**A Walk for St George’s Day – Great Missenden Circular, Saturday 23rd April 2022**

10 walkers, 20.7 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

A glorious spring day with bluebells in profusion, and appropriately for St. George's day we found a dragon in the woods which the leader tamed with great skill as the photo shows. The route contained a variety of loops based around the estates of Hampden using sections of the Ridgeway, Icknield Way, Chiltern Way and South Bucks Way. Morning break with Spanish delicacies was at the John Hampden monument, the Patriot mentioned in the route description whose refusal to pay the arbitrary Ship Money Tax imposed by King Charles I, was one of the drivers of the English civil war. We walked up the Glade, a wide avenue supposedly cleared for Queen Elizabeth in one day so that she could clearly see Hampden House which we passed. No longer the scene of Hammer House horror movies, more like a Disney creation now. After crossing the avenue leading to Chequers, country house of UK Prime Minister for the last century or so, we lunched on the windy top of next hill with a perfect view of the Vale of Aylesbury. A stiff climb to the iron age fort on Pulpit Hill, more woodlands, return to Hampden House for our traditional church break and a final section through Prestwood with the only tarmac of the day and bluebell woodlands back to Great Missenden.

Photographs by Jerome Ripp