

## Walking in the Lincolnshire Wolds, June 27, 2010



On one of the hottest days of the year, a group of eleven family members set out from the tea rooms at Walesby to walk along the Viking Way.

The group was a good mix of young and not so young being 6 years to 72 in age range.

Right from the start it was apparent that the fierce heat of the morning would soon become even more of a problem later on in the day.

However, they do say fools rush in and we did that alright. We soon crossed the field behind the tea rooms to bring us out on a track leading up towards an escarpment.



John discussing the route with Debbie the leader of the pack whilst the youngest two walkers Helen and Mary look on, meanwhile Anthony continued to read his novel, he did that for almost the entire walk. (Nice outfit Ant).

We plodded on getting very hot along the way and we eventually reached the escarpment, us older ones took it very slowly up and after passing trail riders and parked vans we enjoyed great views across the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The heat was fierce along the hillside and I for one longed for some shade but we had very little all along the route, it was no better lower down. We carried on walking down the road into Claxby.

There was a permissive path across a field of cows to cut-out some road walking. As anyone who has walked with me will tell you, I do not like cows, so along with Rachel and Katie plus Danny (Katie's boyfriend) I walked the road and the rest chanced the cows.



We all met up again at St Mary's Church, it looked very impressive against the blue sky, It was from there things started to go a little wrong.



The guide book said to take a bridleway towards the village but the only track we could see was not what we would call a bridleway, so we all traipsed along the road and then reached the turnoff for the village itself. By then some kind soul among us suggested a break and we sat under the trees on the side of the road enjoying the rest and snacking on crisps and for some, a sandwich.

Our leader once again studies the book to try to sort out the way forward; looks ready to do battle in this Rachel photo. Katie decided that she had a bad ankle, leg and elbow, and she needed help to get up!! We took to the road again to meet up with a lane that is mentioned in the book so all was well or so we thought.



Yes you guessed it we once again took a right instead of a left that led us down the road to arrive back at the start of the village on the same road as I had taken to avoid the field of cows.

I and a few others by that time were a little weary and very hot so it was decided to backtrack along our outward route and head for the Tea shop. Before you could blink most of the group took off at a good pace leaving us older ones to plod our way back up to the escarpment on our own.

Audrey and I plus John led from the back, all the rest by then were seated at the tea rooms and would you believe it, the field we came through on our way out was now home to a herd of young cows! I rushed through that with renewed vigor, John of course thought it very funny. Still, all's well that ends well, a nice sit down and a cool drink led to a decision to walk the route again at a later date and in somewhat cooler conditions and hopefully we will get it right.

