

April 2026 Newsletter

Dear Members

The Programme for May-August is available to view/print on the website.

We have a very varied programme of walks for you, including London, the coast, a train ride, the cake walk and three evening walks, in conjunction with Rainara. These are on Friday evenings, and London walks are on Saturdays. The Walk Leaders have been working very hard! Some more complex walks state "see separate information" - this is below.

The **Cake Walk** form is also on the website, don't forget to fill it in if you want cake, and pass it to Lindsay - payment is preferably by BACS.

The **AGM** is on Monday 13th July, at the Howard Hall again, hope to see you there!

EXTRA WALK INFORMATION

Saturday 2nd May - London Walk part 1 - Chris Morris

Join me on a childhood trip along the sadly closed branch line to Crystal Palace. After meeting at Victoria we shall make our way to Wetherspoons for a coffee and toilet stop, whence we shall catch a bus to Denmark Hill to begin our journey. We shall set off along one of London's exclusive streets then on to walk through the gentrified suburbs of Peckham and on to East Dulwich then across Peckham Rye through the park to Nunhead. Soon after leaving the park we will stop at a very reasonable cafe for coffee. Food can also be purchased here if you don't wish to bring lunch. From here we will make our way to Brenchley Gardens. Here we will make the climb along good paths and steps to One Tree Hill for a lunch stop with a spectacular view of London. It can avoided but it is well worth the effort. We then rejoin the route of the old railway and then continue through Camberwell Old Cemetery and on through the suburbs to the back of Horniman Gardens, through the gardens to Hornimans Museum where you will have plenty of time to visit the museum which is free. Here we can catch the bus back to Victoria. The walk is 5 miles long and apart from the lunch stop the walk is fairly flat and all along hard surfaces so good trainers are suitable.

Train times are: Sittingbourne 8.15; Newington 8.20; Rainham 8.25; Gillingham 8.31; Chatham 8.35; Rochester 8.38. Meet at Victoria McDonalds by Wilton Road exit.

Bring train passes, bus passes, lunch.

Sunday 10th May - Chatham to Maidstone - Tricia Daniels

A linear walk from Chatham Station to Ringlestone, returning on bus 101.

OR park in Ringlestone and take the 101 bus to Chatham Station BEFORE the walk. Route via Taddington Valley, Podkin Meadow, Cobtree Manor Park (facilities). 2 snack/lunch stops. Terrain: roads, lanes, footpaths, riverside path. Easy walking, much on hard surfaces, but mud possible on footpaths and riverside path.

Saturday 13th June - London Walk part 2 - Chris Morris

Train times as for part 1. Details to follow nearer the date.

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Sunday 12th July - Margate - Susan Humphries

A linear coastal walk from Margate Station to Broadstairs stopping en route at the Captain Digby pub for a drink. You may wish to bring sandwiches as the pub can get very crowded on a Sunday. Train from Medway depart Rochester 08:57, Chatham 09:00, Gillingham 09:05, Rainham 09:10 and Sittingbourne: 09:17 arriving Margate 09:56 (subject to any engineering work) and return from Broadstairs Station. Susan will board the train at Rochester and will be in the last carriage. Alternatively you may wish to travel by car and park at Margate Station (APCOA car park is located on Station Approach postcode CT9 5AD. Sunday £4 - £3.50. Payment options include pay & display, cars, cash, contactless and mobile apps) or in surrounding roads. Return by bus (Thanet Loop) to Margate. Don't forget your bus pass. Mostly flat paths and pavements, a couple of hills approaching Broadstairs.

Sunday 26th July - Tenterden - David Turner

Starting point for the walk will be Tenterden Town Station. The railway has a free car park over the level crossing from the station. The train, scheduled to be steam, leaves at 10.20am, so we'll need to meet at the station entrance at 10am to allow time to get tickets, find seats etc. Due to the timing of the trains, it will be an all day walk, so suggest you bring lunch.

We'll be travelling over the full line to Bodiam. Tickets cost £33 for adults and £30 for over 60s, but can be bought online in advance (up to the day before) for £30 for adults or £26.50 for over 60s, so a chance to potentially save some money if anyone knows they're definitely coming. The tickets are valid for all day.

Our train gets in to Bodiam at 11.07. The walk will be a circular walk of about 6 miles with some woodland and field paths, some waterside paths and a little road walking. There will be some stiles and it may be muddy in places if the weather has been wet.

I'm hoping we get back to Bodiam in time to catch the 14.15 train, also scheduled to be steam, back to Tenterden. Unless we get back to Bodiam station early I'd suggest eating lunch on the train.

There is a small cafe, but a better selection of sandwiches can be bought at the buffet at Tenterden if needed. Toilets at both stations. Scheduled arrival time back at Tenterden is 15.03.

If anyone wants to make the most of their day ticket, there should be the opportunity to do another round trip to Bodiam and straight back to Tenterden. This would leave Tenterden at 15.40 and get back at 17.29, with a break of just under 20 minutes at Bodiam.

Saturday 22nd August - London Bridges West - Lindsay Floyd

You will need a return ticket to London Victoria. Train times are 08:15 from Sittingbourne, 08:25 from Rainham, 08:31 from Gillingham, 08:35 from Chatham and 08:38 from Rochester arriving Victoria 09:21(times to be confirmed). We will congregate near platforms 2/3, by McDonalds,

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before crossing the road to Wetherspoons for a coffee/toilet break, then catch a number 24 bus to Parliament Square before walking westwards along the Embankment, around the MI6 building, cross north over Vauxhall Bridge, along Grosvenor Road, cross south over Chelsea Bridge to reach Battersea Park following the river to Albert Bridge, past Chelsea Heliport, onto the Thames Path and pub (the Ship), following the Waterside Path to Smugglers Way, across the River Wandle, Bell Lane Creek before reaching Wandsworth Path and onto Deodar Road, then straight ahead to Fulham Railway Bridge which we cross to reach Putney Bridge Station. Tube back to Victoria. 6 bridges 7.2 miles.

Please do not forget rail cards, bus passes and a packed lunch as it is expensive to eat in London. It would be helpful if you could tell me which station you intend to travel from.

Useful 'phone numbers on the day:-

Lindsay Floyd 07743 702049

Chris Morris 07847 828249

If you have any queries beforehand you can contact me on lindsayandmarion@btinternet.com

In the event of bad weather, unplanned engineering works; etc the walk will be postponed to a later date.

THE END

Happy Walking
Leigh