

STRIDERS WALKING 2015

JANUARY 2015: CLUMBER PARK

Despite the clash with a theatre visit and the real ale groups meeting 15 of us set off for Clumber Park and after a slight hiccup managed to find an entrance to the park that was open. Although the views were not as spectacular as some of our Derbyshire walks we all enjoyed a 9 mile walk on forest tracks which were much less muddy than expected.

On returning to Gedling some of the party enjoyed refreshments at the Willowbrook pub where some people were able to join the real ale group meeting.



FEBRUARY 2015: SHERWOOD FOREST

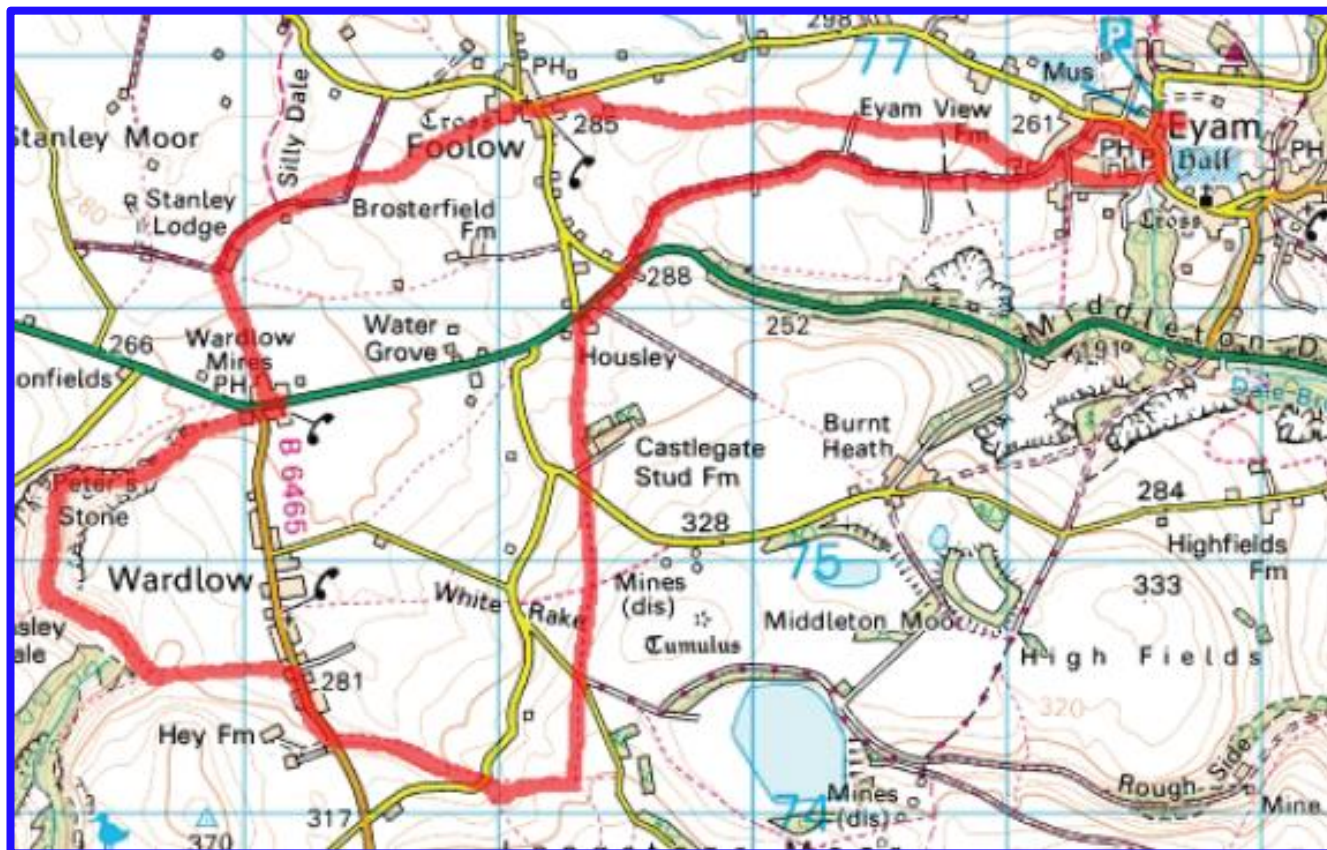
On a day when the sensible would have stayed in bed or gone to the coffee shop or pub, 24 hardy souls turned out for a wet, windy and sometimes muddy walk through Sherwood Forest.

Although the leader (not Brian) could not at first find his way out of the car park they stuck with him and for their trouble received several short talks or were referred to a handy notice board at points on the route such as the remains of St Edwin's Chapel (hence Edwinstowe - I think), Archway House and a water meadow management scheme.



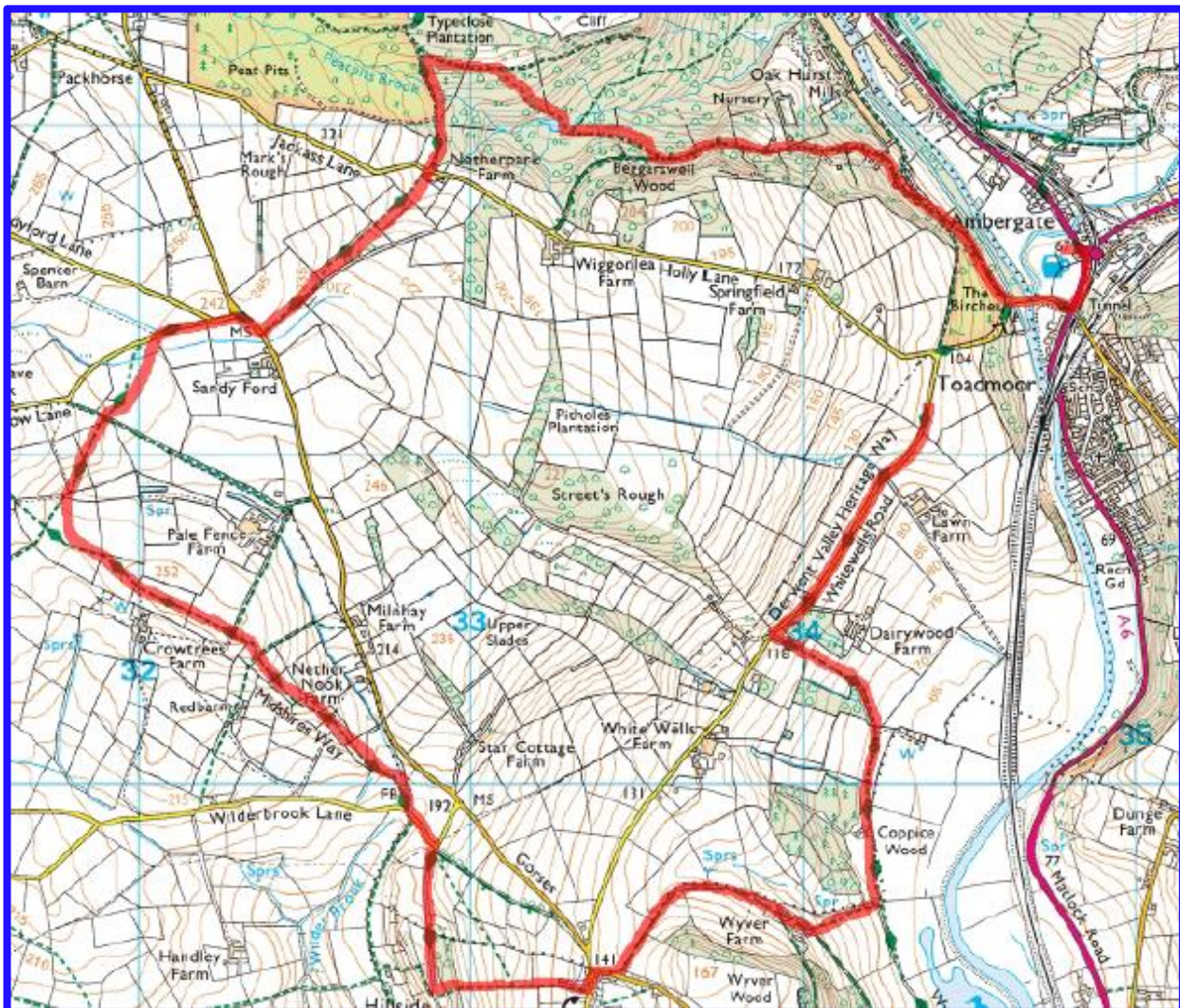
MARCH 2015: EYAM & CRESSBROOK DALE

19 hardy striders ignored the weather forecast and set off for deepest Derbyshire. As we approached Eyam we caught glimpses of the snow covered moors through gaps in the clouds. After surviving the wind and rain in the morning we were rewarded with a stylish walk, followed by some afternoon sunshine and some stunning views.



APRIL 2015: SOUTH OF SHINING CLIFF

Setting off from the Hurt Arms car park we ascended through the mist to reach a ridge from which we would have had magnificent views, unfortunately the mist, though atmospheric, obscured the views and did not clear until lunchtime, which was enjoyed in blazing sunshine. We then descended to the car park through Shining Cliff woods enjoying the dappled sunlight and the bluebells before taking refreshment at the Hurt Arms.



MAY 2015: DEEPDALE

This month's walk was one of the prettiest we have done. Some members thought we should even rename it the Floral Walk. Leaving the car park by the A6 we eventually found the entrance to Deepdale. Ascending the dale we found the cowslips of April had been replaced by a magnificent display of Orchids. We then walked across to the Magpie Mine where there was an abundance of spring flowers most notable of which were the wild pansies.

After lunch we descended to the Wye valley where the clear conditions allowed us to enjoy some splendid views. The route back to the car park was through the woods, along the bank of the river, which were carpeted with wild garlic flowers. Some of the party then returned to Shelton for refreshments at the Cock and Pullet.



JUNE 2015: CHATSWOTH, BEELEY & ROWSLEY

14 of us started from Carlton Lees, part of the Chatsworth estate and set off across the fields to the pretty village of Beeley. Through part of the village and then followed by the 1st of our 3 climbs.

[83816,r]The second climb was up a permitted path (not marked on the ordnance survey map) to 'rabbit warren' entering Hell Bank plantation. This time making sure we followed the correct path (we missed it in the survey), to descend and follow the attractive Beeley Brook, bringing us back to the edge of Beeley and lunch.

Crossing to Rowsley, the party split with some taking the challenging climb to Smelting Mill Wood, whilst the rest took the more gentle route, meeting up at the 'Grouse and Claret' at Rowsley. Finally we turned back to Carlton Lees along the Derwent Valley Way, making the walk 8-9 miles.

Although the Thursday was the beginning of Glastonbury and the nearest walk to the Summer Solstice, we were fortunate not to have any rain..... A gentle breeze kept off the humidity and the sun shone on us as we drank our lime and sodas outside the G & C in Rowsley.



JULY 2015: LATHKILL DALE

Splendid views were enjoyed before we descended into the dale and passed some medieval pig pens to arrive in Monyash where we had lunch followed by ice creams from the local café. We then walked past the church to the far end of the village where scant respect to gender was shown in the public conveniences. The walk then took us down Lathkill Dale where once again there was an abundance of wildlife including some flowers rarely seen growing in the wild and two types of wagtails were spotted along with a number of dippers doing their little dance. A short (honest) climb then took us back to the road and the cars. The traffic jams on the way home meant that only a small number of the group had time to call at the Willowbrook for refreshments.



AUGUST 2015: KEYWORTH AREA

After a minor detour to find the start, 21 Striders left the Plough's car park in Wysall and set off across the fields towards Keyworth. A slight change to the route allowed us to avoid the cows and stiles and took us through the nature reserve.

Before reaching Keyworth we turned off and enjoyed splendid views across the Nottinghamshire Wolds in the direction of Gotham before arriving at Widmerpool Church which is well worth a visit if you are in the area. After lunch in Widmerpool we returned to the "Thankful Village" of Wysall where refreshment was taken at the Plough.



SEPTEMBER 2015: ASHOVER AND OGSTON

This month's walk proved to be a bit more strenuous than we anticipated with the "undulations" a bit steeper than expected, however 21 of us enjoyed fabulous views and weather in an area less visited than the usual venues in the Peak district. Keith did a wonderful job of finding the paths which deviated considerably from the OS map, unfortunately this added an extra mile to the expected distance. Our lunch stop gave us fabulous views over Ogston Reservoir and well-earned refreshment was enjoyed at the excellent Old Poets Corner in Ashover at the end of the walk.



OCTOBER 2015: TANSLEY

Holidays and recovery from last month's walk restricted our group to 12 this month. Those who made it were rewarded with some spectacular views towards Riber Castle and the Derwent valley on an easy walk which was punctuated by a wide variety of styles. Refreshments were taken at the Tavern at Tansley at the end of the walk.



NOVEMBER 2015: GOTHAM

A couple of new members swelled our numbers to 22 this month. The walk was a bit shorter than usual but included 3 climbs. We walked around the Gotham area and learned how the wise men of Gotham avoided the taxman by pretending not to be so wise. A slight haze prevented us from seeing into deepest Derbyshire which you can do from the viewpoint on a clear day. Trish helped Ranjit and I extend the walk by a mile and a half because she knew we would not be satisfied with just 6 miles. The group then returned to The Willowbrook for refreshments.

DECEMBER 2015: LAMBLEY & GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

Our numbers were swelled by members of the Strollers and 5 Mile groups, so 27 of us started off from Ranmoor Road for a walk in the winter mud. The weather was kind to us on the day and we enjoyed some winter sunshine and splendid views over Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and even Lincolnshire if Neil is to be believed.

The walk up to Lambley was uneventful, thanks to the tree fellers earlier visit, although the mud made the stiles a bit slippery. From Lambley we walked up to the country park via the Dumbles and on reaching the country park we found it was quite busy as a number of people had decided to end the year with a walk in the fresh air. Some of the group stopped for a picnic in the park while others returned to The Willowbrook for refreshments.