

## Notes on Walk 30th September 2023

The walk started from West Malling BR Station and followed the road to the High Street of West Malling, a moderate size market town. On the way we passed St Mary's Abbey and saw several Blue Plaques which had been displayed by the Malling District Council to attract attention to people with past connections to the area such as JMW Turner who had painted a watercolour of the Cascade at St Mary's Abbey, portrait painter John Downman and Captain William Locker who had been Sir Horatio Nelson's mentor. Upon leaving the High Street we took a path which took us across an interesting arch bridge over the M20 and passed through three developing villages: Leybourne, Birling and Ryarsh. The route took us through open fields and woodland and we were able to see the remains of Leybourne Castle across the fields and the southern slope of the North Downs in the distance.

We had excellent service for lunch at The Duke of Wellington in Ryarsh.

The length of the walk was approximately 7 miles and 25 walkers took part.

Thanks to Stewart and Sally Biggs for leading the walk and booking The Duke of Wellington in Ryarsh for lunch. Thanks also to everybody who joined us.

Tony Barber

