

REMS CAPITAL RING WALK 12

A wet but enjoyable walk

On 28 April Reinalt Vaughan-Williams took us from Highgate to Stoke Newington. Margaret Stedman was not well enough and we wish her a good recovery. The first part was along a gentle downwards slope of an old railway track. Light rain was falling all day and though the trackway was gravel there was mud in places. We passed through an old station (Crouch End) and a brick embankment where we were surprised to see a spriggan emerging. This one is by Marilyn Collins.

“Spriggans were depicted as grotesquely ugly, and were said to be found at old ruins and barrows guarding buried treasure and generally acting as fairy bodyguards. They were also said to be busy thieves. Though usually small, they had the ability to swell to enormous size (they were sometimes speculated to be the ghosts of the old giants).

Certainly their disposition was poor, and they caused mischief to those who offended them. They sent storms to blight crops, and sometimes stole away mortal children, leaving their ugly changelings in their place. In one story, an old woman got the better of a band of Spriggans by turning her clothing inside-out (turning clothing supposedly being as effective as holy water or iron in repelling fairies) to gain their loot.” From Wikipedia

This part was about 2 miles and where the track joined the main line near Finsbury Park our path was through the park to the New River, a waterway completed in 1613 to bring fresh water to London from Ware in the Lea Valley to the New River Head in Islington. Here the path was green with lots of lovely mud – OK for those who were booted-up but not otherwise. This led to Clissold Park in Hackney with the tall spire of Stoke Newington Church (St Mary’s). Clissold House is a good Georgian building. Lunch was in the Rose & Crown, a traditional pub with all the food and beer that REMS like. That left us with the walk through Stoke Newington and its surprising cemetery to the station.

Crossrail and the Olympics have closed parts of the next two walks so these have been postponed to next year.

George Freeman

Photos by George Freeman

Spriggan

New River Path

Lunch at the Rose & Crown

A new development on the path

Clissold House



Spriggan



New River path



Lunch at the Rose & Crown



A new development on the path



Clissold House on a brighter day