**Erith to Petts Wood, Saturday 14th January 2017**

24 walkers, 17 miles – leader Chris Hedley

A good turnout for the fabulous first two stages of the London Loop. The walk starts with dramatic views down the Thames, soon followed by the reeds and mud of the Darent, and then by the charm of the Cray, which we followed most of the way to Petts Wood. The Cray suffers a bit from litter but has been extremely well-managed by volunteer conservation groups and others. At the impressive Hall Place outside Bexley we encountered some gas works on the London Loop route, causing a bridge to be shut. No advanced warning as there would be for traffic, no diversion sign when you get to the blockage and nothing on the website. Not good enough.

Photographs by Bola Baruwa