

## STROLLERS WALKING 2016

### **FEBRUARY 2016: BURTON JOYCE**

The walk this time was more local, meeting at the miners' memorial lamp in Gedling. Despite competition from other groups twelve members decided to venture to the outpost of Burton Joyce. The day started overcast but eventually turned into a lovely day. Being very business-like I took a register and away we went.

The tarmac pavements gave way to a field path after a kissing gate. A steady, slightly muddy, incline led us through Gedling woods to Spring Lane and a bridle path to Burton Joyce. The path became increasingly muddy but never impassable. We soon arrived at a tarmac road that descended into the village. Here we separated, some to the bus-stop, some to cafes and some to local hostelrys.

### **MARCH 2016: COLWICK PARK**

Despite the inclement weather of the previous days, seventeen brave souls ventured to the Starting Gate pub for a walk through Colwick Park. They were rewarded with a beautiful day. The park is a gem, water, wildlife and trees. Pleasant, flat walking along good paths brought us to the end of the park. Here some members took advantage of one of my 'escape routes' and caught a bus back to the start and their car.

A footpath follows the railway line behind industrial units and some members took advantage of a Costa Coffee for a comfort break and a coffee. The rest carried on into Nottingham. Some were lured by Poundland, the remainder of us resisted temptation and continued along the footpath. At the end of the walk, one continued into town and the remaining three caught the bus home. This was a flat, pleasant walk through a local park, in my case, on the doorstep yet rarely visited.

### **APRIL 2016: TRENT BRIDGE & HOLME PIERREPONT**

Again we were blessed with lovely weather, and fourteen members took this opportunity to meet at Broadmarsh bus station for a walk along the canal to Holme Pierrepont. In lovely sunshine we trekked along the towpath to Trent Bridge. A refreshment stop and comfort break in the TBI. (This is a stroller's walk!) We walked along Radcliffe Road and re-joined the river and followed the path to Holme Pierrepont. Another comfort stop and a sandwich followed by a slow walk to the bus terminus, a welcome sight at the end of a lovely day.

### **JUNE 2016: THURGARTON**

Cold, grey, windy, wrapped up warm, yes it was June!

A merry band of twelve met in Thurgarton village for our first countryside walk of the year. A metalled road took us past the old priory walls and the church of Saint Peter. At a right hand bend the road became a track and a steady incline brought us to a footpath to our left. After a walk through fields down into the valley we reached the sheep wash and then ascended to a wood on our left.

Going through the wood we walked the ridge with fine views to our left. We eventually returned to Thurgarton and retired to the local hostelry. The weather may have been fickle but it did remain dry.

The English countryside was sublime, as was the company.

### **AUGUST 2016: CLIFTON**

Eight of us met at Beastmarket Hill at 10:30am. We just missed the No 1 bus and the next one was not until 11:00 am, so we caught the 48 to Clifton. From the terminus we walked to the start of the walk (It seemed miles). Gypsies were camped on Clifton village green but we didn't encounter any. The walk through Clifton Grove was lovely and verdant, the latter part with banks of the River Trent on our left. Passing under Clifton bridge we reached the Harvester public house for refreshment and comfort stop. The weather had been relatively kind; it had tried to rain a couple of times but now the sky looked ominously threatening. Not wanting to be compared to Ray Mears we elected to terminate the walk here and catch the bus home.

## **SEPTEMBER 2016: NOTTINGHAM TO BEESTON**

We met at Broadmarsh bus station. Eight members walked to Beeston Lock beside the canal, possibly enjoying the last walk of summer. The weather was lovely. Another member joined us at Nottingham Marina. The walk was leisurely and despite being near the city surprisingly rural. We followed the canal to Beeston, encountering many ducks and a Kingfisher in flight. At a diversion one member left us to catch a bus. Regaining the canal towpath we carried on to Beeston. Arriving at the lock and the end of the walk at a very popular café we had a break and went our separate ways. Again we were blessed with good weather and a beautiful walk.

## **OCTOBER 2016: NOTTINGHAM**

Eleven members met for this city walk at Victoria Park Bath Street. Because I missed the last meeting Robin kindly led the walk. Starting at the tomb of the famous boxer Bendigo the walk followed St Anns Well Road and turned left into Robin Hood Chase, a sharp incline brought us to Woodborough Road. Here a member took the opportunity of an 'escape route' and caught a bus to town.

Carrying on up another incline, a tree-lined walk with some large houses (magnificent in their heyday) brought us to an urban covered reservoir. Thankfully a left turn meant the rest of the walk descended. After more houses and trees (still on Robin Hood Chase) we arrived at Mansfield Road, formerly named Gallows Hill because of the public gallows being on the corner of Forest Road and Mansfield Road. Not being lured by all of the fun of Goose Fair we entered the Arboretum. This inner city park with its aviary and lake has not changed since my childhood, a jewel in the city's crown. We walked past the monument containing a Chinese temple bell and four cannon from Sebastopol in the Crimea, viewed the Dahlias and the exotic birds in the aviary and found ourselves at the other entrance on Goldsmith Street.

Jostling with the many students from the new university buildings we elected to have a look in the General cemetery. We pondered the memorial to the war dead and looked at the gravestones. I found a grave containing the remains of a William Henry Robey, my father's name, uncanny. The most unusual name I came across was a lady called Lillvan. This sombre end of the walk required some light relief so we retired to a local hostelry called the Gooseberry Bush on Peel Street - get the connection?

## **NOVEMBER 2016: GAMSTON**

Eleven brave souls met at Broadmarsh bus station. The day was cold yet dry, it is November! I was nearly killed on Canal Street and the towpath was closed, but despite these setbacks we eventually reached the Nottingham canal towpath and consequently Trent Bridge.

After a welcome break at the TBI we walked along Radcliffe road to the towpath beside the Grantham canal. It seemed funny the contrast between the busy road and the canal with its wildlife and tranquil water. We crossed the busy road and followed the canal, leaving the traffic noise behind. After a steady walk we reached our destination, Morrisons supermarket at Gamston. I say we but I got lost birdwatching. We had a drink and a bite to eat and bid our farewells.

## **DECEMBER 2016: NOTTINGHAM**

A small but merry band met on Beestmarket Hill on 1st of December, countdown to Christmas and the first day of winter. The weather, however, was not wintry, just cold and overcast. I revised the stroll so we didn't have to catch a bus, so the seven of us walked up Friar Lane, passed where King Charles 1 raised his standard and the old General hospital.

A walk along the Ropewalk brought us to the Park tunnel, a magnificent structure well worth seeing. Descending into the tunnel and out into the Park estate. We passed the sign for the new U3A in the Park squash club and eventually came to Castle Boulevard. We crossed the road and a footbridge

over the canal and walked along the tow path. A short diversion brought us to Sainsbury's supermarket for a comfort stop and a cup of coffee.

Refreshed, we continued along the tow path for about half a mile, eventually taking a path which brought us to the Gregory Street tram stop and end of the walk.

After many years I shall, because of ill health, hang up my hiking boots. Thank you to all the participants, I have enjoyed every walk. I hope my successor has as much pleasure as me.

Ian