

Five Miles and a Cup of Tea 2020

January 2020: BEESTON CANAL

Twenty six walkers set off from the Riverside Farm pub, Tottle Road on the main dual carriageway to Clifton Bridge. The walk followed the River Leen up to Kingsmeadow Nature Reserve on Lenton Lane. From here we followed the Beeston Canal towards Beeston Rylands before turning back to Clifton Bridge and the River Trent. It was then a short walk back to Riverside Farm where some walkers stayed for a meal.



February 2020: NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY & WOLLATON PARK

Nineteen walkers including three new members set up from the 508 Cafe by the children's playground near to the entrance to Wollaton Park. The cafe is sited in the park's last remaining Second World War hut and is named after the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment who camped in Wollaton Park in 1944.

We passed by the main stable block and museum and walked around the lake to Derby Road before entering Nottingham University grounds. From here we walked around the Highfields boating lake to the lakeside cafe area before climbing up to the north entrance of the university. We then returned to Wollaton Park via Lime Tree Avenue with a quick look at the gardens and spring flowers near to the Camelia House. Eleven of us stayed for refreshments in the 508 Cafe. We were lucky with the weather and ground conditions and had the added bonus of spring blossom, crocuses and early daffodils.



May 2020: CHATSWORTH HOUSE (A Grand Day Out)

Breakout!!

We had a car park space booked on line in advance for visiting Chatsworth House for midday at £4.00, not a bad price to pay for visiting the best place in England, considering you can roam virtually wherever you like from the car park and, once into the woods, you may not see another person. Easy social distancing, as per guide lines.

The poor old car, hardly used in recent weeks, was reluctant to go and I, out of practice, found it somewhat strange to be on the M1 travelling at 60mph and “slow down a bit Terry” coming from my wife. So I did, as you do, and I am sure the car appreciated it as the mpg move up from 48mpg to 52mpg, easier on the pocket too.

I never tire of seeing the first glimpse of Chatsworth House in its magnificent setting, especially on a sunny day. Over the little bridge and up to the car park, no cash changed hands at the car park kiosk; we just show the printed ticket through the car window to the socially distanced attendant. We parked up in the designated car park and found a freshly fenced off picnic area. There were plenty of families picnicking, all within their own space.

Suitably fed and watered we set off passed the children’s farm, now closed, up to the dell and the steep climb to the top by the waterfall where there was not much water but a good view back towards Edensor and beyond. We then turned left to the hunting lodge, which is undergoing some restoration work, and we once again lingered over the view of the valley below with the river in the distance. From here it is a short walk on the track towards Baslow before turning off through the woods and down towards the river which is a magnet for most visitors on these hot days, with children paddling in the shallows watched by anxious parents.

A great day out, it is a shame we had to go home, but it is good to be reintroduced to the simple things in life in an extraordinary setting.

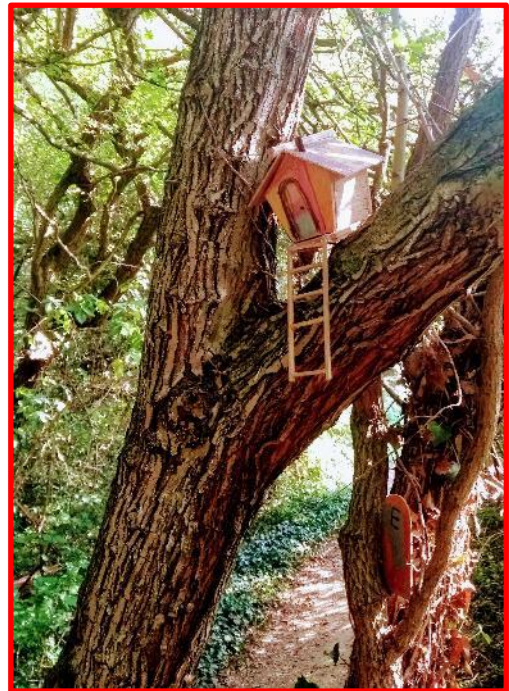
I hope the “Five Miles and a Cup Tea” walkers are managing to keep fit and busy and let’s hope we can start meeting up again soon.

Terry Bartram



September 2020: LAMBLEY DUMBLES & GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

11 members took part in the first walk with this group since lock down. The weather was fantastic and even the fairies allowed us to see the doorways to their kingdom.



October 2020: NETHERFIELD

3 groups set off from Morrisons for what can only be described as a wet walk. Still we managed to have fun and the autumn colours were beautiful.

