**Eels, Marbles and Brooks, Thursday 6th July 2017**

8 walkers, 9 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

Start 18.00 Finish 21.00

Two first-timers and a handful of faithful regulars set out from Twickenham station on a very hot and sultry evening. A storm seemed to threaten but did not develop and it did get slightly fresher over the walk. The first 2 named highlights were rather non-events as Eel-pie island is private and once over the bridge there is only about 200 metres before the lane finishes and one has to return. Marble hill park is very beautiful but I had chosen the one night in the year when it is closed to the public as a rather noisy charity concert event was taking place and the locked gates and security guards did not suggest that it was worth taking any risks. Along the Thames to Richmond then up Richmond Hill and into the park. Surprisingly quiet for such a lovely summer evening as we crossed to the east to join the Beverly Brook, the 3rd named highlight, which fortunately was flowing in good spirits. The leader’s attempts to meet the 10% rule with some off-piste loops on Barnes common were to no avail and everyone made it to Putney Bridge where some dodgy characters made a Rocket for the nearest Wetherspoons. An enjoyable evening for my 75th London group lead.