

Pagham Church - Beating the Bounds 2-6th May with Alison Blenkinsop

Day 3 – Lagness to Pagham harbour, north wall (undertaken in sections on 4th, 5th & 6th)

Taking a different route from the usual one, which would have taken too long to walk in lockdown, we return from the field at Lagness along Rose Green Road, past Rose Cottage. There is information about Rose Green here: has anyone seen the book?

<https://www.bognor.co.uk/news/historian-pens-book-rose-green-916641>.



We join Sefter Road, and walk west past the Scout Hut and field where we held our Patronal Festival last June.

<http://paghamchurch.org/events/patronal-festival-2019-camp-and-outdoor-service/>

The site has been given planning consent for more housing and amenities, arousing much local dispute.

Sefter Road meets Pagham Road at the junction on the right. (My bike is just visible – I couldn't do the Lagness walk in an hour!)

Barfoots Farm can be seen across the fields to the west.

<https://www.barfoots.com/where-we-farm/barfoots-uk#barfoots-uk>



'Peter Barfoot, a fifth-generation farmer, started growing a single crop in Hampshire in 1976. Today, Barfoots now grow, process and pack a range of semi-exotic vegetables at farms and facilities around the world.' Sefter is one of their two UK sites, and covers 100,000 sq. ft. It usually employs seasonal workers from Europe.

(The road into Pagham from here is not suitable for pedestrians. It's safer to backtrack, and walk down Hook Lane.)

We are welcomed into Pagham Village by this decorative sign, opposite Mill Farm Residential Park where some of our Church family live.



Some historical information about the old houses in this area is given here:

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol4/pp227-233>

'Mill Farm near the north end of the Nytimber Street (sic) ... is probably of the 17th century. (Nearby) is an old windmill with round walls diminishing upwards covered with plaster; it has the wood capping but the sails are missing.'



Further south, we pass St Ninian's, the home of Bognor United Reformed Church, and the Village Hall (left) with its play area – all usually full of life, but now sadly deserted.



We turn off Pagham Road into a road leading to Church Barton Farm, where the land is being prepared for housing. The developer's web page gives a good aerial view of this part of Pagham: <https://www.domusea-land.com/>

The fields to the west are excellent farmland, but some have already been covered by new houses, with many more planned.



We turn off the road leading to Church Barton farm buildings, and follow the footpath into the woods. Pagham church is just visible on the horizon in the photo on the left below.



This section feels wonderfully countrified, but the lanes are too narrow for two-metre distancing!

Looking northwards from the footpath



We emerge from the lane at the north wall of the harbour, and greet the horses and ponies grazing in the field.



Pagham Harbour has a fascinating history. According to information on Sussex University's website, the wall was erected around 250 years ago. It prevents the incoming tide from flooding into farmland on the north side. Visit <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/> and search for *Pagham Harbour*. (Warning: the print is tiny!)

Next week, we walk from the north wall to the southern corner of the Pagham side of the harbour. This beautiful area is now a nature reserve under the protection of the RSPB.

