

Holy Cross Treasure Hunt

On a surprisingly warm and sunny bank holiday Sunday some of us gathered in the church to receive instructions for this year's treasure hunt. There then followed an enjoyable jaunt around the leafy lanes leading to Rickmansworth. I parked in the car park and when we had found where we were supposed to meet for a picnic decided to move the car as it was about as far away as it was possible to be from the picnic site. Nev and Brian were checking out the information boards and we managed to lose Annabel before we had even got out of the car park! Having regrouped we met up with the rest of the Holy Cross gang for the traditional pre-treasure hunt picnic during which we all realised that we had lost Malcolm who, it turned out, had arrived early and was enjoying a picnic nearby while waiting for the rest of us to arrive! Our team consisted of Brian, Annabel, Nev and Gill so we used our first initials to form a team name. Nev and Brian were all for the snappy title of 'BANG' by were overruled as I felt that 'The Old Bangers' was more appropriate.



There then followed an enjoyable afternoon taking in the beautiful Batchworth Lake with its waterfowl and wooded surroundings, the busy Grand Union Canal and picturesque Batchworth Lock. Obviously all the aesthetic ingredients of the afternoon were of little importance to competitive teams of treasure hunters determinedly checking how many bye laws there were or who to contact if a lifebelt was missing! One question had us crawling through the undergrowth and looking in trees for missing numbers. We walked back and forth for about twenty minutes before getting that one! (well it seemed like it)

After a pleasant stroll along the canal tow path we arrived at Batchworth Lock where we enjoyed ice creams and seemed to meet up with all the other teams in like minded mood. Great minds think alike. We also had time to visit the White Bear pub. There was a question about the pub which could be answered from the outside but we felt that as one can never be too diligent in one's research it was probably best to check out the inside and garden as well.

We all met up at Holy Cross Church for refreshments which were kindly provided by Jill and Gary Marsh as well as marking the answer sheets and the grand trophy giving. To our surprise it turned out that our team were the winners although all the entries were extremely close. Our thanks go to Jill and Gary Marsh for all their hard work devising an entertaining day out in beautiful surroundings. They even arranged for the sun to shine. I would recommend the annual treasure hunt for anyone who hasn't tried it before. It is a fun day out in an attractive area and is never taken seriously.

Gill Carney