

Oakley Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

Seventeen Oakley Ramblers and 1 dog enjoyed their 6.5 mile circular walk on 19th August starting from Newton Valence. Led by Jim and Avril, Jim writes "It was a very



varied walk through fields and woods, including a stretch of the dismantled Meon railway line. Originally described as a "pacey walk across the broad sweep of fields in East Hampshire with great views", it wasn't so pacey with 19 pairs of legs crossing over 12 stiles! From the war memorial in Newton Valence we descended an ancient trackway, still known as Shotters Lane, and made our way to East Tisted.

We then entered the Pillared gates of Rotherfield Park and had great views of the twin rounded towers topped with wide crenulations, corbels and machicolations.



A picnic in the grounds gave us the chance to be informed that this 1815 house had been the scene of such TV and films as Hammer House of the Long Shadows, Poirot - After the funeral, Rebecca and Four weddings and a funeral. We were now halfway and carried on through crop fields, easy walking along a drive and then a bit of a climb through a very pretty wood. Soon we passed the Long Barn wedding venue and through a meadow back to the start.

Before leaving we had a look round the 12th century church of St Mary, especially admiring the 1,000 year old yew tree and the fascinating interior full of interesting inscriptions and stained glass windows.



On Friday morning, 7th September, four ramblers joined me for a local walk from Beach Park. This took us through Malshanger Park on a circular route on what was a very pleasant time for walking. It's amazing to be so close to the urban areas but find the peace of the countryside here.

Roy Yeoman