

Dedham Footpath Group

Formed in 1975 Dedham Footpath Group exists primarily as a means by which lovers of the Dedham Vale and the surrounding countryside can be given an opportunity to enjoy rambles through friendly association with like-minded people. Dedham alone boasts over forty separate footpaths all of which have something to recommend them. The more popular both with local people and visitors usually include sections along the River Stour towards Flatford Mill in one direction or Stratford St Mary in the other. There are many more much less popular but still worthy of exploring however and these are often included in routes worked out by members who elect to lead.

Most walks are circular starting and finishing at a point where cars can be parked and often include a pub or tea rooms often at the end of the ramble. Approximately half are within the Dedham Parish although some do require a drive of up to fifteen miles. A typical outing would be of four to six miles and last about two hours. The emphasis is more on friendly chat and noting things of interest rather than serious striding out. Dogs on leads are mostly welcome except where the leader has requested otherwise. The programme of walks is fixed for the year at, or soon after, the AGM of the Group in January or February of each year and at that meeting a visiting speaker will be organised to talk on matters of common interest. The AGM has for the past few years been held at The Duchy Barn behind Royal Square in Dedham and is always on a Monday evening.

Walk leaders are crucial to the success of the Group as without them it would not be possible to produce a programme for the year. There are usually walks in most months the exceptions being December January and February although a New Year's Day walk is an established and popular feature of the post-Christmas holiday mood.

The annual subscription is presently £6 per person. Members are covered for third party insurance on organised walks. In the mid-summer months most walks take place in the evenings and at other times Sunday mornings or afternoons are generally favoured. The person agreeing to lead can decide the distance, date/time and starting point and will need to give details soon after the AGM so that the whole year programme can be published and circulated.

Those wishing to learn more are asked to contact the
Chairman, John Osborn (01473 313000) e-mail - johnfosborn@btinternet.com or the
Secretary, Martin Broom (01206 322578) e-mail - mandp1967@btinternet.com)