

Walk – 27th April 2025

Farley Mount and Parnholt Circular Walk 6.4mls

After meeting at Oakley lay-by we left by car and drove via Winchester to the start of our walk at Farley Mount monument.

Leaving the car park we made our way up to the famous Hampshire monument, a striking pyramid shaped structure dedicated to a horse, who is buried here, named **BEWARE OF CHALK PIT**, who survived, along with his rider, a leap into a deep pit and then went on to win a race. We spent some time here taking in the stunning views that can be seen all around on this beautiful warm sunny April day. Returning back down to the main path we headed towards the bluebell woods, as we enter the woods the sound of birdsong fills our ears and a vibrant carpet of blue lay before us. To our left a field of bright yellow rape seed contrasts beautifully with the vivid colour of the bluebells, as did the lovely new fresh green leaves of the beech trees. We could smell the strong scent of the rape seed as we walked along but it was occasionally interrupted by the delicate sweet fragrance of the bluebells drifting by on the light breeze.

At the crossroad in the path we turned right and continue through the bluebell woods towards the Pump House, the old Pump house has now been renovated into a small peaceful living space for some lucky person. Leaving the woods the track takes us through the bottom of a small valley with grassy fields on both sides, approaching the Pump House, the field on the left was a mass of bright yellow cowslips, the like of which I have not seen for many years. We continue along the valley until we reach the road and then turn right, walking along we spotted a large hare happily hopping along before us before disappearing into the under growth.

After passing the Equestrian Centre the road turns back into a grassy footpath, we stop for a water break and to enjoy the sound of the birdsong, listening we could hear the distinctive sound of a woodpecker. Then continuing along the track with a hedge on one side and open fields on the other we pass a small memorial to four German Airmen whose plane crashed nearby in the war, the track then joins the Clarendon Way and after crossing a field we start to make our ascent back towards our starting point admiring the mixture of wild flowers along the way. We make time on this part of the walk to stop regularly and enjoy the wonderful views to our left, where we can see for many miles across the undulating hills and downs of Hampshire and beyond. Reaching the top of the hill we come back to the monument and make our way down to the car park. We have walked roughly 6.4mls.

We then drove the short distance to the Kings Head pub in Hursley, where a good meal and a cold drink was enjoyed by all to refresh us after a beautiful walk on a lovely warm spring day.