**Epping Forest Circular, Saturday 14th December 2019**

20 walkers, 17 miles – leader Lonica Vanclay. Mud rating 10/10

19 people in total joined me for the walk around Epping Forest.  Light clouds and drizzle in the morning cleared by midday to blue sky and weak sunshine. In an effort to minimise the mud, the walk was 17 miles rather than 18, cutting out the muddiest mile.  However, at this time of year and in the forest mud is not totally avoidable and there were stretches where it was definitely present.  We could sometimes dodge round the worst bits, but sometimes it was unavoidable. Oh well part of the fun!   And with lovely trees, fields, three herds of deer, views from the hills, Queen Elizabeth's hunting lodge, Copped Hall and Ambresbury Bank (one of the reputed places of Boadicea's last stand) - there were plenty else to enjoy - and that is without mentioning the conversations.  This being London LDWA there was a splinter group who headed to Wetherspoons at the end for even more merriment!

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