

Roll: **20241212-59951**

Camera: **Panasonic DC-TZ200**

Format: **Digital:1":20MP**

Year: **2024** Month: **December**

Subject: U3A walk Breedon on the Hill - Melbourne.

Notes:

Dropped Joseph off at work so early there was time to go back home for an hour before setting sail for Breedon on the Hill. Still arrived early at the car park for the Holly Bush.

I used to pass Breedon on the Hill on the way to work in Birmingham every day in late 2000 early 2001. I think possibly after Joseph was born we joined the Easter vigil, climbing the hill to the Church for the sunrise. I guess that was 2002. For some reason though I had not previously seen the village and I was gob smacked at the first sight of the Holly Bush.

A 17th century timbered structure which the landlord assured me had always been in continuous use as a public house. Like many of these very old pubs it was built as a long bar with a corridor behind. The front of house may have been divided into two or three spaces. There was a fireplace at either end of the bar but one had been replaced with an electric artificial fire ostensibly because on windy days there would be a down draft down one chimney and an upwards draft at the other. Grade II listed the thatched roof had never the less been removed on the excuse of it being a fire hazard in public place. There had clearly been many rambling extensions over the centuries but still the bar space remained tiny. The ceiling beams were very low indeed and I cracked my head twice in fairly short order.

The walk up the steep hill to the Church of St. Mary and St Bardulph was taxing, largely because it occurred immediately after setting off. Thick mist at the summit by the iron age fort, "Bulwarks", and the Church denied us the reportedly splendid views across Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

We then followed the footpaths north westwards to Melbourne resting briefly by "The Pool", a rather large mill pond before Melbourne Hall and gardens. The yew hedges in Grade I listed gardens were quite stunning even from over the garden wall. The hall was the home of Viscount Melbourne former 18th Century prime minister. It is now the home of Ralph Kerr 14th Marquiss of Lothian and his Mrs. The gated village I assume is still largely owned by the family perhaps indirectly through the estate to avoid taxes. I believe the house is open to the public one month of the year. Opening 30 days a year is another tax dodge around the value of the artifacts displayed.

The village is splendid and boasts a number of independent retailers. Clothiers, a cobblers, furniture shop, opticians, restaurants, cafés, health centre and four pubs.

Back at Holly Bush the food was first class.

Having read up on the antiquities at the Church, the iron age fort and the pubs, for yes there is a second pub in Breedon, I feel another visit is due.

Breedon on the Hill by the bye means "Hill hill on the hill."

People:

John, Kevin,

Dates:

Times and dates are taken from the EXIF metadata. The chronology has been checked and I believe it to be accurate.

Frames:

P1036645	1212	09:46	The Holly Bush	10.3	200	f3.5	1/250
P1036646	1212	09:47	The Holly Bush	9.6	200	f3.4	1/125
P1036647	1212	09:47	The Holly Bush	9.5	200	f3.4	1/200
P1036648	1212	09:47	The Holly Bush	8.8	200	f3.3	1/200
P1036649	1212	09:48	The Holly Bush	10.3	200	f3.5	1/160
P1036650	1212	09:50	The Holly Bush	9.6	200	f3.4	1/200

P1036651	1212	09:51	The Holly Bush	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/250
P1036652	1212	09:52	The Holly Bush	8.8	1000	<i>f3.3</i>	1/125
P1036653	1212	09:53	The Holly Bush	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/100
P1036654	1212	10:19	Church of St. Mary and St. Hardulph	14.4	200	<i>f3.9</i>	1/125
P1036655	1212	10:19	Beacon	30.6	200	<i>f4.9</i>	1/125
P1036657	1212	10:19	Church of St. Mary and St. Hardulph	17.6	200	<i>f4.2</i>	1/125
P1036658	1212	10:20	View point in the mist.	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/320
P1036659	1212	11:11	The Pool	15.8	200	<i>f4</i>	1/250
P1036661	1212	11:25	Yew Hedge	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/200
P1036663	1212	11:25	Wrought Iron Balustrade	32.2	500	<i>f5</i>	1/80
P1036664	1212	11:26	Melbourne Hall	10.8	200	<i>f3.5</i>	1/100
P1036665	1212	11:27	Melbourne	10.8	200	<i>f3.5</i>	1/125
P1036666	1212	11:27	Melbourne	10.8	200	<i>f3.5</i>	1/200
P1036667	1212	11:28	Melbourne	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/125
P1036668	1212	11:29	Walled passageway.	9.1	250	<i>f3.3</i>	1/80
P1036669	1212	11:30	Posh ouse.	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/250
P1036670	1212	11:32	National School.	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/160
P1036671	1212	11:32	Village street.	8.8	200	<i>f3.3</i>	1/250
P1036672	1212	11:33	The Book House.	19.3	200	<i>f4.3</i>	1/80
P1036674	1212	11:34	The Book House.	132	640	<i>f6.4</i>	1/125
P1036675	1212	11:35	U3A walkers.	24.7	200	<i>f4.6</i>	1/100
P1036676	1212	12:43	Autumn leaves.	8.8	800	<i>f3.3</i>	1/125
P1036677	1212	14:33	The Holly Bush	10.3	1600	<i>f3.5</i>	1/30
P1036678	1212	14:33	The Holly Bush	12.5	1600	<i>f3.7</i>	1/25
P1036679	1212	14:34	U3A walkers at The Holly Bush	12.8	1600	<i>f3.7</i>	1/30
P1036680	1212	14:34	The Holly Bush	12.8	500	<i>f3.7</i>	1/80



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P1036645 - The Holly Bush



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P1036653 - The Holly Bush



P1036654 - Church of St. Mary and St. Hardulph



P1036655 - Beacon



P1036657 - Church of St. Mary and St. Hardulph



P1036659 - The Pool



P1036661 - Yew Hedge



P1036663 - Wrought Iron Balustrade



P1036664 - Melbourne Hall



P1036665 - Melbourne



P1036667 - Melbourne



P1036668 - Walled passageway.



P1036670 - National School.



P1036672 - The Book House.



P1036675 - U3A walkers.



P1036676 - Autumn leaves.



P1036677 - The Holly Bush



P1036678 - The Holly Bush



P1036679 - U3A walkers at The Holly Bush



P1036680 - The Holly Bush