

Oakley

Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

A sunny Saturday on 12th June saw a great turnout of 15 Ramblers celebrating again their 'Get out of jail' (but maybe not entirely 'free'?) card which began and ended at the revamped George & Dragon in Wolverton.

Led by Annie & Rob, Annie writes "We were delighted to welcome 3 new walkers on our walk which covered 4.5 miles of varied terrain, mostly dry and taking us through some nearly waist-high (depending on how high your waist!) grasses in blazing sunshine, then into the relief of dappled sun in peaceful woods. We passed a few examples of the animal kingdom including a field of horses who kept very much



to their own little corner of their world, but few other 2-legged and 4-legged beasts, apart from a couple of noisy dogs, one of which hailed from Rumania ('Why??' you ask?)

Just under 2 hours later we arrived back at our start, now our end, to be greeted by the welcome addition of 3 others who'd declined the walk but joined us for a happy, chatty lunch, ably and pleasantly served by the amiable staff.

Roll on summer... we're rambling again!"

Unfortunately bad weather stopped our ramble on 18th June but did not defeat the eight members of Oakley Ramblers Club when they completing their six and a half mile circular walk from East Stratton on the morning of Wednesday 30th June. Thanks to the determined efforts of walk leaders Lynn, who had thoughtfully purchased a lethal looking scythe, and Chris who together cleared a long stretch of very overgrown footpath a couple of days before the walk, the members, suitably protected in boots and long trousers were able to negotiate the darkest depths of the Hampshire jungle unscathed!

The walk began and ended at the Northbrook Arms East Stratton and soon passed the extensive estate of Stratton Park. The impressive classical style portico of Stratton House, which is all that remains of the original building, could be glimpsed between the trees. After defeating the nettles, and rambling through the quiet woodland of Norn's Copse we joined the Wayfarers Way, passing some lovely secluded country houses. To our surprise, we discovered a sturdy swing which had been suspended from a tree at the side of the path and of course someone had to try it out!

After a brief rest for a drink and a reviving snack, on the edge of the village cricket field in front of St. Peter's Church Brown Candover, we followed the road through the village and turned off onto a grassy footpath which sloped gently uphill giving us extensive views of the rolling green hills. We passed a quarry and some wild flower meadows before entering the final stretch of woodland and emerging back at the Northbrook Arms where another Rambler's member joined us for a delicious lunch. It was the perfect day for walking, dry, still and not too hot and all agreed they had enjoyed getting far away from The Madding Crowd for a few hours.