**Tea with Jane and Gilbert – Alton Circular, Saturday 14th August 2021**

8 walkers, 23 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

We started on the Jane Austen Trail through the centre of Alton passing buildings that were known to her over 200 years ago and also watching the Saturday Farmers market setting up. Into Chawton and passing the house where she lived with mother and sister and then the entrance to the impressive Chawton House where her brother lived. Across to Upper Farringdon which she describes in a letter where she went to have tea. We continued, without tea, over to Newton Valence and the Hangars countryside associated with Gilbert White. We followed part of a new route called the Writers Way. Across a rather muddy Selborne Common and the classic Zig Zag route to Selborne village with lunch on the green by the church with its ancient Yew. Church bells rang out, an organist played “Jerusalem” a quintessentially English scene.

A circuit of Noar hill and back to Newton Valence, (some people might call this a loop) East Tisted church and Rotherfield Park followed. The beautiful scenery was accompanied by glorious sunshine and a fine end to the day as we headed back through more woodlands and then a lovely fast disused railway track back to Chawton and Alton.

Photographs by Jerome Ripp