



Berkshire Walkers - Young Ramblers Group

<http://www.berkshirewalkers.com>

Walks, trips and social programmes June to September 2008

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 Programme

JUNE

Sunday 8th June **Sonning to Harpsden Wood** **8½ miles, moderate**
Start at **10.45am** from the road just off Sonning Eye ([SU750760](#)). Directions: pass through Sonning, entering from the A4. After crossing the river, turn left at the first (Sonning Eye) roundabout, where there is a small road with area to park.

The walk starts along the River Thames until reaching Shiplake, where we go across fields and through some forests up to Harpsden Wood, a little south of Henley, before turning back to return to Sonning. Shortly before the end is an optional stop at the Flowing Spring for a drink. Bring the usual packed lunch and drinks.

Leader: Carl 07887 543455

Thursday 12th June **Winter Hill** **4 miles, easy**
The walk will start at **6.45pm** from the car park at the top of Winter Hill, Cookham Dean ([SU870860](#)). Pub for afterwards – TBA.

Please contact the leader in advance if you are coming, as there is always a small possibility that work commitments will mean a short notice cancellation.

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

Saturday 14th June **Wokingham pub walk/crawl and dinner** **5ish miles, easy**
NB weather dependent – significant rain will cancel the event. Please check with the leader if needed. **Start 2.30 pm** at Wokingham Station ([SU805686](#)). A walk through Wokingham and the surrounding countryside visiting a number of town and country pubs along the way. Easy-pace walking throughout. Please bring pen and paper as I will be arranging a simple pub-related sweepstake to keep everyone's interest along the way. We will stop for a pub dinner at some convenient point. Exact walk route will be chosen on the day. Those wishing to join mid-way are welcome but will need to call to find us.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

Sunday 15th June **East Ilsley** **8 miles, easy**
Start at **11.00am** by the pond in East Ilsley village ([SU493810](#)). There is a small car park round the one way system, so please car share if possible, although there are other parking spots around the village. Directions: leave the M4 at junction 13, head down the A34 towards Oxford and turn left at the junction signposted East and West Ilsley, then follow the sign for East Ilsley. There will be a pub stop at the end of the walk. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Greg 01753 865267 or 07780 945591

Wednesday 18th June **A Sulhamstead Stress Reliever** **5 miles, easy**
Depart at **7.00pm prompt**, due to limited daylight, from the south end of Wigmore Lane ([SU633703](#)) where there is some verge parking, otherwise please park considerately on the approaches to this cul-de-sac. This pleasant and mostly level walk provides a contrast in scenery from the waterways and lakes of the Lower Kennet Water Park to the undulating meadows around Sulhamstead with some road walking. Possibility to drive to a nearby pub after the walk if people are interested.

Leader: Adam 07709 032516

Sunday 22nd June **Fleet Pond and Pyestock Hill** **6.5 miles, easy**
Start at Fleet Railway Station (south car park [SU816552](#)) at **10.40am**. (Trains from Reading get in at 10:32)
This is quite similar to a walk done two years ago, but goes in the opposite direction. The walk covers some of the shoreline of Fleet Pond, woodland paths, a stream, part of the Basingstoke Canal, Pyestock Hill and Norris Hill. There will be a pub-stop half way round near Tweseldown Hill. Despite the mention of three hills, the walk is an easy one with only gentle gradients. Bring packed lunch and drinking water.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

Saturday 28th – Sunday 30th June Dorset
Weekend away – full details can be found in the Trips and Holidays Programme

Organisers: Nick 0118 9835043 or 07710 350492
 Andy 0118 9669272 or 07816 268306

Saturday 28th June Whitchurch 16 miles, challenging
Meet at Whitchurch Station ([SU463489](#)) for a **10.00am** start. The 9.37am train from Basingstoke arrives at 9.50am, and return trains currently leave at 12 minutes past the hour.
The walk follows the lanes south and then west to Longparish, then north-west to join the Test Way to St Mary Bourne (with a pub stop). The return to Whitchurch is via Egbury.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

JULY

Thursday 3rd July Lower Earley East 4-5 miles, easy
The walk will start at **6.50pm** from Winnersh Triangle Station ([SU771714](#)) shortly after the arrival of the train from Reading. It will finish at the George pub by Loddon Bridge, venue for post walk refreshment! Trains to and from Reading and Bracknell run half-hourly. See www.southwesttrains.co.uk for times. Free parking after 6.00pm.
A semi-urban walk through some of the parkland on the fringes of Lower Earley. Mostly on good paths, though there is a short section that might be muddy if wet.
Please contact the leader in advance if you are coming, as there is always a small possibility that work commitments may mean a short notice cancellation.

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

Saturday 5th July Burnham Beeches 4½ miles, easy
Meet by the Beeches Cafe at the far end of Burham Beeches Nature Reserve car park ([SU954850](#)) for a **2.00pm** start.
A short walk around Burnham Beeches, passing Dorney Wood and Littleworth Common. There will be a pub stop in Littleworth Common and a chance to visit the cafe at the end of the walk.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Sunday 6th July Upper Pang valley 16 miles, challenging
Start at the car park at Bradley Moore Square ([SU524680](#)) in Thatcham at **10.30am**.
A brisk stroll around the upper reaches of the mighty Pang, taking in the environs of Cold Ash, Hermitage, Frilsham and Bucklebury. There will be one or more pub stops along the route. There will be no monster hills, but you should be prepared for a bit of up and down. Lots of woodland. Don't forget to bring food and plenty of water. For more details contact the leader nearer the time.

Leader: Neil S 07840 903547

Sunday 13th July Black Down and Haslemere 9 miles, moderate

Meet at **10.30am** at Haslemere station ([SU898329](#)), past Guilford just off the A3. The station has plenty of parking and is free on Sundays.

The walk takes farm tracks, driveways and woodland paths over lowland countryside with pantiled and timber frame cottages and hammer smelting ponds (relics of the iron industry). It ascends via a lane and quiet tracks to the highest point in Sussex, Black Down (918 feet). There are brilliant views to the South Downs, North Downs and beyond from the ‘Temple of the Winds’ – our lunch stop. There will be a pub stop at the end, back in Haslemere. Please bring a packed lunch and plenty of water – there are no places to fill up on the walk itself...

Although it is a little out of the way, it does not take too long to reach. If people need a lift the leader can probably offer one from Twyford Station...

Leader: Nick H 07804 464586

Thursday 17th July Kiln Pond & Simms Copse 4 miles, easy

Meet at the playing-field car park off Church Road, Mortimer West End ([SU634640](#)) for a **7.00pm** start.

This circular walk passes through the quiet, undulating countryside of fields and woods around Mortimer West End. Ideal for new walkers or as a mid week stress buster. Optional post walk pub stop at the Red Lion, Mortimer West End afterwards. And if you are very lucky, I may even bring sweets like I did last summer! What more could a Rambler want?!

Leader: Jude 07986 165406

Saturday 19th July Pangbourne 7 miles, easy
Joint walk with the Metropolitan Walkers

Meet at Pangbourne Station ([SU635765](#)) for an **11.10am** start.

Travel: the 10.23 train from Reading arrives in Pangbourne at 11.02. Other services also arrive at 11.00 – please check www.nationalrail.com for more details. If coming by car from Reading, take the A329 (signposted Oxford) and continue until you reach Pangbourne. Parking is available at the station.

The walk takes in scenes of the River Thames, rolling green hills and the idyllic village of Pangbourne. Weather permitting, we will have a picnic half-way with gorgeous views. Please bring a packed lunch. Dogs are welcome on this walk.

Leader: Craig 0779 1443687

Thursday 24th July Marlow to Hurley 5-6 miles, easy

Start at **7.00pm** from Marlow Bridge ([SU851861](#)). There will be a bit of up and down on the way to Hurley, so if you have poles they could come in handy. There will be a pub stop at the Rising Sun in Hurley, followed by a walk back along the towpath to Marlow and another pub option if anyone is up for it.

Leader: Greg 01753 865267 or 07780 945591

Saturday 26th July Yattendon parish 8.25 miles, moderate

Start [SU552745](#) at the small car park around a corner south west of the Royal Oak Hotel in Yattendon at **10.30am**. If you are unable to park here, please park considerately in the village. This walk covers the parish of Yattendon including Ashampstead Common before returning via the Pot Kiln pub at Frilsham. Lunch stop before the pub stop.

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

Thursday 31st July Finchampstead Ridges 3 miles, easy

The walk will start at **6.45pm** from the National Trust car park at Simon's Wood ([SU813635](#)). Pub for afterwards – TBA.

Please contact the leader in advance if you are coming, as there is always a small possibility that work commitments will mean a short notice cancellation.

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

AUGUST

Sunday 3rd August Walbury Hill 10.5 miles, moderate

Meet at the car park on the north side of Walbury Hill ([SU371620](#)) for a **10.30am** start. The route follows the Wayfarer's Walk to Inkpen Hill, then Test Way and Sheepless Hill to Linkenholt. Follow lanes to a pub stop at Faccombe, before heading up Pilot Hill and back on the Wayfarer's Walk to return to the car park. There will be approximately 200 metres of ascent.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Thursday 7th August Harpsden Wood and Marsh Lock 4 miles, easy

Meet at the free car park in Mill Lane, Henley-on-Thames ([SU771817](#)) for a **7.00pm** start. A circular walk, to the south of Henley-on-Thames, climbing up through Harpsden and its beautiful background of beech woodland, descending across the fields to Lower Shiplake, and returning along the Thames Path National Trail and the long wooden bridges at Marsh Lock.

Leader: Jane 07881 805 156

Saturday 9th August Thames Path: Marlow to Maidenhead 8 miles, moderate

Meet at Maidenhead station ([SU887807](#)) at **10.25am** (train leaves Reading at 10:04, arrives Maidenhead 10:18). Catch the train to Marlow (cost £7 day return from Reading to Marlow via Maidenhead – single is only 10p cheaper! – or £3.50 single from Maidenhead to Marlow).

Walk along the Thames Path back to Maidenhead. Pub stop at Cookham, just over half way.

Train times and fares from National Rail Enquiries website (www.nationalrail.co.uk) at the time of writing – be sure to check nearer to the walk date just in case!

Leader: Jean-Paul 07788 7710396 or jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

Sunday 10th August Three Reservoirs Walk 10 or 14 miles, moderate

This walk has two start points depending on whether walkers wish to complete a fourteen mile, or a ten mile, circuit. (Nettle Alert: full-length trousers are recommended).

Start point A: Air Forces Memorial car park ([SU996717](#)). Arrive at **10.15am** for a **10.30am** departure. This circular walk will take us past the Air Forces Memorial and through the woods down to the Thames at Runnymede. We will follow the river until we reach the M25, where we will cross to the opposite side and meet at Start point B.

Start point B: Hythe End ([TQ018726](#)) off M25 J13. Arrive at **11.20am** for an **11.30am** departure. Note: There is limited parking in this area, so please car share where possible. Let the walk leader know if you plan to join from start point B.

This walk will take us along the path of Colne Brook towards Wraysbury and between the Sunnymead lakes to Horton, where we will stop for our early lunch stop (ETA 12.30pm). After our lunch, we follow The Queen Mother reservoir round to Colnbrook and Poyle before crossing the M25. Our route then takes us through Stanwell Moor and through Staines Moor before we cross the M25 and return to start point B. The remaining walkers will then return to the relative tranquillity of Runnymede and the Air Forces Memorial, where the walk will end. Pub stops on route.

As usual, bring a packed lunch and plenty of fluids.

Leader: Kevin 07734 387073

Saturday 16th August Thursley, Ockley & Hankley Commons 8 or 13 miles, moderate

Start at **10.30am** from the Moat car park at Thursley Common at Grid Reference [SU899416](#). Directions: heading south from Elstead, the car park is clearly signposted on the left shortly after you leave the 30mph speed limit.

A walk across three large areas of Surrey heathland, one of which is a National Nature Reserve and the others army training areas. Pub stop en-route. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. For those wanting a shorter walk, there is the option of cutting the walk short to 8 miles, but you will have to navigate ½ mile on your own back to the car park (it's a straight line on one path so shouldn't be too taxing!), and you won't get to visit the pub as that's on the second half of the walk.

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

Sunday 24th August Wallingford, Nuffield and Ewelme 14-16 miles, challenging

Provisional start point and time: **10.00am** at Carmel College, Mongewell Park on the east side of the Thames opposite Wallingford. The location is still to be confirmed, and will depend on the availability of parking, so **please check the website nearer the time, or contact the walk leader in the week before the walk.**

The walk starts from outside Wallingford and follows the Ridgeway Path into the Chilterns, along the prehistoric Grim's Ditch and then through the village of Nuffield, before heading cross-country towards Watlington. On the way back to the start, there will be a chance to look round the historic village of Ewelme.

There will be at least one pub top (possibly two). Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Graham 07876 682658

Monday 25th August Puttenham Common 5 miles, easy

Start at **10.30am** from the Puttenham Common top car park ([SU919461](#)) in Surrey!

This can be reached from the B3000, which links the A31 (Hog's Back) and the A3 south of Guildford. Take the turning into Puttenham village, which passes a church on the left, and then turn left into Suffield Lane (opposite the Good Intent pub). Follow this lane for 2km (1.25 miles) past farm land and fields and finally into woods. Turn right into the Puttenham Common Top car park (opposite Top Rodsall Cottage).

The walk is a mixture of woodland and heathland and a short section of the North Downs Way. There will be a picnic stop (bring a packed lunch) and a real-ale stop at the Good Intent. There will be both hills and mud on this walk.

Leader: Rob 07786 116 988

Thursday 28th August Lower Earley West 3 miles, easy

The walk will start at **6.15pm** from the roundabout at the junction of the southern end of Chalfont Way and Rushey Way, next to Asda ([SU743698](#)). A short walk out into the country, then back through the parkland on the fringe of Lower Earley. The pub for afterwards is the Toby Carvery www.toby-carvery.co.uk/find-a-toby/lowerearley.html .

Bus stop on route 21 within 100m of the start. See www.reading-buses.co.uk for times. Please contact the leader in advance if you are coming, as there is always a small possibility that work commitments will mean a short notice cancellation.

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

Saturday 30th August Mortimer to Theale 14 miles, moderate
Joint walk with the Metropolitan Walkers

Meet at Mortimer Station ([SU672641](#)) for a **10.20am** start. Please use public transport if possible; the 10.07 train from Reading reaches Mortimer at 10.17. The walk finishes at the pub near Theale station.

The route takes in the remains of the Roman amphitheatre and town of Calleva Atrebatum at Silchester, followed by the village of Ufton Nervet, and ends by the Kennet and Avon Canal. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Thanks to Amy for arranging this joint walk and suggesting the route.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Sunday 31st August Richmond and Ham Common 9½ miles, moderate

Start **10.30am** at the entrance to Richmond railway station (TQ181751). This is a lovely walk that takes us up Richmond Hill for some great views, over Ham Common and down to the river Thames for the return leg. Bring the usual picnic and drinks. Pub stop planned near the end of the walk in Richmond.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7th September East Garston 13½ (or 8½) miles, challenging

This is a repeat of the beautiful downland walk in the last programme which many could not attend due to snowfall! Please note early depart at **10.00am prompt** from East Garston village hall car park (SU364767). Permission has been gained to park at the rear of the hall, leaving the spaces to the side free. This is a figure-of-eight walk passing through South Fawley, returning to East Garston after 8½ miles and then heading on to Eastbury and Woodlands St. Mary before returning to the start, having completed a total of 13½ miles. There is the opportunity for those wishing to finish after 8½ miles to do so at the first return to the start when we stop at the bar of the Village Hall in East Garston. This is a downland walk with expansive views crossing the gallops on the Downs. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

Leader: Adam 07709 032516

12th September for 1 week Avignon & Provence – Young Ramblers Tour 1040
Trip away – full details can be found in the Trips and Holidays Programme

This week away is organised by Ramblers Holidays Ltd (www.ramblersholidays.co.uk, tel: 01707 331133). Please quote reference DB/YPG when booking.

Saturday 13th September Thames Path: Henley to Marlow 10 miles, moderate

Meet outside Henley station (SU763822) at **10.15am** (the train leaves Reading via Twyford at 9.34am and arrives in Henley at 10.02am, day return £4.20).

Walk along the Thames Path to Marlow. Pub stops at the Flowerpot, and also possibly in Hurley; both involve a short detour to the pub and then back to the river afterwards.

We'll head back from Marlow to Henley on the bus, which runs every half hour or so (fare not obvious from the website but looks like max £7 for a day Explorer ticket – see http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/_80256E280053B5B6.nsf/vWeb/wpDNOS65CL29?Open&show=current®ion=Shires%20and%20Essex&town=Marlow).

Train times and fares from National Rail Enquiries website (www.nationalrail.co.uk) at the time of writing – be sure to check nearer to the walk date just in case!

Leader: Jean-Paul 07788 7710396 or jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st September hikefest 2008, Hawkeshead, the Lake District
Weekend away – full details can be found in the Trips and Holidays Programme.

hikefest is the annual gathering of Ramblers members in their 20s and 30s. Full details including booking information can be found at <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/localgroups/hikefest.html>, or alternatively contact the organiser, Dave Ebdon, on 07807 660294.

Saturday 20th – Saturday 27th September Ambleside, the Lake District
Week away – full details can be found in the Trips and Holidays Programme.

Details of the walks will ideally be finalised during the week itself, to take account of the weather and the group. Please book accommodation in or near Ambleside, and let the organiser know in advance that you are coming.

Anyone attending the *hikefest* is welcome to join in with this trip from Sunday or Monday onwards. Please advise Chris if you intend to do this.

Organiser: Chris 07984 255322 or walks@berkshirewalkers.com

Sunday 21st September Reading and Sonning 8 miles, easy
Joint walk with the Metropolitan Walkers

Meet at in front of Reading Station (SU715738) for an **11.00am** start. Please check train times with National Rail.

The walk takes in scenes of the River Thames, with a chance to stop and rest in idyllic Sonning. There will be an extended lunch stop at the historic Bull Inn pub, which has award-winning food (the roast dinner is recommended!). A picnic area is available for those with a packed lunch. Dogs are welcome on this walk.

Leader: Amy 07792 160251

Saturday 27th September Dorchester and Wittenham Clumps 9 miles, easy/moderate

The walk starts in the Roman town of Dorchester. Meet at **10.30am** at the free public car park in Bridge End, well sign-posted in the south of the town, near the abbey. If you are coming from Reading on the A4074, take the Henley Road then the first sharp left into Bridge End. We will climb the two clumps for a panoramic view before passing through the Little Wittenham nature reserve. We will then join the river at Shillingford bridge towards Benson, and head back to Dorchester via Warborough. Bring a packed lunch and a drink as usual. Pub stop possible on route, and tea rooms at abbey recommended.

Leaders: Georges 07875 790831 and Greta 07875 840541

Sunday 28th September Cookham, Widmoor, Wooburn and Bourne End
6 miles, moderate

This walk is suitable for new members who do not mind a few climbs.

The start point (SU893853) is approximately half a mile east of Cookham railway station. Please phone the walk leader if you are travelling by train. Arrive **10.45am** for an **11.00am** departure.

This walk will take us over the Thames into South Bucks for a wander around within the Chiltern Hills. The route includes farm tracks and woodland paths with a good view over the Thames valley. Our pub stop will be at The Bounty across the Thames from Bourne End. The final leg (approx. 1 mile) of the walk will bring us back along the Thames to the start point.

As usual, bring a packed lunch and drink.

Leader: Kevin 07734 387073

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 membership@berkshirewalkers.com.

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 walks@berkshirewalkers.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!

Trips and Holidays Programme

Dorset Saturday 28th – Sunday 30th 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 few general points:

Bring your own packed lunch for each of the walks, and pack plenty of water.

The base for the weekend is Weymouth, a lively seaside resort with a great beach and plenty of pubs and places to eat out. The town also has plenty of B&Bs, but it is very popular so early booking is recommended.

At 9pm on Friday 27th, Nick and Andy will be at the George Inn, which can be found in the old harbour at Weymouth ([SY681787](#)).

Saturday 28th June **Abbotsbury – Weymouth** **12 miles, moderate/challenging**
Map: OL15 Explorer

This long walk will follow the Southwest coast path from Abbotsbury east to Weymouth with some great views of Chesil beach.

The X53 bus service from Weymouth will be used (9.15am bus from the King George Memorial on the seafront, [SY680793](#)) to take the group to Abbotsbury. The fare for this service is £2.15.

The walk will start at **10.00am** outside the Ilchester Arms in Abbotsbury ([SY576854](#)).

Sunday 29th June **Weymouth – Osmington Mills – Osmington White Horse – Weymouth**
12 miles, moderate/challenging
Map: OL15 Explorer

Map: OL15 Explorer

The walk will start at **10.30am** from the Jubilee Clock on the seafront in Weymouth ([SY681795](#)).

Using the Southwest coast path, the walk will go eastwards to Osmington Mills, where there will be an opportunity to have a drink at the Smugglers Inn (some of you may remember it from last year!). The walk will then go inland to visit the White Horse at Osmington before dropping back down southwards to rejoin the coast path and travel westwards back into Weymouth. A long walk with some steep slopes.

Monday 30th June **Cerne Abbas and the Giant** **6.5 miles, moderate**
Map: 117 Explorer

This circular walk will start at **10.45am** from the car park at the Kettle Bridge picnic area ([ST664015](#)) in Cerne Abbas. The walk will take us briefly along the River Cerne back into Abbey Street in Cerne Abbas, before heading north up the Cerne valley beneath the famous Cerne Abbas giant. The path will later turn south and return on the other side of the valley back to Cerne Abbas, giving the best views of the chalk giant. Possible pub stop at the end of the walk in the village.

Organisers: Nick 0118 9835043 or 07710 350492
Andy 0118 9669272 or 07816 268306

Avignon & Provence – Young Ramblers Tour 1040
12 September 2008 (1 week)

This trip is organised by Ramblers Holidays Ltd (www.ramblersholidays.co.uk, tel: 01707 331133), who have provided the following information. Please quote reference DB/YPG when booking.

This holiday is based in the historic town of Avignon, situated in the beautiful region of Provence. This is a fascinating area rich in culture and history and lovely countryside perfect for a week of easy D grade walking and sightseeing.

For centuries Avignon has been regarded as one of France's major artistic centres. It acquired this reputation during the 14th century when the Pope's court moved from Rome to France in an attempt to escape political turmoil. The medieval ramparts, towers and decorated churches are evidence of the money that was invested in the city during that century. There is much of interest in Avignon but predominant amongst the city's monuments is the *Palais des Papes* (Popes' Palace). This huge Gothic building was built during the 14th century as a fortified palace and its scale is testimony to the popes' luxurious and decadent lifestyle at the time. We can also visit the *Pont d'Avignon* of the famous nursery rhyme. Only three spans now remain, but the bridge can still be walked, sat or even danced upon (with care)! Across the Rhone is Villeneuve-lès-Avignon that was originally linked to Avignon by the bridge. We will spend some time exploring the town and visiting the fort and other monuments.

To the south of Avignon is Arles, the region's key city in Roman times. We can visit Les Arenes, an extraordinarily well preserved amphitheatre which is still used for bull fights and concerts. On another day we can explore the city of Nimes with its remarkable Roman temple built around 5 AD. A highlight is the *Jardin de la Fontaine*, France's first public garden created in 1750. Walking through the garden with its fountains and nymphs you reach the *Tour Magna*, a 100 foot tower once part of the city walls, with terrific views of the surrounding countryside.

On most days we can combine sightseeing with walking in the attractive countryside with its bright hues of wild herbs and flowers dominated by the distant Mont Ventoux (1912m), the highest peak in Provence. We shall walk around St Remy-de-Provence, as well as visiting the town itself. We will also visit the *Pont du Gard*, an amazing stone structure, nearly 50m high, which was built to carry a Roman aqueduct over the Gard river.

Travel information

We travel from London St Pancras to Lille Europe by Eurostar and onwards to Avignon by TGV.

Details of your baggage allowance will be confirmed in your travel documents, sent to you approximately ten days before departure. Travel between Avignon TGV station and the hotel is by road and takes 15 mins.

If you are joining and leaving in France, it is assumed, unless you have advised us otherwise, that you will meet and leave the party at the hotel. If this is not your plan, please let us know in writing at least 5 weeks before departure.

hikefest 2008, Hawkshead, the Lake District
Friday 19th – Sunday 21st September

The following information is taken from the Ramblers Association website,
<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/localgroups/hikefest.html>

Bookings are now open for *hikefest* 08, the annual gathering of Ramblers members in their 20s and 30s.

hike 20s-30s Group members are in for a treat this year as *hikefest*, our annual weekend of walking and socialising, heads for the Lake District from 19-21 September. Our base will be the beautiful YHA hostel in the village of Hawkshead. Three days of mouth-watering walks will be on offer ranging from challenging walks up rocky peaks like the Old Man of Coniston and the Langdale Pikes, through to easier lakeside rambles.

Social activities will also include the Saturday evening party with live music, great food and free drinks. For those who want to make the most of their visit, we're also offering an extended weekend option with accommodation available on Thursday night plus additional walks and activities on the Friday. Bookings are already open. Book your place early to avoid disappointment!

Download booking form (JPG 1MB)
[\[http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/localgroups/hikefest08bookingfrm.pdf\]](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/localgroups/hikefest08bookingfrm.pdf)

Alternatively telephone 07807 660294 or email Dave Ebdon [mailto:david_ebdon@lineone.net]

Send your completed booking form to:
hikefest 08
5 Bellevue Road
Colchester
CO1 1XA

Please note: YHA Hawkshead is unable to take bookings or deal with enquiries about the *hikefest* directly.

Ambleside, the Lake District
Saturday 20th – Saturday 27th September

General information

Arrive on Saturday 20th and depart on Saturday 27th, leaving the six days in between for walking. There may also be time for a short walk on the final Saturday before leaving. Ideally we will decide on the exact programme during the week itself, so that weather conditions and tiredness can be taken into account; this will be easier if everyone books accommodation as close to Ambleside as possible and notifies the organiser that they are coming.

For suggested accommodation in and around Ambleside, visit
<http://www.amblesideonline.co.uk/accominfo.shtml>.

Most of the walks will include hills. Although there will be a lot more ascent than anything that we do in Berkshire, we will try to keep the pace down and include frequent breaks so that everyone can keep up.

For more details, or to sign up, please contact the organiser, Chris Fox, on 07984 255322 or at walks@berkshirewalkers.com.

Equipment

The weather in the Lake District can be unpredictable, so it is essential to bring full waterproofs, including waterproof trousers, and plenty of warm clothing, even if the weather is fine when we set out. You will also need walking boots (with ankle support), as the terrain will be uneven in places. Please note that **JEANS AND TRAINERS ARE NOT SUITABLE** for hillwalking in the Lake District.

Please bring plenty of food and drink on each walk. Due to the ascent, you will need more of both of them than usual, and there are no pubs on the hills! It's best to bring some spare food in case of emergency.

If you are unsure about what to bring, please contact the organiser. A more detailed list of recommended equipment will be issued before the trip.

The walks

These are suggested walks to give an idea of the kind of walking that will be involved; the exact programme will be finalised nearer the time, or even during the trip. It is likely that we will do about two of the longer walks listed below, and two of the shorter ones.

Depending on how people are feeling, there will probably be one or two days during the week when we do lower-level walks (not listed below) and/or tourist activities. Grasmere and Windermere are both easily accessible from Ambleside.

Red Screes

Distance: 12km / 7.5 miles

Ascent: 700m / 2,300ft

Meet near the bridge in North Road, Ambleside, [NY376045](#).

The ascent follows the valley between High Pike and Red Screes, rising to Scandale Pass before reaching the summit of Red Screes. The descent continues along the ridge back down to Ambleside, with views over Derwent Water (weather permitting).

Langdale Pikes

Distance: 10km / 6 miles

Ascent: 790m / 2,600ft

Start from the car park near the New Hotel in Langdale, [NY293063](#).

A short walk, taking in Pike of Stickle, Harrison Stickle and High Raise, then passing Stickle Tarn on the way down. There should be plenty of time for breaks on the way up, and to visit the pub at the end of the walk.

Fairfield Horseshoe

Distance: 17.5km / 11 miles

Ascent: 990m / 3,200ft

Meet near the bridge in North Road, Ambleside, [NY376045](#).

An ascent of Fairfield via Low Pike, High Pike, Dove Crag and Hart Crag; descending via Great Rigg and Heron Pike; and passing Rydal before returning to Ambleside.

Helvellyn from Glenridding

Distance: 19km / 12 miles

Ascent: 960m / 3,100ft

Start from the car park in Glenridding at [NY385169](#).

A fairly straightforward ascent of Helvellyn, one of the five peaks over 3,000ft in the Lake District, via Sticks Pass and over Raise. From the summit, we will be able to see the queues on Striding Edge and Swirral Edge to the east, and if the weather is clear there will be views down over Thirlmere to the west. The route continues south over Nethermost Pike and Dollywaggon Pike, before a fairly steep descent to Grisedale Tarn and a walk along the valley back to Glenridding.

[Alternative route: either the ascent or descent can be shortened by following Swirral Edge. There is some easy scrambling on this ridge, but it is avoidable by taking a lower path. A head for heights is recommended, still.]

Crinkle Crag and Bow Fell

Distance: 17km / 10.5 miles

Ascent: 1,000m / 3,300ft

Start from the car park near the New Hotel in Langdale, [NY293063](#).

This circular walk begins with an ascent of Crinkle Crag via Oxendale and Great Knott. After following the ridge along to Bow Fell, we shall descend to Angle Tarn and then pick up the Cumbria Way at the top of Stake Gill.

[Alternative route: ascend to the ridge between Crinkle Crag and Bow Fell to be sure of avoiding the bad step on Crinkle Crag. This would, however, mean retracing our steps on the way from Crinkle Crag to Bow Fell.]

High Street

Distance: 17.5km / 11 miles

Ascent: 950m / 3,100ft

Start from the car park next to the pub at the top of Kirkstone Pass, [NY400080](#).

After an initial short but steep ascent, the route continues to rise gently before reaching the top of Stony Cove Pike. A steep 170m descent down to Threshthwaite Mouth is followed by an equally steep ascent to the beacon at Thornthwaite Crag, but from this point onwards the walk is relatively flat. We will follow the bridleway over Racecourse Hill to the The Knott, before descending to Hayeswater and on to the village of Hartsop. The final 270m of ascent back up to the car park is spread over 4km.

Social Events Programme

JUNE

Saturday 21st June 10.15am Day Trip to the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum, London

The Plan: The museums open at 10am and the plan is to meet up around 10:15 in the Dinosaur Gallery on the ground floor of the Natural History Museum, near the Cromwell Road entrance. At 10:30 we will split up into manageable sized groups and explore the Natural History Museum first, then do the Science Museum in the afternoon. There are a number of cafés and restaurants within the two museums for lunch.

Travel: If you are arriving at Paddington Railway station then you need to take the Circle Line to South Kensington. You will need the platform for the south-west (anticlockwise) direction. If you are arriving at Waterloo Station then you need to go northbound on either the Northern Line or Bakerloo Line to Embankment (one stop) and then take the Circle Line or District Line (westbound) to South Kensington.

Notes: There is a subway from South Kensington tube station to the museums, which will save crossing a few roads. South Kensington is in Zone 1 if you are using a travel-card.

Entry to the museums is free but there is a charge for some special exhibits (e.g. Imax cinema and simulators etc.) There is a bag-search policy for visitors to the museums, so don't bring anything awkward!

Organiser: Rob 07786 116988

JULY

**Friday 18th July 7.00pm Reading Real Ale and Jazz Festival
Christchurch Meadows, Reading**

Meet 7.00pm prompt at the main gate to get seats. If any later meet us in the marquee. It is advisable to purchase tickets before the day. Cost £13.00 if bought in advance and £15.00 if bought on the gate (beware of the queue though!). Tickets can be purchased from 9th June, either go online www.raaj.info or from one of the three outlets, Hickies on Friar Street, Reading, 3 Ways Physiotherapy in Woodley and The Black Horse in Emmer Green. There is also a hotline selling tickets, see the website for details.

Band line up is The Dave Shepherd Dixielanders 19.15 – 20.10 / 21.10 – 22.10 and The Doctor Teeth Big Band 20.15 – 21.05 / 22.15 – 23.15.

Christchurch Meadows is a 5 minute walk from Reading Station, just over Reading Bridge on the left hand side going into Caversham. There is a car park opposite.

Sample the selection of ales, lager, cider, wine and soft drinks. There will be a selection of food stalls available, BBQ, pig roast etc.

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com

Friday 18th July – Deadline for Thai Elephant, Twyford – see below for details

**Saturday 26th July 8.00pm Thai Elephant, 4-6 London Road,
Twyford, RG10 9ER**

Deadline Friday 18th July

Sit down 8.00pm. Excellent Thai restaurant within walking distance of Twyford train station. Starters approximately £5.50 and main courses range from £8.25 to £14.50 and of course don't forget your sticky rice!

Please advise Jane by Friday 18th July if you would like to attend. No deposits required, however please attend if you've said you would.

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com

Saturday 26th July – Deadline for Punting, Oxford – see below for details

AUGUST

**Saturday 2nd August 12.30pm Punting from Magdalen Bridge Boathouse, The Old
Horse Ford, High Street, Oxford, OX1 4AX**

Deadline Saturday 26th July

Meet from 12.30pm at the Boathouse for 1.00pm punting. We will punt to the Thames to see the colleges rowing. We will be on the water for approximately 1.5 hours. Cost based on 5 people per punt for 1.5 hours is £21.00 hire and £30 returnable deposit (per person cost - £4.20 hire and £6.00 returnable deposit). If you wish to punt for longer the cost is £3.50 per punt for 15 minutes. New and prospective members are welcome to come and find out what we're about. Feel free to make it a day out and explore Oxford in the morning and the remainder of the afternoon and evening.

Please advise Jane by Saturday 26th July if you would like to attend. No deposits required, however please attend if you've said you would.

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com

**Thursday 14th August 8.00pm Blubeckers at The Rowbarge,
Station Road, Woolhampton, RG7 5SH**

Meet from 8pm for drinks, and optional food for those that want to eat. Enjoy dishes from the Light Bites Menu, Main Menu or the Specials Board. There is ample free parking and also a nice beer garden on the banks of the Kennet and Avon canal. New and prospective members are welcome to come and find out what we're about.

Organisers: Rob 07786 116988 / Jane 07881 805156

Monday 25th August – Deadline for Evening Brewery Tour, Marlow – see below for details

SEPTEMBER

**Tuesday 2nd September 7.30pm Evening Brewery Tour, Rebellion
Brewery Co, Bencombe Farm, Marlow Bottom, Marlow, SL7 3LT**

Deadline Monday 25th August

The brewery is located at the Bottom of Burrough's Grove Hill, off Junction 4 of the M40, 10 yards before the Marlow Bottom Turnoff, on the corner between Marlow Bottom Road and Burrough's Grove Hill.

Tour starts at 7.30pm. £10.00 per person, all you can drink and take your glass home as a souvenir (saves them washing up!). All ales currently being brewed are available all night. Talks given on brewing history and brewing methods. BBQ available. Bar closes at 9.30pm.

Please advise Jane by Monday 25th August if you would like to attend. No deposits required, however please attend if you've said you would.

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com

**Wednesday 17th September 8.00pm The Cunning Man, Burghfield
Road, Burghfield Bridge, Reading, RG30
3BR**

Meet from 8pm for drinks, and optional food for those that want to eat. Enjoy dishes from the great pub restaurant menu and sample some of the best cask ale and wine range in the area. There is ample free parking and also a nice beer garden on the banks of the Theale to Reading canal. New and prospective members are welcome to come and find out what we're about.

Organisers: Rob 07786 116988 / Jane 07881 805156

Saturday 20th September – Deadline for Colleys Supper Rooms, Reading – see below for details

OCTOBER

**Saturday 4th October 7.30pm Sit Down Colleys Supper Rooms,
21. Wokingham Road, Reading, RG6 1LE**

Deadline Saturday 20th September - £10.00 deposit required

Charlotte and David have kindly arranged this evening. The menu is currently £27.50 per person for four courses on a Saturday evening.

“A visit to Colleys is one of life's little pleasures - a sanctuary in a world of fast food - where dining embraces traditional and contemporary values and becomes an experience to be savoured”

Please give your £10.00 non-refundable deposit to Jane by Saturday 20th September if you are planning to eat. Contact Jane for postal address. Please make cheques payable to 'Colleys Supper Rooms'.

Organiser: Jane 07881 805156 janekendrick@btinternet.com