigies of the Russell family are seen through glass windows in their private chapel. A path behind the church skirts the Manor grounds, & we bore left in the wood along the top of the hill with a fine view across the valley. We came out on the road which took us across the river to Lathin; where the church among the trees was a disappointing brick edifice but the village & scenery was delightful.

We took the path back along the north side of the river to Sarratt Bottom, turned left up Dawes Lane for about 100 yds, where a path on the right led up a hill (more views) & on to Church End. We came through the churchyard & crossed the road to the

Cook Inn, behind which some rails marked the beginning of the path to Middlefield Green. We lost the path in the fields but took a bee-line across a field of stubble to the stile & the road, which we followed for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the end of the manor grounds, where a white gate on the left brought us on to a pleasant bridle path which led by field & wood & lane to Chandler's Cross.

Passing the inn on our left we took the right-hand fork for Whippendell Wood, which in our eagerness we entered too soon, but a friendly smallholder soon put us on the broad well-beaten track that leads to Cassington Park. It was now dusk but we did not anticipate any further difficulty in finding our way, & stopped for tea in an open clearing where there was a long bench seat & a small hut in which two of the party reconnoitred themselves. Birds hooted & the full moon gleamed through the trees, & there was some cheerful backchat over shaving cups of tea & food.

The path led on through the wood, with seats invitingly placed at intervals, then down a splendid avenue, now bare of leaves, to the

MICHAEL
KERS

VIC FRANCIS NEWS
PERKINS NEWS
FRANCIS NEWS

ELADE
BYERS

MARJORIE THOM-BERGH



DAVID EVANS
SON

BURTON
WADDINGTON

AND FRIENDS

MARGARET RITCHIE-TAYLOR
 MARGARET THOMAS-ROACH
 DOROTHY WADDINGTON
 SIR F. PERCE
 "TOMMY" BURNS
 ?
 DAVID EVANS
 GLADYS STANWARD
 MICHAEL AYRES
 CLARE BYLES



Photos taken near
 Latimer.

ELADE
RYING

MARJORIE THOMAS-REACH

look on the Canal, with the lovely moon over the trees & shining on the water, so that we paused several times to watch & admire. The moonlight too was a boon, for the paths along the canal had fallen away in places & might have been dangerous in the dark. Some of us had been here before on our Canal Trip on May 21st.

At Croxley Green station we had not long to wait for a bus (321A), & in St. Albans we were luckier still, for no sooner had we crossed to the stopping place than a 330 came along. We were glad to get home to warm fires & hot baths for it had become quite chilly, & all had enjoyed a wonderful day.

SEE OPPOSITE

P.F.B.
O.P.



6 NOVEMBER
 Mid-Thames Footpath Society. Sunday
 6 November. Meet 10.45 at station of Valley
 Road, and Bridge Road, Lechlade. 10
 miles. Route. Total 5.4 miles. Home to
 Lechlade.

WALK 109

Nov-6-1956

We mustered 17 strong for the walk, meeting at the usual place.

We started through the woods to Digswell, Conference House, taking the path beside the river coming out on to the road just above the Mill House, we noted that storm the night before had flooded the ground floor going in one door, and out the other.

We crossed the road to Twin Water, striking the concrete path to Twin Church, on approaching the main road, it came on to rain heavily and looked like continuing, so instead of going on to the Rose and Crown we turned right down to the Stratford Road, about half a mile, then we turned right again up Grosvenor Park, to Black Lane, on down Digswell road, to go our several ways home, all disappointed we had missed our little pick me up, at the Twin local,

J. Hardy

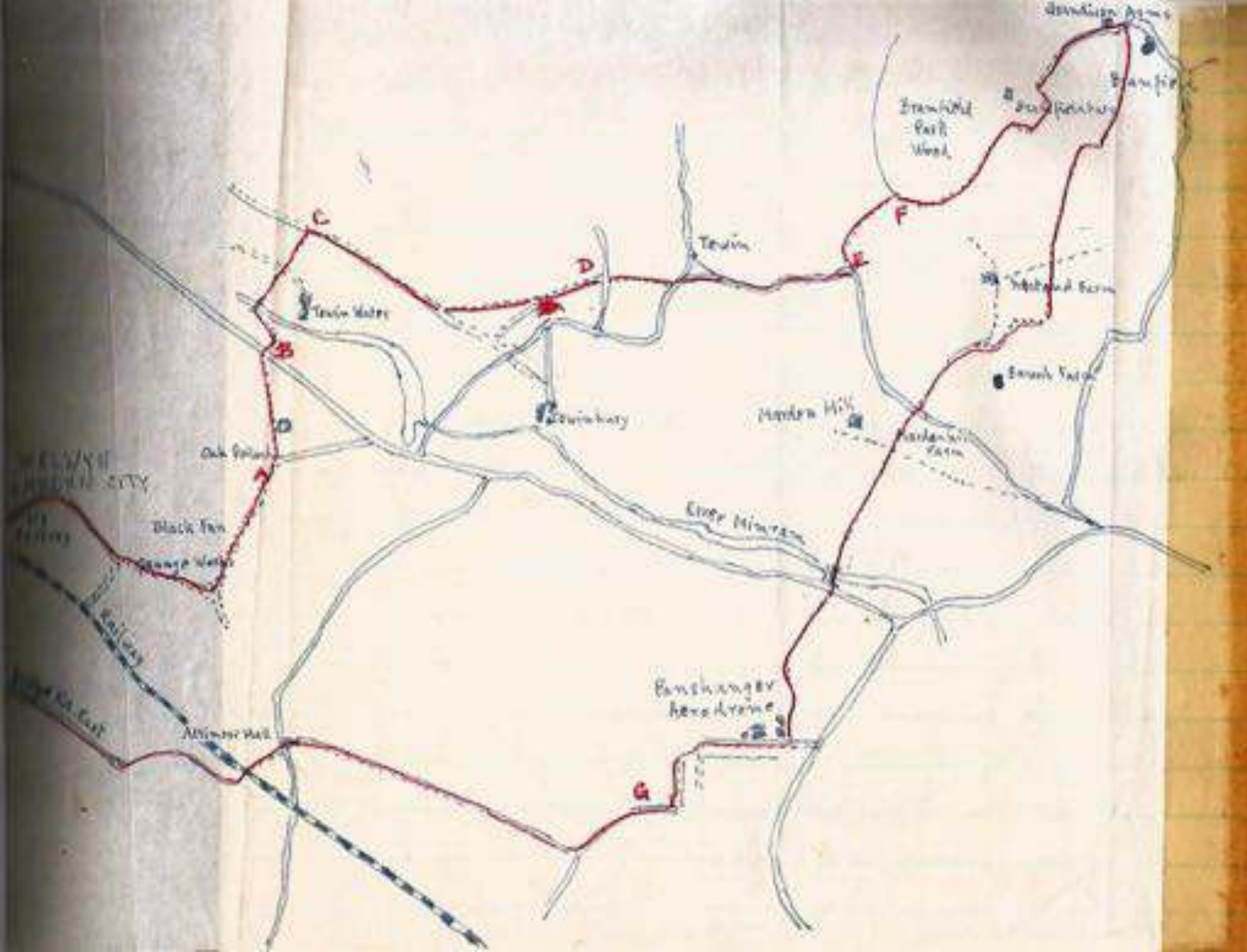
Dinner & Social, Saturday Nov. 12th 1955

A party of 30 assembled at 6.45 p.m. at The Wellington Hotel, Wadsworth. After aperitifs, we adjourned to a private room at 7 p.m., where a most excellent dinner (6/-) was served very expeditiously. Judging by the buoyancy of conversation, it seemed as if all the members were feeling very much at home. The Chairman made a short speech of welcome & was followed by the Treasurer, who appealed for subscriptions but also suggested that the funds of the Society were sufficiently healthy to stand the expense of a round of drinks for all present. This suggestion was greeted with great applause & was immediately put into practice.

After the meal, the tables were cleared & programme of entertainment commenced. This consisted of a Panel game, community singing, guessing games & a short story.

The time passed all too quickly and at 10.30 p.m. the party came to an end, with the general feeling of a not successful evening.

[Signature]



Tewin, Bramfield, Marden Hill

Sunday, 27 Nov. 1955

led by Cyril G. Barnard

The party of 11 who met at the usual starting place was made up at the end of Conydale to the unlucky number of 13, but the oven was absent. The weather was cold but dry, no sunshine, but not unpleasant for walking, and there was remarkably little mud anywhere for the time of year.

Passing Digswell Lodge we crossed over the railway bridge and followed Black Fox Lane and Black Fox Road past the I.C.I. Plastic factory to the Sewage Works. Here we turned sharp left, the smell being fortunately not very noticeable, and kept to the track past the artificial lake till we came to a clump of bushes just before the path takes a rightward turn. There is a narrow footpath here through dense undergrowth, not very easily seen unless one is on the look-out for it (see **A** on sketch map). This goes steeply uphill for a few yards and leads into an open ^{field} ~~field~~. The right-of-way (there is no trace of a path) goes straight across this field in a westerly direction keeping just

to the left of a clamp of trees in the middle of the field. It is not till one has reached the crest of the hill more than halfway across this field that the stile on the other side can be seen. From here a very fine and undisturbed view of the Digswell Viaduct can be obtained. After climbing over the stile, ~~the way~~ saw another stile, a little to the right, leading into the main Welwyn - Hertford road. Almost opposite this is a stile over the wooden fence leading into Town Water Park (B). The footpath leads through the bushes and across a rustic bridge by a little waterfall in the River Minnam, then skirts a cabbage patch and crosses over the drive. Here we found the right-of-way obstructed by barbed wire, a fact which ought to be reported to the authorities. It continues straight across the field on the other side of the drive along the fence and up to a broken down stile giving on to the concrete path (C). We ~~cut~~ turned right along this and followed it up the hill through the wood and so far as the second field beyond. Here the right-of-way should go diagonally across this second field due east to the far corner of the field, but as it was partly ploughed up we made a slight detour to save our shoes, and crossed over on the

grass. The right course can be steered by a little white shed in the far corner (D). A stile here leads into a cart-track, which we crossed and took the footpath along the edge of the fields, crossing two more stiles, and so into Town just by the village school. Crossing the triangular village green to the eastern corner, we followed the Hertford Road round the bend for about 700 yards and then turned sharp ^{left} up the footpath (E) which goes in a deep hollow between high hedges in a northerly direction, bending slightly eastwards, for about 500 yards. Here it forks right and left (F). We turned right and followed the path which skirts Bramfield Park Wood. About halfway along one is apt to be led astray by a path leading away to the right, but if one remembers to keep always to the edge of the wood (except for one small rectangular diversion to the right opposite the house, Bramfieldbury) all will be well. Eventually we came out on the road and in a few minutes arrived at the Grandison Arms conveniently soon after opening time.

Here we had a room to ourselves with a welcoming open fire, almost as if we had been expected, but the leader cannot claim any credit for this. After lunch (packets brought with us) some of the party got

into conversation with the friendly hostess (fairly new to the house) and seemed loth to leave the warmth of the fire. Eventually the party was induced to get moving again, only to be delayed again by some children's swings in the field opposite, which some members had to sample.

The next mile of the route, entirely across fields in a southerly direction, is somewhat tricky and the leader confesses that he would have lost his way if Peter Bylas had not come to the rescue. Once Bacon's Farm had been reached, however, all was plain sailing. There is a clear footpath which crosses over the road and leads past Mardenhill Farm and the entrance to Marden Hill house down the hill to a footbridge over the River Minnam again. Here is a broad shallow part suitable in warm weather for paddling, but on this occasion nobody ventured into the water. After a short rest we crossed the road and went up the footpath immediately opposite, which leads uphill, still in a southerly direction, to the corner of Punchanger Aerodrome. Skirting this as far as the main entrance, we got over the barbed wire fence, crossed the drive and turned right along the edge of the wood, first west, then south. The right-of-way is here in doubt, but we remained unchallenged.

and struck off across the airfield in a southwesterly direction (C). Instead of continuing along this path, which is called Green Lane later on, we turned off right along a path beside the hedge, which leads in a dead straight line to Minerva Hall. Some of the party paused to eat tea under a haystack, others broke off at Minerva Hall and went home by a route of their own choosing. The remnant crossed the road and the railway and entered the Garden City by Knoll Road and Heronwood Road. Only two were left to walk home down Bridge Road east to the Cherry Tree. The whole walk was about 10 miles

Gill Barnard.

ESTHER FRANK
MARGUERITE 7-8
LINDA CHINN



SIR
FRANCIS
PERCE

PETER
BYLES

TUDOR
MACLEOD

CLARET
STANBRO