

Wednesday 30th May 2018, "Around the Beacon" with Graham Knapton

Four Squelch Around the Beacon

Three of us joined leader Graham Knapton to walk "Around the Beacon". It had been raining heavily, which must have deterred some people – they missed a most enjoyable walk.

Graham expertly guided us through fields and along a variety of paths and tracks, turning this way and that, and all from memory, most impressive. Due to the heavy rain the already lush vegetation brushed against us and made us very wet. Too late we realised the correct wear would have been waterproof trousers, NOT gaiters! Even Jacqui got wet knees despite being well equipped with wellies. But we squelched on, thankful that the rain mostly held off. We ate lunch sheltered by trees – only to be deluged by a heavy downpour, which stopped once we started walking again!

En route we spotted some strange rubbery fungi which I now think are "*Auricularia auricula-judae*", known as the Jew's ear, wood ear, jelly ear or by a number of other common names" (thanks Wikipedia).



There was a promise of many glorious views.....if only the mist wasn't shrouding them. As for sounds, the strange braying of donkeys echoed around us as we completed our circle of the Beacon.



We finally descended past Harpford Woods into lovely Harpford and were soon back at the cars in Newton Poppleford. 9.5 miles in 4.5 hours, thank you Graham.

Penny Kurowski