

In June Walking Group 1b undertook the interesting exercise of combining a theatre trip to the Chichester Festival with a 10 mile walk the next day.

We all met up in the restaurant of the Chichester Festival Theatre and enjoyed an excellent meal before tackling Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth" – a wordy play set in the 1950s which looks at failed ambition, lost youth and love, and the corruption and bigotry that lurks behind the American Dream. Meaty stuff!



Well we certainly needed cheering up after that, so the next day we set off in perfect weather on a circular walk round Thorney Island which has an interesting history of military use. A small airfield was developed in 1938, and the Navy used it in 1976. Then in the 1970s it was used to house Vietnamese refugees and is now the base for a regiment of the Royal Artillery.



However, you see little of that on the perimeter path which, apart from one short "jungle" section with 6ft nettles, gave us glorious sea and estuary views. That brought us round to the Emsworth Yacht Harbour where we enjoyed a very good lunch. Then just a few more miles back to our cars.

Meanwhile two of our non-walking partners were respectively enjoying a visit to The Pallant House Art Gallery (where a couple of actors were performing a little-known Graham Greene play called "Yes and No") and an aircraft museum.

A thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating few days – our thanks to Elizabeth Purves for masterminding it all.

***Patrick Pascall***

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