

REVIEW OF DELL QUAY GENTLE WALK 6PM TUESDAY 13TH JUNE 2017

A group of 27 gathered in expectation at the Chichester Harbour Marina for an evening stroll to Dell Quay. Good to see some old stagers as well as a warm welcome for newbies. A certain member, who was slightly late, became somewhat ashen when advised last one arriving had to buy the drinks!

A tarmac path took us through the moorings with the boats gradually increasing in size and value as we approached the water. The path then followed the shore line through the headland nature reserve and then edging the fields towards the Quay. It was a beautiful still hot evening with the sunlight shimmering onto the water giving the appearance of rain. Egrets and herons were noticed on the water's edge, whilst the fields were full of serried ranks of oats, gently dancing in the breeze as they somewhat forlornly awaited their future appearance as porridge.

The river inlet allowed imaginings of Roman boats on their way to Fishbourne and Noviomagus (Chichester), and later Saxon ones led by Elle, as in those days we were on the island of Selsey. In the distance was noticed the white spires of Chichester Cathedral, whilst the other side of the inlet saw the lower hills of the Souths Downs, with the primordial forests of Kingsley Vale providing a gloomy and mysterious backcloth. In any moment the giant figure of Grendel was expected to come striding over the hills to send shivers down the spines of the walkers.

Just before Dell Quay the shoreline was arrived at with the low tide allowing the party to complete the outward journey to the Quay. The majority of the party then stopped at the local hostelry for drink and or food ,as the group took in the magnificent views of the river and fast approaching sunset.

The way back saw a deepening glow of the sun setting over the tranquil limpid waters, with only the stillness of the evening being broken by the faint hum of traffic on the A27.

A pleasant and leisurely evening event.