

Wednesday 9th December 2015, Fire Beacon Hill, Hollow Head Cross & Tipton St John with Vivien Insull.

All the Fun at the Start

On a bright sunny December morning 11 walkers set off from Newton Poppleford to climb Fire Beacon Hill. It was a little muddy of course but after a pretty gloomy November it was good to see both sun and good visibility for the walk. We went via the village of Harpford, always a pleasure to walk through and after a level stretch near the old railway line we began the steady climb. The views get better and better as you ascend (once you have your breath back). At the top we enjoyed a well-deserved break and took in our surroundings.



Despite the strong breeze the sea looked calm and faintly blue again after recent stormy weather. We all walked to the nearby trig point and there was some discussion as to why such monuments never have the height above sea level on them. Someone suggested it was a ploy to get people to buy the relevant map. These days it's probably to buy the appropriate app for your smartphone etc.

We began our descent still in bright weather although darker clouds were beginning to appear and it continued windy. It has been incredibly mild so far this winter but most leaves have now fallen so walking on a carpet of them is very pleasant. We soon found

ourselves in the village of Tipton St John and quickly passed the Golden Lion pub and the strong smell of Fish & Chips. We were now only a mile or so along the River Otter from Newton Poppleford and we were soon back at the Recreational Ground car park.

Many thanks to Viv for leading us on this well-loved route.

Sheridan Brenchley

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