

FIVE MILES AND A CUP OF TEA 2026

January 2026: NETHERFIELD LAGOONS

It was soggy start to 2026, with a local 5 mile walk from Ranmoor Road car park through Gedling Village to Jubilee Park, then down to the very quiet Netherfield Lagoons before returning through the new Rivendell development.

Seven brave (or foolish!!) members of the group braved the rain and some mud, mainly on the flat, without any falls. At the end of the walk, the rain was by now of biblical proportions, leaving just me to sample the delights of the Willowbrook on a Tuesday afternoon (coffee and ham roll, but alas, no cake).

A big thank you to Brian and Diane for leading the walk.



February 2026: COLWICK COUNTRY PARK

Due to the rain that had fallen during most of January and part of February, this month's walk was specially chosen to be on tarmac or gravel paths around the lakes at Colwick Country Park. Fortunately, the rain held off during the morning and all 15 of us reached our destination -Tina's Café – without anyone getting soaked!

However, flooding was very evident in a marooned foot bridge by the Trent. We met some interesting characters along the way, including David the bird feeder, on his bike, and spent some time in the tranquil cemetery by the ruins of St John's chapel next to Colwick Hall.

Tina's Café was a real 'find', with hand sized bacon / sausage cobs, huge bowls of soup and 'proper' size baked potatoes!

A big thank you to Jane and Janice for leading the walk, and making sure that no one got left behind.





March 2026: BRAMCOTE HILLS

As the fields were still wet and muddy after the very wet start to the year, this month's walk was a 5-mile circular over Bramcote Hills, with lovely views including the site of the old Bramcote Hall, Beeston Fields Drive and Sandy Lane Nature Reserve. 14 of us walked up and down dale in (some) sunshine. There were the 'usual' slopes and it was a little muddy in places, but mostly we were on clear tracks and paved surfaces.

We spent some time in the grounds of the demolished Bramcote Hall; there was only a little stonework remaining, including the staircase approach to the front door. Bramcote Hall was built in the 1860s in a park on the crest of the hill behind the original church.

It became the home of Frederic Chatfield Smith who altered and enlarged it until it became a mansion with 21 bedrooms that could comfortably accommodate his 11 surviving children together with the staff he retained. When he died in 1905, the building was left to his widow for her life time but following her death in 1914, the family decided to sell the Hall in 1920.

From 1921 it became a prep school but in 1965 the Hall was sold to Nottingham University. The University's plans for the Hall, however, did not come to realisation and sadly the building was eventually demolished.



Lunch was served at the Nurseryman on the Derby Road and we all enjoyed reasonably priced delicious food.

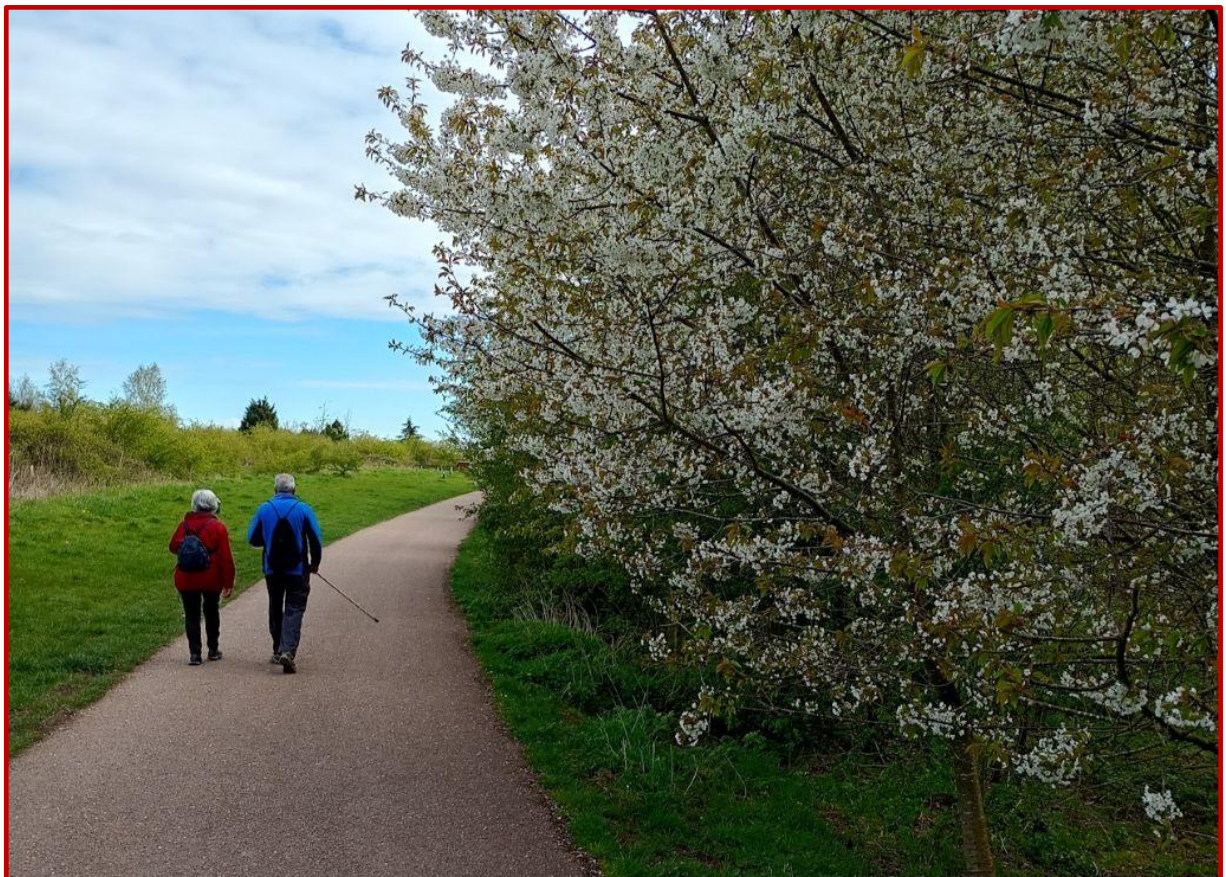
A big thank you to Chris and Diane for leading the walk.



April 2026: GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

We had 8 enthusiastic walkers in Gedling Country Park, starting from the car park on Lambley Lane (which was free!). It was a pleasant morning for a walk on good paths with very little mud.

Although many of us have already been to the Park, it is amazing how the views differ with the seasons. This month, we had the Spring Blossoms and it's helpful that the names of trees are provided, so that we could match the tree with blossom. As usual, the vantage areas where it is claimed that you could see Belvoir Castle and Green's Windmill proved a challenge for some of us!



Lunch afterwards was at the Gedling Inn, where we were just in time for the small and large breakfasts.

A big thank you to Diane for leading the walk.



May 2026: SHELFORD

Fourteen brave souls and a guide dog braved a chilly breeze from the centre of Shelford to Rockley Memorial Park at Radcliffe on Trent. Fortunately, the morning developed into a sunny walk along dry paths and some gentle to moderate inclines along fields and woodland paths.



Rockley Memorial Park is dedicated to local men who died in the Great War. Mr Lisle Rockley,

whose son William was killed at Ypres in 1917, bought the land in the 1920s, created the park and adjacent cliff walk then presented the site to the village in 1927. The glorious park can be ranked among Britain's outstanding war memorials.

The Memorial Park also offers its visitors a magnificent array of plants and shrubs, including rhododendron, azalea and winter jasmine. Majestic trees tower over the landscaped lawns: cedars, conifers and copper beech, being among them.

An oval path circling the central lawns has two exits leading to the Cliff Walk, which in turn leads to the cliffs beneath and River Trent. The wide paths make it easily accessible for buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Lunch afterwards was at the Earl of Chesterfield Arms in Shelford, which served delicious chips!

A big thank you to Diane for leading the walk.