

# Oakley Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

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On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October Alan & Celia lead us on a ramble from Alresford Railway Station following parts of the Watercress Trail and Wayfarers Way. Ten of us set off from the station carpark and proceeded down to the bottom of Broad Street where we joined the riverside path. Our route took us past the picturesque Fulling Mill, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, and originally used to work raw cloth into useable material by use of water driven hammers.



This stretch of the River Arle is a good area to see wildlife and plant life and we spotted numerous trout and water fowl. Further along the river we passed by the Eel House, originally built in 1850 and more recently restored, where eels were trapped on moonless nights as they set off on their once in a lifetime migration to breed in the

Sargasso Sea. We then left the river and joined the Wayfarers Way passing an extensive vineyard as we climbed up the hill in the direction of Abbotstone. Turning north-east past Fobdown Farm and then south-east back towards Old Alresford, we passed the watercress beds. On reaching the B3046 we stopped to view the small St Mary's Church. The present flint and brick building was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century but a church is recorded on this site in the Domesday census and other evidence suggests it has been a place of worship since the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. Following the road we continued on Mill Hill back into Alresford completing a walk of just over four miles. By then we were all ready to enjoy our delicious lunch at The Bell.

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September nineteen club members travelled north for our annual walking weekend trip. Our base this year was the HF Holidays Peveril of the Peak Hotel at Dovedale in Derbyshire. Set in the beautiful countryside of the Peak District National Park this country house hotel provided comfortable accommodation and good food for our stay.



Lunch!



Bradford Dale

On each day we were provided with a packed lunch and offered a choice of three levels of guided walks. On Saturday members chose either Robin Hoods Stride and Bakewell, 7.5 miles, Through the Dales to Bakewell, 11.5 miles or Lathkill Dale and Monsal Head, 12.5 miles.

A coach took us out to the respective starting points and each walk finished in Bakewell giving us time to explore the town and enjoy the traditional “Bakewell Pudding” the correct term we were told!. Ideal weather for walking and marvellous scenery made it a well spent and enjoyable day.

Sunday saw us travel by coach again to the starting points for each of the three walks. This time we chose between The Manifold Valley and Ilam Park, 6 miles, Wetton to Ilam, 8.5 miles and Along the Manifold 12.5 miles with all three walks finishing back at our base. Again, the weather was good with great views across the Derbyshire Dales. The consensus was that while the walking was quite strenuous the views in this part of the country made this a very worthwhile visit.



Ilam Park



Bakewell – Bridge of Locks!



Ilam Park



River Wye, Bakewell