

Sevenoaks Ramblers

Sevenoaks Weald Village Circular Walk - 8 miles

Sunday, 14th June

10 of us met at Weald Village, including Kim and Jane whom we welcomed from Dulwich and Maidstone.

After the rain-soaked walk of 3rd June it was a pleasure to start off on a warm sunny day which set off the colours and views of the walk to perfection and there were a number of highlights of the walk.

The first was the climb up to the Greensand Ridge with a close encounter with cows and very young calves. At the top we enjoyed shady woodland walking with the fine views over Bough Beech to the High Weald beyond before we dropped down through fields of wheat with promises of plenty (to our untutored eyes).

The next highlight was our stop at the nature sanctuary area at Bough Beach, where after I mentioned the likelihood of seeing kingfishers the group spontaneously stormed the hide (fortunately empty) over the pond and ate our snack lunches, our eyes scouring the water. Fortunately, Wendy had remembered my suggestion to bring binos and was able to guide our eyes to the frequent appearances of the kingfishers from their nest in the bank. We also saw coots on their nest, herons and a deer coming down to drink. Lunch was further extended as we walked across the causeway and were treated to more herons, terns, geese and lapwings putting on a display.

Our return to Weald was largely through more fields of wheat and oats, and meadows full of wild flowers, brightly coated with armies of wild daisies, basking in the sunshine, before we stopped briefly at Long Barn where Yanan explained its connection to the ubiquitous Vita Sackville-West.

Several of us lingered at the Windmill for refreshments and more talk, which characterised the walk where a disparate group of people enjoyed each other's company. Thanks all for making the walk such fun for me, especially Peter for assisting with the brambles (Alice delegated him with the task and her secateurs), and Alice for the photos. Kudos to Yanan for not only walking to the walk but then running home afterwards!



