

St Mary's Hoo Guided Evening Walk 31.7.2013

This evening walk was going to follow the usual pattern of this popular walk as per the Winter Warmer Report of 2008.

However this being a late evening walk I was concerned about the time as light is fading fast in the evenings, so I amended the usual route to enable about 45 minutes to be cut off allowing the walk to finish before the sun set (which was at 8.52pm).

The route began as usual in Hall Road and followed RS 22 but we went north only as far as the edge of the marshes-and not onto the river bank. At the marshes' edge we went east following footpath RS 5 – the first time we used this route which was less spectacular than the riverside path and clearly less well used although the stiles were clearly marked with the distinctive yellow markings. We followed RS 5 across three scrubby marsh edge fields until we met with RS17 going south towards Coombe Farm – which we then followed along our familiar route via RS 18 and RS 14 back to Moat Farm.

The walk was extremely successful – some 82 people turned up (an all-time record for an evening walk) and the feedback was very positive indeed- several St Mary dwellers came and were most enthusiastic about my talk and walk – the owner of the former school house said she had cleaned her house exterior and weeded knowing we were on our way!

Christoph Bull, Convenor, Gravesend Historical Society Footpaths Committee.