

Striders 2022

January 2022: COTGRAVE COUNTRY PARK

Having checked our passports 17 of us ventured south of the river and enjoyed a relatively mud free walk on a barmy January day. The walk took us through Cotgrave Country Park before following the old railway line to the outskirts of Ratcliffe on Trent then back via Holme Pierrepont and the Grantham Canal. A socially distanced picnic was then enjoyed in Cotgrave Country Park before an early finish. I hadn't realised we had walked so quickly.



February 2022: CLUMBER PARK

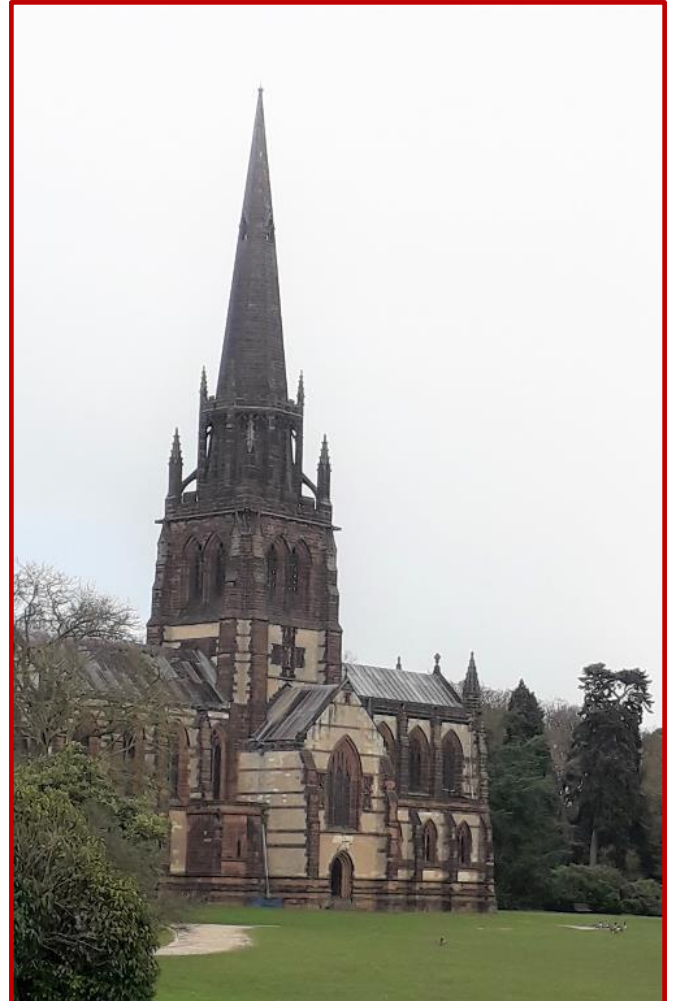
With dire warnings of blizzards and treacherous conditions a select group of 8 set off under a clear blue sky and bright sunshine. The route took us across the A614 and out towards Elkesley before returning to Clumber Park via Hardwick Village.



River Maun



Clumber House



Clumber Church

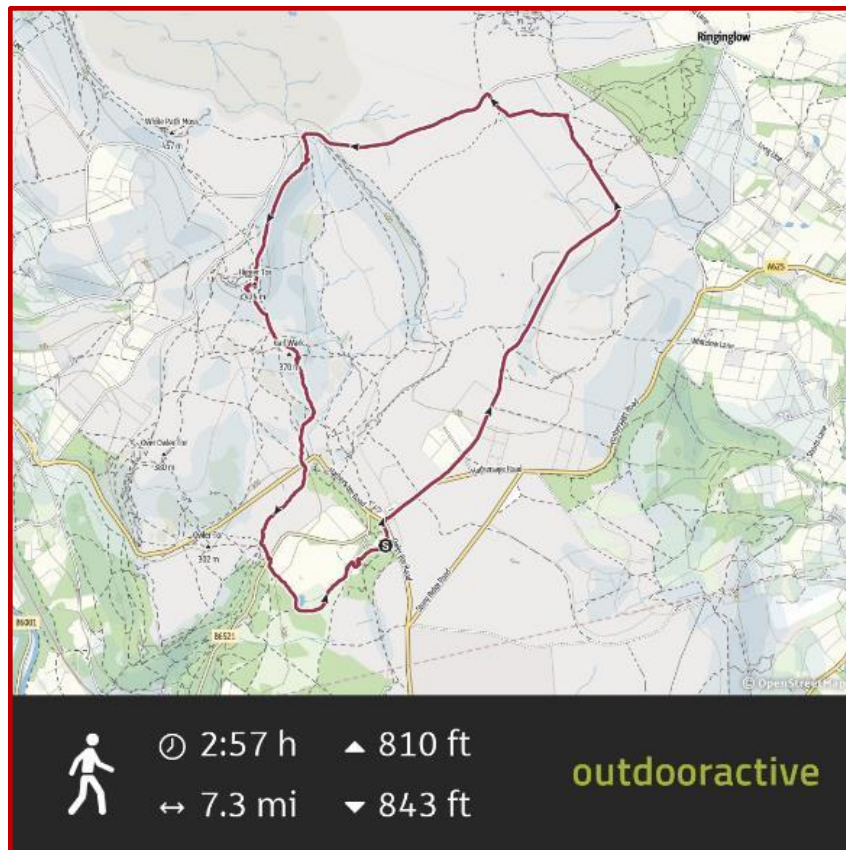
The predicted wintry showers duly arrived so we took shelter in the courtyard outside the café while we enjoyed our picnic lunch. We then negotiated the fallen trees to return to the car park opposite the Clumber Park Hotel. Arriving back in Gedling some of the group rehydrated in the Willowbrook pub.

March 2022: LONGSHAW ESTATE

After an unscheduled visit to Eyam by the leader, 9 of us gathered in the car park on the Longshaw Estate. Having encountered some mixed weather at this location on previous occasions we enjoyed a good walk in warm Spring sunshine.

On leaving the car park a short road walk took us to a track across Burbage Moor in the direction of Sheffield. We then took a path across the moor to Ox Stones and on to Burbage Bridge.

After lunch a short walk took us to the summit of Higger Tor and on to Carl Wark which was the site of an Iron Age fort, however a great deal of imagination was needed to envisage what it was like when it was in use. Dropping down to Burbage Brook we then returned to the car park after an ice cream stop.



April 2022: YOULGREAVE

7 intrepid striders joined me on a walk from Youlgreave in Derbyshire for the April walk, which I lead in Brian's absence (on one of his many holidays).

The weather was dry but cool as we set off from the car park in Youlgreave and headed down the path, which took us passed the back doors of typical Derbyshire cottages overlooking some beautiful scenery over the valley, and made our way down to the river Bradford.

Over a small bridge we then followed the river for about ½ mile then recrossed the river and started the ascent out of the valley. After climbing over a gate, due to a slight miscalculation by the leader (Me), and following the path through a couple of farms we arrived at the peak of our walk to a fantastic view of Lathkill Dale.

The drop down into Lathkill Dale was down very steep steps, but worth it to then walk alongside the crystal-clear waters of the river Lathkill. We saw Cows with new calves, Swans, Mallards with ducklings, a wide variety of birds and Trout in the river on this walk and some beautiful views of Derbyshire. The sad sight was seeing all the ash trees felled in the dale due to the ash die back.



May 2022: ASHFORD and DEEPDALE

A lucky thirteen of us set off with the clouds gathering and climbed steadily up Deepdale. There was an abundance of flowers all along the dale, most notably the orchids which had replaced the cowslips which were dying back after their April show.

We then crossed towards the Magpie Mine where amongst other things we were treated to a magnificent display of mountain pansies. Dropping down from Sheldon we stopped for lunch where we had splendid views across the Derwent valley before returning to the car park through the woods that were carpeted with wild Garlic flowers.



June 2022: WINSTER

After a steep descent from Winster we climbed steeply to Stanton Moor where we walked along the northern edge before crossing via the 9 Ladies Stones and the Champagne Cork Rock where we resisted the temptation to climb it. A short descent took us to Birchover where we stopped for lunch before returning to Winster via the Limestone way.

July 2022: SHINING CLIFF WOOD & DERWENT HERITAGE TRAIL

After a steep ascent out of Ambergate, 18 of us set off in the direction of Belper. Passing a wildfowl reserve we then ascended to join the Derwent Valley Trail.

Our lunch stop provided us with magnificent views across Belper and the Derwent valley and the visibility was so good we could even see Ratcliffe Power Station in the distance.

After lunch we continued along the Derwent Valley Way and eventually entered Shining Cliff Wood. Descending to the river we arrived at the Peak Distillery where some of the party stocked up on essentials before returning to the car park.



August 2022: FARNSFIELD

14 of us enjoyed a local walk from Farnsfield in much cooler temperatures than we have had recently. After a short distance some of the party took a short detour to visit the Lancaster Bomber Memorial and were moved by the age of the airmen who had lost their lives in the plane crash.

After a refreshing shower we skirted Coombes Farm to pick up the Robin Hood Way down into Edingley. We returned to Farnsfield via arable farmland and managing not to lose anyone in the cornfield after being serenaded with songs from Oklahoma, we stopped for our picnic in the playground near to the car park.



September 2022: MONSAL DALE

Numbers were somewhat depleted for this month's walk, however 9 of us enjoyed ideal walking conditions and good visibility on our penultimate Derbyshire walk this year. Having walked along Monsal Dale we climbed steadily up to Monsal Head. After a short break to take on refreshment while admiring the view back along the dale we continued to Little Longdale where some visited the church which was celebrating its flower festival. We then walked along the Monsal Trail before descending to Ashford in the Water where we stopped for lunch and made use of the facilities in the park. A walk through Great Shacklow Wood took us back to the car park in record time.



October 2022: CRICH

The weather forecast for this month's walk was not great and 10 of us set off from Nottingham in pouring rain, however by the time we started the walk the weather had improved to drizzle and very soon the rain stopped altogether.

Unfortunately the swirling mist meant we didn't get the spectacular views we were hoping for but it was very atmospheric and we did see a lot of autumn colours as we walked up through the trees. We enjoyed our picnic lunch at Crich Stand and then descended to Cromford Canal which we followed back to the car park in a remarkably dry state.



November 2022: BENNERLEY VIADUCT

Sixteen of us gathered in the Newton Lane car park and were treated to a 5 minute talk about the history of the Bennerley Viaduct and the mining industry in the surrounding area.

We then walked along the Nottingham Canal to the viewing point where we had another 5 minute talk explaining the features of the viaduct along with a bit more local history.

Moving on to beneath the viaduct (see right) we had our last 5 minute talk about the engineering challenges encountered in its construction and how they were overcome.



Returning to the Nottingham Canal we continued along the Erewash Trail before picking up the Erewash Canal and followed it back to the Viaduct which we traversed before returning to the car park, via the Nottingham Canal, arriving just before the rain started.



December 2022: GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

Eight of us enjoyed a local walk under blue skies and winter sunshine. We walked up to Lambley and after walking around the top path of the Country Park we returned to Gedling via the playing field.

Although we have done this walk before it was interesting to see the changes made as a result of the opening of Colliers Way and also the improvements to the Country Park.