**SoDNaP 20, Saturday 29th June 2019**

11 walkers, 20 miles – leader Roderick Smith

SoDNaP 20. Ten of us met at 09:00 at Petersfield Station for a walk in the South Downs National Park, Britain’s newest National Park. On a cloudless day we walked into the centre of the town to join the route of a potential 50-mile challenge from the (Wetherspoons) Red Lion. We headed north to the Hangers Way; Steep Church; and the steep climb up the Shoulder of Mutton hill to the Poet’s Stone memorial to Edward Thomas (known for his poem ‘Adlestrop’ inter alia). There were fine views of the South Downs. A last look back down the hill from the summit, before a steep descent to Oakshott, and a brief stop at the Hawkley Inn for tea and coffee. A steep climb of Noar Hill preceded lunch in Selborne.

We checked the outside of Checkpoint 1, and, in Selborne Church, saw the stained-glass window of St Francis preaching to the birds (over 100 are shown); sadly not enough time to visit the Gilbert White / Oates (of the Antarctic) Museum. We were joined by a second Ian and eleven of us climbed the ZigZag path built by Gilbert White and his brother over 200 years ago. A walk along byways took us to the ‘pub-with-no-name’ aka “The White Horse”. Two decided to follow an alternative route to Petersfield, and nine of us continued in very hot conditions to Froxfield Green. Thence, leaving the SoDNaP route, to Lythe Farm and Petersfield Station in time to catch the 17:45 to Woking and London. Thanks to members from London, Surrey, Thames Valley, and Wessex for an enjoyable day in splendid countryside. Over 2,000ft of ascent; 20 miles walked in 8 hours 40 minutes on one of the hottest June days for 40 years.

Photographs by Gavin Fuller and Roderick Smith; more from Gavin and Ian Fairweather are on the Group Facebook site