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AGM pages from rear

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Footloose DLNS

Glenfield Parish Council

**Leicestershire Footpath
Assoc.**

Leicester CHA

Market Harborough R.C

Oadby Hill Walking Club

Over The Hill

The Grasshoppers R.C.

Kibworth Rambling Club

ANNUAL MEETINGS

**The next AGM of the Area is 10.00, January 25th 2020
hosted by the Coalville Group, at Coalville Labour Club
LE67 3PW**

**Gather from 9.15 and if you wish to go on a walk being
organised after the meeting, please bring a packed lunch.**

**Further details and the agenda are at the back of this
newsletter.**

**The next General Council will be hosted by Avon Area in
Bristol and will be held on the weekend of 4-5 April.**

A detailed explanation of this institution follows on page 5.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



As reported in the last edition of Write Of Way the Public Enquiry in the closing of bridleway I 20 at Barrow Upon Soar was held in June. It was inevitable that the extinguishment would be confirmed, however, we hoped that the inspector would grant a Bridge Or Tunnel Order. Amongst the objectors there was no agreement as to where a bridge or tunnel should be sited as each wanted different things.

Unfortunately, the Inspector chose to conform the Order to close the crossing without a Bridge Or Tunnel Order. Therefore, the crossing is now permanently closed, and users will have to use an alternative route through Barrow Upon Soar.

This year I have attended a committee meeting of each of the groups in our area. I have been extremely impressed at the organization, dedication and effectiveness of ALL these committees. Our members are very fortunate to have people who are prepared to give their time and efforts. I would personally like to thank them for the work that they are doing. Without them our Groups and our Organisation would not survive. Thank You

The Area Secretary and I were invited to attend an Area Workshop Day in York earlier this year. The idea behind the workshop was to find out what Central Office could do to help Area Committees run effectively. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that there was little they could help us with at this stage as we were far better organised and effective than all other Areas that were represented there.

Unfortunately, this year has seen the least number of paths nominated for the Best Kept Footpath Award. This is our chance to recognise farmers and landowners that go just that little bit further to make the places we walk more attractive. This can be anything from ensuring the grass is cut short where a footpath runs to providing a bench for us to sit on and enjoy the view. Giving this award also gives the Ramblers' publicity which we need to attract more members. I would like to see at least one nomination from each group next year.

At the AGM in January John Howells will be standing down as Area Treasurer. I would like to thank John for the work he has done over the last few years. This will leave us without anyone to look after our Area accounts. Apparently, the job is not too onerous or time-consuming if you have a basic knowledge of Microsoft Excel and John would be willing to show what needs to be done to anyone who is prepared to take on this role.

Martin James

GENERAL COUNCIL

WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHERE AND WHEN

The next GC will be hosted by Avon Area and will be held in Bristol on the weekend of **4-5 April**. General Council theoretically is the ruling body of the Ramblers. Each year every Area is invited to elect people onto the board of trustees who direct the activities of the Ramblers through the team of paid employees. The election is actually carried out by delegates from each Area again supposedly elected but normally selected or even self selected when nobody else is prepared to go

This is not entirely surprising as they are not riveting experiences. The way delegates end up being chosen means most are 'career' committee people and all of a similar class and demographic – there are people attending who have been to every council for over 30 years.

While they are all volunteers doing their best they hardly represent their members nor do they give the image of a cutting edge campaigning organisation.

Having painted such a wonderful picture, I am now going to invite you to attend.

In actual fact despite appearances most do have a good grasp of the aims and ambitions of walkers and the boring necessities of an annual meeting, there is good debate if largely informal and it is a good chance to network with people doing similar roles. It also gives you a chance to explore new locations with like minded people

Until recently the GC was a two night affair but for the last few years just Saturday to Sunday. They are normally based in a university utilising the halls of residence for accommodation but last year in a city centre hotel with conference facilities.

The Ramblers as an organisation faces a number of problems in its structure, not least that it is a committee based democracy. The Ramblers is really two organisations under one roof. It is a federation of walking groups and a campaigning charity. The walking groups set up the committees to organise their walks and it is these that send delegates to conference – the great majority of members have nothing to do with the walking groups and are therefore largely unrepresented in the decision making process.

There is some overlap and some groups do campaigning work but many do not. Those that do, usually come together as an Area committee who campaign locally with the national office campaigning centrally. The Areas then send delegates to GC and eventually decisions are made. Far too complicated and slow!

There have been attempts to get to a remote voting situation doing away with the need for a big annual conference (GC). This is how most large charities and societies operate.

The Ramblers stage a number of popular day-long road shows but they run out of time so something between these and the mega conference is perhaps needed. If voting on and elections was open to all members by whatever means, smaller regional gatherings might be possible with a less structured agenda and more a brain storming and networking / fact finding session with staff available to give advice and answer questions. It could be over just one day with less distances to travel

Scotland and Wales have their own arrangements already but if here in England, we had 8 regional gatherings it would be more productive, greatly reduce the cost of overnight accommodation and travel and be less intrusive into domestic arrangements. Those still having to travel over 75 miles say or more than two hours travel away by public transport could still be given an allowance towards overnight stays. Senior management would have to spend more time with the members but that would be no bad thing for both sides and there would be much less demand on other staff time.

These ideas have been being discussed for years but in the meantime we are where we are.

If you are a group Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Footpath Secretary or Area Delegate or any Area Officer it would benefit you to understand how the organisation functions and we would recommend that at least once you should attend GC

At our own AGM we appoint two people to formally represent the Area but are happy to fund ourselves two more of you to come along as observers.

The format is that we gather for a buffet lunch in the Saturday with those arriving early enough being offered a local guided walk. Afternoon discussions break up at about 5.30 when there is time to network and socialise before a dinner and after-dinner guest speaker. From about 9.30 /10.00 there is more time to socialise in the hotel bar if you can afford it or to wander off in small groups to suitable local hostelryes.

Early morning there is a walk on offer before breakfast then the morning is taken up by elections and discussion and voting on motions before you are turned loose with a packed lunch. There is another guided walk in the afternoon for those who want it

If you are at all interested please come to our own AGM and make yourself known.

The case we fought against Network Rail closing the Barrow on Soar crossing has been lost. Our speakers at the enquiry had quite a torrid time from the other side's powerful barrister but at the end of the day the Inspector obviously took everything on board and considered all the options before coming to his conclusions. He stated *"There is some support for the provision of a footbridge at Pingle Nook. In my view, this is the most viable option for the provision of a crossing of the railway. However, a footbridge by itself does not take account of the needs of cyclists or horse riders."* *"It seems to me that a footbridge would be the most achievable option, but this would not help with horse riders or cyclists. A bridleway bridge would be more problematic given the size and design required for such a structure within the potential locations"*

"If a crossing is deemed unsafe, a recommendation can be made to the Secretary of State that a bridge or tunnel Order is made. If an Order is made, NR has to use its best endeavours to comply with the Order. NR asserts that it could not comply with any Order made within the required timeframe for a variety of reasons. In addition to the budgetary constraints there are significant problems that would need to be overcome to provide an alternative crossing of the railway for all users. On the basis of the information provided to me, I find that there is no reasonably practical alternative means of crossing the railway in this locality to warrant the recommendation that a bridge or tunnel Order should be made.

I have concluded that the crossing poses a significant risk to the safety of the public and the evidence of NR there is no practical means of making the crossing safe. The alternative route available will be less convenient to the public than proceeding directly across the railway lines but this has to be balanced against the safety of the crossing. Further, I am not satisfied that there is a reasonably practical alternative means of crossing the railway lines that would make provision for all types of users.

Having regard to my various conclusions, I find that the evidence weighs more heavily in favour of it being expedient to confirm the Order. It follows that I conclude that the Order should be confirmed."

The Pingle Nook footbridge was my suggestion both in my personal submission and on behalf of the Local Access Forum. I felt that the needs of cyclists and horse riders could be satisfied by different arrangements

His comments do labour the point that no one solution could satisfy everybody but there is legal precedent that where all rights cannot be maintained but some rights could be (i.e. pedestrian rights) then those rights could be satisfied.

I still contend that a footbridge should have been created even if higher rights could not be maintained but we do not have the funds to fight this further.

OUT AND ABOUT

By the time you read this the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership will have submitted its final documents to justify the large lottery grant being sought and we hope to hear by March of next year. If, as I am confident, we are successful, improvements will be made to some priority rights of way, e.g. fixing gates, better surfacing in boggy areas, better way-marking from the urban fringe of Loughborough and Leicester into the Forest and hopefully some better linkage between sites.

Charnwood Forest was considered when National Parks were first proposed but it was to be turned down in favour of being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but then the M1 was cut through the middle and even that protection was dropped.

The M1 is a significant barrier and has affected how people see and experience the Forest. Many local people are unaware that Charnwood Forest extends to the west of the motorway. Our messaging throughout the project will help people to appreciate the full extent of the Regional Park, support improvements to neglected sites to the west of the motorway and improve connectivity at key M1 crossing points.

The Regional Park is a partnership of the local authorities and other agencies involved in the management of the area but it has no legal status.

The Landscape Partnership has been formed to tap into lottery funding on our behalf but in the unlikely event we are turned down again the Park as such will continue and much of the preparatory research for the bid will still be of great use to us. I continue to be a member of the Board of the Regional Park itself and these are exciting times.

Significant habitats such as Charnwood's ancient meadows, woodland and heathland will be supported through targeted projects. These will help to improve habitat connectivity and the longer-term management and condition of the landscape.

We are taking advice as to how to promote and display the fossils and basic geology without either exposing items to vandalism or negating their value for future research. Our long term aim is to get GeoPark Status.

A great disappointment was then loss of one of our major supporters and fellow Board member Peter Tyldesley. Peter left Bradgate Park at short notice being very concerned about developments there. With who knows what in mind The leader of the County Council and Mayor of the City have got themselves into the positions of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Park's Trustees

Much is being made of Climate Change and not before time but a lot of anarchists have made it their latest campaign of disruption but this is turning off people who care but do not want to be associated with such activities. I was a green before the word was invented and I enjoy debating issues with these people. I am not into superficial gestures and endless committee discussions. I want to see positive actions to mitigate the problems

The latest push is for Green Energy but what is green. Nuclear is the cleanest in carbon terms as long as we have no accidents. Wind turbines are too inconsistent on land and in any event turning limestone hills into the concrete for their bases uses enormous quantities of traditional power and the concrete is delivered to sites using usually diesel lorries.

On top of this, the most powerful known greenhouse gas has been leaking into the atmosphere in increasing amounts - Sulphur hexafluoride is widely used as an inert gas in the electrical industry to prevent short circuits and accidents and is found in most wind turbines. It is over 23,000 times more dangerous than carbon dioxide in warming the planet. The answer is there is no simple answer.

What can we do? Well for one thing we can walk nearer to home or use public transport more.

Walking locally also helps keep paths open. We already risk losing a lot which have fallen into disuse.

Central Office now employ two full time officers helping campaign to have these protected for future use and a number of members are working away at this locally and more help is always welcome. More on this later.

Another thing we can all do is to plant wildflower corners in our gardens to help support struggling insects and therefore the birds that feed off them

Also trees are acknowledged as one of the best solutions to the climate problem. Fighting climate change is not just about creating new woodland - it's also about protecting those we already have. Our oldest ancient woodlands are an important carbon store. They're also irreplaceable habitats for our struggling wildlife. There are at least a 1000 ancient woods threatened by development as you read this. Less than 2.5 % of the country is covered by ancient woodland.

Trees are critical for the future of the planet and for our own health wellbeing and general and happiness.

They convert absorbed CO₂ from the atmosphere into oxygen and catch particulate matter from traffic thereby reducing pollution. They guard us against the worst effects of flooding and create vital homes for wildlife and have a calming effect making us happier and healthier

One way you can help protect trees is to ask your local planning authority to place TPOs on them (Tree Preservation Orders)

WHAT3WORDS

These three words can save your life.

Back in 2013 a Hertfordshire man created a location system which is becoming ever more popular and being used by rescue services. Eight figure latitude and longitude is pretty accurate but rarely used and cumbersome and post codes a waste of time as I found out when I called the AA out to a remote cottage in North Yorkshire when a battery died overnight.

He has worked out that using 40,000 random words gives you enough combinations in threes that every 3m by 3m (10ft by 10ft) square in the world could be allocated a specific address. They divided the world into 57 trillion squares, having a unique, randomly assigned three-word address.

His company now has 100 employees based in London and the system is being widely used - It is even used as the official postal system in Mongolia

You do need a smart phone to download the App. but if you have it and need help your location can be accurately defined.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Neighbourhood Plans are now very much a part of the planning system. Your local plan is your opportunity to shape your community's future, from the location of new homes and businesses; the protection or formalisation of paths to the protection and creation of new woodland and green spaces. Maybe you don't have many woods and trees near you.

Or maybe there are plenty and you want to look after them.

Are you sure that lovely open space will not be built on?

Do you regularly walk that informal path?

You can use neighbourhood planning to shape your local environment's future and keep open spaces, woods and trees at its heart and ensure there are paths to get out into the woods to enjoy them.

If your community is working on a plan get involved. If it isn't press them to do so.

In a plan you can also try and stipulate porous drives to absorb rainwater, green roofs, better insulated properties etc. If you see a planning application ignoring these ambitions make formal observations to the application recommending them.

If you think they may even not be upholding planning law object, it costs you nothing. Planners are busy and do miss things!

STAN ON TOUR

Members keep asking about Stan Warren for teens of years Mr Footpaths for the Area.

He has ended up largely paralysed. He can only move his lower limbs very fractionally and his arm a little better.

He is effectively chair bound being paralysed below the waist but can feed himself to a fashion and talk if he takes it slowly and mentally he is all there.

He is getting regular visitors but more old friends are always welcome

The home take him out to the local pub occasionally for a meal, have organised a canal boat ride and meal and a trip to the Sea Life centre in Birmingham.

He did have an enormous collection of railway memorabilia which he donated to the Great Central Railway and as a thank you they provided Stan together with two friends/carers with day passes to ride up and down the line which Stan thoroughly enjoyed;

WILDLIFE IS RESILIENT

People are rightly concerned about climate change and its affect on wildlife but it is not all doom and gloom

Millions of trees have been planted on our doorstep in the National Forest and our gardens and urban parks can be made more inviting. If we provide the habitats nature will move back in. Polecats are now to be found throughout England after an absence of many years and breeding pine martens have been discovered as well. Closer to home for the first time since modern records began two roe deer were spotted near the Rothley Brook



A
young
Stan



AREA QUIZ

With a good turn out, this years quiz was won by Soar Feet, on this occasion a combination of members from Loughborough and Leicester.



Thanks to Melton for hosting it and Richard Angrave for being question master.

Richard was my predecessor as Editor of this publication

Richard with the trophy



Area President, Peter Williams (left) having just presented the winning team with the trophy



TAKING TO THE HILLS

**Hinckley
Members
on the
North York
Moors**



Loughborough members in the Peak District



**Lutterworth
taking stock**

DON'T LOSE YOUR

After the 31st of December 2025 any historic path which is not formally recorded on the definitive map of paths will be lost unless still being well used. If it is still in current regular use then as always it can be claimed as a de facto public path based on unhindered usage.

If, however, it has fallen into disuse for now it is still technically a path regardless of obstructions on the ground and with historic evidence it can be added to the map of recorded and therefore protected paths. The CROW Act created a cut off point after which historic evidence will not be accepted.

The building of new communities, shopping precincts and industrial estates; new roads and HS2 many of these links will become very advantageous again.

This network is the envy of the world having evolved over many centuries before records began. We do however have records going back quite a long way. These paths link villages to other communities, to paths and roads, to the mill or the pub, to shops or to the fields they worked. Nowadays leisure walking is widespread but we are increasingly encouraged to use this free facility both for exercise and a means to get out into the countryside for our general health and wellbeing.

If the unprotected miles of paths are to be enjoyed by generations to come we have to get applications in to local Highways Authorities to have them added to the map. Some have major obstacles on them now and some would be very inconvenient to landowners and managers but if a right is established it should encourage them to offer an acceptable alternative. If they dedicate such a route we could call a halt to any claim but if it has got that far then we could accept a diversion order.

Numerous user groups are finding the gaps and the anomalies and building databases of the problems but volunteers are needed to tease out the evidence. The process is fairly simple but time-consuming and if the evidence is not there to be found, frustrating. If hard evidence is not there but there is a fair bit of circumstantial evidence we can still claim as it is hoped any claim in process at cut off will not be extinguished giving us more time to find that silver bullet.

The starting point is comparing old maps with those of today. Old maps often show lost rights of way that may have fallen into disuse and many can be found and studied online - every area also has local early maps and they also turn up in old books.

The National Library of Scotland has a digitised copy of maps of the UK which you can zoom into. Old maps have giveaways like a footpath (F.P.), bridle road (B.R.) or a 'road' which is not on a current Ordnance Survey map – There are many other sources which can be accessed. Your County Archive will have dozens and you can spend hours of fascinating research there.

You don't even need an old map as just studying a present-day maps shows up anomalies. If things that don't quite make sense, then the probable answer is that something is missing like an old path.

The system whereby they were put on the map was that each parish listed them.

Some interpreted the rules differently and some were perhaps not as diligent or left things off for ulterior motives. The chairman of many parishes was often the large local landowner. If one parish has an abundance of paths and is next to a parish with relatively few, it begs the question why

One thing you can take as read is that path did not go nowhere. It is rare that a right of way will be a dead-end, so what is missing? It could be it used to go to a mill which has gone but if it ends at a parish boundary it almost certainly means one parish listed it and the other did not for whatever reason but the path will have continued

It is best to look at the definitive map rather than the OS where some things are not as clear but you may see a path doesn't quite reach the road. The road may have been moved and nobody thought to divert the path officially even though everybody still walks it.

If you are not a records buff and prefer legwork, you can look for clues when out and about. There are a number of things which may reveal the traces of historic paths or even bridleways.

A sunken line on the ground may indicate where a path has been "hollowed out" by use over time. It may have parallel rows of hedges either side which is a dead giveaway that it was probably a drovers' route where cattle were moved

You may see remnants of an old stone surface in a field which may indicate a historical road or even cobbles in a river which might suggest an old ford. If walking along an old stone wall you may see what looks like an old worn stone stile which may indicate an old route existed at this point. If there is a tunnel under a raised rail bed what was it for?

Each Highway Authority is tasked with researching its 'lost ways' but few have the resources to do much. Most welcome volunteers assisting and in most cases it is through the good offices of their Local Access Forum or user groups like us or British Horse Society

If you are interested in helping contact one of the Committee

Your Area feel that this is such an important subject that Central Office should put more resources into it. Our AGM will be asked to support a proposal to that effect to go to the General Council next year

FOR AUDE TIMES SAKE

Walking in South West France

A few years ago I celebrated my 70th birthday in a rather posh restaurant in the walls of the ancient Cité de Carcassonne. Not cheap but I won't be 70 again.

This is a remarkably good walking area as is much of this little-visited corner of France. Carcassonne itself dates from the 6th Century and was built as a defensive stronghold during the Cathar period. The Cité remained a stronghold through the middle ages and the commercial centre developed below it along the Aude river. It sits on a hilltop in France's Languedoc area, with numerous watchtowers and double-walled fortifications.



This has left the Cité as a preserved tourist attraction, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are numerous other historic towns in towns and cities in the area.

Chris Rimbault of Loughborough group has just been in the area with rambler friends and has shared his experiences with us bringing back many memories for me.

Chris actually owns a house in the Aude Region at Argeliers much of which dates from the mid-1800s but the core of the village is much older. The nearest large town is Narbonne which dates back to Roman times, when Julius Caesar used it as base for retired legionnaires. It was at one time occupied by the Moors. It is a very attractive city with ancient buildings including a 17th C cathedral and it is bisected by the Canal de la Robine which is a spur of the Canal du Midi.

Nearby Beziers is even older dating back 2700 years. It is built on a promontory above the River Orb and the Canal du Midi. On this rise is another magnificent cathedral dating back to the 12th century and an interesting feature is the aqueduct which takes the Canal over the river.



While we were there we visited an even more impressive aqueduct.

The Pont du Gard is an ancient Roman aqueduct built in the first century AD



Like my wife and I, Chris flew from East Midlands to Carcassonne, but whilst we stayed there, Chris collected a hire car and drove an hour east to his house. The plan was to do plenty of walking combined with a look at French life and sightseeing.

On their first day they visited Olonzac, enjoying the market then walking to Homps on the Canal du Midi returning to Olonzac via a lake used for swimming and boating.

Next day they walked over the hill behind Argeliers to Bize Minervois. This is an attractive village on the River Cesse and they returned via Cabazec and spent some time in the olive oil factory. They found that olive oil is a lot dearer than wine in this area.

The last part of their walk was through vineyards. The Minervois area is renowned for superb wines which we fully researched when we were there.

Next they walked round former salt lagoons on the edge of the Mediterranean as we had and they visited two attractive old villages, Periac de Mar and Bages.

When we visited Bages we dined in a truly superb seafood restaurant. The French certainly know how to live well.



On the Friday Chris and his companions visited the 'neuf ecluses' nine locks at Beziers, now a major tourist attraction with boat trips and a tourist road train to the town centre.

They walked along the canal and then up to the town centre and to the cathedral, ascending the tower.

The cathedral is perched on a cliff overlooking the river Orb and the canal so the views were magnificent.

'Neuf' seems a popular number. When we were there we visited Avignon on the Rhône River. From 1309 to 1377, it was the seat of the Catholic popes (Les Papes). It remained under papal rule until becoming part of France in 1791. This legacy can be seen in the massive Palais des Papes (Popes' Palace) in the city centre, surrounded by medieval stone ramparts.

We went 'sur la pont d'avignon' which is actually only half a bridge, half way across the river.

I don't know how many chateaux the popes had but certainly nine. Hence Chateauneuf du Papes which we certainly enjoyed

The next day Chris went to Minerve perched on a cliff between two converging gorges. Again good walking up and down by the river.

On Sunday they visited Narbonne with its roman remains, cathedral and market before driving to Narbonne Plage with its miles of golden sand.

Chris lets his house and is more than happy to welcome other Ramblers.

For more information about the house and area please call Chris on 07982-021559 or 0116 230 3274 alternatively enter 'La vieille boulangerie Argeliers' into Google to visit the web site.

BOOTS and BOATS Roy Denney

When fit, as a keen long distance walker, when I am not in open countryside I like walking along canals and rivers or round lakes. Water has always had an attraction. Canals and navigable rivers were industrial corridors in the old days and working them hard work. Many a bargee needed a pint and as such canal side pubs abounded. Some have been lost but leisure uses of these reaches has given a new lease of life to others so facilities are usually to be found.

One early recollection where water featured was a Christmas gathering with my mountaineering club, when after a 12 mile walk over the hills in pouring rain, we decided we just could not get to our chosen destination before closing time – a pub in Borrowdale beyond the head of Derwentwater. Fairly desperate for a pint and somewhere in the dry we decided to go over the duck boards which cross the swampy land near the head of the lake. Bad idea! With all the rain the lake was several hundred yards longer than usual and two foot deeper. Not to be beaten we removed our outer trousers and hoisting them high, waded across the boards. Those of the short leg department were worried about getting sensitive parts wet and the others showed us no sympathy.

Cars were stopping on the other side with people staring at these nutters. Unfortunately we gave them plenty of amusement as the boards stopped well short of the new shore and nobody had dry undies. On top of that the posh

second choice pub would not let us in ringing wet but a kind soul took our money in and brought pints out.

Round the country there are some superb long distance paths following water-courses but we are not without them in Leicestershire. One fascinating one is to walk from the Hope and Anchor in Wanlip to the Black Horse in Aylestone. It follows the River Soar/Grand Union Canal and you can cross the entire city without having to cross a road. This can now be extended over a new bridge to the soon to be open Everards Park and the Enderby Park and Ride

There are other waterside options where a good pub can be found; there are two pubs in Thornton within walking distance of the good walk round the reservoir and in Cropston two more by that reservoir after walking in Bradgate. If you walk then length of Bradgate you also have the Bradgate and the Linford in Newtown Linford, the ford over the River Lin. Swithland Reservoir has the nearby Griffin and these are all pretty good pubs.

The wheel at Branston is near Knipton Reservoir, the Crown and Queens Head in Heather are near Sence Valley Lakes, the Priory near Nanpanton Reservoir, the Stamford near Groby Pool and they and the pubs by Rutland Water all give opportunities.

There is the Lime Kiln on Ashby Canal and if you follow this canal you get within walking distance of the excellent George & Dragon at Stoke Golding and the nearby Dog & Hedgehog at Daddlington. Perhaps not a surprise but we have two Navigations, one at Kilby Bridge and one Barrow on Soar. Also in Barrow we have the Boat House, closed at the moment. Mountsorrell has the Waterside and the Swan and there is the Gate Hangs Well at Syston. Cossington has the Red Lion and the Royal Oak, all in Soar Valley. The Old Crown at Shardlow is the Leicester side of the Trent.

There are pubs near the River Eye though Melton Mowbray. At Foxton we have Bridge 61 and the Foxton Locks Inn. The Odd House is near Gilwiskaw Brook, a lovely tributary of the Mease. The Swift goes through Lutterworth and the Fox near the river is an excellent all rounder.

Rothley Brook runs from Thornton Reservoir through Desford, Ratby, Glenfield, and Anstey with good pubs to be found in all the villages. It then goes through Rothley itself before joining the Soar. It actually flows through the gardens of the charming Woodman's Stroke in Rothley.

Following the Grand Union Canal southwards there is a spur into Market Harborough with its many pubs and you eventually reach North Kilworth

Water is not just for boats. Despite being as far from the sea as you can be in England, it seems you are never far from water in Leicestershire so why not have a stroll by it. You won't go thirsty.

FOOTPATH CHANGES SINCE THE LAST EDITION

For more information on these diversions or any other changes contact martin@langsett1.com

Charnwood

I20 Barrow Upon Soar Permanent closure of the bridleway across the Midland Mainline.

Harborough

C92 Tilton on the Hill Diversion of bridleway onto line used for many years.

D5 Cold Newton Small diversion. Part of the diverted path has not been available for many years.

Hinckley and Bosworth

T72 Peckleton Small diversion to take path out of a private garden

Y76, Y77 Peatling Parva **Minor sensible diversions**

S16 Cadeby Small diversion to allow proposed workings to commence.

Melton

G62 Asfordby Diversion to remove rail crossing on test track. More diversions and new paths are in the pipeline for this area as a result of this diversion.

North West Leicestershire

P114 Ashby de la Zouch Addition of a circular footpath off Willesley Lane

The map of footpaths on the County Council website is useful but not always up to date with temporary diversions

See <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/cycling-and-walking/where-to-walk-in-leicestershire>

DEFINITIVE MAP

From time to time we have need to look at the definitive map but not everybody is familiar with its symbols.

Footpath ---						
Bridleway --						
Restricted Byway -+ -+ -+						
Byway Open to All traffic ++ ++ ++						

All definitive maps use a standard set of symbols for different rights of way

YOUNG WALKERS

Do you have young children or grandchildren who like to join you on Ramblers walks?

If so do you think they would appreciate a junior membership card and / or welcome pack?

If there is a demand for it the local area are open to suggestions as to how to make them feel welcome and a part of something

If you support these ideas please let a member of the committee know or better still come to the AGM when the subject will be discussed



We cannot organise walks just for children as they must be accompanied by an adult but most groups put on family friendly walks.

We were all dragged out on walks by our parents often under sufferance and resenting it but have come back to the joys of walking in later life.

Can we make it more of a pleasure for them in their formative years?