

We started off across a very wet Bury Field on a lovely sunny morning towards the Kickles, whilst on Lakes Lane passing the site of Newport's water towers which were demolished to make way for the Poets Estate housing in the '70s.

Views of Gayhurst house of gunpowder plot fame, a short detour by some to investigate "Digby's walk" under the Northampton-Newport Road, round the back of the very expensive new "des res" being built in Gayhurst, past the old Francis Drake pub, views of Grade 1 Listed Tyringham House (designed by Sir John Soane), we decided not to wait at Tyringham church until 9:30 on the 19th.

Across the wet water meadows to arrive in Sherington along Water Lane (it's not called that for no reason!) and lunch. Then over the Olney bypass and plenty of mud to Chicheley. The rain which had been threatening arriving as we walked towards the A509, bringing odours of the previous day's factory fire in Newport on the wind. Lots of bits of burnt packaging in the fields near the site of the fire as we walked into Newport down the old Clay Lane.

Past Mike's house, through Castle Meadow and over the flooded river, carefully along the boardwalk in the boneyard to look at the water level at Riversmeet, then down Mill Street (sheep sculpture in garden of Mill House) back into Bury Field past the Civil War earthworks.

And no-one batted an eye lid as I clambered onto the number 2 bus home all covered in mud!

Signs of spring: we noticed snowdrops almost in bloom and primroses in bloom in a garden in Sherington, lots of birds singing - and deer grazing in Tyringham Park.

Dianne Sutton