

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

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| Walk Title | Brentwood to Harold Wood | Walk No. | 351 |
| Area | Essex | Type | Linear |
| Date | Friday, 11 March 2022 | | |
| Distance | 8.5 miles (13.7 km) | | |
| Timing | 4 hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow 7 hours in total. Therefore expect to be back in Islington by 5pm. | | |
| Meeting up & travel | <p>Meet at Stratford Station (usually Platform 8) at 9.50 for the 9.55 Shenfield train, arriving Brentwood at 10.25. Or take the train from Liverpool Street at 9.48. Please indicate on the signing-up form if you will board at LS. We will sit in the middle carriages.</p> <p>Return from Harold Wood, on the same line, about 3.45. Frequent service back to Stratford or Liverpool Street – about every 10 minutes.</p> <p>All within the Freedom Pass boundary.</p> | | |
| Route | <p>This linear route follows a mixture of woodland paths, quiet lanes and field paths as well as some suburban and busy roads from and to the stations. From Harts Wood it follows footpaths through wooded areas of Donkey Lane Plantation and Warley Gap to Warley Place* before lunch. The mileage includes the walk around the nature reserve. After lunch the walk crosses over the M25 to Tylers Common, continuing through the open areas of Harold Court Woods and Pages Wood back to Harold Wood station.</p> | | |
| Lunch | <p>Booked for about 12.45 at The Thatchers Arms, Great Warley, CM13 3HU. thethatcherswarley.co.uk</p> <p>There are places to eat a packed lunch outside the pub and in Warley Place.</p> | | |
| Dropping out | <p>The 269 bus from outside the Thatchers Arms at 13:06 and 15.13 to Brentwood station . Or a cab from the pub.</p> | | |
| Suitability | <p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker.</p> <p>NB: It is has become very muddy through part of the woods due to the recent wet weather and water-logged across areas of common, made worse by horse-riding. There are two particularly challenging areas at the moment. Hopefully, we will have a series of dry days during the next week to dry out the paths and quagmires.</p> <p>Terrain: Pavement, undulating woodland path and field edges plus gravelled paths through Harold Court Woods and Pages Wood.</p> | | |

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| | <p>Possible obstacles: Three stiles and a few busy roads to cross. Storm debris.</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Waterproof jacket. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain. Wear, or carry, an extra layer.</p> |
| Facilities | Toilets at both stations and at the pub. |
| Walk source | A friend's walk, slightly adapted. |
| Map & other references | OS Explorer 175 |
| Leader & contact details | <p><u>Walk Leader:</u> Linda Pledger Mobile: 07879 335445 Email: a2lpledger@waitrose.com</p> |
| Interesting facts | <p>*Warley Place Nature Reserve is a 25 acre reserve now maintained by Essex Wildlife Trust. It is the site of once famous Edwardian gardens belonging to Ellen Willmott. There should be some spectacular spring flowers to see during March. "Miss Willmott's Ghost" is the common name for Eryngium Giganteum, so named as the famous gardener used to walk around friends' gardens scattering the seeds from her pocket.</p> |