**Henley Circular Walk, Saturday 23rd July 2022**

3 walkers, 21 miles – leader Peter Lockyer

This was the first walk I had led for the LDWA which is pretty shameful as I have been a member since the late 80s. I was a little nervous as I wanted to get things right. But I needn’t have worried as we were a small and very select group. Andrea and Kevin who did the walk with me were brilliant company and were just surprised that more people hadn’t been interested in doing what turned out to be a lovely walk. However, I explained that we had just started the main holiday month, and maybe people were a bit nervous of walking in the fearful temperatures of 40 degrees we’d had only a few days before. As it happened, the temperature was perfect for walking.

The walk began in Henley, and we did a glorious circuit via Bix (the name apparently comes from the Box plant rather than the breakfast cereal!) and Stonor Park. We had a lovely lunch stop overlooking the manor house that belongs to an ancient recusant (old Catholic) family and is one of only two that I am aware of with a private catholic chapel, the other being owned by Jacob Rees-Mogg of top hat and Eton fame.

We then continued our circular walk via Turville, and saw the windmill that featured prominently in the excellent musical film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and Hambledon where we had a delicious ice cream or diet coke for me. Then it was back along the Thames to Henley and a refreshing drink in Wetherspoons.

I hope one day to lead another walk, as I often walk on my own and it’s much nicer enjoying such pleasant company.

Photographs by Peter Lockyer