

The Zenecans in the Yorkshire Wolds: Tuesday 10-12 September 2019.

By Peter Northwood.

This year the Zenecans Walking Group chose the Yorkshre Wolds for its annual meeting, led by Ian Stott. New to us it is mainly chalk rolling uplands in a chain running in an arc from the Humber estuary west of Hull up to the North Sea Coast, dissected by often surprisingly deep and steep-sided dry valleys. Nineteen of our members attended and we met at Tuesday lunchtime in the Gnu Inn at North Newbald village near the southern end of the wolds. A few of the of the group ,the “Early Trekkers”, had been walking on the Cleveland Way over the previous 2 days and were well tuned in for our afternoon walk of about 6 miles. The route took us up and over the shoulder of Newbald Dale, then east up the valley and south to the highpoint where we got great views all round of the Dales and Yorkshire plain. Continuing south and then west brought us back to the Gnu. The weather was fine and sunny, as it was for most of our 3 days .

We moved on a few miles south for our 2 night stay at the South Cave Country Club close to the Humber. The accommodation and food was excellent and at a very agreeable price thanks to Ian’s early booking and negotiation skills.

On Wednesday we collected our picnic lunches and headed north to Thixendale, a beautiful village in a steep-sided, secluded valley in the heart of the wolds. There were options of short or longer walks. The shorter route of about 8 miles was roughly an extended figure of eight leading north to the Yorkshire Wolds Way and on to the abandoned medieval village of Wharram Percy, then returning to Thixendale. The longer walk of about 11 miles followed the same route up to the Yorkshire Wolds Way but then headed west along Thixen Dale and Milham Dale, past the Grange to the North Wolds Walk. From here was access to Ray Dale and on south to Kirby Underdale village, the farthest point from the start of the walk. Painsthorpe Lane led east up and over the Painssthorpe Wold back to the Yorkshire Wolds Way and north to Thixendale. Altogether a splendid day out for everyone.

In the evening we held our traditional annual general meeting, as usual a very sociable affair, where we elected Kevin Eddison as our new chairman to take over from John Coutts who had excelled in the role since the formation of the group. We confirmed next year’s meeting which will be in the Brecon Beacons from the 15-17 September, with accommodation in Hay-on Wye and organised by Peter Thomas and Chris Ursell. It is a week later than usual due to special circumstances. Provision will also be made for the Early Trekkers. Our heartfelt thanks were extended to Ian for his excellent, largely unaided organisation of this event and management of pecuniary issues.

On Thursday morning we left South Cave and headed for the Green Dragon in Welton village, close to the Humber and the start of the Yorkshire Wolds. The shorter walk option of 4-5miles went from the village up Welton Dale to the top and back by a parallel route. The longer walk followed the same route but from the top of the dale headed west through Elloughton Dale on to and NE along Beverley 20. Then south to form an extended triangle and allow a return down Welton Dale. Distance about 10 miles. Lunch was taken in the Green Dragon and having said our farewells made our ways home, all very happy people having had another very memorable event.

Subsequent to our meeting, John Gray has sadly decided to retire from the group. John Humphreys will replace him and restore us to our full complement.



THOSE PRESENT (in order): PETER THOMAS, CHRIS URSELL, SIMON LAIDLER, BOB NOON, KEVIN EDDISON, IAN STOTT, MARTIN FROST, KEVIN PRICE, PETER FROGGATT, GARY STODDART, ALASTAIR AITKEN, JOHN GRAY, CHRIS GOODERHAM, RAY TUCKER, TONY MORAN, NEIL NIBLOCK, PETER NORTHWOOD, MIKE SOUTH, PETER RANKIN(left early).

10th October 2019.