

U3a Walking Group 4-6 Miles

## **Report on walk on 9 April 2019**

Fourteen of us met up at Hutton Magna for a 6 mile walk led by Kathleen. The weather was chilly and grey to start with so we appreciated the outbreaks of sunshine en route. Many of us were unfamiliar with these villages and the surrounding countryside although memories of the Oak Tree Inn were shared amongst the group. We set off down a bifurcated path taking the left fork only to return on the right fork three hours later.

We walked along a mixture of footpaths, bridleways, minor roads, sheep tracks and routes across planted fields. The hawthorn hedges were greening up and the blackthorn blossom added visual beauty to our paths. Our olfactory systems were tested with the smells surrounding the large, and eerily silent chicken sheds but luckily, we did not have to linger long in that area. The deserted Forcett (limestone) Quarry provided glimpses of a lunar landscape. A buzzard swooped down in the quarry and a pair of buzzards were seen over a copse. We visited the hamlet of West Layton and admired Layton Manor (1871) with its 1901 water fountain and impressive farm buildings. Thanks to our leader for bringing us back to Hutton Magna just before one o'clock and introducing many of us to a new part of the dale on the border between County Durham and North Yorkshire.

The next walk will be on Tuesday 14 May 10.00 am for a 5.5 mile walk from Newsham including Barningham Park and Barningham Moor led by Sandra (01833 621152) and Nicky (01833 651841). Meeting point and parking is Newsham Village Hall DL11 7RD