

Thrapston Walk followed by the AGM Thursday 6 August 2015

It was a lovely warm evening when about 15 of us, including Frankie the dog, set out from Thrapston at 6.30pm with Eileen leading us on the Thrapston Village walk. We passed by the doctors' surgeries and were soon going through an area densely populated by blackberry bushes. These were ripening already and in about a week would be lovely and plump ready for picking.

We soon found ourselves on a very straight track, which turned out to be the site of the old London North Western railway line that was built in 1845 to connect Northampton to Peterborough. It was originally a single track line but was quickly changed to double due to traffic pressure. Wellingborough, Oundle and Thrapston were the main stations on the line, with Wellingborough and Thrapston both having another station connecting passengers to the Midland Railway. Unfortunately, in 1965 Dr Beeching's axe struck and the line was closed and after removal of the track the Thrapston Parish Council purchased the whole length through the parish for £200.

One of our group actually remembers travelling on the train along that line to Northampton many years previously!

At times the track became quite narrow and we were in danger of being stung by the many tall stinging nettles. However, we managed to get through unscathed and eventually emerged onto a wider track which took us across a bridge and into the Titchmarsh Nature Reserve.



After a quick group photograph, we continued by the side of the River Nene, passing the heronry where we only saw one heron, which seemed to be going the same way as us as we saw it several times. We were serenaded by Song Thrushes, Goldfinches and Chaffinches and saw quite a few small birds, including Bull Finches, flitting between the bushes as we passed.

Eventually, we came in sight of the Sailing Club at Thrapston and knew we would soon be back in time for our Fish Supper, which we were all looking forward to. The committee, apart from our walk leader, Eileen, had remained behind to set this up for us and to prepare for the AGM which would follow. At approximately 8.15pm we all trooped into the church hall to the very welcome Fish Supper with a cup of tea or coffee.

