

FIVE MILES AND A CUP OF TEA 2024

January 2024: WOLLATON PARK

Following the floods we were really lucky to have a cold but sunny day encouraging 27 of us to participate in our January walk.

The grounds of Wollaton Hall were still quite muddy so we kept to the main paths leading to the University Boating lake then back to The Wheelhouse for refreshments.



February 2024: EAST STOKE

In February we visited the church yard in East Stoke where we admired the carpets of snowdrops and the Pauncefote Monument commemorating the 1st Ambassador of the USA.

Later in the walk we admired the interior of Elston Old Chapel, of Norman origin which stands in the middle of a peaceful field. The Norman door - a huge stone arch with zigzag decoration is nearly 1,000 years old.

The final part of the walk took us to the River Trent where the last battle of the War of the Roses took place and its now known as the Red Gutter. It was very slippery and flooded in places by

the river causing a couple of tumbles in the mud but thankfully no injuries. There was however a theme of "mud, mud, glorious mud"!

The food and coffee at Hardys Farm shop in Farnsfield was enjoyed by all.



March 2024: TEVERSAL

The March walk started from Teversal visitors centre and thanks to Diane's forethought in adjusting the route it wasn't even muddy.

Rain, rain and more rain had been forecast but we still managed to attract a dozen hardy walkers. Good fortune was on our side and the rain soon stopped. We walked along the disused railway to the Old Pleasley pit to see the pit winding engines. These are the only pair of such engines left. The former mine is now a museum and the spoil heaps have been turned into a nature reserve.

Refreshments were enjoyed back at the visitors centre.

Thank you Diane for leading this walk.



May 2024: BURNTSTUMP

After a glorious week in May the weather changed to damp and humid but we still enjoyed walking through Burntstump Country Park. The Rhododendrons were beautiful and we also enjoyed watching the goslings on the pond.

We passed riders on frisky horses and we were told the horses didn't recognise us as human and were scared. We tried chatting so they could hear us but that didn't work so rather than risk being kicked, we stepped into the rough at the side of the path.

Afterwards Linda was saved from a hornet crawling on her back when we were in the pub!!!
Must add horses and Hornets to the risk assessment in future !

Thank you to Lorraine for leading this walk.



June 2024: DUKE'S WOOD

Many thanks to Kath for leading a lovely walk in June starting at Duke's wood. The flower Meadow was really beautiful with hundreds of spotted orchids and Hairy Yellow Rattles in between the buttercups. There are also several nodding donkeys dotted around the woods. In 1943, 42 American experienced oilmen known as "Roughnecks; came over to England to establish the Dukes Wood oilfield.

This was to be kept absolutely secret so they frequently told inquisitive local folk that they were making a movie. By the end of the year over two million barrels of high grade oil had been pumped, thus aiding the war effort.

The rest of the walk took in Dilliner and Nut wood which proved to be somewhat muddy in places but we all made it to the end without incident.

Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments at Lime's Cafe on Old Rufford road, satisfying our curiosity having passed by several times but never called in.

July 2024: VICAR WATER

The July walk was around Vicar Water and Clipstone Forest. 11 of us braved the elements as the weather was terrible, raining virtually the whole way round.

The dog that is trying to pull me into the puddle belongs to a total stranger who was taking the photograph.



We climbed to the highest point and could see the headstocks in the mist and on the way back we talked to the hand.



August 2024: ZOUCH

It was a lovely sunny day for our walk in August. We started off along the canal and soon came across signs saying the footpath was closed. A narrowboat owner told us all was OK so we carried on for a further couple of miles where some lovely workmen pointed out the path was closed but as we were there, they let us through, phew!!!

The return journey took us through Sutton Bonington then onto the Zouch Radial flood gate. The Soar is a major tributary of the River Trent and the gate regulates the flow of water in flood conditions. Unfortunately both bridges leading to the rest of the walk were closed so we spent time watching the swans at the top of the weir then retired for an early lunch overlooking the canal in the Rose and Crown.



September 2024: COLLINGHAM

The September walk was blustery with the odd shower but not as bad as the weather forecast. Starting from The Green in Collingham we walked along the River Trent then onto Besthorpe nature reserve. There we saw several grey herons and egrets. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments at Beyond Coffee in the village.



November 2024: IDLE VALLEY

Thank you to Richard for leading the November walk around the Idle Valley Nature Reserve where the leaves were in their beautiful autumn colours. We enjoyed fabulous views over the lake from the Visitor Centre and had coffee and delicious scones.



December 2024: GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

There was a good turnout for the December walk around Gedling Country Park. Although we didn't hold a competition there were two Christmas hats that stood out from the rest.

22 of us enjoyed a festive lunch at the Gedling Inn afterwards.

