



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.

October 2011

Saturday 1st October - Henley, 8 miles, Moderate Henley, Middle Assendon, Bix and Greys Court

Start **11:00am**. Meet at the car park by Tilebarn Close, Henley ([SU752822](#)) Postcode RG9 1UX. This circular walk is a mixture of parkland, fields and woods with a couple of steep ascents from Henley and Middle Assendon. Please bring packed lunch and a drink. We will stop at the Rainbow Inn at Middle Assendon which is in the first half of the walk.

Leader: Jane O7881 805 156

Sunday 9th October - Winkworth, 2 miles, Easy Winkworth

Something a bit different - a visit to the [National Trust's Winkworth Arboretum](#) near Guildford (GU8 4AD, [SU989411](#)). Please note that there is an entrance fee of £6.20 to the arboretum. We'll walk for about two miles at a very leisurely pace, taking the opportunity to enjoy the trees and the scenery. There is a tea room at the entrance to the site, but we will stop for a picnic on the way round (weather permitting!), so please bring lunch, a snack or drink as you wish. Meet in the car park at **11am**.

Leader: Neil, Sophie and Rosa O7840 903547

Sunday 16th October - Watership Down, 12 miles, Moderate Watership Down

This is an extended version of a walk I've led a few times before. Meet at the car park at the top of White Hill, on the B3051 about a mile south of Kingsclere ([SU516564](#)) for a **10:30** start. The walk starts by heading up to Cottington's Hill, then down to Kingsclere, cross wooded and open country to Ecchinswell and Sydmonton. Then we ascend onto the Wayfarer's Walk and over Watership Down back to the car park. This walk is hilly and may be muddy in places. Bring a packed lunch as usual. There will be a pub stop at Ecchinswell.

Leader: Rob O7786 116988

Saturday 22nd October - Sherborne St John, 8 miles, Moderate Benedictine Monks of Sherborne

A circular walk through Monk Sherborne, Pamber End and Little London, taking us past the ancient Pamber Priory and through National Trust Morgaston Wood. We will have a pub stop after our picnic lunch. Bring sandwiches and drink, although if you need anything we will be walking past the small village shop at Sherborne St John where you can buy sandwiches etc. Meet at Chute Recreation Ground car park (free), Vyne Road, Sherborne St John, RG24 9HX (SU626555) at **10:15** for a 10:30 start.

Leader: Sheila O781 51seven 4365

Saturday 29th October - Staines to Windsor, 10 miles, Moderate Staines to Windsor, Car-free Walk

Start **10:45am** from Staines station (TQ041714); the National Rail Enquiries website currently shows the 09:39 train from Reading (going towards London Waterloo) arriving at Staines at 10:28. We will walk along the Thames Path from Staines to Windsor, with a short detour to and back from the Runnymede Memorials, which are on land that has been given to the USA. If you're driving, there is a pay and display car park at Staines station – Should be much cheaper than parking at Windsor! Trains back to Staines from Windsor and Eton Riverside are every ½ hour through the day. If on the train from Reading, you can either get a single from Reading to Staines (£9.50) and then a single back from Windsor and Eton Central via Slough to Reading (£8.20). Total £17.70. Or a cheaper alternative is to get a day return from Reading to Staines (£11.20), and then a single back to Staines from Windsor and Eton Riverside at the end of the walk (£3.60). The second half of the day return ticket can then be used for Staines back to Reading. Total £14.80. Bring a packed lunch as usual, hopefully there will be a pub stop along the way, on the side of or near to the river. Options for refreshments are also available in Windsor at the end of the walk if desired.

Leader: Jean-Paul O7887 710396 or jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

November 2011

Sunday 6th November - Sunningdale, 10 miles, Moderate Sunningdale, Car-free Walk

Start at **11:00am** at the main entrance to Sunningdale railway station (SU952667). The destination is South Ascot railway station. Note that you will need to make a short train journey to return to the start if you are driving!

Along the way we will be taking in part of Virginia Water Country Park and Windsor Great Park. Bring your own drink and sandwiches for lunch. There will be an optional pub stop at the end of the walk. The walking should be mostly on well-maintained paths, without any difficult climbs. However, the last stretch may be very muddy, so sensible footwear is still required if it has been raining recently.

Car parking is possible at either station (check for charges), and obviously a single rail ticket will be required. Travelling by train is recommended; be sure to buy a return ticket to the station furthest from where you leave home (that is Sunningdale if travelling from Reading). 10:18 (Reading, allowing for winter leaf fall) - 10:52 (Sunningdale) return £6.70 (£4.45 with railcard). The leaders (and likely others) on the walk will have railcards, which can be used to cover up to 4 people per card owner. Persons travelling from Reading can meet for 10am at the entrance to Reading station.

Please keep an eye on the weekly bulletin email, as by this time it is possible disruptions will occur to train travel due to the upgrade of Reading Station.

Leader: Richard and Helen O7930 548379

Saturday 12th November - Bentley, 10½ miles, Moderate Alice Holt Forest

Explore the beautiful Alice Holt Forest, once famous for providing timber for building navy ships. We will meet at **10:15** for a 10:30 start at the Recreation Ground car park (free), School Lane, Bentley GU10 5HU ([SU787441](#)). Anyone arriving by train can join us as we walk through Bentley station at approximately 11 am, and we will return back through the station at the end of the walk. Please phone or text the walk leader if you are meeting us at the station. We will have a picnic in the forest, so please bring sandwiches and drink.

Leader: Sheila O781 51seven 4365

Sunday 20th November - Wallingford, 10 miles, Moderate A Walk from Wallingford

Meet us at the public car park that can be found in close proximity to the bridge in Wallingford ([SU612895](#)) for a **10am** start. At time of writing no charges applied for use of car park. This walk takes us into the fields of South Oxfordshire where we will be greeted by good views of the surrounding hills. We will navigate past the villages of Ewelme and Benson and then pick up the Thames Path back to the start point. Please note that about a third of this walk will be on hard surfaces and there are a few inclines to tackle but nothing too strenuous. As usual please bring picnic lunch and water. Optional pub stop at end of walk.

Leader: Dan O776 119 2509

Saturday 26th November - Woolhampton, 5 miles, Easy Woolhampton

Meet Woolhampton Village Hall ([SU571668](#)) at **10:45** for a short walk, looking at some of the local geology, before the Berkshire Area AGM, hosted by West Berks Group at Woolhampton Village Hall, including a walk looking at local geology and a talk Diversity in Stone – Berkshire Geology from a Walker's Perspective by Lesley Dunlop of Berkshire Geoconservation Group. Meeting starts 2:00pm.

Leader: W Berks Ramblers 07780 683521

Sunday 27th November - Windsor, 11 miles, Moderate Windsor, Car-free Walk

Meet by the ticket office at Windsor Central station ([SU966769](#)) for a **10:40am** start. Regular trains run between Slough and Windsor. If arriving by car, please see www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/parking_windsor_area.htm for a list of nearby car parks. A circular walk featuring a stretch of the Thames Path, an opportunity to visit American soil without having to negotiate customs and a walk back through Windsor Great Park. The walk is mostly flat, apart from a bit of a hill near Runnymede and an even smaller hill at the Copper Horse. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink. There will be a pub stop during the walk and/or back in Windsor.

Leader: Chris O7984 255322

December 2011

Saturday 3rd December - Yattendon, 8¼ miles, Moderate Yattendon parish

Start [SU552730](#) from the walker's car park at the rear of the Pot Kiln pub near Frilsham village at **10:30am**. Allow yourself plenty of time to travel to the start if you have not visited the pub before due to its remote location. See the Pot Kiln's web site for some good directions - www.potkilyn.org/pubinfo.htm. This walk covers the parish of Yattendon including Ashampstead Common before returning to the Pot Kiln pub. A lunch stop will be taken about an hour before the pub.

Leader: Mike and Alison O1635-863831 or O793-884366O(Mike) or O7929-149636(Alison)

Sunday 4th December - Wargrave, 8½ miles, Moderate Wargrave and the Thames

The walk starts at **10am** ([SU785785](#) / RG10 8JS) in the small car park on School Lane (B477) – turn off the High Street and the car park is on your left a few yards from the main road. This is a leisurely walk that takes us via Crazies Hill all the way to the Thames and back again via Bowsey Hill. Not a flat walk, but no big hills to negotiate We will stop along the way at a pub long enough for a drink – Bring picnic lunch and enough to drink as usual.

Leader: Jim O7734 569216

Saturday 10th December - Arborfield Cross, 7 miles, Moderate Arborfield Cross

The walk will start at **10:30am** from the recreation ground carpark in Arborfield Cross ([SU760670](#)). Possible pub stop at the end. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. This walk is accessible by public transport. Catch the 09-55 number 144 bus from stop EB at Reading Station. Heading towards the town centre from the station main doors, stop EB is the second stop. Get off at Arborfield Cross, and it's a couple of minutes walk from the bus stop to the car park. Fares £3.80 single, £5.70 return at time of writing. See www.thames-travel.co.uk.

Leader: Neil F nfrankum@hotmail.com Tel: O118 975 1528 / O793 225 8788

Saturday 17th December - Middle Assendon, 8½ miles, Moderate Middle Assendon, Greys Court & Henley

Start **10:30am** from the lay-by at Middle Assendon ([SU739857](#)), on the left of the B480 as you approach from Henley. Walk to Greys Court via Bix, then on to Henley and along the Oxfordshire Way back to Middle Assendon. Slightly hilly in a couple of places but nothing too strenuous. Possible pub stops in Henley and/or at the end of the walk.

Leader: Chris O7984 255322

Tuesday 27th December - Nettlebed, 6 miles, Moderate Navigating Nettlebed and Maidensgrove, Themed walk: FWW2011

Meet us near the brick kiln in Nettlebed ([SU702868](#)) for **11:15pm** start having parked considerably on the surrounding roads. Why not join us in what could be the ideal way to burn off some of the extra calories put on over the Christmas period. This circular walk takes us to Maidensgrove and back over mainly potentially muddy footpaths, grassland and a short section on hard surface. Please be aware that we will encounter a steep hill on the way which we will have to go up and down and as a result that although this is a short walk it is by no means an easy one. Strong footwear recommended. Please bring packed lunch and enough money for liquid refreshment at a possible pub stop at about half way round.

Leader: Dan O776 119 2509

January 2012

Sunday 8th January - Highclere Castle, 6½ miles, Moderate "Downton Abbey" Walk

Meet at Beacon Hill car park off A34 ([SU463575](#)) at **11am** for a circular walk, encompassing Old Burghclere, Earlstone Manor, Ecchinswell and Sandham Memorial Chapel. There will be a pub stop at Carpenter's Arms and walk through Highclere Castle. Bring packed lunch or can eat in the Carpenter's Arms.

Leader: David and Charlotte (David) O7717 865752, (Charlotte) O7879 882407

Sunday 15th January - Newbury and Greenham, 8 miles, Moderate Newbury and Greenham

Start **11:00am** at Greenham Common Control Tower car park, off Bury's Bank Road outside Newbury ([SU499651](#)) We will walk across the northern side of Greenham and Crookham Commons to a fairly early pub stop at the Travellers' Friend (a well-known haunt for our group regulars), before returning to the car park via the southern side of the Commons, going past the nuclear silos along the way. Lunch stop will be somewhere on the Common, after the pub.

Leader: Jean-Paul O7887 710396 or jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

Sunday 22nd January - Stockcross, 5 miles, Easy A walk around the A34

Meet at [SU433686](#) to start walking at **13:00**, after parking considerably in the village. We'll meander next the Lambourn before climbing to the ruin of Donnington Castle, returning to the start via some light refreshment at a country pub.

Leader: Lee O7780 683521

Saturday 28th January - Hambleden & Marlow Common, 10 miles, Challenging

The walk will start from the public car park adjacent to The Stag & Huntsman pub in Hambleden. (OS Grid Ref: [SU785865](#)) at **10:30am**. Quite a few steep ups and downs on this walk to help you

burn off a few of the calories you've put on over the festive period! As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Possible pub stop a little after halfway round, and/or at the end of the walk.

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

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.

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.berkshirewalkers.org.uk

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.

October 2011

Friday 28th October - Pub Evening in Reading

Venue - Back of Beyond, 104 Kings Road, Reading [RG1 3BY](#) from 7:30pm. All welcome!

Organiser Catherine on 07760 147709

Sunday 30th October – Basildon Park, near Pangbourne

Start **11:00am**. Meet at the car park in the National Trust property of Basildon Park ([RG8 9NR](#) or [SU611782](#)). This is an opportunity to see this grade 1 listed Country House. The location is about 2 miles south of Goring. The option of a lift from Pangborne Station is possible by the Organiser. The admissions price for the property and grounds is currently £9 unless you are a member of the National Trust.

Organiser: Mike 07910 372 297

November 2011

Saturday 19th November - Gastronomic Night at Bill's Café, Reading

7:30pm for 8pm Sit Down at Bill's Café, Restaurant and Produce Store, St. Mary's Church House, Chain Street, Reading, [RG1 2HX](#).

Come and join us for an evening of great service and very good, freshly prepared dishes, all at very good prices. Starters from £2.95 and main courses from £7.95. Bill's even serve booze too! Places are limited as I have booked us a private room upstairs. The restaurant is next to the side entrance of John Lewis.

Note: If interested in attending please contact Jane by Friday 4th November so she can email you the menu. Your choice of starter and main course must be returned to Jane by Monday 14th November latest.

Organiser: Jane Kendrick 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com

December 2011

Saturday 3rd December - Christmas Party & Walking Weekend

Berkshire Walkers, Chiltern's 20s & 30s and Oxon 20s & 30s have all joined forces to arrange a Christmas party at [De Vere Hotel](#), Latimer House, Chesham. The party starts at 7pm and goes on until late, and accommodation is available at the Hotel from around £39.

Party Dress Code: Smart / formal attire

Walks: A walk before the party and a walk the following day have been organised so that you can make a weekend of it. See our [Holidays page](#) for details.

Organiser Contacts: Nick, Social Secretary

Wednesday 6th December - Live Music (and optional Chinese meal) Evening in Theale

Meet at The Crown Inn, Theale ([RG7 5BT](#) or [SU642712](#)) from 7:30pm (aiming to be seated and food ordered by 8pm).

We will be visiting The Crown for their monthly open microphone event, so anybody with a hidden talent to share can take part. There is usually a mixed bag of entertainment from funny original songs to popular tunes. Better still, The Crown serves take away Chinese food which can also be eaten on the premises. It is really good grub at very reasonable prices.

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, and 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 O7930 548379

Saturday 17th December - Christmas Meal at Sweeney & Todd's

The best value good quality food is to be found at Sweeney & Todd's in Reading. We will meet there at **7:15pm** for the meal at 7:30pm. There is a licensed bar and a great many varieties of pie to choose from. After the meal we can go on to explore Reading's pubs and night spots.

There are a limited number of places for this event. Please book with Charlotte, sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment. (Please see our [Note about Deadlines](#) below. Thank you.)

Organiser: Charlotte O7879 882407 or chairman@berkshirewalkers.com

January 2012

Saturday 21st January - New(ish) Year Pub Crawl of Reading

New years resolutions and diets failed? Weather horrible, cold and dark? Feeling Depressed? Well cheer yourself up with a few drinkies with friends.

Meet 12:00 Midday at the Three Guineas Pub adjacent to Reading Station to get started. We shall then proceed to several more pubs around the town, some serving food, taking in a few snifters/food as we go.

Organiser: Jude Tel: O7585 234836

Updates to Social Events

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