

# Oakley

## Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

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Alan & Celia led a small group of eight members on the morning of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August on what was a hot, humid and sunny day. Our starting point was Weybrook Park Golf Club, Rooksdown Lane, where we parked. Our route took us down the footpaths on the eastern and northern sides of the Golf Course before turning east again and along the field edges and quiet lanes towards Monk Sherborne. The ramble of about 3.75 miles eventually brought us round in a circle to arrive back at the Golf Course where we were able to obtain refreshments from the clubhouse.



Saturday 22 August saw the first of our rambles following the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions up to groups of 30.

The walk was led by Richard and Heather and Richard writes "Sixteen members and two dog set off from Sutton Scotney Recreation Ground Car Park for an interesting 5 mile walk around the River Dever, encompassing the hamlets of Egypt, Hunton, Stoke Charity and Wonston which are set in beautiful countryside. The first part of the walk was along footpaths on the north side of the valley passing to the rear of Wonston Grange, Hunton Lodge with its vegetable garden and rather splendid greenhouse.

*Keeping north of the River Dever and redundant Watercress Beds, we followed the track up past Norsebury House to the ancient hillfort of Norsebury Ring for a halfway break.*

*Retracing our steps, we then crossed the river headed towards Stoke Charity. Unfortunately, due to time constraints (Pub lunch), we were unable to visit the church of St Mary and St Michael – parts of which date from the Saxons c.850 with tomb stones from the 1100's and traces of mid C13 wall painting.*

We then headed across grass meadows back down to the Dever, crossing it by a small sluice that was undergoing restoration, to re-join the Hunton road. Continuing west, we paid a brief visit to St James's Church...rebuilt early 1800's on site of C13 church.

Taking a well-hidden path and crossing the river for the last time we stopped for a short time to visit Wonston's Holy Trinity Church. Holy Trinity is one of the earliest documented churches in Hampshire, with records going back to 901 AD.

The final part of the walk was along a footpath at the rear of some interesting properties, before regaining the road back towards Sutton Scotney and our starting point.

*Note: - The River Dever rises from spring to the west of the A33 Winchester road, not far from Micheldever, and joins the River Test at Bransbury Common, North Whewell.*



On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 9 ramblers led by Peter and Pauline set off for a 7 mile walk from Hunter Recreation ground in Twyford. (The name Twyford derives from the "Two Fords" over the river). The weather was lovely and walk followed footpaths & bridle ways through woodland and fields providing spectacular views across the open countryside.

After visiting the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Church in Owslebury we adjourned to The Ship Inn for a well-earned lunch. (The Ship is said to have got its name because the oak beams came from a ship). After our lunch, we headed back to Twyford along the Monarch's Way, (and the Pilgrims Way). (The route supposedly taken by the future Charles II after the Battle of Worcester).

