**Ramblers 3 Scadbury & Petts Wood to Chislehurst January 2024**

We retraced some of our steps from the 40th anniversary walk of 2022. We didn’t have the large numbers of that event, but a decent turn-out of 10, including a couple of new members. Weather was cold and rather grey compared with earlier in the week (& later), but we soon warmed up trudging uphill across the Green and through Scadbury. I had warned the group about fallen trees, but they seemed to have been cleared away so we didn’t have to scramble over them. Members had also been warned about the mud, but they scoffed as they emerged from Scadbury to cross into Petts Wood. Little did they know!

We resisted the temptation to view the sundial and memorial to Willett, the deviser of daylight saving (BSTime). Reaching the railway line, instead of climbing over the 3 railway bridges into Petts Wood town along the London Loop, we waded through mud parallel to the rails. This was the “point of no return” (i.e. the farthest point), where we turned towards Chislehurst, the cries of “Are we nearly there yet?” ringing in my ears. A bit of a stiff, but short, climb out of the valley, past a couple of schools at the end of Botany Bay Lane, saw us emerging onto Crown Lane and hence to the Crown, itself for lunch.

A slap-up meal for most was well received, but took us some time to await and consume, so that it was nearly 3pm before we debouched. Having covered the 5+ meals already, most of the group opted for the bus return journey. However, 3 of us intrepid (*not to say foolhardy)* walkers went back into Scadbury, the remaining 1/3 of it and hence over the Green back to base.