

The Robin Hood Way Association

Official Newsletter

Winter 2003 Edition

Chairman: Chris Thompson

Treasurer: David Turner

Secretary: Geoffrey Rix

Paddy Tipping joins the RHW Association

At the end of May Paddy Tipping, the Labour MP for the Sherwood Constituency, joined our Association after walking the Robin Hood Way back in 1992.

Paddy (*pictured right*) has been very active in environmental and rambling circles during the past decade having been the Ramblers' Association's Nottinghamshire Area President for almost eight years during which time he has campaigned for unrestricted public access to Forestry Commission land and assisted the RA in their campaign to urge Nottinghamshire County Council to commit

themselves to a deadline of 2007 for all of their Rights of Way to be in a usable condition.

He was persuaded to join by Chris Thompson following a meeting at Blidworth, which highlighted the lack of waymarks on public Rights of Way in the county.

Membership has continued to grow, albeit somewhat slowly, over the summer months. However we would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following other new members to our merry band:

Brenda Blades (Nottingham), **Joyce Hazledine** (Edingley), **Sonya Daniels** (Fiskerton) and **Lynn Callinan** (Southwell)



PADDY TIPPING, MP FOR THE SHERWOOD CONSTITUENCY

Rob Lane Repaired

For many years now Rob Lane, near Farnsfield, has been in a terrible state due to the activities of motor cyclists exercising their legal right to use this lovely hollow lane as it is a designated byway.

However following on from a request by the RHW Association Notts County Council has now undertaken a restoration programme on the lane by filling in the large ruts that had been created and generally levelling off the surface. How long this will remain intact is another matter but at least something has been achieved that should benefit all walkers, not just our members.

Website News

Since the summer newsletter was published 637 visitors have found the RHW website. We are receiving on average 35 visits (hits) a week, a total of 2,664 visitors.

The rate of growth has continued steadily throughout the year. International visits have continued and have been received from Australia, Belgium, and USA amongst others.

A list of RHW route alterations since the book was published has been added. Photos from the tea walk at Carburton have been added as well as a picture of the memorial plaque, near Farnsfield. The summer newsletter is now available to view online.

If members have any material or walks they would like added to the website, then please contact me at paul@robinhoodway.co.uk

Paul Walden

COINCIDENCE OR CHANCE?

Whilst on holiday in September Janet and I were just taking our boots off, after an enjoyable day's walk, when a cry came from across the car park "Fancy seeing you here!" Much to our surprise it was Roland Price and his wife, Anne, who were also spending a few days away. Roland is one of the founders of the RHW so it was especially nice to meet up with him again. The venue for this meeting was none other than Robin Hood's Bay! **Editor**

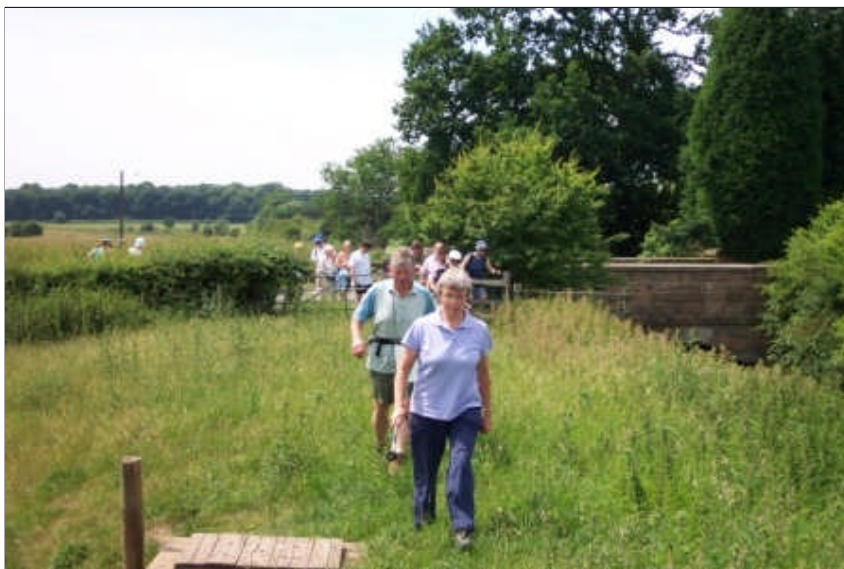
Visit our web-site at www.robinhoodway.co.uk

(Designed and maintained by Webmaster John Gurnhill)

The Clumber Cream Tea Walk

On 21 June thirty one members and their guests turned out for the first afternoon walk of the year which was followed by a delicious cream tea in the Old Schoolhouse Tea Rooms at Carburton near Clumber Park.

Amongst the participants were Rosemary Lockley and her daughter, Marian Hickman, both now residents of Southwell but formerly from Carburton. The visit to Carburton Church brought back pleasant memories for both ladies and Rosemary was able to give us an insight into village life during the time that she lived there. The only disappointment was that the house where the family lived has been demolished and there is no evidence on the ground that the building ever existed. Marian was eager to look round the old schoolhouse, as she had been one of twenty pupils there in the post war period before the school closed.



Tony and Maureen Broad on the canal towpath approaching Carburton

Picture: Paul Walden

Unfortunately Freda Kirby, from Southwell, suffered a minor fall and was unable to complete the walk. However thanks must be given to the

Association's Chairman, Chris Thompson, who escorted her back to her car before rejoining the rest of the party at Clumber Bridge.

Carburton tow path

Following on from Freda Kirby's unfortunate accident on the Clumber walk (see above) Chris Thompson reported the dangerous condition of the canal towpath to Nottinghamshire County Council's Rights of Way Officer for the North-West Area, Andy Jee.

Chris subsequently received a very prompt reply to his letter to say that now the canal was not used the sluices were redundant and they would be filled in the near future and work would be done to the path surface where necessary.

Well done and thanks Chris from all of our members.

Southwell Saunter

On Sunday 24 August twenty six people turned out on a lovely Bank Holiday to take part on this 5½ mile walk, led by Geoff Rix, between Southwell and Brackenhurst

Since the event was advertised in the Nottinghamshire Guided Walks Programme quite a lot of non-members joined us which helped to

swell the numbers.

As the walk passed through the tiny hamlet of Maythorne the walkers were able to see the sole surviving mulberry bush which was once the source of food for the silk worms that provided the raw material for the mill. During the Second World War silk was made here which was used in the manufacture of parachutes.

CRESWELL CRAGS WALK

On 7 September Paul Walden, from Redmile, led a lovely 8½ mile walk which started from the Creswell Crags Visitor Centre and took in part of the Robin Hood Way.

Despite good weather only eight people turned up but this was probably due to several members being away on holiday. Nevertheless everyone enjoyed the day out especially when passing South Lodge at Welbeck where the owner was clearing up after a wedding the previous day.

Don't miss our special Christmas Event Day. All your friends will be there including Robin 'Santa' Hood

Wensum Group at Clumber

On Thursday 19 June over thirty members of the Wensum Ramblers' Association Group from Norfolk came over to Clumber Park in order to walk part of the Robin Hood Way. John Lincoln, from Norwich, organised the trip after meeting up with the Association's Secretary at Sandringham last year.

Geoff and Janet Rix led walks of ten and seven miles distance starting from the main car park and going eastwards to Crookford, West

Drayton Avenue and Clumber Lake. After the walks both parties took the opportunity to look around the impressive Clumber Chapel and lakeside area before enjoying well earned refreshments in the National Trust café.

The day was especially memorable for one lady, Ruth Woolcott from Sheringham, as she was able to meet up with several friends from Southwell where she once lived. During her time there she was an active member of the Newark RA group and obviously knew the Clumber area quite well.

Surge in Book Sales

During the first half of 2003 sales of our guide book 'The Robin Hood Walks' have suddenly started to improve.

Since the book first appeared in 1995 sales have been generally static after the initial surge in the first two years. However it was a very pleasant surprise to be told by the publishers 'Cordee' from Leicester that they had sold over one hundred and twenty copies from January to the end of June and this coupled with our own sales of around thirty is extremely encouraging to say the least.

We can not identify any one reason

for this sales upsurge other than that the book is publicised on both our and the RA's websites and also on the walks leaflets that have been left in the Sherwood Forest Youth Hostel at Edwinstowe and the local Tourist Information Centres.

If any member wishes to buy a copy of the guidebook, for a friend, as a present then please make out a cheque to 'The Robin Hood Way Association' for £4.95 and send it to: Mr David Turner, Honorary Treasurer, The Robin Hood Way Association, 'The Rambles', 28 Walker Close, Newark, Notts NG24 4BP.

RAIN AT GREASLEY BUT STILL A GOOD AFTERNOON OUT

Despite the fact that we were in the middle of one of the longest heat waves for several years we managed to select the appropriate start time on Sunday 10 August when the heavens opened and we experienced almost continual rain for the entire duration of our walk which started from Greasley Church.

Nevertheless thirty members and their guests took part in the five-mile walk, led by Committee member, Richard Gunn from Bulwell. The route, devised by Richard, mostly followed the Robin Hood Way but skirted part of the Kimberley Nature Reserve, passed through the site of the Kimberley Brewery and into the Hall Om Wong open space. Richard once again proved to be a fount of local knowledge, which added to the overall enjoyment of the day. Members were also able to see some of the new waymarks that local path warden Graham Horlington, from Watnall, had recently positioned on some of the new footpath furniture and along the Robin Hood Way.

After the exertions everyone retired to the hall, next to the Minton's Tea Rooms, for coffee/tea, sandwiches and cakes. There was also the opportunity to meet up with Howard Ford, a long standing member from Mansfield, who had been taken ill the previous day but thankfully had made a rapid recovery after spending the night in King's Mill hospital at Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Thanks should also be given to Sharon and Samantha Gunn for the work they contributed towards recommending and booking the tearooms. Incidentally Samantha was a former employee at the Tea Rooms so the event also enabled her to meet up with some old friends.

Robin's Teasers

- When was the present day Nottingham Castle built?
- Can you name the four 'Ducal' estates?
- In the forecourt of a local Hall is a statue of Robin Hood. Can you name the Hall?

Answers at the foot of page 4

Our Christmas Event including the AGM is on Saturday 6 December. Make a note in your diary!

EVENTS FOR 2003

Following on from our extremely successful programme of walks and social events that the Association organised last year we hope that you enjoy this years offerings and look forward to seeing 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** due to seating restrictions.

All members are welcome to attend the Committee Meetings, just turn up on the night.

Sunday 19 October

BEAUTIFUL BURNTSTUMP

6 miles

Meet: Burntstump Country Park car park (SK 575506). **10.30am**

Join Committee member Richard Gunn on this gentle autumnal walk as he takes you through Great Burntstump Plantation and Blidworth Woods when, hopefully, the leaves will be changing colour before dropping onto the forest floor.

Traditional Sunday Lunch will be served at the Burntstump Inn, Burntstump Hill at **2.00pm**. Meals **must be booked** through Janet Rix and members will be notified via post or e-mail nearer the date.

Saturday 6 December 2003 CHRISTMAS WALK, LUNCH AND THE AGM

VICAR WATER AND SHERWOOD PINES

5 miles

Meet: Sherwood Pines Country Park main car park, off the A6075 (SK 612637). **9.45am**

Enjoy this pre-Christmas stroll around Sherwood Pines Country Park. At this time of year you can purchase a freshly cut Christmas tree from the millions that grow here so why not take one home. Vicar Water Country Park is on former Coal Board land which has been sympathetically restored and now offers numerous walking opportunities on the many newly created footpaths.

Lunch will be at Ma Hubbard's Hotel and Eating House on High Street, Edwinstowe at **1.00pm**. As we have reserved a private room, which can accommodate 50 people, places **must be booked** with Janet Rix. Bookings will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. Members will be notified by post/e-mail nearer the date.

The AGM will start at approximately **2.00pm** and all members are welcome to attend. The anticipated finishing time is 4.00pm.

Saturday 27 December 2003

IN THE HEART OF SHERWOOD FOREST

8.5 miles

Meet: Mansfield Road car park (adjacent to St Mary's Church) Edwinstowe (SK 626669). **10.00am**

Work off the Christmas calories on this easy winter's walk in the heart of Robin Hood country passing several sites connected with the famous Nottinghamshire outlaw. Archway House, a folly built by the Duke of Portland, contains sculptured figures of the characters that appear in the Robin Hood stories whilst the site of Centre Tree was once the middle of the great forest. Nowadays the present tree marks the boundary of the Welbeck and Thoresby estates.

If you want a meal at the AGM you must send your order off to Janet. See above for details.