

Bluebell Walk (Walking for Health series) – May 17th 2010

16 people started (and finished) the Bluebell Walk led by Philip Hussey. We started at 10am from Naphill Village Hall to walk towards Smalldean Lane to see bluebells and other wild flowers.

We headed towards the end of Chapel Lane where we had our obligatory photo call. We then made our way across the Common to Bradenham Woods



Admiring the first of 5 new notice boards to be erected.

On our way to Bradenham Woods we passed a very sad sight – a dying oak which is believed to be three to four hundred years old. The photograph below does not give the true picture as the green leaves appear to be on this oak are in fact on adjacent trees which are now encroaching into the personal space of the veteran oak.



A dying oak on the Common

We went through Bradenham Woods and crossed over Bradenham Road into Cherry Walk where we came across a Coralroot plant (see below) which is uncommon and not found on Naphill Common.



Coralroot - an uncommon sight

A little further on we came across an excellent display of bluebells.



Bank of bluebell in Cherry Walk

Further on we came out to magnificent views over the valley.



Admiring the view

In a large field recently cleared of trees we found several flowers emerging which do not live in wooded areas so must have lain dormant for some 70 years. We came across a rare 15 leaf buttercup. It is believed that due to damage at an early stage 3 stems grew as one and produced this strange sight.



A rare deformed buttercup with 15 petals (note the thick stem)

We now made our way back via the old Youth Hostel and the Umbrella Tree to the Village Hall.

This had been another very good walk which not only showed us bluebells but other flowers found in the area.

Many thanks to Philip for leading the walk.