

Roll: **20240104-59634**

Camera: **Panasonic DC-TZ200: TZ2**

Film: **1 inch digital 20MP**

Subject:

U3A Circular walk Shirley to Osmaston.

Notes:

I woke up to find my vision obscured by a thick grey miss. I tried my glasses and they made things no better. I began to get anxious that there had been an irreversible deterioration in my vision over night. I went to the bathroom and found there wasn't a lens case on the window shelf. I then I knew. I had gone to bed without removing my lenses. I got them out as quickly as possible, cleaned them and put them to soak in and comfort solution. I showered, dressed and had a breakfast of two fried eggs then returned to try inserting the lenses. Happily my vision was much restored.

It was then 9am and I knew I could well be late at the assembly point of the Saracen's Head in Shirley. I knew that on Wednesday people had reported Wilford Lane as being closed by the police due to flooding but it seemed reasonable to assume that that had been dealt with by now and Waze was following the expected route so fingers crossed. Crossing my fingers though did not work, the lane was still closed. I had no idea which way to go from there and Waze was just determined to take me back to Wilford Lane. I headed through town to get to the A52 and so was now at least 20 minutes behind schedule. At a quarter to ten I pulled into a layby and texted Simon to tell him not to wait.

I found the Saracen's Head easily enough. I changed into my boots and given the continued fine weather forecast decided to abandon the fleece, remove all unnecessary heavy objects from my bag and stuff the waterproof in there. The Lumix camera I could comfortably carry in my shorts pocket.

The path was easy to follow and although very wet and initially quite muddy progress was good. There was a section with a long rotting duck walk which was a bit hazardous but it was a beautiful morning and the scenery was good.

As I approached Osmaston I debated skipping the visit to the Shoulder of Mutton where the group was scheduled to stop for coffee. Doing so could make the difference between arriving back at Shirley in time to join them for a meal and arriving to see them leaving. I decided to visit the Shoulder of Mutton.

It was a lovely little low ceilinged pub serving Bass and Pedigree as there draft ales at £4.30 a pint. The barmaid was very sweet and made me feel very welcome. She asked me if I would eat with them and I said that although I was tempted I was supposed to be eating with a large group in Shirley. She said she wouldn't tell anyone and winked. I was won over and ordered a steak and kidney pie, chips and veg. The meals here were about £5 cheaper than in Shirley and I couldn't guarantee being in Shirley in good time it seemed prudent to go for jam today in this warm and comfortable bar.

Five or ten minutes later the group arrived which meant they had either changed the route or walked the opposite way around the circuit. They were shown into the restaurant area and it became obvious quite quickly that lunch had been relocated. Turned out the Saracen's Head was closed as the patrons had gone away on holiday. Fearful of floods they had come a different, much longer route.

The walk back to Shirley was an easy canter along a broad unmetalled road.

Dates:

Dates and times are taken from the exif data.

Frames:

P1035961 20240104 01:06:16 Old man in an attic.
P1035963 20240104 11:34:48 House and church tower.
P1035966 20240104 12:11:32 Footpath and gate.
P1035968 20240104 12:14:44 Herring bone skies.
P1035969 20240104 12:15:36 Tarn and trees.
P1035970 20240104 12:15:44 Tarn and trees.
P1035971 20240104 12:34:00 Fish eye view.
P1035972 20240104 12:34:27 Fish eye view.
P1035973 20240104 12:39:44 Foot path and skies.

P1035974 20240104 12:42:31 Extraordinary tree stump.
P1035976 20240104 12:47:40 Osmaston Park.
P1035977 20240104 12:50:17 Osmaston Park.
P1035979 20240104 13:04:31 Entrance to Osmaston.
P1035980 20240104 13:09:05 Thatched cottage.
P1035983 20240104 15:09:10 Plantation.
P1035985 20240104 15:23:00 National School.
P1035986 20240104 15:23:15 House and church tower.
P1035987 20240104 15:23:42 Village alleyway.
P1035988 20240104 15:24:18 Saracen's Head.
P1035989 20240104 15:25:15 Church Lane Deli.



P1035961.jpg



P1035963.jpg



P1035966.jpg



P1035968.jpg



P1035969.jpg



P1035970.jpg



P1035971.jpg



P1035972.jpg



P1035973.jpg



P1035974.jpg



P1035976.jpg



P1035977.jpg



P1035979.jpg



P1035980.jpg



P1035983.jpg



P1035985.jpg



P1035986.jpg



P1035987.jpg



P1035988.jpg



P1035989.jpg



P1035966 - Footpath and gate.



P1035968 - Herring bone skies.



P1035970 - Tarn and trees.



P1035971 - Fish eye view.



P1035973 - Foot path and skies.



P1035974 - Extraordinary tree stump.



P1035976 - Osmaston Park.



P1035979 - Entrance to Osmaston.



P1035980 - Thatched cottage.



P1035983 - Plantation.



P1035985 - National School.



P1035986 - House and church tower.



P1035987 - Village alleyway.



P1035988 - Saracen's Head.



P1035989 - Church Lane Deli.