**Walking from Woking, Sunday 4th October 2020**

6 walkers, 19.6 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

The original South Downs walk for Saturday was cancelled as the weather forecast was horrendous and Sunday seemed a better day. Ironically, Saturday cleared up with a decent even sunny afternoon and it was Sunday that was non-stop rain with all varieties from drizzle to light rain to heavy rain.

Brisk walking on flat terrain kept us to a fast pace and the whole walk was just over 6 hours.

From Woking station the Basingstoke Canal to St. Johns and later a long tour around Whitmoor Common leading to Worplesdon church where we sheltered in the entrance porch for a late lunch and our only stop of the day. Merrist Wood and Stanford Common lead to the vast MOD training camp where we walked around the edge of the perimeter fence eventually heading north back to the Basingstoke Canal for a final section back to Woking. As we approached the town we met an aged lady out exercising her dog, one of the few people we saw all day. She looked at us in amazement: "and you don't even have a dog", she said, "you are mad". It is so nice to have people who can summarise your experience so succinctly.