

Striders 2020

January 2020: SHERWOOD FOREST

With a number of the group on holiday or otherwise engaged 12 of us enjoyed a ramble around Sherwood Forest. The weather was overcast but at least it didn't rain and it was quite mild for the time of year.

The walk was completed with just one minor detour and it was nice to welcome John back to the group. On returning to Gedling some of the group enjoyed refreshments at the Willowbrook pub.



February 2020: NEWSTEAD ABBEY

The recent rains having made footpath walking positively dangerous, the Striders group took to the tracks round Newstead Abbey Grounds.

The weather had ignored the dire forecast and provided us with sunshine rather than showers.

We were given lots of opportunities to engage with local history such as the dissolution of the monasteries (the Abbey ruins), the development of parks and gardens (the abbey grounds), the decline of the mining industry (the old rail beds and spoil heaps) and the early industrial revolution (the Leen valley and Papplewick mills).

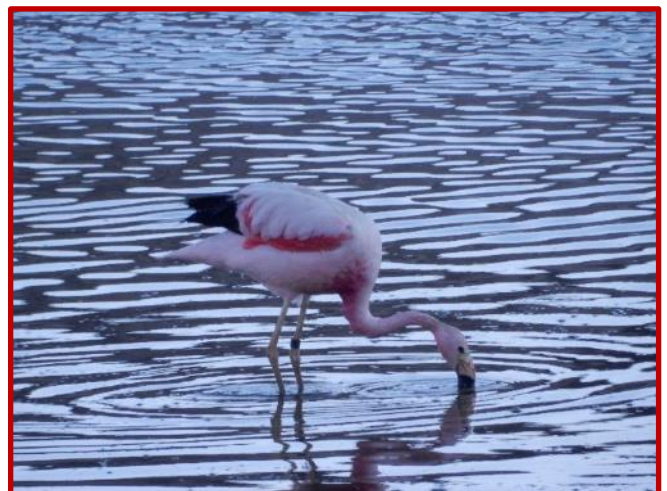
We shall return to Derbyshire next month.



March 2020: BRIAN'S ADVENTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA

Unfortunately we had to cancel the March walk at short notice and it is almost certain we will have to cancel the April walk. If there is an unexpected change to the recommendations about social distancing I will email people directly about any arrangements.

In the absence of any report I thought I might share some of the details of my travels in South America along with a couple of pictures. We started off in Santiago, the capital of Chile, before heading north to the Atacama Desert which provided us with some stunning rock formations as well as a rich variety of wildlife including 3 different types of flamingo which my wife was desperate to see.



We then travelled down to the Lake District where the lakes were dominated by snow-capped volcanoes. From there we sailed south to the St Rafael Glacier where we witnessed huge blocks of ice breaking away and falling into the sea in a process called calving. (Not sure what it has to do with cows!).



A plane journey took us to the southernmost city on the mainland, Punta Arenas, where we sailed out into the Magellan Straits in very rough seas to visit an island which was home to a large colony of penguins.



We then spent time in Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia where the scenery was a mixture of barren steppe, high mountains and magnificent glaciers.

After a short visit to Buenos Aires we finished our trip on the border between Argentina and Brazil where we spent a couple of days exploring the very impressive Iguazu Falls.



After our fabulous travel adventure we returned home just before the countries started to close their borders.

June 2020: HOVERINGHAM - A WALK FOR YOU TO TRY

This is a really pretty, totally flat 6 mile walk, but there are several styles. Importantly it is quite easy to social distance especially mid-week.

In Caythorpe, park on the High Street after the red telephone box. Walk down the High Street away from Lowdham passing the Black Horse pub. To save going over 2 styles walk past the bridleway at Brackenhill and turn left up the next path on the left.

After 100 meters the path turns 90 degrees right into a field, follow the path into the next field over a meadow by the dyke then cross a small bridge.



Cross the field then turn left after the style on Boat lane then immediately right on Main Street passing a bench with ducks and tortoises - No not real ones!!!!

Take the path on the left immediately before the Reindeer to Hoveringham cricket club.. The Reindeer market is on every Wednesday and Friday from 3pm to 6pm at the moment but this could change.

Cross the cricket field in front of the pavilion, and carry on through two fields, cross a bridge over a dyke and turn right. After 6 or 6 meters climb over the first style on the left by a buoyancy aid and follow the path around the lake. Past a beach area, then straight on. Do not turn left up the peninsula.

Continue with the lake to your left ,keep on the path past the scouts boat yard then straight on through a metal gate.

Keep going along the long straight path with the railway line and dyke to your right.and the lake to your left to another metal gate.

After 100m the path bends to the left and then after another 100m you come to the islands in the lake. Bear right and keep following the path. Keep right when you get to the long tufty grass and you can get through to the next field in the corner where the hedge meets the woods.

Continue round the lake to an obvious crossing over the dyke on the right and continue.to the road. Turn left on the road, walk 100 meters and turn right onto the bridle path where the electricity lines cross the road. The path passes a fenced off fishing lake to the right.

Continue and then pass through a large wooden gate then a second gate and turn right to go over the bridge at Mill ford.

Carry straight on through 2 wooden gates then go over the style immediately on your left and follow the path along a dyke back to your car.

Good luck, send smoke signals if you get lost.

Sue Fairweather.

October 2020: LAMBLEY

How nice it was to see members who we hadn't seen since the beginning of lockdown. Eighteen of us, including 3 new members, enjoyed some autumn sunshine on a walk that took us from Gedling to Lambley then up to the ridge between Lambley and Woodborough.

We then returned to Lambley via the Dumbles and one of the groups stopped for a socially distanced early lunch in the playground, while the other 2 groups continued up to the Country Park for their lunchbreak.

Despite the mud everyone returned safely with the only injury being to one member's dignity.





December 2020: COLWICK COUNTRY PARK & COLWICK WOODS

Sixteen of us split into 3 groups and walked to Colwick Park in bright sunshine. After walking along the southern edge of the park we walked towards Sneinton before a short climb up to East View on the edge of Colwick Woods. This provided us with a panoramic view across Nottingham and an information board allowed us to identify a range of buildings stretching as far as Wollaton Hall.

A short walk took us to another viewpoint that allowed us to see our route from earlier in the day along with spectacular views across Colwick Park, the River Trent, Holme Pierrepont and the Vale of Belvoir beyond. After a short lunch stop we returned to Ranmoor Road just as the weather turned and it started to rain.

