

Irthlingborough and Stanwick Lakes – January 2016

St. Peters, the Parish Church in Irthlingborough is unusual in having a Lantern Tower, the purpose of which in olden days was to guide travellers through the marshlands around the town. So we were following an ancient path as we descended into Irthlingborough Lakes and Meadows. Thankfully nowadays it is a well maintained pathway.



After the snowfall the night before the landscape appeared monochrome with the only colour coming from our warm jackets and the luminous running gear of the many joggers we encountered. Before long we reached the old railway track which operated from the 1840s to the 1960s and turned onto it towards Stanwick Lakes, passing under the A6 viaduct built in the 1930s.

So while walking a mile or two we experienced different ages of transport, of course Mr Astley while competing in an aeroplane race around Britain landed his monoplane in 1911 in the water-meadows due to illness, wouldn't have realised he was bringing the area into the modern age, the local Inns ran out of beer that day, catering for the thousands that gathered to see the flying machine.

It was perhaps fitting that on the 10th birthday of our club we walked through Stanwick Lakes as over the past decade I would guess it has been our most used area with its many and varied paths welcoming us Shamblers on many occasions. After a circuit of the Park we made our way back towards Irthlingborough via a 13th century bridge.

There were many rosy cheeks visible in The Oliver Twist Pubs car park as we unbooted and de-scarfed, and a good number entered the Pub to enjoy a nice roast dinner. While it is appreciated that the Pub opened much earlier than usual to cater for us, one wondered would we see a famished walker approach the counter saying - please Sir, can I have anything? Thankfully they filled a grand pint of Ale!

Eileen was very busy before the walk collecting Subs and sponsorship money, over the next few walks there will be even more coming in, it would be helpful to place cash/cheques in an envelope with your name on it. Thanks in advance.