

# Oakley

## Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

---

Our walk on 22<sup>nd</sup>.October 2021 was from the old Pineapple Pub at Brimpton Common and proved a real gem in an area which the Club had not been to before (at least that's what the records say)!



With a mix of field and woodland paths and tracks, parkland drives, meadow, road, riverside, duckboards and a hill climb, it had it all. It even had a transit through the exclusive wedding "village" at Wasing Park with its own hotel and church! Originally intended to be a 6 mile walk a more interesting finish to the walk was found, making it 7.5 miles in total!

Led by Sandy, a select band of Ramblers took on the challenges, recognising that after the heavy rains of a few days before things may be a little tricky under foot.

Wasing Park is the family seat of the Mount family which has now rebranded itself into an exclusive wedding venue. Very tastefully done, it uses the existing estate buildings to great effect. A visit to Wasing church (1500s) was made. With lovely flower decorations, it was clearly ready for another expensive wedding.

After a short break on a bench in the pretty churchyard, it was downhill to Hyde End Farm and from here down to the River Enborne. On the way there were good views across the valley to Hannington Mast some miles away. The next stretch to Ashford Hill followed the river and reminded us of Africa in the rainy season with a jungle path and impenetrable swamp. It looked like this section was not walked very often. However fortitude prevailed and we managed to overcome several flooded sections along the way including surmounting one stile which stood on its own in a pond of water. Although relatively short, this section did leave an indelible memory.

We debouched on to a minor road by the Ship Inn at Ashford Hill, again sadly closed, another casualty to Covid. From here we passed into Ashford Hill meadow which is a National Nature Reserve. With time pressing we were not able to explore the plentiful wild fowl around. We followed the Dorothy Parker Way on board walks, bridges and stiles, through Redlands Copse and after a short climb reached Pineapple parking. It was a tired but a happy band that then went off for a late lunch at the Swan in Sherfield on Loddon.



On Saturday 6th November 11 walkers set off from the Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere, for a 4.7 mile walk led by Steve and Christine Savage. Passing St Mary's Church, with its "bedbug" weathervane, we climbed a steep hill to the recreation ground, before descending steps to Hollowshot Lane. Another long, fairly steep, climb was rewarded with magnificent views across the surrounding Hampshire and Berkshire countryside. On reaching Plantation Farm we made our

way along a bridleway which led down the hill and along the track back to Hollowshot Lane. A slight rise on the right fork at this point led to a wide track, wooded on both sides. After 600 yards we turned left along a footpath which skirted the top edge of "The Dell" and brought us back to the recreation ground and thence to our starting point. 6 of us had a well-earned lunch afterwards at the Crown Inn.

While at the time of writing things look a little uncertain, why not join us for a ramble in 2022 – Happy New Year to all.

Our current full programme of walks diary is available on [www.oakleyramblers.org](http://www.oakleyramblers.org)

Roy Yeoman