

May 4th – Tickenham to Clapton in Gordano



Now for something really different. Although we are very familiar with much of this area, this walk contained many new experiences – just fantastic. Though the M5 features strongly in this walk, the memorable features were the Bluebells and Wild Garlic Woodlands. We started at Tickenham Church (A), also known as St Quiricus & St Julietta. I wonder who they were? On leaving the car, the views of the Nailsea Moor were impressive, as was a Little Egret wading in the water nearby. It does not seem long, in the



early 1990s, since we visited Topsham and saw one of the first such birds ever to arrive in the UK.

Soon, however, we were risking life and limb (in an excellent cause!) by walking along the road to the beginning of Old Lane (B). A gentle slope led us to magnificent bluebell woodlands which competed for First Prize with adjacent Wild Garlic.

Hopes for fungi were again soon dispelled but ideas of returning in the autumn developed as we walked along. Later in the walk we did come across a major growth of Dryad's Saddle – some hope for the future.

Past Crummock Wood we came into an area of large houses behind equally large fences. The land of TV celebrities. Crossing Cadbury Camp we strolled over the fields towards Naish House, which frustratingly, remained largely hidden behind a range of out-buildings, though a pile of slabs provided a suitable place for a well-earned cup of coffee.





The path through Parsonage Wood provided even more spectacular bluebells. We walked under the M5 and having not seen a single person all morning we were struck but the very many cars parked in the road. What was going on? We quickly found out as we entered the crowded bar of the Black Horse (D). It was full of people attending a wake – clearly a well-respected parishioner. The staff were just great and guided us to the quieter Snug where we enjoyed a drop of Bath Ale and an excellent lunch prepared in their own kitchens!

Fully replenished we set off towards St Michaels Church (12th century) and Clapton Court (14th century), both sitting under the protection of the ridge but now suffering continuous bombardment by noise from the M5. The path led through fields past a flourishing stables to a footbridge over the motorway (E). From here you can just imagine the amount of stone that needed to be excavated in the 1970s to allow the M5 through to the South West - something the cars and caravaners take for granted. Nearly home, with one last steep path back to Cadbury Lane. We soon descended past the Golf Course, across the main road and back to the car. 4.75 miles.



Here we had a brief conversation with someone who was also admiring the Egret still feeding in the water below. Looking across the moor thoughts went towards our next walk.....

Agreeing to take part in the MyMarathon Campaign is proving such a great idea!