

Kedleston Park Visit 30th Oct 2010

On a mild and sunny day a group of twenty-one Friends of Markeaton Brook was met by National Trust Seasonal Warden, Lisa. She led us on a lakeside walk from the bridge over the drive to the splash pool, then over another small bridge into Bottom Covert, a wooded area not normally open to the public. We took a circular route along a potential new pathway (recently cleared by a volunteer working party) back to the bridge and then walked through The Maze back to the house.

Among the walk's highlights for me were

- ★ Seeing several entrances to the extensive badger sett in Bottom Covert
- ★ Finding a nice example of the bracket fungus Many-zoned Polypore (*Coriolus versicolor*) which was recently featured in a BBC 2 episode of 'Autumn Watch' under its common name of Turkey Tail
- ★ Watching several goosander and other ducks on the lake
- ★ Meeting other Friends, some for the first time

The afternoon was rounded off very pleasantly with a visit to the Kedleston Hall restaurant for tea and cakes. Eight members of the party then boarded the very last bus of the season to leave from close to the Hall - no more until March 2011!

by Penny Halfpenny