

Wednesday 4th March 2015, Hawkerland and Canterbury Green with Mike Paddison

'A Spring' in your Step!

Mike's pep talk at the Otter Inn rendezvous point promised a 'flat-ish' walk, mostly dry under foot with just a few exposed sections where the cold wind would make itself felt. We all forgave him any slight inaccuracies as we toiled to 496 feet above sea level and managed to negotiate the water-filled ruts with a bit of nimble foot work. After all, the sun shone brightly and there was a definite feel that spring had arrived as we found snowdrops, primroses, celandines and even violets in flower. The spirit of bonhomie that pervaded the group of 19 continued in our sheltered coffee spot in the Hawkerland Valley.

Chris took advantage of the general sense of wellbeing to present an advertisement for the second stage of the Templers Way: the following week's walk.

However disappointment was to follow: Canterbury Green proved more virtual than real and no village green could be found. (*There were however extensive roadworks which are normal for this time of year. Ed*).

The gorse was in full bloom on Colaton Raleigh Common and a kestrel surveyed a newly burnt patch of heathland from his perch in a dead tree in the hope that the springtime swaling might have exposed some small rodents. This practice, if well-controlled, is designed to rejuvenate the heather, check the growth of gorse and bring a flush of new vegetation for the benefit of wildlife in general.

Wonderful panoramic views over the Otter Valley, Peak Hill and the distant sea were a treat for us all and one keen photographer in particular. The whole walk remained within the boundaries of Colaton Raleigh parish.

After a little over three hours and just under seven miles in total, we returned to the starting point and to conclude this congenial gathering, 15 walkers opted to stay on for a pub lunch.

David Hatch
4th march 2015

Stunning scenery en route



Note how well the dogs have been trained for the camera!



pix by stella