

SEPTEMBER is on the horizon; summer evening walks are finished, and autumn awaits us. The first eight months have gone so quickly but there have been some brilliant walks and there are lots more to look forward to.

On July 21, Ripley was the club's destination; this was a nostalgic return to a place that we had not been to for several years. Ripley is a fascinating village with a very old village centre and dominated by its Castle and All Saints Church. The Castle, home of Sir Thomas Ingleby, is open to the public. Its gardens, designed by Capability Brown (of course!), are set with a lake and extensive views. Our nine-mile walk was initially alongside the River Nidd then across open countryside passing through the pretty villages of Hampsthwaite, Burnt Yates and Bedlam. Back in Ripley, the wonderful Castle Tearooms (where the home-made scones got a high mark) ended a long but enjoyable day, in style. Gilling East was our next starting point and also somewhere we had not been to for a while. This walk, led by Bob Cutts, again did not disappoint. Gilling East is dominated by the Fairfax family and the village pub, The Fairfax Arms, is nearly always voted in the 'Top 10 Yorkshire Pubs'. Our walk took us to the famous Ampleforth College which boasts some of the finest sporting facilities in Yorkshire for its students. The playing fields are overlooked by an 'iron man' sculpture by Antony Gormley, a former student. After walking through the wonderful college grounds, we continued to Ampleforth Village passing the Norman church of St Hilda's. Leaving Ampleforth, we passed Fairfax House and Thorpe Hall and found an ideal spot for lunch by a lake in Park Wood. Our walk continued through woodland back to Gilling East. Here, of course, we all had a ride on the Ryedale Miniature Railway. A fitting end to a quite spectacular and enjoyable walk.



RIPLEY: The castle and lake (photo by Arnold Underwood)

August started with a short walk from Sheriff Hutton. From the village hall our walk took us along country lanes to cross the River Foss at Sheriff Hutton Bridge. Our route then followed part of the Foss Walk uphill to Cornborough Manor where there are the remains of a moat around the former Manor House. Field paths brought us back to Sheriff Hutton where we made a loop round the village to view the remains of Sheriff Hutton Castle. This was built in 1140, but by the reign of Henry VIII it was already



SHERIFF HUTTON: Arriving in West Lilling (photo by Arnold Underwood)

decaying to the way it looks today - a sad end to a former majestic building. With the village tearooms being closed we called for drinks at the pub in Welburn on the way home. A week later another long journey brought us to Chop Gate in Bilsdale, a place club members enjoy going to; again it met with expectations with a classic walk on the North York Moors. We climbed across Cold Moor with the heather looking good, to arrive at the Wainstones on top of Hasty Bank. This is the largest outcrop of rocks within the National Park Boundary. From here there are wonderful views north over Teesside. We were now walking along the Cleveland Way National Trail. There was a steep descent to cross the B1257 road at Clay Bank followed immediately by a steep climb up onto Urra Moor. Here we found a good place for lunch before continuing across the Moor. Finally we headed downhill through forest and then across some open fields back to our starting point. With the local pub in Chop Gate doubling up as a tearoom, this made an ideal end to a classic moorland walk.



CHOP GATE: Leaving Urra Moor (photo by Joyce Davidson)

Finally on August 18 just 10 members made the journey to Alkborough in Lincolnshire. The village is situated on a cliff overlooking where the Rivers Trent and Ouse converge to become The Humber. Our ten mile walk headed across expansive farmland to Winteringham. From there we followed the Humber Flood Bank to the little village of Whitton and then back up to Alkborough. Here, a visit was made to the viewpoint and Julian's Bower - a medieval turf maze or labyrinth, before tea at the Paddocks tearoom.



ALKBOROUGH: At Julian's Bower, the turf maze (photo by Arnold Underwood)