

June- August 2003

Ramble List & News

1930-2003

www.stfrancisramblers.org.uk

Dear Ramblers,

I would like to extend a big thank you to Mary Kapp for her kind donation of £50 to our Club. When Mary was on her first walk with the club on Good Friday she found a lost wallet and handed it to me hoping that I might be able to find the owner. After some detective work through the internet I managed to return the wallet to the astonished owner who insisted on the finder being rewarded with £50. Well done Mary and I think you deserve to be treated to a lunch by the club on your next ramble.

Its time to start planning and make a note of club rambles and events that is forthcoming.

Summer picnic and evening out. Saturday 12 July.

We will commandeer the Bandstand in Queens Park, London W9 at 3.00pm for strawberries and cream. Bring a picnic together with your family and friends and relax. The park is a pleasant one with flower gardens and has a fascinating area where you will see a farm yard. The park is conveniently situated, as it is only 5 minutes walk from Queens Park Tube Station.

After the picnic we will attend 6.00pm Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Quex Rd, Kilburn.

After Mass we will walk to the nearby Corrib Rest, Salisbury Road, where we will have an evening meal which I highly recommend. The meal will cost £5 to £6. At 9.30pm there will be live music and a lot of people dancing.

For those of you who live far away and wish to stay overnight I can offer a settee in my place or in another members place. You can also try the Chippenham Hotel

(0207 624 2270) which provides bunk beds from £14 per night including breakfast.

Holiday in Northumbria.

3rd to 9th August. Staying at Ushaw College, Durham for their Holiday/Pilgrimage "Journeying with the Northern Saints" Places visited include Lindisframe, York, Rievaulx, Monkwearmouth. Cost £295. Followed by an optional week of walking and sightseeing, probably on the Northumbrian coast. Details from Dorothy Hickman 01 737 765231

Saturday 9th August

Meet at Sacred Heart Church Quex Road, Kilburn, NW6 for 6.00pm Mass. Afterwards we will go to the Corrib Rest for an evening meal.

Scarborough Ramble. The committee wish to thank Maurice Hickman for the brilliant Easter week ramble which he organised and led around Scarborough and Whitby. From all accounts the ramble was very enjoyable as I heard nothing but praises for it. There were 9 members that stayed in the YHA and 2 that stayed in a guesthouse. Also the weather was perfect.

St Richard's Anniversary Pilgrimage Dover to Chichester 9th to 24th August

Last year the average walk was 17 miles per day and involved overnight stops in church halls. This is an ecumenical event, which includes worship in various churches. Cost is £110. If you wish to join for a day or two the cost is £12 per night. For further details please send a SAE by 31 July to GillianMcLauchlan, 64 Pankhurst House, Du Cane Road, London, W12

Club's 75th Anniversary

Since my last newsletter I have put together a list of events whereby we can celebrate the Club's 75th Anniversary. I am grateful for all the plans which have been put forward and after discussion with our committee members I feel that the best way to celebrate the anniversary is with a series of different events so that as many tastes as possible are catered for. The following is a list of those events, which no doubt will increase as we get closer to the anniversary.

- The holiday to Assisi and Palazzola in May/June 2005. Contact Barbara Bridle 01689 827656

- August Bank Holiday weekend Year 2005. At Park Place Pastoral Centre. I have kindly received the following from Anne Dunne:

A booking has been made at Park Place Pastoral Centre in Fareham, Hampshire for the August Bank Holiday Weekend. Year 2005.

The programme will be similar to the 70th Anniversary celebrations, which were held in Aylesford Priory, Kent. There will be a couple of rambles on the Saturday and Sunday Evening and a Thanks Giving Mass will be offered for the blessings we have received through our membership of the Club, followed by a celebration dinner and perhaps concert on a modest scale.

Park Place is a fine old Georgian House set in 18 acres in a lovely part of Hampshire. It has been a Pastoral Centre since 1968 when additional accommodation and a beautiful chapel (150 seats) were added. The Centre is run by the

Congregation of Franciscan Sisters of St Mary of the Angels in conjunction with the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

Anne would like to thank Gillian McLauchlan for organising a cheque for the amount, which has secured our booking. Further information on booking arrangements will appear in future newsletters.

- An event, which the club is aiming to organise, is for a Mass to be said by Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor at St Mary Moorfields in October 2005. The Mass will be followed by dancing in the crypt
- **A Franciscan Friary Retreat in Ireland suggested by Belinda Walsh**
Further details of this will follow in later newsletters.

I would gladly recommend you to view the Franciscan web site www.franciscan.ie It has a lot of the history of the Franciscans together with a lot on the life of St. Francis.

The following are a few words, which I have copied from the site, which goes to remind us on how special St Francis was.

This is the story of a great man, a wonderful and simple man. He died over 760 years ago, but he has never been forgotten and he never will be. Great men and women by the thousands have lived and died – kings and queens, conquerors and millionaires, artists, musicians and scholars.

But this man was a roving beggar – a fool for God – and as such, is remembered better than any of the others. And was loved as none of them was ever loved.

It was not always that way with him. There was a time when his best friends touched their finger to their foreheads in derision when they mentioned his name. Children threw rocks at him. But he had set out on a high adventure, and he kept going. People stopped laughing. There was something about the way he touched each person, something

about the way he spoke. Birds flew down to perch on this shoulders as he talked, and nature lay quiet under his touch, as it had done for Adam when he walked with God under the trees of Paradise, before the serpent came.

The world stood back in wonder.

This man had no money but he acted as if he were richer than a millionaire.

His body was scarred and racked with pain, but he sang sweeter than any lark.

He smiled as he dined with a prince; he laughed as he shared his last crust with a leper. Somehow he had learned to love everything that lived.

And everyone and everything loved him.

He had a secret, a key to God and the universe.

The world has been trying to probe that secret ever since

Well wishes

Olivia Delargy is struggling with cancer and she should be remembered in our prayers. Some of you will fondly remember her when she was Secretary of the Club. Please send your cards and well wishes to her.

Please promote our club.

If you know a spiritually minded person please feel free to recommend the club to them.

Welcome to new members

Odile Rimbert from Victoria, Philip Giddings from Crystal Palace, and welcome back to Mara O'Connor from Ilford and Jan Hildebrand from Hampstead.

Next AGM 11 October will be in St Mary Moorfields Hall at 4.30 followed by Mass at 5.30pm said by Father Peter.

Obituaries

Our deepest sympathy goes to Eileen O'Sullivan and other family members on the death of Kathleen O'Sullivan who was a Life Member of the Club. Kathleen first joined the club in 1942 and in the 40's and 50's served several times on the committee. Mass will be said for

her together with our deceased club members.

I would recommend that you read a short story on Page 3,

Items for the next programme should reach me by 19 July. God Bless and happy rambling.

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I have a friend who has returned from a holistic holiday and she referred to me a touching story, which I would like to refer to you. I hope that you too can appreciate the lesson that we can all learn from this story.

"Gerald W. Harter" wrote: Her name was Mrs. Thompson.

As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard. Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers. At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners. He is a joy to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death had been hard on him. He tries to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class".

By now, Mrs. Thompson realised the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets." A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honours. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favourite teacher he ever had in his whole life. Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favourite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer...The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD.

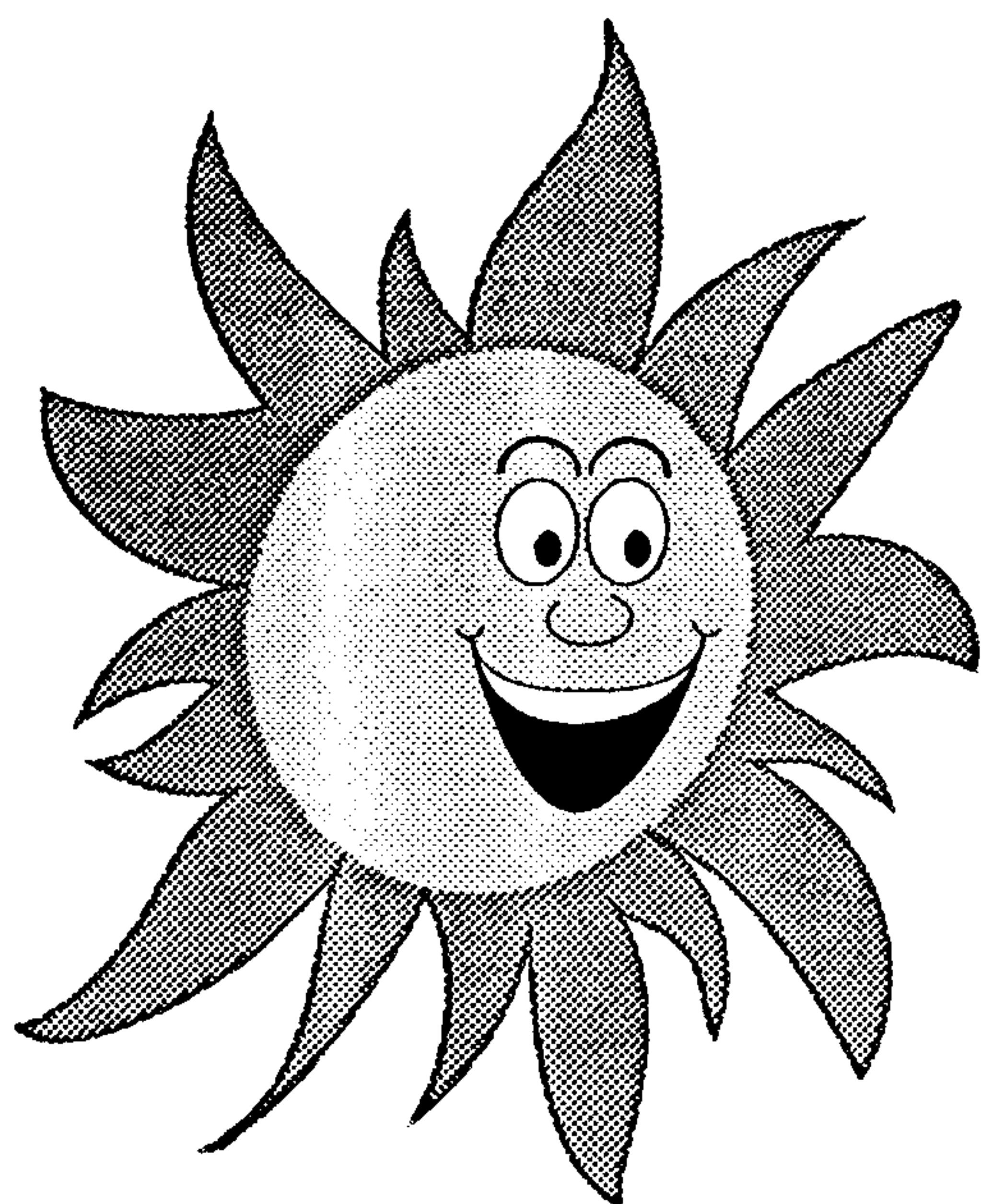
The story doesn't end there.

You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

Please remember that wherever you go, and whatever you do, you will have the opportunity to touch and/or change a person's outlook. Please try to do it in a positive way.

"Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble."



The long balmy (or should that be barmy?) days of summer will soon be upon us, so it's great to see that leaders have given walks that take full advantage of the season. Many thanks to all of them for their efforts in making this an excellent programme.

New leaders wanted

We still need fresh talent to increase our pool of leaders to lighten the load and to help keep each programme full. If only just two of our current regular leaders had to give up what they do for the club, for any reason, it would be a hard gap to fill. Anyone who steps forward will have plenty of practical help and encouragement if they feel they need it.

Sunday 1st June (os map 166) Leader : Robert Slater

MEET : Kings Cross 0930 for 0956 train to Hertford North (arr 1037)

LUNCH : The Tilbury (Inn off the Green), Datchworth

TEA : Depends

DISTANCE: 13 miles returning from Hertford North or 9 miles returning from Watton at Stone

FARE : £7.00 cdr Hertford or £8.20 cdr Watton at Stone

Robert will meet the ramblers at Hertford North

Sunday 8th June (os map 199) Leader : John Burbage

MEET : Charing Cross 0845 for 0910 train to Robertsbridge (arr 1028)

Train also calls at Waterloo East 0913 and London Bridge 0917

LUNCH : The Bell Inn, Burwash – reasonable priced food

TEA : Some hope

DISTANCE: 14 miles returning from Robertsbridge

FARE : £9.50 cdr Robertsbridge with NSE discount

Some challenging conditions underfoot, and a few hills, but in an area not much frequented by walkers.

Sunday 15th June – a choice of a long or a short walk**Long Walk (os map 187) Leader : Tony Finnegan****MEET** : Victoria at 8 40 for 9 06 train to Dorking (Arr. 9 56).**LUNCH** : The Stephan Langton, Friday Street. Pub serves food. Eat your own by the pond.**TEA** : Hopefully both the long and the short walk will converge on Holmwood Church in time to

have tea on the lawn. If we are too late for tea then we will finish the day with a celebratory drink in Dorking

DISTANCE: 18 Miles returning from Dorking**FARE** : £7.30 CDR Dorking**Short Walk (os map 187) Leader : Hania and Witold****MEET** : Victoria at 10 30 for 11 06 train to Dorking (Arr. 11 56).**LUNCH** : The Royal Oak, Brockham. Pub serves food. Nice village green with seats to eat your

Own.

TEA : Hopefully both the long and the short walk will converge on Holmwood Church in time to

have tea on the lawn. If we are too late for tea then we will finish the day with a celebratory drink in Dorking

DISTANCE: 9 Miles returning from Dorking**FARE** : £7.30 CDR Dorking**Sunday 22nd June (os map 188) Leader : Paul Brunning****MEET** : Charing Cross 0950 for 1010 train to Sevenoaks (arr 1043)**LUNCH** : The White Rock, Underriver**TEA** : Sevenoaks**DISTANCE:** 10 miles returning from Sevenoaks**FARE** : £5.50 cdr Sevenoaks. Paul will meet the Ramblers at Sevenoaks**Sunday 29th June (os map 199) Leader : Maurice Hickman****MEET** : Victoria 0920 for 0947 train to Eastbourne (arr 1125)**LUNCH** : Tiger Inn, East Dean**TEA** : Birling Gap. Bring a towel and costume as there may be a chance for a swim**DISTANCE:** 8 miles returning from Eastbourne**FARE** : £18.00 cdr Eastbourne. Maurice will meet the ramblers at Eastbourne

Sunday 6th July (os map197) Leader : John & Marta Haworth

MEET : Waterloo 0820 for 0845 train to Petersfield (arr 0959)
 LUNCH : Red Lion, Chalton
 TEA : ???
 DISTANCE: 16 sometimes hilly miles returning from Peterfield
 FARE : £10.15 cdr Petersfield with NSE discount

*In diary*Sunday 13th July (os map 175) Leader : Ranald Watson

MEET : Paddington 0900 for 0930 train to Reading (arr 0957) then change
 for 1010 train to Mortimer (arr 1020)
 LUNCH : Red Lion, Mortimer West End
 TEA : Highly unlikely
 DISTANCE: 16 miles returning from Mortimer. The walk takes in the Roman walls of Silchester
 FARE : £13.10 cdr Mortimer

Sunday 20th July (os map187) Leader : Tony Norton

MEET : Victoria 0810 for 0832 train to Three Bridges (arr 0916) or
 London Bridge 0820 for 0840 Thameslink train (arr Three Bridges 0924)
 LUNCH : Vinols Cross, West Hoathly
 TEA : An infusion of dried leaves and boiling water, but maybe not on this walk!!
 DISTANCE: 16 miles returning from Three Bridges
 FARE : £9.60 cdr Three Bridges

*In diary*Sunday 27th July (os map 166) Leader : Robert Slater

MEET : Kings Cross 0900 for 0926 train to Watton At Stone (arr 1012)
 LUNCH : The Bell Inn, Benington
 TEA : George and Dragon, Watton at Stone
 DISTANCE: 12 miles returning from Watton At Stone
 FARE : £8.20 cdr Watton At Stone. Robert will meet the ramblers at Watton At Stone

Sunday 3rd August (os map 165) Leader : Paul Connolly

MEET : Marylebone 0835 for 0859 train to Wendover (arr 0942)
 LUNCH : Kings Arms, King Street, Tring (very near to the Catholic church)
 TEA : Wendover
 DISTANCE: 14 miles returning from Wendover. A stiff climb in the morning but the views make
 it worth the effort, and there is compensation in a nice level
 afternoon walk.
 FARE : £7.00 cdr Wendover with NSE discount

Sunday 10th August (os map 186) Leader : Philip Groves

MEET : Waterloo 0840 for 0905 train to Haslemere (arr 1006)
 LUNCH : Noahs Ark, Lurgashall – free wine tasting before lunch at a local vineyard nearby
 TEA : Unlikely, but we will have a stop to pick any bilberries (bring a container)
 DISTANCE : 16 miles returning from Haslemere – some hills
 FARE : £8.30 cdr Haslemere with NSE discount

Sunday 17th August (os map 179) Leader : Tony Norton

MEET : Charing Cross 0840 for 0900 train to Sandwich (arr 1106)
 LUNCH : Saracens Head, Alfred Square, Deal
 TEA : Maybe at Dover
 DISTANCE : 16 miles returning from Dover
 FARE : £13.20 cdr Dover with NSE discount

Saturday 23rd August (os maps 168 & 155) Leader : Frank Bigg

MEET : Liverpool Street 0920 for 0947 train to Marks Tey (arr 1034)
 LUNCH : Eight Bells, Bures
 TEA : Sudbury
 DISTANCE : 12 miles returning from Sudbury
 FARE : £11.40 cdr Sudbury with NSE discount
 Frank will meet the ramblers at Marks Tey

Monday 25th August (os map 186) Leader : Phil Evans

MEET : Waterloo 0915 for 0945 train to Rowlands Castle (arr 1108)
 LUNCH : Coach & Horses, Compton – Good food
 TEA : Petersfield
 DISTANCE : 17 miles returning from Petersfield – Good selection of hills
 FARE : £12.10 cdr Rowlands Castle with NSE discount



Don't forget Sunday train services can be affected by engineering works. Information on these can be obtained by calling 08457 484950 or see the relevant ceefax or teletext pages on tv.

Please ensure you bring your Network cards or Gold cards so that you can get the 1/3rd off full fares for yourself and up to three guests travelling with you. You can also get 50p off all zone travel cards even if purchased at underground stations.

Unless otherwise indicated the fare shown is the full fare from the London terminus.