

READING RAMBLING CLUB

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

Summer 2024

Chat from the chair

Don't panic! After our training exercise at Dolgellau our Home Guard unit has now followed up with a very successful first seaborne landing on the Isle of Wight, achieved with not a solitary casualty. (Although I hear that the enemy complained about being told to shut-up and move chairs.)

It's good that we are enjoying our walks because in January a new asteroid named YR24 was spotted heading our way, it's one hundred metres in diameter and travelling at 38,000mph with a 1.2% chance of wiping us all out for Christmas 2032. Then in June that likelihood was doubled to 2.4%. So Colin and I will be digging our anti-Putin trench a bit deeper even if it does mess up the hydrangeas.

The Control Tower at Greenham Common together with the Velo Life cafe in Warren Row are now running neck & neck for our Club's coveted "Best coffee & cake 2025" award, well done guys.

Our October trip to Sedburgh beckons, squeezed under the Howgill Fells this is where Charlotte Bronte went to school and the town rivals Hay-on-Wye for second-hand bookshops, so keep an eye out for some bargains.

As you will have heard, this is my last year as Chairman of our beloved Club. If I can 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.

Happy Summer rambling.

Tom Harrison, Chairman.

In this Issue:

Front Cover
Chat from the chair
Snippets & Ramblings

Holiday report -
Isle of White Page 2 - 3



Holidays 2026 Page 3



Chy Morvah, St Ives

Summer Events Page 4

Remembering
Nicky Sayer Page 5

Walks - General
Information. Page 6

Programme of walks -
July - September 2025
Pages 7 - 9

Summer Lunch
booking form Page 10



Snippets & Ramblings

All Ki(l)tted out

Our treasurer and events organiser recently took part in the Glasgow Kilt walk, a charity walk of just over 22 miles. Marion walked with her sister and niece and together they raised over £800 for the British Heart Foundation, in memory of a close friend.

Please send walk offers
for next quarter to
Dave Edelman

rrc.walks.coordinator@gmail.com

Before 1st September 2025

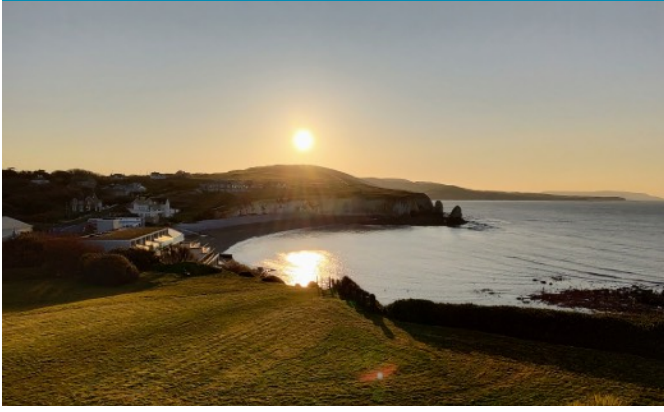
Please send articles for inclusion
in the next issue to

Di Story

distory1@gmail.com

Before 7th September

Isle of Wight - April 2025



Morning view from the hotel: photo by Sook Rhys



The Needles: photo by Robert Hurn

Twenty two intrepid RRC members set out across a sparkling Solent to enjoy a 4 night holiday on the Isle of Wight. We were blessed with clear blue sky's and sunshine for most of our stay at the Freshwater Bay hotel. Only the brisk sea breeze reminded us that it was April in England.

The hotel was in a delightful spot overlooking the gorgeous Freshwater bay with panoramic views over the Channel. A short local walk was arranged on day 1 to

introduce us to the delights of the immediate neighbourhood. Dimbola museum and art gallery was next door and it's rumoured that Lord Tennyson sneaked out to Dimbola from his nearby estate when the constant stream of visitors there overwhelmed him! The village also houses St Agnes Church, a rare thatched church, the only one on the island.

We had three fabulous days walking. Three guided walks of varying lengths were offered each day. Suitable clothing was a hot topic for discussion given it was beautifully sunny but very windy at times and cool in the shade.

For such a small island (23x13 miles) members experienced a variety of terrain and glorious scenery on all walks. Recent landslides on the coastal paths forced some rerouting of programmed walks but it didn't spoil things.

Over the 9 various walks we took in the many sights of western IoW. We

saw Fort Victoria, Colwell Bay, Totland, Alum Chine. The Old Battery and Needles with stunning views across the Solent to Dorset coastline including Henry VIII's Hurst Castle. There we learned about Palmerston's follies, built to provide national defences but where never used. Over Tennyson Down we went, part of the chalky backbone of the island with Tennyson's monument at its peak and nearby was Farringford the Tennyson family home. Some visited it's recently restored gardens. The old railway trail at Yarmouth provided a bird watching feast, and photo opportunities abounded in picturesque Calbourne with its ancient church and Winkle street, arguably the prettiest street on IoW. There was Mottistone Manor, a National Trust property, where I understand tea/coffee and cake were consumed (by some). Close by also the church of Saint Peter and Paul where actor Benedict Cumberbatch was married.



Group 2 at Worsley Monument: photo by Sook Rhys

Some walkers were fascinated to witness a lady driving past them with a parrot on her shoulder and Bob treated his group to a surprise rendition of 'Albert and the Lion' monologue during Friday's walk.

We were the only large group at the hotel but we mixed with many independent walkers including visitors from Canada and the USA. Walkers and non-walkers alike took time to visit the island's other towns and visitor attractions, Osborne House being a popular choice.

Evening's were 'quite' sedate, good service, a well stocked bar and excellent dinners eased

weary bones. Having exercised our bodies all day the HF guides, Karen, Mark and Steve ensured our brains also got a workout, challenging us with quizzes and table games in the evening. On Wednesday the quiz was in competition with all other HF sites. We made a good showing with a respectable 2nd .

Overall the trip was a triumph. Many thanks to Hilary, Marion and all those who put in the hard work organising. I hope everybody had as good a time as I did. It was my first with the club and I just can't wait for the next one.

Ann Marie Melville



The Needles: photo by Robert Hurn

Club Holidays for 2026

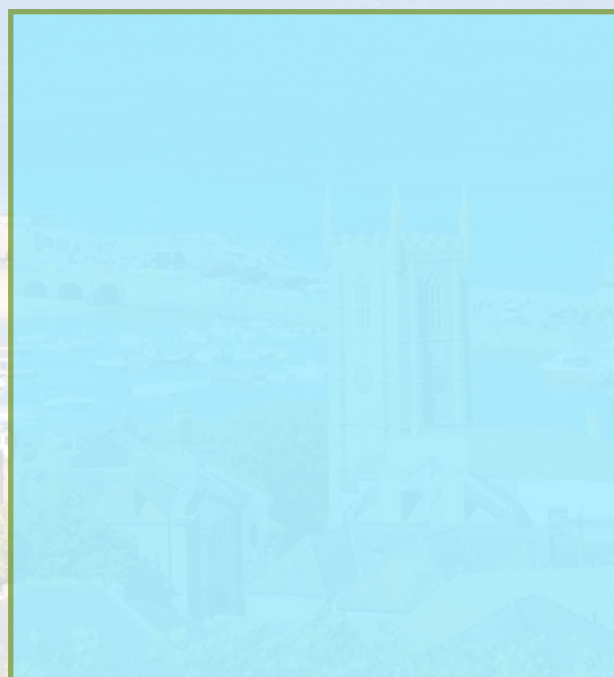
SPRINGTIME in St. IVES

Tuesday 17th March 2026 to Saturday 21st March 2026, 4 nights

Accommodation will be in the Holiday Fellowship country House, Chy Morvah. Chy Morvah means house by the sea in Cornish. It enjoys an elevated position with sweeping views over St Ives Bay. The property is just steps away from the town's cobbled streets and four great beaches. It is also a short drive to St Michael's Mount – the tidal island crowned by a medieval church and castle.

The price includes 4 nights on full board basis with dinner, bed and breakfast plus packed lunch on 3 days.

Walks will be led by HF leaders with a choice of easy to harder grades, enjoying a wealth of Cornish highlights. Optional evening entertainment after dinner.



New to Reading Rambling Club – Derwent Bank, Northern Lake District
14th September 2026 – 18th September 2026 (4 nights Guided Walking) £685.
Price for non walkers may also be available. More details to follow.

SUMMER EVENTS

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 at Exlade Street, Checkendon, RG8 0UA

**This year only, RRC will make a contribution to each member's lunch,
hence the bargain prices for your lunch.**

Choose either a 2 course lunch costing £11 or a 3 course lunch costing £15.

Gratuity will also be paid by RRC. Lunch must be pre-ordered.

Please make your choices from the menu below using the booking form on page 10 to confirm your place and menu selection, please either email Marion (marion.bh.hodgson@gmail.com) or give her a call on 07785 244 661. Payment can be made electronically or by cheque.

If paying electronically (Sort code 089299 A/C No. 65274075) use your name and **SUMMER** as a reference.

Payment by cheque made payable to Reading Rambling Club should be sent along with your menu choices to Marion's home address, please contact her for details.

Payment and Menu choices must be received by Wednesday 9th July.

***** PLEASE MAKE MARION AWARE OF ANY ALLERGIES *****

STARTER

Chicken liver **parfait**, red onion chutney and toasted bread

Crispy **calamari** with lime, chilli, coriander and mixed leaves

Highwayman creamy garlic **mushrooms** with homemade bread

MAINS

Steak & kidney **pie** with mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables

Pan fried seabass tenderstem broccoli, cornish new potatoes, moules mariniere sauce

Risotto, pesto, sundried tomatoes, asparagus, parmesan cheese, peas

PUDDINGS

Sticky toffee **pudding** with vanilla ice cream

Honeycomb **cheesecake**, caramelised banana

Selection of Purbeck's **ice creams** and sorbets (2 scoops)

Ramble + Barbecue in The Paddock on Wednesday 20th August

Moor Green Nature Reserve + BBQ in The Paddock. Meet 10.30am Moor Green car park, Finchampstead [RG40 3TE](http://www.stags.stiffly.swaps), SU805628, stags.stiffly.swaps. Walk over Finchampstead Ridges and then around Moor Green Nature Reserve. Then BBQ in The Paddock RG7 1BN - Please bring your own garden chairs (+table if you have one) - If you plan to join us it would be helpful if you could email Tom by 8th Aug to help with catering provisions, but if you haven't done so come anyway as we allow for a few extra folk. Tom Harrison - tom.harrison13w@btinternet.com - 01189 882 515 or 07483-227-836. BBO Chef Colin Cottell 07979 195 077

Remembering Nicky Sayer

Nichollette, or Nicky as most people knew her, was born on 20th June 1947, weighing in at only 3lb, she wasn't expected to live very long. Her parents GP bet them half a crown that she wouldn't survive. Against all the odds she pulled through with the spirit and determination that carried her throughout her life.

A first handwritten note from me, delivered by her brother (we had no phones), eventually lead to our marriage. We moved into our bungalow in Didcot where we stamped our mark with deep purple bedroom walls and Nicky's home made bright orange curtains! Sadly, she then became seriously ill with autoimmune hepatitis which began many years of treatment.

After moving to Reading Nicky worked for Berkshire County Council and she heard in her office that a May Day Fun Run was being held in Prospect Park. She came home and said she wanted to try it. Apparently I said she couldn't do it, you can probably guess the reaction that received! After borrowing a pair of black gym shoes, wearing an old t-shirt and a pair of flares, she completed the 1.5 mile jog finishing with a big smile on her face. She was hooked and we both joined the newly formed Reading Joggers.

Nicky got such a sense of well being from running she always said that *'running saved her life'*.

She went on to run the London Marathon 15 times, always getting a place through her *'good for age'* time. She also ran the first Reading half Marathon in 1983 and then every one until 2019, including one with her arm in a sling due to a fractured shoulder.

We joined RRC in 2007 and went on many club holidays over the years. Our favourite without doubt was in Northern Ireland on the Causeway Coast Way. We also did a number of long distance paths together in Scotland.

Nicky became one of the regulars and part of the Woodley Park Run family.. Eventually, when she couldn't run or walk she volunteered as a marshal. As long as she was part of the running scene she was more than happy. She carried on her marshalling role until winter set in and it became too much for her.

We bought an off road wheelchair so that I could push her through the woods in Clayfield Copse where all paths found their way to Loddon Brewery, always up for a chat with whoever we met on the way.



Nicky loved to talk about running. If it was a hot day she would recount the time she did the 80 mile South Downs run in 80 deg., if it was cold she would say how she nearly froze to death when it snowed heavily during the Newbury Marathon.

She found her place in life and leaves me with so many memories and stories of a life well lived. She's gone but not forgotten so, for now, lets remember her happy, smiley face.

Dave Sayer

My fondest memory of Nicky is, when on an RRC holiday to Whitby, she Dave and myself formed a splinter group. After a drink in a local micro brewery we walked into town where Nicky insisted, despite Dave's horror at the price, I should buy my world map walking boots. I remember her and smile whenever I put them on, cheers Nicky. Ed.



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 now 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. what3words 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 July - September 2025

Weds 2nd July - Midgham & Bucklebury Common - 5-6 miles. Meet 10.30 a.m. Blade Bone PH, Chapel Row [RG7 6PD SU570696](#) [resurgent.vampire.micro](#) Walk to Kiff Green, Midgham Green, Midgham Park, Bucklebury Common. Bring packed lunch. *Christabel Tel. 9264134 or on day only 07514 354500.*

Sun 6th July - Clayfield Copse 7½ miles approx. Meet 10:00 am at Clayfield Copse car park. [RG4 6QN SU725767](#) [mutual.hero.spray](#) Walk through Blackhouse Wood, Clayfield Copse, Crowsley Park, Binfield Heath, Dunsden Green. Packed lunch stop on way, possible stop at Loddon Valley brewery if it's open (beer coffee cakes burgers may be available). Walk will include hills, and would it surprise you the possibility of some mud depending on the weather.

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

Weds 9th July - Tea with "The Giants" - 6 miles. Meet 1:15pm (after lunch) Ashampstead [RG8 8RT SU565769](#), [encodes.replayed.yelled](#). Please park carefully round the green. Walk via Hartridge, Westridge Green, Aldworth (tea and cake at St. Mary's church) Fayley's Border and Bullard's Copse. *Robert and Christine Hurn 950 7696, mobs R 07810 364161, C (on day only) 07587 852659.*

Sat 12th July - Cowleaze Wood and Wormsley Valley 8 miles. Meet 10.00 am car park entrance to Cowleaze Wood, Christmas Common Road. [OX49 5HX](#), [SU725955](#), [compacts.captions.balance](#), [compacts.captions.balance](#). Walk through Cowleaze Wood to Northend, Christmas Common and back to Cowleaze Wood. Bring lunch. *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671*

Weds 16th July - Bagshot and Swinley Forest 6.5 miles. Meet 10:30 Bagshot at car park off High Street between Co-Op and King's Arms (£2.50/4 hours takes card and cash). [GU19 5AY SU822794](#) [lottery.fastening.drop](#). Walk out of Bagshot and around Swinley Forest. Some hills but none very steep. *Dave Edelman 01189 876 268 or 07821 539 265.*

Sat 19th July - Stoke Row 4.5 miles. Meet at 10.15 at the Cherry Tree Inn in Stoke Row . Park at the (temporarily closed) pub or on nearby roadsides. [RG9 5QA SU683840](#) [provoking.operated.strutting](#). Park at the (temporarily closed) pub or on nearby roadsides. The 4.5 mile walk is mainly through attractive mixed woodland with no steep gradients. Please bring a packed lunch - there will also be opportunity to make purchases at the prize-winning village bakery. *Josefina Brady 07378 404 716.*

Wed 23rd July - Summer Lunch (see page 4 for details)

Sun 27th July - Pangbourne 5 miles. 10:30 Pangbourne River Meadow Car Park. [RG8 7DP SU635767](#) [Niece.tigers.saves](#) Low charge by coins though can pay on an app, or, park elsewhere meet car park for start. Gentle climb from Pangbourne to Whitchurch Hill and on to Path Hill with glimpses of Thames. Back down to Whitchurch via Bottom Wood saying hello to Alpacas at Boze Down. Around 5 miles *Terry Brown 07956 511 252.*

Weds 30th July - Cane End 5 miles. Meet 10.30am Park Lane, Cane End. Park on verge. [RG4 9HP SU678799](#) [washable.jelly.prestige](#) By way of Hook End and Rumerhedge Farm returning through Withy Copse. Tom Harrison - 01189 882 515 or 07483 227 836.

Sat 2nd August Littlewick Green 6 miles. Meet 10:00 The Cricketers Pub Littlewick Green. [SL6 3RA](#) [SU839800](#) [reserving.fussed.infants](#) Park nearby or at north-east corner of the Green. Burchett's Green, Ashby Hill, Knowl Hill Bridleway circuit and back for a drink in the Cricketers and/or picnic lunch on the Green. *Pam Johnson 07985 470 651 and John Cahill 07842 307 741.*

Weds 6th August - Hambleden - 6 miles. Meet 10.30am at Hambleden Car Park. [RG9 6RP](#), [SU785865](#), [reply.sigh.dislodge](#). A loop North-East through The Chiltern Hills.
Tom Harrison - 01189 882 515 or 07483 227 836.

Sun 10th August - Blewbury Church Teas, 8½ miles. Meet 10:30am (note later time to fit with church teas) in Boham's Road car park, Blewbury, [OX11 9PE](#), [SU525855](#), [helpful.motivator.workforce](#), [helpful.motivator.workforce](#). Walk up to the downs, along a bit of The Ridgeway and down to Aston Tirrold finishing with tea and cake (optional) at St. Michael's church, Blewbury.
Robert and Christine Hurn 01189 507 696, mobs R 07810 364 161, C (on day only) 07587 852 659.

Weds 13th August - Southend Turville Fingest and Skirmett 6 Miles Approx. Meet 10.30 at Southend village green. [RG9 6JN](#), [SU752897](#), [firelight.sizing.trickled](#). Walk via Turville (up the hill to the windmill!), Fingest, and Skirmett. Packed lunch stop on way. Walk will include plenty of steep hills, and would it surprise you the possibility of some mud depending on the weather.
Phil Sweeney 07808 721 551 (walk lead by Bontsi the Labrador)

Sun 17th August - Hambleden Valley 7.5 miles. Meet 10.30 am (note start time) car park behind Stag & Huntsman charges apply [RG9 6RP](#), [SU785865](#), [reply.sigh.dislodge](#). Hambleden via Skirmett and Great Wood. Bring lunch. Possible cake and teas in church at the end.
Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671

Wednesday 20th August - Walk & Summer Barbecue

Moor Green Nature Reserve + BBQ in The Paddock. Meet 10.30am Moor Green car park, Finchampstead. [RG40 3TE](#), [SU805628](#), [stags.stiffly.swaps](#). Walk over Finchampstead Ridges and then around Moor Green Nature Reserve. Then BBQ in The Paddock RG7 1BN - Please bring your own garden chairs (+table if you have one) - If you plan to join us it would be helpful if you could email Tom by 8th Aug to help with catering provisions, but if you haven't done so come anyway as we allow for a few extra folk. *Tom Harrison - tom.harrison13w@btinternet.com - 01189 882 515 or 07483 227 836. BBQ Chef Colin Cottell 07979 195 077.*

Sun 24th August - Kintbury, 8½ miles. Meet 10.30 Kintbury station [RG17 9UN](#), [SU386672](#), [townhouse.remaking.coder](#). Walk to Titcom Farm/Manor, Inkpen, Balsdon Farm and High Trees to St Cassian's College. 8 1/2 miles. Bring packed lunch.
Christabel Winny 01189 264 134 or on day only 07514 354 500

Weds 27th August Sherfield-on-Loddon 5.5 miles. Meet 10:30 at car park on Church Lane, Sherfield-on-Loddon [RG27 0BB](#), [SU697580](#), [joystick.depth.smuggled](#). Walk through mixture of farm and woodland around Sherfield and Church End. Lunch stop on way.
Dave Edelman 01189 876 268 or 07821 539 265.

Sat 30th August - Around Cookham - 6.5 miles. Meet 10.30 am Cookham Station Car Park charges apply [SL6 9BP](#), [SU886850](#), [remedy.loudness.privately](#). Walk to Cookham Dean, Quarry Wood then along the Thames. Bring lunch. *Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671*

Weds 3rd September - Calcot Linear park and K&A canal - 6 miles. Meet 10:30am at Beansheaf Community Centre car park. [RG31 7AS, SU660715, found.basic.hits.](#) To Southcote Lock through the three Linear Parks and Circuit Lane and back along the Kennet Canal calling at the Cuning Man pub for lunch/ pint whatever. *Derek Pearce 07765 182 306.*

Sat 6th September - 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 Moulsoford (hopefully not flooded this time), 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 (on day only) 07587 852 659.

Weds 10th September - Cane End - 6 Miles. Meet 10:30 at Park Lane. Park on the verge before the paintball entrance. [RG4 9HP, SU 678 799 washable.jelly.prestige](#) Walk through fields and woods via Hook End and Wyfold Court. Bring lunch. *Sook Rees 07854 896 014.s*

Sun 14th September - 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

Weds 17th September - Henley 5-6 miles. Meet for 10.30 start steps of Henley on Thames Town Hall. [RG9 2AA, SU759826, Dispose.transcribes.clocking.](#) Walk up West street and around Friar Park gradually make our way to and through Badgemore Park Golf Club. Continue via Lambridge Wood (hopefully seeing the deer) descend to Fairmile Cemetery. Cross A4130 with care then gently ascend towards Great Hill following Oxfordshire Way back to A4130 and stroll along Bell street to start.
Terry Brown 07956 511 252

Sun 21st September - Hambledon 9 miles. - Meet 10.00 am Mill End Car park. [RG9 6TL, SU886850, approach.friends.processes.](#) Walk via Hambleden Lock, Aston, Cockpole Green, Remenham Hill and Aston. Picnic lunch en route.
Sally Sinclair-Webb 07890 361 862 and Martin Eatough 07400 373 671.

Weds 24th September - Goring, Elvendon Vally, Great Chalk Wood. 5.5miles. Meet 10.00 am Catherine Wheel Pub not far from the car park. [RG8 9HB, SU599806, braked.cluttered.pits.](#) Car park: [RG8 9HB, SU599806, cabbage.magnum.irrigate.](#) Walk the length of Lockstile Way and the take Chiltern way Extension. We go past Elvendon Priory some parts of the building date back to 15th century.
John Cahill 07842 307 741.



We need more leaders.

If you haven't led a walk before why not give it a go. There's whole library of walks on the website & plenty of people willing to help if you get stuck.

Please send walk offers for next quarter to Dave Edelman
rrc.walks.coordinator@gmail.com Before 1st September 2025

Reading Rambling Club Summer Lunch

Booking Form

Wednesday 23rd July at 12.30pm at the Highwayman Inn, Exlade Street, RG8 0UA.

Cost £11 for 2 courses or £15 for 3 courses.

Either email the details to marion.bh.hodgson@gmail.com or post to Marion's home address,
please contact her for details.

Name:

Tel:

Address / Email:

Please reserve places for the above.

I enclose cheque for £ payable to Reading Rambling Club by 10th July please.

For online payment: (Sort code 089299 A/C No. 65274075) use ref: your name and **SUMMER**.

Menu Choices

Make your choice from the menu provided on page 3 and enter your choices (**bold keyword**) below.
(e.g. **Parfait**, **Pie** and **Pudding**). For two courses just leave one column blank.

Please Print a copy for your own reference.

Name	Starter	Main	Dessert