

READING RAMBLING CLUB

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

Spring 2025

Chat from the chair

It's good that we are all busy enjoying our walks because in January a new asteroid named YR24 was spotted heading our way, it's 100 metres in diameter and travelling at 38.000 mph with a 1.2% chance of wiping us all out on 22nd December 2032. Then in March that likelihood was increased to 2.4%. With a further revision it seems that it has a 20% chance of hitting the Moon. That will make it tricky for all those romantic lyric writers who love to rhyme Moon with Spoon, Croon and June. So Colin and I will be digging our anti-Putin bomb shelter a bit deeper even if it does mess up our daffodils.

As you will have heard, this is my last year as Chairman of our beloved Club. If I might offer a word of advice to your new Chair, the secret of my success is sincerity. Once you can fake that effectively you've made it.

Soon we shall be aboard our Red Funnel steamer trying to avoid scraping The Needles and heading for the Club's Spring trip to the Isle of Wight. I must remember to pack my Mae West just in case.

Looking forward to seeing all those happy smiling faces that mark out our Club.

Tom Harrison,
Chairman.

In this Issue:

Front Cover
Chat from the chair
Note from the
Membership secretary

**An Antarctic
Adventure.** Page 2



**Holidays
& Events 2025** Page 3

**Walks - General
Information.** Page 4

**Programme of walks -
April - June 2025**
Pages 4 - 6

**Summary of AGM -
January- 2025** Pages 7 - 8

Please send walk offers
for next quarter to
Dave Edelman
david.edelman51@gmail.com
Before 30th May 2024
Please send articles or
snippets for inclusion in the
next issue to Di Story
distory1@gmail.com
Before 9th June

From the Membership Secretary - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The annual subscription was due on 1st March. Thank you to all those who have renewed.

Subs for 1st March 2025 to end February 2026 are £10.00 per person

If you have not yet renewed please do so now by cheque sent to me
(email readingrambling@gmail.com for details) or by Bank Transfer.

To pay on line use Reading Rambling Club, Business account, Sort Code 08 92 99, Account 65274075,
include the online payment reference SUBS

You will not receive further Newsletters if your subscription is not renewed.

I do hope you will continue to be part of Reading Rambling Club.

Jane

An Antarctic Adventure

November 2024

The Club AGM in January gave me the chance to show some slides from my recent cruise to the Antarctic and Falkland Islands. The 'Roald Amundsen' is a medium sized hybrid ship of the Norwegian Hurtigruten line carrying up to 500 passengers and 160 crew. We boarded from the southern most tip of Argentina at Ushuaia. It is a two day sail across the open, often rough Drake Passage, though calm for us to the first sight of land.

Cooped up on a ship? – never: each morning the open bow area was where we congregated to watch for birds and wildlife. But first putting on the layers of clothes took a while. Thermal leggings, Rohan fleece lined winter bags, waterproof over trousers; then thermal vests, 2 base layer tops, fleece jumper, duvet jacket, windproof jacket; buff neck band over mouth,

gloves & mittens, woolly hat and hood up.

All for sunny, fine, calm weather but travelling at 12 knots at -10C.



Floating frozen pancake ice flows appeared on the second day then huge towers of tabular ice that had come from land glaciers. In sunshine they glistened and shone white and blue. The ship sailed close and then we got closer during the trips out in the Zodiac inflatable boats – 6 of us perched on each side, bouncing along. Quite exciting! The ice flows bob around and did come close up to challenge the crews to find a way back to the ship. Dolphins joined in with us too.



We visited 4 different landing sites and enjoyed blustery walks for a couple of hours each time on snow, lava, or rock to viewpoints and penguin colonies. The crew were efficient and helpful getting us ashore in slippery and wet conditions. It was adventurous fun but felt safe. Towering cliffs of black rock were everywhere – so dramatic with glaciers above.

We also visited 4 different Falkland Islands and were able to walk several miles over really bleak windy hills to see penguin and, most spectacular Albatross colonies. Apart from walks on land each day the ship had a 150m circuit and outdoor gym on the open top deck for runners or

in my case walker to get some fresh air. Then a dip in the jacuzzi, relax in the sauna or sit in 10 Forward bar (yes, same as in Star Trek Enterprise) was available.

Great trip!! I hope you enjoyed hearing about it.

Jane Sellwood

Club Holidays & Events for 2025

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

Online bookings: Send Marion an email stating Name, email address, phone number and booking request. (along with any additional information e.g. special dietary requirements)

Please pay deposits and balances by online banking: Sort Code 08 92 99, Account 65274075,

The club would prefer all bookings to be done by email and electronic payments.

If you prefer paper forms and/or paper cheques please send these to the Holiday Coordinators home address. If you are unsure of postal address please contact Marion on the phone number above.

SPRINGTIME on the ISLE OF WIGHT

Tuesday 1st April to Saturday 5th April 2025 - 4 nights

Accommodation will be at the Freshwater Bay House, owned and run by Holiday Fellowship.
4 nights on full board basis with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast and Packed Lunches (on the 3 Full Days)

Price £429 pp. Supplement for Premium rooms £20 pppn Superior room £25 pppn
Price does not include travel/ferry across to the island but transport sharing possible.

Last minute bookings may still be available on request. Please contact Marion

AUTUMN in CUMBRIA and the YORKSHIRE DALES Monday 13th to Friday 17th October 2025 - 4 nights

Price Drop

Accommodation will be in the historic Thorns Hall, a Grade 2 listed Manor House with an interesting history just outside the Cumbrian market town of Sedburgh, famous for its cobbled streets, school and bookshops. (England's book town 2003) and the Fairfield Mill craft and heritage centre. The house is owned and run by Holiday Fellowship. 4 nights on full board basis with dinner, bed and hearty Breakfast plus packed lunches on 3 days. Walks in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Howgill Fells and local areas will be led by HF leaders with a choice of easy to harder grades. Optional evening entertainment after dinner.
Non walking partners or friends are welcome.



SUMMER EVENT



We hope you will be able to join us for our summer lunch which will be held on
Wednesday 23rd July at 12.30pm at The Highwayman Inn, Exlade Street

Watch this space for further details

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.

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

To use the **postcode** with a satnav app:

1. Click on the postcode. Google maps opens directly. The link to Google maps now provides the exact location of the start of the walk.
2. 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:

1. Click on the what3words for the walk. What 3Words webpage opens.
2. Select "Navigate"
3. Select your preferred satnav app

To use the **grid reference** with a satnav app:

1. Click on the grid reference for the walk. Streetmap opens showing the start point.
2. At the bottom of the map, find the text "Click here to convert coordinates"
3. Click on the word "here". A list of alternatives is displayed
4. Copy the numbers from the line "Lat, Long (WGS84)"
5. Paste the text into Google maps

Programme of Walks April - June 2025

Wed 2nd April Pamber Forest, 5 miles. Meet 10.30 a.m. Pamber Forest car park [RG26 3EQ SU616621 rewarded.deriving.window](#). 5 miles through Pamber Forest, Silchester Common and Benyon's Enclosure. Bring packed lunch. *Dave Edelman 01189 876 268 or 07821 539265*

Wed 9th April - Crowsley Grange/Park, 5-6 miles. Meet 10.30 a.m. near Old Thatched Cottage / Bishopsland Cottage, Bird in Hand Lane, Sonning Common. [RG4 9NS, SU721787, stand.grounding.sooner](#). 5-6 mile walk: Crowsley Grange / Park, King's Farm Lane, Morgan's Wood. Bring packed lunch. *Christabel Winny 01189 264 134 or (on day only) 07514 354500.*

Wed 16th April - Meet 10.30 at Sulham Woods car park. [RG8 8EE SU648745, drew.speeds.admits.](#) Please arrive early if possible and park compactly. It is quite a small car park. Alternative parking available on Long Lane at Vicarage Wood SU654745 about a 10-15 minute walk away. Please let me know if you park here and need help getting to the meeting point. Walk through Sulham Woods, down Kiln Lane, Little Heath, Vicarage Wood, Mosshall Wood, down along the River Pang to Tidmarsh, and back up through Sulham Woods. Packed lunch stop on way. Walk will include hills some quite steep, and would it surprise you, the possibility of some mud depending on the weather.

Phil Sweeney 07808 721551 (walk lead by Bontsi the Labrador)

Sat 19th April - Bluebells and Hills, 9½ miles. Meet 10:00am Ewelme car park, [OX10 6PG, SU648911, nowadays.blurs.wool.](#) Walk via Ewelme Park, Park Wood (hopefully bluebells) and Cow Common. Bring lunch with a possible visit to the Maker Space cafe en route.

Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C (on day only) 07587 852 659.

Wed 23rd April - Greenham Common canal walk, 4.9 miles. Meet at 10:30am, control tower carpark. [RG19 8BZ SU499650 strut.booth.scars](#) Walk via Kennet & Avon Canal, Crookham and Greenham commons. There is a café at the watch tower or bring food. *Sook Rees 07854 896 014*

Sat 26th April - Stonor Valley – Possibly Bluebells. 7 ½ miles. Meet 10.00 am Warburg Nature Reserve car park. [RG9 6BL SU721879 spinning.wager.snacks](#) Walk via Maidensgrove, Pishill, Turville Heath, skirting around Stonor House. Picnic lunch en route.

Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671

Wed 30th April - Knowle Hill - 5 miles. Meet 10.30am at Knowle Hill lay-by. [RG10 9UR SU822794 pigment.baguette.primed](#) Walk North to Lot Wood and along the Chiltern Way to Warren Row - Stop for Coffee & cake at the Velo Life cafe - then return. *Tom Harrison - 07483 227 836*

Sat 3rd May - Upper Bucklebury and Frilsham 7.5 Miles Approx. Meet 10.00 at car park on Fannys Lane in Bucklebury Common (from the east drive straight through Upper Bucklebury straight on at crossroads with Briff Lane/Harts Hill Rd signposted for Cold Ash, and Fannys Lane is the next right - Car park is about 500 yards up the road on the left [RG7 6SS SU534693, bracelet.rebounded.abandons](#) Fairly flat walk across the common to The Slade, up to Brockhurst School, and Frilsham. Down to Bucklebury and Bucklebury Farm back across the common to return to car park. Packed lunch stop on way (no seats provided!). I might be able to guarantee some mud depending on the weather.

Phil Sweeney 07808 721 551 (walk lead by Bontsi the Labrador)

Wed 7th May - Hannington 6¼ miles approx. Meet at White Hill car park 10:30. [RG25 3EJ SU516565 moved.ended.direction](#) (additional parking in lay by opposite). Walk via Walkeridge Farm, North Oakley, Manor Farm, Hannington, Cottingtons Hill and Stubbington Down. Walk will include some quite steep hills, no stiles. Bring lunch. *Chris Jones 07754 699 160 Pam Johnson 07985 470 651*

Sat 10th May - Peppard Common 8-8.5 miles. Meet at 1030 at car parking area at Peppard Common, by the crossroads of Stoke Row Road and Gallowstree Road [RG9 5JA SU704813 sprains.mash.valley](#) The mostly flat 8-8.5 mile walk is through mixed countryside. Bring a packed lunch. *Josefina 07378 404 716*

Wed 14th May - Scottish Rhododendrons, 6½ miles. Meet 10:30am Peppard Common, [RG9 5JU](#), [SU709818](#), [shine.verb.crate](#). Parking near Red Lion PH or around the green on the other side of the B481. An undulating walk via Bromsden Farm, Merrimoles, Scotland (not the Highlands but hopefully rhododendrons) and Satwell.

Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C (on day only) 07587 852 659.

Wed 21st May - Stanford Dingley circular, 5.5 miles. Meet 10:30am St. Denys Church. [RG7 6LS](#) [SU575716](#) [shoelaces.pads.promise](#). Walk via Rushall Manor Farm, Greathouse walk, Bradfield village and River Pang. Or the opposite direction. Can be muddy. Bring food. *Sook Rees 07854 896 014*

Sun 25th May - Bucklebury Common, 6.5 miles. Meet 10:00am Bucklebury Common - car park approximately 150 yards east of crossroads, on right coming from Chapel Row [RG7 6RP](#), [SU557691](#), [reserving.alas.teams](#). Walk via Midgham, Upper Woolhampton and Chapel Row. Hopefully not too much mud. *Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C (on day only) 07587 852 659.*

Wed 28th May - Swyncombe House and Ewelme Park 6 Miles Approx. Meet 10.30 at [Swyncombe church](#). [RG9 6EA](#) [SU682902](#), [eyelashes.worms.lilac](#) Park opposite the church. Walk through fields and woods via Ewelme Park. Packed lunch stop on way. Some steep hills, and I might be able to guarantee some mud depending on the weather. *Phil Sweeney 07808 721 551 (walk lead by Bontsi the Labrador)*

Sat 31st May - Hailey & King William IV Pub 7 ½ miles. Meet 10.00 am King William IV Pub in top car park. [OX10 6AD](#) [SU642858](#) [clinchier.cutaway.carver](#). Walk via Ipsden, Well Place and Ipsden Heath. Bring lunch and /or pub at the end. *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671*

Wed 4th June - Boveney - 5 miles. Meet 10.30am at car park. [SL4 6QQ](#) [SU939777](#) [sage.strong.stuck](#). Walk across the Thames Flood Plain - (scene of our underwater paddle a while back) - to Eton with a pause for coffee and cake in Windsor - Return along the towpath to Boveney lock. *Tom Harrison - 07483 227 836*

Sun 8th June - Compton - 7 miles. Meet 10am - Turn by pub Junction of Wallingford Rd & Hockham Rd. [RG20 6QR](#) [SU521801](#) [remedy.stability.sector](#). Walk up to and along The Ridgeway at a gentle pace and return. *Tom Harrison - 07483 227 836*

Wed 11th June - Mapledurham - 6 miles. Meet 10am - Mapledurham playing fields. [RG4 7BX](#) [SU699758](#) [verge.rated.vent](#). A 6 mile circular walk into farmland and woodlands of the southern Chilterns. We are walking through Tinker's Green, Tokers Green and Hemdean Bottom. A fairly flat walk into farmland, muddy in places. Please bring a packed lunch. *John Cahill 07842 307 742 Tina Gusterson 07473 822 206*

Sun 22nd June - Cadmore End 5 to 6 miles. Meet 10.00 am car park opposite school. [HP14 3PE](#) [SU782928](#) [unite.thuds.natively](#). Walk in Chiltern Hills via Turville, Fingest and back to Cadmore End. Bring lunch. *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671*

Wed 25th June - Ashford Hill and Baughurst 5 miles. Meet 10.30 am car park Chapel Lane. Drive slowly as Chapel Lane turning is easily missed [RG19 8BU](#) [SU555621](#) [detriment.deflection.mobile](#). Walk through woodland and open country to Baughurst. Return via Haughurst Hill and Ashford Hill National Nature Reserve. *Dave Edelman 01189 876 268 or 07821 539 265.*

Summary of AGM Minutes - Saturday 18th January 2025

31 names & signatures were recorded on the Attendance Register now held by the secretaries.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Tom welcomed new members a number of whom have been leading walks. He announced that this is the Club's 95th year and since it is his 9th year in the chair he was giving 12 months' notice for someone new to be appointed.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received on behalf of Hilary Dewey (moving house), Pauline & Tim Humphries, Jacky Brown, Joyce Childs and Janet Busby.

3. Minutes of last AGM

For chairman's signature if accepted by attenders :

Jane proposed, Marion seconded, no dissenters; Tom signed.

4. Matters Arising – none.

5. Walks Coordinator's Report

Dave said in 2024 there had been 91 offers of walks, 45 on Wednesdays and 43 at weekends, 3 walks were cancelled due to bad weather. Plans for next quarter April to June appear on the website, offers to lead invited please. Jane asked whether the RRC Standard Walks Library was being used? Yes, said Dave, I use it (!) and so do others. Leaders could help by giving Dave numbers after completing a walk which would give a bit more useful detail for his reports.

6. Holiday Coordinator's Report

Hilary's report was given by Marion who recommended our holidays based on her own recent enjoyment and general approval by others. The next holiday is already well supported 20 members are booked.

April 1-4 2025 Spring Holiday: Isle of Wight, Freshwater Bay, Holiday Fellowship (HF) house. Car sharing strongly recommended to share high cost of ferry. Discounts available to HF members. Late applications for places are still possible.

October Holiday: Cumbria, another HF house, for details check Newsletter. £75 deposit due.

Tina added her support including the fact that these trips enable us to mix with other walkers as well as each other. RRC has also picked up new members in this way. Vyv James also mentioned other points about HF holidays including the HF walking options such as Fully Guided and Tread Lightly (i.e. no transport pollution but walking between the HF house and the walk start-point). Most members preferred the Fully Guided option though more expensive.

On display at the meeting was some 'preloved' walking apparel supplied by Hilary, with an honesty box to receive donations to the Berkshire Vision charity.

7. Treasurer's Report

Marion handed out copies for inspection. Sally asked whether it had been reviewed independently and Jane confirmed that it had. The slight loss was explained by the difficulty of dealing with HF administration staff over one particular booking complication where HF refused to accept responsibility so the Club had to cover the cost. Hilary was complimented, not for the first time, on her flexibility and resilience in dealing with the holiday arrangements and HF admin. in particular. Marion as treasurer is taking over as Holiday Coordinator with help from Di Story with effect from after the Spring holiday. Thanks to Hilary for all her hard work.

Membership Subscription: Marion indicated that it should be raised to a round £10 for two reasons: no change required for cash payments and banks do not readily accept cash any more, also to cover a general price increase. Proposed and seconded by Bob Hurn and Jane Sellwood.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

Jane reported 97 current members including 17 life members. There were 11 non-renewals in 2024 including 1 sad death, most of the others just gave up walking. There were 9 new members so membership while not growing remains at a steady level as before.

Jane invited us to watch a presentation after the break showing her recent Antarctic Expedition holiday including the Falkland Islands, which looked cold but was warmly received. We now know a lot more about penguin varieties and types of ice, were reminded that it was Amundsen of Norway who got to the South pole first and Colin Cottell is planning to visit the same part of the earth soon.

9. Newsletter Editor's Report

Di said everything was going well and repeated Jane's point that the website is our primary portal, paperwork has almost completely disappeared. Please supply some interesting material to Di to add in, it need not be directly to do with walking.

10. Website Report

Vyv confirmed everything was going well. Mainly looked after by himself, Di & Dave. We used to be no. 1 but there are many more sites now.

11. Election of Officers and committee members

Current committee have agreed to continue in office. Tom Harrison Chairman, Marion Hodgson Treasurer, Jane Sellwood Membership Secretary, Sally Sinclair-Webb and Martin Eatough Joint Secretaries, Di Story Newsletter Editor, Dave Edelman Walks Coordinator, Vyv James Website, Marion Hodgson Holiday Coordinator, Hilary Dewey Committee Member. This was put to the vote and accepted. Tom reiterated that this would be his last year as Chairman.

12. Motions of which notice has been give.

None.

13. Any other business

None