

Sunday 15th March, 11.00 am. Meet outside Great Bedwyn Village Hall

5.5 mile circular walk to Burrige Heath & Gully Copse

March's walk was a shorter route than planned at just under 4 miles because the incessant rain had left parts of the original planned route waterlogged. We sadly never made it as far as Gully Copse. Instead we walked up by Mirldown to Burrige Heath, and continued along the hard tracks and back via Parlow Bottom and the towpath. Just as we reached the furthest point from home the heavens opened. Our sweetie refreshment stop was abandoned as we trudged back home through the deluge along a slippery and muddy towpath. We arrived back with everyone still surprisingly cheerful although thoroughly soaked through.

At the time of this walk the Covid pandemic infection rate was climbing and we kept the 1 metre advised distance from each other. Within a few days of this walk lockdown was imposed, 2 meters became the recommended distance and all spring and summer group walks and other activities were sadly cancelled until autumn.

Here's the walk that we had originally planned:

We will leave the village hall and walk along Galley Lane to Jockey Green. Then uphill past the remains of the kiln at Mirldown and on towards Burrige Heath. We will then turn in the direction of Shalbourne and after a short tarmac stretch head across a lovely wide open meadow in the valley, cross a small wooden bridge and continue through trees. Our way back is through similar terrain; woodland, fields, tree lined tracks and another small bridge to cross until we reach the hard surface of the bridleway at Burrige Heath from where it is downhill to Little Bedwyn and home by the canal.

No stiles, just the two narrow wooden bridges. Dogs on leads please – sheep in the vicinity.

