

South Cheshire Group

Newsletter No. 35

June 2012

Notices

Let us have your e-mail address.

We will send you an e-mail to let you know when the programme and Newsletter are available on the website and keep you up-to-date with events and programme changes.

E-mail speeds up our communications and helps to reduce printing and postage costs.

Committee:

Chairperson

Philip Guest
Tel: 07918 687683

Secretary

Bernard Stanway
Tel: 07973 228886

Treasurer

David Holly
Tel: 01270 252312

Footpath Secretary

Graham Taylor
Tel: 07810 766094

Rambles Coordinator & Programme Secretary

David Vernon
Tel: 01270 569039
Kath Adlard
Tel: 01270 626534

Membership & Web

Eileen Dorman
07846 464736

Publicity

Paul Boniface

Newsletter

Bev Brady

Communications

Coordinator

Kevin White

Members

Julie Hayward
Phil Keogh
Diane Birkenhead

Chairman's Chat

Philip Guest

I'm writing this message immediately after having taken part in Phil Keogh's 'Gritstone Weekend'. The event, organised jointly with Eileen Dorman comprised walkers who travelled the full distance of 35 miles and other groups from South Cheshire who joined at suitable spots to encourage and participate in the venture in spite of the inclement weather. This activity showed how important it is for our group to have volunteers, who will take time out to make these arrangements (not forgetting Dave Holly, who gave up his weekend to chauffeur the links).

The message I want to make is to ask all members to see what they can contribute, however small, to benefit the group as a whole, be it leading a walk, as an officer or simply as a helper. All our officers do an excellent job, but from time to time, they need to move on and replacements are needed.

I am of course, indebted to our volunteers, who continue to generate interesting and challenging walks each weekend and then midweek over the summer months. As a consequence of becoming a Rambler, I have had the opportunity of visiting places I would never otherwise have seen. Our group holidays at Plas tan-y-Bwlich have introduced me to parts of North Wales I did not know and now enjoy and I'm sure that our forthcoming Patterdale weekend will provide a similar incentive to get to know the Lake District better.

The Annual Dinner 27th January Julie Hayward

I would like to say a big thank you to Dominique and Sally for organising the annual dinner.

The evening was at the Thatch as Faddiley. A warm welcome was offered on arrival before taking our tables on the first floor mezzanine level. We had the whole of the floor for our Rambling party.

The food was excellent and certainly good value for money. Everybody looked stunning, no anoraks to be seen anywhere.

The attention to detail didn't go un-noticed either with Christmas crackers on the table for us to enjoy with the compulsory party hats and bad jokes. A brilliant evening that was perfectly planned. Thanks.



The Gritstone Five: Pam Simmons, Phil Guest, Super Sue, Diane Birkenhed, Phil Keogh (Leader)

Your committee continues to debate what walks suit this group best, if anyone wants to add their voice to this please feel free to let anyone of us know your thoughts.

Finally, I must thank Dominique Dufour-Jackson for her efforts in arranging a very successful annual dinner at the Thatch earlier in the year. I'm delighted that she will be in charge of the event next year as well.

Thursday Morning Walks

Elizabeth Bull

Over lunch at the Carrier's Inn, Hatchmere, following the last of the seasons Thursday morning walks, a vote of thanks was given to Judith and Robert for their much appreciated series of walks. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed them, with each finishing at a public house, giving an opportunity to socialise over a good lunch.

We were pleased to hear of the plans for next year, starting in March, and all look forward to them. Once again, many thanks to Judith and Robert.

Thanks to all who have provided news items over the past 6 months. The news is regularly published to our website and used to create the bi-annual Newsletters. If anyone has any 'rambling related' news or a small article they would like to contribute, please forward to Bev Brady at john@giovannis-crewe.fsnet.co.uk

Walks Report — Phil Guest on behalf of Rambles Coordinator

The walk programme over the first half of the year has been well attended with an average in the teens. The highest was in excess of 30 which normally would be too much to handle but fortunately, all the styles were kissing gates to facilitate easy passage and little hold ups. However, we have found that Saturday walks have been less successful but this may well be due to our mistake in putting on 'competing' or similar walks on the Sunday of the same weekend. We will learn from this and you will notice that in the next programme this 'problem' has been addressed. We are also going to try two walks on the SAME day where one is longer than usual, the other, or alternative, will meet at the same time and location so that walkers can select the walk that suits them best.

Our next exercise to persuade all walk leaders to use a newly created 'form', which covers the elements of the proposed walk (to avoid conflict only the date needs to be confirmed by David Vernon). The form should be sent to Kath Adlard who after the confirmation of the date will enter the data onto a spreadsheet so that the walk can then be uploaded onto our web site. This will enable users of our website to see much further in advance our planned walks. Walk leaders will be able to obtain the form from the web site or printed copies from Kath Adlard herself.

Can you Help the Group ?

We welcome any ideas to improve the our group.

We know that our varied walks programme, website and in the information that we provide on the Ramblers Walks Finder attracts newcomers, who are always assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

We would like to develop and improve our publicity and technology. Do you have a specific skill that you would be willing to share and help with the workload ?

Could you lead a walk or organise a special event?

Contact the Chairman or any Committee member if you feel you can help.

The Long and the Short of it! : Church Lawton Walk—Sunday 22 January

Maggie Ashley

This was a figure of 8 walk; for anyone who wants to add some mileage there is the opportunity to complete the second loop - Bev Brady, Editor

In the Wilbraham Arms I was 'persuaded' to write up this Sunday's walk. I wish I had paid more attention along the way but as usual I followed the herd only enjoying the exercise, scenery and company. That is why I will never be asked to lead a walk. I do remember seeing the impressive Lawton Hall which has recently been turned into apartments and also some lovely properties along the canals. I believe this is also a beautiful area for wildflowers in the spring and summer. We spotted some snowdrops which is always a welcome sight in the bleak January landscape.

The walk, led by Gillian Herdman, was one of two halves, or perhaps three quarters or even another fraction. No-one was quite sure exactly how many miles it was as there was an opportunity to return to the car park at some point. Four walkers took advantage of this but 16 completed the whole walk. My legs estimated the walk to be over 8 miles.

We walked along canals, through fields, near farms, woods, roads and the Salt Line path. There were views of Mow Cop and the edge of the Gritstone Trail. At times the going was muddy but there were no falls in the canal and no encounters with excitable cattle.

In addition to two different canals – the Macclesfield and the Trent and Mersey - we had not one but two pub stops due to the fact that as we were about to stop at some benches along the canal for lunch, it started to rain. Most went into the Broughton Arms for protection from the rain (and to have a drink) only to discover Diane and Mary had found shelter in a nearby wood to have their sandwiches.

Pleased that the rain had stopped and after a hasty gobble of snacks and coffee, we went on. We followed a stretch along the Macclesfield Canal towpath where we were all treated to unexpected mini facials from the icy jets of rain on our faces. It was heads down and carry on till the rain stopped once more and we moved on to the Salt Line. Revitalised by the treatment, we slowed down for the flat home stretch passing many amblers and dog walkers before finally reaching our destination.

Thank you, Gillian for a very enjoyable walk.

Recce'ing The Wrekin : 27th January 2012

Eileen Dorman

I gladly agreed when Hazel Wallis asked me to go on a recce for her walk to the Wrekin.

My second thought was, "oh dear, it's a big hill !" However in her usual reassuring way, she said, "well there's only one steep part", and up to now I have enjoyed Hazel's hills: up to Castell Dinas Bran at Llangollen and up to the Jubilee Tower at Moel Famau – both of which had only one steep part – all the way up!

In the meantime and for moral support, I'd invited Bev Brady and Pam Simmons to join us. We set off from Nantwich Lake to Wellington on what was forecast to be the coldest winter day thus far. Booted and suited with sufficient layers (2 for me), we began the walk from the car park at Tan Bank in Wellington.

On the way to Limekiln Wood we passed and admired the Old School House built in 1480, then under the M54 to the woods. As we made our way to Wenlock Woods, we met up with a boisterous group of youngsters, reluctant to cross a stile and step into the surrounding mud.

They were from a nearby special education needs centre, encouraged by their teachers to enjoy the great outdoors. Undeterred by the mud, we overtook them at that point and they passed us as we recce'd a suitable coffee stop. We carried on through the Wrekin woods, remarking that should the weather turn, the trees could provide a bit of shelter. Hazel said, "we need to turn right soon to go up to the summit". At that, we heard the youngsters again, this time very reluctant to climb up "...the mountain – there could be an avalanche !" Not very re-assuring as far as I was concerned. Still onwards and upwards and with mutual encouragement "well done ladies" and "come on lads, nearly there" we all huffed and puffed, with frequent stops (well at least I did), up the hill. This is a steep part of the Shropshire Way, but well worth the effort. It's said that over 17 counties can be seen from the top of the Wrekin (1335ft). Although it was a little chilly (hats and gloves needed) we spent time studying the Toposcope (view finder) which indicated the wonderful views of the Severn Valley, Welsh hills and

interestingly the Buildwas Power station towards Ironbridge. The cooling towers look like the potteries kilns. We could also see 2 black cloud funnels, suggesting heavy rain on the way. Over the summit and past the communications mast, Hazel suggested a good lunch stop, with log benches. A good call as the rain passed over and around our sheltered spot. We set off again on the path, where an information board explained that we had passed between Heaven and Hell Gates the inner and outer defences of an Iron Age hill fort once atop the Wrekin. Bev and I recalled the recent lecture on ancient Iron Age and Roman trackways, Druids and burial mounds, all of which Hazel could use to inform the walk!

For the return section of the walk, we left the Shropshire Way and continued downhill on wooded paths towards The Ercall.

En route we were warned to avoid flying bullets, apparently there had once been rifle range used by the Shropshire Light Infantry. We also found a tree rope swing which Hazel demonstrated enthusiastically! We continued between two reservoirs towards the Ercall Nature Reserve and then alongside the disused quarries. The Wrekin Quartzite rock formation with ripple effect suggests that this area was once under a shallow sea. There's an intriguing poem on a rock and an interpretation board nearby which describes this area. As we carried on through Ercall Wood we noticed some very interesting trees (Ents, I think – refer to J R R Tolkien). Just as I settled into relaxed fantasy of walking trees and Middle Earth, we rounded the corner to – another hill – The Ercall, I think. In true Hazel style "not too much more, this is the last one," and it was with a fine view of the motorway. It was downhill all the way passing under the M54 and back into Wellington. We stopped at the Apley Arms for some refreshment, just 10 minutes from Wellington. We each agreed that it had been very good recce and a fine walk

At our Annual Dinner, the same evening, I could only praise another of Hazel hills and our recce of the Wrekin. To those who say to me "you don't do hills", well I do and I'll be doing it again!

The Wrekin Walk : 4th February

We met at Nantwich Lake which really was the coldest day of the year thus far; minus 4 degrees and I'm already wearing 2 layers, which is not quite enough protection from the biting cold wind. 12 hardy souls set off to Wellington. Before leaving the car park I'd added another jacket and a hat .

It was too chilly to linger at the Old School House, and when we reached the stile the mud was frozen solid. We did stop at the recce'd coffee stop, which afforded a little shelter from the wind. At Wenlock Woods, we heard a rustling sound through the trees. It wasn't falling leaves, but tiny snowballs (definitely not soft flakes) which were settling as the ground was so cold. The right-turn was soon upon us and then up the hill. It seemed much harder this time, (my excuse is breathing in the cold air and wearing two hats which caused my glasses to steam up) and when we reached the top – cold wind and tiny hard snowballs blowing horizontally hitting us in the face, tingly cold. We had a quick look from the toposcope, but no views in any direction.



Not snowing yet

The decision was whether to stay in the semi-shelter of the large rock against which we were all gathered and suffer the pebble-dashing snow or make our way to the planned lunch stop in the wood with the log benches. We went over the summit, wind and snow blowing with no respite at the wood and no comfort at the benches so decided to go further down to seek shelter. I added another coat.

The snow covered path was becoming slippery, it really was between Heaven and Hell Gate! The weather changed a little for the better and we stopped for a quick lunch in the vicinity of the rifle range. Not sure whether a stray bullet would have been preferable to stinging snow, fortunately we suffered neither. Continuing on, there were a few of the group who demonstrated how to use the rope swing (more photos on the website). We carried on through Ercall Wood, I'm sure some of the trees had moved since last time, up the last hill and then back to Wellington, only our footprints disturbing the pristine snow.

In the comfort of the Apley Arms, we all agreed that it had been another fine walk.

PS – on that day we experienced the new weather condition called “frozen rain”.



Kevin— one of the swingers !

Bramble Bashing (Footpath Maintenance) - Is it for you ?

Graham Taylor

What we do, (at roughly monthly intervals and currently on Tuesday) is pick a parish, devise a circular route using the OS map, identify the footpath numbers from the Cheshire East definitive map, arm ourselves with secateurs, saws, hammer, nails and markers then set out to walk the route.

We trim back vegetation, fix markers and report back to Cheshire East on any problems.

An opportunity to discover the countryside on our doorstep, have some fun (and a beer afterwards maybe.)

Worth a try, so give me a bell or an email and I will circulate you with the dates.

The Big Society

Cheshire East would like to make use of volunteers to maintain the network but are thwarted by H&S concerns. Despite this they are using volunteers to record their public rights of way (PRs oW) and enter this data on the CAMS database in order to target remedial work.

In addition they are issuing licenses to “Bramble Bash” which advise landowners that we are authorised to erect signage and clear vegetation.

Let me know if you wish to be involved.

Question Time

Q: Is that a bull I see in the field?

A: Could be! The farmer can put a bull in a field crossed by a PRoW if:

Q: The bull is less than 10 months old

A: The bull is not of a recognised dairy breed and is in the field with cows.

What you should not see is:

Any bull over 10 months old in a field by itself.

Any Ayrshire, British Friesian or Holstein, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey or Kerry bull in a field with cows or heifers.

In addition the H&S at Work Act requires that no one risks the safety of those not in their employ.

Any problems report to me or Cheshire East.



A collection of Phils and Davids at Lathkill Dale

Annual BBQ

A reminder that our Group barbeque is to be hosted this year by Phil Keogh at Laveda House, Crewe on Sunday 1 July We're due for good weather!

Details from Phil on: 07989 300251

Lathkill Dale

Next time you are walking with a Phil or David— any one of them—ask about Uncle Geoff's Tea Room. They can recommend the cakes !

A Latin American Odyssey

Robert and Judith Spowage

Autumn 2011 and we were thinking about getting some winter sun. Then out of the blue came an email from Ramblers Holidays proclaiming a bargain Cruise and Walk holiday in Latin America. Air flight to Jamaica; eight countries visited, including the Panama Canal, in twenty one days; all excursions paid; and flight back to the UK from Chile and at an offer too good to refuse.

Sailing aboard Fred Olsen Line's flag ship Balmoral we were to visit Jamaica, Panama (inc sailing through the canal), Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Equador, Peru and Chile.

So near the end of January we flew from Gatwick to start this new adventure. We overnighed in Montego Bay Jamaica and in true Ramblers fashion went for a walk before joining the cruise ship in the late afternoon. Our walk was in Cockpit Country, an area in the hills where escaped slaves hid from the British. It was an eloquent introduction to what experienced later: heat, humidity, poverty, poor housing and religion.

The cruise ship was all that we expected being well organised with friendly staff. Our cabin was more than adequate with more wardrobe space than most hotels. Meals were very good with lots of choice.

We sailed overnight to Colon in Panama and docked in time for trip to the San Lorenzo National Park. Here we visited the San Lorenzo fort by the mouth of the Chagres river and followed by a short walk in the tropical rain forest.

Very early next morning the Balmoral slipped its moorings and moved gently towards the entrance to the Panama Canal. As we approached the first locks of the Canal there was evidence of the work in progress on the building of new much bigger locks so as to allow even bigger ships to pass through it. The new facilities are due to be finished in August 2014, for the one hundredth anniversary of the opening of the canal in 1914. The Gatun locks were the first to be entered. The ship was attached to four "mules" that held the ship steady within the lock and was preceded by a tug to prevent any collision with the gates. Three locks were managed; raising the ship to 85 feet above sea level. After completing the manoeuvres the ship entered Gatun Lake; a man made feature created by damming the Chagres river. Proceeding slowly, following a set channel marked by buoys, towards the Galliard Cut where a drilling rig was boring holes for the blasting the rock bottom of the canal to increase its depth and operating width. Two further set of locks- the Pedro Miguel Locks and finally the Miraflores Locks were navigated before dropping to sea level again. We also passed beneath two magnificent bridges: The Panama Centennial Bridge and the Bridge of the Americas which carries the Pan American Highway. Finally we entered into the Pacific Ocean and sailed on to Central America.

A routine began to emerge. Call in at a port (Punta Arenas Costa Rica; Corinto Nicaragua; Acajutla El Salvador) and drive to either a sightseeing place or for a short walk. Costa Rica was the Manuel Antonio National Park with a walk and beach stop. Nicaragua was a trip to Leon's cathedral via some volcanic mud pools. El Salvador greeted us with an active volcano streaming gently in the morning mist and a trip into the volcanic hills of the Azalco area. We stopped close by Volcan Azalco, an active volcano and walked in the caldera of an extinct volcano.

There followed a two day cruise to Manta in Equador and an interesting walk through the Machalilla National Park. After lunch we travelled to Monticristi where they make Panama hats; the only rain affected place on the holiday.

Next we called in to Callao which is the entre port for Lima, the capital of Peru. Here we had three night stopover that allowed us to explore the local history of the region. During our time there we visited Caral; the oldest known city of the Americas circa 3000 BC and Pachacamac a substantial Huari and Incan administrative and religious site before it was destroyed by the Spanish in the 15C. Visits to two museums in Lima allowed us to see many of the artefacts discovered in Peru including ceramics and early highly decorated textile

Next port of call was Arica Chile, one of the driest places in the world. Our sightseeing trip at this stay took us out of the town to the Archaeological Museum of San Miguel de Azapa. Later in the town centre we visited Gusaf Eiffel's iron church that he designed and built to replace its predecessor which was destroyed in an earthquake in 1868.

Our last outing was at Coquimbo, a real walk on our final shore day, albeit fairly short. A short journey up the Elqui valley where we visited a quartz mine set above the valley floor. An interesting walk over a water irrigation channel and through cacti fields to a short tunnel into the hillside leading into a deep pit where the quartz seams could be seen. On return we visited the bustling city of La Serena before returning to the ship and our last night aboard. Finally a last bus ride to Santiago, the capital, and our flight home.

We were surprised and appalled at the poverty present in all the countries visited often resulting from periods of oppressive governments and revolutions. Lima was particularly disturbing with its suburbs being dominated by shacks that looked to be little more than very large cardboard boxes. Our guides all talked about the political history of their country to such an extent we became somewhat uneasy about their futures.

The contrasts between Central and South America in terms of climate was also interesting with tropical rain forests in the central area whilst the south with the exception of Equador was arid and desolate for the most part although the Andean rivers did create strips of fertile soil for intense agriculture. However the overall experience was very good and although we were only able to get a taste of the place it has retained our interest in the region as a whole.

Next we called in to Callao which is the entre port for Lima, the capital of Peru. Here we had three night stopover that allowed us to explore the local history of the region.

During our time there we visited Caral; the oldest known city of the Americas circa 3000 BC and Pachacamac a substantial Huari and Incan administrative and religious site before it was destroyed by the Spanish in the 15C. Visits to two museums in Lima allowed us to see many of the artefacts discovered in Peru including ceramics and early highly decorated textile.

Next port of call was Arica Chile, one of the driest places in the world. Our sightseeing trip at this stay took us out of the town to the Archaeological Museum of San Miguel de Azapa. Later in the town centre we visited Gusaf Eiffel's iron church that he designed and built to replace its predecessor which was destroyed in an earthquake in 1868.

Our last outing was at Coquimbo, a real walk on our final shore day, albeit fairly short. A short journey up the Elqui valley where we visited a quartz mine set above the valley floor. An interesting walk over a water irrigation channel and through cacti fields to a short tunnel into the hillside leading into a deep pit where the quartz seams could be seen. On return we visited the bustling city of La Serena before returning to the ship and our last night aboard. Finally a last bus ride to Santiago, the capital, and our flight home.

We were surprised and appalled at the poverty present in all the countries visited often resulting from periods of oppressive governments and revolutions. Lima was particularly disturbing with its suburbs being dominated by shacks that looked to be little more than very large cardboard boxes. Our guides all talked about the political history of their country to such an extent we became somewhat uneasy about their futures.

The contrasts between Central and South America in terms of climate was also interesting with tropical rain forests in the central area whilst the south with the exception of Equador was arid and desolate for the most part although the Andean rivers did create strips of fertile soil for intense agriculture.

However the overall experience was very good and although we were only able to get a taste of the place it has retained our interest in the region as a whole.

And finally THE GRITSTONE TRAIL WEEKEND : 28th and 29th APRIL 2012

Phillip Keogh

I thoroughly enjoyed working "under the direction" of David Vernon organising the Gritstone Trail walk for the South Cheshire Ramblers, of which I am now pleased to announce, I am the newest member, having transferred in from Richmond! There are many thank-yous; to David Holly, Eileen Dorman and the participants.

From the start at Disley train station where we met Cheshire East Rambling Club's Olympic representative, who will be referred to as Super Sue., we left on a southward route along the Gritstone Trail. We had 10½ miles to achieve in only 4 hours. We were 20 minutes late leaving, and walked with great gusto, attempting to stay in the shadow of Super Sue. Phil Guest and I took it in turns to walk with her. We managed to reach White Nancy, where we stopped for a quick break and took sanctuary from the gale force wind behind a stone wall. I'd already received one phone call from the second walk party and was feeling anxious that we would be keeping them waiting. We released Super Sue and proceeded to chase after her. Further entertainment was gained trying to see the way-markers two or three fields ahead before Super Sue. I felt my role as Leader was being blown away in the gales. We made our rendezvous at Teggs Nose within the time schedule; early in fact, which gave my party the opportunity to colonise the Visitor Centre dining table and enjoy a well-earned lunch. We were joined by 11 eager 'hill-climbers' to conclude the first half of the Gritstone Trail to Croker Hill. Not everybody was able to chat to Super Sue as she proceeded to show her Olympic skills at rambling. As we descended from the mast at Croker Hill, using my mobile phone, I contacted Dave Holly who disembarked from the Rose and Crown and arrived as the first walkers hit the A54. If I hadn't arranged it myself, I wouldn't have believed such punctuality was possible. Luck or good judgement, we had a 17 seater mini-bus, 16 ramblers and 1 volunteer driver, we had a bum for every seat. No need for a headcount, bum count was fun. We then returned to the Rose and Crown, where Super Sue dissolved into fresh air and the Gritstone Five continued off to explore their luxury accommodation, tired and weary they settled for Gradbach Mill. After using the communal shower and the bunk rooms, resembling those of a house of juvenile correction, it was back to the Rose and Crown where we joined our fellow ramblers, who were in good spirits, having enjoyed a nice meal. We had the delightful pleasure of meeting a wonderful young lady called Georgieeee, who we discovered from her mother, lovely Lisa the Barmaid, had been blind in one eye from birth and had reached the grand old age of 8 without anybody realising. I intend to find out how her mother got on with the specialist this week and will let you all know. We all enjoyed our food and returned to the house of correction. We enjoyed one more alcoholic drink and then disappeared to our rooms.

In the morning, as promised, the rain was there to accompany us on day 2 of the Gritstone Trail. This reminded me of one of the conversations, the night before, at how wonderful the weather was in Scotland. I spent most of the day thinking of David Vernon. We met Super Sue on the A54, my rambling angel had returned to help us get to our next rendezvous; Timbersbrook. As we proceeded up the first climb in our wet weather gear, my hands were freezing and I had a selfish thought; that in these blizzard conditions, if my gloves weren't able to warm my hands, I would use the bandages in the first aid kit. It was at this point, I realised we didn't have a first aid kit. Gloves were OK.

The winds were extremely strong but fortunately were with us which assisted our climbs. As we came across the River Dane, on a small tarmac track, we heard an almighty crack. I was slightly ahead with Super Sue and looked back. We all questioned whether it was the large tree in between us or in fact something that may have struck the bridge in the fast-moving water. I suggested the group walked around and not under the path of the tree. We stood there as the Gritstone Five and witnessed the largest cracking noise humanly bearable to hear, and then watched as this large oak tree came thundering to the ground, leaving the Gritstone Five to ramble on. After taking the obligatory pictures, we trudged along our muddy way.

We made our Timbersbrook rendezvous, surprisingly very close to schedule. We took sanctuary in the mini-bus and then not so enthusiastically we breached the great British weather. The pace was quite strong. Not being able to find a walk-in freezer anywhere we picnic'd at the top of Mow Cop. After drinking anti-freeze, we started our descent. Bearing in mind that Eileen and I were technically the group Leaders, we enjoyed the fact that Super Sue and her run-away ramblers had taken the wrong direction and gave us the opportunity to take the lead. We then dropped (and dripped) down to canal level where we sailed to Kidsgrove train station where Super Sue disappeared. Dave Holly was there to take us home.