

Oakley

Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

On Sunday 22nd August, 8 members (plus 2 potential members) lead by Richard and Heather Wilson walked 6 miles around the Mid Hampshire countryside. Richard writes "The day was bright and sunny in contrast to the wet July day in 2011 when we first lead this walk.

Starting from the Three Horseshoes in Bighton (Nr. Alresford), we followed the road towards Medstead, before taking a bridle way towards West End. Then heading north, across grassy fields through Grove Farm climbing towards Hattingley for a half way stop.

Then walking west along the high ground with splendid views over the Hampshire country side, we passed several acres of new vines, and a clay pigeon shooting site.

We then headed south through Bighton Wood and down the drive of Bighton House – admiring the quant thatched cottage on the way, before returning to the Three Horseshoes for a well-earned drink and a spot of lunch."

Our next walk was on Wednesday 11th August when Carolyn led a group of 11 walkers on a circular walk around Cliddesden and Ellisfield.

Carolyn writes "On leaving Cliddesden School car park we walked along paths and tracks with far reaching views out to Basingstoke before joining the old track of the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway which operated between 1901 and 1936.

Coming off the railway track we walked alongside fields and through woodland before entering the village of Ellisfield.



Walking behind St. Martin's Church brought us out by the Fox Pub and then up through corn fields to a wood which was muddy despite the good weather.

Once out of the woods we walked through the farm yard of Home Farm and onto a track which led us past St. Andrew's Church which dates back to the 17th century. After stopping to admire the beautiful views of

the countryside around Basingstoke we continued back to the car park and onto the Jolly Farmer Pub in Cliddesden for lunch."

