

# Walk your way around the parish.

Lockdown has given many of us the time and inclination to get out and walk the many footpaths that criss-cross our lovely parish. It's dry now, but for 3 months lockdown 2 meant wellies and waterproofs, and lots of mud. I wonder how many of you have managed, or even thought of walking all of the footpaths. I've certainly been to places that I had never been to before. As winter rolls into spring the countryside comes alive; the colours erupt, the wildlife get busy and the views soften and become enriched. The farmers have been busy too, crops have been sown and significantly this year, many ditches have been cleared. Walking so many footpaths has brought the history and the management of the countryside into sharper focus. We have ruins and remnants of past industry, ancient tracks, green lanes and tracks that have almost succumbed to the plough. We have wide verges and narrow verges, broad field boundaries and some fields ploughed to within a few inches of the boundary. We have ponds in the corners of fields. We have hedges and thickets and woods all providing cover for wildlife. Over the next few months, I will walk the footpaths of Walsham and see what history remains, find out why the land is managed as it is, what wildlife is sustained and what we can do to protect and enhance our countryside.

The walks:

The Hundred Lane – in the nether regions

Hartshall Lane – it's not about deer

The Three Windmills – wind in the willows

Ancient Paths - boats and planes

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