



BEATING THE BOUNDS

Short 1/2 Route

1st May 2017

Bank Holiday Monday

This historical, traditional, annual walk along the Baydon Parish boundary saw villagers walking around the parish boundary pausing at certain trees, walls and hedges that denoted the extent of the parish.

The aim was to keep fresh in the local collective memory the exact location of a boundary that may never have been written on any kind of map. This is an age-old ritual which has taken place in a variety of forms in Britain for over 2000 years. In the case of a rural parish the parson, accompanied by village worthies and a throng of inhabitants, young and old, walked around the parish boundary pausing as they passed certain trees, walls and hedges to exclaim, pray and ritually 'beat' particular landmarks with sticks.

This communal occasion was lubricated by liberal quantities of food and drink. But there was a serious purpose, to keep fresh in the local collective memory the exact location of a boundary that may never have been officially recorded. To reinforce the message, young lads in the procession, the elders of the future, would often be given a 'memorable' experience at particular points on the circuit. Sometimes they were bumped about, pushed into a stream, turned upside-down over a fence or hedge, thrown into a bramble-bush, or beaten with sticks as a reminder of the boundary marker and its importance.

Come and join in this ancient tradition

Details of the event:-

- Start** The Green opposite the pub 10am, 1st May 2017, Bank Holiday Monday.
- Distance** Approx. 6 miles / 3 hours.
- Terrain** Road, tracks, fields, paths & some moderate slopes, all within an area of outstanding natural beauty.
- Dogs** Very welcome on leads. Remember to bring some water & poo bags.
- Bring** Children, dogs, drinks, hats & sun cream (if sunny), waterproofs (if wet).
- Route** Southern half of the Baydon Boundary.