**South Downs 25th Celebration Bonanza, Saturday 12th September 2020**

6 walkers, 25.3 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

There was a late change to the planned route as it was felt that finishing in Brighton on the last Saturday evening before the new Covid 19 restrictions might be risky with the crowds of people.

Hence it became a circular from Hassocks and 25 miles for the 25th anniversary of the London group seemed appropriate.

One person missed a train connection but was able to meet up at the Jack and Jill pub at Clayton without any loss of time. We were in the hills all day starting to the west with Wolstonbury Hill, Newtimber Hill, Devils Dyke, Fulking Hill with a section of the South Downs Way. The Sussex Border Path took us to the edge of the Brighton conurbation then Monarch's Way over Benfield and Round Hill and another section of the Border Path took us east of the A23 and up to the Chattri Indian war memorial for a well-deserved late lunch.

A zigzag route north east with views over Brighton and the Amex stadium over Stanmer Down and back to the South Downs Way. Then a straight route along the windy ridge, Ditchling Beacon, the Jack and Jill windmills at Clayton and descent to the hamlet of Clayton, the only habitation of the day and finally back to Hassocks to complete a 9-hour circuit of almost exactly 25 miles.

A perfect celebration walk, with ideal weather and ground conditions.

We are all looking forward to doing 50 miles for the 50th anniversary.

Photographs by Jerome Ripp