

**'On A Good Day'** – 7-9 Mile Walking Group, Report by Chris Burton

Eleven brave souls gathered at Aske Hall, home of the Marquess of Zetland, near Richmond, in fairly awful weather conditions. All up for the challenge we set off through the estate grounds, passing the very grand stable block, boating lake and main hall, then on through waterlogged woodland paths and fields to Richmond golf course – not a golfer in sight!

Crossing the Richmond to Ravensworth road we headed on to the old racecourse. Active from the early 16th century to late Victorian times the course hosted major races such as the Queen Anne Gold Cup and King's Plate. There is a hope that the derelict Georgian grandstand may be renovated.

Following a coffee break we went on through the hidden valley of Coalsgarth, continuing by the famous Jockey Cap woodland landmark – so famous only two people recognised it! Near some derelict mine works we crossed a ford and made our way up a very slippery hill path – fortunately there were no casualties! Surprisingly there were no takers for the nearby 'Adrenaline' assault course.

Going on through a forested area we stopped for lunch on a very convenient log, before passing Gillingwood Hall and some impressive follies in the field. The home straight meant crossing muddy fields before ending with a very welcome dry out and hot drink at the Mocha coffee house. A mini quiz based on the walk proved trickier than expected, but Phil 'the quiz' Clarke came good on music!

PS The title, 'On a good day', refers to the views we **would** have had, weather permitting! Thanks to all for supporting the walk.

PPS The April walk will be on Wed 17 April and will be led by Phil Clarke. Setting out from Muker it will take in Thwaite, Kisdon Hill and Keld, returning to Muker along the valley of the River Swale. New members are always welcome – contact the convener, Nicky Grace, [nickygrace729@gmail.com](mailto:nickygrace729@gmail.com).



