**South Downs from Plumpton, Saturday 9th May 2015**

16 walkers, 20 miles – leader Andy Davies

A figure of eight walk through the South Downs.

A few fields in we met a ghostly shepherd lad with a rough-hewn stick who walked with us to the top of the downs before fading back to Ditchling. We paused to enjoy the first full view of the downs at Streat Church and note the V shaped group of trees planted to celebrate Victoria's jubilee in 1887. A profusion of cowslips on the slopes of Streat Hill, then as we headed for Stanmer Down the rain started. Spectacular bluebell vista in Highpark Wood. After Standean the rain stopped; sun and wind combined to dry us for lunch at the Jack and Jill. The weather continued to improve as we headed east to Black Cap and then through farmland back to the station for the 6.28 train. Most seemed to agree this was an excellent walk.

Photographs by Bola Baruwa