



Berkshire Walkers



Walks Programme

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

October 2009

Sunday 4th October - Eversley, 5½ miles, easy New members walk

Start at **11:30am** from a small public parking area of Bramshill Road [SU760613](#). Parking is free. A chance to see some rural parts of the Blackwater valley as we travel along field edges and through Bramshill forest. We will cut through St Mary's church where 19th century preacher, author, naturalist and social reformer Charles Kingsley was preacher for 31 years. Early lunch stop at New Mill Ford (please bring lunch with you). We will also have a pub stop at the White Hart in Eversley. Ideal for new members!

Leader: Alex 07544 985639

Sunday 11th October - Waltham St Lawrence, 8 miles, easy/moderate

Meet outside the Shurlock Inn in Shurlock Row at **10:30am** ([SU832742](#) RG10 0PU). Park on "The Street" – please do not use the pub car park. We will leave Shurlock Row via country lanes and cross fields to West End and Waltham St Lawrence. We will cut through Shottesbrooke Park and stop here for lunch and then a drink at the Bee Hive in White Waltham. We will then make a circle and pass back through the park along a tree lined avenue which should be in its full glory of autumn shades before heading across fields and back into Shurlock Row. For those that want there will be a second pub stop at the Shurlock Inn.

As usual bring a packed lunch, a drink and a camera if you want to catch the autumn shades.

Leader: Ian M 07762 054207

Sunday 18th October - Caversham and Mapledurham, approx. 8 miles, moderate

Meet at the free car park at Albert Road Recreation Ground in Caversham Heights ([SU704758](#)) for an **11:00am** start.

A circular walk heading west towards Mapledurham and then returning to Caversham Heights via Chazey Heath and Hemdean Bottom. Possible pub stop en route. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Saturday 24th October - Hook and Greywell, 12-13 miles, moderate

Meet at **10:30am** at Hook Station ([SU724539](#)). We'll be setting off shortly after the arrival of the train from Reading (9:45am from Reading, change at Basingstoke). Parking charges apply if you are driving.

A walk through three Hampshire Wildlife Trust nature reserves, along a bit of the Basingstoke Canal and through a mixture of farmland and woodland. Possible pub stop en-route and/or at the end of the walk. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink.

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

Sunday 25th October - Aldworth and an 'auld' airfield, 8 miles, moderate

Start **10:30am GMT*** in the village of Aldworth ([SU555796](#) or RG8 9TJ) next to the Bell pub. Park considerately and *car-share if possible due to limited parking*. This really varied walk takes us south-west through an airfield (duck if a plane comes in to land!) to Hampstead Norreys and back to Aldworth via a different route. Hopefully we will have time for a drink in the pub in Hampstead Norreys and maybe another in the renowned Bell at the end. Bring lunch and enough to drink as usual. Possible lift from Bracknell from leader, if given enough notice.

Leader: Jim 07734 569216

*Note that the clocks go back by 1-hour at 2:00am on Sunday 25th October.

Saturday 31st October - Hungerford, 4 miles, easy

Meet at Hungerford Station ([SU340685](#)) for an **11:00am** start. This short circular walk will take about 2-2½ hours. You will need to be prepared to walk over a railway line at one point during the walk, where the footpath crosses the line. We'll have lunch at the Three Horse Shoes pub back in Hungerford at the end of the walk, which will be around 1:30pm.

The walk will be followed by a social event, shopping in Hungerford. Please see the social events programme for further details.

Leader: Amy 07792 160251

November 2009

Friday Night 6th November - Watership Down and Hannington, 8 miles, moderate

Remember, remember the, oh, er... Okay, a day late, but it fell on a school night.

We'll be setting out from the White Hill car park ([SU517565](#)) at **7:00pm** prompt, following the Wayfarers walk a little way and then on into Hannington. Here we'll call at the local ale house for something to keep out the cold, before turning north and walking over Plantation Hill towards Kingsclere. We skim the south of the village before climbing Watership Down and returning to the car park. We'll aim to be back at the car park for midnight.

Weather permitting, we'll stop along the way for a spot of star gazing and watching other people's fireworks displays. We should also get good views of the bright lights of Reading and Newbury. You need to bring with you plenty of warm and waterproof clothing and a torch for use on the road (if you have a rear cycle light it could also come in use). If the weather is up for it, there will plenty

of stopping to view the night-time scenery, so a hot flask, something to eat and something to sit on could also be useful.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Sunday 8th November - Hambleden, 12½ miles, moderate A walk aimed at under 35s

This walk is aimed at people under 35, but all are welcome to attend. If you would prefer to walk with over 35s, you may be interested in the nearby Frieth walk on the same date.

Start at **10:30am** from the car park in Hambleden ([SU784865](#)), just past the Stag and Huntsman.

We begin by crossing some of the hills to the north-west of Hambleden to reach Stonor, Maidensgrove and Pishill. We then head east, visiting Turville before returning to Hambleden along the valley. Much of the route is flat, but there are hills in several places. There will be a pub stop towards the end of the walk. Please bring a drink and something to eat. *The leader can give up to three people a lift from Maidenhead or Henley station, given enough notice.*

Leader: Chris 07984 255322

Sunday 8th November - Frieth & Cadmore End, 11½ miles, moderate A walk aimed at over 35s

This walk is aimed at people over 35, but all are welcome to attend. If you would prefer to walk with under 35s, you may be interested in the nearby Hambleden walk on the same date.

The walk will start at **10:30am** from the Village Hall in Frieth ([SU796901](#) or RG9 6PR), which is next to the school near the church in Shogmoor Lane.

A scenic walk through beechwoods, which should hopefully be looking particularly colourful at this time of year, passing through the pretty villages of Turville, Skirmett, Cadmore End & Fingest. There will be a hill or two, but I'm sure the views will make it all worthwhile! There will be a pub stop somewhere along the route, at a suitable point, depending on timings. Please bring packed lunch and a drink as usual...and Zimmer frames if required.

Leader: Jude 07986 165406

Saturday 14th November - Leadership day, Kintbury

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

On Saturday 14th November, we will be holding a "Leadership Day", where you can come along, learn from established leaders in the group how to plan, recce 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 around Kintbury ([SU387672](#)) and start at **10:30am** - more details 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 6th November. If you came along to our previous leadership day and want to see if you can apply your skills in a different area, get in touch and come along!

Organiser: Lee chair@berkshirewalkers.com

Sunday 15th November - Warfield to Binfield, 13-14 miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** from Frost folly public car park [SU873726](#). Parking is free. You will find car park along Wellers Lane, Warfield. We will walk along quiet country lanes, tracks and fields as we pass Winkfield, Maidens Green and Shurlock row to Binfield where we will have a well earned pub stop at the Jack o' Newbury before returning to Warfield and the car park. We will walk at a moderate pace with a lunch stop along the way (please bring lunch with you). The terrain is generally even with the majority of the walk along hard surfaces so should not be too muddy.

Leader: Alex 07544 985639

Sunday 22nd November - Kintbury, 10 miles, moderate

Meet at Kintbury station ([SU386671](#)) for a **10:30am** start. Trains run from Reading every 2 hours, leaving about 9:45am (but you must check) and parking is available at Kintbury station. Mixed terrains. We will stop at Walbury Hill for lunch, bring a packed lunch. There will be a pub $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through at the Swan. We may go to the Black Bull in Kintbury for dinner at the end.

Leader: Amy 07792 160251

Saturday 28th November - Theale Nature Reserve Walk, 8 miles, easy

Meet by the ticket office at Theale railway station ([SU644709](#)) for a **10:00am** start. Trains from Reading currently arrive at Theale at 9:55am.

This is a circular walk taking in some canal, and skirting some of the lakes around Theale. There will be a mix of gravel paths, quiet roads, farmland and some wooded paths. We will be walking around two nature reserves on the way. Some of the wildlife is likely to include cows, so dogs are not recommended. There will be a chance for a drink at the Fox and Hounds about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the end of the walk.

Leader: Richard 07930 548379

Sunday 29th November - Hartley Witney & Eversley, 10½ miles, moderate

Start **10:30am** from the public car park (free on Sundays) in Monachus Lane, off the High Street in Hartley Wintney ([SU767569](#)). A circular, level walk across the Forest of Eversley, including the farmland, woods and heathland of West Green, Rotherwick, Mattingley and Hazeley Heath. Bring a packed lunch and drink. We will have a pub stop in Mattingley.

Leader: Sheila 0781 517 4365

December 2009

Saturday 5th December - Burnham Beeches, 4 miles, easy New members walk

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 December - Sulhamstead and Woolhampton, 10 miles, moderate

Start **10:30am** from Sulhamstead village hall [SU633685](#) on Sulhamstead Hill. We have permission to use the car park. Bring food and water. There will be a pub half way round at Woolhampton.

Leader: Nick G 0118 9835043 or 07710 350492

Saturday 12th December - St. Swithens Way and the Ichen, 9 miles, moderate **Joint walk with the Mid Berks group**

We start out from Winchester railway station ([SU477299](#)) at **10:30am** and walk north on the St Swithens Way. Following the Ichen, we turn east before crossing the river near Avington Park. We shall have lunch before returning to Winchester via Easton, where there will be a pub stop. The return walk then follows the eastern bank of the Ichen past the watermill (which is still in use on certain days of the year). We loop around the edge of Winchester to pass the college on our route to the courtyard outside the cathedral, where our walk will end. The courtyard at the cathedral has an annual Christmas market, which (at the time of writing) should still be present when we arrive. There are regular trains to Winchester from Reading and Basingstoke, on which Network Southeast and national railcards are accepted. Walkers are advised to check train times before setting out.

Leader: Lee 07780 683521

Sunday 13th December - Newbury, 10 miles, moderate

Meeting at Newbury railway station ([SU472667](#)) car park for a **10:30am** start we shall head off along the Lamborn Valley way and up to Donnington castle. Then off to Snelsmore Common, the pub stop and back to the station along the Kennet & Avon Canal. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

The car park currently costs £2.20 for all day (after 10am) and on the current timetable the train from Reading arrives at 10:12am. 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 19th December - Arborfield Garrison to Shinfield, 8 miles, moderate

Meet at **10:30am** at the bus stop on the A327 Shinfield Road ([SU731686](#)), just south of the junction with Cutbush Lane, (just south of the bridge over the M4 motorway). This is the stop on the southbound side of the road, not the one with the bus shelter on the northbound side.

We'll be catching the 10:40am No. 144 bus to Arborfield Garrison, and then walking back from there. This bus departs from stop SK at Reading Station at 10.25am. The start time may be changed if the bus timetables change between now and then. Check in the week before the walk. Not sure of the fare (it is currently somewhere between £2.30 and £4), so bring assorted change. If you're driving, park considerably somewhere down Cutbush Lane and walk round the corner to the bus stop. As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Pub stop at the end.

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

Sunday 27th December - Didcot and Wittenham Clumps, 8-9 miles, easy/moderate

Meet at car park opposite Didcot Parkway railway station [SU525905](#) for an **11:15am** start. Last time I checked a £2 car park charge applied so please bring some change if driving. A good regular train service operates from Reading. This is an ideal walk for those who have dreamed of viewing the delights of the cooling towers of Didcot Power Station close up and it is also a good walk for those who enjoy a pleasant stroll through mainly flat farmland. There is a steep incline as we reach our lunch stop at Wittenham Clumps but the views are rewarding if weather is good (we see those cooling towers again as an extra bonus!). Possible pub stop en route.

Leader: Dan 0776 1192509

January 2010

Saturday 2nd January - Wargrave to Twyford, 8-10 miles, moderate

Linear walk from Wargrave to Twyford.

Meet at Twyford station (OS Grid Ref: [SU790757](#)) at **10:40am**. We'll be catching the train to Wargrave at 10:50am. Single ticket from Twyford to Wargrave is currently £1.80 (£1.20 with railcard). The 10:33am train from Reading connects with this service. **Note: The walk start time will be adjusted if the train times change due to the new winter timetable or weekend engineering work. Please check in the week before the walk (www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk or www.nationalrail.co.uk).** As usual, bring sandwiches and a drink. Possible pub stop en route, and/or in Twyford at the end of the walk.

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

Sunday 10th January - Oakley and Wayfarer's Walk, 9½ miles, moderate

Start at **10:30am** from the Beach Park car park, Station Road, Oakley ([SU570509](#)), just off the B3400, west of Basingstoke.

This walk follows a section of the Wayfarer's Walk between Deane and Dummer, then follows the course of a Roman road toward Basingstoke and returns through Oakley. There will be a picnic stop about halfway round and a pub-stop near the end of the walk. There are some gentle hills and muddy fields on the route.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

Sunday 17th January - West Wycombe, 7 miles, moderate

Meet at the car park by the church and mausoleum at West Wycombe ([SU826952](#)) for a **10:30am** start. The car park can be found by taking West Wycombe Hill Road from the junction of the A40 and Chorley Road and following it round until you come to the car park on the left hand side.

A circular walk taking in Downley Common, Hughenden Manor (Disraeli's country home), Downley and the outskirts of High Wycombe. Two pub stops along the way and one at the end.

Leader: Charlotte 07879 882407 & David 07717 865752

Sunday 24th January - Newbury & Greenham Common, 10 miles, moderate

Start at **11:00am** from Newbury Station ([SU471669](#)).

Walk through Newbury to Greenham Common, then around the Common itself. Pub stop en route if possible, and/or at the end of the walk.

Leader: Jean-Paul 07887 710396 or jeanpaultanner@hotmail.com

Saturday 30th January - Fleet Pond, Pyestock Hill and Tweseldown, 7 miles, easy

Start at Fleet Railway Station (south car park [SU816552](#)) at **10:40am**. (Trains from Reading get in at 10:31am.) There is a good sized car park at the station and parking charges may apply.

This walk skirts Fleet pond, follows the stream down to the Basingstoke Canal at Pyestock Hill, and passes Tweseldown race course before returning through woodland and past the other side of the pond. There will be a pub stop half way round and a picnic stop shortly after that. Bring a packed lunch. This is an easy walk, with no hills but may be muddy in places.

Leader: Rob 07786 116988

Sunday 31st January - Pangbourne, 13 miles, moderate

The walk will start at **10:30am** at or near Pangbourne College. Please contact the leader or visit our website nearer the time for full details and to confirm the meeting point.

Leader: Nicky 07776 475671

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.

Social Events

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

October 2009

Saturday 10th October - Deadline for *Salsa Celtica*, Bracknell

Please see [10th November](#) for details.

Saturday 10th October - Food Fair and Racing at Ascot

Willmott Dixon Group Day featuring the 3rd Ascot Food Fair on Saturday 10th October.

Racing Summary: Willmott Dixon Group Day traditionally brings the curtain down on Ascot's flat season. Also on the card is the highly competitive £75,000 Ladbrokes Handicap over a mile and a half.

First Race starts at approximately 1:10pm. Meet at **12:00pm outside Ascot Railway Station** so we have time to walk down and start sampling the food.

Entertainment Summary: The third annual Ascot Food Fair takes place today. Race-goers are able to race and shop, purchasing locally produced items from county suppliers while being serenaded by a traditional English Folk Band. Over 30 stands will be located on the Plaza Lawns selling cheeses, speciality breads, cakes, ciders, wines, pasta, preserves, flowers, game and much, much more. A Shop & Drop facility will be available for customers to leave their purchases while they enjoy the racing and pick them up at the end of the day.

There will be live Jazz music on the Bandstand throughout the day.

How to book: Please express interest to amy.hewitt@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk by 26th September. If we get ten or more people then we will get a 25% discount off the price of £15 per head. If you miss this deadline please book individually by calling 0870 727 1234 and ask for Grandstand Admission.

Organiser: Amy 07792 160251

Thursday 15th October - BW Annual General Meeting, Reading

This is an invitation for you to have a say in how the club is run at the Berkshire Walkers' Annual General Meeting will be held at **7:30pm** in a meeting room upstairs at the [RISC Cafe](#) in Reading. The RISC Cafe has a **buffet starting at 6:30pm** that evening which you can partake in before the meeting for £8. There will also be live music at the Cafe later that evening, which you may be interested in seeing after we have finished the AGM.

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) our current committee will present reports upon the year just past; we will discuss and vote upon changes to our constitution; appoint Honorary Officers and elect a committee; appoint auditor(s); discuss motions put to the AGM and appoint an Area Representative. If you wish to put forward a motion for discussion, please do so in writing (or by email) to Amy via chair@berkshirewalkers.com (please put in the subject line "AGM motion:"). The meeting shall proceed in accordance with our present constitution.

We require to elect at least an Honorary Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. Other members of our present committee include Membership Secretary, Publicity Officer, Walks Co-ordinator, Weekends Co-ordinator, Socials Co-ordinator, Website Master, Area Representative and several Ordinary Members. Committee posts, other than the Honorary Officers and Area Representative, may be created or removed as the general meeting sees fit. If you are interested in joining the committee and have a post in mind, speak to the current incumbent to find out more about the job; if you don't have a post in mind, talk to everyone! General descriptions of the more common posts are to be found at www.ramblers.org.uk/volunteer.

This is your opportunity to have your say in how the club runs: please support the future of the Berkshire Walkers and come to the Annual General Meeting.

Saturday 24th October - Fancy Dress Pub Crawl, Newbury

The plan is to meet up at Newbury Railway Station at **3pm** - in fancy dress! An itinerary of pubs to crawl to during the afternoon and evening is being devised. We will be having supper at one of the pubs during the early evening and finishing mid-evening so that everyone can get home while the train and bus services are still running frequently. The theme is Halloween or characters from novels. Jenny will be judging the outfits and will be awarding a small prize to the one that most impresses her.

Organiser: Jenny 07799 264708

Saturday 30th October - Deadline for Christmas Dinner

Please see [Saturday 5th December](#) for details.

Saturday 31st October - Short Walk and Shopping Trip, Hungerford

Meet at Hungerford Station ([SU340685](#)) for a 4 mile walk starting at **11:00am**. This circular walk will take about two hours. We'll have lunch at the end of the walk at The Three Horse Shoes in Hungerford at around 1:30pm. Lunch will be followed by a shopping trip in Hungerford, including free tea and biscuits at *The Emporium* designer exchange shop.

Organiser: Amy 07792 160251

November 2009

Friday 6th November - Deadline for "Go Ape" in Bracknell

Please see [Saturday 21st November](#) for details.

Friday 6th November - Night Hike along Watership Down

An evening walk along the ridgeway at Watership Down where there should be some good views of other people's firework displays! The walk starts at **7pm** from the [White Hill](#) car park south of Kingsclere on the B3051. See the [Walks Programme](#) for details.

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

Tuesday 10th November - *Salsa Celtica* at Southill Park, Bracknell

Come to [Southill Park](#) Arts Centre in Bracknell to see *Salsa Celtica* play their blend of Scottish, Irish and Latin-American music. The performance starts at 8pm so please arrive by **7:30pm**. Please let Carole know if you are interested by 10th October so that she can book the tickets. (Please see the [note about deadlines](#)) Tickets are £16 each.

Organiser: Carole 07590 635071

Wednesday 18th November - Committee Meeting and Pub Meet, Reading

Berkshire Walkers Committee meeting followed by general drinking and chat in the Great Expectations pub on London Street in Reading, [RG1 4PS](#). You are welcome to join us for the meeting at **7:30pm** or come along just for drinks and socialising. The meeting should have finished by about 9pm.

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

Saturday 21st November - "Go Ape" in Bracknell

It's not in the dictionary, but if it was, Go Ape would be described as a *high-wire forest adventure* involving a giant obstacle course up in the trees using ladders, walkways, bridges and tunnels made of wood, rope and super-strong wire, and with the country's best zip lines. See the [Go Ape website](#) for details.

Price will be around £25 and further details, such as the time of the event, will be made available at the time of booking. There are limited places on this event so please let Lee know if you are interested **by 24th October** so that he can arrange the booking.

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

December 2009

Saturday 5th December - Christmas Dinner at Piper's Island, Reading

Christmas buffet at [Island Bar and Restaurant](#) on Piper's Island, Reading, [RG4 8AH](#). The buffet dinner provides **cold dishes:** Three colour salad – tomato, avocado and mozzarella (v), Turkey Caesar salad, Mixed leaf salad,

hot dishes: Stuffed roast turkey glazed with oriental dressing, Sausage and lentil casserole, Smoked fish pie, Couscous with tomato and roasted peppers (v), Roasted potato (v), Mixed roasted vegetables (v) and

desserts: Christmas pudding with Brandy sauce, Profiteroles with chocolate sauce, Apple and rhubarb crumble with vanilla custard.

The cost will be £27.50 each, which needs to be paid in advance. There are a limited number of places, which will be allocated on a *first-come first-served* basis, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Organiser: Arabela 07964334076 or email be1978@yahoo.com

Saturday 12th December - Real Ale Pre-Christmas Pub Crawl, Reading

After the roaring success of the Oxford pub crawl in the summer (as far as I know, we all made it back home alive in the end!!), I am organising a seasonal crawl of Reading. Meet up at **12:00** midday on the main concourse of **Reading railway station**. We'll commence proceedings at a hostelry near the station, and then proceed to weave our way on to several more pubs, taking on more and more beer, and some food along the way.

All are welcome, ale drinkers or not. As usual, shall leave arrangements *fluid*.....

Organiser Jude 07986 165406 (alternative contact Adam 07709 032516)

January 2010

Wednesday 20th January - Committee Meeting and Pub Meet, Reading

Berkshire Walkers Committee meeting followed by general drinking and chat in the Great Expectations pub on London Street in Reading, [RG1 4PS](#). You are welcome to join us for the meeting at **7:30pm** or come along just for drinks and socialising. The meeting should have finished by about 9pm.

Organiser: Lee 07780 683521

Saturday 30th January - Pub Trip to The Old Manor, Bracknell

Meet at The Old Manor (JD Wetherspoon's pub), Church Road, Grenville Place, Bracknell, [RG12 1BP](#), from **8pm** for drinks. The pub does a wide selection of drinks at sensible prices and also does food, so you're welcome to dine there too.

There are a number of car parks nearby and it is less than ten minutes walk from Bracknell railway station.

Organiser: Alex 07544 985639

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 26th to Monday 29th 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. (Low level and about 6 miles) 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 (ensuite 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 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.

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

April 2010

Good Friday 2nd to Easter Monday 5th 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 preferably by the beginning of January.

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.