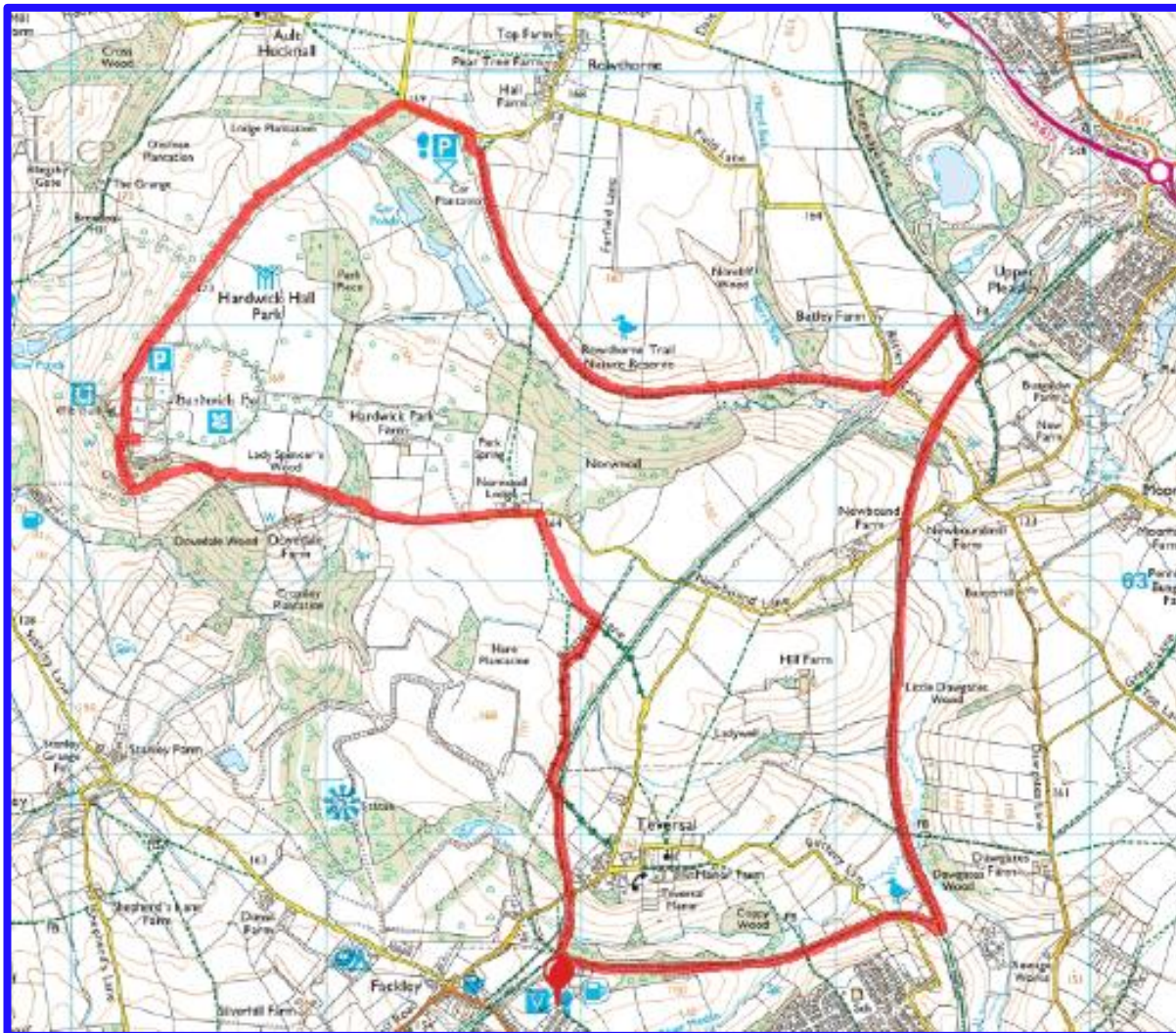


STRIDERS WALKING 2016

JANUARY 2016: TEVERSAL TRAIL

19 striders managed to find the well-hidden Teversal Trail Visitors Centre and set off in glorious sunshine towards Hardwick Hall. After a minor panic when we thought we were going to be charged for entering the grounds we were let in and having made use of the facilities we headed off in the direction of Rowthorne.

As we were leaving the park we were enthralled by a tree which for no apparent reason was attracting a wide range of small birds including various types of finches and tits as well as a couple of nuthatches which our intrepid leader had not seen before. A short walk along a road took us to the top of the Rowthorne Trail where we enjoyed our packed lunch in the winter sunshine. We then walked down the Rowthorne Trail and joined the Teversal Trail which we followed back to the Visitors Centre. The majority of the group returned to the Willowbrook for refreshments.

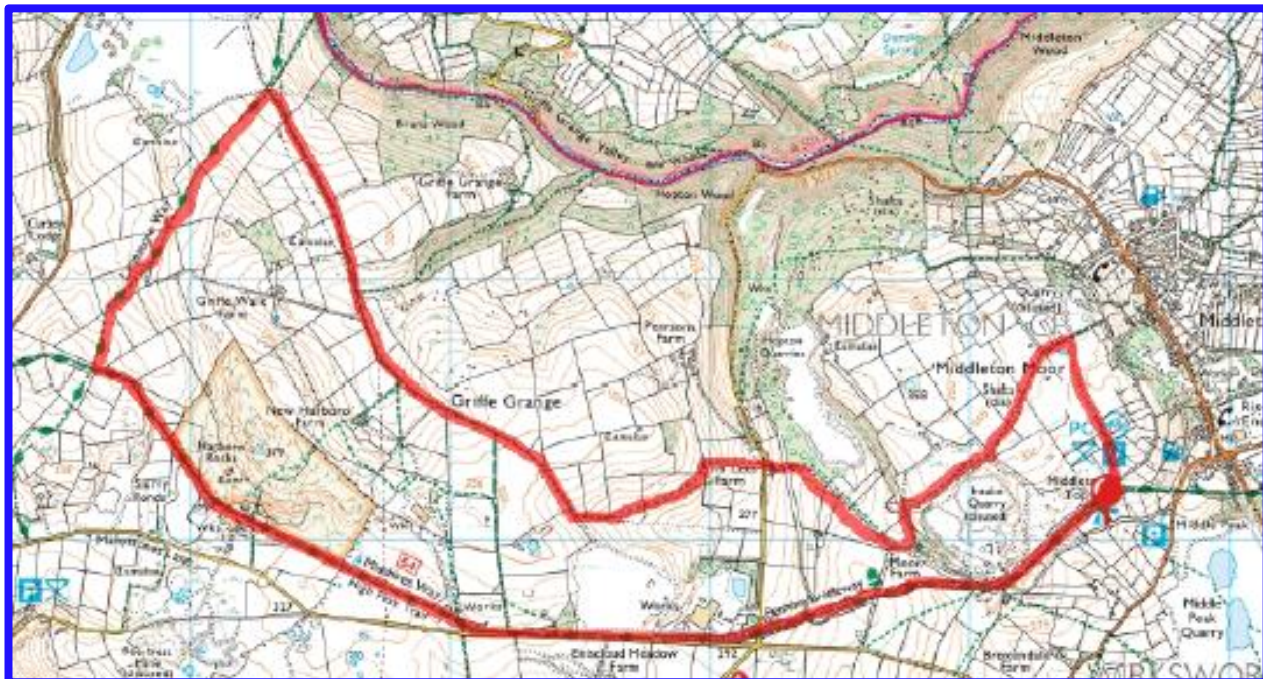


FEBRUARY 2016: MIDDLETON TOP

Our return to Derbyshire was rewarded with clear blue skies, excellent visibility and magnificent views. The walk involved a couple of steep climbs over Middleton Moor followed by a gentle stroll back along the High Peak Trail.

One feature of the walk was the proximity of a wind farm next to the remains of an ancient windmill suggesting on another day it may have been quite blowy, however there was barely a breath of wind on the day we did the walk and the sun shone most of the way round.

Most of the group called in at the Rising Sun in Middleton for refreshment before returning home.

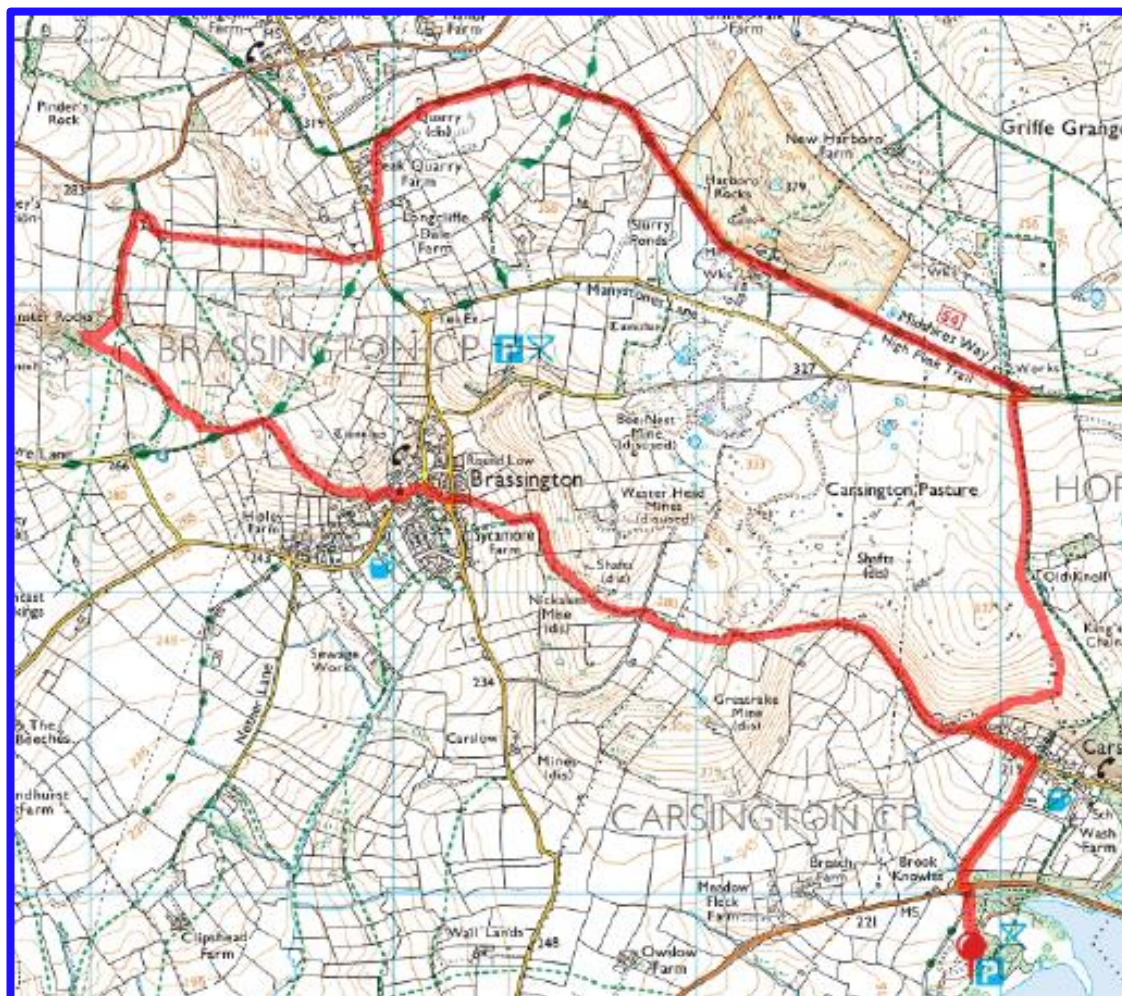


MARCH 2016: CARSINGTON

The weather bucked the trend of previous walks as we had superb weather on the day we did the recce but the weather forecast for the actual walk was for heavy rain and poor visibility. Despite this 24 brave souls set off for Derbyshire and although the weather in the early part of the day was not good, it was considerably better than the forecast and improved as the day went on.

Starting at Carsington Water we split into 2 groups to make negotiating the styles easier and, after rescuing two of the advance party from the Brassington WI and watching Sue train for Rio, we met up for lunch at Rainster Rocks. A short climb took us to the High Peak Trail, at Longstone, which we followed to Hopton before returning to Carsington via a track through the wind farm to avoid a very steep descent.

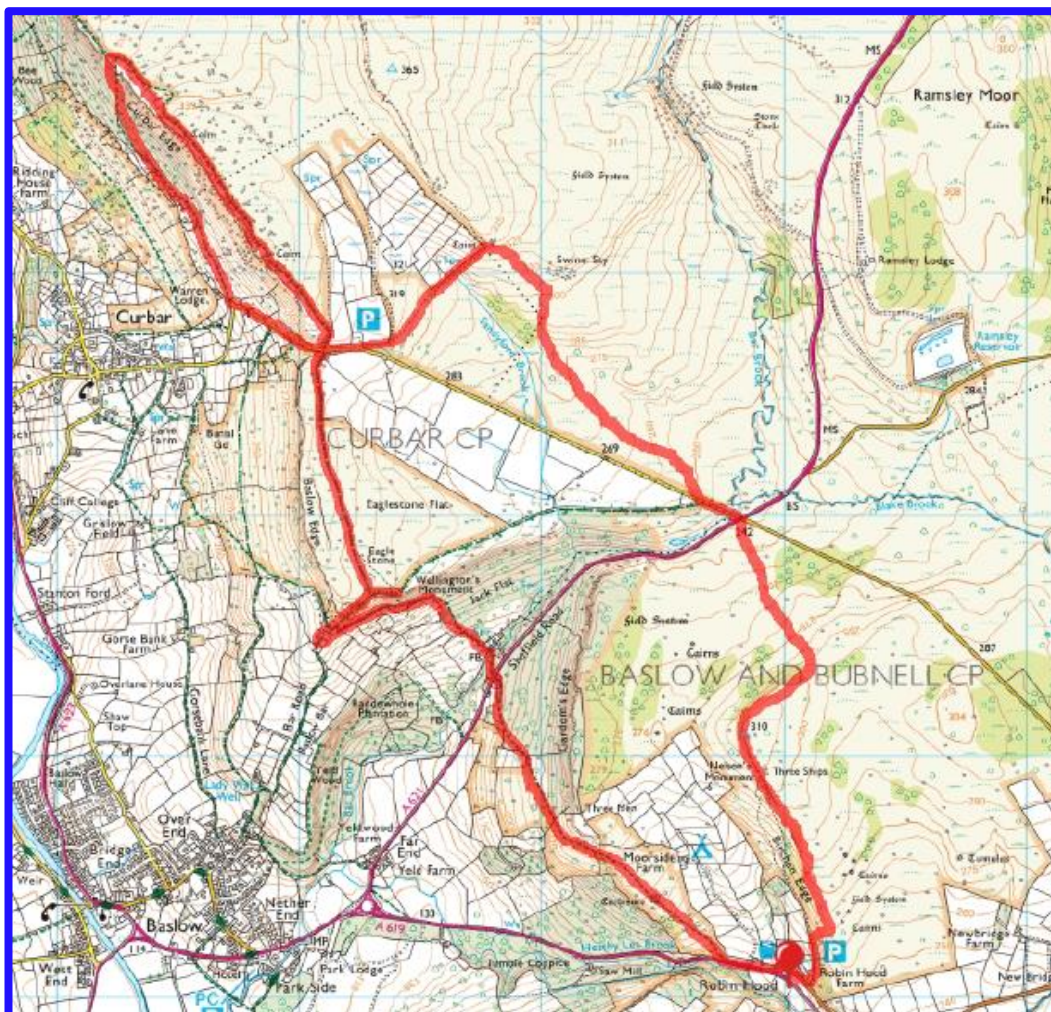
Most of the party stopped at The Rising Sun Pub in Middleton on the way back, where Mary and Jean showed us the way by trying all three real ales on offer.



APRIL 2016: BIRCHENS, CURBER & BASLOW EDGES

Despite the weather forecast 19 striders set off for Derbyshire where the weather proved better than expected in the morning before deteriorating in the afternoon. The walk took us from the Robin Hood Inn onto Birchens Edge via a short scramble and after passing Nelsons Monument and his 3 ships we descended to the road before climbing up to White Edge.

Instead of following White Edge to The Grouse Inn we descended to Curbar Gap and after a short road walk towards Curbar we ascended onto Curbar Edge which we followed back to Curbar Gap before a short walk along Baslow Edge took us to Wellingtons Monument. We then descended to the road passing a magnificent display of Arum Lilies. After crossing the road we skirted Gardom's edge before returning to the car park where people decided the walk had been a bit edgy but enjoyable.



MAY 2016: WOLFSCOTE DALE & BIGGIN DALE

22 striders enjoyed a walk in Limestone Country and although the weather was overcast, visibility was good and it didn't rain. We left Hartington by the path behind the Toilets and descended into Wolfscote Dale across a meadow that was glowing yellow with buttercups. Unfortunately the display of orchids was coming to an end in Wolfscote Dale but when we turned into Biggin Dale we found a north facing slope that was still covered with a selection of different species.



After lunch we walked through Biggin and dropped back down into Hartington, enjoying magnificent views on the way. Most of the group enjoyed refreshments in the Charles Cotton before returning home.



JUNE 2016: EYAM

Our numbers were reduced to 14 this month due to holiday and a Theatre Group trip to *Mamma Mia*, however those who joined us enjoyed another sunny day in Derbyshire. A steady climb out of Eyam allowed the party to appreciate the variety of Derbyshire stiles and provided excellent views of North Derbyshire as far as Mam Tor and The Great Ridge. We then dropped down Coombs Dale before ascending onto a ridge which gave fabulous views of the Gritstone Edges and allowed us to see where we had walked on previous occasions.

A short descent into Stoney Middleton allowed us to admire the octagonal Toll House which is now an award winning Fish and Chip shop. A short climb then took us back to Eyam via the village border stone where money soaked in vinegar was exchanged for provisions during the plague. Most of the party stopped for a drink at the Miners Arms while some returned to Gedling.



JULY 2016: YOULGREAVE

A smaller than usual motley crew got soaked on the 10 mile, ok 9.7 mile walk from Youlgreave. Fortunately the less tall members were not on the trip otherwise we may have lost them in the crops!

Sue Fairweather



AUGUST 2016: ASHOVER [1]

After a night of heavy rain the ground was very slippery and this led to our first casualty when Keith slipped and broke his wrist. As a result of this we abandoned the walk and intend to repeat it this month, hopefully without any mishaps! Keith is making a steady recovery and hopes to be back for our walk next month.

SEPTEMBER 2016: ASHOVER [2]

12 Brave souls decided to complete the *Keith Sherratt Memorial Walk* despite last month's disaster. (Rumours of Keith's demise are greatly exaggerated). Fortunately the conditions were much better and everyone completed the walk in one piece. The sun shone throughout and although some of the ups and downs were a bit steeper than expected even Barbara said it was worth it for the views (I think). Refreshments were taken in Poets Corner in Ashover which is, in the leaders opinion, one of the best pubs in Derbyshire.





OCTOBER 2016: CHESTERFIELD

After a short steep climb 16 of us enjoyed the views over the Chesterfield area. We then walked through Linacre woods while they were at their spectacular best. It was quite a windy day causing thousands of red and orange leaves to drop down on us like snow in a blizzard. The tracks were a thick carpet of autumn colours.



There was a long boardwalk around one end of the third reservoir which got some of us singing the obvious song. For entertainment value I threw myself off the top of a stile then rolled down a hill of brambles into the abyss



Come back Brian we missed you.

Sue Fairweather

NOVEMBER 2016: OXTON

Illness, holidays and muddy conditions restricted our numbers to 10 this month but those that joined us were rewarded with bright sunny weather and some magnificent views over the rolling countryside of north Nottinghamshire. After a short steep climb out of Oxtton, where we were warned not to reverse if we got stuck, the route descended into Epperstone. After admiring the splendid houses we continued over easy ground to Woodborough, where we picnicked in the park before returning to Oxtton via the outskirts of Calverton. Refreshments were then enjoyed at The Green Dragon before we returned to Carlton and Gedling.





DECEMBER 2016: LAMBLEY

15 intrepid striders avoided the Christmas shopping and were rewarded with a walk under clear blue skies and winter sunshine. The walk, in the area between Lambley, was shorter than usual allowing some of the party to return to their Christmas preparations while others stopped for lunch and a drink at the Robin Hood Inn.

Brian Shield