

Dereham becomes a Walkers are Welcome town



4 October 2016

Last Sunday, **Dereham Walkers are Welcome** ¹ was joined by 30 people (and some dogs) for a couple of hours of early autumn walking. Some chose a 3 mile walk to Etling Green and back via The Neatherd, while the rest went for 5 miles, taking in the town centre, Rush Meadow, Quebec Woods - and a bit of The Neatherd.

All who wished ended the afternoon with tea and home made cakes, hosted by Dorothy and Martin Sneesby. A raffle included prizes donated by George Freeman (MP for Mid-Norfolk) and the Dereham stores of Jollyes Pet Food Superstore, M&S, McDonalds and Morrisons: thanks to them and the generosity of the walkers, over £80 was raised to help Walkers are Welcome continue its work in and around Dereham. This work includes helping with the maintenance of the town's 35 public rights of way and publicising their value to local people and visitors alike.

Our next events are three walks in the Norfolk Walking Festival ². On Sunday 23 October and again on Wednesday 26 October, the walk starts with a train ride on the Mid-Norfolk Railway from Dereham to Thuxton, walking back to Dereham. Tickets are £5, including travel on the train and a free drink (tea, coffee or soft drink) at the Station Refreshment Room before travel. Both walks start at 1000 and are about 7 miles long, taking 3 to 3½ hours plus about 30 minutes for a lunch break. On Friday 28 October, we are leading a walk around the edges of Dereham. This walk is free,

though donations will be welcomed. It starts at 1030 and is about 8 miles long, taking 3 to 4 hours plus about 30 minutes for a lunch break.

Booking for all of these walks is through the Norfolk County Council Walking Festival website - <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/activities-and-events-on-the-norfolk-trails/walking-festival>. For further information, or in case of difficulty, please contact Ken Hawkins, Dereham Town Council Footpath Warden, via dtc.fpwarden@talktalk.net or on 07505 426750.

More details about Dereham Walkers are Welcome are at <http://www.DerehamWaW.org.uk>.

¹ Walkers are Welcome (<http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk/>) aims to encourage and support towns and villages to

- be attractive destinations for walkers with top quality information on local walks
- offer local people and visitors excellent walking opportunities within their areas
- ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained, improved and well signposted
- contribute to local tourism plans and regeneration strategies
- promote the health benefits of walking and increase participation
- encourage the use of public transport

² The Festival runs from 22 to 30 October - details are on the Norfolk County Council website at <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/out-and-about-in-norfolk/norfolk-trails/activities-and-events-on-the-norfolk-trails/walking-and-cycling-festival>.