Sevenoaks Ramblers

Leigh/Penshurst Circular with Blubells and Cold War History - 9.2 miles

Wednesday, 22nd April

26 ramblers set off from beautiful Leigh with its historic cottages and village green, heading north towards Hall Place Estate. Any fears held by some, that they may have missed the Bluebell season, which came early this year, were soon put to bed, when they were greeted with a sea of purple. Hall Place, Price's Wood and Blackhoath Wood, certainly did not disappoint with their Bluebell displays this year.

We then stopped at the Charcott shoe tree. The origins of the shoe tree are unknown. Whether it started as a wedding celebration, or to celebrate an end of a long journey, or it presents something more sinister, it presented an opportunity for much discussion between all ramblers, while they took on refreshments.

Continuing on to the edge of this field, many were surprised to find, what they first believed to be an abandoned shed or pig pen, to actually be a small museum. Here sits a historic underground nuclear monitoring station, previously operated by the Penshurst Royal Observer Corps. After a short talk about the history of the nuclear bunker by the walk leader, we headed south towards Penshurst through beautiful woodland. Many ramblers enjoyed refreshments in the Leicester arms over the lunch stop, before we then headed back towards Leigh, walking partly along the Eden Valley Walk.

The weather was perfect, the company perfect, but the star of the show was certainly the Bluebells.

Thank you to all who came along and to Kevin for backmarking and helping with the recce.









