

Rambles around the IW

in association with the IW Ramblers



at the heart of walking

Description: A short, level walk exploring the historic town of Yarmouth. Yarmouth is the oldest town on the Island and has had a town charter since 1135. It is the second smallest town in England.

Distance: 2.0 miles

Start: At the harbour by the lifeboat station, near the bus terminus.

Access Information: Mainly paved walking

Refreshments: Various pubs and cafes in Yarmouth

Toilets: Public conveniences in Bridge Road and near the pier. The toilets at the Common are closed in the Winter.

Route: From the life boat station (1), go left towards the harbour commissioner's office. Pass the "Gribble Seat"- this is a concrete seat in the shape of the gribble worm which does much damage to the wooden pier. Pass one of many seats found in Yarmouth and cross the main road to find a path on the right of Yarmouth Sailing Club (2).

Follow the path along the edge of the Yar estuary. Continue past a car park and continue to the Mill House, once the home of the historian A.J.P. Taylor. It has been a private residence since 1900

when the last grain barges were loaded. Go through a gate and turn left on footpath Y2 towards Thorley (3). Note the old railway carriage and then go left onto the old railway line, now a cycleway (4). The railway operated from Newport to Freshwater and closed in 1953. Continue to reach the old Yarmouth station and turn left into Station Road. Pass a fire station and at a green area (5) turn right to reach the recreation ground. Go half left to reach the Yarmouth and Calbourne FC changing rooms. Take the track on the left of the building and continue along Tennyson Close to the main road (6). Turn right for about 100yds and then cross the road to pass the cemetery. Turn left into High Street (7) by The Common and seaside. Here there are splendid views of The Solent and heritage coast at Bouldnor.

Follow the High Street left towards the town. This is the location of one of the four original town wall gates. At a junction continue ahead, passing large houses with sea views on the right. At a second junction, continue straight ahead to pass several independent shops and galleries to reach the Square with its Town Hall and St James Church. (8)

Go into Bridge Road and turn right by the Wheatsheaf Pub into an alleyway called Wheatsheaf Lane. At the road, turn right to pass the Post Office and The George Hotel. This was the home of the flamboyant Governor of the Isle of Wight Sir Robert Holmes, in 1668. Here, he entertained Charles II on three occasions. There is a statue of Sir Robert Holmes in St James Church. At The Square, turn left and continue to the end of the pier. (9) The pier has been restored and was reopened in 2008. Return passing Gossips café and then turn right into Quay Street. Pass The George and then the entrance to Yarmouth Castle. The castle was built by Henry VIII in 1547 following an attack on the Yarmouth by the French in 1543. The stone was used from the destruction of monasteries at Quarr and Beaulieu Abbeys.

Continue to the ferry port (10) and go left following the harbour path and returning to the Life Boat Station.

GPS Users: Waypoints for this walk can be found at our web site: <http://www.iowramblers.com/page5.htm>. All walks in this series can be downloaded from this website

