



# 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.

### February 2010

#### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Newell Green and Winkfield Row, 8 miles, easy**

Start **10:00am** ([SU873725](#) or RG42 6EN) at the country car park west of the Moss End Garden Centre (at the junction of Wellers Lane and Bowyers Lane, which is off the A3095, Maidenhead Road). This nice easy walk (which narrowly misses Hawthorne Hill and Tickleback Row!) takes us north of Maiden's Green and then on to Winkfield. A diversion southwards to Newell Green gives us the chance of a drink-stop at one of the nice pubs there, before heading north back to the car park. *Easy pace with no significant gradients.* Bring lunch and enough to drink as usual.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

#### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Knowl Hill and the Dew Drop Inn, 6 miles, easy**

Come along and help us celebrate our 10th birthday as we re-enact our first ever walk. Start [SU822794](#) parking at Knowl Hill village hall at **11:00am**.

A gentle walk around the Knowl Hill area calling in at the Dew Drop Inn. We have booked the Village Hall and we are laying on tea and cake. We plan to have a photo exhibition showing the group over the last 10 years. Please do keep your diaries free for this one-off event and make every effort to come along and make it a day to remember - the more the merrier! ALL walkers are welcome - Don't worry if you are not a member of the Ramblers Association - come along for a walk and join us in our celebrations.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

#### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Henley Figure of Eight, 6 or 12 miles, moderate Joint walk with the South East Berks. Group**

**10:00am** and **1:45pm** start from Mill Lane free car park just before Jet petrol station ([SU770817](#) on LR 175 or Exp 171). Quite strenuous morning walk with superb views most of the way. Interesting afternoon walk in affluent Henley countryside, returning along the Thames. Please bring a picnic lunch, if doing both walks.

Leader: Val and Barry 01344 485 641

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February - Holyport, Fifield and Stud Green, 6-8 miles, easy/moderate**

Meet at the Memorial Hall car park, Holyport ([SU891773](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Please do not park in the Memorial Hall car park as we don't have permission to do so. Instead please park considerately in the village.

As usual, please bring lunch and a drink, pub stop en route. Gently undulating farmland; potentially boggy in places. This walk encompasses the pretty village of Holyport (where we will have our pub stop), Stud Green and Fifield.

Leader: Alex 07544 985639

## **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Power walk to Sonning, 6 miles, fast paced**

Meet by Burger King at Reading Station ([SU715738](#)) for a **10:00am** prompt start.

A moderate-paced walk along the Thames Path to beautiful Sonning. Time for a quick lunch/pint in the Bull Inn, Sonning. The Bull Inn is a very old pub with a lot of historical interest and has awards for its food. Packed lunchers can eat within the church grounds. The pace will pick up on the way back and people can go on for another pint if they wish. The walk will finish at around 2:00pm outside House of Fraser in Reading. Dogs are welcome on this walk.

Leader: Amy 07792 160251

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February - Cookham, 6 miles, easy Joint walk with the Chilterns 20-30s Walking Group**

Meet at the National Trust car park in Cookham ([SU893853](#)) for a **1:00pm** start.

This is a very easy walk with great views and a nice flat return stretch along the Thames. Please bring sandwiches.

Leader: Karoline 07931 171501

## **March 2010**

## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Stokenchurch, 10 miles, moderate Joint walk with the Chilterns 20-30s Walking Group**

Meet at **10:30am** on the corner of Church Street, off the A40 just east of the Kings Hotel in Stokenchurch ([SU761962](#)) This circular walk passes close to Chinnor and Bledlow before returning via Bledlow Ridge. There will be a pub stop towards the end of the walk. Hilly in places. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

## **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March - Thatcham and Stanford Dingley, 10 miles, moderate**

Park and start at [SU524680](#) Frank Hutchings Community Hall, Bradley Moore Square, off Harts Hill Road, Thatcham at **10:30am** promptly. Please do not park by the side of the Co-op store. The walk takes us via a maze of paths and tracks in Bucklebury Common into the Pang Valley and the village of Stanford Dingley. We will stop first for lunch and then have a pub drink in the village

before heading back to Thatcham via the delightful river Pang, the Bucklebury Farm Park where we may see some of the 150 deer and different parts of the common.

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

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March - St Mary Bourne and the Test Way, 11 miles, moderate**

Start **10:30am** ([SU421504](#) or SP11 6BB) at the St Mary Bourne playing field car park. A straightforward walk from St Mary Bourne to Middleton and back again. The walk takes in a substantial part of the Test Way and is over mainly undulating open ground giving good views throughout. Please bring a picnic lunch and enough to drink as usual. A pub stop half-way around walk is planned, with the option of another at the end. *Possible lift from Bracknell from leader, if given enough notice.*

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March - Pangbourne, 5 miles, moderate**

Meeting at Pangbourne railway station ([SU632766](#)) for an **11:00am** start we shall head off north across the Thames. We will continue to track the Thames, before heading inland and looping round back to Pangbourne and the pub. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink. The station car park currently costs £2.10 all day (other car parks are available in Pangbourne), and on the current timetable the train from Reading arrives at 10:52am. However, this information may change, so please check beforehand or contact the leader the week before the walk to avoid disappointment.

Leader: Mike 07910 3Seven2297

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Sunningdale, Virginia Water and Ascot, 9-11 miles, moderate**

Start at **11:00am** at the main entrance to Sunningdale railway station ([SU952667](#)). The destination is South Ascot railway station. 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 an early 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.

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). 10:12 (Reading) - 10:43 (Sunningdale) return £6.30 (£4.15 with railcard). The leader and likely others on the walk will have railcards, which can be used to cover up to 4 people. Persons travelling from Reading can meet for 10am at the entrance to Reading station.

Leader: Richard 07930 548379

### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Brecon Beacons, 4 miles, moderate**

Nick and Ian are offering a short walk to finish off the [weekend away with HF in the Brecon Beacons](#), which is open to all members of the group, not just those attending the Brecon Beacons weekend away. Nick and Ian will decide which of the following two walks will be led on the itself,

so if you are in the area and feel like joining them, give them a call first to find out which walk is taking place and to confirm the details.

**Option 1** Craig Cerrig-Gleisiad – 4 miles and 1,050 feet of decent. Meet 10:15am for a prompt 10:30am start in the small picnic area on the A470 ([SN972221](#)), two miles south of the junction with the A4215 on the right hand side.

This walk is in the National Nature Reserve and along clear footpaths and broad stoney tracks.

**Option 2** Sugar Loaf - 4½ miles and 1050 feet of ascent/decent. Guide time two and a half hours. Meet in the car park at [SO268167](#) at 10:45 am for a prompt 11:00am start. (About 20 miles from Brecon)

To reach the car park travel east along the A40 from Brecon. Look out for pub on left hand side just before you reach Abergavenny (Ian and Nick will advise on pub name at Brecon) and take next left into Pentre Road. Take the next left and then at the end of road turn left into Pentre Lane. Follow road and after sharp left turn 90°, take right fork and continue until car park at end of road.

This is one of the most popular and distinctive of the Abergavenny Peak. Mostly grassy tracks.

Leaders: Ian M 07762 054207 and Nick G 07710 350 492

## April 2010

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April - Cranleigh to Guildford, 12 miles, challenging, fast paced**

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

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April - Basingstoke Canal from Odiham, 6 or 10 miles, easy**

Start at **10:30am** from the free car park at Odiham Wharf ([SU747517](#)).

Directions: From the M3, Junction 5, take the Odiham exit and follow the A287. Take the second exit at the first roundabout and then take the third exit at the second roundabout, into Odiham. Take the second right-hand turning, doubling back into London Road. Follow this road past the Water Witch pub and over a bridge into the car park. (Note that there is no direct access to the car park from the A287 despite its close proximity.)

This figure-of-eight walk first follows the canal east to Winchfield and Dogmersfield, and then heads west to North Warnborough and back. This walk is almost entirely flat and there is an opportunity to stop after 6 miles if you only want a short walk. There will be picnic stop in the first half of the walk and a pub-stop in the second half. Bring a packed lunch and water as usual.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

## **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April - A walk across Berkshire, 14 miles, challenging**

An opportunity to say that you've walked all the way across the county of Berkshire! Linear walk from Mortimer to Pangbourne.

Meet at **10:10am**\* at stop SW on Forbury Road by the roundabout in front of the main entrance to Reading Station ([SU715737](#)). We'll be catching the 10:20am Reading Buses no. 2 bus to Mortimer. We'll initially head south into Hampshire, then turn back north and walk all the way across Berkshire, before briefly setting foot into Oxfordshire shortly before the end of the walk at Pangbourne Station. We'll catch the train back to Reading from here.

Bus / train times are subject to change. Please check in the week before the walk ([www.reading-buses.co.uk](http://www.reading-buses.co.uk), [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)). ***\*If the bus times change, the start time will change to match.***

A single from Reading to Mortimer costs £3.20. Bring assorted small change, as you will need an exact fare. A single from Pangbourne back to Reading costs £2.80.

For those wanting a shorter walk, there is the option of cutting it short at approx 9 miles by catching a train back from Theale (£2.80 single), or 10 miles by catching a bus back from Savacentre (£1.70 single).

As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Possible pub stop en route, and/or in Pangbourne at the end of the walk.

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

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Thames Path - London Eye to Greenwich, 7½ miles, easy**

Meet near the London Eye, by the ticket hall entrance outside the County Hall building ([TQ306799](#)) for an **11:30am** start. The meeting point can be reached easily from Waterloo station.

A linear walk following the Thames Path along the South Bank, past Tower Bridge and onwards to Greenwich. Return to central London by the Docklands Light Railway from the Cutty Sark. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Carole 07590 635071

## **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Silchester, 3 miles, easy**

The walk will start from the car park on the playing fields at Silchester ([SU626622](#)) at **6:45pm**. Pub stop at the end.

This walk may get cancelled at short notice due to work commitments. Please check with the leader to confirm that it is still on.

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

## **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Coln St Aldwyn on the River Coln, 6 miles, easy**

The walk will start and finish in Bibury opposite Arlington Mill and the entrance to the famous trout farm ([SP113068](#)). Please arrive in time for an **11:00am** start.

*"A not to be hurried walk. A long stroll beside a wide shallow river in total peace and tranquillity, broken only by a pub lunch of the highest order and a farmland return to reality"* (Cotswold river walks, 2006). Afterwards you could stop off at the mill, the trout farm and/or the Swan. If you want to turn it into a weekend there are plenty of places to stay in Bibury alone such as the Swan, Bibury Court Hotel and many more. If people choose to stay it would be nice to have dinner in the Swan or venture to Cirencester for a louder night out!

Leader: Amy 07792 160251

## **May 2010**

## **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Reading to Pangbourne, 6 miles, easy**

Meet at Reading Station ([SU715738](#)) for a **10:30am** start. This will be a linear walk following the Thames Path through Purley on Thames and past Mapledurham Lock. There is a regular train service from Pangbourne back to Reading. The ticket office at Pangbourne station is not always open, so you are advised to buy a return ticket from Reading. Please bring a packed lunch to eat by the lock. There will be a pub stop in Pangbourne and, if people wish, back in Reading. There will also be a social later the same day at 8pm in the Hope Tap pub in Reading – please see the [social events programme](#) for further details.

Leader: Jenny 07799 264Seven08

## **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Reading to Sulhamstead, 7½ miles, easy Part of the Kennet and Avon 200th anniversary relay walk**

Meet at the Oracle Shopping Centre, Reading RG1 2AG, by the cinema on the south side of the canal ([SU716732](#)) for a **1pm** start. Kate Ashbrook (Ramblers Trustee) has confirmed she will be with us on the first day. She will give an introduction to the 75 years of Ramblers. We are awaiting confirmation from the Mayor of Reading that he is able to attend. A representative from British Waterways will be in attendance and we expect to have the Chairman of the K&A Canal Trust, Reading Branch to give us a brief introduction to the canal. It's planned to have press, radio and TV coverage.

We will walk 3½ miles to reach The Cunning Man, Burghfield Road, Burghfield Bridge, Reading, [RG30 3RB](#) at 3pm for a tea stop. During the break we may have a talk from a member of NWPG describing the restoration work carried out on the section we have walked and are walking. Participants can leave or join the walk here.

After 4 miles we will reach Tyle Mill, Sulhamstead, [RG7 4BS](#) where the walk officially ends (around 5pm).

I intend to continue the walk for an extra 2¼ miles to Aldermaston Railway Station and get the train back to Reading. You are very welcome to accompany me.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Sulhamstead to Kintbury, up to 16 miles, moderate Part of the Kennet & Avon 200th anniversary relay walk**

Meet at Tyle Mill, Sulhamstead ([SU627692](#) or RG7 4BS) for a **9:30am** start.

We will have a brief stop at the K&A visitor centre at Aldermaston Lock. We will walk 4½ miles to reach our coffee stop at 11:30am by the Rowbarge Inn, Station Rd, Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5SH where participants can leave or join the walk. During the break we may have a talk from a member of NWPG describing the restoration work carried out on the section we have walked and are walking.

We will walk 3 miles to reach the Swan Inn, Station Road, Thatcham, RG19 4QL by 1pm to hand over the baton to West Berks Ramblers. We will be joined by the Mayor of Thatcham and we hope to have the Chairman of the K&A Canal Trust, Newbury Branch give us a brief introduction to the section we will be walking. Participants can leave or join the walk here. It's planned to have local press, radio and TV coverage.

We will walk 3 miles by 2:30pm for a tea stop at the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust Shop and Café. There will be an opportunity to view the display about the canal at the Stone Building. We will be joined by the Mayor of Newbury. During the break we may have a talk from a member of NWPG describing the restoration work carried out on the section we have walked and are walking.

Participants can leave or join the walk here.

We will then walk 5½ miles to reach the Dundas Arms, 53 Station Rd, Kintbury, Hungerford, RG17 9UT by 5:30pm for the conclusion of day 2. Walkers' return journeys along sections of the route can be made by exiting at bridge points to connect with public transport (bus or train) or private arrangements for car pick ups. The no. 1 bus runs at least hourly along the A4.

Leader: Dan 0776 1192509

## **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Maidenhead, 3 miles, easy**

The walk will start from the car park at Maidenhead Thicket ([SU859809](#)) at **7:00pm**. From the junction of the A4 and A404 head east towards Maidenhead. After 50m turn left at a roundabout. The car park is on the left in about 200m. Adjourning up the road to The Shire Horse for a post walk drink.

This walk may get cancelled at short notice due to work commitments. Please check with the leader to confirm that it is still on.

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

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Vernham Dean, Hippinescombe Bottom and Wexcombe Down, 16 miles, moderate-challenging**

Meet at the Vernham Dean playing field car park at [SU345563](#), SP11 0HB for a **10:00am** start. The walk goes via Hippinescombe Bottom, Lower and Upper Chute, Wexcombe Down and Fosbury Hill. Great views with the price of a few fair hills! Pub at the end and possible pub stop half way round.

Leader: Anthony 07870 199750

## **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Crondall, Horsedown common and Wimble Hill, 8-9 miles, moderate**

Meet at Crondall Church for a **10:30am** start, [SU794485](#); park beside the churchyard wall or nearest available area (parking considerately as usual). Gently undulating farmland and long views; potentially boggy in places. As usual, please bring lunch and a drink. We will proceed to Horsedown Common and then on to Wimble Hill before returning to the pretty village of Crondall, where we will have a pub stop at the end of the walk.

Leader: Alex 07544 985639

## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Aldermaston, 5½ miles, easy New members walk - Get Walking Day**

Meet at Aldermaston station ([SU601673](#)) for a **11:00am** start.

The walk will head out from Aldermaston Wharf, to Padworth, before turning to the west and Aldermaston Village. We pass Aldermaston Church before heading north again to rejoin the Kennet and Avon canal, which will take us back to our starting point. There is a drinking hole in Aldermaston Wharf, should anyone wish to slake their thirst before going home.

Trains from Reading depart (at time of writing) at 10:44, arriving in Aldermaston Wharf at 10:58.

Please check the train times before travelling.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

## **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Wantage, 11 miles, moderate**

Meet just off the A417 in centre of Wantage for a **10:30am** start ([SU403879](#)). If travelling west on the A417 there are 2 sets of double miniroundabouts as you enter Wantage. Take a left at what is in effect the 4th mini roundabout and park up along this road. (If you end up driving past petrol station, you have gone too far).

This walk involves a steep climb as we join up with the Ridgeway but we are rewarded with some great views of the Lambourn Downs. It is quite exposed so it could get a bit blustery. Strong footwear recommended as walk through fields, farmland and some tarmac. Please bring water, packed lunch and a few pounds for some liquid refreshment at one or two drinking establishments that we may visit en route.

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

Leader: Dan 0776 1192509

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Sonning Scarecrow Trail and Shiplake, 9 miles, easy**

Meet at **11:00am** at Sonning Farm, Sonning on Charvil Lane (B478), which is just off the A4 at the Charvil / Texaco Garage roundabout ([SU761754](#)). Sonning Farm will be open for parking.

Alternatively the railway station at Twyford is only 35 minutes' walk away (get the 10:18 from Reading).

This is a circular walk, passing through Sonning Village, where over 75 weird, wonderful and colourful scarecrows will be decorating it. We will walk along the river to Shiplake, and back through some woods and fields on some gentle hills, before seeing the rest of the scarecrows in Sonning. Along the way there is a short steep path to go up.

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.

Please visit our website at [www.berkshirewalkers.org.uk](http://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.

### February 2010

#### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February - Deadline for Comedy Club Event**

See [19th March](#) for details. Note: 20 tickets have been reserved until this date, so don't delay. (Further tickets may be available after this date if you want to take a chance.)

#### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Pub Evening at The Rowbarge Inn, Woolhampton**

Come and join us for the first of our regular monthly pub evenings. Start **7pm**. We hope to make this a regular event for the first week of every month - in different locations across Berkshire. Address: The Rowbarge Inn, Station Road, Woolhampton, [RG7 5SH](#) (between Reading and Thatcham along the A4).

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

#### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Deadline for *Bjorn Again* at the Hexagon**

See [17th March](#) for details about this ABBA tribute band.

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Rising Sun on Withridge Hill (Highmoor, Chilterns)**

A few drinks and laughter in this good old country pub from **8pm**. The pub has a log fire so we can warm up during this cold season. There is sufficient pub parking. It is situated in Highmoor in the Chilterns, RG9 5PF.

Organiser: Jenny – please email Jenny with any queries in the first instance. [membership@berkshirewalkers.com](mailto:membership@berkshirewalkers.com) (a contact number will follow in due course).

#### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Deadline for Ten Pin Bowling at Thatcham**

See [27th February](#) for details of the event and of how to book.

#### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Leisurely Pub Meet and Evening Ghost Walk, Oxford**

Meet at Reading Railway Station foyer at **12:45pm** for the 1:10pm train to Oxford. The plan is to visit three or four pubs by taking in a couple of Inspector Morse's old haunts before meeting at Oxford Castle for 6pm-6:15pm in time for the next event – the ghost walk. Please note: this is leisurely pub meet and not a pub crawl.

The Ghost Walk starts at **6:30pm** and lasts for just under two hours (ends 8:15pm to 8:30pm). When finished we will head around the corner to Carluccio's Café for a hot chocolate or a bite to eat afterwards. Finish time 9:45pm to 10pm for train back to Reading (station is a short walk away).

Ghost Walk: It is a mixture of story telling, magic and illusion as well as some audience participation (very funny!!). The tour is an excellent way to see Oxford, pass by the colleges and learn about Oxford's alternative past. Cost is £6 for adults and £3 for children. Children accompanied by an adult are very welcome to join us on the Ghost Tour and follow us to the café afterwards. Further details are found at: [www.ghosttrail.org](http://www.ghosttrail.org). There is no need to book, is great fun and comes highly recommended by me!! Review the Facebook page for comments about what people thought of the experience. [www.facebook.com/pages/Bill-Spectre/44560374376](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bill-Spectre/44560374376)

People can just join us for the pub crawl, the ghost tour or both. If joining us for the ghost tour only, parking is normally much easier after 5pm. Some side streets even allow free parking in the evening (look for signs and parking restrictions).

Contact: Nick Hughes 07979 858Five51 [social@berkshirewalkers.com](mailto:social@berkshirewalkers.com)

## **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Ten Pin Bowling at Thatcham**

Meet at the Lakeside Superbowl, Newbury Leisure Park, Lower Way, Thatcham, [RG19 3AL](http://www.bing.com/maps?mkt=en-gb&ui=en-gb&rs=en-gb&ad=gb&h=RG19%203AL) at **7:30pm** to bowl at approx 8:00pm. Cost £10.00 per person for 2 games including shoe hire. Facilities include 24 bowling lanes, diner, licensed bar and American Pool.

Please advise Jane by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 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)

## **March 2010**

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Pub Evening at the Broad Street Tavern, Wokingham**

Please meet us for a few drinks at one of our regular haunts in Wokingham (post code is [RG40 1AU](http://www.bing.com/maps?mkt=en-gb&ui=en-gb&rs=en-gb&ad=gb&h=RG40%201AU)) from **7:30pm**. Food is available until 10pm. The railway station is about 10 minutes walk whilst for those that are driving, there are a number of car parks available within the town centre. The pub does get busy so we may well be out at the back (where heaters are provided) if you are unable to spot us inside.

Dan 0776 1192509

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - *Bjorn Again* at the Hexagon, Reading**

*Bjorn Again* are performing at the Hexagon for another evening that will transport us back to the years of the platform shoes and glitter and great Swedish music. If you are interested in going please contact Ian and he will book tickets and give you the address to send the cheque to. The cost of tickets is £19.25 (including booking fee). To book your ticket he must receive your cheque made payable to "Berkshire Walkers" by 16 February 2010. No money means no tickets will be booked.

Organiser: Ian Montague 07762 054 207

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March - Provisional - St Patrick's Evening in Reading**

Details will be provided once this event has been confirmed. (Please visit our website)

## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March – South Street Comedy Club, Reading

Come to the comedy club at South Street Arts Centre in Reading ([RG1 4QU](#)) for a night of stand up comedy. Comedian line up is currently as follows, although is subject to change:

Andrew Lawrence, Ava Vidal, Colin Cole

Up to date listings can be found at <http://www.readingarts.com/southstreet/whatson>

Cost: £13.75 (inc. booking fee)

Organiser: Helen: 07742 59two9933 or email: [hkernahan60@hotmail.com](mailto:hkernahan60@hotmail.com)

## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Oriental Buffet AM Restaurant, Basingstoke

Meet in the bar at **7:30pm** to sit down for meal at 8pm. Come and join us for an ‘ALL YOU CAN EAT’ buffet. Choose from over 40 dishes, including Chinese, Malaysian, Thai, Indian and Singaporean. People will be expected to PAY for their OWN drinks at the bar. Cost of the meal is £11.95 per head (excluding gratuities). The restaurant seats 120 people, so they have not asked us for a formal booking or deposits, etc. However, they would like us to confirm numbers shortly before the event. Please email me at: [social@bershirewalkers.com](mailto:social@bershirewalkers.com) by Saturday 20th March so we can advise of numbers and the restaurant can organise the tables and service, etc.

Address: 29-33 Winchester Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire, [RG21 7EE](#) (close to theatre and museum right in the town centre). Contact number: 01256 817084

Website: [www.amrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.amrestaurant.co.uk). Parking is available throughout the town centre (£1 anytime after 6pm). Railway station and bus station is nearby.

For those night owls, after the meal we will be going to a nice bar next door if you wish to go for a drink (and dance). Café Piccolo is usually open late on a Saturday night.

Nick Hughes 07979 858Five51 Email: [social@bershirewalkers.com](mailto:social@bershirewalkers.com)

## April 2010

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April - 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 (plus £2.00 refundable glass deposit which makes can good souvenir or present). Members of CAMRA and holders of Reading passport to leisure may get reduced rates. Although this is a *school night*, it’s the easiest night to get in.

Organiser: Ian Montague 07762 054 207

More events to come. Please see note on next page.

## May 2010

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Pub Meet at the Hopetap, Reading

After Jenny's walk, there is a chance to meet up later in the pub (7:30pm) and relax our feet and meet up with people who just want a social. People can eat there if they want a roast. Easy access from Reading town centre, parking either at Garrard Car Park, or the Broad Street one. Or can get the train too but please check times before hand.

Organiser: Jenny – please email Jenny with any queries at [membership@berkshirewalkers.com](mailto:membership@berkshirewalkers.com)

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Pub Meet at the Cunning Man, Burghfield

Please meet us for midweek drinks from 7.30pm. Pub's postcode is [RG30 3RB](#). This pub does a fine selection of drinks together with an excellent menu for those that choose to eat. There is a large car park for those that drive. Possible lift available from organiser if within Reading area. Please let me know a couple of days in advance.

Organiser: Dan 0776 1192 509

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PLEASE NOTE: We are in the process of finalising events for April and May 2010. For instance, there is a proposed London visit in May and we are looking for a volunteer to organise another meal. We welcome further ideas and volunteers to lead events. Events will be posted on our website as soon as they have been finalised.

If you would like to organise a social event please contact Nick at [social@berkshirewalkers.com](mailto:social@berkshirewalkers.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

Our group also organises walking holidays, which are open to all members of Ramblers Association groups. These are organised by volunteers from within the group, unless otherwise stated. In most cases only the walks are organised and you must find and book your own accommodation for these events.

### March 2010

#### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March - Brecon Beacons

Following on from last year's successful weekend away with [HF Holidays](#) on Exmoor, we have decided to organise another one with them in the Brecon Beacons.

This is a three night break commencing on Friday 26th March 2010. The holiday includes two days of walks in the Brecon Beacons, led by an experienced HF leader, with a choice of walks each day to cater for differing abilities (even though HF classify this as a mountain centre, there are low level walks available – see link below for more details.)

There will also be a walk on the Monday, organised by Ian Montague and Nick Garrard. This will either be a walk up Craig Cerrig-gleisiad (4 miles with 1050 feet of ascent) or a walk up Sugar Loaf (4½ miles with 1050 feet of ascent) depending on where the previous two days walking have been. Please note that the Monday walk is open to all members of our group, *but the Saturday and Sunday walks are only open to those who are booked on the HF Holiday.*

The basic price is £219 per person based on two people sharing (en suite accommodation) and includes all meals (including a packed lunch) and transport to and from walks where necessary. For full details of this holiday refer to the [HF Holidays Website](#) or page 26 of the 2010 brochure if you have one. Alternatively, please feel free to have a chat with either of us, as we have been on several HF holidays in the past. (Please note that HF are due to update their website shortly so the links may not work)

For those who do not/prefer not to drive, HF do offer cut price rail tickets - please ask them for details when booking and they will arrange for you.

If you would like to come, **please book direct with HF Holidays** on 0845 4707558 or via the website [www.hfholidays.co.uk](http://www.hfholidays.co.uk) and let us know that you have done so, so that we can include you on e-mails and let us know if you are staying on for our Monday walk. This is not a very large hotel so early booking is recommended! - HF have kindly agreed to hold 3 single rooms and 4 twins for us for 7 days effective 5 November 2009 - if you are booking within this period, please call 020 8732 1250 and ask to have one of the rooms under booking reference R4790. **There are still some twin rooms left but don't leave it too long before booking.**

Organisers: Ian Montague Tel. 07762 054 207 or e-mail: [ianmontague@hotmail.com](mailto:ianmontague@hotmail.com) and Nick Garrard 0118 983 5043 or 07710 350 492

## April 2010

### Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Easter Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April - Weekend in Bristol

We are organising a weekend trip to Bristol for walking and sight-seeing. The organisers aim to stay at the youth hostel called [Backpackers](#) on [St Stephens Street](#) in the centre of Bristol. All the walks will start from the city centre by the fountains on St. Augustine's Parade so there's no need to drive. The plan for the holiday is as follows:

**Saturday**- A walk up to the suspension bridge and along it and back down. This will be a fairly rural walk along the Avon Gorge. (About 6 miles)

**Sunday**- A short walk around the floating harbour, where we can see the [SS Great Britain](#) (It may be possible to go on board if there is enough interest and if it's open on Easter Sunday) Afterwards, as it is Easter Sunday, we will go for a nice pub roast meal. (About 3 miles)

**Monday**- This will be the longest walk, going all the way to Bath along a disused rail way line. We will stop in Bath for a short while and then return by train. (About 9 miles)

If you are interested, please contact Jenny by email [JenKD@live.co.uk](mailto:JenKD@live.co.uk) preferably by the beginning of January.

## June 2010

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 (26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June). A third inland walk is planned for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Full details of the walks will follow at a later date.

Organisers: Nick (0118 9835043) and Andy (0118 9669272)

Please visit our website at [www.berkshirewalkers.org.uk](http://www.berkshirewalkers.org.uk)

# 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.berkshirewalkers.org.uk](http://www.berkshirewalkers.org.uk)