

Sevenoaks Ramblers

Kent Villages Tour - 11 miles

Sunday, 13th September

On an overcast and muggy day that threatened, but did not quite deliver, rain the walking party gathered under the pavilion by Leigh village green. The leader's description of the walk as a "stroll" through the Kent countryside was met with a little scepticism by the eleven present, all of whom were warmly greeted but particularly one newcomer and another from beyond Sevenoaks. A

After the mid-week rain, the slightly softer ground as well as the transformed colour of the recently parched landscape were welcomed. After admiring Bidborough church and primary school there was a brief break on the village's common before the party negotiated a gentle climb towards the outskirts of Southborough.

A meander through narrow footpaths then took the group to the village of Speldhurst, attractive for its church but particularly village pub where liquid refreshment, as well as a few solids, were consumed. News that the route after lunch would be slightly longer than that before it did not deter the party from adopting a healthy pace as it headed through woods to the top of a hill (see photo) which afforded a lovely view of the distant village of Penshurst, towards which the party energetically headed.

After a further brief 'hydration break' it headed east to follow the course of the river Medway before meeting the same path that had taken it out of Leigh in the morning. Having walked twelve miles through lovely Kent countryside the group was reminded how lucky it was to live in or near such an attractive part of our island. As if by fate, rain began to fall as soon as the eleven ramblers started to disperse.

