

LWPC WALK REPORT

The Palaces of Oadby – Wednesday 4th February 2026

The walk was from the Cedars Pub, Evington, and our walking party, led by our leader, Chris Mitchell, comprised Gordon Squires, Richard Ward, Mike Stephens, Brian Marlow and Martin Waddington. Also joining us was a friend of Chris, Phil Sell, who would later give us a short history of 'Piggies Hollow'. David Mitchell was unable to start the walk with us, but had promised to join us at the halfway stage.

We set off from the car park at 10.00 a.m. in clear weather, and soon encountered a very muddy footpath leading to a large mound and surrounding hollow. In front of this was a signboard giving a detailed history of the hollow, known as 'Piggies Hollow'. Phil was able to give a short talk on the location and its significance many years ago, being linked to a local character called Piggy Wilson, who used to keep pigs there. The substantial earthworks represented the site of a mediaeval manor house with fishponds, which were later drained and used for ridge and furrow cultivation. This was detailed in a document dating back to 1308. The site was considered one of the best examples of its type in Leicestershire.

Having digested the very interesting talk, we proceeded along the muddy terrain to pass through the arboretum towards the main Gartree Road. We noticed the large number of plaques which had recently appeared under the trees in memory of various deceased.

Whilst crossing the Gartree Road, we met an oncoming ladies' walking group, but the busy traffic prevented our having time to chat with them. Following the path round, we saw to our left a number of newly built houses, reflecting the substantial recent development of Oadby. We soon reached a large, but very muddy field, when we spotted two large black horses. Apparently the field has not been developed as it lies on the route of a proposed by pass, which has been on the record for many years now.

At the far end of our footpath we reached Manor Road, where we turned to our right, before reaching the turn into the Broadway and the Fairway. We soon began to view the large Palaces of Oadby – several very large, well manicured properties, some of which were still under partial construction. We were aware that some of the properties had taken a number of years to construct, and conjectured on the reasons for the lapse of time.

When we reached the Fairway, we were met by the welcome sight of David Mitchell, who had transported for Chris, a large bottle of Baileys Irish Cream and some chocolate biscuits. Having been suitably refreshed, we set back along the Fairway, stopping at Oaks Way, to view the former home of Chris, still looking very modern, despite Chris having left many years ago.

From there we crossed the Gartree Road again, and took the footpath across the Leicestershire Golf Course on our way back to the Cedars. On the way we encountered the same ladies we had met before, who seemed happier to be now walking downhill across the course.

Having reached the main street in Evington, we decided, by popular vote, to eat at the Cedars. This proved to be a good decision, as the food was excellent and the service quick and efficient. We all enjoyed the meal and congratulations were given to Chris for a most interesting walk, despite the muddy conditions.

Martin Waddington