

2010/07/22

## Go for a walk on a bus!



Who would have thought that two years ago NippyBus Walks in the South Petherton, Martock and Hinton St George areas would have been so popular? What exactly is a NippyBus Walk? Simply put it is taking the Bus from South Petherton to a foot path, leisurely walking four or five miles to a Pub or Farm Shop, and taking some light refreshment while waiting for the Bus and the return journey.

In the beginning the idea of mixing muddy boots and buses raised eyebrows and some concern. Now the highly successful Wednesday NippyBus Walks have become a regular feature of local community life, filling buses to capacity and encouraging the car to be left at home or in the car park.

At the suggestion of Syd Hardy at NippyBus, South Petherton Walking Group settled on Wednesday NippyBus Walks as this was then Nippy's quietest 'passenger' day of the week. This is changing. As the service becomes better known it now successfully supports many people who live in the more remote areas of our part of South Somerset

The Martock N6 NippyBus Demand Responsive Service is undoubtedly one of the most valuable Public Services that can be provided to a rural area, enabling people of all ages to bus into Yeovil, from the more remote districts, to shop or attend hospital appointments. However South Petherton Walking Group's thinking is the reverse, as the bus goes into Yeovil anyway, why not encourage Yeoviltonians to board the bus and come walk in the South Petherton Area, and it actually works.



SPWG is arguably one of the most successful 'social' walking groups in South Somerset, distributing as many as twelve hundred emails each week to active and armchair social walkers alike. Our web site, now running to well over two hundred pages, is a mine of information, and is well used by those wishing to find out more about the area. With the support of Nippy, SPWG now introduce somewhere between twenty and forty people each week to our superb local countryside, it's pubs, farm shops, coffee mornings, cider farms, shops and of course the irreplaceable NippyBus Service. Nearly all our 'bus walkers' are new to bussing and many now leave their car at home on a regular basis to take to the bus. How green is that!



Why not come NippyBus walking with us. Walk details are on our web site, [www.southpethertonwalkinggroup.org](http://www.southpethertonwalkinggroup.org) (Or just google Petherton Walking.), visit our photo gallery, our next walk's page or NippyBus pages to find out more. We have no committees, no meetings, no fees and you are assured of a warm countryside welcome. Long live the bus!

Ian Greenfield  
South Petherton Walking Group  
(01460) 241364