

The Walton Line bridge – Report for Annual Parishioners Meeting

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In the 1860's in the middle of railway mania a plan arose to build a railway line from Mistley to Walton via Bradfield and Tendring.

The line was to be called 'The Mistley, Thorpe and Walton Railway' and a book by David Troughton has just been written with this title.

The line would have passed under Harwich Road in a cutting just beyond the Mistley Heath junction and although the cutting and bridge are filled in, the parapet still exists.

The railway was beset with problems from the beginning with labour disputes and a rival railway being built on a different route which still exists. All this resulted in the company folding about five years after work began.

The brick parapets either side of the road are in remarkably good condition although covered in vegetation - mainly ivy, but we carefully removed it all on both sides and repaired a small area of brickwork that had been damaged.

After cutting the grass on the verge the bridge looks as good as new after 160 years.

Our thanks go to the landowners either side - Peter French and William McMillan for allowing us to access their property in the course of our work.