

READING RAMBLING CLUB

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

Spring 2026



Chat from the (new) chair

Firstly, I would like to give a huge "Thankyou"

to Tom for his Chairmanship over the past 9 or 10 years. That is quite a few committee meetings and "Chats from the Chair". I am sure we have all enjoyed his entertaining wit and humour. His Chairmanship of our Club will be a hard Act to follow. Tom joined the club in 1971 so has been an active member for 55 years, leading numerous and varied club walks and activities. We are also proud of his running achievements, his fundraising for Help the Aged, and his general Bonhomie.

We are sad too that Vyv James has also retired from our Committee. Vyv stepped up to take the role of Treasurer for the Club at the same time as Tom took on the Chairmanship. He has made a huge contribution as Treasurer and has Masterminded the Website as well as leading

numerous walks often ending at a pub which might or might not be open - such are the uncertainties of planning ahead. Vyv has also been an active member of the Chiltern Society, helping to keep our footpaths and gates in good order.

Our Club holiday to St Ives is getting closer so 20 of us will soon be packing our shorts and sunhats in anticipation of glorious spring weather and an abundance of primroses and Cornish scones with lots of jam under a good dollop of cream. The write up for our last trip to St Ives in September 2019 was headed "wet, wet, wet" and it was. Surely, we have had our quota this winter of rain, flooded paths and "mud, mud, mud".

Thankyou to all walk leaders for filling almost all the Wednesday and Weekend walks programme so we have a lot to look forward to.

Happy Rambling
Hilary

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To offer a walk for the next program, please use the online booking system by clicking 'Book a walk for the next program' on the home page of the club website or email rrc.walks.coordinator@gmail.com Before 31st May 2026

Please send articles for inclusion in the next issue to Di Story distory1@gmail.com Before 1st June 2026

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Dear member,

Your renewal was due March 1 (unless you are a Life Member). I hope you are planning to re-join Reading Rambling Club this year and join us on our walks.

The website www.readingramblingclub.com has all the up to date details of walks, events and holidays.

If your details have not changed you do not need to fill in another form just send me a cheque for £10 made out to Reading Rambling Club.

Alternatively pay £10 by bank transfer Reading Rambling Club, Business account,

Sort Code 08 92 99, Account 65274075, reference SUBS.

Send me a self addressed stamped envelope if you would like a Membership card.

You will not receive another Newsletter unless your subscription is paid.

Regards, Jane,

Membership Secretary

17 Adwell Drive Lower Earley, Reading RG6 4JY

Club Holidays & Events 2026

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.

Derwent Bank, Northern Lake District 14th September 2026 to 18th September 2026

Accommodation will be at the Derwent Bank country house located on the shores of Derwent water run by Holiday Fellowship.

4 nights on full board basis with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast and Packed Lunches (on the 3 Full Days)

Walks will be led by the knowledgeable HF guides and there will be a choice of 3 different walks each day to cater for all abilities. The Northern Lake District is brimming with breathtaking scenery and glorious trails.

Price £685 per person

3 Guided walks

Non Walkers Price £584 per person

Deposit £75 per person, payable asap as this will secure your booking.

Bank Reference: Derwent

Although our allocation is full there may still be places available - Please contact Marion as soon as possible if interested.

Watch this space for 2027 holidays and news of forthcoming events
Summer Lunch Wednesday 22nd July - Save the date!



Photo accredited to [Richard Bell](#) on [Unsplash](#)

MUDDY BOOTS WALK ON

Mud is here, mud is there
Under boots, everywhere.
Deep in places filling holes
Doughy stuff stuck to our soles.

Yet it's here we'd rather be
Better than watching that T.V.
Over stiles and through gates we go,
Over villages – gone long ago.

Turn around and see the view
Some sheep run, some stare at you.
Warwick's fields are brown and green.
All this makes a lovely scene.
Leader tells us of times past,
Knowledge that he hopes will last.
Outside is the place to be – then
Kick off our boots and time for tea.

Babbs Mill Bard

Written following Lost Villages
walk November 2008

(Sent in by Robert Hurn)

"RRC's Own Heroine"

"Long term members may be interested to know a memorial plaque to Freda Holland will be installed during redevelopment of the Dellwood Maternity home in Liebenrood Road.

In 1954 a fire broke out at the maternity home and Freda went into the burning ward several times and rescued 15 babies for which she was awarded the George Cross. We only learned of her heroism at her funeral, she never spoke of it during her time as a member of RRC."

Extract from the Telegraph 07 January 2010 (edited)

Then a nursing sister aged 41, Freda Holland and a colleague were on night duty at the Dellwood nursing home in Reading, Berkshire, when the fire broke out in the early hours of Easter Sunday, April 18.

The infants – none more than nine days old – were lying in their cots when Sister Holland, making a routine check at 3.55am, opened the door of the first-floor night nursery and found it full of smoke. "There were flames in one corner of the room," reported The Daily Telegraph. "Two of the cots were on fire and the bedding was smouldering."

Clasping a handkerchief over her face, Freda Holland dashed into the nursery and seized the nearest baby, who had been born six hours earlier, from his blazing cot – only to see the child die in her arms.

Undaunted, she turned back into the flames, beating them away with her nurse's cap, and managed to scoop up all 14 remaining babies from their cribs, one by one, passing them to her colleague, 28-year-old Sister Margaret Thomas, who was standing in the doorway.

In the course of the rescue, Freda Holland was badly burned on her face and arms and was choking on the dense, black smoke. "So thick were the smoke clouds in which Sister Holland had worked," the Telegraph noted, "that firemen had to use breathing apparatus."

As she lifted the last child clear, Freda Holland collapsed in a coma. She was treated at a nearby hospital for severe burns and the effects of smoke inhalation.



A member of the committee has recently been contacted by a celebrant, who is very impressed by the Henley-on-Thames Woodland Burial Ground and would like to make our members aware of it and the beautiful tranquil setting. A visit could possibly be included for anyone interested or added in to a walk. The link is [Henley-On-Thames Natural Burial Ground - Leedam Natural Burials](#)



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

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

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

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.

Programme of Walks April - June 2026

Wed April 1st - Circular Nettlebed walk. 7.5 miles. Meet 10:30am Park on The Green, a quiet road near the Old Kiln [RG9 5AX SU702868](#) [developer.instilled.grumbles](#) In part walking along the Ridgeway and the Chilton Way. Towards end of walk a stop for refreshments is planned at The Cheese Shed about half a mile from the start of the walk. *Tina Gusterson 07473 822 206.*

Sat April 4th - Wokefield to Calleva via St James Way returning via Mortimer West End. 8 miles. Meet 10.00 at Wokefield Common Car Park south of Burghfield Common. [RG7 3AY SU653661](#) [boost.linen.needed](#) No 2 bus stops at Tesco – 5 mins walk way. Details on request. Approx 8 miles. Bring packed lunch. *Hilary Dewey 07747 047 078.*

Wed April 8th - Greenham Common 5 miles. Meet 10.30am at car park [RG19 8DB SU498651](#)
[ranked.visit.rang](#) Walk around The Common with a visit to the Control Tower Museum and Cafe.
Tom Harrison 07483 227 836.

Sun April 12th-A bit of old Berks, 8 miles. Meet 10.00am Moulsoford car park A329 [OX10 9HS SU590838](#)
[expensive.risk.kilowatt](#) Ramble across the Cholsey Downs to The Fair Mile then Chalk Hill Bottom to
Aston Tirrold, return via Lollington Hill. Bring lunch. *Dave Sayer 07972 580 232.*

Wed April 15th - Bluebell Time, 6 miles. Meet 10:30am Nuffield church, [RG9 5SR](#), [SU668873](#),
[sunflower.smashes.link](#) (please make donation to church for parking). Walk via Hayden Farm, Club
Gates, Park Wood (hopefully bluebells) and Ewelme Park with the option to visit the Maker Space cafe
near the end of the walk.
Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C 07587 852 659.

Sat April 18th - Henley – Possibly Bluebells, 8 miles. Meet 10.00 am Dry Leas Long Stay Car Park
Henley (charges apply) [RG9 2JJ SU760831](#) [worth.unfair.photocopy](#) Walk via Rotherfield Greys. Picnic
lunch en route. *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671.*

Wed April 22nd - Emmer Green circular walk, 5 miles. Meet at Ann-Marie's house [RG4 8LS SU714763](#)
[wipes.puzzle.studio](#) Emmer Green circular walk taking in old Reading golf club and Bugs Bottom. The
walk will start at Ann-Marie's house and everybody will be welcome for refreshments
afterwards. Parking in Bellingham Walk Access road. *Ann-Marie Melville 07939 078 310.*

Sat April 25th - Bluebells and Hills, 9½ miles. Meet 10:00am Ewelme car park, [OX10 6PG](#), [SU648912](#),
[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 07587 852 659.

Wed April 29th - Frilsham to Bucklebury Common, 6.5 miles. Meet at 10:30am at The Pot Kiln Car Park
[RG180XX SU552730](#) [ramming.mega.culling](#) Snack break along the way and sandwiches or pub lunch at
the end (text me if you want to be on a booked table). *Vyv James 07771 877 456.*

Sun May 3rd - Whitchurch Hill, 7 miles. Meet 10.00am Whitchurch Hill recreation ground [RG8 7NY](#)
[SU638788](#) [reclusive.foster.cakes](#) Ramble via Path Hill, Whitchurch, Lower Hartslock Wood, Cold
Harbour and Hill Bottom. Coffee stop overlooking Goring Gap. *Dave Sayer 07972 580 232.*

Wed May 6th - 5.5 miles. Meet 10:30am Stanford Dingley church, [RG7 6LS SU575716](#)
[shoelaces.pads.promise](#) Walk via Rushall Manor Farm, Bradfield village and River Pang. [Map and Route](#)
Sook Rees 07854 896 014.

Sat May 9th- Hailey & King William IV Pub 7 ½ miles. Meet 10.00 am King William IV Pub Park in top
car park. [OX10 6AD SU642858](#) [clincher.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 May 13th - Hannington 6 1/4 miles. Meet 10:30am White Hill car park, [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. [Map and Route](#)
Chris Jones 07754 699 160 Pam Johnson 07985 470 651.

Sun May 17th - Clumps and Ancestors, 8 miles. Meet 10:00am Wittenham Clumps car park [OX10 0QX](#),
[SU567924](#), [dream.backpacks.classed](#) Walk via The Clumps, Little Wittenham Wood, Mackney and
Brightwell cum Sotwell with lunch stop en route.
Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C 07587 852 659.

Wed May 20th - Midgham & Bucklebury Common 5.5 miles. Meet 10:30 am Blade Bone PH, Chapel Row [RG7 6PD](#) [SU570696](#) [blunders.tolerable.brick](#) Walk to Kiff Green, Midgham Green, Midgham Park, Bucklebury Common. Bring lunch or Pub and Cafe at end. [Map and Route](#)
Dave Edelman 01189 876 268 or 07821 539 265.

Sat May 23rd - The Commons of Bucklebury 7 miles. Meet at 10:00am at The Bladebone Inn Chapel Row. [RG7 6PD](#), [SU571696](#), [blunders.tolerable.brick](#) Limited parking outside pub or next to Cafe. Snack break along the way and either cafe or refreshments at pub at the end (no bookings have been made).
Vyv James 07771 877 456

Wed May 27th - Stanford Dingley, 6 miles. Meet 10:30 The Bull Inn at Stanford Dingley [RG7 6LS](#) [SU576715](#) [install.amending.hurt](#). A walk taking Scratchface Lane, Greathouse Walk, Bradfield College and River Pang. [Map and Route](#) *Pam Johnson 07985 470 651.*

Sun May 31st - Marlow 9 miles. Meet 10.00am at Quarry Wood Road on the South side of Marlow Bridge [SL7 1RE](#) [SU851859](#) [geese.breaches.topmost](#) Walk up into The Chiltern Hills returning along the Thames towpath to take tea in Marlow. 9 miles at an octogenarian pace. *Tom Harrison 07483 227 836.*

Wed June 3rd - Goring 5 miles. Start 10:30am Goring car park rear of the Catherine Wheel. [RG8 9HB](#), [SU599806](#), [cabbage.magnum.irrigate](#) Walk through Hartslock reserve, Great Chalk Wood and Little Meadow Nature reserve. We also go under Brunel's fine railway viaduct. We return along the river Thames to Goring. *John Cahill 07842 307 741.*

Sun June 7th - Hungerford and Kintbury. 7 miles. Meet 10:30am Central Hungerford railway bridge, west side. [RG17 0NL](#), [SU337685](#) [dean.risk.crouches](#) There is free on road parking around the town. Nearby railway station car park currently £2.30 a day. Train journey 30mins from Reading. A circular walk taking in the Kennet and Avon canal via Kintbury, Hungerford Common and Hungerford town. Bring a packed lunch. Plenty of hostelrys as we return to Hungerford town.
Pauline Humphries 07768 923 841.

Wed June 10th - Warburg & Crocker End 5 to 6 miles. Meet 10.30 am Warburg Nature Reserve car park [RG9 6BL](#) [SU721879](#) [spinning.wager.snacks](#) Bring picnic lunch at end.
Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671.

Wed June 17th - River Kennet and Sulhamstead Bannister. 6.5 miles. Meet 10:30 Wigmore Lane Theale Reading [RG7 5BJ](#) [SU633703](#) [makes.smiles.festivity](#) Walk along waterways and lakes of the lower Kennet Water Park, through farmland and meadows around Sulhamstead [Map and Route](#)
John Cahill 07842 307 741.

Sun June 21st - Arborfield Bearwood Combes 4.5 miles. Meet at 10 car park Swallowfield Road between The Bull and Henry Street garden centre. [RG2 9PU](#) [SU759669](#) [elect.crew.videos](#) Walk along Cole lane then taking in views of Bearwood golf course and lake down to pass Barkham Manor through The Coombes back to start. *Terry 07956 511 252.*

Wed June 24th - Pangbourne/Purley Circular 5 miles. Meet 10:30 Pangbourne Recreation Ground. [RG8 7BY](#) [SU637766](#) [clean.score.faces](#) . Walk through Pangbourne to Sulham, through the woods down to Purley and along the Thames back to Pangbourne. Bring lunch or partake of lunch in one of the many Pangbourne pubs and cafés. *Di Story 07711 847 121.*

Sun June 28th - West Ilsley 6.5 miles. Meet 10:00 The Harrow pub in West Ilsley [RG20 7AT](#) [SU470825](#) [poems.revised.sped](#) Please park carefully on road opposite the pub at side of cricket field. A 6.5 mile walk primarily on Ridgeway. [Map and Route](#) *Vyv James 07771 877 456.*

MINUTES OF THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 2026

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

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

In the absence of the outgoing chairman Tom Harrison the chair was taken by the chairman-elect Hilary Dewey who began by saying she had been put forward by the committee to take on the position for one year. This was proposed by Tina Gusterton and seconded by Bob Hurn.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received on behalf of Tom Harrison, Colin Cottell, Jacky Brown, Joyce Childs, Janet Busby and Jennifer Beasley.

Apologies for late arrival were received from Sally Sinclair-Webb, Martin Eatough, Jane Sellwood, Tim and Pauline Humphries due to traffic problems.

3. Minutes of last AGM

No comments. Proposed by Vyv James and seconded by Gill Ewart.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Walks Coordinator's Report

Dave reported 90 walks offered. 50 Wednesday average no 11 and 40 weekend average no 6. Four cancelled due to weather etc. The walks library is building well so there is plenty for leaders to choose from. The online booking system also seems to be working well. It was pointed out, by Bob Hurn that Streetmap has now disappeared from the internet. Nobody knows why this has happened or if it will come back. Dave is looking into replacement applications.

6. Holiday Coordinator's Report

Marion said the club had organised two holidays this year – Spring in the Isle of Wight and Autumn in Sedbergh. 23 members booked for the Isle of Wight. The hotel was overlooking Freshwater Bay and there was a good choice of walks despite recent landslides. Also places of interest e.g. Osborne House. The holiday in Sedbergh was well supported 18 members enjoyed a variety of walks including castles and a guided tour of the historic Hollins House by the owner who was trying to prove the house was open to the public to avoid death duties. Both holidays enjoyed good weather.

Two holidays are planned for this year St Ives in mid March and Derwent Bank in the Lake District for the autumn.

7. Treasurer's Report

Marion handed out copies for inspection. The club made a good profit this year on the two holidays and this was offset by just under £650 contribution to the summer lunch which was enjoyed by 36 members. Subscriptions were slightly down. Insurance provider changed as Zurich had increased their charges. Total assets healthy. We did have an outstanding HF payment for St Ives but this has now been settled.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

Jane Sellwood reported that the club currently has 83 members, of which 20/21 are Life Members so £10 annual subscription is waived for them; nevertheless some life members kindly make a donation to help with club expenses. Life membership criteria are minimum age 75 plus 20 years continuous membership: this is recorded in the Standing Orders. A few newish members joined temporarily and have since left.

Sadly of course we recently lost Peter Dewey.

So the membership is stable at 80-90, lower than in the past but slowly growing from a trickle of new recruits thanks largely to the website. Walks leaders should encourage new walkers to join up and Jane welcomes subscriptions to be paid electronically via the Bankers Automated Clearing System (BACS) but cash and even cheques are acceptable - names added to Jane's hard copy list filled in by people at the meeting, helps to keep everything under control.

Changes of members' details e.g. phone numbers, addresses must be given to Jane or whoever is the current Membership Secretary uniquely responsible for the maintenance and safeguarding of RRC membership data.

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 James reported that the Website continues to develop as the key club communication process. Where Bob Hurn previously stepped down Dave Edelman stepped up and provides great understanding of the processes.

Each item in the Walks Library includes maps and GPX files and startpoint data as UK Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference and postcode to guide drivers to the right area plus what3words to pinpoint the exact spot.

11. Election of Officers and committee members

The Chairman having explained the reasons for changing Nominees:

Tom Harrison standing down as Chairman in favour of Hilary Dewey

Vyv James standing down as Committee Member but N.B. Vyv retains special website responsibility in co-operation with Dave Edelman and the external webmaster.

John Cahill joining as Committee Member.

AGM 2026 COMMITTEE NOMINEES

POST	NOMINEE	POST	NOMINEE
Chairman	Hilary Dewey	Walks Coordinator	Dave Edelman
Joint Secretary	Sally Sinclair-Webb	Holiday Coordinator	Marion Hodgson
Joint Secretary	Martin Eatough	Newsletter Editor	Di Story
Treasurer	Marion Hodgson	Committee Member	John Cahill
Membership Secretary	Jane Sellwood		

Bob Hurn suggested we simplify the election by a block proposer and seconder before the vote. This was agreed.

PROPOSER: Andy Watson **SECONDER:** Pam Johnson, Anne-Marie Melville

12. Motions of which notice has been given

Bob Hurn raised the following:

In the event of a severe weather warning being issued by the met office, the leader of any walk scheduled for that date may choose to cancel that walk, members should contact the leader to check if the walk is going ahead. This was agreed.

13. Any other business

Pam proposed WhatsApp group and offered to setup. Gill said others outside the group should contact leader to verify cancellation. This should be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Data Protection not an issue said Jane because you're volunteering just your phone number in that case and other similar cases.

Hilary acknowledged long-standing membership:

1972 Christabel - and will still lead!

1977 Tom - and will still lead!

Thanks to Marion for covering 3 jobs: Treasurer, Holiday Coordinator & Events like Summer & Xmas lunches

Thanks to Bob & Christine Hurn for 8 years AGM venue & catering – **will someone else please?**

On display at the meeting was some 'preloved' walking apparel donated by members. Two holidays are planned for this year St Ives at the end of March and Derwent Bank in the Lake District for the autumn.