

### **u3a Sidcup – Ramblers 2 – Walk from the North Cray Road to Hall Place via Mount Mascal Stables – Tuesday 26 September 2023 – leader Helen Salmon**

We took a bus from Sidcup High Street to Northcray Road where we met Jan. Taking our lives in our hands, we crossed the busy road from Water Lane and ventured up the public right of way to a field of horses who were not bothered by us. Bearing left we entered another field of horses and made our way down and exited at the right hand corner. We were now entering the equestrian centre of Bexley. Continuing along the track and on our left we could see the grand house on Mount Mascal Farm and further along we could smell the aroma of horses! The path then joined Stable Lane where our journey was interrupted by cars trying to pass each other on the narrow lane. Mount Mascal Stables was a hive of activity and it was lovely to see so many beautiful horses. We followed the lane to the end and crossed the busy Vicarage Road to Pelham Cottages where we met another walking group who were enjoying the weather like us. At the end of we turned right and followed the tarmac path up with the cemetery and gravestones on our left. When we reached the top we did a sharp left turn into Churchfields Wood and followed the winding path. We began to notice the traffic noise coming from the A2 Rochester Way. At the end we came to the concrete path and turned left down to the railway line that goes under the A2. Following the winding path we emerged alongside the busy road and quickly walked along until we came to some very steep steps that took us down to the other side of the railway line. Following the hedge we came to the grounds of Hall Place, our final destination. Once over the small bridge we walked to the entrance of Hall Place Gardens where we enjoyed lunch in the Riverside Café in the bright sunshine.