



Berkshire Walkers



Walks Programme

Our walks are mostly planned and led by volunteers from within our group, but occasionally we have joint walks with neighbouring groups. The walks are open to all members of Ramblers Association groups, and also to anyone interested in joining our group.

June 2010

Wednesday 2nd June - Short walk in Theale followed by a Social Event, 3½ miles, easy

Meet at The Crown pub Theale ([SU642712](#)) at **6:45pm** for a 7pm departure sharp. We will wait briefly if anyone phones me reporting delayed local trains or buses.

A pleasant walk along country lanes and through the beautiful grounds of Englefield house, an occasional filming location with a herd of deer which you may see up close if lucky.

We will return to The Crown pub in Theale for an evening of live music. (See Social Events Programme)

The 18:37 train from Reading reaches Theale at 18:45, and the 18:13 from Newbury arrives at 18:33. [Newbury Buses](#) also operate their No.1 service between Reading and Newbury. Theale is easily accessible by bike from many directions, the landlord of The Crown is more than happy for bikes to be locked up in the rear garden. If coming by car is the only option, limited free parking is available at the pub and in Theale high street. Don't forget to check out our [car sharing scheme](#)!

Leader: Richard 07930 548379

Saturday 5th June - Avebury, 10 miles, moderate

Meet at Silbury Hill car park ([SU096686](#)) just off the A4 for an **10.30am** start. The sights of Avebury stone circle, Silbury Hill, West Kennet Barrow and Windmill Hill will all feature. We will stop for a drink in the Red Lion pub the only one in world located inside a stone circle. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

The car park is currently free and given enough notice the walk leader can provide lifts from Newbury station. Why not see if you can [lift share](#) to this walk?

Leader: Mike 07910 372297

Sunday 6th June - South of Wokingham (and pub lunch), 5½ miles, easy

Start **11am** Wokingham Station ([SU805686](#)). An easy-paced walk exploring the footpaths to the south of Wokingham and some hidden lanes. A compulsory country pub stop will be included! Close to the end of the walk we will end up at a newly refurbished pub where we will linger long enough for a well deserved Sunday lunch. For those wishing to get away, it is a short walk down the same road as the pub to the station. N.B. no need for a picnic lunch due to trip to pub. (Explorer Map 159). An ideal walk for prospective new members to come along and meet up with the Berkshire Walkers.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

Saturday 12th June - Lower Shiplake, 4½ miles, easy

Meet at Shiplake railway station ([SU776797](#)) for a **10am** start. A gentle morning walk that takes in a part of the Thames Path and returns via Harpsden with one hill to contend with. There is plenty of parking near the station. Optional pub stop at end of the walk. Please note that there is no lunch stop scheduled.

Possible lift available from walk leader from within Reading area if given enough notice.

Leader: Dan 0776 1192509

Sunday 13th June - Bix Bottom, Southend and Pishill, 9 miles, moderate

Meet at the start of the bridleway by the ruined church at Bix Bottom ([SU725870](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Directions: From the A4130, take the B480 through Lower Assendon and Middle Assendon. Take the second left just north of Middle Assendon, 50m after The Rainbow pub, then follow the twisty lane along the valley bottom for 1¼ miles. There is plenty of space to park on the verge by the side of the road.

A circular walk through woods and farms with a few climbs but some really great sights to see. The route begins with a short ascent to Maidensgrove Scrubs, before crossing the valley and passing Coxlease Farm and Southend. There will be a pub stop near Pishill, about ¾ of the way round. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Jenny 07799 264708

Wednesday 16th June - Tilehurst, farmland and woods... oh, and a pub! approx. 5 miles, easy

Start **6:45pm prompt** at The Royal Oak, 69 Westwood Glen, Tilehurst, RG31 5NW ([SU661740](#), on the No. 33 bus route from Reading station).

We have permission to use the pub car park on the understanding that a few of us will be having a drink after the walk. Please note, if bringing the Ferrari, that the entrance to the pub car park is quite steep, so you may wish to park it in Westwood Glen, which is fairly quiet without restrictions, rather than the car park if this is the case!

We soon get out into the countryside for a pleasant walk over farmland and woods (guaranteed cow free!) before returning to the pub for a nightcap or two. The Royal Oak is under new management who are keen to promote real ale and has a nice beer garden, weather permitting.

Leader: Jude 07585 234836

Saturday 19th June - Sunny California (and optional pub lunch), 6½ miles, easy

Start **10am** in Finchampstead ([SU797647](#)) at the free public car park on the B3016 Finchampstead Road, behind the shops opposite Cresswells garage, near to the double mini roundabout. A varied walk with some good views across the Hampshire border on a good day. The walk takes us south over the Finchampstead Ridges, through Finchampstead village and as far afield as California! We then return south to the Queens Oak pub where we will stop for a drink and time enough for a meal in the pub. Bring enough to drink. N.B. Those not wishing to eat in the pub can either eat their picnic near the pub, or I can give simple instructions on how to make your own way back to the start.

If you can, please let me know if you are eating in the pub by the Wednesday before the walk so that I can book a table. Thanks.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

Sunday 20th June - Pangbourne - Thames side and woodland walk, approx. 10 miles, moderate

We will meet at Pangbourne station ([SU632766](#)) for a **10am** departure (the 9:43 from Reading arrives at 9:52).

On leaving Pangbourne we will walk past some lovely old houses and cottages, before heading out to the Pang Valley where besides the beautiful scenery you can see and enter some of the old WWII defences. We will head to an historic pigeon tower, built within sight of two distant lovers. From there we will head into Sulham Woods, hopefully to see a spectacular display of *digitalis* (foxglove). Eventually we will come around to the Thames Valley, where you should be able to see into Oxfordshire on a clear day. We will head down to join the River Thames at Mapledurham Lock for the last part of the walk, to finish at the Whitechurch bridge.

Bring sandwiches and a drink for lunch; there will be an opportunity to visit a pub in Pangbourne at the end of the walk.

Leader: Richard 07930 548379

Saturday 26th June - Deadline to book for the Maidensgrove pub lunch

Please see the walk description on Saturday 10th July or the social events programme for further details.

Leader: Jenny 07799 264708

Saturday 26th June - Weekend away in Dorset

Please see the Holidays Programme for details.

Saturday 26th June - Walbury Hill and Combe Gibbet, 5 or 10 miles, moderate

One of the Ramblers' 75th anniversary walks

Meet at Kintbury station ([SU386672](#)) for a **10:30am** start. There are regular trains from Reading and Newbury. If arriving by car, drive along the A4 from Newbury towards Hungerford. Take the left turn to Kintbury about two-thirds of the distance between the towns. The car park is on the right, just beyond the level crossing – there is a charge to park.

Our walk takes us from the village of Kintbury, south across fields and small woodlands, towards Walbury Hill. We will pass through Lower Green for lunch time. The intrepid of the group will then climb the steep path to Combe Gibbet and on to the summit of Walbury Hill; those left behind will have a short time to look around Lower Green and its 13th century parish church, St Michael's. The two groups will meet up again in Inkpen Common for the return walk to Kintbury.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

July 2010

Saturday 3rd July - Photographic walk in London, 5 miles, very slow!

This is a social event rather than one of our usual walks. A wander through central London from Tower Bridge to Covent Garden stopping very frequently to take pictures. See the Social Events programme for details.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

Sunday 4th July - Cranleigh to Guildford, 12 miles, challenging

Meet at the car park just off the High Street in Cranleigh ([TQ054391](#)), which is reached by turning right at the mini roundabout by Superdrug, for a **10:30am** start.

The walk is all flat and quite long but enjoyable. We walk along the lovely countryside from Cranleigh to Guildford, stopping for lunch in Bramley by the old railway station. The bus fare from Guildford back to Cranleigh is currently £3.20. There will be a pub stop at the end of the walk, either at Guildford while we wait for the bus (which runs hourly) or back in Cranleigh. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink as usual.

Leader: Greg 07780 945591

Wednesday 7th July - Crazies Hill, 4 miles, easy

Meet outside The Horns Pub ([SU799809](#)) in Crazies Hill for a **6:45pm** departure. We walk along country lanes, over farm land and through woodland. We will have a drink stop at the end in The Horns.

Please do not use the car park at The Horns until after walk as we do not have permission.

(Although this description is the same as last year's, the walk is completely different and was the one Ian's team designed on the leadership training day.)

Leader: Ian M 07762 054207

Saturday 10th July - Maidensgrove walk and pub lunch, 3 miles, easy New members' walk

Park opposite the Five Horseshoes pub ([SU711890](#)) between Maidensgrove and Russell's Water in time for an **11am** start. There will be a short walk through woods and over valleys, going first to Little Cookley Hill and Oak Farm, then up around to Long Wood, across to Russell's Waters and back to the pub for lunch. The menu is on the pub's website, www.thefivehorseshoes.co.uk.

Please let Jenny know two weeks in advance if you would like to have lunch at the pub so that she can book tables.

Leader: Jenny 07799 264708

Saturday 17th July - Pewsey Downs and Vale Of Pewsey, 15-16 miles, challenging

The walk will start at **10:30am** from the Pewsey Downs nature reserve car park ([SU116638](#)). Head west from Marlborough along the A4. After about 2 miles, go past a Total petrol station in the village of Fyfield, and take the second turn on the left as you go up the hill (towards Lockeridge). Go through the village and keep going for about 3 miles. The car park is on the left. If you're going down a steep hill with a great view, you've just missed the car park!

A long but mostly fairly flat walk, with one steep downhill and one steep uphill. Starting in the Pewsey Downs National Nature Reserve, descending into the Vale of Pewsey to walk a section of the Kennet & Avon Canal, and finishing back on the Pewsey Downs with a white horse and great views across the Vale of Pewsey.

Possible pub stop en route. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Possible lift available from Reading.

Leader: Neil 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788 or nfrankum@hotmail.com

Saturday 24th July - Oakley and Wayfarer's Walk, 9½ miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** from the Beach Park car park, Station Road, Oakley ([SU570509](#)), just off the B3400, west of Basingstoke.

This walk follows a section of the Wayfarer's Walk between Deane and Dummer, then follows the course of a Roman road toward Basingstoke and returns through Oakley. There will be a picnic stop about halfway round and a pub-stop near the end of the walk. There are some gentle hills and muddy fields on the route.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

Saturday 31st July - Wooburn to Littleworth Common, 8 miles, easy

Meet at the parish car park behind Wooburn church for a **10:30am** start [SU911878](#), this a public car park, parking is free. We will proceed towards Bourne end and Hedsor where we will pick up the Beeches way to Littleworth common and then on to Wooburn common where we will have our pub stop finishing back at Wooburn. Gently undulating tracks/farmland. Pub stop en-route, please bring packed lunches.

Leader: Alex 07544 985639

August 2010

Sunday 1st August - Ogbourne St George, Liddington Castle and Aldbourne, 16 miles, moderate-challenging

Meet for a **10am** start by The Inn With The Well at Ogbourne St George, [SU202742](#), SN8 1SH. Please park considerately nearby in the village.

The walks goes via a disused railway, a Bronze Age hill fort and an abandoned village. Lunch at Liddington Castle and a pub stop at Aldbourne. Good views with some fair hills.

Leader: Anthony 07870 199750

Wednesday 4th August - Midgham, approx. 5½ miles, easy

Start **7:30pm** at Midgham station ([SU572667](#)).

From Woolhampton (where Midgham Station is), we'll walk past the picturesque flooded gravel pits and follow the green lane up into Brimpton, where, if it's open, we'll stop at The Three Horseshoes to slake out thirst. Leaving Brimpton behind us, we'll walk on to Little Park House and follow the hill down to Brimpton Mill which straddles the River Kennet. A short section of country road takes us to the Kennet and Avon Canal, along which we'll return to Woolhampton. The Rowbarge near Midgham Station would be a nice place to wait before catching your train... There are regular trains to Midgham from both Reading and Newbury.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Saturday 7th August - Shiplake, 8½ miles, easy

Start at **11:10am** from Shiplake station ([SU776797](#)). If travelling via Reading station, you should aim to meet the leader at 10:20am on the main concourse and take the 10:33 train to Shiplake via Twyford. The train arrives at Shiplake at 10:57am, and we shall set off 10 minutes later.

A circular walk from Lower Shiplake to Binfield Heath and Sonning, returning back to Lower Shiplake via the Thames Path. We may get the chance to see some of the Shiplake Regatta which is on this weekend. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Rob B 07961 160903

Saturday 8th August - Leadership training

Are you interested in leading walks? Do you want to know how to read a map? Or use a compass? Do you want to brush up of your navigation skills? If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, we might be able to help! On Sunday 8th August, we will be holding a "Leadership Day", where you can come along, learn from established leaders in the group how to plan, reccy and lead a walk. The day will include: map reading (from 1:25000, 1:50000 and guide book maps), the basics of using a compass, how to find where you are (including dead-reckoning and using GPS), "methods" of leading walks, planning and pre-walking a walk. Some of the day will be theory-based and there will be some practical work and a walk involved.

The day will be held somewhere in Berkshire – more details of the location and timetable will follow. If you're interested in coming along to brush up on your skills, or are an established leader who can pass on and discuss some of your knowledge, please get in touch with Lee by Sunday 1st August. (See the Map Reading Evening in the Social Events programme on Thursday 5th)

Organiser: Lee chair@berkshirewalkers.com

Sunday 15th August - Maidenhead to Twyford, 9 miles, easy **A walk aimed at under 35s**

This walk is aimed at people who would prefer to walk with under 35s, but everyone is welcome to attend. If you'd prefer to walk with a slightly older group, you may be interested in the nearby Henley and Wargrave walk on the same date.

Meet at **10:35am** at Maidenhead railway station ([SU887807](#)). For car drivers, I suggest you leave your car at Twyford's free village car park, which is next to the Duke of Wellington Pub ([SU786759](#)). Please make sure you give yourself around 15 minutes to walk to the train station, buy your ticket and catch the 10:24 train to Maidenhead.

This is a linear walk, which passes through Maidenhead Thicket, Bowsey Hill and Wargrave. There will be a pub stop along the way, where we are aiming to meet the over 35s walkers. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Please note: the walk can be shortened to 6½ miles by taking the train back from Wargrave.

Leader: Jenny 07799 264708

Sunday 15th August - Henley and Wargrave, 14 miles, challenging **A walk aimed at over 35s**

This walk is aimed at people who would prefer to walk with over 35s, but everyone is welcome to attend. If you'd prefer to walk with a younger crowd, you may be interested in the nearby Maidenhead to Twyford walk on the same date.

The walk will start from Henley railway station car park ([SU763822](#)) at **10:30am prompt**. We shall cross Henley Bridge and follow the Thames Path past Hambleden Lock and Aston. We shall then leave the river to cut across country to Wargrave where we shall have a pub stop, and may get the opportunity to catch up with the other group, depending on timings. We shall then return to Henley. NB - There is an option to cut this walk short at Wargrave (approx 9 miles) by catching the train back to Henley. Check with [National Rail Enquiries](#) for details of the train service.

Leader: Jude 07585 234836

Wednesday 18th August - Thatcham, approx. 6 miles, moderate

Start **7pm** at Thatcham Station ([SU527663](#)).

From Thatcham we'll walk up onto Bucklebury Common, and then on to Cold Ash, where apparently there is quite a nice pub. We'll retrace our steps a little way, before coming back down the hill into Thatcham. The Swan near Thatcham Station would be a nice place to wait before catching your train home...

There are regular trains to Thatcham from both Reading and Newbury.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Sunday 22nd August - Christmas Common, 9 miles, moderate **Joint walk with the Oxon 20s & 30s Walkers**

Meet at the car park in Christmas Common ([SU710935](#)) for a **10:30am** start. A circular walk through the surrounding woodland and farmland. A little hilly at times, but nothing too strenuous and a pub stop towards end of walk.

Leader: Dan 0776 1192509

Sunday 29th August - Dinton Pastures, 5 miles, easy New members' walk

Meet at the Dinton Pastures Country Park car park at [SU784718](#), on the B3030 just north of the bridge over the motorway, for a **11am** start. Parking costs £1 for up to 4 hours, or £2 for a longer stay. The car park is about 15 minutes' walk from Winnersh station.

An easy circular walk, ideal for new walkers interested in joining a group. After walking through the country park, we follow the Loddon as far as Whistley Green and return via Hurst. There will be a lunch stop on the way round and a pub stop in the second half of the walk. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Monday 30th August - Mapledurham Delight, 14½ miles, challenging Joint walk with the Oxon 20s & 30s Walkers

Meet at the long stay car park just south of the toll bridge on the B471 ([SU636767](#)) for a **10.30am** start. The meeting point is 10 minutes' walk from Pangbourne station. Payment for parking may be required; other parking options are available elsewhere in Pangbourne.

An undulating and circular walk along the Thames river and valley, to the beautiful and famous village of Mapledurham. Returning through the hilly woodland surrounding the river valley. An entrance fee for the waterwheel at Mapledurham is required.

Leader: Louise 07779 501802 / Andy 07787 840342

September 2010

Saturday 4th September - West Ilsley-Farnborough-Ridgeway, 13 miles, moderate

Park with care in West Ilsley village and meet by the gazebo and duck pond opposite the Harrow Inn at the north end of the village - at [SU471825](#). The walk starts at **10am promptly** due to the length. We start with some down land views and a mixture of well hidden footpaths and woodland taking us to the village of Farnborough where we pass The Old Rectory, the former home of poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman. We next head north to join for a short while the Ridgeway National Trail and experience some fine views. After passing the Lord Wantage monument we head south for a lunch stop in a remote but spectacular valley to a place called Lands End before returning to West Ilsley for a well deserved drink at the Harrow Inn.

Leader: Mike and Alison 01635 863831 or 07929 149636(Alison) or 07748 213647(Mike)

Sunday 5th September - Hook to Mortimer (linear walk), approx. 10½ miles, moderate

The walk will set out from Hook station ([SU725539](#)) at **10:30am** and walk through Hook, then follow paths up into Rotherwick. We'll follow the River Loddon for a way, before crossing it and heading up into Stratfield Saye for a quick drinks stop at the pub. From Stratfield Saye, we'll cross the Devil's Highway and follow the paths and country roads into Stratfield Mortimer.

There are hourly trains from Mortimer Station to Basingstoke and Reading, which (at the time of writing) cost less than £5 return. There are regular trains from Basingstoke to Hook.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Sunday 19th September - Windsor Great Park, 9 miles, moderate

Meet at the Air Force Memorial car park ([SU995718](#)) for a **10:30am** start.

A fairly flat circular walk, with points of interest including Virginia Water, the totem pole, the Valley Gardens and the Copper Horse. There will be a pub stop towards the end of the walk. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Saturday 25th September - Puttenham and Crooksbury Commons, 9-10 miles, moderate

A walk through two Surrey heaths and the woods in between. The walk will start at **10:30am** from the top car park at Puttenham Common ([SU920461](#)). From the A31 on the Hogsback, turn south onto the B3000. In about 400m turn right into Puttenham village. In about 250m take a left turn towards Elstead. The car park is on the right in just over a mile.

Possible pub stop en route. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

Leader: Neil 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788 or nfrankum@hotmail.com

Sunday 26th September - Marlow to Henley via the Chiltern Way, 18 miles, challenging

Meet at **11am** at Marlow railway station ([SU855865](#)). For car drivers, I suggest you leave your car at Twyford's free village car park which is next to the Duke of Wellington Pub ([SU786759](#)). Please make sure you give yourself around 15 minutes to walk to the station, buy your ticket and catch the 10:24 train to Maidenhead for a connecting service to Marlow.

Please note – when buying your train ticket to Marlow, ask for a return, explaining that you are coming back from Henley (they should stamp it "Thames Path"); it should be cheaper than two singles.

This is a linear walk passing through the lovely Chiltern rolling scenery, a deer park and Maidensgrove. We will get the train back from Henley. There will be a pub stop along the way and a possibly a second one in Henley. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

The walk is expected to finish around 7pm, just after sunset. However, it may overrun and finish in darkness, so you are advised to bring a torch if you have one.

Leader: Robert 07708 699873

Updates to Walk Details

While every effort is made to adhere to the details specified in the walk description, there may be the occasional last minute changes. These will be included in the weekly email bulletins and also posted on the website. If you are not on the email distribution list, it is worth contacting the walk leader prior to any walks you attend, just in case there is a change of plan.

Grade Guide

All of the walks in our programme are graded to give you an idea of what you are letting yourself in for! The grades are described as follows:

Easy: Gentle pace on fairly level terrain. Anyone can enjoy these walks and they are an ideal way for newcomers to try out our group.

Moderate: More variable terrain that may involve gentle hills or a few steep slopes.

Challenging: Long distances at a good pace, often involving hills and rough ground. A reasonable level of fitness and stamina will enable you to get the most from these walks.

Some walks are also rated by **pace**, either because of timing issues such as hours of daylight, catching a particular train, or simply because the leader prefers it.

If you are in doubt about whether a particular walk is suitable for you, please contact the walk leader for advice.

Social Events

Our group organises social events, which are also open to anyone considering joining the group. These events are purely social and are not for fund raising purposes, unless otherwise stated in the programme.

June 2010

Wednesday 2nd June - Live Music evening in Theale

Meet at The Crown pub Theale ([SU642712](#)) at about 8:30pm after the evening walk (see walks programme). This is an open microphone event, so anybody with a hidden talent to share can take part. You will hopefully recognise two of the performers! The Crown serves take away Chinese food which can also be eaten on the premises, but I cannot promise any tables. I do recommend the pancake rolls if you need a snack.

There are frequent train and bus services to Theale. [Newbury Buses](#) also operate their No.1 service between Reading and Newbury. Theale is easily accessible by bike from many directions, the landlord of The Crown is more than happy for bikes to be locked up in the rear garden. If coming by car is the only option, limited free parking is available at the pub and in Theale high street. Don't forget to check out our [car sharing scheme](#)!

Organiser: Richard 07930 548379

Friday 4th June – Pub Meet at the Lock Stock & Barrel, Newbury

Please meet us for drinks from 7:30pm. Pub's postcode is [RG14 1AA](#). This pub does a fine and wide selection of drinks. There are car parks around Newbury centre those that wish to drive, in the evenings parking is a pound or two. For those on the train it is but a few minutes walk from Newbury Station.

We may move onto other pubs in Newbury later in the evening so please contact the organiser if you can't find us.

Organiser: Mike 07910 372297

Wednesday 16th June - The Royal Oak pub, Tilehurst

Meet up at the Royal Oak pub, 69 Westwood Glen, Tilehurst, [RG31 5NW](#), around 8:30-9pm after the evening walk (see walks programme). (The pub is on the No. 33 bus route from Reading station).

The Royal Oak is under new management who are keen to promote real ale and has a nice beer garden, weather permitting. Please note, if bringing the Ferrari, that the entrance to the pub car park is quite steep, so you may wish to park it in Westward Glen, which is fairly quiet without restrictions.

Organiser: Jude 07585 234836

Wednesday 30th June - New Members Drink at The Griffen, Caversham

Meet up at 7:30 for a few merry drinks in a newly refurbished pub in the *Chef and Brewers* pub at 10-12 Church Road, Caversham, Reading, [RG4 7AD](#).

This is ideal for new members to meet the group in a relaxed environment and different attire!

Regular members can come too. The pub does serve a good selection of food if people wish too eat there too. The pub has parking and is 20 minutes walk from Reading train station.

Organiser: Jenny 07799 264708

July 2010

Saturday 3rd July - Photographic walk in London

There are many photographers in our group but it is often difficult to take pictures during our walks due to the pace. This social event puts the emphasis on photography rather than walking.

Meet up outside [Tower Hill tube station](#) at **10:30am**. We will stroll around Tower Bridge and gradually make our way to Covent Garden via St Paul's and Fleet Street and the Strand, stopping very frequently to take in the sights, to take lots of pictures and to take refreshment from local hostelrys.

Organiser: Rob 07786 116988

Saturday 3rd July - Wagamama's Japanese Restaurant, Reading

Meet up at 7pm at the Wagamama restaurant at the riverside level of the Oracle, Reading, [RG1 2AG](#). If you haven't dined in a Wagamama restaurant food is brought out as soon as it is ready, so we don't wait for each other to start. Tables can't be booked at Wagamama's – they will seat us wherever there is space, so we may not all get to sit together.

Organiser: Mike 07910 372297

Wednesday 7th July - The Horns Pub at Crazies Hill

A 4 mile evening walk (see walks programme for details) followed by drinks at The Horns pub, Crazies Hill, near Wargrave, [RG10 8LY](#).

Organiser: Ian M 07762 054207

Saturday 10th July - Short Walk and Pub Lunch in Maidensgrove

A three mile walk followed by a pub lunch at the Five Horseshoes. (Booking required) See the Walks Programme for details.

Organiser: Jenny 07799 264708

Sunday 18th July - Newbury Races: Dubai Summer Festival

Come along to a Racing Open day, with FREE entry to all enclosures. There is normally no dress code but please avoid bringing rucksacks and hiking boots because it is not the 'in thing' with the racing fraternity. Parking can be found in and around Newbury or at the Racecourse itself. My advice is to get to the meeting early, bring a picnic (ok, bring a small rucksack then) and have a good wander around as there are normally more events and competitions going on. Failing that, just work on your tan and have fun betting your life away!! Trains to and from Newbury Racecourse station are likely to be very busy at peak times. Gates open at 12 noon. First race: 2:35pm. Last race: 5:40pm. Further information can be found at: www.newbury-racecourse.co.uk

Organiser: Nick 07979 858551

August 2010

Wednesday 4th August - Evening Walk and Drink at Woolhampton

A 5½ mile walk including two pub stops. See the Walks Programme for details.

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

Thursday 5th August 2010 – Map Reading Skills Evening

Are you interested in leading walks? Do you want to know how to read a map? Or use a compass? Do you want to brush up of your navigation skills? If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, we might be able to help! Come to our a "Navigation Night" and learn how to use a map and compass; find out what the little black arrows on the canal are, what a "chyo" is, and whether you should be going up hill or down. Also find out what the difference between the pink, yellow, orange and green maps are, oh, and have a drink or two and a natter. Bring along your map questions!

Meet up at the Queen's Hotel, Market Place, Newbury, [RG14 5BD](http://www.newbury-racecourse.co.uk) for 7:30pm.

Want to put your new-found navigational savvy into good use? We'll be having a leadership day on Sunday 8th August to see what the funny blue and brown squiggles look like in real life.

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

Wednesday 18th August - Evening Walk and Drink at Thatcham

A six mile walk including two pub stops. See the Walks Programme for details.

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

September 2010

Friday 3rd September - Hare and Hounds Steak and Grill Night

Hare and Hounds hotel at Speen, Newbury...Excellent steaks, grills, fish, chicken...£15 for two courses. Contact the organisers for more details and to book.

Organisers: Charlotte 07879 882407 and David 07717 865752

Saturday 11th September - Newbury Beer Festival

Details will be available nearer the time.

Organiser: Jean-Paul Tanner 07887 710396 jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

Updates to Social Events

While every effort is made to adhere to the details specified in the description, there may be the occasional last minute changes. These will be included in the weekly email bulletins and also posted on the website. If you are not on the email distribution list, it is worth contacting the organiser prior to any social events you attend, just in case there is a change of plan.

A Note about Deadlines

Please remember that all these social events are organised by volunteers, so your co-operation is greatly appreciated. For some events the organisers need to know in advance who is going so they can make the necessary bookings etc. If you wish to attend a social event that specifies a deadline then please contact the organiser *before the deadline* otherwise you will be putting them to extra trouble and it may not be possible to change the booking anyway.

If you are booked on an event and then find you are unable to make it after all, please let the organiser know so that they don't wait around for you, and as they may be able to offer the place to someone else. Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Holidays

June 2010

Saturday 26th to Monday 28th June - Weekend in Dorset

Nick and Andy will be organising a walking weekend in Dorset this year. The itinerary will follow previous years weekends away in that there will be two coastal walks based on the South West Coast Path on the Saturday & Sunday (26th & 27th June). A third inland walk is planned for Monday 28th June for those wanting a longer weekend break.

This year the base will be Lyme Regis and means that we will be exploring the Jurassic coast and crossing the border into Devon.

Saturday 26th: Lyme Regis to Beer, 10 miles, Moderate/Strenuous

Start: Meet at the clock tower in the centre of Lyme next to the sea-front. Time: 10:15am for 10:30am start. Description: We will follow the South-west coast path westwards from Lyme, crossing the Dorset-Devon border and walking to the seaside town of Beer. At Beer there will be time to relax with a choice of buses available to take you back to Lyme Regis. The bus fare is £2.60 (please have exact money).

Sunday 27th: Lyme Regis to Golden Cap and Seatown, 8 miles, Strenuous

Start: Meet at the clock tower in the centre of Lyme next to the sea-front. Time: 10:15am for 10:30am start. Description: We will take the coast path eastwards this time. Due to landslips the path goes inland initially but we will rejoin the coast at Charmouth before heading to Golden Cap. The walk to the highest point in Dorset is strenuous with many ups and downs but the view from top will hopefully make it all worthwhile. We will descend on the eastern side down to Seatown for a well-earned drink in The Anchor Inn before heading to Chideock to catch a bus back to Lyme Regis (fare will be £2.30: exact money if poss.)

Monday 28th: Lambert's Castle and Coney's Castle, 3.5 miles, Easy

Start: National Trust Car park at Lambert's Castle. Directions: Take B3165 from north from Lyme Regis for ~6 miles. The car park is on the right up a small track and is not well signposted with just a small NT sign. Grid ref: [SY366987](#). Map 116. Time: 11am start. Description: The walks links two prehistoric forts and offers outstanding views of the vale of Marshwood and Lyme Regis.

For all the walks please bring your own refreshments and water. Good walking boots are advisable. For those arriving on the Friday the walks leaders will be in The Pilot Boat pub from 9pm opposite the seafront in Lyme where both coastal walks will start.

Contact Nick (0118 9835043, 07710350492) or Andy (0118 9669272, 07816268306) for more information.

General Information

Preparation

If you haven't been rambling before, you may not be sure of what equipment you will need. Here is some guidance:

- Walking boots (Proper walking boots are essential. Trainers are only suitable for short walks in good weather)
- Waterproof Jacket (May be required at any time of year! Waterproof over-trousers are also useful in winter)
- Water bottle (You will need at least 2 litres during high summer. Dehydration in summer is a common mistake)
- Packed lunch (We usually have a picnic lunch even when there is a pub-stop on the walk)
- Rucksack (Big enough for your water bottle, lunch box and to store layers of clothing when not in use)
- Sun protection, such as a brimmed hat and good quality sun cream, is necessary in the spring and summer.
- If you suffer from hay-fever, don't forget to bring your medication!

Walk Leaders

All of our walks leaders are volunteers from within the group. Although it is not expected that every member will lead a walk, those that do are greatly respected for their vital contribution to the walks programme, without which there would be no group.

If you would like to volunteer to lead a walk in the next programme, please contact the walks co-ordinator. You can design the walk yourself or get it from a book. It is advisable to pre-walk a new walk shortly before you lead it to familiarise yourself and to check that no part of the route is unsuitable. You do not need to pre-walk it before submitting details for the programme unless you wish to, as you do not need to specify the exact route in the walk description. However, it is important to check parking arrangements and public transport times (if applicable) before submitting the walk description.

The main details required in a walk description are the start location and time, the approximate mileage and grade of the walk, a summary of the area covered by the walk, and a contact phone number (preferably mobile). If you have never led a walk before, why not have a go? It isn't as difficult as you might think and most people that do lead one for the first time go on to lead many more. Talk to someone who has already led a few walks and they can give you advice and moral support.

Please visit our website at www.berkshirwalkers.org.uk