

## STEPPING OUT

### **A series of walks in the East Leake area.**

This year, each month I will describe a walk over some of the rights of way in the parish of East Leake. Through the year I will cover all the 27 rights of way in the parish. Each path has an official number. Because of a duplication error the numbers go only as far as 25; there are two number 19's and two number 25's.

Last month I described a walk to St Peter's churchyard along footpaths 1 and 2. This month's walk will be along 3, 4 and 5. It will also take in number 21 and both numbers 19.

One of the number 19's is better known as "The Nook" and it goes from Brookside School up between the trees to Burton Walk. Footpath number 21 branches from the left of The Nook alongside Brookside Playing field to Potters Lane.

As I explained last month I am still immobile with a fractured pelvis from a fall on the ice on New Year's Day so the descriptions at present are from memory – I haven't checked them out on the ground recently.

### **Footpaths 4 & 5 to the A6006 then footpath 3 & 19 and return via Gypsy Lane**

**2¾ miles allow 1½hours**

Start from the very end of Potters Lane and go along footpath 21 alongside Brookside playing field. When you arrive at The Nook (footpath number 19) turn left and you come out into Burton Walk. Climb up footpath number 5 which leaves Burton Walk between numbers 36 and 38 and you will arrive at a kissing gate. If you did last month's walk this is where you took footpath 2 to the left. This month however, from the kissing gate you continue on footpath 5 as you go down the hill with the hedge on your right to a stile and a bridge over the Sheepwash Brook. Footpath 5 now continues with the fence on your right to another kissing gate and from there goes in the same direction through a very large pasture field to a stile to the Rempstone Road. This is the end of footpath 5. You now pick up footpath 4 by crossing the road to the left. Walk long the field edge path (no.4) with the hedge on you right. At the end of this field you cross a ditchboard to the drive to Gould's Barn. Footpath no. 4 now goes straight across the next field in the direction of two large trees to the right of the wood in the distance. Here there is another bridge and the ditch here marks the parish boundary. You cross the bridge and you are now in the parish of Rempstone and the path changes its number to Rempstone number 1. You follow this to a stile which takes you onto the Melton Road (A6006).

Turn left and walk along roadside verges, first on the left of the road and then on the right until you arrive opposite the entrance to Home Farm. The parish boundary here goes along the main road and as you cross the road you re-enter the parish of East Leake. The entrance to Home Farm is the beginning of footpath no. 3. This footpath has recently been diverted to keep to the left of the farmyard. So after going down the drive for a few yards you branch off left through two paddocks to a field gate. Through the gate you make for the corner of the next field and then continue through the next field with trees and a fence on your right. This will bring you to a kissing gate and out onto Gypsy Lane.

If you want to walk along the second footpath no.19 you turn right immediately after the kissing gate and follow footpath 19 through the woods parallel to Gypsy Lane. This will bring you to the south entrance to Home Farm from where you turn left to Gypsy Lane. The only effect of walking down footpath 19 is that you have now farther to walk down Gypsy Lane than you had at the end of footpath 3. From the end of either of these paths you turn left and walk down Gypsy Lane to the cross roads. Cross the Loughborough Road and walk along Rempstone Road until you arrive at the end of footpath no.5 on your right. Go over the stile and retrace your steps along footpath 5 to Burton Walk. Then go down the other footpath 19 (The Nook) to Main Street.

Dennis Fox