

## 5 MILES & A CUP OF TEA 2018

### May 2018: VICAR WATER

25 of us ventured to Vicar Water to walk 5 miles then have a cup of tea (and a scone or cake).

It was a lovely sunny day with just the right amount of nip in the air. At the top of the only hill we had fabulous views over Clipstone and the headstocks at the old colliery.

The Hawthorne and broom were both colourful and spectacular. Spring was definitely in the air with a dozen baby ducklings dabbling in the inlet.

Sue Fairweather



### June 2018: NETHERFIELD LAGOONS

We so love Netherfield Lagoons that the group has an annual walk there every June. Why in June? Get down there soon and see the masses of flowers, including orchids, and hear the birdsong. If you're lucky you'll spot bee orchids.

20 of us set off from Teal Close, down a little footpath adjacent to the car auction and behind B&Q etc. You step from this retail ugliness into instant greenery and after a few minutes you are looking

across the lagoons where terns are nesting. We all agreed that this is a hidden gem we are lucky to have so near. It is great to just take your binoculars any time of the year and wander around bird spotting, and this is a site bird watchers travel to. However, we had to do our 5 Miles so off we went down to the river. Local girl Gill said that in March there are usually hares to see in the fields there.

As we walked in the sunshine we saw perennial sweet peas, vetch and many other wild flowers. It was good to spot swans, a heron, a great crested grebe and more Canadian geese than you could count.

Only the serious caffeine addicts ordered a coffee at the Ferry as there were ice-creams on sale and it was HOT. Back across the fields down a drover's path and another lovely walk completed.

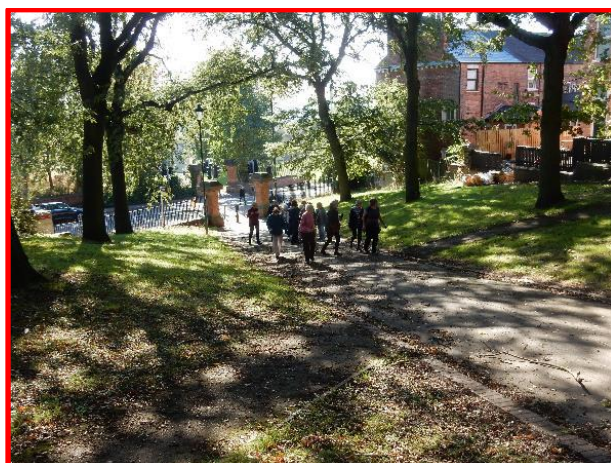
Maggie Martinez



### **September 2018: ENCLOSURES ACT WALK**

This month's outing was a town walk visiting areas of the city left open as a result of the Enclosures Act of 1848. Starting at Sneinton Market the walk progressed through Sneinton, St Ann's and the Arboretum area, finishing at Forest Fields on Mansfield Road.

As usual it ended with refreshments, this time from the Handmade Cafe in Nottingham.





### October 2018: RUFFORD ABBEY

It was bright and sunny, but there was a nip in the morning air when 19 of us assembled at Rufford Abbey for October's walk. Beyond the lake and mill we headed towards Ollerton village, diverting briefly to glimpse the Watermill Teashop's attractive location.

At Wellow, regarded by some as one of Nottinghamshire's prettiest villages, we passed the 60 foot high Maypole on the village green before reaching the "highlight" of the walk – a steep descent of 70 steps swiftly followed by 70 steps back up. Despite the groans, we made it!

Once across a large exposed field we were on the last stretch back to Rufford courtyard where we enjoyed refreshments and a natter in the warm sunshine.

Maggie Doherty



## November 2018: SOUTHWELL TRAIL

Parking near the Old Mill in Southwell the walkers set off on the Southwell Trail along the line of the former railway that ran from Rolleston to Mansfield. The track was lifted in 1969 and is now a County Council "multi user track"

At Maythorne Cottages the group crossed the main road into Norwood Park golf club. On reaching the fruit farm (worth a visit) the walk took the group over the brow of the hill, between the polytunnels and down to Hallam road, towards Southwell, past the site of The Merryweather Nursery, cultivators of the Bramley apple, the Merryweather Damson and the Southwell Redcurrant. The walk continued through the town, past The Minster to follow along the course of Potters Dyke and back onto the Southwell Trail. A riverside walk led back to the carpark and lunch.

Despite the damp weather it was an enjoyable and fairly easy walk with plenty of variety.



## December 2018: LAMBLEY & FUDDLE

A fairly easy walk in December served as a prelude to a hugely enjoyable fuddle. 22 of us did the walk from Lambley, on well-marked footpaths in a very open landscape, but under lowering grey skies. (you had to use your imagination to get the idea of the views under sunny blue skies).

Mercifully, the rain held off until the afternoon. The *fabulous fuddle featured fancy festive fare furbished* by all with a particular mention to Dorothea's Christmas tree cheesecake. Many thanks to Chris and Barbara for hosting and for Sally, our Christmas elf for the day, who worked tirelessly to help make everything go with a swing.

Paul Martinez