

Great Cransley - September 2017

A circular walk from The Three Cranes, Great Cransley through the Nature Reserve in to Thorpe Malsor

A nice easy walk with no stiles ... well just the one! Angela Folwell was the leader for this easy, gentle walk. Thanks to Finbarr Finn, the back marker.

Starting from The Three Cranes at Great Cransley, walkers were promised there were no stiles on this walk – only to meet one at the very start of the walk! (There is access just a bit further up the road via a gate) Sorry about that folks. At least everybody saw the funny side and laughed about it.

We entered a field full of sheep then walked single file down the lane, for safety, in case of any passing traffic. We saw where there was once a railway line, now covered with grass as iron ore was quarried from extensive shallow pits on the North and West side of Thorpe Malsor. They were connected to the ironworks north of Kettering by the branch which was removed in 1949.

Crossing over to reach the footpath we had lovely views of Cransley Sailing Club. On to the Nature Reserve we came across an old air raid shelter buried in shrubs and moss. We enjoyed walking through the woodland area and came out onto the road which lead us uphill into the village of Thorpe Malsor. In 2011 Thorpe Malsor had a population of 145 but may well have grown since then.

We passed All Saints church which was built in the late 13th and early 14th centuries helps to make this small village an attractive one. The Parish Council take pride in their village and organise 'Spring Cleaning' events to ensure it is kept neat and tidy, free from litter. They have also applied online to the 2017 Community Enhancement Gangs for refurbishment of the footpath between Thorpe Malsor and Loddington and are waiting to hear back from Northamptonshire Highways.

We continued our ramble over farmland and saw The Sailing club from a different angle. By then, the sun shone brightly on us and replaced the somewhat overcast start we encountered at the beginning of this short but very picturesque walk. The temperature had risen by the time we returned to the pub. Those of us who stayed for lunch enjoyed a delicious, freshly prepared meal at a long table, set up for us in the conservatory.

