

## **STEPPING OUT – a series of walks around the East Leake area.**

This month's walk is a circular walk from Keyworth of just over seven miles. The walk leaves Keyworth in a northerly direction towards Plumtree and returns from a north easterly direction along Willowbrook and Selby Lane. So if you go to Keyworth by car, the free car park by the Village Hall on Elm Ave. is a good place to leave it.

**Route: Keyworth; Plumtree; Normanton on the Wolds; Clipston; Cotgrave Forrest; Keyworth**

12 km; 7½ miles. Allow about 3½ hours..

It is possible to shorten the walk by about 2 km by turning right instead of left in Clipston – directions given in brackets.

From Keyworth, go down Nottingham Road and up the footpath to the left of Fairway pub. This brings you into Crossdale Drive. Turn left and walk up Crossdale Drive to the school at the top. Then take the footpath round the left of the school to join a footpath that goes down hill in the direction of Plumtree with the hedge on your right. At the bottom of the hill the hedge goes right but you make directly across the field to the tunnel under the railway line. Cross the next field to the road. Turn left along the road and then take the footpath on the right just before The Poplars.

Cross the field to the right hand corner then go along the next field with the hedge and fence on your right. Then as the fence forms a corner, turn right over the stile and follow the footpath through two more fields to the main road.

Cross the road carefully and walk across the next field bearing slightly right to a stile near the right hand end of a laurel hedge. Through this gap, the path continues around the garden of the house to your right and eventually emerges onto a road. Go along the road between The Lawns on your left and a high brick wall on your right to the main street of Normanton on the Wolds.

Turn right along the road past Normanton Manor and then after a few yards turn left at the next footpath sign. You go through two sets of gates and then down a fairly steep slope. Continue in the same direction up the next slope. After almost a kilometre this footpath will bring you out onto the Clipston Road. Turn right and walk along the road into the hamlet of Clipston.

(If you are doing the shorter walk you turn right in Clipston and follow the road down to the right of the farm shop. After you leave the farm buildings the track swings to the right and then follows a straightforward route for almost a mile to a well marked T junction.

The road from the left is the route from the longer walk so you turn right and follow the directions after the next paragraph at \*.)

If you are doing the longer walk you turn left in Clipston and continue straight ahead at the drive from Manor Farm from your right. The road then goes down hill and swings first to the right and then to the left. At the left bend in the road you take the bridleway on your right through the woods. As the path emerges into the open keep to the hedge on your right. There are good views from here over Cotgrave. At the end of the hedge turn right along the path up the hill. At the top of the hill go straight on and the path becomes a lane between two hedges. Continue along this lane for about a kilometre until you arrive at a well-marked junction of four tracks. Here you turn right and follow a track down hill through the woods. At the bottom of the hill the track crosses a small gully and climbs to a junction where a well-marked bridleway goes off at right angles to the right. You follow this bridleway on a well-surfaced track through the woods. After almost a kilometre you will come to a fingerpost indicating a track to the right. This is the track you would come along if you were doing the short walk. So you go straight ahead.

\* (This is the merger point between the shorter and the longer walks)

Follow the track as it swings to the left. At the top of the hill go straight ahead at the junction with the drive from Wolds Farm and then 50 yards further on you come onto the road at a corner. Turn right along the road which is Laming Gap Lane and after about a kilometre it joins the A606 main road to Melton.

Cross the road slightly to the left and go straight on with the hedge on your left to the bridge over the railway. Cross the railway bridge and continue on in the same direction. This is a good wide field-edge path. If you keep the hedge on your left for about a kilometre it will take you all the way to Keyworth to the top of Nicker Hill. Cross the road and walk along Willow Brook to the junction with Selby Lane. Turn right along Selby Lane and walk back to the car park, which is accessed by turning right when you get to Elm Avenue.

This was the route followed by the Rushcliffe group of the Ramblers Association on their first walk after Christmas. If you would like more information about the Rushcliffe Ramblers give me a ring on 559297 and I can let you have a programme of their walks.

Dennis Fox