

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Finchley to Highbury	Walk No.	341
Area	Greater London	Type	Linear
Date	Tuesday 14th December 2021		
Distance	<p>6½ miles (10 km). East Finchley to Highgate Woods = 1 mls Highgate Woods to start of Parkland Walk = 1½ mls Parkland Walk to Finsbury Park = 2 mls Finsbury Park to Highbury = 2 mls</p>		
Timing	2.5 to 3 hours walking time + travel. At pub at the end for 2.30pm.		
Meeting up & travel	<p>Start options: Meet at Highbury & Islington by 11.00. Then we'll travel to Euston and change to Northern Line, High Barnet branch. All within the Freedom Zone.</p> <p>Joining the walk options: 11.30 East Finchley tube station. 12.30 Start of Parkland Walk, just off Archway Rd down from Highgate tube station, join at Holmesdale Rd entrance to the Walk 13.45 at Finsbury Park Café, next to the boating pond in Finsbury Park. 14.30 at the end, in the pub. Please indicate on sign up form where you will be starting from.</p>		
Route	<p>East Finchley to Highgate Woods; Highgate Woods to start of Parkland Walk; Parkland Walk to Finsbury Park; Finsbury Park to Highbury.</p> <p>We travel along sections of: Capital Ring / Highgate Woods / Queens Woods/ Parkland Walk/ New River.</p> <p>From East Finchley tube station, cross over to pick up sign to Capital Ring, through Cherry Tree Woods and into Highgate Woods and to the café in the middle. We pick up the Capital Ring signs again, cross over into Queens Woods and through to Holloway Road and the start of the start of the Parkland Walk. Follow this to Finsbury Park and the café next to the boating pond. We will cross over at Finsbury Park into Gillespie Park, down through this and the passed the Emirates stadium, to Highbury Fields, then to the pub.</p>		
Lunch	At the end in the Brewhouse, Highbury Corner.		
Drop outs	Drop out/ end points are all of the above as well.		
Suitability	<p>The walk is largely flat. There are a couple of short ups (around Highgate & Queens woods). A few steps on route. Most of the paths are firm and we don't expect any mud (even if it gets wet). Short sections of road walking. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain. .</p>		

Facilities	Toilets at various cafes on route, Finsbury Park café and at the end.
Walk source	Various. http://content.tfl.gov.uk/capital-ring-section-11.pdf http://content.tfl.gov.uk/capital-ring-section-12.pdf
Map references	OS Explorer 173
Leader & contact details	<u>Walk Leader</u> : Derek Harwood <u>Phone</u> : 077 5931 4096 <u>e-mail</u> : derek.harwood@live.co.uk
Interesting Facts	<p>Did you know? East Finchley station was originally opened as East End station in 1867 by the Great Northern Railway. It was later demolished and re-built to an art deco design by Charles Holden and Underground services began running in 1939.</p> <p>Did you know? Owned and managed by the Corporation of London, Highgate Wood with its 28 hectares of ancient woodland probably dates from the last ice age. Part of the Ancient Forest of Middlesex, the wood features in both the Domesday Book and more recently the Bishop of London's estate.</p> <p>Did you know? The railway line, now occupied by the Parkland Walk, was opened by the Great Northern Railway in 1867. In the 1930s, as part of the ambitious New Works Programme, London Underground planned to electrify it and take it over as part of the Northern line. Much work was done, including the new platform buildings at Highgate station, which can be seen as you leave the station. The work was abandoned at the outbreak of the Second World War and the line was closed to passengers in 1954. It remained in use occasionally for freight until 1970 after which the tracks were lifted. It is now a haven for wildlife with about 250 species of plants and the shy muntjac deer living here.</p> <p>Did you know? On the left, emerging from the brickwork, is the scary figure of a spriggan, a kind of goblin. Spriggans were grotesquely ugly, found at old ruins guarding buried treasure and generally acting as fairy bodyguards. They were also said to be busy thieves. Though usually small, they had the ability to swell to enormous size - they're sometimes speculated to be the ghosts of old giants. They were said to steal human children and leave baby spriggans in their place.</p>