

u3a SIDCUP - Ramblers 2 – Walk from Sidcup Place to Footscray Meadows – Tuesday 27 June 2023 – Leader Helen Salmon

Our walk started at Sidcup Place and thankfully there was some cloud in the sky and a pleasant breeze – we had been having some very hot days. We walked down the hill, with the playground on our left, to the wooded area at the bottom and followed the path with the allotments on our right. As we continued on we were surprised that there were no horses in the fields. We walked across the next grassed area to Haven Close and continued into Cray Road where the peace and quiet ceased and the noise of the traffic took over. After a water break we crossed at the traffic lights in Footscray High Street and walked into Rectory Lane and followed it until we came to All Saints Church Footscray. Further on we entered Footscray Meadows and continued right and down to Penny Farthing bridge over the River Cray. We enjoyed a few moments taking in the view and stroking many dogs whose owners were taking advantage of the cooler weather to take them for a walk. We followed the river through Mitchel's field, crossed the bridge at the culvert and as we got near the Five Arches noticed two swans. I am a Friend of Footscay Meadows and I noticed one of the members who is installing posts in the meadows that will have QR codes attached for people to learn more about the meadows and the history. By this time one of the group was disappearing into Stable Meadows so we hurried on and exited onto Leafield Lane and made our way to the White Cross Pub. The pub has new owners who are in the process of updating the interior. We sat in a pleasant covered area to the rear of the pub and enjoyed a pub lunch before heading for home.