

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2010, 7.30pm

We hereby give notice to members that the Annual General Meeting of the City of Birmingham Group of the Ramblers, will be held in the Grimshaw Room, St. Chad's Cathedral, Queensway, Birmingham, on Friday 12th November 2010 at 7.30pm

Nominations for Officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) and Committee members and any proposals or matters for discussion should reach the secretary by Friday 15th October:
Contact David Sutton, 194 Station Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7TE (email: david.sutton986@btinternet.com)

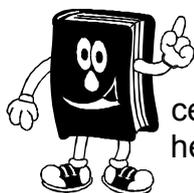
Our customary excellent free buffet with wine and soft drinks will follow the proceedings

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Muddy Meanderings

David Sutton



This year was the Ramblers' 75th anniversary and to celebrate, the Warwickshire Area held an Area Picnic & Ramble, on

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Social Scene 2010

From our Social Secretary, Derek Garfield

I normally write a brief review of the latest social events and a few details of upcoming events under the above heading. This information is, in fact, also on our website which is maintained most effectively by our Webmaster Wiebina Heesterman. This website is visited frequently but mainly I suspect by people wishing to obtain information about the Group rather than existing members. I would recommend all members to look in regularly for the very latest information about what is going on. (www.birminghamramblers.org.uk). Currently, Wiebina has posted a nice little piece about our Annual Day Out to Salisbury and Stonehenge and I think I can do no better than to reproduce it as follows.

“The 2010 Annual Day Out, undoubtedly a prime social activity, on 3rd July, took us to



Salisbury and Stonehenge. Derek and Ceri had arranged the nicest of weather for this jaunt. In Salisbury we were issued clear walk-round city guides as well as street plans. Ceri took some

people first to Salisbury Cathedral while Derek's party began by getting an overview of Salisbury's historic buildings. By three o'clock we were all ready for the second visit of the day to Stonehenge. Seeing the 4,000 year old stones on Salisbury Plain in the bright sunlight on a breezy day would be the highlight of the day, if Salisbury itself wasn't competing for the honour”.

Thank you Wiebina for the above - and all of you keep watching our website for the latest info about our Group!

Our next Social Event will be a visit to the National Memorial Museum at Arlewas near

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Walk for All 2010

Report by Steve Brittain (photo by Tony Holmes)

On June 16th we had our annual Walk for All at the Severn Valley. This year we decided to change from our regular Saturday to a Wednesday so as to try and encourage walkers from schools and colleges. We invited the Queen Alexandra College for the blind and they sent eight students and two members of staff.

We were lucky with the weather as it was a warm and sunny day, and we had thirty-four walkers and two wheel-chair users attending, which made it a record for this event.

So we all started off on our four mile round trip from Severn Valley Country Park to Hampton Loade. The path was good enough to accommodate wheel-chair users,

mostly being a tarmac surface. We all arrived at the Unicorn pub at lunchtime, some of us eating in the pub and some bringing a picnic lunch with them. After our break one party, led by Sandra Sutton walked along the bank of the river Severn, while Pat Brittain led a party back along the easier path we had used in the morning and I led the blind students back to the visitor's centre separately.

The walk is normally led by Horace Marsh, but unfortunately due to his wife being ill



he was unable to lead on this occasion. However, I would like to thank Horace for designing the walk and also arranging the pub, and to the leaders Pat and

Sandra, all the wheelchair pushers and to everyone who helped in any way to make it a good day out. ■

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Lichfield on Saturday 18th September, somewhere you have perhaps kept meaning to go to but never quite got round to it! This will be your chance! Booking forms, as usual, will be available shortly.

And a further date for your

diary. We will be going on a guided tour of the BBC Studios in The Mailbox on Saturday 13th November. You will get a chance to actually go before the cameras - I mean, what a thrill! ■

Socially yours
Derek Garfield

LAST CHANCE!

Saying "Thank you" - a little job for you!

As previously mentioned, we would like to recognise the important role that our volunteers play in making our Group so special, by creating an Annual Award for the

"Rambler of the Year",

to be presented at the A.G.M. in November 2010.

This is your chance to reward a fellow member for their efforts.

Please could you play your part by nominating the volunteer who you think deserves the award this year?

Give your nominations in writing, to a Committee member before October, so that the winner can be announced in November.

Slings, bandages and plasters

By Ceri Dittrich

Warwickshire Area Secretary, Ian Wilkinson, recently arranged some Red Cross First Aid training for members who got their request in fast. Well, the last time I tied a sling I was in the Girl Guides, so I thought it was high time!

The Red Cross premises are tucked away on a trading estate the other side of Coventry but, having worked in Coventry several years ago, I followed my nose

(cheaper than satnav!) and managed to find the place.

I had fun in the morning rolling men on the floor into the recovery position and in the

afternoon Sheila Woolley (Solihull Group) and I tied each other up in bandages. It was a very worthwhile course thanks to excellent Red Cross instructors, one of whom walks with the Stratford Group, and to Ian

for arranging the day. All sixteen ramblers from various Warwickshire Groups each came away with a useful St John Ambulance first aid handbook and a nice long bandage. So unless you want to

go home covered in yards of untidy bandage, stay safe whilst rambling. And don't trip up in the pub either! ■



Wild boar country

By David Sutton (photo by Bob Hunt)

The mountains and meadows are painted with swathes of colour. It is the end of May and spectacular presentations of wild flowers greet us every day as we trek through high meadows on our group's biennial holiday to Norcia in Umbria.

This year our group organiser, Libby Hunt, arranged a week's walking holiday staying at the quirky but superb hotel Grotta Azzurra in the old Roman walled town of Norcia. Set in a valley surrounded by the Sibilini Mountains, our base was a town of narrow streets, churches and shops, many selling the local delicacies of wild boar sausages, ham, cheeses and truffles. The hotel itself, a former medieval granary, became an inn in 1850 and has been run by the Bianconi family since that time. It's gastronomic restaurant is hugely popular with locals and tourists and our group spent pleasant evenings in the dining room enjoying the five course

dinners and sampling the free wine!

Naturally we were fighting fit in the mornings, to tackle the



varied walks laid on by our Holiday Fellowship leaders; with four levels of walk, no one was left out, be they mountain sloggers, or gentle strollers. And with the varied landscapes of the Sibilini mountains, the unusual plain of the Piano Grande, delightful villages such as Casteluccio, flower meadows which varied from single seas of red poppies to oceans of mixed varieties, and the

serenely quiet hills and valleys, this was a joy to experience.

The weather was generally sunny and fine, although cooler than many of us expected, but we were nowhere at a lower altitude than the highest point in England. One very rainy day

meant a bit of boot drying, but also some moody cloudy landscapes to enjoy.

And the only wild boar to be seen were those of stuffed heads decorating the local shops! ■

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Sunday 23rd May. All Warwickshire Area groups were invited to organise their own walks around Stratford upon Avon, meeting for the picnic lunch at the Welcombe Hills monument.

On a blazingly hot day, all but two of the area's twelve groups

celebrated the event, with a toast to the Ramblers' by Michael Bird, our area chairman. In all there were 234 walkers at the picnic, of which, 43 were Birmingham Group members. All in all a very successful and enjoyable event ■

COULD YOU HELP WITH RESEARCH WORK FOR THE BIRMINGHAM DEFINITIVE MAP?

Financial cuts to Council budgets, have meant that the staff working on the Definitive Map for Birmingham have been reduced.

We have been asked if we can help.

If you would be interested in Archive Research work, into the origins of old footpaths, please contact me.

Training will be provided and out of pocket expenses will be paid.

For further details contact Bob Hunt on 0121 681 2445, or email to hunt-robert4@sky.com

Heard on rambles...

At the Area Picnic Ramble in Stratford upon Avon, Michael Bird asks for a cheer from each group present. As Stratford group are called there is total silence. Then some wag quips, "It was too far for them to come!"

Someone points out an interesting rooftop



weather vane with a stag design. Steve Brittain remarks, "It's a weather vane that's telling you when it's raining, because it's a rain deer." Oh dear! ■

Sign up for the e-newsletter...

The Birmingham Group now have an occasional email Newsletter. News and reminders about forthcoming social events, walk changes and information, and other items of interest to group members direct to your inbox. To sign-up, simply email the editor:
david.sutton986@btinternet.com

Contribute to Footnotes:

Your walking experiences, general articles associated with walking and the countryside are welcome: David Sutton, 194 Station Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7TE. (Phone: 0121 444 6188).
Email at: david.sutton986@btinternet.com.

Please Note: Any discounts shown in this publication are wholly at the discretion of the retailer and are not an entitlement to Ramblers members.



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