

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Tewin	Walk No.	376
Area	Hertfordshire	Type	Circular
Date	Monday 22 nd August, 2022		
Distance	10 miles (16 km) including to/ from stations.		
Timing	4 hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow 7 hours in total. Therefore should be back in Islington (Finsbury Park) by 5.00pm.		
Meeting up & travel	<p>We are travelling to Welwyn North. You can catch this train from Kings Cross or Finsbury Park.</p> <p>From Kings Cross catch the 9.59 to Cambridge (probably Platform 10. Or meet at about 9.55 on the platform at Finsbury Park to catch the train at 10.04. Please indicate your joining point on the sign up form.</p> <p>32 mins direct to Welwyn North.</p> <p>Trains back are every 30 mins. Approx 17 mins & 47 mins passed the hour. We should make the 16.17 train.</p> <p>Get an off peak day return ticket from Zone 6 Extension (Hadley Wood) to Welwyn North. With a rail card that's £5.65.</p>		
Route	<p>Last walked April 2021.</p> <p>For detailed directions for the route see the links below. But in summary it's:</p> <p>(10.40) We leave the station by going over the footbridge to go out through the main station building. Cross straight over and down Adele Avenue opposite. We wide our way through houses and within a kilometre are out into the countryside. Our path now climbs steeply through Dawley Wood then out of the woods and down.</p> <p>Views back over Welwyn. At the pond (11.25) – opt out point / possibility to shorten the walk – turn left pass the bench onto Upper Green. Kept to the left hand side of the green.</p> <p>We skirt Tewin, one of the oldest villages in the area (and pronounced “Chew-in” or “Tyoo-in”). IF1.</p> <p>We reach Trewin Wood and then Ladywalk (12.10) – see IF2. Then it's Bramfield Woods before reach Bramfield for our lunchtime stop – IF3 (12.55).</p> <p>After lunch (13.55) we set off passed the Grandison. The lane becomes a gravel track as you pass close to Bramfield Park Wood on your right. You come to the wooden gates of a 15th-century house Bramfield-bury. We go along the edge of Bramfield Park Wood.</p> <p>We pass Marden Hill (IF4) then pass the converted barn and immaculate garden of Mereden Cottage (14.35), which lies within the Marden Hill estate.</p> <p>We then reach another viewpoint with a bench seat from which to admire the pleasant aspect.</p> <p>After visiting the church - IF4 (15.05), keep left in the churchyard, passing the large walled grave of Alfred Beit, the German-born gold and diamond magnate. Go down to the far corner and between</p>		

	posts into fields. We soon enter the trees of Dawley Wood again. The path ends beside a chalet-style house on the road. Turn right on the road, avoiding Harmer Green Lane on your left (which has no footway). In 250m, turn left on Adele Avenue, leading to North Welwyn station (15.55).
Lunch	Food is available at the smart Grandison Arms in Bramfield (01992 554077).
Dropping out	Possible at the pond to turn back and self-guide back to the beginning. Making it a 4.4ml / 7.5 km) walk.
Suitability	Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There are quite a few undulations. Terrain: one big up nearing the beginning. Some short muddy patches. Possible obstacles: none. Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain.
Facilities	There are toilets at Welwyn North station and at the pub at lunchtime.
Walk source	Fancyfree walks (see links below)
Map & other references	OS Explorer 182 (Hatfield) Links: http://fancyfreewalks.org/Chilterns/Digswell.pdf?version=1708 http://fancyfreewalks.org/Chilterns/Tewin.pdf?version=1708
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	<i>IF1: Tewin is possibly the oldest village you are likely to meet on any of these walks. It dates from at least the year 450 and its church is almost as old. The name, by the way, is pronounced "Chew-in" but some older folk say "Too-in". Tew was the Anglosaxon god of war. (The equivalent Norse god Tiw gave his name to "Tuesday".) But nothing about this serene village could be less warlike. A national survey in the press named Tewin as one of the most desirable places to live. If you look from the excellent pub, the "Rose and Crown", to the other side of the road, the house built in the same style, the "Old School", may have been the idea behind Dotheboys Hall in Dickens' Nicholas Nickleby. (The author lived in Welwyn.) The village well cover on the Lower Green was moved to the corner when the original well was closed. For much more about this lovely village, read Tony Rook's books on "Welwyn".</i> <i>IF2: Ladywalk House, once the property of racing ace Lewis Hamilton, who sold it to the disgraced tycoon Vijay Mallya for £11½m (note the initials VJM later under the house name).</i> <i>IF3: Bramfield has always been tiny. In fact, in 1428, after the plague years, the parish had no inhabitants at all! We know a great deal about Bramfield from a local farmer who was an administrator and tax collector at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. This was John Carrington and his hand-written Diary gives an account of his village sojourns, mainly an account of good dinners. "4 Jan 1805: to Paul Benfields at the Bull Wiltshires at Watton at Stone. He paid Poor Rate, Land Tax, and Property Tax for wood land. They gave us a</i>

Good Dinner and punch.” “16 April 1805: to Bramfield Vestry as Overseer. Dinner at the Grandison Arms the widow Deards. Buttock Beef, Roast Shoulder of Mutton, puddings etc..” A gloomier entry records a hanging: “Ann Mead, aged 16, was found guilty of the Royston murder of Charles Proctor, aged 1, by feeding him a spoonful of arsenic.”.

IF4: The Grade-II listed mansion of **Marden Hill** in this site high above the Mimram River was a banker's house. It was built in the early 1600s but totally remodelled in later centuries. One owner was Richard Flower (of Flowers Brewery), a banker, whose son founded the English Settlement in Illinois. Sir John Soane (architect of the Bank of England) refashioned much of it for the then Governor of the Bank of England. It is now six luxury apartments (whether for bankers is not known).

IF5: Tewin Church was founded by the “Sons of Tew”, the pagan Saxon invaders, in the year 449 and it has become a catalogue of English styles: Norman, Early English, Perpendicular, Tudor, Victorian. The north wall and some of the windows are still Saxon. The tower has six bells, four of which date from 1673. The church is full of memorials and it is worth buying the Visitor's Guide (£1.50). The Churchyard is a shady arboretum with kind of tree: yew, ash, holm oak, red oak, whitebeam, etc. It is as interesting as the church. John Carrington's (see above) tomb is here. But the tomb that gets the most visitors from all over the world is that of Lady Anne Grimston (inside the iron railing on the east side) who was reputed to have said “If, indeed, there is life hereafter trees will render asunder my tomb.” (Non-believers in the Afterlife were termed “Sadducees”.) But she must have been pious, driving her horses every week to Tewin from St Albans. For 200 years four trees have battled with the tomb and a few cracks have appeared.

