

Dear All. *Sunday 27th May again to the more observant – Walk with Tony 8mls B)*

Apologies first of all for the late delivery of last Sunday's walk brief, it was in part due to the virus situation. I sneezed when pushing the send button and instead hit the draft save icon. So here we go again on another 27<sup>th</sup> May walk, this time with Tony, and not Derek and the Lovely Tina. On a week where we go upmarket, the walk is left to the more sartorially & elegantly attired members of the club, to lead the way. Compo self, Cleggy (Paul), Foggy (Alan) and with the lovely now Nora will be left lurking on the fringe of the group. The lead out by Tony, better known himself for his smart but casual approach to walking attire, sort of *Our Man at Millets* as opposed to a being a patron of the *Lidl Executive* range. The walk begins down Church lane as we head off into the Harewood Park Estate and House grounds, all of which have been around since 1696. The main development came around 1738 when the 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Harwood, plantation owner, slave trader and supplier of rum to the British navy started the building of the Main house and the village of Emmerdale, later of TV fame. Our walk swings left as we head towards the village where again it's a left and make for the Sugar Hill before descending to meet and cross the main Harrogate Road. Time now for the aptly named Tony (the) Spice break, what a treat we have in store today, it's a long time since I tasted Rum Truffles like these, they are certainly a bit on the rum side, odd might be a better way to describe them. Tony did admit they had been in the family some time, bit like Pauls Minto's then. To complement and to emphasis the Yin / Yang factor there's some bitter sweet Lemon and Banana Bon Bons, with a dusting of cinnamon. Sounds lovely, but I can assure you it is an acquired taste, one I shall overcome in the future. Stick with stuff you know, like a bit of rhubarb and a bag of Tate n Lyle. We finish off with lumps of cut up soft Bridlington rock, with best before 2015 written all the way through it. Now we know why its soft. To continue our stately stroll, we head towards East Keswick and the extended queues at the recently opened Plant Centre and Tree Tops Nursery before making our way to the banks of the Wharfe and Lunch. As this is a nominated Grand Cru event, its only right that the Lovely Carol (ne Nora) and I enjoy a lunch time treat to represent the occasion. With this in mind we have gone for the Tripe and Udder pie, with 8 Manky Thompson Grapes, Chopped Celery and Apple Compote, a few assorted nuts {present co included} on a bed of Slug born Limp Iceberg Lettuce, complete with a dressing of Port n Lemon. To those in the know like Brenda it's a Walsall Salad. To finish we have returned to the Rum theme and gone for the *Bab A Napoli*, Nuff said. Should have gone to Gregg's, opening soon! The path now follows the river, where Tony as a keen bird watcher is in his element, the chance of seeing a Kingfisher, Red Kite or a pair of Great tits will have him in throws of ecstasy. There may also be the opportunity to hear a woodpecker knocking about and it won't be the first time a wood pidgin has not left its mark, on some unsuspecting head or other. Its nice that the Glee clubbers have come along, I think the attraction was the anticipation of seeing the Duke (no relation) and his current good lady wandering about aimlessly in the grounds like themselves, had been the main draw. Unfortunately, they (Ducky) have had to stay at the Big House, as it was time for a scheduled delivery spot from Aldi, and did not want to miss seeing the driver, as the last months 3 cases of Super Savers Gin, left on the doorstep had gone missing. As the walk winds its way back towards the main house, no visit to Harewood would be complete without a brief tour around the estate, woods and of course the bird gardens. Much of the formal display was laid out by Lancelot Incapable Browne, this took place around 1780, after which Alan (the)Tit March completed the job on *Ground Force*, with Charlie (over my shoulder goes) Dimmock & Ruby Walsh, who also fixed the stable doors in or around 2011. The house was also painted by the JWM Turner (no relation to Alan), but his choice of Magnolia (matt) for the main reception rooms did not enhance his reputation as a decorator. In later years he successfully stuck to more formal seascapes, like the *Tempest* and *The Fighting Temeraire* and never returned to house painting. Todays walk has been like no other that I can recall, the sheer magnitude of knowledge and inn competence of our leader goes without saying, so thank you once again Tony for giving us the Bird, tales. The next 2 walks are with the Clan McGomersall so in order to save the writer and nominated pack leaders too much effort and / or gentle ribbing, the activities will be combined, and the abuse shared. I would like to say thank you all for your tolerance, an especially those who suffer the indignation of being the butt of comment, but without you the walks, real or virtual would not take place. As ever Bill and the Lovely Carol.

*(currently self-distancing in Durham, as per recent Government instructions and advice.)*