

## **Report by Sue Overton – Shorter Walks Group**

### **Headlam Circular 3.7miles 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

We enjoyed ideal walking weather as 7 members of the group set off from Headlam Hall (Georgian, once the seat of Lord Gainford) across the golf course – signposted. The grassy track on the golf course crosses Headlam Beck (no dippers sighted) and ends at a stile into wheat fields. The path towards Dyance Farm is usually a well walked path but on this day, in parts, large nettles had flourished, threatening in particular those brave enough to don their shorts! The path follows the edge of wheat fields which were being cut by gigantic machines as we neared the farm. The track from the farm was edged with beautiful field scabious as we continued on to Cock Lane. Here we turned right and walked approx. half a mile up the road before taking a signposted track/bridle path on our left towards Gainford. In stead of going into the village, we continued on the path to our right through the fields towards Balmer Hill.

Deciding to avoid the road, we turned right and went over a stone stile into a field where the path clearly climbs to another stile (good views and photo opportunity!) before a slow descent following the field edge. These fields of rape had already been harvested leaving surprisingly thick, dried stalks.

After crossing the last field, we made it to the final stile onto the road and turned right towards Headlam Hall. A right turn into the main driveway opposite Headlam Green took us back to the car park and the option of tea and cake in the café! Did anyone indulge?

**The next walk will be 25<sup>th</sup> September – details will be sent to group members nearer the date**

