



1930-2006

*Approved by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster; Affiliated to the Ramblers Association*

Website: [www.stfrancisramblers.org.uk](http://www.stfrancisramblers.org.uk)

## *Programme of Events March to May 2006*

*Greetings Ramblers,*

Many thanks for all the words of encouragement and support for the new committee during the last quarter. Much appreciated. Also for pointing out the inevitable typos in the last newsletter. By custom established there will always be mistakes that leap from the page as the 300<sup>th</sup> copy rolls off the printer but carefully hide themselves during the proof reading stage!! Now here is the, hopefully mistake free, ramble list for the months March to May followed by news of other events and future dates for your diary beginning on Page 5.

**May Maurice have ramble details for the Summer programme by May Day? And may Tony have any other items by the same deadline please?**

**Sunday 5th March** (Landranger map 178 )

Leader: Paul Connolly

**MEET** : Fenchurch Street (100 yards/2 minutes walk from Tower Hill underground) at 0950 for 1010 train to Pitsea (arr. 1051)  
**LUNCH** : Leigh-on-Sea old town - good choice of pubs and cafes in a 100 yd stretch  
**TEA** : Maybe at Benfleet  
**DISTANCE** : 10 easy miles returning from Benfleet - includes visiting the remains of Hadleigh Castle (no charge) and views across the Thames to Kent  
**FARE** : £6.95 CDR Benfleet with Network Card discount

**Sunday 12th March** (Explorer map 135)

Leader: Paul Brunning

**MEET** : Charing Cross 0950 for 1010 train to Tunbridge Wells (arr. 1104)  
**LUNCH** : The Crown Inn, Groombridge  
**TEA** : Tunbridge Wells (optional)  
**DISTANCE** : 10 miles, returning from Tunbridge Wells  
**FARE** : £6.30 CDR Tunbridge Wells with Network Card

**Sunday 19th March** (Landranger Map 165)

Leader: Philip Evans

**MEET** : Euston 0940 for 1009 train to Leighton Buzzard (arr. 1102 )  
**LUNCH** : The Cock, Wing (pub does food)  
**TEA** : Unlikely  
**DISTANCE** : 15 miles, returning from Leighton Buzzard or 10 miles from Cheddington  
**FARE** : £9.40 CDR Leighton Buzzard with Network Card

**SATURDAY 25 March** (Landranger map 168)

Leaders: Paul Connolly & Tony Finnegan

**An opportunity to visit St Peter's Chapel at Bradwell - the oldest place of Christian worship still existing in Britain.**

**MEET** : Liverpool Street 0810 for 0834 train to Southminster (arr. 0949) then short bus ride to Bradwell  
**LUNCH** : Fox and Hounds, Tillingham. Good value meals (generous portions) from £3.75 to £7.00  
**TEA** : Southminster  
**DISTANCE** : 9 very level miles, returning from Southminster  
**FARE** : £7.25 CDR Southminster with Network Card discount plus £1.80 bus fare

**Sunday 26 March 2006 - Day of Recollection**

This is an annual special day of prayer and reflection. It will be from 10 am to 4 or 5 pm. This time we return to the Benedictine Centre of Spirituality at Cockfosters and are fortunate to have Bishop James O'Brien to lead us in our reflections. The charge of £10 will pay for the costs of arranging the day and also lunch and refreshments during the day. You may also have your own food for lunch and we shall all eat together whether we have our own or partake of the food provided. Please send cheques for £10 (or £6 if eating your own food) payable to St Francis of Assisi Catholic Ramblers Club to Gillian McLauchlan, address on page 7, and **please make sure that she has them by 12 March** so that we will know how many to ask the Centre to cater for. The Centre for Spirituality is at the Church of Christ the King, Bromley Road, Cockfosters. Go to Oakwood station on the Piccadilly Line. Turn left out of the station and the Church is a few hundred yards up on the left.

**Sunday 2 April** (Explorer map 146)

Leader: Bernadette Cahill

**MEET** : Victoria 0915 for 0936 train to Ashted (arr. 1018)  
**LUNCH** : The Chequers, Walton-on-the-hill  
**TEA** : Ashted  
**DISTANCE** : 9 miles, returning from Ashted  
**FARE** : £4.10 CDR Ashted with Network Card  
**NOTE** : Leader will meet ramblers at Ashted Station

**Sunday 9 April** (Landranger map 166)

Leader: Robert Slater

**MEET** : Kings Cross Thameslink 0910 for 0932 train to Harlington (arr. 1029)  
**LUNCH** : The Lynmore, Sharpenhoe  
**TEA** : The Carpenter's Arms, Harlington  
**DISTANCE** : 9 miles, returning from Harlington. Good views from the Chilterns.  
**FARE** : £8.65 with Network Card; Robert will meet the walkers at Harlington.

**GOOD FRIDAY 14 April**

**A choice of a longish or a short walk today. Both walks join up for the Good Friday service at Worth Abbey - starts at 3pm**

**Long Walk** (Landranger map 187)

Leader: Tony Finnegan

**MEET:** : Victoria 0810 for 0832 train to Balcombe (arr. 0925)  
**LUNCH** : The White Hart, West Hoathly ( TQ 347333), good non meat selection  
**TEA** : The 'cup that cheers' available in the Snooty Fox (opposite 3 Bridges Stn.)  
**DISTANCE** : 13 miles returning from Three Bridges (9 miles before the Good Friday Service at Worth Abbey where we will join those taking the short walk).  
**FARE** : £8.25 CDR Balcombe with Network Card discount.  
**NOTE** : The long walk from Balcombe will encounter some mud so it is advisable to carry house shoes or slippers to change into for the Worth Abbey service.

**Short Walk** (Landranger map 187)

Leader: Anne Dunne

**MEET:** : Victoria 0935 for 1004 train to Three Bridges (arr. 1053)  
**LUNCH** : The Cowdray Arms - good non meat selection (TQ 308334).  
**TEA** : As for the long walk  
**DISTANCE** : 8 miles, returning from Three Bridges  
**FARE** : £7.35 CDR Three Bridges with Network Card discount

**Easter Awaybreak in the Peak District**

Maurice has abandoned the idea of going to Wells-next- the Sea in Norfolk this year but is planning to do so next year if possible. This is due to the lack of information on train and bus times.

However, two club members have booked single rooms at Matlock Youth Hostel. The cost of a single room is £17. If you don't mind sharing, other accommodation is also available. The cost includes the use of the hostel facilities which includes drying room, lounge, and cooking in the members kitchen. Maurice will arrive at the hostel on Monday 10th of April and leave on the following Bank Holiday Monday 17th of April. He plans to use the hostel facilities to cook his own breakfast but eat out in the evening. The hostel also provides meals which can be purchased after arrival at the hostel. Whilst in the Peak District, Maurice will be planning a walk from Matlock to Chesterfield for the A & B Walking Pilgrimage in August. Francis O'Sullivan will be planning the next walking day from Chesterfield to Edwinstowe or Clipstone in the Sherwood Forest area. Anyone else who wishes to stay should inform Maurice and make their own booking with Matlock Youth Hostel. The address and telephone number of the hostel is: YHA Matlock, 40 Bank Road, Derbyshire, DE4 3NF. Phone: 0870 770 5960 Email: matlock@yha.org.uk

**MONDAY 17 April** ( Landranger map 176)

Leader: Michael Donnelly

- MEET** : Kings Cross 0900 for 1st train after 0920 to Enfield Chase  
(If engineering work take Piccadilly Line to Oakwood)
- LUNCH** : King & Dinker, Whitewoods Lane
- TEA** : Forty Hall
- DISTANCE** : 10 miles, returning from Enfield Chase or Oakwood
- FARE** : £6.30 One Day All Zone Travel Card  
Michael will meet ramblers at Enfield Chase or Oakwood

**Sunday 23 April** (Landranger maps 187 and 188)

Leader: Tony Finnegan

- MEET** : Victoria 09 00 for 09 22 train to East Grinstead (arr 10.40)
- LUNCH** : The Anchor, Hartfield (Winnie the Pooh Village) TQ 480 357
- TEA** : East Grinstead
- DISTANCE** : 14 Miles returning from East Grinstead
- FARE** : £6.55 CDR East Grinstead with network card.

**MONDAY 1st May ( May Day)** - Explorer map 147

Leader: Maurice Hickman

- MEET** : Victoria 0955 for 1022 East Grinstead train to Oxted (arr. 1103)  
to connect with 1118 Uckfield train to Cowden (arr. 1135)
- LUNCH** : The Rock, Hoath Corner - TQ 497432 (Larkins only pub - serves food)
- TEA** : Edenbridge, if possible
- DISTANCE** : 9 miles, returning from Edenbridge or 6 miles, returning from Hever
- FARE** : £5.75 CDR Cowden with Network Card

**Sunday 7 May** ( Explorer maps 135 and 122)

Leader: Maurice Hickman

- MEET** : Victoria 1010 for 1032 train to Haywards Heath (arr.1128)
- LUNCH** : The Stand Up Inn, Lindfield (pub only serves sandwiches)
- TEA** : Burgess Hill, if possible
- DISTANCE** : 11 miles, returning from Burgess Hill
- FARE** : £9.10 CDR Burgess Hill with Network Card

**SATURDAY 13 May** ( Explorer map 121)

Leader: Maurice Hickman

**MEET** : Victoria at 0940 for 1002 train to Ford (arr. 1132)  
**LUNCH** : Yapton Beer Festival (hot and cold food on sale)  
**TEA** : Arundel. Mass at 6.15pm available at Crossbush Convent (1 mile extra walk)  
**DISTANCE** : 8 miles, returning from Arundel or 5 miles, returning from Ford  
**FARE** : £12.35 CDR Ford with Network Card discount

**Sunday 14 May** (Explorer map 177)

Leader: Paul Brunning

**MEET** : Charing Cross 0930 for 0947 train to Hayes (Kent), arrives 1026  
**LUNCH** : Queen's Head or George and Dragon, Downe, good reasonably priced food  
**TEA** : Question Mark  
**DISTANCE** : 13 miles, returning from Hayes  
**FARE** : £3.90 CDR Hayes with Network Card

**Sunday 21 May** (Landranger map 187)

Leader: Tony Finnegan

**MEET** : Victoria 0920 for 0941 train to Oxted (arr. 1017)  
**LUNCH** : The Grasshopper on the Green, Westerham (TQ 448541). Pub does good not-too-expensive food. Lots of space on green in front of pub to eat your own.  
**TEA** : Oxted  
**DISTANCE** : 13 fairly strenuous miles returning from Oxted  
**FARE** : £4.60 CDR Oxted with Network Card

**SATURDAY 27 May** (Landranger map 184)

Leader: Paul Connolly

**MEET** : Waterloo 0850 for 0920 train to Salisbury (arr. 1045)  
**LUNCH** : Queen's Head, Broad Chalke  
**TEA** : Tisbury  
**DISTANCE** : 16 very beautiful and tranquil miles, returning from Tisbury  
**FARE** : £19 CDR Tisbury with Network Card discount

**MONDAY 29 May** (Explorer Map 144)

Leaders Tony Norton & Witold Sokolowski

**MEET** : Waterloo 0845 for 0907 train to Fleet (arr. 1005)  
**LUNCH** : Fox and Hounds, Church Crookham  
**TEA** : We live in hope!  
**DISTANCE** : 10 - 14 miles, returning from Winchfield  
**FARE** : £8.60 CDR Winchfield with Network Card discount

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 £1.20p off all zone travel cards even if purchased at underground stations.

Unless otherwise indicated the fare shown is the fare from the London terminus to our destination. Most people can get a reduction by using a travel card for part of the journey. Also look out for deals on South West trains which often allow three or four people travelling together to travel for the price of two.

Don't forget Sunday train services can be affected by engineering works. Information on these can be obtained by calling 08457 484950 or see National Rail Website at [www.nationalrail.com](http://www.nationalrail.com)

## *Future Dates for Your Diary*

We are always most grateful to people who come forward with plans for social events, holidays, weekends etc. It gives them great encouragement if a good number of members attend and bring their families and friends. So please note the following events, beyond the period covered by this programme, in your diary and do your best to support them when the time comes.

**Sunday 2 July - Map Reading Ramble:** On the next programme (covering the period June to August) we hope to include a ramble especially for people who want to learn how to read a map. The best way to learn is to walk with someone who will point out what they see on the map and how they identify the markers on the ground and we will have experienced ramblers doing this. We may also be able to arrange a theory session prior to the day of the walk.

**Walking Holidays in Lake District and Scotland:** Peter Culba is organising a one week two-centre trip to the Lake District, likely to begin 11 September 2006. Price will be £450 to include full board and single rooms in top class hotels (£100 discount for sharing). The two centres will be in the beautiful Eskdale and Ennerdale Valleys. Contact Peter on 020 8524 9507 if interested.

**Dorothy Hickman hopes to organise a break in Dumfries, Scotland** immediately after Peter's Lake District break in September. Details in the next programme. You can ring Dorothy on 0173 776 5231 later in the current period when she will have more details.

**Saturday 7 October 2006 Annual General Meeting:** Last year we had a very good turnout as the AGM preceded our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Please put the date in your diary again for this year and watch for details in the next programme. The hall is booked earlier in the day for the annual reunion of long standing members and there will be Mass for members intentions after the AGM.

## *News, Views and items of interest*

**Welcome to New members:** A hearty welcome to the following who have become fully paid up members since the last programme: Sandra Andrade of London SE1, Xavier D'Souza of London NW8 and Helen Lipieta of London N14. We wish them many years of happy rambling with the club.

**Club's insurance policy:** A question was asked at the AGM as to whether the club carries insurance. The answer is yes we have an insurance policy which provides cover for accidental bodily injury to third parties and/or damage to third party property arising out of the insured activities and currently costs £120 a year. As a group affiliated to the Ramblers Association we should really keep a record of any incidents that might result in an insurance claim and in future this will be done. Helen Hunt holds a book for the purpose which God willing will remain empty for a long time.

**Update on Stefan Gatward;** We don't see as much of Stefan nowadays as when I rejoined the club in 1988. At that time he was out on most Sunday rambles but he has been busy with other things in recent years. Having completed his post-graduate studies at Ushaw College, Stefan has been awarded the University of Durham Post-Graduate Certificate in Theology and Ministry (PGCThM) and in his capacity as a commissioned chaplain with the RAF is often referred to as "Padre". Did you also spot Padre Stefan on Weakest Link on 3 February 2006? I have a video of the event if you want to borrow it. Having been a high-scoring Finalist on 15-to-1, and a Champion on Countdown, Padre Stefan has now won £1970 on Weakest Link. He's probably imprisoned in a garret reading trivia books instead of coming out rambling! But he does hope to see us all again ere long.

**Thanks to those who supported the New Year Party:** Thanks to all who so generously supported the New Year party on 7 January. We could have accommodated some more people in the hall but those who attended enjoyed themselves and their generous support for the raffle ensured that the club did not suffer a loss on the evening. As well as the number of club members present it was nice to see so many guests and I hope this can be a feature of future parties. Many a good member, including at least one of my predecessors as secretary, first made contact with the club at social events.

**Have you put up the Club poster:** Does your parish notice board display a copy of the club's invitation to new ramblers to come and join us? If not please get a copy of it from one of the membership secretaries [or download it from the internet and print it out on coloured paper]. Then ask your parish priest for permission to put it up, or if there is one there already just replace it with the new one showing the names and details of the membership secretaries for the current year.

**Lourdes trip in 2008:** Looking some way ahead I have recently been reminded that 2008 will be the 150th anniversary of the apparitions at Lourdes and Anne Dunne has made an excellent suggestion of organising a club pilgrimage to Lourdes to mark the occasion. Preliminary expressions of interest to Anne please and we will then follow up this exciting proposal.

**History on the web:** Judging from the comments I have received the Club History is a frequently visited and much enjoyed page on the club website. Visiting it myself recently I found that some of the text was a bit jumbled and there were items showing that were appropriate for the printed version but not for the web presentation. I have learned a little more about scanning and layout since originally putting up the history and it should now make easier reading. I have also added a hyperlink in the contents to a list of all the members we have been able to identify as having been paid up members at any time since 1938. Next step is to get photographs incorporated. We have lots of photographs on the website but I will tidy them up, put them in easier-to-look-at format and put some links to them in the history. Any ideas for how this can be done will be very welcome. Or if there are any experts in web design out there let them come forward and try their hand at reorganising the website.

**Club Committee 2005-06**

Telephone numbers and addresses of committee members are not available on the internet due to past abuses

God bless and happy rambling.

*Tony [Signature]* And *Maurice Hickman*