

The Robin Hood Way Association

Official Newsletter

Chairman: Chris Thompson

www.robinhoodway.co.uk

Secretary: David Turner

Summer 2004 Edition

Secretary: Geoff Rix

NEW 'ROBIN HOOD WALKS' COLOUR FLYER

After many years without having any significant publicity material available it was decided, at the January Committee Meeting, to produce an A5 colour, double-sided flyer to advertise our guide book. 'The Robin Hood Walks'.

250 copies were printed at Printshel, who are based at Portland College just south of Mansfield, and these have now been distributed to local Tourist Information Centres at Newark, Ollerton roundabout, Retford, Worksop and Nottingham. Supplies have also been left at the Sherwood Forest, Rufford Abbey and Creswell Crags Visitor Centres.

It is hoped that this initiative will boost sales of the book, which will bring revenue into the Association's coffers.

VENISON AT FARNSFIELD!

On Sunday 7 March our walk from Farnsfield Station picnic area proved to be somewhat unusual in that the leader, Committee member Clive Dale from Newark, took us along the path that crosses a deer park.

Hexgreave Park has recently been restored to its former glory with a 2 metre high-electrified fence ensuring that the animals can not escape from their enclosure. Chairman Chris Thompson, complete with Robin Hood style hat, resisted the opportunity to try his skill with a bow and arrow when the deer herd came into view with the comment that a roast beef lunch was more appropriate in this day and age.

Thirty seven members (including three new ones - Alan Brittain, Joan Mankelow - both from Nottingham, and Peter Shepherd from Grantham) and their guests turned out on an overcast morning and followed the Southwell Trail northwards to the outskirts of Bilsthorpe before turning eastwards to cross Bilsthorpe Moor and on to Hexgreave. The route then rejoined the Southwell Trail to take us back to the car park. The weather was changeable in that we experienced snow, hail and sunshine all on the same day but I suppose that is part of the joy of walking in Nottinghamshire in March.

After our exertions we retired to the Warwick Arms in Farnsfield for an excellent roast beef/pork carvery in their refurbished dining room.

After the meal Chris Thompson said how delighted he was that Clive had included some cross field paths over arable land that were only infrequently walked. By walking them it proved to landowners that there was a need for the route to be reinstated after ploughing.

THE TRIALS OF A FOOTPATH WARDEN – PART TWO

A lovely spring day, the last of the winter chills now gone, and what better time to take a walk. Gathered together ready for inspection - the nail carrier/sorter and passer of same - my mum, the enormous guard dog - my toy poodle - and me. After the winter the ground was still rather waterlogged, but we both had our strong walking shoes and boots. Little did I know we should need fishing waders!

We started to climb the hill through the trees heading up to Hazel Gap, usually a good path, but quite wet today, the dog making most of testing the depth of every puddle he could get to. This area is one on my section where the Honey Buzzards are to be seen, so were hoping to find them, but what was that terrible smell? The further we walked up the stronger it became. I was under the impression that it was the fresh air of the country, but this was beyond belief. As we cleared the first part of the wood we spotted two very large "Tonka Toys" running from the field on our right, across our path into the field on the left with ooze, it should have been carrying, going everywhere including the path.

As we approached one of the men cheerfully waved and encouraged us across their pathway. I headed uphill, slightly narrower but deeper, Mum opted for the downhill, wider but shallower, the dog - no problems, he opted for straight in the middle route. Fortunately, I did get through with boots in situ and ooze up to my knees. I went downhill to try to get Mum out, with a few pulls and lots of giggling, only ankle deep. Having thanked the blokes for waiting for us, it was only when we noticed that one of our group was missing. There, up to his armpits and sinking was the dog - stuck, even his ears were covered. Once more into the mire to retrieve him. It felt like someone had hold of his feet keeping him down in the ooze and mud. This was just far and away beyond the call of duty - and what's more we had to repeat this to get back to the car. Still much to the amusement of the farmers.

In conclusion, please accept my apologies if you happen to be walking my section that week but I must have forgotten my trenching tools that day.

Elizabeth Goldthorpe

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Association who have joined since January:

Peter Shepherd (Grantham), **Alan Brittain** (Nottingham), **Joan Mankelow** (Nottingham), **Enid Sutton** (Nottingham), **Elaine Thomas** (Kirklington), **Diana MacIntosh** (Whatton), **Bob and Janet Howbrook** (Grantham).

NEWS FROM OUR WEBSITE LIAISON OFFICER

As of the 10th June, 3,970 visits have been received to the Association's website. We are very near to the milestone of 4,000 visits.

It is highly likely by the time this newsletter is distributed this target will have been reached. This week, for example, forty one visits have been received. This is remarkable for a small Association.

Visits have recently been received from Belgium, Australia and even Mauritius. If any members have any pictures, walks or other material that they would like adding to the website, then please contact me at paul@robinhoodway.co.uk.

Paul Walden

WAYMARKING IN THE CITY

For several years now waymarking the Robin Hood Way within the city of Nottingham has been of concern to the Association since the City Council has been reluctant to allow us to do the job claiming a 'lack of resources'.

However the Association's Chairman, Chris Thompson, attended a meeting with Nottingham City Council on Tuesday 10th February 2004 with the objective of having the entire route, within the City boundary, waymarked. Consequently we now have to contact the major landowners concerned in order to obtain their permission for our distinctive waymarkers to be positioned at strategic points.

With the summer approaching this work needs to be completed in order that walkers can easily find their way within the urban conurbation which can sometimes be more difficult than out in the countryside.

THE WELLOW EVENT

On Saturday 15 May thirty one members and their guests turned out for a 6 mile walk followed by an excellent lunch at the Durham Ox in Wellow. The walk, led by Association Secretary Geoff Rix, started with a stroll around Wellow village to see the old pinfold, the Maypole and the Forge Dyke, an ancient fortification that surrounds three quarters of the village. After this the group visited Rufford Country Park where a refreshment break was taken before returning via Old Ollerton, to the starting point at Wellow Dam. Our newest recruit, Elaine Thomas from nearby Kirklington, joined us for her first walk and social event with the Association.

EVENTS FOR 2004

This year there are several new ventures being offered, we hope that you will enjoy them and look forward to seeing you all again. Everyone will be made welcome on all the walks, whether they be members or not, but the **meals are for members and their guests only**. These must always be booked in advance from Janet. All members are welcome to attend the Committee Meetings, just turn up on the night.

Sunday 4 July

SOUTHWELL AND MORTON

7 miles

Meet: Church Street car park, Southwell (SK 703539). **11.00 am**

From Southwell follow well defined paths, with Committee Member Paul Walden, over rolling hills to reach the pretty village of Morton, with its restored pinfold. From Morton, we initially head back in the direction of Southwell, crossing Westhorpe Dumble in the process before passing through Brackenhurst College. We then follow the Robin Hood Way back to Southwell Minster.

After the walk there will be a two course high tea at the Southwell WI Hall, off Private Road, at **4.00 pm** costing £5.50 per person which must be ordered and paid for in advance from Janet.

Members will be contacted nearer the date, by post or e-mail, with full details.

Saturday 14 August

SOUTHWELL TREASURE HUNT FOLLOWED BY A FISH AND CHIP TEA

Meet: Southwell WI Hall, off Private Road. **1.30 pm**

A new venture for the Association, so why not join us on an easy Treasure Hunt around the pretty Minster town of Southwell? After the hunt you can enjoy locally prepared fish, chips, bread, butter and tea in the Southwell WI Hall. These must be ordered and paid for in advance from Janet.

Members will be contacted nearer the date, by post or e-mail, with full details.

Bank Holiday Sunday 29 August

FARNSFIELD AND KIRKLINGTON

5½ miles

Meet: Farnsfield Station picnic area, Station Lane (SK 644573). **10.00 am**

Get away from the Bank holiday crowds with Geoff Rix and discover the impressive Victorian Water Pumping Station at Farnsfield, the old watermill at Kirklington and the delightful Southwell Trail on this gentle central Notts ramble. The former Farnsfield village lock-up and part of the Robin Hood Way all combine to make this an interesting and enjoyable half-day walk.

Thursday 30 September

A Committee meeting will be held at the White Hart Inn, Ollerton at **7.30 pm**.