

Review of the Pathfinder Year 2009

'FAVOURITES'

Twass in the month of January
That our 'Favourite' walks began.
It was difficult to make a choice
The aim - to fit in as many as we can.
Of course we **had** to choose the River Thames
And the Moulsoford Downs with views which lure,
And of course we walked in Sulham Woods
Before soup and cake at Cherry Acre.

February started with a 'Laura walk'
Snowdrop scenes were planned but – oh no!
This time Laura really excelled herself
Instead of her usual rain - she brought snow!
But Pathfinder ladies will not be beat
We donned our boots and coats to tread...
Through the snowy Pangbourne meadows
To The Elephant Hotel– instead!

March – and Springtime arrived at last!
And for our Special, to the Forest of Dean
We went by coach to walk amongst
The most amazing wild daffodils ever seen!
March also found us thinking back to autumn
And our trip last year to Blenheim.
Having watched the making of The Young Victoria film
We went to the cinema for a private viewing.

Easter fell in April this year
So we took a few deserved weeks off
Before walking round the hamlet of Sulham,
And on Churn Knob above Blewbury set aloft.
May proved a month of Merriment!
We had a 10th birthday to celebrate!
A long weekend in Bourton on the Water was booked
Excitement mounted – we could hardly wait!

We walked stunning Cotswold landscapes.
We attempted some Country Dancing!
We feasted upon gourmet meals.
Shame no-one warned the locals we were coming!
You see – free time each day had been planned
When upon the village we all descended!
We explored the attractions – invaded the shops
And cream teas just **had** to be tested!

June – and a picnic with views upon Watership Down.
Then on Wittenham Clumps we gained a second view.
Poppies were enjoyed at Ewelme before the Watercress Beds tour
And the Wild Flower Farm tour was great too!
We visited Enid Blyton's former home
Where Old Thatch gardens hold many a treasure.
Roses, fountains, a pond dug by Enid's own hand,
And tea and cake served to add to the pleasure!

July – time for our Wimbledon Strawberry Walk
Along the Pang at Bradfield, before heading back
Across poppy-strewn fields to the Strawberry beds
To pick juicy fruits of which there was no lack.

The term ended with our Special to Greenwich
To sail on the Thames through the Barrier.
Then afterwards we walked in Greenwich Park
Which proved a beautiful place to wander.
We enjoyed the views, the flowers, the trees.
And who could forget the duckling!
At the Observatory we stood – a foot in both East and West
So we didn't know if we were coming - or going!

Holidays over, in September we walked
Along the ancient route of the Ridgeway,
And to Greenham Common now reclaimed by nature,
And to Marlow along the river from Hurley.

October brought glorious autumn colours
So to Warburg Nature Reserve we sped.
We 'walked within autumn' - no other way to describe!
After picnics on a fungi hunt were led.
We made the most of the colours on our autumn trip
The trees glowed red and yellow in the sun
As we walked in The Valley Gardens – a beautiful place
And where collecting sweet chestnuts was fun!

The autumn colours continued right into November
It was breathtaking walking at Stonor.
On Armistice Day, silent in an Aldworth field
Upon the words of Laurence Binyon we ponder.

At last! Our gate has been installed!
So a walk to pass through it was planned.
Lovely Chiltern countryside paths we trod
Until we arrived to where our gate stands.
Photos were taken. Locals passed through
Proclaiming our gate to be 'Just Fine!'
Proudly we stood and read from the plaque
'Donated by Purley Pathfinders 2009'!

Now it's December – the year comes to a close.
Thanks for sharing these Favourites with me.
Now – let's raise a glass and wish us God's speed
Into 2010 - Year of History!