

THE ROBIN HOOD WAY ASSOCIATION

Official Newsletter
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www.robinhoodway.com
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Robin Waits in the Rain as Walkers Complete 2,713 Miles

A surprise lay in store for a group of determined walkers from Girlguiding Nottinghamshire on Sunday 3rd October as they braved the wind and rain to complete the final stage of a year-long journey along the Robin Hood Way. The welcoming committee included not only Girlguiding Nottinghamshire County Commissioner Dee Miles and lots of friends and supporters, but also Robin Hood himself, who stepped forward to congratulate the walkers as they arrived.



The group of wet walkers in Sherwood Forest

Sunday's five-mile walk from the leafy heart of Sherwood Forest into Edwinstowe village was the culmination of a challenge devised by Girlguiding Nottinghamshire's Walking Advisor Jenny Wheeldon to mark the centenary of Girlguiding UK. She gave Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders from units across the county twelve months to complete the 105-mile trail, dividing it into ten sections and inviting members to join in at times to suit their own

commitments and capabilities.

"The adventure began when fifty eight of us set out from Nottingham Castle last October," Jenny explains. "We've been keeping a running total since then and I'm proud to say that our cumulative total was 2,713 miles, with eight of us having walked the full one hundred and five miles. We particularly wanted to make a real splash of guiding walkers through Sherwood Forest, and the weather made sure we did just that!"

certificate for all those who took part in the walk and membership of the Robin Hood Way Association for everyone who had walked all of the one hundred and five miles. "Thanks must go to everyone for their help in organising the welcome party, especially to Edwinstowe's own Alison Bentley of Bentley's Bakery, who provided the cakes!" says Jenny.

Comments from other walkers included:

"It's been truly fantastic. I've enjoyed every step of the way." (Mansfield Guide Leader Judith Gill)

"I didn't know there were llamas and ostriches roaming wild in Nottinghamshire!" (Girlguiding Nottinghamshire County President Anne Allery)

"Strangers at the start of the walk have now become friends." (Gillian Kendall, Outdoor Advisor to Girlguiding Nottinghamshire)

"It was hard but I'm really pleased I made it. I enjoyed it although I didn't think I would



The eight walkers who completed the entire route

The group were greeted in the rain by Robin Hood outside Edwinstowe Church at noon on the final Sunday and then were able to dry out during a reception in the village hall. Presentations included a

(Continued on Page 2)

Robin Hood Way Completed in Just Under 31 Hours

At 4.00pm on Friday 18th June I attended the start of the Robin Hood Way, at Nottingham Castle, with Stephen Turnough who aimed to continuously run the whole length of the route. Consequently I am pleased to report that at 11.20pm on Saturday 19th June Stephen limped into Edwinstowe to be the first, and I suspect only one, to complete the entire route in this manner. His time was thirty hours and fifty eight minutes which I am sure you will agree was remarkable.

I supported Stephen on large sections of the route and I can confirm that he did the entire route - nothing was missed out. He actually walked one hundred and ten miles although when he surveyed the route he found it to be one hundred and seven not one hundred and five miles as stated in the guidebook.

I duly presented Stephen with a Robin Hood Way Association certificate of completion at the end of the walk. Well done Stephen, you are super human! However he did question, jokingly near the end of the route, why we had increased the length from eighty eight to one hundred and five miles. I wonder why he asked that question?

Chris Thompson

Robin Waits in the Rain *(Continued from Page 1)*

make it all the way to the end when I started it." (Mansfield Guide Jasmine Dobb).

Enquiries about Girlguiding Nottinghamshire membership, volunteering opportunities and other Centenary events should be directed to the county headquarters on telephone number: 0115 987

The Tuxford Tea and Cakes Walk on Saturday 3rd July

Five members turned up for the walk including Allan & Kath Rogers, Peter Dawson, Rod and myself. They found the car park OK and after putting on our boots we set off.

We noticed as we were crossing the road in Tuxford that someone was striving to put up a banner saying 'Church Open Week End' (or something like that). Being ramblers we wandered up to have a better look and were invited to look around the church which was open on that day. If you have never been in Tuxford church it is well worth a visit unfortunately like so many churches it is normally locked. They were going to serve tea and coffee later but we were too early for that. After a look round the church we set off on our way. We had a coffee stop at East Markham church and then walked on to West Markham. We were amazed when walking along the embankment above the A1 by the wonderful display of wild orchids on the banks of the footpath (well, to be truthful Kath and I were the world to rights and striding ahead). They did wait for us though.

We wandered on to West Markham Church which was open



Tuxford Windmill

as one of the church ladies had been in to arrange the flowers and was just leaving but she invited us in to look at this little very old (possibly Saxon) Church. She was very grateful we were there as she had trouble unlocking the old lock and was struggling to lock it when we appeared. Rod managed to lock the church and we all wandered around the village looking at houses and colourful gardens.

We arrived at Tuxford Windmill and the weather was so good we were able to sit on the furniture outside where we all enjoyed watching the husband of one of the waitresses struggling to dig out the roots of an old tree. We were very good at giving him advice. The homemade cakes were wonderful and we all felt we had earned the indulgence of eating them. The Windmill tea room is well worth a visit – the cakes are really homemade and you are able to purchase flour which has been ground in the mill.

Jenny Fillingham

If you have any interesting stories that you would like to pass on to our members please contact me on 01636 708049 and I'll be delighted to print them. Thanks a lot.

Editor



Members enjoying lunch at Scofton

Photo: Elizabeth Hague

The September Cuckoo Dyke Walk at Worksop

On Saturday 23rd September our hard working Secretary, Elizabeth, led twelve members and their guests on a lovely six and a half mile walk from the car park adjacent to Worksop Priory church.

Now you may wonder why this walk was called after a famous summer visitor to our shores. Well Elizabeth soon explained that the Chesterfield Canal was once known as the Cuckoo Dyke. It comes from the narrow boats that once used to work the canal. They were built like barges and had their cabins beneath the higher deck at the stern to protect them from the rough water and tidal waves on the river Trent. They were also equipped to sail.

Anyway suitably informed we soon joined the canal towpath and made our way, in bright sunshine, along the canal towpath to the lock near Osberton Hall. Elizabeth

explained that the Foljambe family, who originally owned the property, were so wealthy and influential that they managed to get the canal company to move the towpath to the opposite side of the canal, away from the hall. From here we went to Scofton village and saw the lovely isolated church which is surrounded by a ha-ha in order to prevent the sheep from entering the churchyard.

By now it was time for lunch, close to the old airfield, before we returned to Worksop across the Osberton estate. We passed through the area where the well known horse trials were held and where the Princess Royal was a regular visitor and competitor in her younger days.

All in all it was a lovely walk on a lovely day and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Editor

Planning a Walk and the Problems!

When planning a walk for other people most walk leaders will usually try out the walk first – check the original route, the time, break stops and lunch and of course **the mileage**. So it was with the September Cuckoo Dyke walk from Worksop. Whoopee! I've found a rather good walk and it's right on my doorstep and only seven and three quarters to eight miles in length. If we take our time I'm sure it will suit everyone.

What a very good job Amanda and I did the recce for this walk. Thinking it would only take two and a half to three hours we decided to give it the once over one evening just before the great day. After two hours of walking and checking the map it soon became very clear that something was not quite "true". As 8.30pm became 9.00pm it was definitely time to check out the guide book. This, of course, had been left at home but using the map it was quite clearly a much longer walk than had been printed in the book. In fact the next day I worked out that it was actually nearer ten and three quarter miles although another author from a very well known magazine had it down for nine and three quarters.

So on the day we changed some of the route to make a six and a quarter mile walk along the Chesterfield Canal, through Scofton village to the airstrip and back along the field tracks to the Priory church. Thanks for the help Amanda – next time you are in charge!

Elizabeth Hague

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK THE ROBIN HOOD WAY?

As part of the on-going celebrations for the Robin Hood Way Silver Jubilee, Richard and Elizabeth are proposing to walk the Robin Hood way again. This will be a chance for us to see the changes that have taken place over the years. This is an invitation to join them either for all or part of the route, starting next year (2011). If you are interested please get in touch with us when we can give you further details.

Elizabeth Hague and Richard Gunn

THE CRESWELL CRAGS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AMBLE



The caves and ponds at Creswell Crags on the Notts/Derbys border

Alan and Kath Rogers, from Ravenshead, led five other members on this wet walk on Saturday 23rd October. Despite the inclement weather everyone appeared to enjoy themselves since the eight and a half mile route was

suitable for the lunch stop since it possessed a bus shelter that was large enough to accommodate the group together with a couple of local ladies who were waiting to catch the bus to Sheffield. From here the group headed south and it

varied and took in parts of the Welbeck estate and the Robin Hood Way. In fact the autumn colours were magnificent and the choice of location proved to be ideal for this time of year. Whitwell proved to be the only place that was

was interesting to walk around the perimeter of the old limestone workings and observe all of the new public rights of way that have been created. Fortunately at this point the weather improved and extensive views appeared over to Creswell village.

There was the opportunity at the end of the walk to look around the Crags site now that the road has been re-routed away from the caves. Somewhat surprisingly, due to all the recent rain, the water levels of the ponds were quite low. A new visitor centre and café has been opened and several new information boards have been erected the aid of financial support from the European Union and other local bodies.

Editor

ANOTHER AUTUMN BEAUTY - TO THE SUMMIT OF NOTTS!

We conquered Everest, or was it Snowdon? – well OK, maybe it wasn't quite that high but we did conquer the highest point in Nottinghamshire and a very good view from the top there was! Especially good was the statue of the miner which was very lifelike.

Our walk on Sunday 7th November was led by Aubrey in and around the Teversal area. Just a little light rain now and again but mainly dry and quite sunny, all in all, just right for an autumn walk. High hill tops (the grass covered pit slag heaps), woodland glades and a disused railway track, open fields and even so very, very close to the source of the river Maun

which we have encountered in the Walesby area.

Fifteen walkers certainly seemed to enjoy the day and I think we may have to visit this area again as there are many more walks leading off this one. Many thanks for a lovely day go to Aubrey. I know some of you astute walkers say there may be another 'highest' point in Nottinghamshire but this is certainly the highest man-made one. If you know of another let me



Stuart, Amanda & Richard picnicing at Brierley Forest

Photo: Elizabeth Hague

know and we can explore it next year.

Elizabeth Hague

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 4th December 2010

Our pre-Christmas walk, lunch and the Annual General Meeting at the Ollerton House Hotel. The carvery lunch must be booked and paid for in advance with Elizabeth.

Saturday 6th August 2011

Evening General Knowledge quiz at the White Hart Inn, Old Ollerton. Bring food to share. Great night out guaranteed. Full details nearer the date.

DETAILS OF MORE EVENTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE WHEN KNOWN.