

## Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

<b>Walk Title</b>	Tunbridge Wells	<b>Walk No.</b>	371
<b>Area</b>	Kent/Sussex borders	<b>Type</b>	Circular
<b>Date</b>	Thursday 21 July 2022		
<b>Distance</b>	10.5 miles (17 km)		
<b>Timing</b>	4½ hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow 8+ hours in total. Therefore expect to be back at London Bridge by 5.30pm.		
<b>Meeting up &amp; travel</b>	<p>Meet at <b><u>9.30am on platform</u></b> at London Bridge midway between where the two up escalators arrive at the platform for the <b><u>9.39 train</u></b> to Tunbridge Wells, arriving Tunbridge Wells 10.28am.</p> <p>Useful connecting Thameslink train at 9.08 from Finsbury Park (destination Horsham) arriving London Bridge 9.29am.</p> <p>Zone 6 extension from Knockholt with Senior Rail card costs £6.60</p>		
<b>Route</b>	<p>A different route from our last walk around Tunbridge Wells.</p> <p>This time we set off through Tunbridge Wells common to Hurst Wood and Speldhurst, then onto the Wealdway, joining the T Wells circular via Groombridge House and back to T Wells station. Mainly undulating woodland with some open landscape. Option of tea in the Pantiles and catching a later train back (trains are frequent).</p>		
<b>Lunch</b>	<p>Latish lunch (1.30pm) at the Crown Inn in Groombridge. Prices – mains £15.00, sandwiches with fries and salad £10.95, Ploughmans £14.50. GF options available. I will phone through orders from the train.</p> <p>Or picnic in Churchyard.</p> <p>Bring mid morning snack if you feel you may need it.</p>		
<b>Dropping out</b>	Possible at lunchtime with taxi back to Tunbridge Wells station.		
<b>Suitability</b>	<p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There are no particular difficulties.</p> <p>Terrain: some short steepish ascents on uneven paths in the morning.</p> <p>Possible obstacles: some paths narrow and a bit overgrown. Shorts not advised. A stick could be useful for holding back vegetation.</p> <p>Watch out for tree roots – trip hazard.</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Waterproof jacket. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain. Wear, or carry, an extra layer.</p> <p>Bring plenty of water if it's hot although this walk is mostly shady.</p>		
<b>Facilities</b>	There are toilets at both stations, on the train and at the pub.		
<b>Walk source</b>	Guest leader's own – Tony Summers, a local resident.		
<b>Map &amp; other references</b>	<p>OS Explorer 147 – Sevenoaks and Tonbridge</p> <p>OS Explorer 135 - Ashdown Forest</p>		
<b>Leader &amp; contact details</b>	<p><u>Walk Leader:</u> Berry Beaumont with Tony Summers</p> <p><u>Beforehand</u> phone 07808 724694</p>		

	e-mail: berry.beaumont@gmail.com <u>On the day</u> mobile: 07808 724694
<b>Interesting facts</b>	<p>St Mary's Church Speldhurst has 10 windows from a design collaboration between Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris, who was responsible for the lead work, pattern work and colour.</p> <p>The church was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century but the current buildings date from 1871.</p> <p>Groombridge Place is a moated manor house built 350 years ago with gardens and parkland, although there have been manor houses on the site since 1239. Conan Doyle set his Sherlock Holmes novel 'The Valley of Fear' here as did Vita Sackville West 'The Heir'. It has been used for filming The Draughtsman's Contract, Pride and Prejudice and The Day of the Triffids.</p> <p>There are said to be several ghosts at Groombridge Place.</p>