

7-9 mile walking group report; October 2025
Report by Alan Kenwright, Photograph by Ian Royston.

On 15 October twelve members of the 7-9 mile walking group met up at the interestingly named "Old Man's Grave" on the road from Stanhope to Blanchland. The name is interesting because as far as anyone can tell there is no old man buried there, though there was at one time a boundary marker that looked somewhat like a gravestone. Who knows? The day was grey and overcast, but it wasn't raining and there wasn't much wind, so it was good weather for strolling.

We made our way over the equally interestingly named Chop Hardy (no idea) and gently descended into Edmundbyers (at one time the site of Edmund's cow shed apparently). After a couple of hundred yards on roads we once again branched off across country and stopped for lunch, where we were treated to a display of sheep herding by a local farmer that drew a fair amount of less than favourable comment. Fortunately, the farmer was on the other side of the valley and could not hear what was said.



After lunch we continued on our way and came to realise that we had been gently descending all the way from our point of departure to Edmundbyers and so now had to gently climb all the way back to the cars. It is surprising how much more noticeable uphill is than downhill! But we made it back to the cars by 2-00pm and agreed that we had all enjoyed the walk through the quiet, open countryside.



Our next walk will be on Wednesday 19 November led by Judith. In honour of the 200th anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, which is being celebrated this year, this 8-mile walk includes a lengthy section of the Tees Railway path. We will also follow part of the

Teesdale Way, which came into existence a mere 45 years ago. Though this can't be said to have had the same national, or even worldwide, impact as the S&DR it is of great local interest and value. The route will be from Cotherstone to Romaldkirk and back.

For our walk on 17 December Lynda will take us on a 7 mile walk from Hury to Goldsborough, Loups Crag along to East Stoney Lodges and return to Briscoe. She is promising us some steep sections plus slippery muddy and boggy bits - so the mince pies will be well earned!

Please contact nickygrace729@gmail.com if you would like to come along.