



W4H Toddington 6 months Newsletter

November 2017

We celebrate our first six months with a newsletter by email. However, because not everyone has email, we will leave a hard copy in the library, which will be available for all to read.

I think we can conclude that our first six months have been successful. We have generated 13 different walks – many of them circular – allowing us to extend each to two weeks by doing them in reverse.

Ali Barker has recently qualified as a walk leader after helping us since we started walking in May. We also have nearly 70 members now signed up and regularly have more than 20 on our Tuesday walk. Our best turnout has been 26 people. With winter fast approaching, hopefully we can keep the numbers up.



Where is this, I hear you ask! It's Wadelows Nature Reserve – a real treat to discover alongside the River Flit at Poplars Garden Centre. A walk with woods, meadows and ponds, and we have arranged for a special Christmas walk there on Tuesday 19th December (arrive by car for 10.45 am). After the Wadelows walk, we will be shown the recreated Agas map of Toddington from 1581, followed by Christmas eats in the restaurant. Of course, you can miss the food if you want to leave early. Expect it to run until after lunch (about 2 pm).

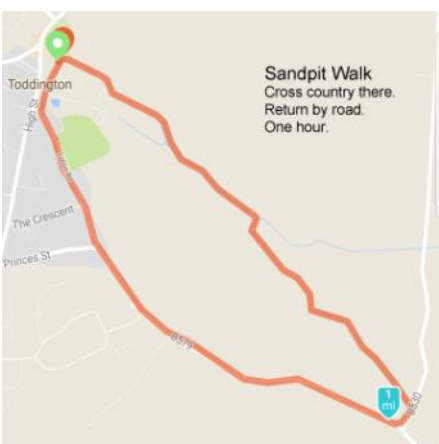
As mentioned earlier, we have so far created 13 walks that start and finish at the library ; some circular and a few that are just ' there and back ' . Our walks are as follows:
 1. Sandpits 2. Scotch Firs 3. Woodcock 4. Alley 5. Periphery 6. Dropshort 7. Park House 8. Inner Circle 9. Figure of Eight 10. Torturous 11. Manor 12. Mill Farm 13. Motorway. Walks 12 and 13 still to be walked.



18th July. This was a lovely sunny walk through the wheat fields to reach the Scotch firs off Park Road.



4th July. We had a lovely walk to the disused sandpits at Fancott, going past the Toddington Vinery. This photo shows a few members of the group looking into the pits.





All our walks last about an hour and, because Woodcock Woods are quite far to walk to, the walk there is just 'there and back', and can't therefore be a circular one. However, it's a lovely walk, which crosses the River Flit.

Walking
alongside
Woodcock
Woods



Woodcock Woods from the River Flit



Our group having tea/coffee in the library after our inaugural walk on 9th May 2017

What else to relate in this first newsletter?

Recently, we had the occasion to report two blocked Rights of Way (RoW) and corresponded with Michelle Flynn, CBC RoW Officer (Area 3). Michelle put us in touch with Tom Chevalier, who is a local footpath volunteer, and who some of you might already know. I have been to meet Tom and have learnt a lot about our footpath system.

I also mentioned to him that the summer rape crop this year had fallen in on the footpaths, making them impassable. Tom immediately contacted Heathcote Farms, the main farmers around the village, and they have responded and agreed to widen the footpaths when they next set the fields with rape.

So, we are now well aware how to liaise if RoW become blocked or overgrown, and finding out about Tom has been very worthwhile so far. In 2016, he also created a brilliant web page for the village: <http://www.toddington.info/>

Happy walking!

Alan

Should you wish to contact the Toddington W4H leaders, our details are listed below. Although we organise the walks, your voice matters, so do let us know your views/concerns.

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