

## Bedwyn Footpaths Group walk – From The Plough, Shalbourne, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 11.00 am. 3.5 miles

This was a new area for the group to walk. The bright weather and thought of the possibility of a visit to a cosy pub at the end of the walk encouraged 24 walkers to come along, 3 of these walking with us for the first time.

We met in the car park at The Plough, Shalbourne (park there if visiting the pub afterwards or beside The Green opposite) and took a 3.5 mile circular walk past the watercress beds, up the hill and across the road to zig zag our way to Shalbourne Heath Plantation & Baverstock's Copse – a remote area but criss-crossed by many footpaths, bridleways & tracks. Be careful to follow the signs & the map – not all tracks in this area are public rights of way. Then it was back to Shalbourne, past the church, where inside can be seen a plaque commemorating Jethro Tull (the agriculturalist – not the rock band!). He farmed at nearby Prosperous Farm and died there but is buried in Lower Basildon where he was baptised.

A group of 14 of us enjoyed a pre-booked Sunday lunch at the pub afterwards. [www.ploughshalbourne.co.uk](http://www.ploughshalbourne.co.uk).

The incline up from Shalbourne at the beginning of the walk is quite steep. After that the walking gets much easier, some on hard surface along to the grain store then on broad grass tracks and woodland paths.

