

Sevenoaks Ramblers

Upper Halling Circular and the Moot Brew Taproom - 10 miles

Thursday, 9th April

On one of the warmest days of the year so far, 18 ramblers — including one potential new member — set off, heading uphill into Ten Acre Wood. The ascent was briefly interrupted when a tree was spotted alight. Several ramblers, assisted by a passing off-duty firefighter (always handy in such circumstances), tamped down the burning embers at the base of the tree and poured water bottles over a smoking branch. With the firefighter's assurance that the fire was now contained, we continued on and joined the Wealdway, walking through the Silverhand Estate, admiring the thousands of planted vines, along with several newborn lambs playfully enjoying the warm, dry weather under the watchful eyes of their mothers.

After a break at Luddesdown Church, all ramblers (eventually) continued towards Cobham Park, taking in the 18th-century mausoleum built for the Earl of Darnley, who was believed to be the “toy-boy” of Queen Elizabeth I. We then paused for lunch at Ranscombe Country Park, enjoying views across Rochester and the River Medway in the distance.

There was one final hill up onto the North Downs, which everyone conquered admirably, before the last mile back towards well-earned drinks at the Moot Brew Taproom. Thank you to everyone who joined the walk and to Ray and Penny; to Pat and Sharon for the photographs; to Stephen for all his help; to Dominique for the recce; and to those ramblers who helped extinguish the fire and sacrificed their water on such a warm day.



