

WALKING CLUB REPORT



By Bogtrotter

For several years now the Leven Walking Club 'Third Sunday' walk has been integrated into the walks programme of the Hornsea District Walking Club. The 'Third Sunday' walk continued to retain its traditional meet at 9am in the Sports Hall Car Park whilst the Hornsea walks on the other Sundays each month had different meet times depending on the location and length of the walks. Of course this year, with the Pandemic, that has all gone, with all scheduled walks being cancelled.

You would therefore think there would be nothing to report. In fact in some ways there is more I could report on because instead of groups of say 20 or more club members meeting on Sundays for their walks there have been groups of between two and six venturing out on Sundays, and Mondays, or Tuesdays, etc and they invariably post their adventures on 'social media'. Of course since 'Lockdown 2' came into effect on Nov 5th, a group of six is no longer allowed, so there will be more groups of two for the time being.



Before the current Lockdown the 'Sunday Six' (usually Betty, Sue, Julie, Margaret & the two Daves) completed a walk from Castle Howard on October 25th. Their route took them around the estate past The Temple and over New River Bridge, with views of the House and Mausoleum, then via High Gaterley to Easthorpe. From there the walkers continued through the woods on Coneysthorpe Banks and back through Coneysthorpe village to Castle Howard to complete a circuit of about 12 miles. They were also able end their day with tea in the Courtyard, something we cannot do now in Lockdown.

Oct 25th - Mausoleum

The previous Sunday, Oct 18th, the same six were at Sutton Bank, parking near the Gliding Club for a walk down past the Kilburn White Horse to Gormire Lake and Boltby. After a steep climb, their return was along the top of the escarpment past the 'Finest View in England' with views across the Vale of York, to complete a walk of about 11½ miles.



Oct 18th - The 'Sunday Six' on Sutton Bank, taken By David Holtby

Finally, just before the latest Lockdown, the Six managed another 12 mile walk on Nov 1st through Cropton Forest via High Muffles returning past Spiers Bank and Sutherland Lodge. This time they were able to relax at the end of their walk with cups of tea in the cafe at Cropton Cabins.

For some like myself, 12 miles is a bit too much and so I try to keep my walks to about 8 miles. So the 'Sunday Two' (Caroline and myself) have in recent weeks completed some walks of about 8 miles in length from Hutton-le-Hole, Goathland, Hovingham and Helmsley.

Our walk from Hutton-le-Hole on Oct 11th took us down to Yoadwath, across the River Dove and up to Ravenswick. Here we had a surprise - the former run-down Ravenswick Hall has been demolished and replaced with a new-build 'Country House for the 21st Century' complete with new 'staff houses', Gate Houses, Coach House, Orangery, Walled Garden, and landscaped grounds with 'follies'. One member of the Interior Design Team is David

Linley, Viscount Linley, the son of Princess Margaret. The question is, "Who is going to live in house like this?" Our walk continued via Gillamoor and on to one of our favourite viewpoints, Shepherds Nab, before arriving back in Hutton-le-Hole, which looked glorious in the afternoon Autumn sun.



Oct 11th - Sun and Shade at Hutton-le-Hole, taken by Bogtrotter

On Nov 1st the two of us ventured to Helmsley, a very popular location and even on a wet and windy Sunday morning there was hardly anywhere to park, for free. Usually I tend to avoid parking and starting a walk in popular locations. I have discovered parking spots on the edge of such places as Goathland, Robin Hoods Bay, and Hutton-le-Hole where I can avoid the crowds, and the car park charges! However, we did manage to find the last two on-street parking spaces in Helmsley. Soon we were heading off through the rain towards Ashdale, but within 15mins the rain had cleared and blue skies appeared. From then on, Ashdale and its neighbouring valley of Riccaldale looked stunning in the Autumn sunshine. This is usually a springtime walk for the bluebells, so it was good to see these dales displaying their Autumn colours. Surprisingly we met very few other walkers. Our walk came in at 9 miles, a mile longer than planned, as I took a diversion to avoid a steep descent which could have been treacherous after the overnight rain.

So much for Sunday walks, with most Walking Club members being retired or perhaps furloughed or working from home, quite a few have been getting out on weekdays in small groups (for example Jyl, Pat, Joyce & 'Greatfield' John)

or twosomes (such as Sylvia & Mike, Betty & Jyl and Susie & Neil). They have generally been doing more local walks such as from Hornsea to Bewholme, Leven to Beverley, Hedon to Paull, Beverley to Arram and Leconfield, and Leven along Monk Dike to Skirlaugh, with some making use of East Yorkshire bus services to enable a linear walk.

As I've said before, it is a very pleasant walk from Leven to Beverley, initially alongside the Leven Canal, and then past Eske Lake and by the River Hull to Hull Bridge (6 miles). From there you could get a 246 bus back to Leven, or continue along the river bank to Beverley Beck and into the town centre for the bus home (9 miles). The walk can be quite busy at either end, but fewer people venture beyond Waterloo Bridge on the canal or beyond Eske Lake by the River Hull.

Finally on October 22nd the 'Thursday Two' (Julie & Sue) completed a 10 mile walk from Cold Kirby, near Sutton Bank. Their route took them into Ryedale and past the impressive ruins of Rievaulx Abbey which looked magnificent in the autumn sunshine. At Rievaulx Bridge they turned to walk through Nettle Dale past the former fishponds back to Cold Kirby.



Oct 22nd - Rievaulx Abbey, taken by Julie England

One problem with the lockdown rules which permit you to drive a short distance (whatever that means) for your exercise, where you can meet with one other person not from your household, is that it generates a car parking problem. I've encountered such situations in Millington, Wharram Percy, Thixendale, Goathland and elsewhere, which is why I now try to avoid these places. The Hull Mail newspaper/website reported such an issue recently with car parking causing congestion along the narrow roads through Elloughton Dale and Brantingham Dale. The newspaper itself partly contributes to the problem by publishing 'Walks in the Countryside' within a short drive of Hull.

My advice, see where the newspaper suggests... and go somewhere else!

Remember, walking is good for you, physically and mentally.

HANDS, FACE, SPACE

STAY ELERT, STAY SAFE

For updates & photo blogs please visit my Dales Trails website:

www.dalestrails.co.uk

The Hornsea & Leven Walks programme has been suspended until further notice