

Saturday 15th October 2022 – Naunton and the Slaughters

On a beautiful autumnal day nine Knowle Ramblers set off on a nine mile circular walk from the Cotswold village of Naunton. We walked for a short while along the gentle river Windrush before climbing up out of the valley to the ridge from where we could look back at Naunton. After passing by the golf course and some fine stables we began the descent into the wide bottomed Windrush Valley soon picking up the river again. After a number of miles we walked passed a farmyard and headed on tracks and quiet roads towards the very quaint village of Lower Slaughter which is known for its unspoilt limestone cottages in the traditional Cotswold stone. It was here in this beautiful village that we sat and had our lunch, some of us by the church and others by the river Eye which has two magnificent stone bridges. We met by the Old Mill which is recorded in the Domesday Book to continue our walk. From here we headed for Upper Slaughter a village which is known as a Double Thankful Village due to all their members of the armed forces surviving both World War I and World War II. We initially walked north out of Upper Slaughter eventually joining the Warden's Way following field paths, tracks and a quiet road back to Naunton.

Pictures from the walk by Robert



Wednesday 2nd February 2022 from Dorridge Village Hall

18 of us set out from car park at the Village Hall in Dorridge (X on the map) on a bright, but slightly cloudy day. Our route was marked in green on the attached map.



We walked back up the road way that led into the car park, crossed Grange Road, and went right to the end of Earlswood Road. Here we turned sharp left onto the service road leading to Dorridge Cricket Club. When it opened up to grass on the right, we walked behind the cricket net to a marked path at the edge of the cricket field with the ends of gardens on the right, through a kissing gate and continuing to a plank bridge over a stream and another kissing gate. Veering slightly right after the gate we walked with a hedge of the right to a gap in the hedge with a path marker, we went through the gap to continue in the same direction, but with a hedge on the left now. At a gate and stile to Four Ashes Road we turned left on the grass verge, passing a house and then a drive to another house on the left, reaching a gate, where we turned left and immediately right onto a track. Where the track turned left, we went through a gap in the hedge on the right onto a path with hedge now on the left but heading in the same direction. Eventually the path reached a wooded area and a plank bridge over a stream (logs and bits of wood were strewn on the path here to help when the path is muddy). The path leads to a kissing gate and a service road coming out opposite The Barn on the Stratford Road. Cross to The Barn but go left for a few yards to a service road leading beside The Barn (there is a finger post indicating that the footpath goes along the service road). From the front of the bungalows we spotted a kissing gate to the left and went through it. We continued straight ahead (ignoring a path going half left), through a gap in the hedge ahead, noting what one of our members said was a wartime airfield on the right, to a gate and a track going ahead, to reach a T-junction with a lane. Here we turned left to School Lane.

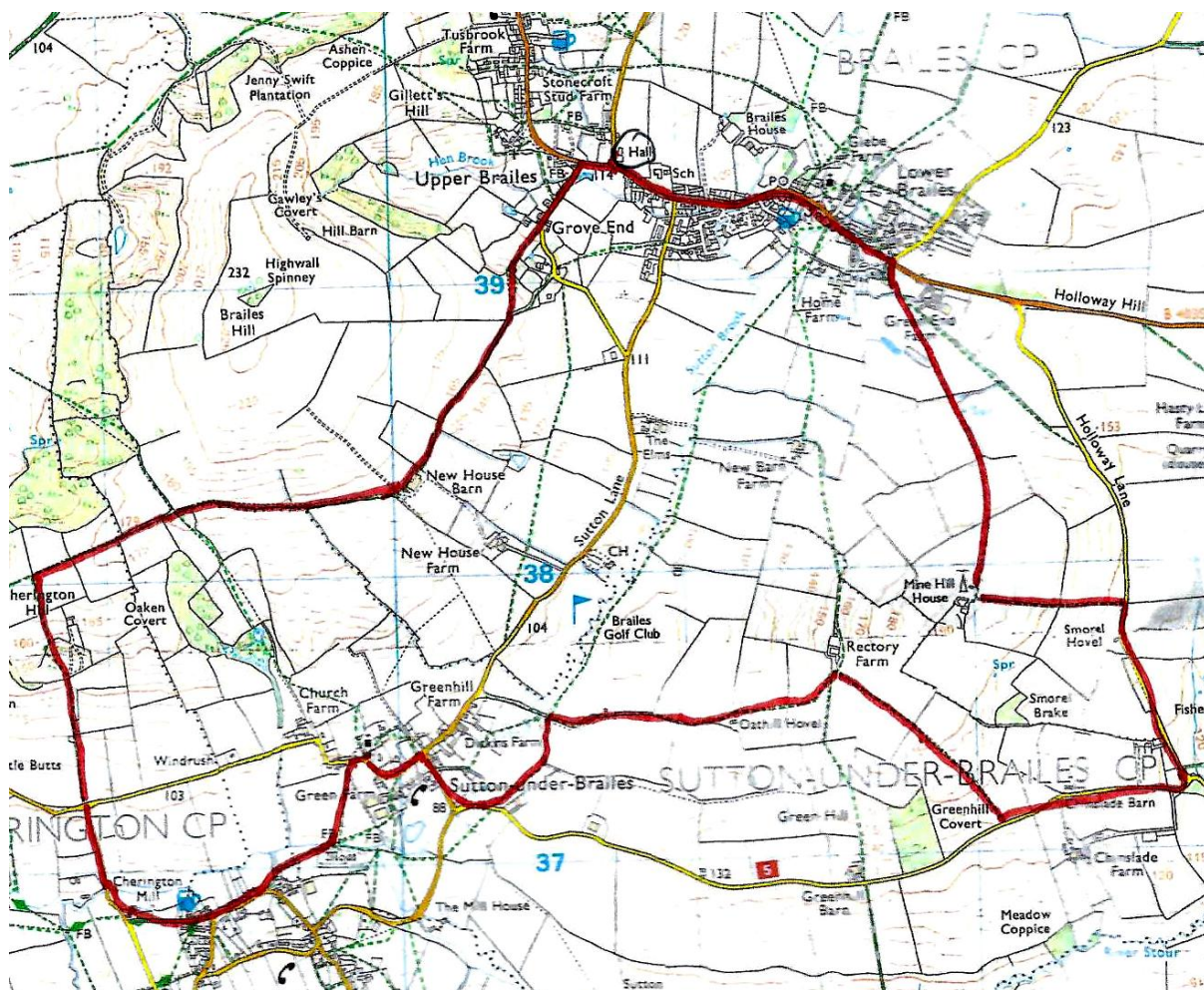
We crossed School Lane and took a path to the right of the bridge, down to the canal. We turned left along the canal following the tow path for just under two miles to a white lifting bridge (having stopped for elevenses by The Wharf). At the lifting bridge we turned left through a gate onto the Old Warwick Road and then right on the grass verge for about 100 yards where we crossed the road and took a path into the woods. At the path junction in just under half a mile we turned left over a plank bridge to another plank bridge and a gate. Here (*) we continued ahead around the edges of fields and over another bridge eventually to pass between the gardens of two houses onto Aylesbury Road. We crossed the road and rounded the corner to Grange Road and continued along the left-hand pavement to lamp-post 9.

(* note here instead continuing ahead we could have followed the path to the left through a gate and onward to Aylesbury Road opposite the new housing development at the former Aylesbury Hotel, across Aylesbury Road onto the service road opposite, just in front of the access to the houses turning right and following this path to a stile onto Grange Road, turning left to lamp-post 9 – this avoids walking beside the busy Grange Road but is a bit longer – shown in brown dashes on the map).

At lamp post 9 we crossed Grange Road, went through the gate and about 2/3 of the way along the left-hand fence, over the stile across the corner of a field to another stile and then across a bridge. We then followed this path up to Windmill Lane, crossed Windmill Lane and continued through the gate opposite to Dorridge Park,

over another bridge and then half left crossing the grass to a tarred path over a bridge and then back to the car park where we started. Some of us rounded a very pleasant walk with lunch in the Drum and Monkey in Four Ashes Road.

Sunday 30 January 2022 – 7.6 mile loop from Brailes Village Hall



15 of us walked from Brailes Village Hall carpark on a sunny late January morning. We crossed the B4035 and walked up Henbrook Lane. Just after Grove Farm on the right, we went across a stile on the right of the lane and went uphill following the path across two further stiles. After the third stile the path goes half right across a field to the brow of the hill to a gap in the hedge leading onto a track. We turned right here and followed the track onto a path passing through a number of kissing gates, past New House Barn along the edge of field, continuing over a cross path (which if you went left drops down to Sutton under Brailes). After crossing three more fields to Cherington Hill, we turned left on path 61 going down-hill (there is one short sharp section of downhill) to a road, continuing ahead on the road, ignoring the left turn. The road passes Cherington Mill, where there once was a medieval watermill, the Cherington Arms, before turning right in front of a manor house. After a coffee stop, we forked left off the road on a path running to the left-hand side of the house boundary, then across a field, which if you look closely bears the signs of an ancient moat. There is a left fork in the path which we took, over a brook and then ahead to a gate leading onto a lane. Here we turned right and followed the lane past the front of St Thomas' Church in Sutton under Brailes to the village green. We turned left along the verge of a road, and then took a road sign posted to Stourton and Cherington on the right. After about 200 yards, there is a lane to the left which we followed, looking at an ancient sheep wash hidden in the bushes on the left. After a further 200 yards a path (71) heads over a stile on the left, across a field to two kissing gates, we went through the right gate, over a plank bridge and around the side of a field to a stile to a lane. The lane was followed up-hill for a mile, just after a pile of stones and rocks on the left we took a right fork continuing slightly uphill, where we had lunch) and then downhill to a lane. We turned left here and when the lane met a Holloway Lane turned left again, and after about 600 yards went left onto a track leading to a mast and the top of Mine Hill. When we reach farm buildings, we turned right on a sign posted path (65a),

across several fields and downhill to Lower Brailes. At the end of the path by a cottage we turned right on an access lane then left onto the B4035 through the Brailes villages. After passing the Church and some interesting buildings, including a blacksmith's, we returned to the Village Hall and its car park.

Sunday 23rd January 2022 – Berkswell and Meriden

After using the car park at the Bear in Berkswell twenty of us were most welcome at the Bear for drinks and snacks. It was a very sociable get together at the end of a two and a half hour walk. The following directions were taken from the Meriden Village Newsletter, for which Kath was most grateful.

A 5.2 mile – lovely circular from Berkswell.

From the parking area in Berkswell, walk along the Meriden Road towards Meriden for about 700m to reach a footpath on your right just beyond Home Farm. Walk across the centre of the open field and turn left following the hedge line through to Back Lane. Turn left on Back Lane and walk to the opposite side of the road to reach a white painted brick house named Sunnybank. Turn right onto the driveway of the house and walk along the left-hand side for a few steps to reach a stile into a field. Continue straight over the next 3 fields to reach a gate. Turn right onto the track and then immediately left to enter into another field. In the foreground you will have expansive views towards St Laurence Church, Meriden. Walk across this field slightly downhill to the bottom right corner. Cross over a small wooden footbridge and follow the hedge line on your right to reach Church Lane. Turn right and walk beyond the church to reach a footpath on the corner of a sharp left hand bend. Enter into the field and follow the electric wire on your left to a farm track at Moat House farm. Walk left along the track and to reach a kissing gate further along the track. Continue through to reach another gate and turn left to enter a field with Millisons Wood in front of you. At this point ignore the worn path around the edge of the field and instead walk through the centre of the field (public footpath) to reach the bottom right corner of the wood. Walk through the kissing gate and continue along the hedgerow keeping it to your right to pass through a further 3 fields below Pickford Grange Farm. Turn right over the small footbridge and ascend the small hill which leads to Shirley Lane (Private road). Turn right onto Back Lane and walk down the hill to reach the driveway entrance to Greenways Farm Shop. A short distance beyond the farm driveway turn left through a kissing gate to enter a farm track leading to Hill House Farm. As you reach the farm, walk through a kissing gate leading to an open courtyard and walk through onto the Farm driveway. After 100m, turn right into a field keeping the farm on your right. Walk along the left hand hedgerow and into a further field staying on the boundary to reach a wooden kissing gate leading onto a track which passes Blind Hill Farm. Cross over the cattle grid and arrive back on the Meriden Road. Turn left and the finish point is a short walk away.

