OARC Walks 2014 -2015

Sunday 14th September: Penshurst Leader Dennis Johnson.

And then there were five. Not an auspicious start to the annual programme, but a very pleasant walk around the villages of Penshurst and Leigh. No steep inclines, no rain and pleasant company what more could one ask for. But horror of horrors no Hazel to provide the tea and coffee. We had been warned however and everyone bought their own mug. There was of course more than enough cake as usual.

Sunday October 12th Brockham Park. Leader John Lissaman.

The weather had been very changeable for the whole week and eight hardy souls set out in some trepidation for a typical Surrey walk along the river Mole and around the villages of Brockham and Betchworth. An easy 5 mile stroll was promised and apart from a slippery descent down a long set of steps, so it was. With immaculate timing John got us back to the cars just before the heavens opened. The afternoon was rounded off with a lovely tea at John and Angela’s house.

November 2nd 2014 Farnborough Kent from High Elms car park Leader Roy Christmas.

12 Ramblers and a dog called Amber set out in fine weather with good conditions underfoot for a six mile walk. Walking through the grounds of. High Elms House the walk continued up through Cuckoo Wood, pleasant woodland and old chalk excavations (dene-holes) found us at the Downe end of Shire Lane. A rat run for motorists, but bounded by ancient meadowland. In June/July this area is awash with wild flowers and is much prized by Bromley Council. Then downhill through an old orchard to the outer edge of the estate. Here the writer’s family and Amber left us. Crossing the lane we followed a path through woodland and meadows to Farnborough village, where the renovated smithy still remains. Rounding the church, we had a downhill walk through farmland and along the drive of the mansion.

Tea followed and a smattering of rain did not trouble the ramblers.

I am glad to say that the dog recovered, but I am sure she is not responding to “walkies” as in days of yore. I trust most ramblers do!

See you sometime. Roy Christmas.

Sunday November 23rd Captains Walk

Due to inclement weather, the Captains Walk was postponed but the annual party was much enjoyed by everyone.

Sunday January 11th Oxted Downs. Leader Dennis Johnson The walk that was in the programme for the Club on this Sunday (1 p.m. from Oxted Downs) had to be cancelled. Fly tipping had blocked access to the car park where we planned to start. Instead Dennis led a walk of about 4 miles from Chevening, Kent. Sheet 147 GR489577, close to Chevening House which has a sat nav address as TN14 6HG. Although much of the walk was firm underfoot, there were patches of deep mud/puddles. After one climb up on to the North Downs Way our 8 ramblers found it easy walking. Sunshine helped to provide very good views along the route.

Sunday 1st February. Leader The Captain.

A small group of us joined with the Blackheath Ramblers, meeting at New Cross Station, we had a very enjoyable 4 – 5 mile walk around New Cross, Deptford and Greenwich, where we had a stop for lunch by the Cutty Sark, then back to New Cross by a different route. There is so much history, and points of interest, in these back lanes, parks, and riverside vistas, in what was once our home patch.

Sunday February 22nd Chatley on Line. Leader The Captain

The originally planned walk at Chatley in the Guildford direction was deemed too far away for a short winter’s day, so instead we did the central London walk which had been rained off as the Captains walk.

Meeting at Sloane Square, we made our way through roads of beautiful properties, past the Guards cricket ground and the Army museum to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of the Chelsea Pensioners. We were able to visit their chapel completed by Wren in 1687, and admire the statue of King Charles 2nd. Then via Battersea Bridge a walk around Battersea Park where as forecast it started to rain, and we each made our way back to the start.

Sunday March15th all day walk in London. Leader Peter Smith

Meeting at Hays Galleria, for another London walk lead by Peter Smith, in his own inimitable way. Over Tower Bridge, through the dock, hard by the Tower of London, past St. Pauls, through Fleet Street, and a lunch stop by the Law Courts. After lunch back to our starting point, past more of London’s Historical landmarks, regaled by Peter’s tales of yore, and then tea at Southwark Cathedral.

Sunday April12th Dennis Johnson/John Lissaman the Poppy Walk.

A reprise of one they had done last November sponsored by the Royal British Legion. After a coffee break start in Hays Galleria the 6 attending walked around the Tower area, the City of London, across Waterloo Bridge and along the River Thames back to the London Bridge station. Disruption to train services at London Bridge created some problems but it had proved an interesting stroll exploring historic areas of London Town, and most of us learned a little more about our Capital City.

Sunday 14th June Newdigate and Capel. Leader the Captain.

Taken from 100 walks in Surrey, written 21 years ago, and revised 20 years ago. Avoid walks which tell you to turn left at the haystack! What is a haystack? The Captain had done a recce earlier in the week with limited success. It all went well for the first part, but there were still sections which gave us problems. On reaching Capel, a recreation ground, which had a few days earlier been abandoned to the Gulls, was now a hive of activity, with some 20 teams of very young cricketers from all over Surrey. Cricket balls whizzing all over the place, we picked our way through as best we could. On the far side we met with a large Russian Tank, under the command of a local farmer taking a turn through the country lanes. We later met up with the rest of the collection as we passed by his farm.

When we got back to the church at Newdigate, we were more than ready for the tea and cakes before we set off for home.

Sunday 5th July, The Picnic. Leader Dennis Johnson.

Thirteen amblers decided to work up an appetite by following Dennis Johnson on a walk around the upper reaches of the Medway. Having discovered that the walk had been invaded by brambles three of the party armed themselves with secateurs and proceeded to attack the undergrowth in a manner reminiscent of Stanley and Livingstone.

There was some occasional moaning about the amount of uphill, but this was soon quashed with the arrival at the Cherry stall by the roadside. With just enough walking to raise the hunger, the traditional excellent picnic was consumed with gusto.

A road accident on the A264 on the return journey lead to a diversion that seemed to takes us via Brighton, but which did not spoil a splendid day.

Wednesday 15th July: The evening walk. Leader Dermot Poston

It was a humid but very overcast evening when 9 intrepid walkers set off from Glenesk road and walked through the woods and uphill to Severndroog Castle, to be met by Dermot Poston and four more interested members. The views from the top of the Castle are enthralling and Dermot who was instrumental in securing the money and overseeing the restoration of Lady Anne James Castle built in 1784, in memory of her husband William and commemorating his victory at the battle of Suvarnadurg in India. Having climbed up it was now time for a pleasant stroll down to the home of Jenny and Dermot where eighteen sat down to a magnificent buffet supper.