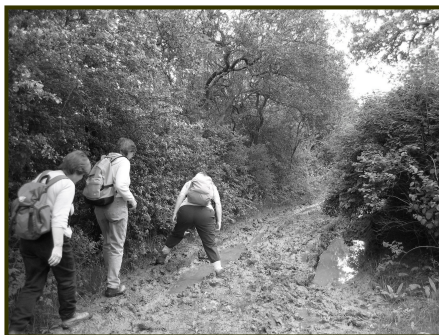


Wychwood Walks Mud and Bluebells

Good Company

I should be able to describe in detail a delightful walk undertaken by members of Shipton WI recently, but I am afraid that I was too busy chatting and failed to concentrate on the route. Fortunately Ros Wilson had checked it all out for us in advance and we were able to relax and follow her lead.



Oddington Woods

As this walk is just outside the Wychwood area we had to take a short drive to the start. Driving through Kingham, take the Daylesford road and turn off to park outside St. Nicholas church, right on the edge of Oddington Woods. Parking is very limited here, so please park carefully.

Walk up the track with woodland on your left until you reach a broad track, which leads to Daylesford. Go along this path for a few yards and then head off to the right, through the woods. In mid-May the bluebells were a sea of brilliant blue everywhere we looked. Keep roughly in an ESE direction towards a large conifer plantation. Walk along the path keeping the conifers on your right until you come to the edge of the wood. The views as you come out of the trees are stunning!

Muddy Choices

The path was extremely muddy so Diane Johnson in her trusty Wellington boots,

was sent ahead to test whether we could get through in our walking boots. There was much hilarity as boots became stuck but no-one came to any harm.

Follow the path to the left in a field,

crossing into pasture through a gateway. The path goes across a grass field, which may have cattle in it, to link-up with a bridleway to Bledington; following this we stopped in the village looking for refreshments. We had to settle for ice-creams from the shop as the local hostelry was closed.

Retracing our steps we picked up the path back to Oddington. As we wandered back through the woods we were able to enjoy the bluebells once more and speculate on which birds we could hear singing so beautifully in the trees.

Tea at Last!

Back at the cars, we decided to round off the afternoon with a welcome tea -break at the Daylesford Farm Shop. Half an hour relaxing in their beautiful courtyard, sipping tea and enjoying scones and cream was just what we needed to restore our tired legs and feet.

Christine Halliday

*Shipton WI organise walks on the second Friday each month throughout the summer. If you would like to join the WI for fun and friendship or just join us on our next walk please ring **Ros Wilson** on: 01993 831810 for full details.*