

FIVE MILES 2023

January 2023: CANAL & RIVER

The January walk was one of the wettest walks I've been on for a long time. Eight hardy souls, turned up to brave the elements starting from the canal then along the River Trent.



At one point the gentlemen held umbrellas over Caroline while she dealt with her shoe laces proving chivalry is not dead.



At the end of the walk we all gratefully piled into the Waters Edge Pub for hot drinks and snacks.

February 2023: CHILWELL

Setting off over Chilwell golf course we made our way between the morning golfers in the mist. Eventually the mist started to lift creating an amazing ethereal view over the waters of Attenborough country park.



Even this was surpassed by the joy of seeing thousands of snowdrops and crocuses next to St Marys Church.



In the churchyard we remembered the 139 workers who died in an explosion at the Chilwell shell-filling factory in 1938. Many of the victims were buried here in the mass graves.



While sitting in The Beekeeper Pub enjoying our lunch the sun decided to show its face !

March 2023: COLLINGHAM

In March we were again blessed with glorious sunshine making magical views over the lakes at Langford Lowfields. Much fun was had by some wobbling the wobbly bridge teasing those that don't like to get a wobble on !!!

The walk took longer than usual as we kept stopping to take creative photographs for the u3a competition. We may not win but we did have a laugh.

Beyond Coffee in Collingham was a real find for even more socialising after the walk.



April 2023: LAMBLEY

The April walk brought surprisingly good weather but plenty of mud. The Dumbles weren't too bad and we even limbo'd under a tree to get a view of the waterfall. Hunger Hill gave us a bit of exercise then we crossed Lambley airfield to see the wood anemones, English bluebells, celandine and primroses in ploughman's wood. We had to leave the main path to see the flowers and there was mud glorious mud which caused a couple of tumbles in the jungle. Fortunately no one was badly hurt just a little muddy.

I can recommend the Robin Hood Inn where we had a meal deal of a sandwich coffee and crisps for a fiver, bargain !!



May 2023: WATNALL

The beginning of our May walk in Watnall included an ascent through a field of buttercups in glorious sunshine. We then dropped down to Watnall woods which were filled with English bluebells.

Mud was a major feature but everyone amazingly stayed upright although the tree swing was perhaps a step too far !! The sun stayed shining until we finished our chips in the pub gardens but we could hear thunder as we left.



June 2023: GRAND UNION CANAL

Lovely walk in June along the Grand Union Canal in glorious sunshine then back to the Moorings Pub for a welcome drink in the shade.

July 2023: GRAVELLY HOLLOWES

We had a lovely walk around although it was a bit overgrown in places.

Thank you to Brian for taking us to the Polish Cross memorial to commemorate the personnel who perished in the Fairy Battle Mk1 after returning from a successful bombing mission at Boulogne.

The foxgloves which were in abundance early July 2021 were disappointingly replaced by 2 single stems but the views were still wonderful.



August 2023: RAVENSHEAD

We were lucky with the weather again in August.

We set off over the hill to Harlow Wood which wasn't too muddy considering the amount of rain we had over the previous few days.

It was really lovely in the various woodlands and perhaps we need to revisit this walk when the rhododendrons are out.



September 2023: NORMANTON ON SOAR

Oh it's WET, WET, WET! - for our September walk the heatwave had ended and the rains had arrived but this didn't deter 7 hardy souls. We started off down the River Soar, onto the canal, walked through a ladies garden in Normanton into the church yard then passed the most beautiful garden you've ever seen.

We also passed the Normanton on Soar ferry which is one of the few chain pulled ferries in the country. Afterwards we enjoyed lunch at the Plough in Normanton.

Thank you to Geoff for leading this walk.



October 2023: BRIERLEY FOREST

The weather was kind for our October walk through Brierley Forest Park. We found an interesting sculpture which was an open mould with what we guessed was either an easter egg an apple or one's derriere.

Weirdly the next week I was walking through another park near Chester and they had the same sculpture. The visitors centre had a fabulous cafe and we enjoyed their produce sitting under the trees.



November 2023: CROPSTON RESERVOIR

The November walk was well attended with 18 of us setting off from The Badger's Sett.

Leaving our initial view of Cropston Reservoir behind we wandered through Swithland Wood which was beautiful in its autumn colours.

Back to the far side of the lake in Bradgate Park we passed the 16th Century ruin of Bradgate Hall then we were happy to see dozens of deer wandering around freely. We all gathered afterwards for refreshments in the pub.



December 2023: BURTON JOYCE

Thank you to Mary for leading the Christmas walk. Up the hill in Burton Joyce we had fantastic views of the River Trent in flood. We then couldn't resist taking a diversion to Stoke Lane as it was closed to traffic due to the flooding. The whole road was underwater but fortunately the flood banks had done their job. After a bit of a paddle we returned to the Wheatsheaf for a very enjoyable Christmas lunch.

