

Wadenhoe – May 2021 (Evening Walk)

It was a beautiful and warm evening, when 14 of us gathered together near the King's Head pub in Wadenhoe to hear from Sue Milner, the walk leader, all about the history of this lovely village.



There has been a settlement in Wadenhoe for over 800 years and it is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The current village, built on a deer park dating back to 1657, has buildings made up of 17th, 18th and 19th century limestone with thatched roofs and Colleyweston slate tiles.

We set off at 6.30pm and headed up Church Street and then turned right into Mill Lane which, as its name suggests, took up past the beautiful mill with its Mill Race. After crossing a bridge over the River Nene, we walked through buttercup meadows towards the village of Achurch.

This lovely village is also mentioned in the Domesday Book and has a rich history with links to the Pilgrim Fathers, who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620. Also, the 6th President of the USA, John Quincy Adams has links to the village.



We walked through the grounds of St John the Baptist Church and out past the lychgate. A little while later we turned into a lovely shady wood and followed the path through to the road near Lilford. We followed the road for a little way and over another bridge across the River Nene, and then climbed over a rather difficult, leaning stile before walking through a field of sheep and lambs.



Half way across the field, we stopped to view Lilford Hall, which is a Grade I listed Jacobean stately home that has 100 rooms. During WWII it served a nurses quarters for the American Air Force Hospital in the park. It was put up for sale in 2020 for £10 million.



We then carried on towards the Old Rectory, which was formerly the seat of the Tresham family, and All Saints Church in Pilton where we stopped for our group photo. It is a beautiful old building with lovely gardens.



After walking through Pilton village, we crossed the main road and walked along the lane back to Wadenhoe. As we entered the village we stopped to look inside the ancient Dovecote where, nearly 200 years ago, this circular stone building would have housed around 650 pigeons and their squabs (young birds) in its

lath and plaster nesting boxes. However, it was rather dark and gloomy so only the brave actually went inside.

Arriving back at the pub, 8 of us sat outside on the veranda for a well-earned drink and to discuss the lovely walk we had just shared.