**Darenth Valley Circular, Sunday 1st July 2012**

23 walkers, 22 miles – leader Lonica Vanclay

22 walkers joined me for a Darenth Valley circular walk. The rain only rained for half an hour or so and by the afternoon it was lovely. The valleys and hills were very green and the poppies and other flowers as well as the nettles were out in force. We headed east then south for an early (and rather slow) lunch in Stansted; then on to the North Downs and westwards down into Otford. We were all tempted by the tea shop there (where I found myself helping to waitress to help speed things up) and given the enticement of England playing football that evening as well as the Tour de France some took the shorter flatter route back to Eynsford with Gordon; others climbed the ridge on the west side of the valley to make sure we got a few more feet of ascent in as well as some good views before descending back down to the valley and returning to Eynsford.