

# Oakley Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April saw Graham and Valerie take the ramblers on a walk around Old Burghclere via the Wayfarers Walk and Ladle Hill. After meeting at the school layby the group travelled to the Beacon Hill car park for the start of the walk which followed mainly good tracks although not surprisingly there was a couple of muddy sections at the start. Continuing along the country lanes and up and down the contours the views on the upper levels were worth the climb. The six mile ramble finished back at the Beacon Hill car park where some of the ramblers retired to the Carnarvon Arms for lunch.

As part of the Oakley Sports Weekend Julie and Pauline led a five mile ramble around the local area on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> April. Despite the weather not being what we wished for it was highlighted by the bluebells and other wild flowers as well as the new lambs. The seven ramblers met at the school before taking the path from Trenchards Lane up passed St Leonards Church onto the Wayfarers Walk. The route continued to Bulls Bushes, around to Pardown, Sanfoin Lane and back to the School layby.



Ten members of Oakley Ramblers Club, plus one dog, decided that the afternoon of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May was the perfect day for a walk through the local countryside, and so it proved to be.



We gathered in our usual meeting place at the school layby on Oakley Lane and shared three cars for the short drive to Hannington Village green where we found another member, who lives in Hannington, waiting to join us. So, walking boots donned, eleven walkers and their dog set off at a brisk pace passing the Vine pub and turned off the lane to pass the Vine and Craven Hunt Kennels. We were

soon walking in open fields with beautiful views over the Hampshire countryside and had only been walking for about 15 minutes before we paused in our stride to listen to a cuckoo calling in the wood close by.

The path took us past the edge of English Wood where we could glimpse drifts of bluebells carpeting the floor of the wood. But this was only a taster of



what was to come because we soon passed through the middle of Warren Bottom Copse where we found ourselves surrounded by a sea of glorious bluebells. Their colour and scent were intoxicating. There were many other wild flowers to be spotted and identified as we continued our walk along a bridleway up the hill to Ibworth. We saw banks of cowslips, wood anemones and celandines, and individual plants of Solomon's Seal, Lords and Ladies, Speedwell and Wild Dog Roses.

A quiet lane took us past some very attractive country houses and cottages with some fabulous long views from their gardens. Our route then began to circle round back towards Hannington and when we stopped and turned around we could see for many miles into the distance across the Vale of Kingsclere and were able to identify Aldermaston in the distance. With Hannington TV mast never far from sight and acting as our guide, we continued back towards Hannington village. It was evident that the path was now at its highest point as we enjoyed almost 360 degree views of the surrounding countryside.

We had enjoyed perfect walking weather the whole afternoon, no wind, pleasantly warm and just light cloud to save us from being sun burnt. As we returned to our cars after four and three quarter miles in just under two hours, all agreed it had been a very welcome reminder that spring is finally here after what has seemed a rather long, wet and cold winter and that we are so fortunate to have such stunning scenery right on our doorstep.