**Dickens, Downs and Medway, Saturday 4th December 2021**

7 walkers, 20 miles – leader Jerome Ripp

A glorious day full of winter sun with teeth. We were soon on the Wealdway to the lovely village and church of Luddesdown. The field areas south and east in the sheltered hill sides and valleys has been converted into massive vineyards. Several loops made the most of the vast amount of wooded downs in the area before our descent to Cuxton church for lunch.

A short section of the North Downs Way with great views of the Medway, the bridges and Rochester beyond. Another long loop around Cobham Park to the restored Darnley mausoleum and into Cobham with its Dickens associations as he used to walk in the area and frequent the local pubs; the small village still seems to have three going concerns which is quite unusual nowadays. The church has a huge collection of brasses and some elaborate stonework. A final stretch through Jeskyns Community Park with its many architectural features and the only time in the day when we met any other walkers. Perfect timing as we finished with the last drop of light and just as the 4.35 train arrived.

Photographs by Jerome Ripp