

STROLLERS WALKING 2012-2013

SEPTEMBER 2012: WOLLATON PARK



NOVEMBER 2012: BESTWOOD PARK

We met on Lower Parliament St for a bus journey to Bestwood Park. 15 members enjoyed a walk through the woods & spectacular views in pleasant sunny weather. The walk took us to Mill Lakes near Bestwood village, where we had a picnic lunch. Some members left us to walk back to Bestwood Park where their cars were parked. The rest carried on to Butlers Hill to the tram station, for a tram ride back to Nottingham.

DECEMBER 2012: HIGHFIELDS

Sixteen members met on Beast market Hill and caught the no.13 to Highfields, where we were joined by two more members. An exhilarating walk around the lake brought us back to the Lakeside cafe. Refreshed we walked up through the campus to the Millenium Gardens, where we had a picnic lunch.

A few members retraced their steps to the Djanogly centre to see the Alan Sillitoe exhibition. The remaining five members carried on to Derby Road, where Robin caught the bus. The four of us continued through Wollaton Park. A Yellow 2 bus dropped me in town tired yet refreshed after an enjoyable walk with pleasant company.



JANUARY 2013: WEST BRIDGFORD

Fifteen members met outside Wilko's in town and caught the no 6 bus to the West Bridgford shopping centre. The walk took us up the disused railway line, past Rushcliffe Leisure centre to join Melton Road. A short road walk brought us to Wheatcroft's Garden centre, where we enjoyed a welcome break and a coffee.

We continued behind the Garden centre climbing to Sharp Hill woods. Despite the sunshine the wind was strong and cold. However, we did stop for a sandwich break. Negotiating a muddy path we eventually left the woods to find ourselves looking out over an amazing vista of Nottingham.

Following a path on a very windy hillside onto a lane beside Wilford Hill cemetery, we descended to Loughborough road. After a five minute wait we caught a no 9 bus to town. The day was sunny and warm and apart from the wind everybody said they had enjoyed the walk.



MARCH 2013: COLWICK PARK & THE DISUSED RAILWAY

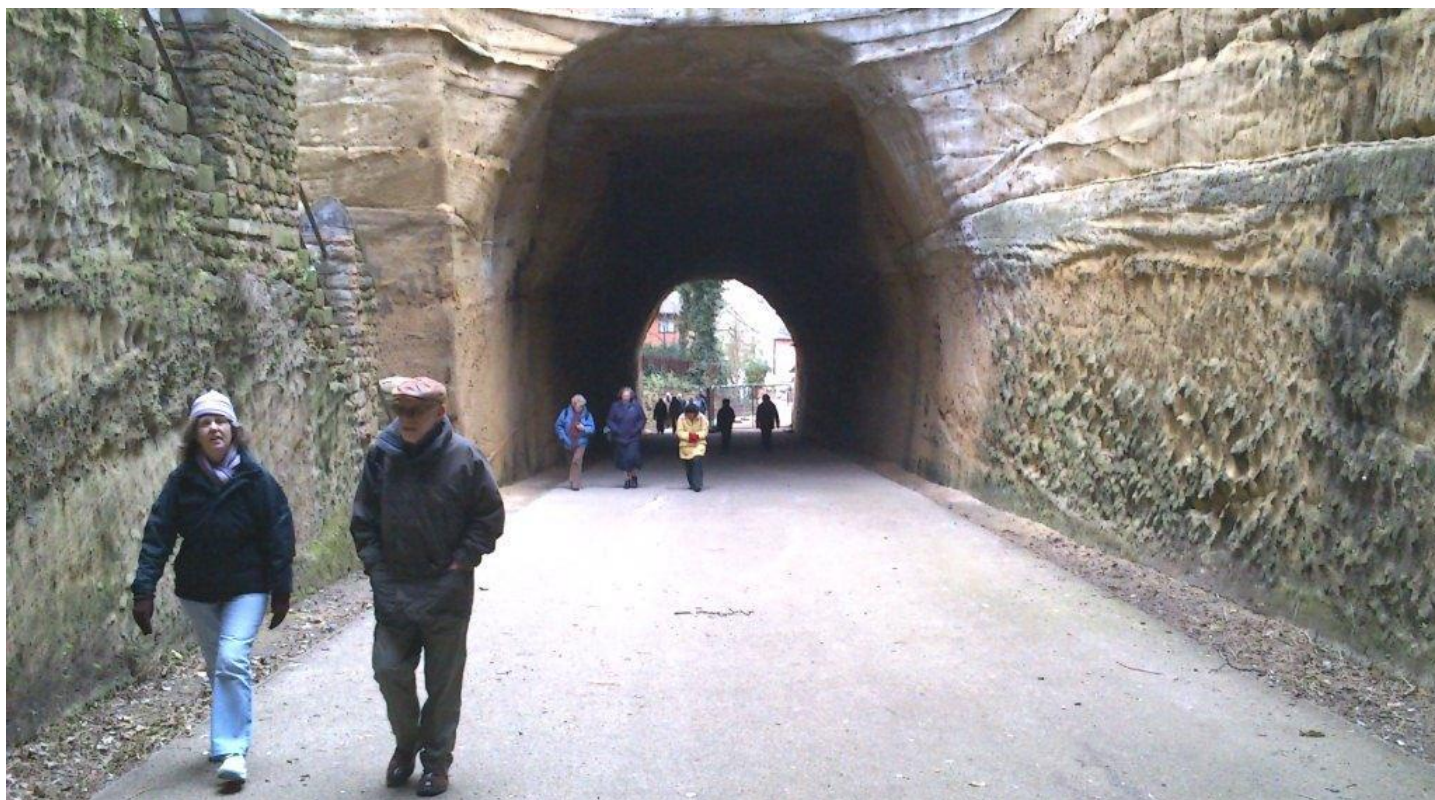
Sixteen intrepid walkers met in the Starting Gate car park & in inclement weather yomped around Colwick Park then the disused railway line to Nottingham. All enjoyed the walk.

APRIL 2013: THE PARK & THE ARBORETUM

Starting from Broad Marsh bus station, the group walked along the canal before heading through the exclusive Park Estate. The Park was built on the former deer park of Nottingham Castle. Its construction was controversial as many saw the land as public land. It is noted for its Victorian architecture, although many of the houses have been altered, extended or converted into flats. The estate uses gas street lighting; believed to be one of the largest networks in Europe.

The Park Tunnel (pictured) was built in 1855 to allow horse-drawn carriages access from Derby Road. The Duke of Newcastle's original requirement was for a tunnel with a maximum gradient of 1 in 14; the tunnel actually has a gradient of 1 in 12 which was considered too great for horse-drawn carriages thus defeating the object of its construction.

After passing through the tunnel the walk continued through the Nottingham General Cemetery and on to the Arboretum.



MAY 2013: THURGARTON

Sixteen members met in Thurgarton village. The day was perfect cloudless with warm May sunshine. The walk took us through undulating farmland with beautiful views. The Priory of St Peter could be seen on our right, until we entered a small copse. After a short descent we arrived at a sheep wash bridge where we had a break and I explained how the sheep wash worked.

Every descent has an ascent, so a sharp climb brought us to a farm track. Here we had a choice. The track would take us back to Thurgarton or a longer detour through Halloughton back to the farm track. Seven members elected to take the shorter route back to Thurgarton, the remaining nine continued to Halloughton.

A copse, a stream, a rabbit and a herd of cows found us in Halloughton, A lovely village but sadly no pub or shop. At a welcome bench we had a picnic stop, then continued on back to the farm track. We passed an airfield where we watched a micro light land and take off. We passed the Boots animal research centre, now closed. Behind a hedge was a bench dedicated to the animals used in the facility. The track became a metalled road and we could see the Priory again. We soon arrived in the village, tired but happy, after a walk through the beautiful Nottinghamshire countryside. After a short wait The 100 bus took us home.

JUNE 2013: LAMBLEY & BURTON JOYCE

Two days of rain did not bode well for the strollers' walk. Despite this ten intrepid members met at the Gedling miners' memorial. The day was cloudy and humid but no rain! We walked up a muddy track to the woods. A couple of stiles and fields brought us to Spring Lane. We turned right at a footpath sign that informed us that Burton Joyce was only 1 mile.

Another track, sometimes muddy, became a cinder track then a metalled road and a gentle descent found us in the village centre. Three members elected to catch the bus. Two retired to the Cross Keys. The remaining five crossed the main road to the park, where we had our sandwiches. Robin decided to re-trace his steps and catch the bus.

The four of us crossed the railway line and walked via the sports ground down a cinder track and field paths to Stoke Lane. The field paths brought us to The Lagoons where we bumped into Susan & Graeme who after taking refreshment in the Cross Keys had walked back along the river. A rest here,

then the final push to Emerys Road and the end of the walk, a little weary but happy having enjoyed a good walk and good company.

JULY 2013: CLIFTON TO TRENT BRIDGE

Eleven members caught the bus to Clifton.. A stroll through the village brought us to the church and a footpath to Clifton Grove. A beautiful tree-lined walk with occasional glimpses of the River Trent on our left: a walk I would recommend to anybody. The path eventually opened out into fields. Looking out over the river one could see a vista of yellow rapeseed contrasting sharply with a border of red poppies.

Passing under Clifton Bridge we arrived at a Harvester public house for a refreshment stop. We then continued into Wilford Village along Bee Bank to the Toll Bridge, now unable to cross because of tram works. Turning right we followed the river, passing the Becket and the Emmanuel schools. We arrived at and crossed the Suspension Bridge for our lunch stop on the embankment steps.

Some members elected to leave at this point. The remainder had an ice cream from the Trent Bridge kiosk, then crossed the bridge and walked alongside the canal into town. Luckily the cloud cover made it cooler for walking. Coincidentally the cloud dissipated and the Sun came out for our lunch stop and the final stage of our walk. A pleasant end to a pleasant day.

AUGUST 2013: COLWICK WOODS

The strollers met in the car park of the Fox & Hounds in Carlton. There were fifteen members & three girls, a result of the school Summer holidays. We started in dull but sultry conditions along Midland Road to Midland Woods. Gwyneth left us at the end of the woods because she had to go to work. A short road walk brought us to Colwick Woods. A shady walk through the woods brought to an open area, now in bright sunshine.

We re-entered the woods, thankful of the shade. A steady climb alongside a stream found us again in open country. We continued until the landscape opened out to an incredible view over the Trent Valley. There was a convenient bench here, so we took the opportunity to have a sandwich break. Refreshed we continued past the Nottingham Academy & the Wildcat Arena to again re-enter the woods.

A gradually descending path found us on Greenwood Rise. One member left us to catch a bus. The remainder took the path & steep steps down to Colwick crossings. A few members elected to catch the bus here. Six walkers carried on through Colwick Park to the Starting Gate. Two continued, whilst four stayed for a drink & something to eat. The day was now very hot & humid. A tired foursome finished the walk at the starting point. Colwick Woods is not an area I know but after this walk I would recommend it to everyone.

SEPTEMBER 2013: LOWDHAM TO GONALSTON

Seventeen members ventured to Lowdham for a stroll to Gonalston and back. It was a beautiful, sunny day with a light breeze. The walk started down the main street, where we turned right into Neighbours Lane. A gentle sloping path through a tunnel of trees and hedgerow, opened out onto a meadow with fine views over the Trent valley.

After two fields and a lane we reached a footpath back to Lowdham. However, a tree sported a notice warning that the bridge over the Dover Beck was down. Good old British spirit kicked in. We will cross it somehow. We pressed on. Passing the mill we met a fellow traveller, who informed us that the stream was crossable. At the Beck, stepping stones and rickety planks were negotiated. All safely across we continued on, over the bye-pass to the lovely, old church of St Mary's. Re-crossing the bye-pass we again found ourselves on Lowdham Main street.

After a photo opportunity by the golden pillar box, we elected to have our sandwiches on the cricket field. After our repast we all went our separate ways. Another excellent walk in good company with fine weather. In fact a perfect day.



OCTOBER 2013: GRANTHAM CANAL



NOVEMBER 2013: LEEN VALLEY WAY

We met again on Beastmarket Hill. A good turnout of twenty one members. The tram transported us to our starting point at Basford Crossings (Davids Lane). The walk weaved through the suburbs of Basford & Bulwell following the River Leen. We eventually entered Bulwell at Bulwell Bogs.

We walked through the paved shopping area to Tesco superstore for a comfort stop. The walk continued following The Leen to Moorbridge, a couple of tram stops lured a few members away. The Leen Valley Way brought us to Mill Lakes, where we had our lunch break. The cloud had dissipated leaving a fine, sunny warm day. A lovely stroll through the woods brought us to our final destination.

Most members elected to catch the tram at Butlers Hill. Eight foolhardy members decided to walk back through Bestwood Park. In Top Valley, six walked to Arnold to catch the 25 bus. Another lady & I caught the bus into town. Tired & footsore but still another enjoyable walk.



DECEMBER 2013

Despite the threat of strong winds and storm surges, twelve stalwarts met on Beastmarket Hill for a bus to Beeston. Alighting on Queens Road, we made our way through Beeston Rylands to the canal. We followed the canal for about a quarter of a mile then turned right to the River Trent. The promised wind had now strengthened; luckily it was at our backs and helped us on our way.

Passing under Clifton Bridge we continued past the park and ride, eventually joining Queens Drive. One member left the group to catch a bus outside Pork Farms. The remainder continued under the old Toll Bridge (now being altered to carry the tram).

The wind was now very strong, so we hoped to have our sandwiches in the shelters in the Memorial Gardens. However the shelters were locked, so our lunch stop was thwarted. The wind had now gathered real strength and it had started to rain. Luckily we had reached the end of the walk and at Trent Bridge we parted company.

A blustery end but still another enjoyable walk.