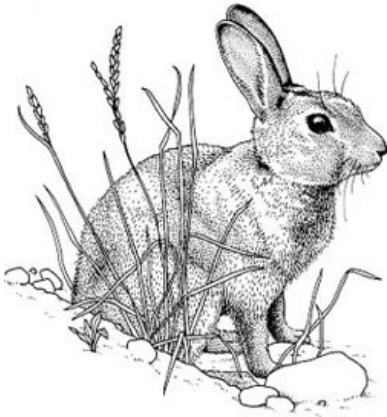


OUT AND ABOUT AND AROUND LEVIN DOWN

...with Rosemary Staples



David and I took a group of Horticultural Society members on a walk on the 8th September. It was going to be over Levin Down, but we decided that for a change we would go another way. Starting from Charlton, we climbed to the double gates, then we turned left across the south face [sounds like we were on the Eiger] of the down. We then left the reserve and dropped down through Lady Wood to the cottages at Broadham, then

on up the road to Broadham House, through the farm and up to the right onto the back of Levin Down, down Hawkhurst Hill to the back gate going back into the reserve, then round the bottom path, east side and back to Charlton, making it a complete round trip. It was nice to take people somewhere new to them, not everyone but some, so they can go again when they wish. So, thank you to the nice people who walked with us. We enjoyed it and hope they did too.

There really is not a lot to report on up on Levin Down at the moment. Blackberries are everywhere, likewise hips and haws. The rabbits abound as well, although many have the awful 'mixi', [can't spell it, sorry]. We have not seen any sign of badgers on the hill for ages, but we do have their latrines all down our little path, why they have to choose there is beyond me.

We had a good cycle ride the other day down the good old Centurion Way to Summersdale, then on down to Fordwater, East Lavant and up Chalky Lane to the Trundle. I have to be honest and say it was more push than ride up Chalky Lane, but oh, it is worth it when you are flying down Knights Hill, hanging on for grim death. Fun or what?!

Must go and stoke my bonfire. I hate letting a good fire go out, don't you?

See you soon.