

STROLLERS WALKING 2017

February 2017: VICTORIA EMBANKMENT

Thursday 2nd February - Trent Bridge - Harvester Inn, Wilford - Trent Bridge.
A walk of 4 1/8 miles (6.64 km)

Nine Members joined the Walk at Beastmarket Hill. Catching the bus to Trent Bridge, we alighted at the bus stop, the one before the bus route crosses Trent Bridge; and crossed London Road to the Victoria Embankment. We proceeded past the Victoria Memorial Gardens and the Suspension Bridge to the old Toll Bridge which now forms part of the tram route to Clifton.

Although the day looked overcast, and threatened rain, the weather remained dry, however, we did encounter a headwind along part of the embankment. On reaching the Toll Bridge, we crossed it towards Wilford Village; strolling half way along the Main Road, we then veered off along a footpath over the flood defences to the Harvester Inn, where we had a tea/coffee break.

Then retracing our steps to the Toll Bridge, we proceeded along the footpath along the south bank of the river, and along Trentside to Trent Bridge, catching a bus back to the City centre.



April 2017: GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

Thirteen members joined the walk at Lambley Lane car park, from where we walked across the grassy park, which surrounds it, down to the track of the old railway which serviced Digby Colliery to the back entrance of the Country Park. We then followed the path which circumnavigates the whole site, past a number of housing estate development being built on the periphery of the park. On reaching the car park off Spring Lane some of our members purchased ice creams from an ice cream van; then passing the Visitor's Centre, in the process of being built, we passed the banks of solar panels occupying the highest elevation in the park, before descending back to the Lambley Lane car park.

Total Distance Walked (Approx.) 3.25 miles (5.2km)

May 2017: BEESTON CANAL

Nine members joined the walk from Broadmarsh. We walked to Carrington Street, joining the towpath near the old Midland Railway offices, passing the Nottingham Magistrate's Court and County Archives, then under Wilford Street Bridge, the Inland Revenue offices to our left. Castle Marina Retail Park hid behind the trees, only the Sainsbury building showing its location.

Continuing we passed under Castle Marina Bridge, a railway bridge (over which trains on the "Robin Hood" line and destinations towards Sheffield run) and Clayton's Bridge before entering Dunkirk. Traffic sped over the A52 bridge as the towpath turned south west. Under Redfield Road then behind the "Horizon" factory, we came to Thane Road, the main thoroughfare to "Boot's" Chemical and Pharmaceutical works.

To avoid a new bridge construction over the canal we deviated around it re-joining the towpath a hundred yards or so further along. Just passed Beeston Rylands we came to Beeston Marina, where we stopped for refreshments at the "Boathouse" café before catching the bus back to Nottingham. Along the way we saw a coot's nest (containing chicks) floating on a sort of raft of leaves and sticks, and two families, one of ducks and ducklings, the other Barnacle Geese with their little yellow goslings.

Total Distance Walked (Approx.) 4 miles (6.4km)

June 2017: RUSHCLIFFE COUNTRY PARK

6 members went on this walk. The weather was the hot. We caught a No. 10 NCT bus to Ruddington, then walked about 150 yards to the park, then proceeded to walk the path which took us over the Nottingham section of the Great Central Railway, through the centre of the park to a path which circumnavigated the park to the south, around the business park to the main entrance. Returning to the centre of the park, we stopped for refreshments before walking back to Ruddington, catching a No.3 NCT bus back to the city centre.

July 2017: LOWDHAM

Ten members joined the walk. We caught a No. 100 NCT bus to Southwell, alighting at the War Memorial stop in Lowdham. Walking into the village, we turned onto a public footpath off the Main Road, and ascended the hill behind the houses towards Gonalston. Crossing several fields (some containing cattle), we eventually reached Gonalston village, then followed the back road towards Epperstone. About a mile or so, we turned off the road along another public footpath, which took us past a watermill (now a private residence) to the Epperstone By-Pass (A6097). Heading back to Lowdham village, we halted at the Magna Carta Inn for refreshments before catching a No. 100 bus back to Nottingham.

Distance walked: 3 miles (4.8 km)

August 2017: GUNTHORPE TO BURTON JOYCE

Seven members joined the walk. Catching the Bingham bus, we alighted at Gunthorpe, stopped for a drink before setting off along the footpath to Burton Joyce along the River Trent footpath, where refreshments were partaken, before heading home by bus.

Distance walked: 2.5 miles (4.0 km)

OCTOBER 2017: ALONG THE CANAL TO HIGHFIELDS

15 members set off on this walk on a bright and windy morning with the sun shining. I was pleased to welcome Mr David Boden with his guide dog, this being his first walk with the Strollers group. We walked to Wilford Road where we joined the canal with modern apartments to the right and the Inland Revenue buildings to the left. We passed quite a number of boats moored up, and at the Marina it was apparent from the number of boats that this is fast becoming a popular pastime.

On reaching the Lenton Lane bridge we climbed a flight of steps which led us to a subway that took us under the ring road onto University Boulevard. We crossed over the road at the traffic lights and entered the University grounds where we took refreshments at one of the cafes. We only managed to walk around part of the lake as part was partitioned off due to restorations that were taking place with the help of lottery money. How many remember taking their children on warm sunny afternoons to the paddling pool at the end of the University Boulevard?

Finally we returned to the City Centre on the tram.

Beverley Eyre

NOVEMBER 2017: ATTENBOROUGH

The weather was cloudy as we 16 strollers left Nottingham aboard the Indigo bus which took us on a 30 minute journey to Chilwell where we alighted at the Retail Park to make our way to the Park entrance. Before starting our walk we took refreshments at the cafe by which time the sun had arrived.

We commenced our walk on the Tufted Duck and Kingfisher Nature Trail with the River Trent on our right with trees, shrubs and fields hiding us from Radcliffe on Soar, Thrumpton and Barton in Fabis.

To our left there were numerous ponds with elevated bird hide and several viewing stages along the way, together with a number of common Tern nesting platforms.

The peacefulness was only interrupted by the occasional noise of a jet taking off from East Midlands Airport. On our way back to the Nature Centre we passed the Attenborough Bowls Centre alongside the Attenborough Cricket Ground. We returned to Nottingham on the bus having seen the best of the sunshine on our walk.



DECEMBER 2017: RUFFORD

On a very wet and cold day seven of us met up at the Bus Station to take the Sherwood Arrow to Rufford Country Park, by which time the rain had stopped. We arrived just after 12 noon and made our way to the ruins of this former Cistercian Monastery dating back to around 1170, which was incorporated into a mansion at some stage in the 17th Century with 150 acres of parkland.

After taking refreshments (I can recommend the hot chocolate) we took a leisurely walk around the lake passing many different birds on the way: blue tits, greenfinch, magpies, robins together with water birds, swans, grebes, mallards, moor hens etc.

At the far end of the lake we all stood, like children, and watched whilst vehicles ploughed through the water, which crossed the road, to our "ooooos" and "aaaaaahs".

On completion of our walk we returned to the main road to catch the bus to Nottingham.