

## **Ramblers 2 – Circular walk of Danson Park – 23 January 2024 – leader Helen Salmon**

We met up at the gates to Danson Park for our first walk of 2024; a leisurely stroll around the park. Being at the tail end of storm Isha the weather was not kind to us, but the intrepid walkers battled on through the rain. The Old English Garden opposite the Mansion was looking lovely; even after all the terrible weather we have been having. We met up with Maggie in the Stables restaurant car park and walked on down to the bridge across the lake. Karen asked me about the long, low shed next to the lake. I told her about the miniature railway which used to run along the edge of the lake many years ago. I also pointed out where the Danson Park Lido was. It was built in 1936 close to the lake and off the Rochester Way. I remember queuing my childhood to get in. There were padding pools as well as a large pool with diving boards. There was a café at one end where we bought our ice cream cornets. It was decided to close the pool in 1979 and it was demolished in 1982. We walked to the end of the lake where there was a pair of swans with a couple of cygnets. We took the path parallel with Danson Road until we were near the Boathouse. As we were all very wet we decided to see if the Fleur de The at the base of Danson House was open. It was and we were thrilled to go in and get out of the rain. They serve many types of tea and delicious homemade cakes. As we left we were nearly blown over by the wind of storm Jocelyn!! At least it had stopped raining.