

# VISIT TO WENDOVER WOODS

One Tuesday in July a group from St. Faith's, which included four lively dogs, had a day out at the Forestry Commission site in the Chiltern Hills, called Wendover Woods.



After a pretty drive, with some lovely scenery and views on the way, we arrived and our first priority was the café for drinks and cakes etc. Then we divided into groups to partake of the various activities on offer. Katherine and Rose decided to try the Tree Top Adventure (GoApe), described as a 'High Wire Forest Adventure with 30ft rope ladders, Tarzan swings, giant rope nets, zip wires through the trees, tunnels and wire rope bridges`.

Charmaine tried to persuade some of the adults to take on the Go Ape challenge and Graeme said he would go on it if she would, but in the end they both chickened out and joined us on the walk!

Most of the rest of us had decided to go on the Forest Fitness Trail leaving Pat and Denis at a more leisurely pace on a shorter route. The forest fitness trail around Boddington Hill, the site of an Iron Age hill fort, had ten exercise challenges at intervals along the route. Hamish and Phil were eager to outdo each other at these various stops which provided a little rest and entertainment for the older members of the party and a chance for the dogs to help or hinder the boys in their endeavours.



Towards the end of our walk we went by the Go Ape course and there (up in the clouds almost it seemed) were Katherine and Rose working their way around the various physical challenges of pretending to be Gorillas; at that particular point the challenge was a series of zip wire rides which looked very scary to us on the ground. But the girls were all smiles and performed elegant poses for us, the audience below on the ground, as they passed over our heads. Odin (Mary's dog) in particular couldn't't understand why Rose was so high up in the sky!



We were lucky with the weather as, although showery, the trees provided adequate cover when we were on the walk and when it began to rain a bit we were back at the café and ate our lunch under the shelter there. The café provided an excellent range of food and we were all ready for some sustenance after our ramble. We all agreed how nice it was to be out in beautiful woods breathing wonderful clean air and at various points where the trees cleared we had enjoyed breathtaking views across the Vale of Aylesbury.

For those of us able to go on this outing it had been a popular choice of venue and an opportunity to enjoy a little of the outstanding natural beauty of the Chilterns. Thanks go to all the car drivers who took us there and to Gordon and Charmaine for arranging a very pleasant day out.