

WALKING GROUP 9th JANUARY 2013

For our first walk of 2013 we were fortunate to have a dry, sunny day. Val and Fred had planned a walk around Stratford on hard footpaths as the fields were still very wet from all the rain in the latter part of 2012. We started from the Gower Memorial by The Bancroft and walked clockwise around Stratford, starting along the Tramway, Lucy's Mill Bridge, taking in the start of the Greenway, the footpath between the Cemetery and the housing development next to the racecourse, Evesham Road, Shottery and back via the canal tow path from Timothy's Bridge Road. We had a short refreshment stop by the allotments at Shottery where all posed for a photograph.



WALKING GROUP 13th FEBRUARY 2013

Our February walk was cancelled due to bad weather and so we did the walk planned for February in March. We assembled on the car park by the River Stour in Shipston-on-Stour. The weather was superb - brilliant sunshine and not too much breeze. Just as well as the wind had been from the north for the past few days and very cold. We did a circular walk along mostly quiet country lanes south of the river through Burmington and back round into Shipston on the A3400. We saw some snowdrops in places, not much blossom.

We heard birds in the hedgerows but did not see many. There were very few animals about although we had seen new lambs on the drive down to Shipston. We stopped in the churchyard extension in Burmington village for a break as there are benches there to sit on. The photographs were taken there.



WALKING GROUP WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2013

Fourteen group members assembled at Lower Slaughter for this month's walk. The weather was dry, cloudy and cool. We walked on a roughly circular round Bourton and through Upper Slaughter and back to Lower Slaughter. The route was a mixture of cross field footpaths and quiet roads. At the end of the walk there was the welcome sight of the water mill with a cafe where many of the group stopped for a welcome coffee and snacks. For much of the walk we were by or near to the River Windrush, which was a lovely clear and swiftly flowing small river. Photographs were taken at the mid walk stop.



WALKING GROUP WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2013

We met at The Gower memorial on The Bancroft, about a dozen of us. Our walk was to take us up past the Welcome Hotel to The Obelisk and then over the hill towards the A46, before turning back towards town. There are several routes down and we took a route through mostly fields, past Clopton Tower towards Maidenhead Road. At the canal bridge we diverted onto the tow path in order to avoid traffic noise and so arrived at the canal basin and The Bancroft. We passed a swan's nest along the canal, fortunately on the opposite bank of the canal, but with at least three cygnets peeking out.



The Walking Group in front of the Obelisk.

WALKING GROUP WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2013

We met by the church in Clifford Chambers. It was a glorious morning, the good weather continuing all morning. There was enough of a breeze to cool us down as we walked. We walked across to Atherstone-on Stour and continued on to Preston-on-Stour. Preston is a very pretty small village with some Elizabethan cottages. The school has been converted into residential and commercial premises. Fifteen members made up the group and there was plenty of conversation as we walked. We did meet another group walking in the opposite direction; they had travelled from Balsall Heath.



The Walking Group on the bridge over the River Stour at
Preston-on-Stour.

WALKING GROUP WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2013

We met at the Village Hall in Ashorne village, a few miles from Wellesbourne. Twelve members took part in the walk. After a short stretch on quiet roads we took to the cross field footpaths in a figure of eight, taking in Newbold Pacey in the one direction and Ashorne Hall in the other. The walk was ably led by Tony and Sandra Whiteley. The weather remained dry throughout the walk, even if the sun was a little shy. We explored Newbold Church, which had very early origins and some interesting features. Ashorne village is a very picturesque village, having plenty of half timbered and thatched cottages. Pictures below show a couple of examples.



Group photograph taken at the mid walk break on the Cricket Ground

WALKING GROUP - OCTOBER WALK

WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2013

Fourteen members gathered by the Maypole in Welford village centre for the monthly walk. We walked via some public footpaths through the centre of Welford and found the path along the river. The ground underfoot was dry and we walked downstream as far as the next lock. Here there was a picnic table and seat so we gathered for our midmorning drink. There was very little wildlife to see although we did see a heron on one of the weirs.

After the break we continued on towards Dorsington where we had to forsake footpaths in favour of walking along the road, fortunately not too busy. We continued back to Welford via road and footpaths. About 5.5 to 6 miles. Weather was dry but dull.



Walking Group near lock on River Avon

Walking Group

November Walk from Whatcote

Our walk on Wednesday 13th November was scheduled to be 5 - 5½ miles. The weather was perfect after all the rain during early November. Fourteen met in the tiny village of Whatcote and started off through the village to pick up the footpath to Idlicote, another tiny village. The ground was very wet and very muddy in places. Some of the newly ploughed fields were extremely muddy. We stopped briefly in Idlicote to admire the duck pond. There were some ducks, mallards mostly. We posed for the group photograph and then continued on. Eventually we stopped on top of a reasonable hill with good views for a refreshment break. We returned to Whatcote through more ploughed fields - often we could walk along a grassy headland so avoided more mud. See the photograph of muddy boots! On the way into the village we passed the church - some of it dating back to the 11th century, and the porch having been rebuilt after WW2 when it suffered some bomb damage. We were too muddy to think of popping in for a visit. Thank you Tony and Sandra for organising the walk and laying on such good weather!

The group pictured by the duck pond in Idlicote



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Muddy boots above - the mud built up and the boots became quite heavy

One of the grand houses seen on the route.



The last stile before re-entering Whatcote village

Walking Group - December Walk from Ilmington

Twelve members of the Walking Group met in the centre of Ilmington for a walk. The weather forecast was for a sunny day, but the start was very misty and damp. The sun did struggle to pierce the clouds during the morning. We kept to tarmac roads so the going was good. The village of Ilmington is a very quiet, spread-out village with 2 pubs but no longer a village shop.



We did a circular walk from Ilmington going south east past Harold's Farm on a minor road. The image below is of the unusually named Compton Scorpion Farm - a very handsome stone house and farm buildings around a spacious yard.

We stopped for coffee on top of a hill opposite Redlands Barn - now converted to a country residence.

The image below shows the party about to set off after a coffee break.



Thanks to Val and Fred for organising and leading the walk, which we all thought was excellent.