

**Walk Report: Stonehouse to Stroud beside the Stroudwater Canal**  
**Saturday 2 April 2022**

Five of us met at Gloucester Transport Hub on a very cold Saturday morning and caught the 64 bus to Stonehouse allowing Margaret an inaugural use of her bus pass. Hilary met us in Stonehouse, and we proceeded to the canal. The canal walk to Stroud was full of interest and history. Much work is being done to open up the canal and Sylvia was able to give us some interesting facts about the development and bridges. As we approached Ebley we noticed a very old telegraph pole that had been erected in about 1900 and had been preserved with the china insulators at the top.

The sun came out and we drank coffee at the Kitsch Coffee and Wine Bar basking in the sunshine. It was remarked that the area looked very smart and we felt we were on holiday! The Canal Trust had a boat that was starting to offer boat trips along the canal but, although tempting, we decided to keep walking.

Another item preserved from the past was an old gas pipe going along the tow path that was bent to go round the telegraph poles. It was good to see these artefacts left for history. Geoff was a fund of information about the mills and factories along the route e.g. The Strachan family who bought Lodgemore Mills in 1865 and are still operating from this site. The Strachan brand today is the benchmark in quality for snooker and pool tables. As the sun went in and the cold predominated, we arrived at the Lock Keeper's Café at Wallbridge for a delicious lunch. After a quick look round Stroud, we returned to Gloucester on the 3:30 bus and were home before the hailstones came down.

Kind regards

Gill