



Berkshire Walkers



Issue 3 (22nd June 2009)

Walks Programme

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

June 2009

Saturday 6th June - Langley and Black Park Country Park, 12 miles, moderate

Meet at Langley Railway station ([TQ013798](#) for a **10am** departure. The 09:33 train from Reading arrives at 09:58; car parking costs £1.70 at the time of writing).

This circular walk follows a section of the Grand Union Canal, crossing meadows as we make our way past Middle Green, the former home of Geri Halliwell. After crossing the A412, the route takes us across cattle fields and farmland then into Black Park, where we stop for lunch. There is no pub stop, but the opportunity to visit the Black Park café. Anyone with stale bread is encouraged to bring this along to throw to the ducks on the lake. After lunch, the walk takes us around Black Park Lake and the woodland to the north, before skirting the eastern edge of the park and the Pinewood Studios complex. We then begin the journey back towards Langley, with a final stretch of the Grand Union Canal, before we return to the start point. Bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Kevin 07734387073

Wednesday 10th June - Crazies Hill, Warren Row and Bowsey Hill, 4 miles, easy

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

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

Leader: Ian M 07762 054207

Saturday 13th June - Hook, West Green and Rotherwick, 9 miles, moderate

Meet at Hook railway station ([SU725539](#)) for a **10:35am** start. (Trains from Reading, via Basingstoke, normally get in at 10:31 but we will wait if they are running a little late.)

Parking is free at the station at the weekend.

The walk starts off going through Bartley Heath and then heads north, passing Hook Mill and West Green House on the way. There will be a pub stop at Rotherwick, and then we return to Hook passing through Tylney Park and Newnham village. Bring a packed lunch and water as usual.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

Sunday 14th June - On the Cheapside of Ascot, 7 miles, easy

Start **10:10am** ([SU921683](#) or SL5 9EG) outside Ascot railway station. The leader will be on the train from Reading which (at the time of writing) arrives at 10:06.

This a good walk if you'd like to see Ascot race course – not so good a walk if you'd like to see Buckingham Palace. The walk takes us east to Cheapside and then north to Woodside and hopefully onto *Fireside* (inside the pub). We will stop for a drink at The Old Hatchet – a nice Fuller's pub. We finish (if it's open) with a traverse of the race course and then back to the station. Bring lunch and enough to drink as usual.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

Sunday 21st June - "A Walk to Curry Favour", 4¼ miles, easy

This is both a *walk* and a *social event*. Meet at Twyford Station ([SU790757](#)) for a **12 noon** start. (The 11:52 from Reading arrives at 11:58; the stopping train from Paddington, Slough, Maidenhead etc. arrives at 12:01.)

The walk leaves the station and follows the River Loddon under Brunel's Masterpiece the GWR. It passes Whistley bridge and Heads for Stanlake Bridge before returning past the pretty church at Rushcombe.

Following the walk we will perform the traditional Twyford activity of taking in a curry! We will probably go to the £6.95 per head buffet at *La Haweli*. All of Twyford's curry establishments are minutes from the Station, so it is easy to take in a Cobra beer should you wish to! I would imagine that we would eat some time around 2ish.

The leader will finalise the booking on the Friday before the walk, so please let him know if you are coming for a curry by then.

Leader: Nick H 07804 464586 or [nick\(at\)houghton007.fslife.co.uk](mailto:nick(at)houghton007.fslife.co.uk)

Saturday 27th June - Great Bedwyn, 12-13 miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** from Bedwyn Station ([SU280645](#)). The 09:47 train from Reading arrives at 10:30, and the walk will start shortly after its arrival. At the time of writing, a return ticket from Reading costs £8 (or £5.30 with a railcard - the leader has one and can get this discount for up to three other people travelling with him).

A walk through the woods and farmland around Great Bedwyn and Wilton, together with a stretch of the Kennet & Avon Canal. En route, I plan to spend an hour or so visiting the Crofton Beam Engines Museum (www.croftonbeamengines.org). Crofton Pumping Station was built in 1807 to provide water to the summit of the Kennet and Avon Canal. The Grade 1 listed building houses two Cornish beam engines, one of which is the oldest working beam engine in the world still in its original engine house and capable of actually doing the job for which it was installed. Today is one of the steam days when the beam engines are due to be operational. Entry to the museum costs £7.

Possible pub near the end. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

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

Sunday 28th June - Witheridge Hill & Shepherds Green, 5 miles, easy **Joint walk with the Pang Valley group**

Start at **10:30am** from the Red Lion PH ([SU709819](#)), Peppard Common, parking on the open ground in front of the pub. A circular walk through largely shady beech woods for mid-summer to Witheridge Hill, returning through the small hamlet of Shepherds Green.

Leader: Ray 0118 9413002

July 2009

Thursday 2nd July - Silchester, 3 miles, easy

The walk will start from the car park on the playing fields at Silchester ([SU626622](#)) at **6:45pm** with a pub stop at Calleva Arms at the end. We should be in the pub from 8pm for anyone not wanting to walk! We will be heading in the opposite direction to the walk in May. This walk may be cancelled at short notice due to work commitments so please check with the leader to confirm that it is still on.

Leader: Neil 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788 or nfrankum(at)hotmail.com

Sunday 5th July - Watlington & the Chilterns, 15 miles, challenging

Meet at free car park in centre of Watlington ([SU691944](#)) for a prompt **10am** start. If coming from Reading direction, take the B481. Once in Watlington, take the right turn signposted M40. Then take the immediate right straight after the pelican crossing in the village.

The walk is tough at times due to the number of hills we face, a couple of which are quite steep, but the views are very rewarding. We take in woodland, farmland and a nature reserve with a possible pub stop towards the end of the walk. We aim to stop en route a number of times, so it is a good idea to bring some extra snacks and plenty of water to keep yourself ticking over, especially if the weather is hot. The woodland will give us some respite from the weather if necessary.

Lift available for up to 3 people if travelling from Reading area. Please let the leader know a day or two in advance.

Leader: Dan 07761192509

Saturday 11th July - Arborfield and Farley Hill, 12 miles, moderate

Meet at Arborfield Recreation Ground parking area ([SU759669](#)) at **10:15am** for a **10:30am departure**.

This circular walk takes us towards Bear Wood Lake, via Carter's Hill Farm and along the River Loddon. We cross over the A327 before heading over the fields to White's Farm and our lunch stop. After the pub stop at the George and Dragon in Swallowfield we follow the River Blackwater before heading towards Farley Hill and back to our start point in Arborfield. There is the option of a second pub stop at the end of the walk.

Bring a packed lunch and drinking water as usual.

Leader: Kevin 07734 387073

Wednesday 15th July - Aldermaston, 5½ miles, easy

Meet at Aldermaston station ([SU601673](#)) for a **6:30pm** 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 18.12, arriving in Aldermaston Wharf at 18.25. Return trains run until 23.32 - check the train times before you travel, as they are not hourly in the evening. Alternatively take a look at www.traveline.org.uk.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Saturday 18th July - Snelsmore Common and Donnington Castle, 6½ miles, moderate
New members' walk

Start at **10:30am** from the car park in Snelsmore Common ([SU463709](#)). The walk covers first the heathland of the Common walking down to the village of Bagnor. We continue down to the River Lambourne and Woodspeen through a mixture of fields and forests, before reaching Castle Donnington – built in 1386 by Richard II and the site of a battle during the Civil War – and looping back to the start point.

Bring the usual packed lunch and drinks.

Leader: Carl 07887 543 455

Sunday 19th July - Bramley, 4½ miles, easy

Start at **10:30am** at the free car park in Station Road, Bramley ([TQ009451](#)). If coming from the north, Station Road is on the left off the A281, before the Jolly Farmer pub. The car park is the next turning on the left after the two entrances to the school. Please car share if possible, as the car park may be busy.

Bring food and drink as usual. There will be a pub stop at the Jolly Farmer at the end of the walk.

Leader: Greg 07780 945591 or 01753 865267

Thursday 23rd July - Lower Earley East, 4½ miles, easy

The walk will start at **7pm** 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 6pm.

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.

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

Leader: Neil 0118 975 1528 / 0793 225 8788 or nfrankum(at)hotmail.com

Sunday 26th July - Whitchurch and the River Test, 10½ miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** ([SU461481](#) or RG28 7DD) from the public car park on Bell Street, Whitchurch (note: more parking on Church Street). A walk that's a bit out of our usual territory, but well worth the extra distance and also easily accessible via the A34 or M3. The walk takes us south east of Whitchurch and uphill to gain some great views of the surrounding countryside. We then descend to Laverstoke and follow the River Test back to Whitchurch. If open, there will be a pub stop at the "Watership Down" in the interestingly named village of Freefolk, which is about 2 miles from the end of the walk. Alternatively we can pop into one of the many pubs in Whitchurch. Please bring a picnic lunch and enough to drink as usual. Possible lift from Bracknell from the leader, if given enough notice.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

August 2009

Sunday 2nd August - Half Marathon around Pangbourne, 13 miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** from the public car park in Pangbourne at [SU634765](#).

This walk will include a variety of scenery, including the river, fields and tracks. The walk

will go into Upper Basildon and covers the outskirts of the Basildon Estate. On this walk we will come across the stable where Daisy Dick, the Olympic bronze medal winner, lives. We will go through Ashampstead village and past the church and school. There may be a pub stop at the Red Lion depending on timing. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Nicky 07776 475671

Saturday 8th August - Leadership training

Are you interested in leading walks? Do you want to know how to read a map? Or use a compass? Do you want to brush up on your navigation skills?

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, we might be able to help!

On Saturday 8th August, we will be holding a "Leadership Day", where you can come along, learn from established leaders in the group how to plan, reccy and lead a walk. The day will include: map reading (from 1:25000, 1:50000 and guide book maps), the basics of using a compass, how to find where you are (including dead-reckoning and using GPS), "methods" of leading walks, planning and pre-walking a walk. Some of the day will be theory-based and there will be some practical work and a walk involved.

The day will be held somewhere in Berkshire – more details of the location and timetable will follow.

If you're interested in coming along to brush up on your skills, or are an established leader who can pass on and discuss some of your knowledge, please get in touch with Lee by **Friday 31st July**.

Organiser: Lee chair(at)berkshirewalkers.com

Sunday 9th August - Ashford Hill and Brimpton, or Brimpton and Ashford Hill? - Approx. 10 miles, moderate

Start at Midgham (Woolhampton) Station, [SU572667](#).

This is a trial walk, just to see if there is a demand for such walks in the future. We've recently asked you, in a survey, whether you think the group should be doing anything to attract members of different ages – does it matter what age our members are? Many of you have responded, and have put a great deal of thought into your responses – thank you. We'd like to see if age makes a difference "on the ground", so we have two similar walks for you:

If you're 35(ish) or younger, the walk starts at **10:15am**. We'll walk south from the station, past the Wasing Park and down to the nature reserve at Ashford Hill, before turning north to call at The Three Horse Shoes in Brimpton. The walk will return to Midgham via the (water-filled) gravel pits, where (for those with a thirst) The Rowbarge should be open.

If you're 35(ish) or older, the walk starts at **11:15am** (an extra hour in bed!) and will proceed via the (water-filled) gravel pits for an early thirst quencher at The Three Horse Shoes in Brimpton, before heading down the hill to Ashford Hill nature reserve and heading back to Midgham past the Wasing Park. The Rowbarge provides a satisfying place to wait for a train. If you're in the 35(ish) age, want to walk as a pan-age group, or just don't give a monkey's do-dah (it's a Yorkshire phrase – means something like 'uncle'), then toss a coin!

Trains from Reading leave at 47 minutes past the hour in the morning, and return at 15 minutes past even hours (at time of writing) in the afternoon. There is a small car park at the station and a few places in Midgham.

Leader for the 10:15: Lee 07780 683521

Leader for the 11:15: Rob 07786 116988

Saturday 15th August - Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons, 12 miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** from Elstead Moat car park on Thursley Common at grid ref. [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, one a National Trust property, and the other an army training area. Possible pub stop en-route. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

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

Sunday 16th August - Inkpen wildwalk, 10 miles, slow paced

Meeting at Kintbury station ([SU386671](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Trains run from Reading every 2 hours, and parking is available at Kintbury station.

The terrain is gently undulating and may be muddy after rain. There is likely to be a pub stop in Inkpen and lower green. Please check with the leaders nearer the time to see whether food will be available. We will see Kintbury, Inkpen Common, Combe Gibbet and Inkpen, as well as nature reserves and wildlife such as skylarks and hares.

The pace will be slow-moderate as we will be looking for wildlife.

Leader: Craig and Amy 07792160251

Sunday 23rd August - Newbury - Bagnor - Donnington, 6½ miles, easy

Start **11am** at [SU471671](#) on the junction of Bartholomew Street and West Mills, just south of the Kennet & Avon canal next to St. Nicolas Church, Snappy Snaps and opposite Kennet shopping centre. There are several car parks nearby, including a large gravel car park in Northcroft Lane near the Northcroft sports centre. To reach the start from Northcroft gravel car park simply walk away from the sports centre to join the main shopping street, and turn right over the bridge. Newbury has a nearby railway station too – see http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times_fares/.

The walk combines a pleasant stroll west along the Kennet & Avon canal and a newly opened permissive footpath through Speen Moor. We then head north to Speen and the Donnington area via the Lady Well which is believed to date back to Roman or Saxon times. A pub stop will be taken at The Blackbird at Bagnor followed by lunch at the 14th century Donnington castle. We return to Newbury largely by road via Donnington village, crossing the River Lambourne and parkland.

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

Sunday 30th August - Dorking to Guilford (returning by train), 15 miles, challenging

Joint walk with the West Kent Walking and Outdoor Group

Start at **10am** (it is quite a long way!) from the free public car park at [TQ172520](#), just off the A24 near Westhumble. It has toilets.

The walk takes in a stretch of the North Downs Way. We begin by passing the south-facing slopes of Denbies Vineyard then pass Ranmore Common with St Barnabas church. The walk moves westwards, taking in the fine southerly views, and passes pretty St Martha's Hill. It reaches Guilford via the River Wey. There is a short walk from Dorking Deepdene back to the car park at the end.

Please bring sarnies. There is a possibility of refreshments in Guilford depending on train times. Trains run from Guildford to Dorking Deepdene every hour.

The leader can provide a lift from Twyford (inc. station) - please let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Leader: Nick H 07804 464586 or nick(at)houghton007.fslife.co.uk

September 2009

Saturday 5th September - Wargrave & Crazies Hill, 7½ miles, easy/moderate New members' walk

Meet at the free car park at Wargrave railway station ([SU781783](#)) at **11am**. The 10:33 service from Reading arrives a few minutes before the hour. There is a good bus service from Reading also. This is a fairly easy walk with a couple of hills but nothing too strenuous. We hope to have a pub stop en route with an optional second stop at end of walk. Please bring lunch and water as usual.

Lift available from walk leader for up to 3 people if travelling from the Reading area. Please let me know a day or two in advance.

Leader: Dan 0776 119 2509

Sunday 13th September - Maidenhead and Cookham, 8-10 miles, moderate

The walk will start from Boulter's Lock car park ([SU902825](#)) at **10:30am**. We will head out of Maidenhead across open meadow and marshland towards Cookham, where we'll have lunch overlooking the Thames. Following a stop at one of the pubs in Cookham, we will then follow the Thames back to the start. Please bring lunch and a drink.

Leader: Fiona 07980 675346 or fionadean(at)hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 19th September - Chobham Common, 7 miles, easy

Meet in the free car park at [SU964649](#) on the B383 between Sunningdale and Chobham, just north of the junction with the B386. The walk will begin at **10:30am**.

A circular walk around Chobham common, including a pub stop in Burrowhill. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Sunday 20th September - Thatcham, 7 miles, slow paced

Meeting at Thatcham railway station ([SU527663](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Regular trains run from Reading and Newbury.

The terrain consists of towpath, tracks, slopes and can be muddy following rain. Hopefully we will see birds nesting. The pace will be slow-moderate as we will be looking for wildlife.

Leader: Amy and Craig 07792160251

Saturday 26th September - Great Bedwyn to Hungerford (linear walk), 10 miles, moderate

This walk starts at Bedwyn rail station, Great Bedwyn ([SU280645](#)), at **10:30am** (subject to train times, see note below). An ideal opportunity to leave the car at home! If you do drive, I suggest parking in Hungerford and taking the train to the start.

The walk follows the Kennet and Avon canal for a short time before heading cross country through fields and woodlands, and finishes by crossing Freeman's Marsh – we'll see if we can find the famous Pegasus Bridge! There may or may not be a pub stop during the walk, but there are several pubs in Hungerford we can visit while waiting for a train.

Train times: according to the current timetable, the 09:47 from Reading calls at Hungerford at 10:20 and arrives at Bedwyn at 10:30, and the walk will start a few minutes after this train

arrives. However, please check the train times or contact me during the week before the walk to avoid disappointment!

Leader: Neil S 07840 903547

**Sunday 27th September - Stanford Dingley, 9 miles, moderate
Joint walk with the Mid Berks group**

Meet at **10:30am** at Rushall Manor Farm, off Back Lane, 2 miles NW of Bradfield at [SU584723](#). There will be a 4/5 mile morning walk to Stanford Dingley, a pause for drinks and/or food and a walk of 4/5 miles back to the starting place in the afternoon. For those wishing to do morning only, arrangements can be made.

Leader: Paul 0118 9752191 or Elizabeth 0118 9882674

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.

Social Events Programme

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

June 2009

Tuesday 16th June – Pub Evening at The Swan, Pangbourne

Meet us from 7:30pm for a midweek drink (good food is available for those that wish). The pub is located within a stones throw from Pangbourne Railway Station. Find us by turning right from station exit or at [RG8 7DU](#) for those with sat nav. The pub does up to 4 ales including 1 guest as well as numerous other wines, spirits and lagers. If weather is good we aim to sit out at the on the terrace overlooking the Thames to take in the pleasant views that surround us.

Note, parking is limited at the pub but there is a plenty available at the nearby station or in the village (charges may apply) if required.

Possible lift is available from organiser if based in Reading area.

Organiser: Dan 0776 1192509

Sunday 21st June - "A Walk to Curry Favour", Twyford

This is both a *walk* and a *social event*. Meet at Twyford Station ([RG10 9NA](#)) for a **12 noon** start. (The 11:52 from Reading arrives at 11:58; the stopping train from Paddington, Slough, Maidenhead etc. arrives at 12:01.)

The 4¼ mile walk leaves the station and follows the River Loddon under Brunel's Masterpiece the GWR. It passes Whistley bridge and Heads for Stanlake Bridge before returning past the pretty church at Rushcombe.

Following the walk we will perform the traditional Twyford activity of taking in a curry! We will probably go to the £6.95 per head buffet at *La Haweli*. All of Twyford's curry establishments are minutes from the Station, so it is easy to take in a Cobra beer should you wish to! I would imagine that we would eat some time around 2'ish.

The organiser will finalise the booking on the Friday before the walk, so please let him know if you are coming for a curry by then.

Organiser: Nick H 07804 464586 or nick@houghton007.fslife.co.uk

Tuesday 23rd June – *Bjorn Again* at the Hexagon in Reading

Bjorn Again (possibly the world's greatest and most enduring tribute band) will be playing the Hexagon (Tickets £18.25 inc booking fee). If you are interested in going then please contact me, Ian Montague, on 07762 054207 (after 6pm please) or e-mail [berkshirewalkers\(at\)yahoo.co.uk](mailto:berkshirewalkers(at)yahoo.co.uk). I will then give you details of where to send your cheque for £18.25 (made payable to *Berkshire Walkers*).

At the time of writing there are plenty of seats left but the Hexagon is a seated only event and I want to attempt to get us all together. If we are split up, I will try to ensure that we sit in groups of at least three. **I need to book this by 3rd June so I must have your cheque by this date. I will not accept cheques after the deadline.** Once I have received your cheque I will book your seat. I'm sorry but there can be no refunds whatsoever as it is not fair on the group's resources.

Having got that out the way, why not dig out your flared trousers and spangly platforms – assuming you put them away that is – and have a fun night out.

Organiser: Ian Montague 07762 054207 (after 6pm please) or e-mail berkshirewalkers@yahoo.co.uk

Tuesday 30th June - Deadline for Jongleurs

See details below for the evening at [Joungleurs](#) in Reading.

July 2009

Sunday 12th July – Banger Racing at Aldershot

Calling all petrol heads and anyone else intrigued in finding out what Banger Racing is all about; join us for an afternoon of fun at the Aldershot Raceway! Meet at the car park for between 12 and 12:30pm.

The Aldershot Raceway is adjacent to Rushmoor Arena, Claycart Road, Aldershot, [GU11 2PX](#) just off the A325 Aldershot to Farnborough Road.

Don't worry; we are only watching it, not actually taking part. The facilities include a seated Grandstand, banked terracing and burger bars. The price is £12 at time of writing but please bring a little extra just in case this fluctuates. The action gets under way at 1pm and we hope to view races featuring GP Midgets, Caravans, Bangers and Ninja Karts.

Possible lift available from organiser if based in Reading area.

Organiser: Dan 0776 1192509

Friday 17th July – Reading Ale and Jazz Festival

The festival is held in [Christchurch Meadow](#), Reading. The venue is located a convenient 5 minute walk from Reading station. If you prefer to drive there is car parking available across the road from the festival.

Doors open at 7pm and the music starts at 7:30pm. The festival closes at 11pm. Tickets can be purchased on the gate or in advance from the RAAJ website: raaj.info/tickets/

Organiser: Rob 07786 116988 or social@berkshirewalkers.com

Friday 24th July – Jongleurs, Reading

Jongleurs Reading is an Ideal 'big night out' venue for comedy lovers and party animals. Meet at 7pm outside Jongleurs entrance (110 - 117 Friar Street, Reading, [RG1 1EP](#)). I can leave tickets on the door or pop down for those who arrive late; it's no problem at all. The comedy is followed by a disco from 11pm 'til late. Snacks and cocktails are available. Details of the show will be advertised on bookings.jongleurs.com/jongleurs/venues/26/reading/upcoming-shows. The price is £14 pounds. If you are interested please send your contact details to me at amy.hewitt@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk or text 07792160251 **by 30th June 09**. I will then send you details of how to book/pay. (Please see the note about [deadlines](#) below. Thanks)

Organiser: Amy

August 2009

Thursday 6th August – Pub Evening at The Flowerpot, Henley

Meet us from 7:30pm for a midweek drink (good food is available for those that wish). The pub can be found at [RG9 3DG](#) in the village of Aston. Please park considerately near the pub. This is a popular pub that does a fine range of ales as well as the usual range of other

alcoholic beverages. If weather is good, there is a large garden for us to relax and chill out in. Although bit tricky to get to by public transport, the organiser is willing to give people a lift if travelling from Reading area.

Organiser: Dan 0776 1192509

Wednesday 19th August - Deadline for Proms in the Park

See details below for our trip to [Proms in the Park](#).

Friday 21st August - Deadline for Sweeney and Todd's

See details below of our trip to [Sweeney and Todd's Pie Shop](#).

Saturday 22nd August – Oxford Pub Crawl

This is a tour of some of the good *real ale* pubs of Oxford, although they do serve lager and full range of other drinks if you must, so all are welcome!

Meet up at **11:00am** on the main concourse of Reading Station with your return ticket to Oxford already purchased to catch the 11:10 train to Oxford Approx cost £7.50 return (correct at time of going to print). Upon arrival in Oxford, scheduled 11:34, we shall walk round to Jericho to kick off the imbibing in a pub there. From there we shall tour on to several more good real ale pubs around the city, taking in the sights, more beer etc. We shall get some food somewhere along the way - one or two of the pubs do food, but may be busy so we'll play it by ear. We shall aim to weave our way back to Oxford Station by late afternoon/early evening, maybe taking in some more food etc - I intend to leave things fairly 'fluid' & will see how it goes!

Organiser: Jude07986 165406

Friday 28th August – Sweeney and Todd's Pie Shop, Reading

Another visit to our old favourite: Sweeney and Todd's Pie Shop, 10 Castle Street, Reading, [RG1 7RD](#). Meet at the restaurant at 7:45pm for an 8pm sitting.

If you wish to come along to this event, **please let me know by Friday 21st August** so that I can make the booking. (Please see the note about [deadlines](#) below. Thanks)

Organiser: Rob 07786 116988 or social@berkshirewalkers.com

September 2009

Sunday 6th September – Treasure Hunt, Reading

Meeting at 3pm at Reading Station outside the exit by WHSmiths where we will team-up. The Treasure hunt will take a maximum of 3 hours. This is a much loved hunt for quirky things in and around the Caversham area. Yes that's right *it doesn't involve going in and out of pubs!* We will re-group for a drink and or bite to eat afterwards, probably in the Griffin in Caversham.

Organiser: Captain Craig 07868 396809

Saturday 12th September – Proms in the Park, London

Proms in the Park is an annual concert held in Hyde Park on the night of the Last Night of the Proms (at the Royal Albert Hall, down the road). Details of this year's concert haven't been published yet, but there is generally a mix of modern music, cover bands and light classical music, starting at 17:30 up to 21:30, then the BBC Concert Orchestra normally takes to the stage to play the traditional Last Night set (Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory, etc...). The whole thing generally finished about 10:30, which is sufficient time to get to Paddington

and the train back to Reading. This mammoth five hour open air concert comes in at £25 per ticket, plus a small booking fee. It's advisable to take a picnic (alcohol is allowed, but glass is discouraged) and some food is available, but tends to be expensive.

More details of the concert are available at

www.bbc.co.uk/proms/2009/promsinthepark/london.shtml

If you're interested in going get in contact with me (Lee) at chair@berkshirewalkers.com by **Wednesday 19th August**, and we'll see if we can get a group discount; alternatively, you can book your own ticket and meet us there!

Organiser: Lee

Thursday 24th September – Pub Evening at the Broad Street Tavern, Wokingham

A night at an old favourite of the BWs, [The Broad Street Tavern](#), 29 Broad Street, Wokingham, [RG40 1AU](#). We will be meeting up there from 7:30pm onwards for drinks and chat. The pub usually has a good selection of *real ales* and other drinks. Food is available there too.

Organiser: Rob 07786 116988 or 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 there are still some spare places on an event after the specified deadline has passed, a bulletin will be sent out, otherwise you must assume you are too late. (Please don't try to *sneak in* by contacting the venue and modifying the booking without the organisers consent!)

Also, 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.

July 2009

Saturday 4th to Monday 6th July - Weekend Away in Dorset

Another one of our annual trips to Dorset. This year we will be based in Bridport. You will need to organise your own accommodation in or near Bridport. Please bring a packed lunch and *plenty of drinking water* with you on each walk. (Don't forget the sun-cream too!)

The meeting point for Friday night is The Ropemakers pub on West Street, Bridport, DT6 3QP ([SY464929](#)). Nick and Rob will be there from about 8:30pm onwards. (Note: This is also very near the start point for the Saturday and Sunday walks.)

On **Saturday 4th** we will take a bus to Abbotsbury and walk along the *South West Coast Path* via Cogden Beach and Burton Beach to West Bay and then inland back to Bridport. (About 12 miles)

Meet outside the Nationwide Building Society on West Street, DT6 3QW ([SY463930](#)) at **10:10am**. **The bus goes at 10:20am**, so don't be late! The fare to Abbotsbury is £2.30 so please have the right money. There are plenty of shops nearby that sell packed lunch items. (Note: If you are staying in West Bay, you can catch this bus outside the George Hotel at **10:32**, shortening your days walk by about two miles.)

On **Sunday 5th** we will walk from Bridport to Golden Cap via *Beacon Monarch's Way* (coastal path) and back via an inland route. (About 10 miles round trip with lots of hills) We will have a pub-stop at the Anchor Inn, Sea Town.

Meet outside the Nationwide Building Society on West Street, DT6 3QW ([SY463930](#)) for a **prompt 10:30am start**. This should give you enough time to get your packed lunch items before we start.

On **Monday 6th** we will have a short walk (about 6 miles) starting from Beaminster before heading home. Beaminster is about ten minutes drive from Bridport on the B3066. Meet up at The Square in Beaminster ([ST480013](#)) at **10:45**. Do not park by The Square as this is for short term parking only. There is a long term car park nearby in Yarn Barton, which is the first right turning off Fleet Street by The Square, and costs £1.20 for the day.

Please can you let the organisers know if you are coming so as we have an idea of numbers.

Organisers: Nick G. (07710 350492 or 01189 835043) and Rob C (07786 116988 or social@berkshirewalkers.com)

October 2009

Saturday 3rd to Saturday 10th October – Week in Pitlochry, Perthshire

Based on the success of Chris's week in the Lake District last year, Lee is trying to gauge the interest in a trip to Pitlochry for a week later this year. If you are interested in going, place contact Lee sooner rather than later as it will only go ahead if there is sufficient interest. Here are the provisional details:

Pitlochry is a small market town on the A9, north of Stirling in Scotland. There are several nice Munros (mountains over 3000ft in Scotland) and Corbets (those over 2500ft, with 500ft re-ascent between them) in the immediate area; a short journey will get you to several others, including the Trossachs and the Cairngorms. For those wanting to see the mountains, but not climb them, there are several nice walks along the Rivers Garry and Tay, both of which run near the town, and "The Queen's View", looking up Loch Tummel towards Rannoch Moor is spectacular.

The town has several hotels, B&Bs and hostels (a plethora of tea shops, pubs and the Bell's distillery); more information can be found on <http://www.pitlochry.org>. It has good transport links to Perth and Inverness, in the form of the A9 and the rail line. The Caledonian Sleeper service from London Euston stops at the town.

Please contact Lee by email at chair@berkshirewalkers.com or on 07780 683521