

## Special Events in 2012

### Fri 23.3 – Weekend based in Ludlow Shropshire.

Sun 25.3 John Betjeman described Ludlow as "The most perfect town in England".

The town and castle are perched on a cliff above the River Teme in one of the most unspoilt parts of rural England and the countryside is perfect for walking. Ludlow offers a wide range of accommodation and is approximately 2.5 hours driving time from Bedford.

List of accommodation available and also online.  
Email: ludlow.tourism@shropshire.gov.uk or see [www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/ludlow](http://www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/ludlow).

Administration charge £10

Organiser: Barry Tel 01234 353704

### Sun 29.4 Coach trip to Aldeburgh

A days walking along the Suffolk Coast, including a visit to Minsmere nature reserve and historic Aldeburgh.

Starting near Leiston the morning walk (6 miles) will follow the Sandlings Walk before crossing the edge of The Minsmere Reserve to the coast. We will then follow the coast to lunch at Sizewell, with an option to rejoin the coach for an afternoon in Aldeburgh. The afternoon walk (5 miles) starts with a beach walk (depending on tides/weather) to Thorpeness followed by a trek along the old railway line into Aldeburgh. Time for fish & chips or a cup of tea before a 17.00 departure for home.

Distance 6 & 5 miles. Cost per head £18

Bedford Bus Station 7.30am

Biggleswade Market Square 8.00am

Deadline for booking is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

Organiser: Nick Tel 07803 125876 or e-mail: [ivramblers.nm@ntlworld.com](mailto:ivramblers.nm@ntlworld.com)

### Sun 17.6 Five Night Break at Alston in the North Pennines

– Fri 22.6

Enjoy a five night break based at Alston in the North Pennines, the highest market town in England. The walks will take in Cross Fell, Hadrian's Wall, High Force waterfall and the South Tyne Trail from its source to Haltwhistle. Easier alternative walks will be available.

Book your own B&B. Synopsis of walks and accommodation available on request from the leader or can be downloaded from the Ivel Valley website.

Administration charge £10 per head. Deadline for bookings 21 May 2012.

Organiser: Tony 01234 831388 or e-mail [tony.sheward@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.sheward@btinternet.com)

### Sun 7.10 Coach trip to Rochester

Rochester has been one of Britain's great cities for many centuries. It has a magnificent castle and the second oldest cathedral in the country.

Our trip offers walks along sections of the wonderful North Downs as we make our way to Rochester in time for some exploring and refreshment before heading home. More information in the summer programme.

Organiser: Barry Tel 01234 353704

## Officers and Committee

### Chairman:

David Stark Tel: 01234 350644  
Email: [chairman@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](mailto:chairman@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)

### Secretary:

Mary Carrington Tel: 01234 781220  
Email: [secretary@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)

### Treasurer:

Andy Nunn Tel: 01525 712297  
Email: [treasurer@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)

### Programme Secretary:

David Broughton Tel 01767 691750  
Email: [programme@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](mailto:programme@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)

### Publicity Officer:

Roger McLeod Tel: 01234 216639  
Email: [publicity@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](mailto:publicity@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)

### Footpath Officer:

Marcus Kilby Tel: 01462 812005

### Committee:

Eric Cartwright, Mary Morse, Nick Markham, Mike Tenwick.

Please make sure that you are fit enough to undertake the walk you intend to join. If you're unsure of your fitness level, try a short and easy walk first.

Most Ramblers' walks are off-road in rural areas. Please have suitable footwear and clothing for the walk you intend to join. Leaders may refuse to accept participants who in their opinion are inadequately equipped or unfit.

For your own and others' safety please read and abide by any advice and guidelines issued by the organisers, and the instructions of the walk leader. Though walking is inherently one of the safest outdoor activities, no activity is completely without risk and it is your responsibility to behave sensibly and to minimise the potential for accidents to occur.

If you wish to bring a dog on any walk, please contact the leader beforehand to check suitability.

Most daytime walks have a break for refreshments. Please also bring a packed lunch if out all day.

Please be aware that our walks always depart at the time stated.

Sunday walks are either: two half days, usually with a morning walk of 7 miles and an afternoon walk of about 5 miles; or one full day of 12+ miles; (ending about 4.00pm).

Wednesday morning walks are generally 6-7 miles, finishing by 1.00pm.

Weekday long walks are generally 9-12 miles, finishing mid afternoon.

Weekday ambles are short walks (5 miles or less) conducted at a leisurely pace and may be of particular interest to those new or returning to walking.

Summer Evening walks are usually about 4 miles (1.5 hours).

Leaders state in the programme if a walk is likely to differ appreciably from these guidelines.

If you have any questions about a particular walk, please contact the leader. For other enquiries about our club, please contact any committee member.

*The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 2nd Floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW.*



**ramblers**  
at the heart of walking

# Ivel Valley Walkers

Bedfordshire Area

## 2012 Spring Programme

### Happy New Year

This has been probably the driest Autumn I can remember since starting walking. To come home with dust on your boots, rather than thick clumps of mud, is a wonderful feeling in the depths of winter. Who knows if it will continue?

The converse of this, of course, is the damage being suffered by our flora and fauna; it is they that make walking in Bedfordshire so enjoyable.

This coming programme, we have all the usual Sunday walks, either full day or 2 half days, the Wednesday morning walks, and on alternate weeks, full day walks each Tuesday, and shorter ambles each Thursday. We also venture outside our area, this programme including London, and what I am really looking forward to: a ride on the new Cambridge guided bus system.

We have a weekend in Ludlow, how many of us really know Shropshire, and a coach trip to Aldeburgh, one of the most interesting coastlines in East Anglia.

Do come and join any of our walks, there is no need to book, but if you have any queries, please call the leader beforehand. We try very hard to be the friendliest walking group in the country, and look forward to welcoming you.

David Stark, Chairman

*P.S. for the latest update on any of our walks or events, please refer to [www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](http://www.ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)*

*If you would like to lead a walk on the next programme, or suggest a walk the Group could do, please contact [programme@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](mailto:programme@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk)*

Please consider helping Ivel Valley Walkers to reduce costs by receiving your programme by e-mail, or getting it from our website. Please e-mail [secretary@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ivelvalleywalkers.co.uk) if you could help us in this way.

For further information on 'the Ramblers'  
visit the web-site at '[www.ramblers.org.uk/](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/)'  
or Telephone: 020 7339 8500.

Remember to nominate Ivel Valley Walkers as your local group when you decide to take out membership.

### Ivel Valley Walks Programme: Spring 2012

- Sun 1.1 10:00am Totternhoe Knowls car park SP986217 8 miles. Sandra 01525 222676
- Wed 4.1 10:00am Aspley Woods car park SP925336 6 miles. A woodland walk circumnavigating the golf course on the Greensand Ridge. Ian 01462 812294 or 07866 389443
- Thu 5.1 10:00am **Weekday Amble round William / Wymondley.** Letchworth. Meet top of Howard Drive by shops. TL223309 4 miles. A few minutes from A1(M) Junc 9, off the 'longabout'. Julia 01462 672321
- Sun 8.1 10:00am **Hatley to Wimpole circular.** Hatley St George, High Street (Lay-by adjacent to sports field) TL283509 12.5 miles. Lunch at Wimpole, refreshments available (no pub). No dogs please. Pauline 01480 477188 & 07504 751554 (on the day only)
- Tue 10.1 10:00am Ringshall, Herts. Small car park on B4506, 500m south of the junction with the Ivinghoe Road SP982138 12 miles. A curtailed version of the Ashridge Estate Boundary trail. Ian 01462 812294
- Wed 11.1 10:00am Harlington Village Hall car park TL037304 6.5 miles. Stephanie 01234 840761
- Sun 15.1 10:00am & 1:45pm Amphill Park West car park TL024382 7 & 4 miles. Nick M. 07803 125876
- Wed 18.1 10:00am North Crawley Recreation Ground SP928447 6.5 miles. Brian 01234 823603
- Thu 19.1 10:00am **Weekday Amble.** Stagsden. Park carefully on road at SW end of village, away from houses. SP981488 4.5 miles. Brian 01234 823603
- Sun 22.1 10:00am Olney, Market Square SP889512 13.5 miles. Walk to Bozeat and back along the Three Shires Way. Roy 01234 301182
- Mon 23.1 7:45pm **Committee Meeting.**  
Host: Nick Markham Mobile: 07803 125876
- Tue 24.1 10:00am Grafham Water Visitor Centre (parking charge) TL167680 11 miles. Brian 01234 823603
- Wed 25.1 10:00am Hexton, near Raven PH TL106307 6 miles. Julia 01462 672321
- Sun 29.1 10:00am & 1:45pm Paxton Pits Visitors Centre TL195629 7 & 5 miles. Val C. 01480 218872
- Wed 1.2 10:00am Maulden, Church car park TL058380 6.5 miles. Carol 01582 882628
- Thu 2.2 10:00am **Weekday Amble.** Dunstable Downs - Chiltern Gateway Centre TL008194 4.5 miles. Car park charge (free to National Trust members). Carol 01582 882628
- Sun 5.2 10:00am **The antidote to Valentines Day.....** Flitwick Leisure Centre, Steppingley Road TL026355 10 miles. Barry 01234 353704
- Tue 7.2 10:00am Melbourn village centre car park TL383448 9 miles. Antony 01767 601969
- Wed 8.2 10:00am Turvey, Three Fyshes PH car park SP939523 6.5 miles. Mary C. 01234 781220
- Sun 12.2 10:00am & 1:45pm Pavenham Village Hall SP998556 7.5 & 5 miles. Morning walk to Felmersham beside the Ouse and afternoon to Carlton along the ridge. Roy 01234 301182

### Ivel Valley Walks Programme: Spring 2012

- Wed 15.2 10:00am Bedford, Priory Park Visitor Centre, off Barkers Lane TL072494 6.5 miles. A town and river walk from Priory Country Park. Nick W. 01234 210437
- Thu 16.2 10:00am **Weekday Amble.** Henlow Church. Park at end of Gardeners Lane (off High Street, north of Church). TL177387 4.5 miles. Hopefully snowdrops will be out. Mary M. 01462 700387
- Sun 19.2 10:00am Blunham, near Church TL153511 9 miles. David 01234 350644
- Tue 21.2 10:00am Willington. Grass verge near Dovecote TL106499 12 miles. Eric 01234 315181
- Wed 22.2 10:00am Wilstead. Car park in Whitworth Way TL066435 7 miles. Laurie 01525 403950
- Sun 26.2 10:00am & 1:45pm Hexton, park in main street TL106305 7 & 5 miles. Mike 01462 431032
- Wed 29.2 10:00am **The Cambridge Guided Bus.** St. Ives Park & Ride, off Meadow Lane (east of the A1096 (Harrison Way), PE27 4LG. Meet by bus stop. TL321707 7 miles. Catch the Stagecoach guided bus to Longstanton and walk back to the P&R via Swavesey & Fen Drayton. Use your bus pass, or obtain ticket at the machine (no change given). Stagecoach single fare to Longstanton £2.90 (currently). Antony 01767 601969
- Thu 1.3 10:00am **Weekday Amble.** Sharnbrook near church SP994596 4 miles. Park around The Drive / Church Lane. Mary C. 01234 781220
- Sun 4.3 10:00am Barton-Le-Clay, Old Road Recreation Ground TL083304 12 miles. Sandra 01525 222676
- Tue 6.3 10:00am **Biggleswade Orbital Route (BORE).** Dunton Church TL237442 12 miles. Park courteously around village. Eddie 01438 226590
- Wed 7.3 10:00am Little Brickhill. Park in road west end of village SP906326 7 miles. Laurie 01525 403950
- Sun 11.3 10:00am & 1:45pm Sutton, High Street near John O'Gaunt PH TL223473 7 & 5 miles. Please park considerately. Tony 01234 831388
- Wed 14.3 10:00am Westoning, near The Chequers PH TL032324 6.5 miles. Park carefully in village. Walkers having lunch in the pub may park in the car park. Stephanie 01234 840761
- Thu 15.3 10:00am **Weekday Amble.** Everton, near Thornton Arms TL202512 4.5 miles. Sheila 01480 392223
- Sun 18.3 10:00am Wimpole Hall car park TL338509 12 miles. Parking £2 (free to National Trust members) redeemable against café and shop purchases. Val C. 01480 218872
- Tue 20.3 10:00am Souldrop, near Bedford Arms PH SP986617 12 miles. Jim 01234 301948
- Wed 21.3 10:00am Potton, Brook End car park TL225491 6.5 miles. Marcus 01462 812005

#### Fri 23.3 to Weekend in Ludlow.

Sun 25.3 See overleaf for details. Barry 01234 353704

- Sun 25.3 10:00am **Morning walk.** Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, near Bridgewater Monument SP970130 7 miles. Sandra 01525 222676

### Ivel Valley Walks Programme: Spring 2012

- Wed 28.3 10:00am Dunsbridge Turnpike (NE of Melbourn, Cambs) by Green Man P.H. Just off A10, follow signs to Melbourn Science Park TL397467 6 miles. Antony 01767 601969
- Thu 29.3 10:00am **Weekday Amble.** Millbrook. Staples Garden Centre car park TL015378 4.5 miles. Route includes all diverted paths around new Center Parcs site. Bruce 01525 402885
- Sun 1.4 9:30am **North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail - Day 3.** Roxton. High Street, near Village Hall TL152545 13 miles. Day 3 of a 70 mile circular route devised by Gordon Edwards. Car share to take us to the start at Riseley. Roy 01234 301182
- Tue 3.4 10:00am Ashwell High St TL270398 12 miles. Near Cam Springs/Three Tuns. Roger and Sue 01234 823974
- Wed 4.4 10:00am Toddington Green TL009288 6.5 miles. Meet near Church. Marcus 01462 812005

#### Easter Walks

- Fri 6.4 8:30am **Good Friday. Brunel Way, Kensal Green to Hanwell.** Bedford Railway Station, TL041497 12 miles. To catch the 8:50 train (Flitwick 9:00). Cost for Group Save is £10.00 each for groups of 4 (2011 prices). Tony 01234 831388
- Sun 8.4 10:00am & 2:00pm **Easter Sunday.** Breachwood Green, Near Red Lion PH, (Near to Luton Airport) TL150220 7 & 5 miles. Mike 01462 431032
- Mon 9.4 9:15am **Easter Monday.** Amphill, meet at gates to the Alameda, Woburn Street TL034381 12 miles. For shared transport to Tring. Nick M. 07803 125876
- Wed 11.4 10:00am Stevenage, Norton Green (off A1072). TL229232 7 miles. Limited parking at Norton Green, park carefully in approach road. Marcus 01462 812005
- Thu 12.4 10:00am **Weekday Amble.** Old Warden Church car park TL136443 5 miles. Antony 01767 601969
- Sun 15.4 10:00am Hexton, park in main street TL106305 13 miles. Lynda K. 01234 740788
- Tue 17.4 10:00am Hudnall Common car park, St. Margarets Lane TL006128 12 miles. On Herts/Beds border, near Little Gaddesden. Marcus 01462 812005
- Wed 18.4 10:00am **Bluebell Walk.** Wootton. Park carefully on road near Chequers PH, Hall End Road TL001457 6.5 miles. Martin 01234 767876
- Sun 22.4 10:00am & 2:00pm Woburn, Car park opposite Church SP950332 7 & 5 miles. Marcus 01462 812005
- Wed 25.4 10:00am **Bluebell Walk.** Great Offley, near Red Lion PH TL146266 6 miles. Margaret 01582 564929
- Thu 26.4 10:00am **Bluebell Amble.** St. Pauls Warden. Car park behind Strathmore Arms PH off B651 TL192222 5 miles. Bluebells should be out in Hitch Wood. Margaret 01582 564929

#### Sun 29.4 Coach Trip to Aldeburgh.

7:30am Bedford Bus Station TL047498  
8:00am Biggleswade Market Square TL190446  
See overleaf for details. Nick M. 07803 125876