**Awayday to Wiltshire, Saturday 13th April 2013**

5 walkers, 22 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

Despite a long journey and severe weather warnings, 5 of us set out from Andover station to explore the border country to the north west between Hampshire and Wiltshire. The morning held up well with only some light drizzle and we made a good pace through some wet and swampy bottoms to the pub at upper Chute. But it has just closed down so we had to eat a spartan repast crouched in the small entrance which had fortunately been left unlocked. With the rain now established, the leader made an offer of a reduced walk but no one was prepared to bottle out so on we strode into Chute Causeway and a lovely Wiltshire bottom to Vernham Dean for a pub stop with a roaring fire which gave us opportunity to dry out a little. The return was through some steep slippery woodland and a roman road to get back before 5.30 having covered 22 miles. A spanking good walk despite the conditions.