

Shorter Walks Group Report by Jean Kipling

On August 19th ten members of the group travelled to Barningham - a tiny village where North Yorkshire meets County Durham. We met at the moor end for our three mile walk, known to the villagers as "Round the World".

At the entrance to the village we noticed a substantial roadside gatepost – a relic from the days when this was a gated road preventing animals straying into the village from the unfenced moor. As we walked down the village we admired the properties, the large neatly manicured village green and the green phone box, allegedly sited outside the former post office in 1926 after complaints that the village postmistress was listening into calls made inside the building. Permission for its installation was reputedly given by Sir Frederick Milbank on condition that it was painted green for eternity. Now out of service it has been used as an art gallery (probably the smallest in the world) for local artists and a memorial for villagers who died in World War 1.

Passing the Milbank Arms and the Reading Room cottages we turned left onto a narrow track and almost immediately took the right fork on a track to the road. Walking directly over the road we followed the sign westwards along Low Lane, crossing the stream footbridge. Towards the end of Low Lane we saw two lime kilns built around 1800 to provide mortar for building and lime for reducing the acidity of farmland. The kilns were restored in 2012 by Edie Milbank (now Sir Edie Milbank) and have been colonized by a variety of plants. There are timber plantations to the right and left of the lane. Some have patriotic names including Canada and Ladysmith (South Africa) - hence the name of this walk 'Round the World'.

On reaching the junction with the road to Scargill the 'Round the World' walk heads eastward back to the village, but we extended our walk by turning right and walking a short distance to the first corner on the Scargill road. Here we turned left up a grassy lane and through a gate towards the moor. Following the wall to our left we made our way on a narrow track to Bragg House and up the concrete road to the moor road. The heather was in full bloom and even though it was rather cloudy the views were magnificent as we made our way back to our starting point.



