

Sandbach Walking Festival - Report 1

Opening local walk

“Oh yay, Oh yay” called Dennis the Sandbach Town Crier, in his wonderfully sonorous voice, to announce the start of the Sandbach Walking Festival. It was a hot day on the cobbled square by the Crosses, but about 40 people, including the Town Mayor, turned out for the spectacle and were then ably led by John Woods on a walk round the park and on through Dingle Lane and other shady paths, eventually leading into Dingle Wood and the new footbridge to return, via Front Street, to the Crosses.

Everyone enjoyed it and said they would come on more walks during the Festival.

Tree identification in Town Park

Fiona Bruce MP and the Town Mayor met us at the start to see us off. Led by Trevor Boxer, we checked the trees between the library and the Masonic Hall, then in front of the fire station before touring the Park proper. In all we found 43 different species of tree. Not bad for a small town park. If you want to see a list of the trees we found, please look on the SFG website, "News and Events" page and also included on this page.

It happened to be a fun day in the park, so it was pleasantly busy with people enjoying the lovely June day.



Nordic walking introduction

10 walkers enjoyed a great afternoon for this Festival's first introductory session to Nordic Pole Walking. Thanks to Bev and Ian, from North Cheshire Nordic Walking Group for their support. Next Nordic intro session is 2pm Friday 5th July.

Tall Chimneys from Waitrose car park

15 of us set out via Brook Wood to Mill Hill Lane then through the Dancing Bridge archway along the canal, veering off left through Maddock's Wood up to the Rail Trail and over the canal. Led by Trevor Boxer, we continued along the canal to Malkins Bank and a short stretch of Betchton Road to Stannerhouse Lane pausing to look at the tulip tree and Tall Chimneys, followed by Houndings Lane for 200m and through Willis's yard, averting our eyes from the carefully and neatly piled arrangements of antique drainage equipment, on to the bypass, St. Mary's Dell and back to the start.

Distance about 4 miles.

It went quite dark at one stage and might have rained but we kept dry, the evening turning out much cooler than the day.