

October 2011 Newsletter

WATTON RAMBLERS PROGRAMME OF EVENTS October-November 2011

DATE	VENUE/DESCRIPTION	LEADER
Sunday, 2nd October, 9.30	Figure-of-8 full-day walk. Park at The Feathers, Wadesmill. Morning walk taking in good views of the Rib Valley, approx. 6 miles. Lunch at The Feathers 1 - 1.30pm. Afternoon walk around the Youngsbury estate approx. 4.5 miles.	Linda and Melvyn Cooper 01920 486525
Saturday, 29th October, 9.30	Full-day walk. We will meet as usual at 09.30 and drive to Lordship Arms Benington, order food, Sandwiches & Baguettes only. Good quality and price. Morning walk 6 miles, return to lordship arms or drive to the Bell for those who want hot food (don't do sandwiches or baguettes) Afternoon walk 3.5 miles from Benington church. Both walks fairly easy walking	George Marven 01920 411 098
Sunday 13 November 9.00	Hertfordshire Way Extension Leg2 About 12 miles - more details to follow	Linda Thurlow 01920 830389 or lindathurlow1@hotmail .com
Sunday, 20th November 9.30	Morning walk, Hertford Heath area	Derek Henley 01920 830571

Special notice

Latest news about Ray Everett is that he had keyhole surgery last week at the Royal Free and will be in hospital for a while. He is feeling brighter but taking one day at a time. Watton Ramblers send our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ray. Ray, Val and Antony you are in our thoughts and if there is anything anyone can do please do not hesitate to ask.

Description of recent walks/events

Monday 29th August Bank Holiday Walk led by Linda Thurlow

Nine members met at the Community Centre for an August Bank Holiday walk. The weather was breezy and cool and, although threatening, we had no rain. We started our walk from the White Lion in Walkern, passing Walkern church and climbing gently out of the valley to Bassus Green. We then proceeded along the top of the ridge to Benington for a coffee break. Our path continued around the back of Benington Lordship and by Lordship farm where we were passed by streams of cars going to the Chilli festival. On reaching the river Beane again we made our way back along its banks into Walkern for food.

After a good lunch where we were joined by four new walkers, but losing four of the morning walkers, we headed north to Hall's Green and then across to Luffenhall and Cromer, enjoying views across the common towards Cromer windmill. Our way back took us along the upper reaches of the river Beane where we came across two mischievous shetland ponies who tried to push one of our members into the river and then tried to bar our way through the gate. Relieved to have negotiated the path safely, we reached Walkern church again and made our way back to the White Lion. Approximately 11 miles were covered.

Saturday 10th September, London walk led by Julie Rain

On Sat 10th September, a group of 13 Ramblers, met at Warwick Ave Station for a walk from Little Venice to Limehouse Basin. We started in the Rembrandt Gardens then down on to the Regents Canal. We walked up the side of the canal on the road, crossing Maida Vale at the top and soon found the steps to pick up the walk on the other side of the Maida tunnel. The canal walls had interesting plaques to read on the history of these water-ways, art- work adorning the bank walls and tunnels making colourful viewing. We passed under Blow Up Bridge, saw animal pens and Lord Snowdon's Aviary at London Zoo, a floating Chinese Restaurant and then on to Camden Lock.

We stopped here for a short break and had a marvellous opportunity to have a peak at the amazing stalls and shops that are so popular at the weekends in London. A wide and varied diversity of history, food, clothes and jewellery all crammed into tunnels and alleys that had you wondering if there was enough time to take it all in. From there we carried on to Kings Place, at Kings Cross, where we had another break, taking time to enter a fun competition that they had running there; a very interesting building housing a concert hall, restaurant and art gallery.

We came off the canal at Islington and strolled along to Joseph Grimaldi Park, where we saw the grave of this famous Clown, a nice little park where we had our lunch. After our rest and fully replete, we followed the signs on the pavement, through Chapel Market to the other side of the Islington tunnel, which like the Maida tunnel, you cannot walk through.

We passed numerous locks, barges, walkers, joggers and cyclists and wildlife and made our way to Victoria Park for another well earned rest and drink.

At 5 pm we arrived at West Ferry Quay for our meal at Via, which everyone enjoyed despite the unusual seating arrangements. We then caught the DLR and eventually made our way to Finsbury Park and home.

All in all it was a very enjoyable and interesting walk, a little heavy under foot, (concrete all the way), but dry and casual with lots to see.

I would like to thank everyone who took part, making it a good walk.

A short video of this walk is available to view on your home computer, contact Peter Aknai 01920 830 614

Sunday 18th September Isabel Hospice Walk led by Julie Rain

A group of 9 people set off from the George and Dragon Watton at Stone on a walk to the White Horse in Welwyn and back to raise funds for the Isabel Hospice. It was a lovely day to start with and the group were very nice, as usual.

We went past Watton Church to Perry Wood and on through to Symonds Wood to Burnham Green, Tewin, Harmer Green and finally to Welwyn, encountering seeing small ponies, some with babies, quite an 'Ahhh' moment. On the way we met Mr Hamilton Snr, who mentioned he has made a new path for walkers and cyclists and asked, if the current sign was moved to point to his new path, would we use it. He said that he proposes to put in water drinking facilities and benches at the start of his path, I guess that means we could refer to it as Hamilton's Way; he did seem a nice chap.

We had a splendid lunch at the White Horse and after having a nice rest, fed and watered, we set off for return home using a slightly different route. We were fine until the heavens opened about half an hour from the end of the walk. Wet, bedraggled but thoroughly pleased with ourselves, we arrived back at the George, where certificates were handed out to all.

Thankyou everyone who took part and raised money for a very, very worthy cause. Hope to see you again next time. Julie

About this newsletter

The copy date for this newsletter is the 25th of each month. Please send all walk descriptions, announcements, changes in walk arrangements, changes in contact details, and general news-worthy items to Peter Aknai (peter.aknai@ntlworld.com or phone 01920 830 614). Your comments or suggestions for improvements to this newsletter are also very welcome; please email or phone Peter as above.

Walk leaders please note: If you change any walk details after the copy date, you will need to inform the membership directly.