

Rushden Lakes – September 2018

Our 15 walkers started from Rushden Lakes shopping centre with a few spits of rain but luckily this was very short lived. Before long the sun was peeping between the light clouds and the warm breeze kept us from getting too hot.



The path led us away from the hustle and bustle of shoppers and traffic alongside the water filled gravel pits. Gaps between the hedgerows gave us views of the lakes with water fowl swimming by.

The Lakes were once gravel extraction pits which were in use from the 18th century. The land was eventually purchased by Mr John Wills and turned into a water ski club in 1952. By 1965 he had the idea of constructing the 200 foot long dry ski slope made from bristles for the cost of £12,000. Six lessons could be booked for £4 and 4 shillings, including the hire of equipment.



The shopping centre was opened in 2017, then at a cost of £140 million. With building work ongoing, no doubt so are the costs increasing.

About halfway round we veered off the main pathway onto a track with the river Nene running beside us. Not letting the sound of the busy A45 traffic bother us too much, we passed pleasantries with several dog walkers before leaving the track and retracing the beginning of our route back past the shopping centre crossing over the footbridge to the Needle and Awl for our lunch.

