

Cockey Moor Coalfield

This month it was decided to take a walk on the south side of the village. We first visited the Cockey Moor Coalfield to investigate the Bell Pits which possibly date back to the medieval period. Steve, who had brought his dowsing rods tried to determine the extent of the coal workings and announced that they extended about 10ft out from the central shaft.



Our numbers were considerably increased when a group of about six horses joined us and stayed with us from the coalfield to Higher Pit Lane. Billy pointed out that there was a hare in the middle of the field and we were shocked when it suddenly took to the air. It was at that point that we realised that it was a heron and all agreed that Billy should bring his glasses next time.





We continued to the top of Higher Pit Lane where the horses left us and we continued westward to an area that is shown on the 1845 ordinance survey map as Sharples Nook and then to the site of what was once Booth's Farm, now just a pile of overgrown rubble.



Booth's Farm

From Booth's Farm we made our way to the ponds at the top of Newquay Ave known as Mill Pits or sometimes Mile Pits. Dave suggested that they were dug as drainage ponds for the surrounding fields. He went on to tell us that someone had released a goldfish into the pond and that without the restraint of a goldfish bowl had grown to two foot long and was known as Old Yeller



Mill or Mile Pits

Making our way to Bradley Fold Rd, which was once called Schoolside we speculated on the position of the old school that gave the road its name. Using the 1845 ordinance survey map we found the site and discovered that no visible evidence of it remains.



Old School

Walking down Bradley Fold Rd we stopped to look at Lower Green Farm and Kiln Clough before crossing the field to Ainsworth Hall Rd.



Lower Green Farm



Kiln Clough



While some of us explored the overgrown grounds of Ainsworth Hall Dave took the opportunity to have a breather.



After an enjoyable two hours we retired to the Old White Horse for a well earned pint.