

WALKING CLUB REPORT



Words & photos by Bogtrotter

Leven Walking Club dates back to around 1980 with its origins as an activity for children of Leven Primary School and their parents, organised by the School PTFA (I'm sure there are folk in the village who can confirm or correct this for me, as that was before my time as a Leven resident!).

Hornsea District Walking Club is a relative 'newcomer' dating from around 1998, but as mentioned last time the two Clubs nowadays would, under normal circumstances, be providing a joint walks programme. Of course at the moment we cannot walk as a group, but only in ones and twos, and our walks should be kept 'local'.

However our Club members come from a wide area - from Leven and Hornsea out to Preston, Hedon, Hull, Beverley and Driffield, and other villages within that arc, and even 'over the bridge' to Barton-upon-Humber! I have once again trawled the Social Media pages to find where our members have been walking and the list is extensive. Most of their walks have been local from members' own towns and villages, as listed above.

Early in the new year we experienced a lot of rain which raised the level of the River Hull and the dykes draining the low-lying areas of Holderness, presenting an additional inconvenience and hazard in our local walks area. Before the flooding became too dangerous, Betty did walks from Leven down the Canal to the River Hull and along the river bank to Baswick, and from Hull Bridge along the river bank to Wawne and back via Tickton.

Better walking could be found on the Yorkshire Wolds, which is only a short drive away and still relatively local. A few of us have done walks on the Wolds, starting from South Cave, North Newbald, Goodmanham, Warter and North Dalton. As I've mentioned before it is best to avoid popular locations which can be quite crowded and so defeats the purpose of Social Distancing!

Then after the rain, we've had frost and snow. The knock-on effect has been that driving anywhere off the main roads can be hazardous and best avoided. But the muddy and waterlogged paths have been frozen which can be both a help and hindrance to walking.

On New Year's Day there has been, for about the past twenty years a local Club walk, of about 5 miles, concluding with soup and sandwiches (and a few drinks) at a local hostelry. In recent years we have started and finished our walk at The Board Inn, Skipsea; The Half Moon, Skidby; The Wrygarth, Great Hatfield; Monks Walk, Beverley; New Inn, Leven; Stackhouse Bar, Hornsea; to name just a few.



Leven Canal at Sandholme Bridge

This year of course that couldn't happen, but my daughter, Hannah, suggested that the two of us could maintain the tradition with a short walk followed by soup and sandwiches (and a drink or two) at home. So we did the traditional Leven walk down the Canal, across to the Airfield and back via the graveyard at the site of St Faith's Church. A cold but bright morning, and the frost had frozen the mud on the canal path making for tricky walking but at least we didn't get blathered!

Talking of mud, Sylvia and Mike did a walk early in the year along the Rail Trail from Goodmanham and reported that they got blathered with mud. A month later I did a similar walk with friend Caroline, and fortunately for us the mud was frozen. We did an 8 mile walk from Goodmanham via Arras and Kiplingcotes without getting 'blathered'.



Kiplingcotes Station on the Rail Trail

In fact walking on the Wolds has generally been good underfoot. We have done a couple of walks from near Huggate using sections of the Wolds Way and Minster Way, and from North Dalton again using part of the Minster Way. (By the way The Minster Way is a way-marked trail linking Beverley Minster and York Minster)

Incidentally, in North Dalton, we bumped into Jackie and Dave Watton who used to live in Leven, and back then they were members of Leven Walking Club! They moved to North Dalton more than 10 years ago. Strangely, after hardly seeing a soul all day we bumped into another couple on our return near to North Dalton, and they turned out to be friends of Caroline from when she lived in Beeford, about 20 years ago!

Elsewhere, Julie has done some quite lengthy walks from her home in Driffield via Nafferton onto Driffield Wold towards Cottam and Cowlam, whilst Joyce and Jyl have explored around Preston and Hedon, and on the Wolds from South Cave.

On the south bank of the Humber, David and Margaret have ventured onto Lincolnshire Wolds from their home in Barton-upon-Humber, using sections of the Viking Way over Worlaby Top towards Elsham.

(By the way The Viking Way is a way-marked trail linking the Humber Bridge at Barton with Oakham in Rutland)



Frozen dewpond near North Dalton

And so for the time being it seems we will continue to walk in our ones and twos. However with a fair percentage of the walking club members now getting their COVID jabs (that says something about our average age!) and Boris presenting a 'road map' out of Lockdown there might just be a glimpse of the tearoom at the end of our trek!

Remember, walking is good for you, physically and mentally.

HANDS, FACE, SPACE

STAY ELERT, STAY SAFE

For updates & photo blogs please visit my Dales Trails website:

www.dalestrails.co.uk

The Hornsea & Leven Walks programme has been suspended until further notice