

BUMS Midweek walk Friday 25th 2019

Location: Farndon, Aldford and the River Dee

Weather: Wet, wet, wet

Party: Lesley (Leader), Ann, Jeff, Debbie, Andrea, Della, Richard, Phillip (newly paid up member), Cate. Spot, Elly (Canine)

Distance: 10.2 miles **Total Ascent:** 0 **Time:** 4 hrs

The forecast wasn't good, so the planned walk in Wales had to be postponed for a better day. In fact the forecast was for so much rain that some potential attendees waited to confirm till the last minute, and yet, for reasons only known to them, decided to come anyway. Actually, I now know and fully appreciate the reason—they didn't want to let me down! Lovely, but big, big mistake. Next time the weather is predicted to be that bad, let me down, in fact let all leaders down. The rain stayed set in just like the single 'Love is all around' as sung by the band Wet Wet Wet was impossible to shift from number 1.

So yet another infallible local walk from the 'Adventurous Pub Walks in Cheshire' book. I must admit I have always wanted to do this one which walks beside the picturesque River Dee so I was looking forward to it (!).

Three cars arrived in Farndon and immediately parked in different places which turned out fine as, once into full waterproofs, we rendezvoused outside my favourite café Lewis' of Farndon.

There was a brief but entirely serious debate about whether we should just go in for coffee then go home. I thought to myself, 'what would Jim G have done' and without further ado we set off on the walk which took us up towards the monument and then off road through some slightly greasy fields towards Churton.

Crossing the B5130 at The White Horse, into Pump Lane we were soon off road again following a very nice track and into fields which were fairly well marked.

It was nearing coffee time and my hopes of finding a bench under umbrellas big enough for 9 evaporated. Fortunately intrepid navigator Richard had spied a barn and as we passed nearby we took a look and lo and behold there stood a manger. Unbelievable. Coffee and photo—which Jeff has made to look so good I expect it to be on the calendar for October- duly taken we trudged on up a green lane until emerging back onto the B5130 near the Grosvenor Arms at Aldford. The walk through Aldford was very interesting and then the way went towards the river behind the lovely church.

Just as I was thinking we could do with a dry lunch spot, we spotted a hollow tree. In the guide book it suggests children would enjoy sitting inside this but I looked around for some and we had forgotten to bring any children with us. But, never fear, Richard's here and without further ado in he gets and starts eating lunch. Della and Debbie squeezed in too and the dogs and the rest of us rested against the mighty oak and we took an early lunch. Good job as the rain proceeded to get heavier all afternoon and the only point of interest was a spectacular blue painted iron bridge, designed by, wait for it, by the one and only Thomas Telford. It is part of the Buerton Approach to the Duke of Westminster's pile.

The rest of the very very wet walk was unspectacular and largely anti-climactic. Basically we walked near the river, got wet, became increasingly fed up then took a slight short cut down a track back into Farndon thus avoiding dripping fields.

I heard Richard saying that he hoped there wouldn't be too many puddles on Townfield Lane. Well, there weren't puddles, just one huge flood which over took the tops of our boots.

It was soon over. I must thank all the intrepid walkers for turning out, especially our new member Phillip whom, I felt sure, would ask for a refund. But he was still smiling at the end.

You will never believe this, reader, but all decided to go straight home for a hot bath and cup of tea. I think this is a first

Some ventured for rehydration at the Dysart for 17:00 after warming up and a very good time was had by all (!).

Lesley