

## 7-9 mile walk group: Report on Walk Wednesday March 16 2022

A group of 10 of us walked from the layby to the Deepdale entrance to meet a further 6 walkers who had walked from their homes in Barnard Castle and Startforth. It was a grey day ( sandwiched between days of marvellous sunshine) but we were fortunate to only experience a brief period of drizzle. Led by Ruth we walked up Deepdale, passing only two other walkers. It was rather muddy underfoot and we had to pick our way across the Smart Gill stream. We made our way up Smart Gill glimpsing two roe deer en route and found a convenient coffee stop seated on felled trees. Crossing the disused railway line we reached high and flat ground where we could hear the call of the curlew. The views of Teesdale are wonderful on a clear day! Ruth stopped to chat to a local farmer who enquired if we were a busload!

From Thornberry we walked on a good farm track to Nabb Bridge.



The lovely bridge over Deepdale beck has an interesting history. It was built in 1699 by Edward Addison and funded by William Hutchinson (founder of Bowes school) in thanks for being saved from drowning near this spot.

We crossed the bridge and made our way uphill to our lunch spot at Low Crag with views across to Crag Pond. No-one seemed to know the history of this stretch of water which appears man made. Having reached our most westerly point we turned east and walked across fields, tackling some very stiff gates and large puddles. On reaching Raygill we met a couple of donkeys on their way back from their pedicure ( hooficure?) . We then descended through Deepdale woods to reach our respective starting points. With thanks to Ruth for an interesting walk in an area very few people had visited.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday April 20 will be an 8 mile walk led by Alan. We start from beside Bollihope Burn. The route climbs towards Pawlaw Pike then proceeds on the moor top, with views as far as the coast on a clear day, towards Allotment House where it turns downhill off the moor heading back down to Bollihope Burn.

Please let Nicky Grace know [nickygrace729@gmail.com](mailto:nickygrace729@gmail.com) if would like to come.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> our walk will be led by Phil in Swaledale – details to follow