

## June 2022 – Earls Barton (Evening Walk)

Earls Barton is a village and civil parish in Northamptonshire, notable for its Anglo-Saxon church and shoe-making heritage. It was by the church that 15 members of Northamptonshire Shamblers gathered in readiness for a summer evening walk.



The weather was kind to us once again and, although there was not too much bright sunshine, it was very warm.

We set off, led by Graeme White, down Station Road and then up some steps to Sunnyside. Here we passed a row of terraced cottages until we reached the Nene Way, which runs parallel with Northampton Road.



After a while, we reached the pedestrian bridge over the A45, quite high and long but enabling us to pass over safely.



On reaching the other side, we walked through high hedges until we reached a track that took us to the old Earls Barton Quarry, which is now a haven for wildlife. Here we saw swans, an egret, lapwings and a couple of herons. It was a very peaceful setting.



As we reached the River Nene, we stopped briefly on the bridge to allow everyone to catch up and rest a while. Before long, we set off again by the side of the river and headed towards White Mills Marina. With floating pontoons, they can accommodate 141 boats. As well as being Towergate's 'Marina of the Year' 2020 and 2021, they are also a 'Four Gold Anchor' awarded marina.



Soon, we reached Station Road, which took us under the A45 this time. It was then just a short upward walk back into Earls Barton to find our cars. Parking is quite difficult in such a small village centre, so we were quite spread out.

As the fish and chip shop was still open, some decided to treat themselves, whilst others opted for the Saxon Tavern pub and a refreshing drink.