**A Summer Afternoon in Bexleyheath, Tuesday 29th June 2021**

6 walkers, 13 miles – leader Ron Williamson

Just six members opted to relieve the pre-match tension by exploring the environs of Bexleyheath on an overcast summer’s afternoon.

All started well with an early relaxing pit stop in the delightful Damson Park, followed by a short voyage of discovery through suburban roads, alley ways and open spaces to Foots Cray Meadows and the well-known landmark on the London Loop of Five Arch Bridge. Alongside Ruxley Woods with a profusion of Pyramid Orchids in full flower and across Orpington golf course and it was time for a refreshment break.

All too easy! Until attempting to recross the golf course on a different path we could not locate the exit until, after several frustrated attempts, eventually a way forward was found by scrambling uphill through dense undergrowth. More anxious times were to come as we followed paths through head high vegetation and then tried in vain to protect new footwear from thick and treacherous mud in Chalk and Jorden’s Woods.

Still at least we had forgotten about “the match.”

Photographs by Keith Lane