

## Harlestone – January 2018

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow - as the song goes, and it certainly did. With the prospect of snow and rain only a small number, 9 in all, were brave enough to venture out for our Sunday walk through Harlestone Firs led by Gill Pulford. The start was the Harlestone Heath Garden Centre - not a pub, which may be a first for our group. After giving two new members a hearty welcome and all signed in we set off slipping and sliding along the access road of the Firs. The hard surface took us to the Saw Mill from whence the track, though not impossible, was soft.



Leaving the wood at its Northern boundary, the path took us to the sandy coloured dwellings of Lower Harlestone. Crossing the road just after the Fox and Hounds, the road opposite led us by the church of St Andrews on the right and skirted the Golf course. Only those with coloured balls would be playing that day.



We stopped by the Village Hall for refreshments and to admire the village in the snow. We were surprised by the number of local villagers out walking in such weather, some with dogs. We even spotted some Aconites and Snowdrops pushing their way through the snow.



Two swing gates and a quick left turn took us through Upper Harlestone. An uphill ascent past mournful looking ponies brought us to the minor road and a crossing into a forested quarry. With a fence with warnings of deep quarry workings to our left, the path now skirted the new road over a bridge and the return by the old Sandy Lane.

By now the snow was turning to rain and those not staying for a meal soon departed. The remainder were quickly served with a very adequate meal in the Garden Centre restaurant.