

June 2022 – Fulmer, Black Park and Temple Gardens

In June, the Walking Group ventured south-westwards for a change, starting and finishing at the Black Horse Pub in Fulmer, Buckinghamshire. Fulmer remains a delightful village, even despite the M40 quite close by!

Our 6 mile route took us through open farmland and Fulmer Common (with its very uncommon private estate...) and into Black Park, an extensive parkland now managed by Buckinghamshire Council. A mixture of open scrub and forested area, its criss-crossed by wide, well established pathways, making for good conversations as well as leisurely exercise. It is also frequently used by nearby Pinewood Studios for filming, though on this occasion we were unable to offer our services as extras...

At its southern end, we crossed into the top of Langley Park, known as Temple Gardens, which was the site of a banqueting pavilion dating back to the 1740s. The gardens are extensively laid out with rhododendrons and azaleas, which from mid-April to early June is provide a breathtakingly spectacular display. Unfortunately, we were a bit late for that, but were lucky enough to catch a few late blooms.

Not much remains of the pavilion nor the later viewing tower except some steps which provided an ideal photo opportunity for the group. Right on cue, the sun managed to push it way through the clouds, treating us to a glimpse of Windsor Castle in the distance. Our return route took us through a different part of Black Park, skirting part of its peaceful lake, and back to the Black Horse in Fulmer, where a number of us stayed for a very welcome drink and something to eat.

