

SHORTER WALKS GROUP May Report by Liz Colley

EGGLESTONE ABBEY

Hurrah, the weather was kind to us today, being warm and dry. Thirteen of us gathered on the Demesnes for a favourite walk to Egglestone Abbey and back. Led by Godfrey we set off over the green bridge to take the path to the caravan park and up over the fields. This walk offers the opportunity to observe a great selection of trees and plants along the way. We spotted an oak tree that had been covered in flowers so we anticipate it could be a mast season for acorns this year.

Today we detoured to the Abbey itself to learn about the history of the building and the Premonstratensian Order who lived there. We had a lively discussion on whether they were a benefit to the local community or not. Although there are only ruins to be seen, they still tell a story of the life at the monastery.

Crossing the Abbey Bridge we took the return path down through the woods. The wild garlic banks were just going to seed. Mid-May is such a glorious time of year when, everything has leafed afresh. The hedgerows are bulging, there is every shade of green to be seen. The birds are busy and this walk through the fields along the river allows the opportunity for viewing water birds as well.

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon in good company and were able to appreciate living in such a glorious location. Our next walk will be on June 24th, I will send out an email the week before with joining instructions. Liz Colley



