



## Berkshire Walkers - Young Ramblers Group

<http://www.berkshirewalkers.com>

### (Walks, trips and social events programmes)

The Berkshire Walkers is a walking group for young people. We aim to offer an informal and relaxed approach to enjoying the countryside. Walks are of varying lengths and take place throughout the Berkshire area and the neighbouring counties. Please see our web site for information and details on joining. Our group reference number is 'Berkshire 08'. Please quote on your application.

- **On all walks you should bring a picnic lunch (unless otherwise stated), refreshment, and suitable footwear and clothing.**
- **Please arrive *before* the Start Time with sufficient time to get your boots on, etc.**

## Walks and Trips Programme February to May 2008

Issue 1

### FEBRUARY

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**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February      Lakes of Finchampstead and River Blackwater      6.5 miles, easy**  
**Joint walk with Surrey group**

Start at **11:00am** at Simon's Wood Car Park (height restricted entrance), Wellingtonia Avenue, Finchampstead ([SU813635](#)). We pass through woodland before following the River Blackwater past a series of lakes comprising the Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve. Those interested in bird spotting may want to bring binoculars. We then visit Eversley Cross for a pub stop for drinks. Crossing our previous path we return to the start point via Finchampstead Ridges (National Trust woodland). Please bring packed lunch and a drink. Can be wet and muddy in places.

Leader: Tim 07986 843805

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**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February      Greenham Common      6-8 miles, easy**

Start **11:00am**. Meet at the public car park adjacent to the old control tower on Bury's Bank Road ([SU499652](#)).

A circuit of Greenham Common with one or two possible pub stop detours on the way round. As usual bring snacks and drinks.

Leader: Jean-Paul 07887 710396

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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February      Aldbourne to Ramsbury      6.5 miles, moderate**

Meet at the village pond in Aldbourne ([SU265756](#)) near The Crown Pub at **10:30am**.

A walk across the rolling Wiltshire hills between Aldbourne and Ramsbury. Some steep climbs, but we'll be rewarded with beautiful views, weather permitting! Pub stop, hopefully around the halfway point. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Jude 07986 165406 (or Adam 07709 032516)

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**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February      Burnham Beeches - Littleworth Common 7.5 miles, easy**

Start GR [SU954850](#) Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve car park – donation machines are present. The walk starts from the Beeches Cafe by the car park at **11:00am**. The car park may be found as a left turn off the A355 north of the M4 J6 directly after a red phone box, post office box and post office on the right, approximately 3.75 miles from the M4. Be careful to rear forward/right, staying on the A355 at 2 mini roundabouts next to each other and not take a turning to the left signed to Burnham Beeches beforehand.

Ideal for new members – enjoy the spacious clearings of a National Nature Reserve containing beech trees of an average 300 year age. A mixture of beech woods and open land near Dorney Wood. Pub stop at the Blackwood Arms at Littleworth Common around about 35 minutes from the end of the walk, lunch stop in a wooded area near the pub!

Leader: Mike 01635 863831 or 07748 213647 or Alison 07929-149636

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**MARCH**

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**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March      Hook, Greywell and North Warnborough 8 miles, easy**

This walk starts from Hook Railway Station car park ([SU725539](#)) at **10:30am** (suitable trains arrive at 10:15 and 10:23).

The walk passes through Hook toward Newnham, then through Greywell and along the Basingstoke Canal through North Warnborough, and finally back to Hook via Bartley Heath. There will be a picnic stop in North Warnborough and a pub stop at the end. The walk is relatively flat, and the pace will be moderate.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March      Hampstead Heath      4¼ miles, easy**

Meet at the car park off East Heath Road, Hampstead ([TQ264858](#)), near Hampstead tube station, for an **11:00am** start. The walk is based on no. 287 from the AA Book of Walks, and explores Hampstead Heath, one of London's best loved open spaces. A tea room, Kenwood House, Keats House, Parliament Hill and Burgh House are all along the way. There will be a pub stop at Magdala Tavern. Please bring a packed lunch.

Leaders: Charlotte 07879 882407 and David 07717 865752

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**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March                      Finchampstead – Shinfield                      12 miles, moderate**

Meet at **10:30am** at the bus stop on the A327 Shinfield Road, just south of the junction with Cutbush Lane (just south of the bridge over the M4 motorway, OS grid ref: [SU731686](#)) at **10:30am**. We'll be catching the 10:40am no. 144 bus to Finchampstead, and then walking back from there. This bus departs from stop SK at Reading Station at 10.25am. The start time may get changed if the bus timetables change between now and then. Check in the week before the walk. Not sure of the fare (it is currently less than the £3.60 single fare for the full length of the route), so bring assorted change. If you're driving, park considerately somewhere down Cutbush Lane and walk round the corner to the bus stop. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Pub stop at the end.

Leader: Neil [nfrankum@hotmail.com](mailto:nfrankum@hotmail.com) Tel: 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788

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**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March                      Marlow, Bourne End and Cookham                      9 miles, moderate**

Start **11:00am** from by Marlow Bridge ([SU851861](#)) along by the river to Bourne End and out towards Cookham. Mostly quite flat, but there could be a bit of up and down hill. There might be a pub stop on route – maybe in Cookham – or one at the end of the walk back in Marlow. Bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Several car parks are available in Marlow; the nearest is the pay and display car park in Pound Lane, which is on the left at the first mini-roundabout coming into Marlow over the bridge.

Leader: Greg 01753 865267 or 07780 945591

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**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March                      Oakley and Wayfarer's Walk                      9.5 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.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

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**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March                      Henley and the River Thames                      6 miles, easy**

Start at **10:30am** from Henley railway station ([SU763822](#)). Car parking is £2.70 / day in the station car park; alternatively if you want to park elsewhere don't forget to allow time to walk to the start.

This is a straightforward and pretty walk starting in Henley, heading cross country to Aston and then walking back along the river to the start. Ideal for anyone thinking of walking with the group for the first time. It may be wet or muddy so bring appropriate footwear.

Leader: Neil S 07840 903547

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**\*\*\* NOTE: CLOCKS GO FORWARDS ON SATURDAY NIGHT \*\*\***

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March                      Holyport, Fifield & Paley Street                      10 miles, moderate**

Park on the roads (not on the grass) around 'The Green' at Holyport. Assemble outside 'The George on the Green' pub ([SU890777](#)) for a **10:30am (BST) departure**.

This circular walk takes us through Holyport and cross-country to Fifield. From Fifield we head in a westerly direction back towards Paley Street for our lunch stop and pub stop at The Bridge House Bar and Restaurant. The walk takes us down 'Paley Street' before crossing to the north side of the M4, where 'plane-spotters' will be able to view flights in and out of White Waltham. We then begin the final leg of the route back to Holyport across more farmland and horse paddocks. There is an optional drink stop at the end of the walk.

Bring a packed lunch and drinking water as usual.

Leader: Kevin 07734 387073

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**APRIL**

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**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April                      Yorkshire Dales Weekend away.**

**Full details can be found at the end of the programme.**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April                      East Garston                      13.5 (or 8.5) miles, moderate**

Please note **early start at 10:00am prompt** from East Garston village hall car park ([SU365766](#)). This is a figure-of-eight walk passing through South Fawley, returning to East Garston after 8.5 miles, then heading on to Eastbury and Woodlands St. Mary before returning to the start having completed a total of 13.5 miles. There is the opportunity for those wishing to finish after 8.5 miles to do so at the first return to the start when we stop at the Queens Arms pub in East Garston. This is a downland walk with views on all sides crossing the gallops on the Downs. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

Leader: Adam 07709 032516

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April                      Dinton Pastures & Wheelwright Arms                      7 miles, easy**  
**'New members' walk**

Start **10:00am** at Winnersh railway station ([SU781707](#), RG41 5NA) or **10:15am** at Dinton Pastures car park ([SU784718](#)). Parking charges apply. A walk specially aimed at potential new members (but existing members are also welcome). An easy walk around Dinton pastures and to the village of Hurst, possibly stopping for a drink at a local pub. (Explorer 159)

The walk will end officially at the Wheelwright Arms, across the road from Dinton Pastures – a lovely Wadworth pub serving reasonable grub and very nice beer. N.B. there is the option to eat lunch in pub if you like – if you let me know a few days in advance, I will book a table. Bring enough to drink and a snack if you wish.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April                      Brimpton and Ashford Hill                      9.5 miles, moderate**

Start at **10:30am** from Brimpton village hall, west of Brimpton on Crookham Road, grid ref. [SU553645](#). We have permission to use the car park. The walk heads south towards Ashford Hill. Please bring food and a drink. We will be visiting the pub after the walk has finished.

Leader: Nick G 0118 9835043 or 07710 350492

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**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Beaulieu and Bucklers Hard**  
**A Social Event that includes a walk. See the social events programme for full details.**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Nettlebed and the Ridgeway**                      **12 miles, moderate**  
Meet by the green opposite the Old Kiln road in Nettlebed ([SU702867](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Please park considerately in the village.  
This circular walk heads north from Nettlebed, passing through Cookley Green before joining the Ridgeway path south of Watlington and then returning via Nuffield. There may be a pub stop towards the end of the walk, depending on timing.  
A bit hilly in places, but nothing too strenuous. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

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**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Abingdon**                      **Approx 14 miles, moderate / challenging**  
This is a walk that you won't be able to do in a few years time if Thames Water gets its way, as they are proposing to submerge 6.7km<sup>2</sup> of the area up to 33m below a 150 billion litre reservoir, which will provide drinking water for Swindon, Oxford and London. This is the second attempt at doing this walk. Last year, mother nature did her best to turn the area into a reservoir with about 7" of rain falling the day before. We got three miles before the footpath disappeared into knee-deep water that went on as far as the eye could see! Hopefully it won't be repeated this year.  
The walk will start at **10:30am** from the playing field car park on Lambrick Way, Abingdon ([SU494956](#)). Approach along Preston Road from the traffic lights on the B4017 Drayton Road. Just as you go round a slight left-hand bend, turn right into Lambrick Way (signed Southern Town Park). The car park is on the right in a couple of hundred metres. Possible pub stop en route. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. There is the option to cut the walk short to approximately 10 miles, by catching the bus back to Abingdon (hourly service, £2.30 fare last time I checked). And you get to sit in the pub whilst waiting for the bus!

Leader: Neil [nfrankum@hotmail.com](mailto:nfrankum@hotmail.com) Tel: 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Snelsmore Common**                      **4 miles. easy**  
Meet at Snelsmore Common Country Park car park ([SU463710](#)) for a **2:00pm** start.

An easy walk around Snelsmore Common and Donnington Castle. Ideal for anyone thinking of walking with the group for the first time. There may be a pub stop during the walk. It may be wet or muddy in places so bring appropriate footwear.

Directions: unfortunately the OS map (and consequently Streetmap) is still inaccurate in this area. From the M4, leave at J13. Following signs for Services and Donnington, leave the main road before it joins the A34 proper. There is now a series of three roundabouts. Turn right at the first two and left at the third, following signs for Donnington throughout. You should now be on a new road which runs parallel to the A34. After about ¾ mile turn right on to a minor road, signposted Winterbourne. After about ½ a mile you reach a T-junction with the B4494 Newbury-Wantage road. Turn left, and Snelsmore Common car park is the second turn on the right (this is easier than it sounds!). From Newbury, Snelsmore Common is about 2 miles north of Newbury on the B4494, which joins the A4 at the Waitrose roundabout.

Leader: Neil S 07840 903547

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## MAY

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### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May Windsor Great Park 7.5 miles, easy**

Start **10:30am**. Meet at the Air Force Memorial Car Park ([SU995718](#)), Cooper's Hill Lane, Runnymede.

A picturesque circular walk with the highlight being a section of Windsor Great Park that the route passes through. The Deer Park, Rhododendron Drive, the Royal Lodge, the Copper Horse and the Long Walk, with excellent views of Windsor Castle, are all featured. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink. Pub stop one mile before the end at the Fox and Hounds.

Leader: Jane 07881 805 156

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### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May Mumbles – the Gateway to the Gower Weekend away. Full details can be found at the end of the programme.**

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May Watership Down and Ecchinswell 9 miles, moderate**

Start at **10:30am** from the car park south of Kingsclere on the B3051 ([SU517564](#)).

A circular walk, setting off towards Plantation Hill, then down past Kingsclere and into Ecchinswell. The walking is mostly easy, with the possible exception of a small hill on the way back up towards Watership Down.

Possible pub stop in Ecchinswell. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

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### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May Henley and Hambleden 9 miles, moderate**

Start **10:30am** in Henley ([SU759828](#), RG9 2DG) in the car park behind Waitrose (free on Sundays, at time of writing). A walk with a bit of everything. The walk takes us over Remenham Hill to Aston and then across the river to Hambleden. The walk is then back along the banks of the Thames. Bring something to eat for lunch and sufficient to drink. Pub stop along the way, either in Aston or Hambleden, plus the option to have a drink at the end in one of the many pubs in Henley (LandRanger 175 or Explorer 171). *Possible lift available from Bracknell from walks leader if given enough notice.*

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

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### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May Dartmoor camping weekend**

**A joint trip with the Wiltshire, New Forest and Dorset groups.**

**Full details can be found at the end of the programme.**

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May Wildmoor, Wellington, Broadmoor Farm 8 miles, moderate**

Meet at **10:45am** in the Crowthorne car park ([SU844643](#)) located up a short track off the roundabout where the B3348 from Bracknell meets Old Wokingham Road just before Crowthorne High Street (to the immediate left of the "Past and Present Online" shop located on the roundabout).

The route takes in Wildmoor Heath Nature Reserve (big cat country!), Broadmoor Farm, Wellington College, Heathlake and East Berks golf course. Some gradient early on, but easy after that. The only pub stop is at the end of the walk so bring supplies!

Leader: Ian H 07896 254953 / 01344 780689

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**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May**                      **Pewsey Downs & Avebury**                      **14-15 miles, challenging**  
This is a walk with a bit of everything: a World Heritage Site with 5000+ years of history, Neolithic standing stones and burial mounds, Saxon earthworks, a National Nature Reserve, a White Horse and just a few hills (the two highest in Wiltshire)! 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, in the village of Fyfield, turn left 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! Possible pub stop en route. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

Leader: Neil [nfrankum@hotmail.com](mailto:nfrankum@hotmail.com) Tel: 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788

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## JUNE

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**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**                      **Aldermaston Wharf, Kennet and Avon Canal**                      **4 miles, easy**  
Meet at the car park at Aldermaston railway station ([SU601673](#)) for a **2:00pm** start.  
A gentle stroll along the Kennet and Avon canal and through the surrounding countryside. Ideal for anyone thinking of walking with the group for the first time. It may be wet or muddy so bring appropriate footwear.

Leader: Neil S 07840 903547

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## WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS

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### Yorkshire Dales Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Details of suggested accommodation in or around Settle can be found at <http://www.settle.co.uk/accomm.htm>. Please contact the organiser in advance to let her know if you are going, as there may not be mobile phone reception at the start of the first walk.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Malham**                      **7.5 miles**  
Malham Cove – taking in Goredale Scar but not actually climbing it – Malham Tarn and then descending to Malham Cove. Meet for an **11:00am** start in front of the National Park Centre in Malham ([SD900627](#)).

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Ingleborough**                      **10 miles**  
Meet at **10:00am** in the pay and display car park in Clapham ([SD745692](#)). This 10 mile walk includes an ascent of Ingleborough, one of Yorkshire's '3 peaks'.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Ingleton Waterfalls**                      **4.5 miles**  
Meet in the official waterfalls car park ([SD693734](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Admission is £4.50 at the time of writing. For more information, visit <http://www.ingletonwaterfallswalk.co.uk/>.

**Organiser: Alexandra 07919 115615 or [a.j.savage@virgin.net](mailto:a.j.savage@virgin.net)**

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## **Mumbles – the Gateway to the Gower** **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Mumbles is a seaside village situated on the coast approximately 6 miles to the west of Wales's second city, Swansea, and is the gateway to the Gower Peninsula. It was Britain's first designated area of natural beauty and makes a wonderful place for walking as well as many other outdoor pursuits.

Mumbles offers many attractions to offer its visitors (the Mumbles Mile (a pub crawl), tennis courts, crazy golf, pitch and putt, ice-cream parlours and amusement arcades) and was the birth place of film star Catherine Zeta Jones.

For accommodation and other information on the area: [www.visitswanseabay.com](http://www.visitswanseabay.com)

We have been advised by one landlady to book as early as possible. Having said that, there are plenty of B&Bs just outside Mumbles itself.

There are 3 walks on offer over the weekend:

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May                      Travel down – own arrangements**

Suggested eating: 7.00 onwards Fish and Chips from Covelley's, Norton Road, Mumbles and eat on the sea-front if fine. Pub from 7.45 – The White Rose at the junction of Norton Road and Mumbles Road (on the sea-front more or less opposite the start of Saturday's walk) – and the more ambitious can attempt the Mumbles Mile.

This will be a joint weekend away – invitations will be sent to the Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swansea Under 40s Groups.

### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May    Mumbles, Langland and Caswell Bays, Clyne Common and Gardens** **10 miles, moderate (mostly flat with one short climb)**

Meet on the seafront behind Boots the Chemist in Mumbles ([SS616881](http://www.gridreference.co.uk/SS616881)) at **10:30am**

We start this circular walk heading along the coast through the busy and scenic Mumbles towards Mumbles' Head and lighthouse. We follow the coastal path round through Braclett Bay, Langland Bay and have lunch in Caswell Bay where there are facilities and refreshments. It's then inland through woodlands and a nature reserve before crossing Clyne Common and Clyne Golf Course.

We then make a decent through the very beautiful Clyne Gardens to the sea front at Blackpill. It is expected that the Clyne in Bloom festival will be on at the time of our visit and there will be the opportunity to spend about an hour here to look at the wonderful flora (possibility) but for the less horticulturally inclined there is a chance for a pint at the Woodman Arms.

It's then just a short walk back along the front to Mumbles.

There are opportunities to take buses back from Langland and Caswell Bays and Blackpill to Mumbles (subject to availability).

Evening Meal suggestion: CJ's in Mumbles – please let me know by 13 April 2007 if you wish to go so that I can book a table. [www.cjs-mumbles.co.uk](http://www.cjs-mumbles.co.uk) (next to start of walk)

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May    Port Eynon, Worms Head and Rhossilli** **(two easy walks of 6.5 miles each making a moderate to challenging walk)**

Meet at the car park in Port Eynon ([SS467851](http://www.gridreference.co.uk/SS467851)) at **10:15am** for 10:30am start

We follow the coastal path in a westerly direction towards the dramatic outcrop of rocks known as Worms Head and the beautiful sandy beach of Rhossilli which is about 6.5 miles walking. We will have lunch here and there is a chance to have a pint at the Admiral Benbo Inn (well that was its name when I was a student). For those that don't want to do the full 13 miles there is a bus that runs to Port Eynon every 2 hours (correct at time of publication)

The afternoon walks takes us back to Port Eynon following inland footpaths across farm land.

Evening Meal suggestion – TBC

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May Penrice Castle, Arthur's Stone and Cefyn Bryn 7 miles, moderate**

Meet at the car-park near Penrice Castle (SS491881) at **10:30 am**

This walk will take us over moorland to one of the supposed sites on King Arthur's Stone. We then continue to the summit of Cefyn Bryn the highest point on the Gower (188m) and into the village of Penmaen). After lunch we will walk towards the beach at Nicholaston Burrows and through Nicholaston woods back to Penrice Castle.

**Please e-mail [ianmontague@hotmail.com](mailto:ianmontague@hotmail.com) if you plan to go and wish to go for the meal on the Saturday night, or call 07762 054207.**

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**Dartmoor camping weekend with the Wiltshire, New Forest and Dorset groups  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Camping and Caravanning Club Site at Lydford, Dartmoor, grid ref. [SX512853](#)

Site phone number Steve and Christ Denyer 01822 820275

To book your pitch, please phone Head Office on 0845 130 7633 (hours: Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri 8am-8pm, Wed 10am-7pm, Sat 9am-1pm). You need to book three nights at the **Lydford site**, and request that you are pitched with the walking group. Please book ASAP as it is the bank holiday weekend. The price is £6.00 per tent pitch per night, plus £7.60 per person per night.

Please arrive on Friday evening. If you are going to arrive after 8.00pm, please ring the site to let them know (phone number above). Travelling time is around 3½ hours from Berkshire; I would eat on the way down on the Friday.

*Food.* There is a pub in Lydford 10 minutes' walk from the site and a supermarket 7 miles away. Bring food for your weekend, and you will need a packed lunch on the Sat/Sun walks. If you need to keep things cool we can put them in our fridges, or bring a freezer box with you. Nigel can heat water up if some people do not have a cooker.

*About the site.* The group has stayed here many times, and has been welcomed by Steve and Christ, who are brilliant. Hot shower, nice and clean, and good facilities. Lovely view over Yes Tor to the south east.

*Walking gear.* Make sure you bring your boots and the usual gear. Maybe bring a flask for a hot drink as it could be cold out on the moor. Make sure you bring warm gear, including bedding.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**9 miles**

9 mile walk onto the open moor, stone circle, forest, lake and pub.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

**7-8 miles**

Hound Tor, Jays Grave, Grimspound, Hamel Down, Widecombe-in-the-moor

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

N.T. / Lydford Gorge and letter boxing at Sourton Tor.

After the walks if you would like to have a look around the area please do so at your leisure. See you back at Lydford!

**Organiser: Nigel 07999 695900 or 02380 873195**

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**Dorset Weekend Away**  
**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

For this years Dorset weekend trip we will be using the South-West coast path to take us further westwards. The trip will be centred in Weymouth so there should be no trouble in sorting out accommodation. The organisers are staying at The Esplanade B&B, but there are plenty of other places to choose from. For suggested accommodation, see

<http://www.weymouth.gov.uk/Visitors/Accommodation/home.asp?svid=71>

A rough itinerary is as follows:

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

Weymouth to Abbotsbury (bird sanctuary) by bus then back to Weymouth by the Southwest coast path.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Weymouth to Osmington along the coast path then back to Weymouth inland.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Inland Dorset walk (to be arranged).

**Organisers: Nick 0118 9835043 or 07710 350492, and Andy 07816 268306**

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**GRADE GUIDE**

**Easy:** Expect short distance and/or gentle pace on fairly level terrain. Anyone can enjoy these walks and they are ideal for beginners.

**Moderate:** Longer distances, the pace may vary depending on terrain. Could involve gentle hills or a few steep slopes.

**Challenging:** Long distance at a good pace. May involve hills and rough ground. A reasonable level of fitness and stamina will enable you to get the most from these walks. While we recommend a good pair of boots for any walk, they really are needed on these. For your own comfort please don't wear denim or similar.

**Fast-paced, etc:** Some walks are rated by pace, either because of timing issues, such as catching a particular train or getting to the pub before it shuts, or simply because the leader prefers it. Please be prepared to walk at the pace advertised.

**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 time permits.

If you are currently receiving the programme by post, you will not receive these updates. If this is the case, it is worth phoning the walk leader prior to any walks you attend, just in case there is a change of plan.

If you have email access and are currently not on our distribution list then please consider giving us your email address as this will provide you with weekly up-to-date information on walks and social events and save us the printing and postage costs. We will only use your email address for Berkshire Walkers related email.

You can join our email distribution list by emailing us at [berkshirewalkers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:berkshirewalkers@yahoo.co.uk)

**Walk Leaders:**

If you would like to volunteer to lead a walk in the next programme, please contact the Walks Co-ordinator by email at [chrisfox80@gmail.com](mailto:chrisfox80@gmail.com) or by phone on 07984 255322.

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 (see above Grade Guide), a summary of the area covered by the walk, and a contact phone number (preferably mobile).

**New Leaders:**

If you have never led a walk before, why have not 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. Without volunteer leaders, we don't have a walking club!

**Berkshire Walkers Social Events Programme –  
February, March, April and May 2008**

**FEBRUARY**

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***Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Deadline for Bjorn Again – see below for details***

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***Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Deadline for Ramblers' Association General Council – see below for details***

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***Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Deadline for Sweeney and Todd's – see below for details***

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**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February                      Arrive from 7:30pm, Sit down 8:00pm  
Sweeney and Todd's followed by the legendary After Dark Club, Reading**

***Deadline Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February***

Meet from 7:30pm at Sweeney and Todd's, 10 Castle Street, Reading. Start off with drinks before sampling one or two delicious, fresh, home-made pies. A good range of meat, seafood and vegetable pies are available. Perfect for a cold February night.

Please advise Jane by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February if you would like to attend. No deposits required, however please attend if you've said you would, as there's a charge for no shows.

After eating our pies, if you feel up to it we'll walk to the After Dark Club ([www.theafterdarkclub.com](http://www.theafterdarkclub.com)) in London Street for their Top of the Pops night – chart hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Cheap admission and cheap drinks. 2am finish.

Organiser: Jane                      07881 805156                      [janekendrick@btinternet.com](mailto:janekendrick@btinternet.com)

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**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February                      7:30pm                      Bjorn Again, Hexagon, Reading**

***Deadline Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February***

Join in all the fun on the band's 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour which promises to be a fantastic night out for everyone. Probably the best known ABBA tribute band with 4000 performances in 51 countries in 19 years.

Tickets £14.50 each (£2 off for 10 or more tickets). All money to be with Nicky by 1<sup>st</sup> February otherwise no ticket or please book direct with the Hexagon. Email or text/call Nicky for her address to send money to.

Organiser: Nicky                      07776 475671                      [Nicky.Chambers@vodafone.com](mailto:Nicky.Chambers@vodafone.com)

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## MARCH

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**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**                      **8:00pm**                      **Wetherspoon Grill Club, Bracknell**  
**The Old Manor, Church Road, Grenville Place, Bracknell, RG12 1BP (SU872693)**

Meet from 8pm for drinks, and optional food for those that want. The Grill Club is only £5.99 including a drink. New and prospective members are welcome to come and find out what we're about.

Organisers: Rob 07786 116988 / Jane 07881 805156

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***Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Deadline for Bowling at Thatcham – see below for details***

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**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**                      **7:30pm**                      **Ten Pin Bowling at Thatcham**  
**Lakeside Superbowl, Newbury Leisure Park, Lower Way, Thatcham**

***Deadline Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March***

Meet at 7.30pm to bowl at approx 8:00pm. Cost £9.90 per person for 2 games including shoe hire. Facilities include 24 bowling lanes, diner, licensed bar and American Pool.

Please advise Jane by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March if you would like to attend so that we can book the required number of lanes according to numbers.

Organiser: Jane                      07881 805156                      [janekendrick@btinternet.com](mailto:janekendrick@btinternet.com)

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## APRIL

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***Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Deadline for Zero Degrees – see below for details***

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**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**                      **Ramblers' Association General Council 2008**

***Deadline Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February***

20s–30s members are invited to join the General Council which takes place at Winchester University over the weekend of 4–6 April 2008. Full board accommodation is provided for up to 20 applicants and all travel expenses will be paid. This offer is only open to people who have not taken part in previous years.

During the weekend members can take part in many of the informal discussions and attend all the formal Council sessions too. The conference also includes additional meetings especially for hike 20s-30s members, providing the opportunity to discuss issues such as organised walks, national events, communications, new Group formation, publicity and lots more.

If you require more information or would like to attend please contact Jo Smith at central office on 020 7 339 8539 or [JoS@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:JoS@ramblers.org.uk)

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**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April                      7:30pm for 8:00pm    Restaurant and Microbrewery  
Zero Degrees, 9 Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LR**

***Deadline Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - £5.00 deposit required if you are eating***

Come and join us for the evening to sample some of the fresh, handcrafted beers brewed at this microbrewery. For those that wish to sit down and eat, the menu has a wonderful selection of salads, pizzas, pasta and mussels.

Please give your £5.00 non-refundable deposit to Jane by Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April if you are planning to eat. Contact Jane for postal address. Please make cheques payable to 'Zero Degrees'.

Organiser: Jane                              07881 805156                      [janekendrick@btinternet.com](mailto:janekendrick@btinternet.com)

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***Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Deadline for Beaulieu Abbey, House, the National Motor Museum and Buckler's Hard – see below for details***

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**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April    10:00am                      Beaulieu Abbey, House, the National Motor Museum and Buckler's Hard**

***Deadline Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April***

Meet up at main car park at Beaulieu for 10am. (See <http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/> to find out more) We will break up into small groups so that people can spend more time in the areas they are most interested in. (E.g. Petrol-heads will spend more time in the motor museum and culture-vultures more time in the abbey, gardens and house) Tickets for all areas are £15.25 or tickets for everything except the motor museum are £8.40. There is a café in the grounds for lunch.

At 2pm we will recombine into one group to walk down to the 18<sup>th</sup> century village of Buckler's Hard, which may cost us a further £5.90 unless I can arrange a combined group ticket. The walk is only 2 miles, so no need for all the usual walking gear. After exploring the village and its pub we will walk back to Beaulieu to collect our cars.

Please can you let me know if you are going by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> and I will see if we can get group discount. (This requires a party of at least 15 people, so I can't promise anything)

Organiser: Rob                              07786 116988

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**MAY**

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**Thursday 1st May                      6:45pm                      Evening Stroll and Reading Beer Festival**

Meet at 6:45pm on the main concourse of Reading Station if you want to do the pre-beer walk (about 45 minutes) – If wet we will go straight to the beer tent.

7:30pm – Beer Festival, King's Meadow. Napier Road, Reading (SU719739) – Go to the beer tent and meet once inside. Entry is about £5.00 (including £2.00 glass deposit which makes a good souvenir or present). Members of Camra and holders of Reading passport to leisure get reduced rates.

Although this is a "school night", it's the easiest night to get in.

For non-beer drinkers there is a choice of ciders and wines. Hot food is also available.

Organiser: Ian Montague                      07762 054207

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***Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Deadline for Curry night at the Gate of India, Hook – see below for details***

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**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May                      7:00pm                      Curry Night at the Gate of India, Hook**

***Deadline Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May***

Meet in the Dorchester Arms (opposite the Gate of India) from 7pm onward or at the restaurant for 8pm. The pub and restaurant are on the junction of the A30 and A287 just west of Hook, Hampshire. (SU713533 or RG27 9JL for those of you with Sat-Nav)

Please let me know if you are going by Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> so that I can book a table.

Organiser: Rob                                      07786 116988

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**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May                      8:00pm                      Broad Street Tavern, Wokingham**

Come and join us at our regular pub gathering in Wokingham which can be reached easily by bus, train or car. There are plenty of car parks in Wokingham town centre. New and prospective members welcome.

Organisers: Rob 07786 116988 / Jane 07881 805156

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