

## November 2021 – Kislingbury

This November walk for our Shamblers group was from Kislingbury, a village situated south west of Northampton just off the A45. Here the Anglo Saxons made one of their first settlements in the Nene Valley between 700 and 900 AD. Since then, and to the present day, the village has suffered the black death when a third of the population perished, a visit and stay by Oliver Cromwell prior to the battle of Naseby, a Typhoid poisoning at a Church supper and numerous floodings from the river Nene which runs close by.



By 10.30am all the required signing in, Sunday lunch orders and walk description had been made and 17 souls departed the Olde Red Lion car park.



Leafy paths took us over a four arched bridge crossing to the banks of the River Nene. The river was running tamely today but only it knew of the devastation it had caused in the past. A small copse decorated with the hanging branches of a recent storm took us along a narrow muddy path into open pasture through a swing gate.



Ahead was the raised mound of the flood bank, built at a cost of £1.4million after the flood of 1998 caused so much damage to the village. The bank snaked its way beside the river, the path on top giving views to all sides with the Northampton Lighthouse in the far distance. A nasty chill from the North wind caught us in this exposed site, until the protection given by passing under the Upton Valley Way underpass gave relief.



The farm and Upton Mill brought a change of direction. Our direction of intent was the recently established Elgar Centre with its football and cricket pitches as well as a social centre. With the often somewhat unrepeatable cries of the football matches taking place to our left, our circuitous route took us away from the hubbub of the games to the more peaceful part of Upton Country Park.



After passing back across the Upton Valley roadway, Kislingbury Syndicate Lakes are bisected by the path into more open countryside. Unfortunately, the monstrous warehouses of Swan Valley on the far distant horizon to the left did not enhance the view.

The return to Kislingbury was alongside Camp Lane Sports and Bowls field, then onto Beech Lane and the return to the Olde Red Lion via a back street twitchel. Sitting down in the back room Café we were treated to a delicious Sunday Roast.