Sevenoaks Ramblers

The best view in the south? Lewes circular - 13 miles

Sunday, 23rd August

As the group gathered in the centre of the beautiful town of Lewes on a bright, sunny Sunday morning, its members felt flattered to be joined from two walkers who had travelled from as far as, respectively, Portsmouth and Leicester to enjoy a walk whose stunning views and scenery, not to say the excellent company, we hope will have made their long journeys worthwhile.

Fortified by surely the most tasty coffee in the south purchased from the excellent Ground Coffee house, the party wound its way through a lively town centre, whose restaurants were full of patrons enjoying brunch in the late summer sun, to start the climb up the hill, past Lewes golf course, to Mount Caburn (492 feet), once an iron age hillfort, which on this clear day afforded panoramic views across the Ouse valley to Firle and other South Downs landmarks. The party of eight then descended to the pretty hamlet of Glynde (whose village store is straight out of a Miss Marple episode) before crossing the busy A27 and starting a challenging ascent to the top of the Downs near Firle Beacon (712 feet). The views made the exertions to reach it worth every breath. Enjoying the gentle summer breezes and familiar songs of skylarks, the group then negotiated a benign downward gradient to the very pretty village of Southease, famous for the twelfth century round tower of its very attractive church, where lunch was consumed and water bottles were re-filled. The team then retraced its steps to the River Ouse along whose banks it walked (past the spot where Virginia Woolf took her life in March 1941 from her home in nearby Rodmell) hoping, vainly, to see kingfishers and seals which the walk leader swore he had spotted there on previous occasions. Lewes' Depot Cinema and Restaurant provided welcome refreshment at the end of the thirteen mile loop back to the centre of town, where more than one in the party suggested they would have liked to live; and not only because it is surrounded by some of the most attractive countryside in the UK. This, the excellent weather conditions and convivial company made this another memorable Sevenoaks Ramblers' outing, we hope for those travelling from afar as well as for more local residents.

