

Kings Cliffe – January 2017

The Shamblers gathered outside the 300 year old Cross Keys pub in Kings Cliffe for our first walk of 2017. After exchanging New Year's greetings, ordering lunch for those dining later and paying our subs, Finbarr led us from the pub and strolled through the pretty village with its beautiful old houses of golden stone mined locally in times gone by.

Before long, we left the village, ascended a laneway and then we were walking along well maintained pathways through West Hay Woods. This woodland is part of Rockingham Forest, but is an area that was extensively mined in the 19th century and was then planted with conifers, these evergreens are being replaced by native broadleaf trees and offered us interesting contrasts as we continued through the woods.

The morning though grey was dry and joggers, cyclists and dog walkers were out enjoying the fresh air and all enjoyed a friendly smile from us Shamblers. After a mile or so we turned a bend on our route and had Fineshades Woods to our right with various paths and trails emerging. These appeared to be used for adventure games and mountain biking, and provided us with the excuse to stop for a rest, have a snack and allow the back markers to catch up.

After setting off again, the path began a gentle descent and we had glimpses through the trees of the valley below with Willow Brook meandering along. Before leaving the woodlands we stopped for a photo opportunity (thanks Ruth) and then made our way through the quiet streets of Kings Cliffe back to the pub.



Here, most of the walkers enjoyed a nice lunch and a pleasant drink and chat. A new charitable venture is being organised by the Shamblers for 2017, whereby a collection box is present at the end of our walks and, if a walker wishes to, some loose change can be contributed. Our charity of choice is the Northamptonshire Carers and our Chairperson has information leaflets available for all interested in the great work they do.

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