

OAR Walk Festival Feedback

From: Helen Horlock

Subject: OAR circular walk 3

Although small in number we all had a great time! We popped in to a church en route and listened to the organist who happened to be rehearsing and then passing the dry canal we watched volunteers working to line a small section. We finished the walk by going to the Grand Junction Arms and discussing the industrial heritage we had just seen and the wildlife on the canals and reservoirs locally. Two walkers came from Ipswich and another from Bloxham in Oxfordshire. It was a beautiful day and we had lovely 360 degree views as I am certain other walkers did.

I think today was excellent. All the materials and organisation were very good and people seemed to enjoy the walk and were pleased to receive walk guides and water bottles. Five of the 8 guests on walk 8 from Mentmore were non-members so it was effective as a recruitment exercise as well as publicising the OAR. Well done everyone! **Peter**

Walk 23. Successful walk. Enjoyed by all.

We have returned from our walk safely. Everyone enjoyed it. Thank you to all who have been involved with setting up the OAR. **Ruth Bleasdale**

Lindsay,

Here is some feedback from me based on your schedule. Together we walked over 1000 miles yesterday!

Stephen

Hi Roy,

Many thanks to you and your team for the OAR walks yesterday you even managed to order good weather for the day!

I did Walk 20 on OAR section 12 with a group of 13 other walkers, and that was very ably led by Mary.

I knew as soon as we got to Longwick without having to look at a map - by the awful state of the stiles! which I will be pursuing with BCC and Jeff Smith, Ramblers Wycombe Area Footpath Secretary.

Once again many thanks for the day which was a credit to Aylesbury Ramblers.

Brian Bolton

Many Thanks

Brian Bolton

Dear Roy

What splendid weather for this event, a perfect September day.

We had a really good walk including brief friendly chats with the farmers at Buttermilk and Ramsden farms. No problems with cattle, all ignored us and managed to bypass some of the bad stiles.

All my group of 11 total were from Winslow Ramblers which perhaps was rather disappointing because of the promotion and preparations you made but this made it much easier for me. Several of us are planning to do the whole round in suitable stages.

Let me know about return of leaders pack items.

There are pictures on our website

Kind regards **Peter Alsford**

Roy,

I read that you had over 150 turn up yesterday congratulations and thanks. It was very enjoyable even if John got it a bit lost to start with ! .I just wondered if you and the OAR committee might consider doing it again or something similar next year Just a thought

Best Wishes

Richard Smith

Dear Roy,

Thanks for the update on Osborne House; I had realised it wasn't NT but it's good of you to confirm it.

We really enjoyed our walk on the OAR and will now be joining MK Ramblers. But we'll also put the OAR circular walks to good use so we may yet bump into each other on the Chilterns.

Best wishes,

Barbara Fothergill

Congratulations to everyone involved. The OAR has been a great idea brilliantly executed and I think that the Walk Festival was really the icing on the cake; seeing a good number of people walking the route and enjoying it. I think the Walk Festival formula could be an annual event. Sue and I would certainly volunteer to lead again. The planning could be reused. The amount of publicity we received in the Bucks Herald via many of the local correspondents was fantastic and far more than I expected. We got lots of coverage because it was happening all over the place on the same day; it was hard to miss in the BH! The coverage in Walk and SE Walker was also excellent but the local coverage was perhaps the most valuable. If it was repeated I think one could look to the newsletters published by BCC, AVDC and ATC for publicity too; they like to be associated with local success stories.

Peter

Hi Roy

I just wanted to say how much we enjoyed our walk last Saturday – Wendover to Buckland Wharf, led by Bryan Reading. It was a beautiful walk and in great company, many thanks to Bryan. We really hope this OAR event will be repeated.

My very best

Tessa

Hi Lindsay,

Sorry for the delay in feedback from Saturday but I had to go straight up to Nottingham for babysitting after the walk!

Walk 22 went well. We were a total of 10 walkers 5 of whom were not members of the ramblers. I know some are boasting of the distance their walkers travelled but I'm proud to say we had a couple from Leeds! They had been staying with a friend in Ealing who is a member of Amersham Ramblers and after a pub lunch they were heading back up north. All seemed to have enjoyed the walk and were grateful for the "Freebies". We were blessed with wonderful views and lovely weather. The organising team made leading the walk very pleasurable, thank you. **Lynn.**

Dear Roy

Thanks for organising the event. I had a wonderful time and would be happy to take part again next year.

Best wishes, Adele

Dear Mr Johnson

Well done indeed to you and all those volunteers who created this brilliant ring. I lived in Soulbury for many years and know so many of the lovely villages along the Ring's route. (I even put together my own book of Bucks walks). Should I return south from Yorkshire where I now live I'll be sure to take on board a few of the legs – just to remind me of the “old days”, and of the openness of the Vale.

Please pass on my congratulations and very good wishes to all involved in a smashing project. Isn't it a grand feeling when something you've dreamed of and worked on for ages comes to fruition?

Best regards

Allan Friswell

Dear Mr Hawes,(Editor Bucks Herald)

On behalf of Aylesbury and District Ramblers I would like to thank the Bucks Herald for the excellent coverage it gave to our massive undertaking on Saturday 7th September, when we invited your readers and walkers throughout the Vale to tackle the whole 53 miles of the Outer Aylesbury Ring.

Organised and led by our enthusiastic and experienced volunteers, the route was first divided into 18 sections. Each section was then cleverly linked up with other footpaths to create a series of circular walks ranging from 4 to nearly 12 miles in length, and covering some of the most scenic, varied and historic countryside you could ever wish to find.

In total an incredible 158 people turned up and walked with us - people of all ages, backgrounds and levels of fitness, many of them non-Ramblers (but who may very well be joining us soon!)

To top off a perfect day the sun shone throughout, contrary to most predictions, and I've heard nothing but glowing reports from those who took part. More details, including photographs, can be found on our website www.aylesbury-ramblers.org.uk.

The Ramblers Association exists to promote the benefits of walking, encourage use of our fabulous countryside and offer people a healthy, active and sociable pastime. By telling your readers about our '53-Miles-in-a-Day' you and your Neighbourhood News correspondents have raised public awareness of these aims immeasurably.

Dan Sullivan

Chairman, Aylesbury and District Ramblers