



Report of Rye in July Trip

In July 2025 Mole Valley Ramblers combined a mini break with a day trip to Rye Harbour. We had 13 people staying for a few nights (Monday to Thursday), in a range of accommodation at Rye Foreign and nearby: campsite, shepherd's hut, bed and breakfast, self-catering. Rye Foreign got its name because Rye and Winchelsea were once under the jurisdiction of an Abbey in Normandy. In 1247 Henry III brought the ports back under his control, but the area outside Rye remained under Norman control and was named Rye Foreign. In this small village there was a very convenient former pub, the Hare & Hounds, that now provides bed and breakfast accommodation and a well-equipped campsite where most of us stayed.

There were several walks on offer for those staying: on the Monday afternoon a short 4.5 mile walk from the campsite through local apple orchards, on Tuesday a choice of two walks (of 5 and 8 miles) from Bodiam Castle, and on Thursday morning, a 6 mile walk in the shade of woodland from Beckley, because by then the temperatures were very high. In between, on the Wednesday, we had invited members (using Eventbrite) to join us for a day trip, and another 13 of our members did just that, car sharing, or combining with other activities.

Thanks to help from additional walk leaders, Barbara E and Andy H, we were able to offer two walks that day, one being a gentle paced walk 6 mile walk around the Rye Harbour nature reserve, pausing at the hides to observe the wildlife, and visiting the Discovery Centre café for refreshments. The majority of people chose this option. Meanwhile a select group of six drove a short distance to Pett Level and after taking in the wonderful sea views, we set off on an 8.5 mile walk alongside the Royal Military Canal across Romney Marsh and up to Winchelsea (which was re-built up the hill from 1288 after the former port was lost to coastal erosion). We paused for our refreshments at a vineyard at Wickham Manor. Thank you to Anita & Peter for providing the perfect captions for the respective walks!



Those of us staying had an excellent pub meal in Peasmarsh on the Wednesday, on other nights people either self-catered or ventured into Rye. It would have been better if we could have started the holiday with a shared meal out, but many pubs now do not serve food on Mondays, and this one didn't on Tuesdays either.

For a day trip it is always a quandary as to how best to allow everyone to socialise where there is a choice of walks. It was made harder by some staying locally and ready to get walking, whilst others had had a longish car journey and perhaps were more in need of caffeine. Nevertheless, the feedback received has been very positive, with everyone saying how much they enjoyed the trip. There is lots of lovely walking in the area as well as many interesting places to visit: Rye itself, and several gardens and castles nearby. A few more photos follow, with thanks to contributors.

I have been given lots of ideas for future trips which I shall share separately with the MVR Committee. These are more likely to be separate day trips and mini breaks.

Fiona Spencer
18/07/25



Crossing the Canal



At Camber Castle (an artillery fort from 16th century)



Royal Military Canal (built as defence against against Napoleon)



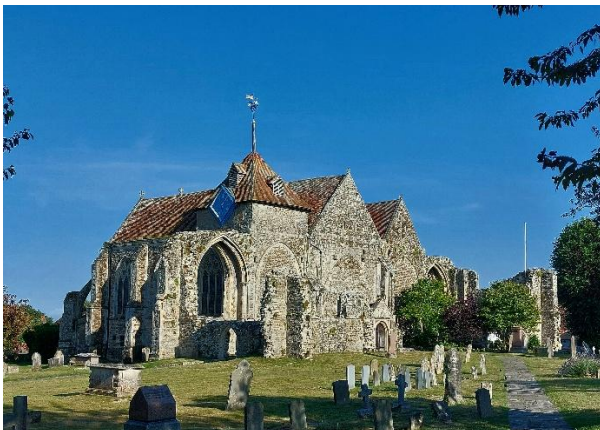
On the beach near Pett Level



View down to Bodiam Castle (14th century moated castle)



View from vineyard at Wickham Manor



Winchelsea church



Egret at Rye Harbour