**Glynde Circular by Arlington Reservoir, Saturday 24th May 2008**

21 walkers, 25 miles – leader Nicole Carbonara

This joint stroll with London LDWA saw a turnout of 21 gathering at Glynde station on a bright and breezy morning. Only four of the party were Surrey members – Paul Tilley, David Watson, Peter Crane and Nicole, the conductor. We set off at a brisk pace onto the top of the South Downs and soon felt the full force of the breeze as we turned eastwards. However it was sunny and warm and a morning that afforded excellent views in all directions. We came down and through the delightful streets of Alfriston before climbing up Wilmington Hill and making a steep descent by the Long Man. Some descended quicker than others, but none as swiftly as the kestrel seen hovering and then swooping down upon its prey. We gathered again onto the Wealdway and proceeded to the Yew Tree at Arlington for lunch. We had already covered 13 miles by this time. Some enjoyed a picnic lunch in the sun while others took advantage of the inn's menu. After lunch we set off back in a westerly direction around Arlington Reservoir and past Berwick station along a short section of the Vanguard Way and then along varied paths through wood and fields at a lower level than in the morning. There was an event going on at Charleston Farm but after a short stop, we all avoided any distraction and continued apace past Firle Place to the village of West Firle and the Ram Inn, where to maintain the Surrey tradition (LDWA do not normally have a tea stop) most of us had a welcome cup of tea, although it necessitated some cups having to be re-washed as they did not have enough cups for the whole party. Clearly they are not used to such a large group stopping for tea. Some stopped at Glynde station after a good 21 miles but a good half of the party were still ready for the extra four miles via Mount Caburn and a return home from Lewes. Nicole had chosen an excellent route and the weather proved ideal for a very enjoyable day's walking.

Report by Peter Crane, Surrey Walking Club