**Winter Solstice Walk, Saturday 21st December 2019**

26 walkers, 18 miles – leader Keith Lane

26 walkers started

7 left at Greenwich (12 miles)

19 walkers witnessed sunset at Stave Hill

12 reached the Wetherspoons at Cannon Street Station

The Wetherspoons at Bromley south was busier than usual with 25 walkers congregating for the start of the walk.

We headed out of Bromley using conveniently sited alleyways to Sundridge Park where we picked up the Green Chain Walk. Following the recent heavy rain it wasn’t surprising that the footpaths were muddy but a large puddle blocking the path in Elmstead Woods was a surprise and needed a divert.

Another walker joined us at Eltham Palace just in time to join in coffee and the leader’s home baked cake at Eltham Park South. After Oxleas Woods we circumnavigated Severndroog Castle and crossed Eltham and Woolwich Commons to reach Greenwich Park and the Observatory.

Surprisingly there were empty tables at the Wetherspoons in Greenwich but lunch had to be kept to 45 minutes to ensure we would arrived at Stave Hill in time for sunset at 15:52 which we did with 5 minutes to spare.

The remainder of the walk took us along the Thames crossing London Bridge to reach The Wetherspoons at Cannon Street Station to meet up with 4 Strollers from the Surrey Walking Club. Fortunately this venue also had spare tables.

This was the third Winter Solstice Walk which the leader initiated as an antidote for the Summer Solstice Challenge Event held in 2017. Based on the feedback from participants it may become a permanent feature in the walks programme, albeit with different routes. However the three key elements, Wetherspoons, Stave Hill and light hearted banter will not change.

Photographs by Barry Arnold; more by Barry are on the group Facebook site.