



Pro-Biz



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WALK AND PUB LUNCH – THE BELL, EAST MOLESEY – 3rd OCTOBER 2023



We assembled at The Bell starting point, once again seventeen walkers, including newcomers Anthony and Linda. This was to be a unique ‘Three Rivers’ walk.

In pleasant walker-friendly weather, pausing only for Colin to park his bike in the safety of the church grounds, we headed into East Molesey, and our first river crossing. Over the Mole, and on the helpfully-named Molemer Road, which led us with impeccable logic to the bridge over the Ember. Then on to bridge number three, at Hampton Court, and a pleasant riverside stroll to Hurst Meadows, site of the old racecourse. Back into the street complex, and then a necessary route adjustment at the Mole and the Wilderness, access denied us since our previous walk due to private development.

On time at the Bell, we joined the five non-walkers for a well-earned and welcome and good quality lunch with helpful staff, in the surroundings of the original early fifteenth-century pub, originally a farm, bordering the old estates at Matham Manor and Lady Clinton’s Park. Too much history for factoids, even though various highwaymen are purported to have been present; Claude Devallier, Jerry Abenshaw (hanged in 1795), even Dick Turpin. If true, the latter certainly got around!. However, on the wall behind us was a photo of a weathervane featuring a gentleman in full Victorian rig pointing a telescope skywards. This, apparently, originally was atop the nearby church: when this was damaged the resourceful landlord of the pub rescued it, and it now graces the roof of The Bell.

All in all, a great day out.

LUNCH TALK: 'FINE CELL WORK' by JORDANNE CLIFFE, 19 September 2023



Jordanne (and her colleague Gloria), introduced this project, to sighs of relief from the members when it was realised this wasn't a talk on computers. !

Presently running in some thirty-two prisons, with sixteen volunteer teachers, and continuing the groundwork laid in 1997 by Lady Anne Tree, the aim of the Fine Cell work charity is, amongst others, is to educate inmates in skills in creating tapestries and through the commercial marketing their work. After receiving training from eth charity's volunteers, the prisoners use designs from professional designers including Cath Kidston and receive a kit of materials and instructions for each work. Some of their completed efforts were on show, in particular a tongue-in-cheek piece of the facade of Wandsworth Prison as held aloft by our presenters, complete with assorted modes of escape attempts!

Presently, our prisons house some 82,000 inmates (rising to 87,000), predominantly-male, adult offenders. Traditionally, 80% of these re-offend, and at a cost of over £8 billion per annum, any attempts to reduce this, and improve life 'inside', with an average of 23 1/2 hours spent in their cells, is worthwhile.

The 'Open Door' project helps to achieve a reduction of 2% of re-offending by creating opportunities through incentives for the prisoners, fostering hope, rebuilding lives and potential for reintegration into society; we wish them well...a sentiment shared by the members in well-deserved applause at the end of a fascinating presentation following an extended period of interested questioning by our members.

Fine Cell Work's products are available at www.finecellwork.co.uk

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 7th November: Walk & Pub Lunch, The Bell, Hampton TW122EA
Organiser: Ian Macrae

Tuesday 15th November: Club Luncheon, Speaker: Captain John Tye "Flying Concorde"