Sevenoaks Ramblers

The Historical Pillboxes of Tonbridge and Leigh - 10.5 miles

Wednesday, 18th March

Spring stepped in a few days early as thirteen ramblers set off from Tonbridge Castle, heading along the High Street towards Tonbridge School. There we saw the first of our WWII pillboxes, newly discovered in 2018 on the school grounds after building works. We then continued west along the Wealdway to our second pillbox, where one of the walk leaders gave a short talk on the construction and design of these small but vital concrete defensive bunkers. The group then headed away from Tonbridge, walking towards Hildenborough, crossing lush, rain-fed, vividly green fields and circling back towards Leigh for a stop. After lunch in the grounds of St Mary's Church—where a kestrel kept a keen eye from above on one rambler and their lunch—we made our way back towards the River Medway, stopping briefly at the Leigh Flood Barrier.

The remaining four pillboxes greeted us along the river on our return stretch, although many ramblers were deeply disappointed to find that one pillbox had been completely buried under tree cuttings! Finishing the walk back at the Castle, many of the group headed into the local Spoons for a well-deserved drink to discuss the merits of the FW324…

Thank you to everyone who joined the walk, and to Clare, Stephen, Ian, Sharon, and Tim for their photos.









