**Isle of Grain – Almost Circular, Sunday 18th November 2012**

23 walkers, 19 miles – leader Godfrey O’Callaghan

22 London group, 1 Kent group and a dog completed the 19-mile walk (19 mls. 500 yds. to be exact according to a Google Earth Fly-Over emailed by Nicole). The group enjoyed exceptionally good weather with barely a hint of a breeze – in fact the early sheltered miles along the Medway had people reducing their layers. The water – of which there was plenty – was often a mirror-like calm.

At lunch, those attracted to the local hostelry were well looked after. Sandwich eaters sat in Cooling churchyard – and cool it was despite the sunshine – and were later joined by the imbibers for a brief reflection on Pip's first encounter with Magwich. A few meters down the road we almost joined a wedding party – having been mistaken for the bride’s family – who were lined up for photos with a backdrop of the impressive Cooling Castle gateway.

The pace was good as headed between lakes, waterways and along the banks of a Thames swollen by the incoming tide, into a setting sun that slowly settled into a colourful sunset. A contented group arrived at Higham Station at twilight after a satisfying day out.