

Lytham Circular 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Rain. Not the heavy downpour type, just very light but constant drizzle. You can't even hear it hitting you but you know it's there because you are glistening. The ground is damp underfoot, and along Witches Wood we have to take the high road to avoid the deepest muddiest puddles. A lot of soft ground is saturated after the recent storms but today we are sticking to mostly hard paths. A dog walker stops to chat. Asks if we need any new younger members, offering himself as an example. We reply to him in Spanish.

The snowdrops are clinging on, nearing the end of their season, but still showing nicely to an appreciative audience. In the grounds of Lytham Hall we almost collide with another group of people, younger than us and showing off by climbing the mound. We don't take it personally, we are more mature than



Photo by Graham

that. Many trees didn't survive into March. They lie almost horizontal among their luckier brothers and sisters, waiting to be recycled. The same story everywhere. Exiting Lytham Hall grounds, we part company with one of our compatriots, dripping and shivering. Not the right clothing? in need of some attention: a warm fire and a hot brew perhaps?

Green Drive, often frequented by dog walkers and cyclists and today its the turn of The Lytham St Annes U3A Walking Group. A tree which looks like its been hit by lightning welcomes us. More cleaning up work to be done. Heading for the Promenade now, momentarily lost among the houses and streets. As I search for the path, assistance is gladly received and we are on our way again, my embarrassment soon forgotten. To the Lytham Windmill, it too in need of restoration, looking forlorn and unloved without its majestic sails, lost in a much earlier storm and not yet replaced. Still, a good spot for the customary Group photo.

The walk almost complete, people dispersing in all directions, I remember I brought coffee. Doh!

Mike Ripley