

Shorter Walks – May 2015 to September 2015



Here is a record of the iU3A Shorter Walks group walks from May 2015 through to September 2015, the end of the iU3A year. For more recent visits and future plans, go to our [web page](#)

May



Richmond Park - for our very first walk ten of us braved the gales and showers and cancelled trains (requiring an unexpected diversion to Surbiton). The 5 mile walk was varied: deer and parakeets in the park, spectacular azaleas and rhododendrons in the Isabella Plantation and a genteel stretch of the Thames Path through Richmond. Mostly punctuated by bluebells and the occasional glimpse of sunshine. Morning coffee became a lunch-break thanks to the delayed trains, but as it was in the picturesque setting of Pembroke Lodge no-one seemed to mind too much.

June



We had a bright, sunny day for our June walk along part of the LOOP in Enfield, following the Turkey Brook, with the added attraction of two beautiful gardens at Forty Hall and Myddelton House. Such rural delights just 20 minutes from Finsbury Park. And the bonus of plants for sale. Here we are, pictured admiring the collection of irises at Myddleton House.

July



This walk almost didn't happen. Postponed from what turned out to be the hottest day since records began, it eventually only took place the following week, thanks to Martyn Waring (Coordinator of the Longer Walks group) who stepped in when Kate injured her foot. A small group enjoyed a walk across the heights of Hampstead Heath and through the lovely pergola and gardens of Hill House finally returning through Sandy Heath to Kenwood House. Despite the forecast, the weather was kind and the temperatures were back to normal.

August



After a 25 minute rail journey to Charlton, we walked to Charlton House for a leisurely coffee sitting outside the cafe in the sunshine and admiring the view, before a brief wander in the walled garden. Continuing through Maryon Wilson Park, a wild wooded area where we were the only walkers, we passed the mini zoo (though we saw only poultry and sheep.) A third park, Maryon, was the location for Antonioni's 1966 film 'Blowup', starring David Hemmings, Sarah Miles and Vanessa Redgrave. Then on to the Thames Barrier, where most had a snack lunch before walking along the Thames Path to the O2 and a Thames Clipper back to Central London.

September



This was a 5 mile walk was around Wimbledon Common and Putney Heath. 9 of us enthusiastically set off from Vauxhall. We started at Southside Common and passed close to Rushmere Pond. We then entered Cannizzaro Park with the decorative birdcage, the sunken garden and the Italian garden. We walked out onto the Common to Caesar's Well with its ring of Scots Pines, on to Queensmere and then uphill to the Windmill. We proceeded along a nature trail through the heathland and flowering heather of Putney Common to negotiate the footpaths under Tibbets Corner to the Green Man Pub for lunch.