**Circular on and around the North Downs Way, Saturday 4th April 2009**

14 walkers, 22 miles – leader Nicole Carbonara

Despite a gloomy weather forecast, thirteen fit, strong and fast walkers joined me for this walk on and around the North Downs. After a dry start, drizzle came in and also a bit of light rain at times but soon it was dry again and the afternoon was sunny. Weather was perfect as all the tough climbing was done in the fresh morning, except that the lovely views from the hills were misty. We stopped for just under one hour at the pub, warming ourselves around the wood fire and we enjoyed a short "tea" stop in the sun, gazing on Leeds Castle. A future new member was trying us and we hope that he'll decide to join so that we can enjoy again his company in our walks. Results from my GPS: trip odometer 21.9miles; movement time 5 hours 56 minutes; stop time 1 hour 9 minutes; movement average 3.4mph, which is not bad considering the 800m steep ascent.