**Farnham Circular, Sunday 20th December 2009**

20 walkers, 18 miles – leader Nicole Carbonara

By the brightest and most crisp day of the year, 20 walkers set off in snow and ice for this beautiful walk designed by Roger Moss. Lots of new members, who were doing their first walk with LDWA, proved to be strong and fast walkers. We were able to complete the walk in daylight on one of the shortest days of the year without losing anyone, thanks to Steve, our very efficient backmarker, who kept the large group together without needing to use his legendary virtual whip. Yes, I know, the 21st of December is the shortest day of the year, not the 20th, but only by 5 seconds … In more than 10 years that I have been in this country it was the first time the sky didn't show a single trace of cloud all day long. The morning walk was mostly in deep forests with a small hill from where we could embrace a wide panorama while the (lengthy) orders of food were telephoned to the pub. We passed large and completely frozen lakes. Despite the fact that the pub was very busy preparing and serving their Christmas meals and had trouble coping with 16 hungry walkers, we managed to stop for less than one hour. The first part of the afternoon, before the tea stop, was in fields covered with snow, then more forests and great views from the North Downs Way. We enjoyed a leisurely tea in the in Seale, lovely tearoom with wonderful cakes. Then the last part of the walk was in a sumptuous sunset and we finished under a poetic moon crescent. We reached Farnham station at 4:45, in time for the 5 o'clock train to London.