

Winter Walk a Residents Review

"You ought to get out more," goes the comment as I sit at my keyboard. So when the last newsletter arrived with its Winter Walk "my neighbour and I decided to do just that. We renamed it a "walk on the wild side" and selected a date. Bad move, the day before was warm(ish) and sunny so being both retired we decided to walk then.

So, armed with nothing more than the map, stout boots and optimism we set off. We decided to start at the traffic lights in Castleton Avenue. These lights themselves are interesting since they are for both people and horses with their separate crossing paths and lights. Along parallel to the road to the first landmark, the wooden bridge confidence growing. Then, across Capstan Way and along a narrow path. Although spring had yet to, no one had told the brambles on this small stretch and they were springing across the path like no tomorrow. I am told hardened walkers always carry a pair of secateurs in their knapsacks (as well no doubt, gloves and goggles) to stunt their growth (the brambles that is).

The walk down the Beccles road to discover RoW 8 was a little confusing as the small finger post makes no mention of RoW 8 but did appear to point in the right direction. This path leads to many horse paddocks and the path is somewhat lined with evidence of horses and the pools take on a strange brown colour. It was muddy here!

Then the joys of the golf course. The way is unmarked but a slight difference in the colour of the green indicates a way. Here though, confidence is needed. Look both ways and UP! One well struck golf ball landed within metres of us, although to be fair the others were a long way off.

Over the railway and down to the back of Carlton Marshes. Here I was on more familiar ground having taken a generation of children to pond dip the life out of the dykes! Up burnt Hill Lane across Dawdry's Crossing (Don't Dawdry a train might be coming) then across the Beccles Road again. To follow Clarke's lane (another new experience I have only lived here since 1975). Look out for the right turn at the top and don't follow the pedestrian way around the Parklands cross the roadway look left another pedestrian way leads to Uplands Road North. Cross over Ashburnham Way (near to the Co-op), then follow Uplands Road South, reminding my companion of the time this was our way to Oulton Broad and the year it was snowed up for weeks. Past what was once a solitary Byron House then back to the traffic lights and we had finished the Winter Walk.

It took us about an hour or so. We met a couple of people. Saw a few birds, watched in amazement as a horse galloped round and round its field in the sunshine. Dodged a few cars and a golf ball but we enjoyed our walk.

Thanks Councillor Earp and we look forward to our next.

Terry Weatherley.