**Spring in the Chilterns, Saturday 16th February 2019**

6 walkers, 19 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

Considering that the leader had given less than 2 days’ notice of this walk, it was pleasing to see a group of 6 with one regular and 3 on their first LDWA walk.  Last week had been winter in the Chilterns, what a change of season this week with snowdrops, primroses and other flowers to herald the start of spring. From Chalfont and Latimer station, the Chess valley walk took us through Latimer park, high above the river Chess, climbing up to the Chiltern Hundreds plateau through woods and across fields, some ploughed. Via Botley and Lye Green we reached a lovely green valley reminiscent of Yorkshire Wolds before the descent to the Grand Union Canal at Bourne End with Motorway, railway and Industrial wasteland to negotiate. The Three Horseshoes at Pouchen End provided an opportunity to observe the Swing Bridge in action with Nigel nearly getting caught in the middle.

The afternoon section was along the canal to Boxmoor where we joined the Chiltern Way and followed it South, through many delightful undulations before joining the Hertfordshire Way through Flaunden and Latimer to complete our journey just after 4 p.m.