



Parts of the church date back to the 14th century (although most of it is later) and was the 'home' of John Wycliffe, the translator of the Bible into English. At the southern entrance to the town is an installation of a plane as a memorial to Frank Whittle, the inventor of the jet engine, whose works were in the town.

John Forgham

Another Green Circular Walk - Ivanhoe Way

..... a 35 mile circular walk around the North West of Leicestershire

The name "Ivanhoe" has been linked to the north-west of Leicestershire since Sir Walter Scott wrote *Ivanhoe*, the novel, in 1820. Scott chose the castle at Ashby de la Zouch and the surrounding countryside as the setting for his novel, having got to know the area while staying at nearby Coleorton Hall.

"Ivanhoe Country" is an area of contrasts, from the bustling market town of Ashby de la Zouch, through the wooded and rocky outcrops of Charnwood Forest, to the idyllic stretches of the Ashby Canal. The area was, and still is used for quarrying. Former mining areas are now being restored and reclaimed as part of the National Forest.

I walked the route in three sections using public transport from St Margaret's Bus Station. www.arrivabus.co.uk or www.traveline.info are the places to check for up-to-date bus timetables.

Section 1 - Nailstone to Ashby de la Zouch
Arriva bus 153 from St Margaret's to Nailstone walking distance approx 14 miles
Arriva bus 9, 9A from Ashby de la Zouch to St Margaret's

Section 2 - Ashby de la Zouch to Whitwick
Arriva bus 29, 29A from St Margaret's to Ashby de la Zouch walking distance approx 11 miles
Arriva bus 29A from Whitwick to St Margaret's

Section 3 - Whitwick to Nailstone
Arriva bus 29A from St Margaret's to Whitwick walking distance approx 11 miles
Arriva bus 153 from Nailstone to St Margaret's

This I found to be a very interesting walk, with lots of contrasts from the industrial heritage to green and very pleasant landscapes. I can fully recommend it. A free fully illustrated guide is available from Leicestershire County Council (www.leics.gov.uk/walking)

Brian Jeffs



The LEICESTER RAMBLER

Twice-yearly Newsletter of the Leicester & District Group of the Ramblers
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Annual General Meeting

The AGM in its new format proved a great success in November.

47 members turned up at *The Linford*, in Newtown Linford, with a large number taking part in a 5-mile walk in Bradgate Park, followed by a free lunch of soup (eventually), sandwiches, nibbly bits, and cakes.

This was followed by an interesting talk by Peter Osborne on the subject of *Walking from the Landowner's Viewpoint*. Mr. Osborne, a landowner himself and involved in planning on Leicestershire County Council said that he and other landowners welcomed walkers on their land, as they often reported obstructions, damage etc. that they had seen on their walk.

One of his main concerns was that of dog owners who didn't control their dogs.

At the AGM, Dave Bell and Eileen Pott stood down from the Committee, and we are now looking for someone to take on Dave's position as Footpaths Secretary. If you are interested in getting involved with reporting footpath obstructions, keeping an eye on potential footpath closures etc., please get in touch with the Chairman, Terry Bates for more information - without any obligation.

The Committee has decided to continue with the new format of the AGM, and it will be repeated at the same venue on 21st November 2015, though the walk will be different. So put it in your diary now - a short walk, a free lunch, an interesting talk, and the opportunity to air your own ideas about the Group.

The Committee has also decided not to have a Social Secretary, but any member who would like to organise a social event (meal out, theatre visit, etc) is very welcome to do so. If you would like to do this, please contact Terry Bates first

SATURDAY MORNING WALKS

These have got off to a good start, but we do need some more members willing to lead some in the programme for August - January next.

If you would like to volunteer to lead one of these walks, which we hope to make weekly, please contact Diana Baxter on

0116 2792947

We are always on the lookout for contributions to *The Leicester Rambler*. Articles, short poems, items for sale, cartoons, photographs, anecdotes - anything relevant to our Group. Please let the Editor have them for the next issue by

June 30th at the latest to ramblers@tiscali.co.uk

Signed articles in this newsletter are submitted voluntarily by members, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Group. Unsigned items can be assumed to be official Group information.

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Keep up-to-date with the Leicester Ramblers at www.ramblers-leicester.org.uk

Corsica Walking Holiday 2014

This year I decided to try Corsica, an interesting island officially part of France, but with a culture more like Italy.



The Piombatu Bridge over the Rizzanese River

Unfortunately we had first to get to Gatwick for an early flight, but this negative aspect was soon forgotten when we were in the air, and getting a super view of the Alps, and then from the left hand side of the 'plane a super panoramic sight of the Corsican scenery.

We landed in Ajaccio, and managed to squeeze on to the local bus and find our Hotel in the town centre. This was the birthplace of Napoleon so we were able to pass his birthplace, and view a large monument with his statue looking down at us. Although the monument listed all the key places he visited, somehow the locals seemed to have forgotten about Waterloo, or Elba. I was tempted to add these with a felt pen, but didn't want to start an international incident.

The next day we took a bus into the mountains to Zonza, the starting point. From then on we took a linear walk each day, staying in a different hotel each night, and our overnight bags were transferred by a mystery man who we never met, but turned out to be 100% reliable. Our Hotels offered half board,

with an evening meal being served in a small restaurant adjacent to the Hotel.

The main course was generally a Mediterranean type of casserole, very tasty, and on most occasions completely devoured by all. Once there was a very tasty piece of beef left, so I wrapped it up for my next days' lunch.

The scenery was impressive, with one rocky outcrop that reminded us of the Dolomites. The weather was warm without being too hot, and often then there was a strong sun we were sheltered by trees.

The last day we had to organise taxis to get us to the airport. It turned out to be a very hairy drive lasting one hour along twisty mountainous roads. One driver was a lady in very high heels. We arrived at the airport in plenty of time, but all looking a bit green.

Overall a very pleasant week, with fond memories of the superb cuisine.

Mike Goodrich

(Mike has organised holidays for the past few years, but these are privately organised by him, and not official Ramblers' holidays)

MAP & COMPASS HELP

If anyone would like a few hours help in the field using a map and compass please feel free to phone me on 0116 2887457 to fix up a time.

Dave Siddons

Programme

Our Group now offers what must be amongst the largest programme of walks of any Ramblers group in the country - with over 500 walks a year.

We aim to cater for everyone—whether you are a very fit highly energetic type that thinks nothing of getting 20 miles under his or her boots, or whether you are getting on a bit or are recovering from some ailment, and just want a short leisurely stroll of 3 miles or so, we have something for you.

Our morning walks on Tuesdays and Thursdays started just 8 years ago with the first Thursday morning walk that attracted 2 walkers. John Jackson must be credited with the creation of these midweek morning walks, and today they are probably the most popular walks we put on, regularly attracting 20 - 35 people.

SATURDAY MORNING WALKS

However, aware of the fact that members who are working during the week can't take advantage of these walks, we have recently introduced Saturday morning walks on the last Saturday of each month, followed by an optional pub meal.

Though numbers taking part have been very variable, we have had twelve or more people taking part on occasion, so we are optimistic that numbers will grow steadily, when we would hope to make them regular weekly walks.

So, if you are free only at weekends, and enjoy a 6-mile walk and a pub lunch, check out the programme and come along on the last Saturday of each month.

We are also continuing to offer short strolls of 3 miles or so on certain Thursday mornings, so if this is what you enjoy (followed by a pub meal and a get together with other ramblers) we would love to see you turning up. However, please check first to ensure that the walk is on.

The new programme has a slightly different look, as we have put together in one place all the morning walks that are followed by a pub meal.

However - do please take a look through the complete programme. One member complained that she didn't know when or where the last AGM was, despite the fact that it was prominently advertised both in the Programme and this Newsletter - so it pays to look not just at the list of walks you are interested in, but have a look through the entire programme to see what else is on offer.

Ramblers and Ramblers Holidays

The Ramblers is pleased to announce that from October 2014 it entered into a three-year agreement with Ramblers Worldwide Holidays.

The agreement is focused on online opportunities to promote each other and we hope that it will bring in more members who want to support our work. The Ramblers thanks HF Holidays for its support over the last three years

(Communication from Central Office)

Note that if you should go on a Ramblers Worldwide Holiday, please tell them that you belong to the Leicester Group, and they will then donate a significant amount of money to our own Group funds.