

REPORT OF 2017 VILLAGE WALK 38 ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

A day of mixed blessings! I had watched weather forecast on the preceding day, heavy rain had been expected for both the morning and the afternoon of the walk so very reluctantly phoned round to the most likely attendees to advise of my decision to cancel the walk. Despite clothing for weather protection being available walking in the rain seems to be unpopular with walkers and they becoming wet, very wet!

After an early lunch I went to the village hall and was surprised to see approximately twenty-four persons patiently waiting for the start, still no rain. I listened to everyone's viewpoints and it was obvious that there would have been some disappointed people had I not have been prepared to change my mind about cancelling the walk.

I had previously decided to walk in the Roman River Valley on hard paths. Eventually fourteen adults plus one dog on a lead walked the 3-mile circuit along the valley and into Friday Woods. Thick low cloud with early darkness and some drizzle made it easy for me to return to the cars, this time in heavy drizzle. Over the sixteen years that these walks have been promoted by the Parish Council this was the first occasion where weather had been an issue. No tea was awaiting our return to the village hall but at least some positive measures had been thought of to prevent walkers from using their afternoon in a positive manner if the walk had to be cancelled because of extreme situations. Had the weather been OK there would have been a minimum of thirty-six people including four from Colchester, three from West Mersea and two persons from Layer.

GED