

Oakley Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

Sunday 16th September saw Sandra lead our walk in the Itchen Valley. Sandra writes "There were seven ramblers on our walk and we met at Brambridge Park Garden Centre in Otterbourne.

The ramblers enjoyed a beautiful walk along the River Itchen on what turned out to be a warm sunny day.

The walk took us along the river where we saw many people on a Sunday walk with llamas, not a common sight.



River Itchen, Otterbourne

The walk led us through Otterbourne Park Wood which is an ancient woodland and home to many old oak, ash, maple and alders trees and it was here we found the mushroom covered log (see photo).

We then proceeded to a churchyard with remains of a church from the mid-19th Century. Eventually our route led us to a plantation and then on passed a memorial garden.

The members said they would highly recommend the walk which was followed by a tasty lunch at the Garden Centre."

Our annual walking weekend this year took us to the HF Holidays Abingworth Hall Hotel in Thakeham, West Sussex. Fourteen ramblers travelled there on 5th October and we again enjoyed a weekend of walking and entertainment lead by the HF Leaders. As usual there was a choice of three walks each day, if you wished to walk. On the first day the three walks were, in ascending order of distance, Pulborough and West Chiltington 6 miles, Pulborough Brooks Circular walk of 8 ½ miles or an 11 mile walk in the Rother and Arun Valleys. Unfortunately the weather on the day prevented us seeing the views across the South Downs and we were soaked through by the time we got back!

The following day took us by coach towards Eastbourne where we were able to choose one of three walks entitled "The Iconic Seven Sisters". Each of the walks finished back at Cuckmere Haven with the shortest walk of 6 miles starting at Friston Church, the second of 9 miles starting at Beachy Head and the longest of 10 miles starting at Eastbourne Pier. The 9 and 10 mile walks took us along the coast over Beachy Head to Birling Gap, along the Seven Sisters coastal path into Cuckmere Haven with the shortest walk starting at the Birling Gap. The weather was bright and sunny and more than made up for the previous day with great views of the coast, the sea and countryside, a memorable day of breathtaking scenery. As always we picked up various facts and figures, not the least of which was that there are Eight Sisters! At least in some peoples view



Beachy Head



View towards Belle Tout Lighthouse



Approaching the Seven Sisters



Looking down on Cuckmere Haven