**Joydens Wood and the River Cray, Tuesday 8th August 2017**

8 walkers, 6.3 miles – leader Peter Aylmer

This walk featured two very different habitats, the ancient woodland of Joydens Wood and the water-meadows beside the River Cray. After taking a metalled bridleway past stables we headed up into the woods, encountering the ancient Faesten Dic (love the spelling!), an earthwork that was erected by the Saxons of west Kent around 1400 years ago, to keep the overly-gentrified Romano-Londoners out of their lands following the collapse of the Roman Empire. The woods themselves have both deciduous and coniferous trees, and heather was in bloom in a clearing. On then to the water-meadows, which some of the party knew from the London Loop, but we took a longer route through some very tranquil scenery before meeting a sunflower field on the way home. Alas the sun was mostly hiding – but if we'd been 24 hours later, our waterproofs would have had a severe testing.