

Oakley Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

On Friday 30 September 2016 Oakley Ramblers set out to complete another weekend walking part of the Kennet and Avon Canal. This time the aim was to cover the stretch from Seend (just west of Devizes) to Bath.

Our accommodation at Widbrook Barns had been located by Sandra Jameison and what a good find it proved to be. Comprising eight or so converted barn and other buildings set around a courtyard it was ideal for the 13 walkers who arrived on the Friday evening. The rooms are named after children's books so the Secret Seven were next door to the Famous Five and we had our own Lion Witch and Wardrobe.

So pleasant was the afternoon weather that some members were sent to the local supermarket and returned with suitable refreshment and we sat outside in the sun for couple of hours before readying ourselves for our evening meal.

The weather on Saturday morning



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was not so clement with light rain gradually getting heavier. We were, however, fortified by a superb breakfast both in quality and quantity prepared by Dick the proprietor.

By a fortuitous coincidence the bus to start our journey to our starting point left from outside the entrance. After a change of buses in Trowbridge and a downhill walk (in pouring rain) we arrived at the Barge Inn where we met 3 other members.

Fortunately the rain stopped but another problem arose when the heels of one member's boots started to detach. At a halt for coffee the landlord of The Somerset Arms produced some string and Peter displayed great prowess in binding and knots to lash the boots together.

Saturday's stretch of 8 miles took us back to Bradford on Avon via Hilperton.

The weather was not so kind in the evening as on the previous day but the Secret Seven's den was large enough to accommodate all for early evening chat and refreshments. A very good meal was had at one of Bradford's pubs marred at the end by the seeming incapacity of the till to cope with splitting a bill.

Sunday morning was fine again and fortified by another superb breakfast we set out for Bath. The following stretch of 11 or so miles is one of the



most interesting sections of the canal. It features the Avoncliff and Dundas Aqueducts, the Claverton Pumping Station and finally the descent into Bath past the Sydney

Gardens. On what was a lovely a sunny day the autumn colours of the trees along the tow path were shown to good effect.

We arrived in Bath where we caught the bus back to Widbrook and then home.

This leaves us the section from Bath to Bristol to be completed with another 18 miles to reach the total of 87miles.