READING RAMBLING CLUB

Affiliated to The Ramblers Association, The Chiltern Society and HF Holidays

Autumn 2026



Chat from the chair

We have just experienced the hottest summer since records began. It is 50 years since the record-breaking summer of 1976 so will the next scorcher be in another 50 years, in which case most of us will not be here to experience it or is it all due to Global warming? We may find out next year. Well done to the stoic walk leaders who turned out for those who braved the heat of the day.

As requested we searched around for a change of venue for our Christmas lunch and have chosen Caversham Golf Club which is nearer to home for most.

Our trip to the Northern Lakes is upon us and we hope Marion's weather luck will continue. Holiday plans for Tenerife seemed to attract little interest so it will be sunny Malham next year in March and the new HF house in Buxton in late summer.

Some years ago we asked walk leaders to carry small first aid kits in case of minor injuries on a walk but we would ask members also to have one. *See Walks section.*

After much searching we have changed the venue for the AGM as the area around St Peter's became so busy and the upstairs room inconvenient. *(See page 4 for details)*

I have just heard news of Tom's "Aunt Evadne". She is in Budapest helping to fill up the Danube so the river cruises can continue.

Happy Autumn rambling.

Hilary Dewey, Chairman.

Date for your Diary - Annual AGM

Saturday 23rd January 2027. 2 - 4pm

Purley Memorial Hall, Glebe Road, Purley on Thames RG8 8DP

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Please send walk offers for next quarter to Dave Edelman
rrc.walks.coordinator@gmail.com
Before 1st December 2026

Please send articles for inclusion in the next issue to Di Story
distory1@gmail.com
Before 3rd December 2026

Club Holidays for 2026

Our holidays are very popular. Please book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We get a certain allocation of single and twin rooms to fill. Once these are filled it may be possible to get extra places but this is not guaranteed. My advice to you all is BOOK EARLY.

Enquiries/Bookings to Marion Hodgson on 07785 244 661 or email: marion.bh.hodgson@gmail.com

For online bookings please send Marion an email stating your requirements.

Please pay deposit or balance by on line banking:
Reading Rambling Club. Sort Code 08 92 99, Account 65274075, Include your name and the online payment reference. If that is not an option please phone Marion. She will take bookings on the phone and give details for Cheque payment. Cheques can be made out to Reading Rambling Club.

Our Reading Rambling Club is affiliated to The Ramblers Association.
If you book a holiday with The Ramblers please be sure to tell them that you are a member of the Reading Rambling Club. We will then receive a donation for our Club Funds.
Thankyou to the member who did that recently and we received an unexpected £20.00

SPRINGTIME in MALHAM

Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March 2027, 4 nights

Accommodation will be at Newfield Hall country house which sits on the southern edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

4 nights on full board basis with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast as well as packed lunch (on the three full days).

Walks will be led by HF guides and there will be a choice of 3 different walks each day to cater for all abilities.

The Southern Yorkshire Dales sets the bar high for knockout views and natural wonders.

Prices:
Single Room: £ 622.50

Double or twin room : £602.50 per person

Deposit £175 per person, payable asap as this will secure your booking.

Bank Reference: **Malham**

If you would like a price for a non walker, please contact Marion

AUTUMN in the PEAK DISTRICT

Monday 30th August - Friday 3rd September 2027

Accommodation will be at the Lee Wood Hotel which is HF's new 43 bedroom Georgian house in Buxton.

4 nights on full board basis with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast as well as packed lunch (on the three full days).

Walks will be led by HF guides and there will be a choice of 3 different walks each day to cater for all abilities.

Prices:
Single Room: £765

Double or twin room: £745 per person

This holiday has proven to be very popular with our members and 18 members have already signed up.

Please contact Marion if you would like her to check additional availability with HF or to join the waiting list.

Merry Christmas Lunch ~ Wednesday 16th December

We will be holding our Christmas lunch at Caversham Golf Club, Chazey Heath, Reading RG4 7UT on Wednesday 16th December 2026 followed by 'The Thinking Rambler's Quiz'.
We hope you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you there.

Pre-lunch drinks will be served in the bar at 12.30. Lunch will be served at 1.00pm.

The lunch consists of 2 or 3 courses, followed by coffee/tea and mince pies.
The cost for 2 courses is £29.50 and £35.50 for 3 courses. This includes coffee and mini mince pie.

If you have any questions regarding the lunch/menu, please contact

Marion Hodgson on 07785 244 661 or email marion.bh.hodgson@gmail.com.

Please also notify Marion of any dietary requirements or allergies in advance.

Please make your choices from the menu below and enter the keywords (shown in bold text) of your choice on the booking form found on page 7 (eg **Cocktail, Turkey, Sticky Toffee**) and send the completed form, with your cheque made payable to **Reading Rambling Club**, to:
Marion Hodgson, 55 Radstock Lane Earley, Reading RG6 5UL by 30th **November** at the latest please.
Bookings may also be made electronically, online payment reference **XMAS**

To Start

Prawn & Brixham Crab **Cocktail,** Bloody Mary Sauce, Shredded Cos Lettuce, Pickled Cucumber, Warmed Soda Bread & Whipped Herby Lemon Butter. (*SHELLFISH | EGG | DAIRY | GLUTEN)*

Roasted Cauliflower, Truffle & Sauteed, Wild Mushroom **Soup**, Warmed Soda Bread & Whipped Butter (*GLUTEN | DAIRY)*

Homemade Chicken Liver **Parfait**, Apple Chutney, Pickles & Toasted Sour Dough (*GLUTEN | DAIRY | EGG | SULPHITES)*

Deep Fried Goats **Cheese**, Marinated Heritage Beetroot, Watercress Salad & Caversham Hot Honey Dressing (*GLUTEN | DAIRY | EGG | MUSTARD)*

To Follow

Garden Herb & Lemon Roasted **Turkey** Breast, Cranberry, Sausage Meat Stuffed Turkey Leg, Pigs In Blankets, Cauliflower & Parsnip Puree, Honey Roasted Carrots, Sauteed Brussels Sprouts, Cornish Roasted Potatoes & Gravy *(DAIRY)*

Slow Cooked **Beef** Cheek & Shin Roulade, Mustard Whipped Potatoes, Crispy Kale Roasted Carrot & Red Wine Jus *(DAIRY | SULPHITES)*

Roasted **Salmon**, New Potatoes, Wilted Spinach, Slow Roasted Tomatoes, Brown Shrimp, Salmon Roe & Chive Butter Sauce *(FISH | DAIRY | SHELLFISH)*

Butternut **Squash**, Spinach Pithivier, Potato Fondant, Charred Broccoli & Wild Mushroom Sauce *(GLUTEN | DAIRY | EGG)*

To Finish

Homemade Festive Spiced **S**ticky Toffee **Pudding,** Toffee Sauce & Salted Caramel Ice Cream *(GLUTEN | EGG | DAIRY | SULPHITES)*

Burnt Basque **Cheesecake**, Mulled Wine Coulis, Blackberries & Chantilly Cream *(DAIRY | SULPHITES | EGG)*

Chocolate & Orange **Mousse,** Chantilly Cream & Seasonal Berries *(DAIRY | EGG | SOYA)*

Cheese, Quince Jelly, Chutney, Grapes & Water Biscuits *(DAIRY | EGG | SOYA | GLUTEN)*

Complimentary mince pies tea and coffee

Tessa Grimsdale

Tessa will be best remembered by members for organising walking holidays abroad for our members. I went on three of these holidays: Port de Sóller on Mallorca in 1996, Puerto de la Cruz on Tenerife in 1998 and Port de Polença on Mallorca in 2001. The groups were up to about 16, which made for very friendly, enjoyable and memorable weeks.

Tessa and her husband, Henry, had been to these walking areas previously so were familiar with many of the routes as well as transport arrangements, including multi-journey tickets on the buses, needed to get to the start and from the end of the daily walks. The hotel in Puerto de la Cruz was chosen as it was next to the bus station. In Port de Polença Henry had arranged for us to hire cars for the week.



Tessa & Henry in Barranco de Tahodio, Mallorca, 1998.

The success of these weeks lay very much in Tessa's organising and leading skills, for which we were very grateful.

Tessa also led many local walks. She will particularly be remembered for her walks each year in Windsor Great Park. She knew exactly where, and more importantly when, the Royal party would transfer from motor vehicles to open-top carriages for the procession to the Royal Ascot races, and would arrange the lunch-stop accordingly.

Rex Dixon



Group shot from Tenerife: Tessa pictured 5th from right.

Annual AGM

This year the venue for the AGM has been changed to The Memorial Hall in Purley on Thames. This is a ground floor venue with ample parking. The No. 16 bus route also runs to within a short walk of the Venue.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob and Christine for their support in setting up and organising refreshments for many years.

If anyone would like to volunteer help for these duties on the day please contact Hilary or any other committee member.

Tom's 'Happening'

There was a great turn out from Reading Ramblers for Tom's 'Happening' at Lime Square on 26th July. The event turned out to be Tom's 90th birthday and we all had a great time helping him celebrate.



Walks General Information

PRE-WALK CHECK LIST

- Walk details – check start time, location and estimated distance from the walks programme. Take a note of the walk leader's mobile phone number in case you need to contact them.·Leader's phone must be charged up and ON ready to receive such calls.
- Make a final check of walk details on the website if available.
- Parking – Leaders Identify/locate car park accurately. Is it free of charge? - if not, expected fee.
- Car share – consider if you can share a car with other members.
- Clothing – take adequate warm or waterproof clothing for the forecast weather conditions. You are likely to be out of doors for several hours
- Food – you are advised to carry some food and drink. On Wednesday walks there is usually a stop for a picnic lunch along the way. A packed lunch is recommended for longer weekend walks.
- Footwear – good boots help to prevent slipping and give support to the ankles.

WALKS START LOCATIONS

The location of walk start points are given as Postcode, Grid Reference and What3Words.

To use the postcode with a satnav app:
Click on the postcode. Google maps opens directly. The link to Google maps now provides the exact location of the start of the walk.

If you enter the postcode manually into a satnav app, please be aware that postcodes cover a significant area especially outside of built up areas and will not necessarily lead exactly to the walk start point.

To use the what3words codes with a satnav app:
Click on the what3words for the walk. What 3Words webpage opens. Select "Navigate"
Select your preferred satnav app

Programme of Walks October - December 2026

Important Notice

After the recent fall of a member leading to first aid administration, it is suggested that members carry essential first aid supplies. All walkers should carry a few essentials such as antiseptic & bandages/dressings, painkillers such as paracetamol plus their own personal medication. It should not be put upon walks leaders nor should leaders be required to have first aid qualification .

Sun October 4th - Warburg & Crocker End 5 to 6 miles. Meet 10.00 am Warburg Nature Reserve car park, at end of rough lane past Bix Bottom RG9 6BL SU721879 spinning.wager.snacks Picnic lunch at the end. *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671.*

Wed October 7th - Streatley & Ridgeway, 5½ miles. Meet 10:30 Warren Farm, Rectory Road, Streatley. RG8 9QE SU566812 nozzles.scouted.executive. Walk via the Ridgeway path to Aldworth church . Return via Kiddington Cottage. Map and Route *Chris Jones 07754 699 160 Pam Johnson 07985 470 651*

Sat October 10th - Thames and teas, 8½ miles. Meet 10:00am in lay-by on A329 near old Fairmile Hospital site, Cholsey. OX10 9FP, SU599863, titles.lyricism.snacks Walk along a bit of the Thames Path to Moulsford, Lollingdon Hill, Aston Tirrold and Cholsey church. Optional visit to the Ox Shed café at the end. *Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C 07587 852 659.*

Wed October 14th - Bagshot and Swinley Forest 6.5 miles. Meet 10:30 Bagshot at car park off High Street between Co-Op and King's Arms. GU19 5AY SU822794 lottery.fastening.drop Walk out of Bagshot and into Swinley Forest. Bring lunch Map and Route *Dave Edelman 07821 539 265.*

Sun October 18th - Peppard 5.5 miles. Meet 10:00 Peppard Common. RG9 5JU SU709818 shine.verb.crate. Parking near Red Lion PH or around the green on the other side of the B481. Walk via Gallowstree Common and Sonning Common. Map and Route *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862.*

Wed October 21st - Dorchester 6.5 miles. Meet 10:30 at free parking at Bridge End, Dorchester. OX10 7JP SU578940 jetliner.operating.easels A field and river walk starting at Dorchester, travelling through Long Wittenham and winding back along the Thames. Two stiles. Dorchester is a lovely historic town. A good place to have lunch after the walk and look around. *Tina Gusterson 07473 822 206.*

Sun October 25th - The Ridgeway 9 miles. Meet 10:00 am Compton. Turn by Compton Swan Pub - Junction of Wallingford Rd & Hockham Rd RG20 6QQ SU521801 heartburn.shows.robots 9 miles up and along the ridgeway. *Tom Harrison 07483 227 836.*

Wed October 28th - Peppard, 6 miles. Meet 10:30am Peppard Common. RG9 5LB SU709818, computers.spits.notices Parking near Red Lion PH or around the green on the other side of the B481. Walk via Wyfold Wood, Kingwood Common and Great Bottom Wood.
Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C 07587 852 659.

Wed November 4th - Wokefield Common 5 miles. Meet 10.30 Mortimer Car Park opposite Horse and Groom Pub. RG7 3RD SU655645 loses.transfers.vouch Woodland walk via Wokefield Common.
Hilary Dewey 07747 047 078.

Sun November 8th- Burnham Beeches 8 miles. Meet 10.00 am large car park road end East Burnham Common. SL2 3LB SU956850 income.news.drew. Littleworth Common, Berghers Hill, Hedgerley back through Burnham Beeches. Hopefully autumn colours. Picnic lunch en route and cafe at end
Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671.

Wed November 11th - Pishill and Stonor 6 Miles. Meet 10:30 am Pishill Church car park off B480 RG9 6HH SU726898 leotard.pesky.bakers Walk via Maidensgrove, Stonor Park and Turville Heath. No stiles but some good, sometimes lengthy, hills, not least in Stonor Park itself. Potential for spotting deer. Bring packed lunch. *Ann-Marie Melville, Kerry Gordon 07377148 896.*

Sun November 15th -Crazies Hill 7.5 miles. Meet 10.00am in The Horns pub car park. RG108LY SU800809 sway.coins.gather Ramble along Penny's Lane to Upper Culham Farm and the Thames Path, return via Frogmill Farm and Warren Row. *Dave Sayer 07972 580 232.*

Wed November 18th - Wargrave 6 miles. Meet 10:30 Shool Lane car park Wagrave. RG10 8DX SU787785 lotteries.frowns.replied Walk takes you past East Lodge onto Crouch End. Past Worsley Farm, Crazies Hill, Village Hall onto Bowsey Hill. *John Cahill 07842 307 741 Tina Gusterson 07473 822 206.*

Sat November 21st -3 Gates and a Toastie, 7 miles. Meet 10:00am Nettlebed Kiln. RG9 5AX, SU702868, otters.completed.driver. Walk via Park Corner, Park Wood, Hayden Lane and Howberrywood visiting 3 Club Gates finishing with a toastie (optional) at The Cheese Shed. *Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C 07587 852 659.*

Wed November 25th - Sonning Common 6 miles. Meet 10:30 Old Thatched Cottage on Bird in Hand Lane (half way down from P.H.), Sonning Common. RG4 9NS SU722788 vets.remaining.basics. Walk Crowsley Park, Old Place Farm and Frieze Farm Map and Route
Chris Jones 07754 699 160 Pam Johnson 07985 470 65.

Sun November 29th - Three Chiltern Villages 7 miles. Meet 10.00 am The Fox Ibstone. HP14 3XT SU751939 contracting.bubbles.elevator. Park carefully on road or in pub car park. Walk through three lovely villages, Ibstone, Turville and Fingest, a little hilly, bring picnic lunch, possible drinks in pub at end. *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 & Martin Eatough 07400 373 671.*

Wed December 2nd - Eversley – Heath Warren 5.5 miles. Meet 10:30 Eversley St. Mary's church. RG27 0PX, SU779609 hacksaw.also.strides. Walk through Warren Heath, Heath Warren and Bramshill plantation. Bring lunch Map and Route *Dave Edelman 07821 539 265.*

Sat December 5th - Whitchurch and Mapleduram 8.25 miles. Meet 10:00 Pangbourne Recreation Ground. Free parking. RG8 7JT SU639767 melon.wants.latter Go over Whitchurch Bridge, turn right and pass a vineyard. We continue past Hardwick Stud farm, Bottom farm, Mapleduram and part Chilton Way. We then drop back down to Whitchurch and cross over bridge to Pangbourne.
John Cahill 07842 307 741.

Wed December 9th - Mortimer 5 miles. Meet 10:30 am Mortimer Village car park. RG7 3RD SU655646 salads.shed.loser Warm mulled wine and mince pies to warm up for Christmas - then a 5 mile walk over Wokefield Common. *Tom Harrison 07483 227 836.*

Weds 16th December ~ Merry Christmas Lunch

Wed December 23rd - Mapledurham 5 Miles. Meet 10:30 at south entrance to Mapledurham Recreation Ground on Chazey Road. RG4 7DU SU697754 chief.late.twigs Walk through Chazey Wood and Park Wood to the Church at Mapledurham and back. Walk will include hills some quite steep. Bring lunch. *Kerry Gordon 07377 148 896.*

Sun December 27th - Peppard Common 8 miles. Meet 10.00am at the Red Lion car park. RG9 5LB SU709818, computers.spits.notices Ramble down Dog Lane to Rotherfield Greys, through Lambridge Woods to Henley and return via Highlands Farm and Kent's Hill. *Dave Sayer 07972 580 232.*

Wed December 30th - Pamber Forest 5 miles. Meet 10:30 Pamber Forest car park. RG26 3EQ SU616621 rewarded.deriving.window. 5 miles through Pamber Forest, Silchester Common and Benyon's Enclosure. Map and Route *Hilary Dewey 07747 047 078.*

Andy Watson has set up a WhatsApp group to advise on walks changes.*'RRC Walk updates'* is open to everyone. To join please send a message to Andy on 07759 002 333.

Booking Form

Merry Christmas Lunch

at Caversham Golf Club – Wednesday 16th December 2025

Cost £29.50 2 courses, £35.50 3 courses.

Post to: Marion Hodgson, 55 Radstock Lane, Earley, Reading, RG6 5UL
or Email to: marion.bh.hodgson@gmail.com

Name: ……. ……..…… …..…… Tel: ……..……

Address / Email: ……..……..…….. Mob: ……..……

Please reserve ……..… places for the above.

I enclose cheque for £ ..... payable to **Reading Rambling Club by 30th November** please.

For online payment: (Sort code 089299 A/C No. 65274075) use ref: XMAS.

Menu Choices

Make your choice from the menu on page 3 and enter your choices (bold keyword) below.

(e.g. **Soup, Turkey** and **Pudding**). For two courses just leave one column blank.

Name	Starter	Main	Dessert