**Beane to Minram, Saturday 30th November 2019**

11 walkers, 18.4 miles – leader Peter Aylmer. Mud rating 5/10

Sometimes the weather does good things and today was one of those days. A bit chilly at the start, but nothing a brisk stride down to the first of today's rivers, the Beane, couldn't cure. And soon we were deep into rural Hertfordshire, just 20 miles from the capital but a world away from London's bustle and noise. We even had a ladder stile to contend with, bridging the stout wall around the Woodhall Estate. The Estate are good to walkers. They provide many permissive paths, which we made good use of for the remainder of the walk.

The Grandison at Bramfield sounds posh and indeed there were many diners tucking into the fine menu, but the staff welcomed us happily. From here the walk alternated between woods and fields, with views over the Mimram valley to the delights of Welwyn. Those with eagle eyes just about managed to beat the dark - and the 1635 was conveniently late for those headed back to town.

Photographs by Gavin Fuller; more from Gavin and Ian Fairweather on the group Facebook site.