SOAR FEET

Newsletter of the Loughborough and District Ramblers. Winter *2014 / 2015*

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2015.

Have you started to think about New Year's resolutions yet ? With an increasing number of health surveys stressing the importance of regular exercise why not resolve to join Loughborough Ramblers at least once a month, or perhaps more regularly, on one of our walks ? What better way than to start on New Year's Day, at 11.00am., from the centre of Quorn. Great company is guaranteed and a flat easy paced six miles will help to blow all of 2014's cobwebs away. Friends, family and dogs (on leads) are all welcome.

Of course there is much more to look forward to in 2015. Our programme for the next four months features destinations in five counties but all within an hour of Loughborough. In Warwickshire we will visit Kenilworth Castle and the Tipperary Inn where the famous song was written. Attenborough Nature Reserve and a coffee stop at Beeston Marina in Nottinghamshire are always popular on one of Peter's walks. In Lincolnshire we will explore some of the Grantham canal and hopefully see great views of Belvoir Castle. Coton in the Elms in Derbyshire will be a new venue for many, as possibly will be Leire in our home county of Leicestershire. Finally there will be the opportunity to visit a sixth county, Shropshire, when we join Coalville Ramblers on their coach Ramble at the end of April.



Of course there will be other opportunites to socialise as well. Details of our New Year's meal are included with this mailing, plus there is still room on our holiday to Llangollen in May and Coalville Ramblers' weekend to Whitby in September.

Top Six Walks and Walkers

In the last four months Loughborough Ramblers have organised 31 walks. The most popular walks,in order, were:

- Bottesford to Muston and Grantham Canal - 9 miles.
- Soar/Trent Spaghetti River Junction and bacon butties at Redhill Marina - 6 miles.
- Outwoods and the permissive Jubilee Path - 6 miles.
- Quorn Ramble - 6 miles.
- Ashby Canal from Snarestone - 5 miles.
- Anstey, Bradgate Park and Newtown Linford - 5 miles.

Mid – week walks were more popular than weekend walks and Saturday walks slightly more popular than Sundays. 72 different people attended our walks covering a total distance of 1796 miles but of that number of walkers 41 only walked once. Peter Richart attended 27 walks, followed by Jan Savage (20), John Harper (16), Margaret Machin (14) and Sue Mears (13).

Members will have noted that on our current programme there are seven weeks with no mid-week walk. This is because we had insufficient walks offered. So could you lead a walk in our next programme ? The statistics show that often our most popular walks are those close to home. If you can lead a walk around your local patch please contact Margaret Machin:
E-mail: **margaretmachin1@gmail.com**
Tel: 07885 245474.
The Deadline for the summer walks programme is 2nd March.

Meet the Member: Jan Savage



Jan (left) and our Treasurer Jeanette (right) in the stocks at Grimston.
Jan started walking with Loughborough Ramblers a year ago.

I was born and bred in Loughborough, where I attended Thorpe Acre Junior School, Limehurst Girls School, then Burleigh College, before moving on to Loughborough Catering College.

From childhood I have always enjoyed walking and the outdoors and have fond memories of my father taking my brothers and sister and me on many local walks. I remember walking to Bradgate Park , the Outwoods, and to Normanton along the River Soar, where my brothers and sister and I learnt to swim.

I have been married to Ray for 35 years and I have enjoyed many walking holidays with him, particularly in Madeira. My sister now lives in Bulgaria and when visiting her it has been great to walk with the Black Sea walking group. It therefore followed that I join Loughborough Ramblers where I have met many like minded good people.

I have worked in all aspects of the catering industry for the past 40 years. I stared my career working at The Sand Banks Hotel in Poole, Dorset, where I gained a great wealth of knowledge, and experience. For the last twenty years I have been an Area Catering Manager enjoying walking at the weekends. The Peak District is my favourite place to chill. In addition to walking I enjoy gardening and cooking.

Wish you were Here

This year Coalville Ramblers arranged a walking weekend in Paignton, Devon from September 19th to 22nd and members of Loughborough Ramblers were invited to go along. Here Heather Jennings recounts some of her memories and one walk in particular.

Our accommodation was at the Bonair, a typical seaside hotel in Paignton. We were lucky to have fabulous weather all weekend, making the walking very enjoyable and it was lovely to see Rachel again who had travelled from Cheddar to join us for the Saturday walk and dinner.

We were offered such a varied choice of walks that it was hard to make a decision. Jane Trevathan's walk on Sunday started at Churston Station following the East Bank of the Dart passing Higher Greenway which is where Agatha Christie lived. It was an undulating walk offering a glimpse of the river along the way and providing us with some beautiful views. Our picnic lunch was taken at Noss Point Marina



Hercules with his ladies

where benches and toilets were provided. What more could one ask for? The walk ended at Kingswear where we crossed the ferry to Dartmouth. The plan was for the bus to pick us up, but most of us opted to do our own thing and then catch the last train back. Some of us made the wrong decision to visit the Castle by boat. There was not much to see and the

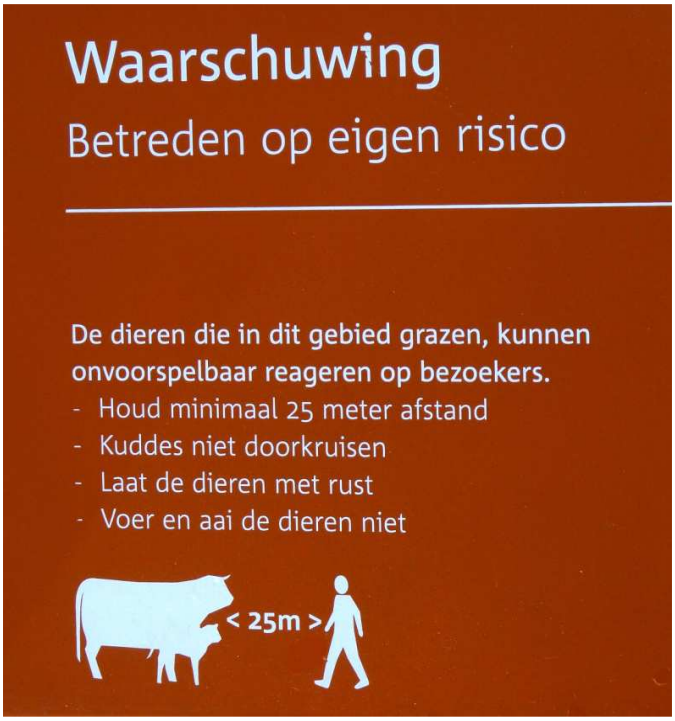
teashop was disappointing. We wished we had stayed in the town exploring the quaint streets, galleries and shops. Back at Kingswear Hercules the magnificient steam engine was waiting for us and chuffed out of the station pulling all his ladies along.(All the carriages had girls names) We were in the one called Anna. The journey hugged the coast and Peter was able to point out all the places that we had passed on his walk the previous day. The evening ended with lots of lively dancing to 50s and 60s music.

The friendship,weather and stunning scenery helped to make this a memorable weekend. A big thanks to Robert Woodward and Gwen Storer

2015 Coalville Rambler's Walking Weekend. 18th – 21st Sept.



Full details of this holdiay, including prices, are expected shortly. If you are interested in going and would like a booking form please contact John Harper by e-mail at: **harper636@btinternet.com** or send a self addressed envelope to John at: 35 Main Road, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leics., LE134 3LR.



Seen in the Polders region of North Holland.
I could not read this sign but the message is clear.

Leaders Ready for Anything ?

Congratulations to nine of our regular Walk Leaders who recently took part in, and passed, an essential first aid course run by St.Johns Ambulance.

Best Kept Footpath Award

The Area Association of Ramblers with the National Farmers Union have instigated an annual award for the best kept footpath. Paths maintained by local authorities are excluded as they have a statutory duty to do so. Judging will take place shortly with the winner being announced at the Area AGM. If you know a path you would like to nominate please contact our Footpath Officer Stuart Tyler:
Tel: 07775 872535 **E-mail: stuart.tyler@gmail.com**

Programme Changes

- The walk planned for Tuesday 17th March has had to be moved to Wednesday 18th due to a clash with Melton Market. All other details remain unchanged.
- On Saturday 25th April we will be joining Coalville Ramblers on their coach ramble to Hawstone Follies, Shropshire. Our breakfast and bluebells walk will now take place on Saturday 2nd May.

Area AGM

9.30am. Saturday 24th January 2015

Gaddesby Village Hall:

Guest Speakers:

Peter Tyldesley, Agent in charge, Bradgate Park

Des Garrahan, Ramblers Trustee

The meeting will be followed by a short walk at 1.00pm. led by Melton Ramblers

Note the Date

Quiz Success ?

John Samson reports on the Area Quiz.

This year the Leicestershire and Rutland Walking Group hosted the annual Area quiz, and for the first time in some years Loughborough Ramblers fielded two teams: Soar Feet (or Soar Point as quizmaster Rob insisted on calling us), with Joanna, Roberto, Yvonne (a transfer from LRWG) and me, and Rambling Roses with John Howells, Vicky, Stuart and Debbie. But once again the Area team walked away with the trophy.

It's time for Loughborough to regain the trophy. So watch out for the 2015 quiz and get in touch if you'd like to take part in another entertaining evening.

Well one of our teams was 'successful' in winning the wooden spoon ! Ed

Muddy Boot Award

This year's winner:

Sue Mears for her walk on the *19th December 2013. From Anstey to Newtown Linford and Cropstone Reservoir*

New Committee Elected at AGM

On a very wet day for walking there was a good turn out for our AGM at the Rose and Crown at Zouch on the 8th November. Officers elected were as follows:

Chairman: John Harper; Secretary: Christine Wells; Treasurer: Jeanette Hollis; Publicity Officer: Steve Archer; Footpath Officer: Stuart Tyler; Programme Secretary: Margaret Machin; Officers without portfolios: John Howells, Heather Jennings, Sue Mears. David Nutt agreed to continue as our Independnet Examiner and Gordon Murray as Webmaster. The posts of Social Secretary and Editor of Soar Feet remained vacant. Anyone interested in filling these post should contact John. E-mail. **harper636@btinternet.com**

New Year's Celebration

Thursday 29th Janaury, 2015. 7.00pm

This year's Dinner will be held at the Blacksmith's Arms, Barrow upon Soar. Cost £26 per person. Booking forms included with this edition of Soar Feet.

See you there.

Transport to Walks

Members will have noted the increasing number of MLAS (Meet Leader at Start) references on our programme. This is because increasingly Walk Leaders do not wish to go out of their way to Loughborough only to find there is no one waiting for a lift or willing to share. However, the Loughborough Group is still committed to sharing transport whenever possible , reducing costs and CO_2 emission. So if you need a lift, or are going via Loughborough and willing to share, please ring the Walk Leader at least twenty four hours beforehand.

