

Walk

How often do you walk and what sort of places do you visit?

SPWG walk each Wednesday and Sunday regardless of the weather. We are running additional Saturday 'Bus Stop' walks out of South Petherton as well as supporting local Young Mums with a monthly buggy walk. All our walks are focussed on the N6 Demand Responsive Bus Service Area (South Petherton, Martock, Stoke sub Hamdon, Tintinhull, Ash, Longload, Muchelney, Hambridge and Barrington) and the South Petherton District, which includes the Seavingtons, Hinton St George, Dinnington, Shepton Beauchamp and Merriott.

How would you describe the countryside around South Petherton?

What always surprises me is how 'local' people, when they walk with us, react to the fabulous countryside on their doorstep. South Somerset and the South Petherton area is awash in living history, often best seen when off the beaten track. From the ancient fortified hillfort at Mere Linches to eel fishing in the River Parrett, Somerset Levels or King Ina's Palace, to Shepton Beauchamp's Fives Wall, there are interesting features around every corner.

What better way to see them than by walking in the area.

How do you get on with local landowners?

SPWG walk over or close to 140 farms. Our approach is that they are neighbours but with somewhat larger gardens. We avoid disputes, especially over footpaths, and as a result are able to resolve 'walking' matters either with Highways or the landowner. Consequently we find the group is welcome wherever we go.

Who usually turns up for your walks?

Walkers in the main come from outside of

the area, sometimes as many as 40 or more during a week. Often we have holidaymakers join us when they are staying in the area, which always provides added interest. It is quite surprising really as they come from all over the place, Americans, Canadians, Australians, South Africans, you name it.

Do you have a membership? How do you contact people?

We have no membership lists, no committees, no meetings and no fees. Our website is our office, and the odd 1,000-1,200 e-mails we distribute each week keeps us in contact. The more we visit local pubs, coffee shops and tearooms, the more people we meet and the more people that come along. The local press is particularly good to us, and because SPWG is so active in walking at least twice a week, we tend to get a lot of support.

How important is local transport?

It is extremely important to us. During the past three years we have become aware that little is done to 'effectively' promote local bus services. Our use of local bus services has encouraged many to get out of their cars and onto the bus.

Tell us about your website

southpethertonwalkinggroup.org is used as a local resource by those wanting to know more about the area. Well over 150 local businesses are now listed and more are being added on a regular basis. □

For more information about SPWG

contact Ian Greenfield on 01460 241364



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To make an appeal for new club members
contact: natalie.vizard@archant.co.uk

South Petherton Walking Group supports the local area by making the most of the rural bus services, country pubs and businesses, according to the group's founder Ian Greenfield

Join Our Club



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