Sevenoaks Ramblers

South Sevenoaks Woodlands Circular Walk - 7.6 miles

Sunday, 3rd May

Twenty ramblers, including three new members, set off from the centre of Sevenoaks in surprisingly glorious weather, happily proving the gloomy forecast wrong. From there we made our way into Kippington, a quiet and rather lovely part of Sevenoaks with historic connections to the Austens (distant relatives of Jane Austen) and the Thompson family. We passed Churchill Court (formerly known as Kippington Court), where the walk leader gave a short talk on its history. The house was built in 1900 by William James Thompson, a wealthy tea importer who also funded the building of nearby St Mary's Church in 1878. During the Second World War, Kippington Court was gifted to Winston Churchill, who later donated it to the Royal British Legion in 1946. It went on to serve as a convalescent home until 1979, caring for more than 21,000 ex-servicemen and women.

We then headed west through the Montreal Estate before looping into the peaceful Mill Bank Wood, with plenty of walkers commenting on how amazingly rural it all felt given how close we were to Sevenoaks. The route continued towards Sevenoaks Common, passing through Longspring Wood, which the Council acquired in 2023 to stop it being developed. Our final stretch took us into Knole Park, where about half the group peeled off for tea and scones at the National Trust café. The rest of us carried on into Sevenoaks town, heading home or enjoying a well-earned drink (or two!) at the Sennockian.

A big thank you to everyone who came along, to Clare for helping with the recce and pointing out Churchill Court, and to Kevin for back marking.





