

HARTSHILL PARK WALK

Closer Walks to Home Network

The walk takes place twice a month on alternate Monday evenings at 7pm. We meet by the Noah's Ark on Hartshill Road and walk to Hartshill Park and through the Park. There are various routes which we may take, but the most common is to enter the Park via the Vicarage Road car park and walk along the "Safe Route to School" which overlooks St Thomas Aquinas School and beyond to Hanley Cemetery and Shelton Church. Leaving the "Safe Route" we pass along paths to reach the Boardwalk Pool, one of five pools in Hartshill Park. From there we walk along a path which dates from the original date of the Park's layout in 1975, but which has in part been recovered and in others completely replaced. This leads to the newly re-furbished steps which give access to the entrance from Tolkien Way and Hartshill Road by the St Dominic's Court Care Home.

This area has been the subject of a Project funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces initiative, administered by Groundwork UK, with a grant of almost £33,000, with a further grant of £2,000 to sustain the improvements and to increase community usage of the area and designated Hartshill Park Convent Pools Restoration and Access Improvement Project.

The first improvement seen were the new steps. The second is the path linking the Tolkien Way entrance with the Middle and Lower Pools. Part of this path is completely new, though it follows the route of an old track which was completely overgrown and impassable. This path now gives access to the Bottom Convent Pool and allows a complete circuit. A spur path newly constructed gives access to the Middle Pool, which was a heavily silted, debris filled seasonal pool which held water only in the winter months after heavy rain.

Much of the work of the Project has concentrated on restoring this Pool to a permanent state with the installation of a clay liner after up to two feet of silt had been removed. Thanks to the unseasonal summer weather the Pool filled within a week of the work being complete. The Pool will now be planted with aquatic and marginal plants and next year will be available to local schools for pond dipping.

We either walk around the Bottom Pool and exit via the steps leading towards the Top Pool and Hartshill Road or go directly to the steps and return via Hartshill Road or Tolkien Way and back to the Noah's Ark.