



## St Francis of Assisi Catholic Ramblers Club

Associated With HF Holidays

Visit our website at [www.stfrancisramblers.org.uk](http://www.stfrancisramblers.org.uk)



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

### Programme of Events June - August 2009

**NB Items for the next programme must reach the Secretary or Ramble List Compiler by 28<sup>th</sup> August.**

**NNB Allow extra time to queue for tickets in summer time, especially at Waterloo and Victoria where many seaside train journeys begin.**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** (Landranger Map 153) Leader: Robert Slater

MEET: Kings Cross main line station 1100 for 1122 train to Biggleswade (arr 1201)

LUNCH: The New Inn, Biggleswade town centre. Meals very reasonably priced.

TEA: Biggleswade. The Crown Inn or open air café, depending on time back and weather.

DISTANCE: 7 miles, returning from Biggleswade. Walk begins after lunch to visit RSPB headquarters and Nature Reserve (Sandy) comprising woodland, heathland, gardens and shop (coffee / tea from machine). Hoping for trauma-free day after last year's unexpected power failure on railway.

FARE: £10.90 cdr Biggleswade from Kings Cross, £6.60 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network card

Robert will meet the ramblers at Biggleswade.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** (Landranger Map 166) Leader: Martin Harrison

MEET: Liverpool Street 1000 for 1022 train to Turkey Street (arr 1045)

LUNCH: Bring a packed lunch, or eat at a garden centre. Drinks at the Fallow Buck Public House, Enfield.

TEA: Trent Country Park, Cockfosters.

DISTANCE: 10 miles, returning from Cockfosters Underground Station (Piccadilly Line, Zone 5)

FARE: £7.20 all zone Travelcard, or Freedom Pass.

Martin will meet the ramblers at Turkey Street.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** (Explorer Map 174\*) Leaders: Virginia and Roger Yelland

MEET: Loughton Station at 1000. Loughton is in Zone 6, on the Underground Central Line, about 45 minutes from Oxford Circus.

LUNCH: The Owl, Lippitt's Hill, with fine view, bar food and McMullens ales.

TEA: The Robin Hood Tea Hut, for an excellent bacon roll and / or a variety of cakes.

DISTANCE: 11 miles through Epping Forest, returning from Loughton.

FARE: Travelcard to include Zone 6, or Freedom Pass.

\* Better is the dedicated map of Epping Forest, produced by the Ordnance Survey for the Corporation of London.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** (Landranger Map 179) Leader: Chris McNicholas

MEET: Victoria 0910 for 0936 train to Dover Priory (arr 1150 – bus service from Shepherd's Well)

LUNCH: The Coastguard, St Margarets-at-Cliffe Village

TEA: The Zetland Arms, Kingsdown (the pub is on the beach)

DISTANCE: 14 miles, returning from Deal (undulating, scenic coast path)

FARE: £16.85 cdr Deal from Victoria, £13.75 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card. If you are also doing the walk on 28<sup>th</sup> June, you will need an off-peak return to Deal, £19.55 from Victoria, £18.90 from Zone 6 boundary (with Network Card)..

If you are staying over, you will need to book B&B. Contact Chris on 07717 220163 or the Deal Visitor Centre on 01304 369576.

At St Margarets you can visit botanical gardens, the village, the beach, and there may be an opportunity for a swim, so bring a towel and costume.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June** (Landranger Map 179) Leader: as for 27<sup>th</sup> June

MEET: Victoria 0740 for 0803 train to Deal (arr 1030 – change trains at Ramsgate). Chris will meet ramblers at Deal. There is an 1100 Mass at Deal.

LUNCH: The Port Arms, Deal (sea front)

TEA: The Chequers Restaurant and Bar (arriving there before 4 pm)

DISTANCE: 13 miles, returning from Deal (flat, open coastal route).

FARE: £16.85 cdr Deal from Victoria, £13.75 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card.

Visits include Sholden Village, Mary Bax's Stone, Sandwich Bay and beach – opportunity for a swim, so bring towel and costume.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July** (Landranger Map 199) Leader: Maurice Hickman

MEET: Victoria 0920 for 0947 train to Eastbourne (arr 1108)

LUNCH: Tiger Inn, East Dean

TEA: Birling Gap. Possibility of a swim – bring towel and costume.

DISTANCE: 12 miles, returning from Eastbourne.

FARE: £13.85 cdr Eastbourne from Victoria, £12.60 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July** (Landranger Maps 165, 166) Leader: Tony Finnegan

MEET: Euston Main Line Station at 0905 for 0923 train to Berkhamsted (arr 0958)

LUNCH: Martin's Pond, Potten End (GR 018 089). Pub does food and overlooks the Village Green, where there is a pond and seats for those with their own food.

TEA: The Boat, Berkhamsted or Harvester, Hemel Hempstead

DISTANCE: 13 miles, returning from Berkhamsted or 9 miles, returning from Hemel Hempstead. Some hills, but the entire walk is in Hertfordshire, so no very severe hills.

FARE: £7.55 cdr Berkhamsted from Euston, £4.70 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July** (Landranger Map 165) Leader: Paul Connolly

MEET: Marylebone 0910 for 0933 train to Princes Risborough (arr 1018)

LUNCH: Thame. Good choice of pubs, cafes and shops in the town centre.

TEA: Maybe at Haddenham.

DISTANCE: 12 mostly level miles, returning from Haddenham and Thame Parkway (2 trains an hour back to London).

FARE: £10.55 cdr Haddenham and Thame Parkway from Marylebone, £9.00 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July** (Landranger Map 187) Leader: Witold Sokolowski**St Anne's and St Joachim's Picnic Walk**

MEET: Victoria 1010 for 1032 train to Coulsdon South (arr 1057)

LUNCH: Picnic at Happy Valley – bring food to share. The Fox pub is nearby.

TEA: Golf Club near Caterham.

DISTANCE: 3+3+3 miles, returning from Caterham.

FARE: Travelcard to include Zone 6, or Freedom Pass.

Note: Hania will meet those who wish to join at lunchtime at 1200 at West Croydon Bus Station – there are frequent buses from there to the lunch area.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August** (Landranger Map 179) Leader: Paul Brunning

MEET: Charing Cross 0910 for 0930 train to Chilham (arr 1106)

LUNCH: The White Horse, Chilham. Good food, but a bit pricey.

TEA: ?

DISTANCE: 13 miles, returning from Canterbury. Drop off points are available at Chilham 5 miles and Chartham 8 miles.

FARE: £14.45 cdr Canterbury from Charing Cross, £11.95 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August** (Landranger Map 188) Leaders: Marta and John Haworth

MEET: Charing Cross 0850 for 0914 train to Wadhurst (arr 1017)

LUNCH: Carpenters Arms, Mayfield

TEA: Maybe at Wadhurst

DISTANCE: 14 miles, returning from Wadhurst

FARE: £10.25 cdr Wadhurst from Charing Cross, £6.15 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August** (Explorer Map 147) Leader: Paul Brunning

MEET: Charing Cross 0935 for 1000 train to Sevenoaks (arr 1034)

LUNCH: The White Rock Inn, Underriver

TEA: ?

DISTANCE: 11 miles, returning from Sevenoaks

FARE: £5.80 cdr Sevenoaks from Charing Cross, £2.20 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August** (Landranger Map 167) Leader: Paul Connolly

MEET: Liverpool Street 0935 for 1002 train to Ingatestone (arr 1035)

LUNCH: Cuckoo, Radley Green – good value grub

TEA: Chelmsford

DISTANCE: 12 level miles returning from Chelmsford (2 trains an hour back to London)

FARE: £8.10 cdr Chelmsford from Liverpool Street, £4.80 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August** (Landranger Map 165)

Leader: Tony Norton

MEET: Marylebone 0900 for 0927 train to Great Missenden (arr 1008)

LUNCH: Red Lion, Wendover

TEA: who knows?

DISTANCE: 16 miles, returning from Great Missenden

FARE: £6.55 cdr Great Missenden from Marylebone, £5.55 from Zone 6 boundary, both with Network Card. Freedom Pass holders need only a cdr from Amersham, £3.10 with Network Card or Senior Railcard.

For rambles along the south coast or in the South Downs area "downlander" tickets, for return journey by train and bus travel throughout the South Downs area, can be purchased online two days before travel for just £10. Visit [www.southernrailway.com/downlander](http://www.southernrailway.com/downlander).

When joining us on a walk 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 £1.20 off all zone travel cards even if purchased at underground stations. Senior Railcard holders can also get the reduction on train fares but only for themselves.

Don't forget Sunday train services can be affected by engineering works eg trains from Charing Cross are sometimes diverted to begin from Cannon Street or Victoria. Information on these can be obtained by calling 08457 484950 or see National Rail Website at [www.nationalrail.com](http://www.nationalrail.com)

Children and vulnerable adults must be accompanied by a responsible adult. It is the policy of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Ramblers Club to endeavour to ensure that no child or vulnerable adult is left in the company of a lone adult on a ramble or at a club event.

## News, Views and items of interest

**Membership contributions:** For those joining the club for the first time after 31<sup>st</sup> July this year membership subscriptions will be £7 but their first year's membership will take them up to October 2010 or Life Membership is available for £140. Existing members who are renewing their membership for 2009-2010 please remember that the subscription goes up to £7 next year (£9 for those living outside the UK). Existing members can still take out Life Membership for £100 up to 30<sup>th</sup> September. From 1 October Life Membership for existing members will be £140 (£180 for those living outside the UK postal area).

**W**elcome to **New members:** A hearty welcome to the following who have become fully paid up members since the last programme: David Crundell of Wimbledon, London SW19, Helen Evans of Cambridge, Beatrice Manscour of London E14, Sister Carol Pacini of Tooting Bec, London SW17 and Virginia Yelland of London E3. We wish them many years happy rambling with the club.

**P**ublicising the **Club:** Many thanks to those who have put up our notices on parish notice boards. This is our main form of publicity for the club and essential to attracting new members. Of course personal recommendation is also a good way of attracting new members so don't forget to tell your family and friends what a treat lies in store for them if they join our Sunday rambles.

**O**bituaries: We were sorry to hear of the death of the following: Peter Taylor who died last year. Peter joined the club in 1971-72 and he and his wife Jean became life members in 1981. We offer our sincere sympathies to Jean on her sad loss.

**H**oliday Fellowship holidays: We are pleased that the club is now a group member of HF Holidays. This brings numerous benefits in terms of shared publicity arrangements, discounts on group bookings on HF Holidays. A selection of holidays currently available are on the back page of this newsletter.

**Y**HA revival: From the magazine of the Ramblers Association to which we are affiliated we have gleaned some good news about the Youth Hostel Association. Those of us who have used YHA hostels in the past were saddened by the number of closures due to the financial problems in the early years of this decade. However we are now glad to have news of NEW HOSTELS opening up this year. A new 30-bed self-catering hostel opened on 1 May at the eastern end of the South Downs Way, about a mile and a half from the centre of Eastbourne. The new building, constructed of locally-sourced building materials and with a living sedum roof, is all on one level and all bedrooms are en suite. It replaces the former hostel which was sadly destroyed in an arson attack in 2004.

Towards the end of the summer another new YHA hostel is expected to open at Southease, near Lewes, and also on the South Downs Way.

These new hostels will bring the number in the South East to nearly 20. Full details on the YHA website [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk).

**P**lease pray for our members who are not well enough to walk. Frances Dean, John Lawrence and Frances Tolhurst have all been ill since the last programme.

## Future Dates for Your Diary

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009:** Holiday in West Wales  
Staying four nights at Aberystwyth University (to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of the Tapers) and six nights at Bangor University (mainly visiting Anglesey). If you are interested in the holiday ring Dorothy Hickman for details as soon as possible on 01737 765 231.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September:** the reunion for past and present members this year will be on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 12.30 at St Mary Moorfields, Eldon Street. No need to book for this but please bring a plate of food to share. This event has also proved a good occasion to share photographic memories of past club events.

## **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October: Annual General Meeting and Mass for Members' Intentions**

Please reserve the date in your diary now and be prepared to take your full part in decisions concerning the running of the club. We will eagerly welcome nomination for membership of the committee so now is the time to start thinking of who you might nominate, or even think of accepting nomination yourself. Remember no club can run itself without the active participation of its members so it's up to you the members to continue the good work of those who have kept it going for nearly 80 years now.

The AGM will be in St Mary Moorfields Church Hall, 4-5 Eldon Street, London EC2 . Refreshments from 3 30 pm and the meeting will begin at 4 pm.

With thanks to our president Fr Peter the AGM will be followed by the annual Mass for members' intentions.

**October 2009 - veneration of the relic of St Therese of Lisieux.** The relic of St Therese of Lisieux The Little Flower will be taken around England and Wales this year and it would be nice if the club could play some part in the celebration. The relic will be in the South East from Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> to Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> and we hope to organise visits to one or more of the following:

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Oxford Oratory;** There will be a solemn procession for the entry of the relic followed by Vespers of St Therese and later there will be an all night vigil. We hope to have a walk finishing in time for the entry procession and those who are really keen can remain for the all night vigil.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October - St Joseph's Carmelite Priory, Gerrards Cross**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October Aylesford Priory** will be holding a triduum of prayer, reflection, celebration and gentleness and we hope to have a short walk each day as follows:

### **Friday 9 October**

2.30pm Service of Welcome and Joy and Blessing of Roses

5-9pm Guided prayer, quiet and veneration

### **Saturday 10 October**

11.30am Mass and Blessing of Roses, Archbishop Kevin McDonald. We will have a walk and late lunch afterwards but those who wish will be able to attend 4.30pm Prayer for Healing and Reconciliation. There will be an all night vigil from 10pm-5am.

### **Sunday 11 October**

We hope to have a walk arriving in time for the Farewell Service at 3 PM followed by a late lunch or tea.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October:** Monday morning departure ceremony from Carmelite Church in Church Street, Kensington followed by a city walk and lunch.

**12<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October** - Westminster Cathedral with another City walk and lunch on at least one of these days.

The website mentioned in the last newsletter no longer exists but details of the relic's itinerary can be seen at:

[http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/ccb/catholic\\_church/relics\\_of\\_st\\_therese\\_of\\_lisieux/locations\\_and\\_dates](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/ccb/catholic_church/relics_of_st_therese_of_lisieux/locations_and_dates).

The secretary and/or ramble list compiler will welcome any ideas or volunteers to lead any of those events.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2009: Mass for deceased members:** This is another important annual event so please make a note of the date now. Mass will be at 6 PM at St Mary Moorfields Church, 4-5 Eldon Street, London EC2.

**8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010:** If you are going on the holiday in the Lake District next year please note that Cheques payable to Marie Tisi (£35.00 per person) will be required by end of July 2009 together with the form which you will have received from Marie on which you need to give your preference of which walks to do. Already over 30 of those who have enjoyed Marie's breaks in the past and a few who haven't have signed up for this one. That splendid initial response has qualified us for a 7½ per cent discount and the cost will be £572.58. But if a few more were to join we might be able to have the whole venue to ourselves. A significant selling point this time is that those who feel they cannot ramble any more can still come and do the "Rover" (motorised day trips) but still have time to spend with their friends in the evenings.

If you'd like to join the holiday contact Marie by e mail only at [marietisi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marietisi@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible. If you do not have e mail you can ring me (Tony Finnegan) on 020 8767 5293 and I will be pleased to pass your details to Marie.

God bless and happy rambling.



Secretary

And



Ramble List Compiler

**The Club is now a group member (number LB429) of HF Holidays** and has group access to the benefits of membership. Below are details of three venues where HF Holidays provide holidays. There are 15 other venues in England and Wales including in Exmoor, Yorkshire, the Cotswolds and the Lake District. Full board costs for groups above a certain number range from £53 to £81 per person per night depending on the time and venue chosen. **NB Some venues are quite heavily booked for 2009 now and already taking bookings for 2010.**

HF Holidays send one notification per year of upcoming events to each member of affiliated groups like ours and have asked for our address list for the purpose. Since we are very protective of our members' details you can opt out of this if you wish by either e mailing Tony at [secretary@stfrancisramblers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stfrancisramblers.org.uk) or leave a message on 020 8767 5293



**Club Committee 2008-09**

NB: Committee members' contact details are given in confidence on the understanding that they will be used for the sole purpose of members being able to make contact with them on legitimate club business. The strongest possible action will be taken against anyone using them for any other purpose.

**President:** Fr Peter Newby, Parish Priest,  
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**Vice President:** Helen Hunt, 157  
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**Secretary:** Tony Finnegan, 30 Avarn  
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5293 .  
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**Treasurer:** Gillian McLauchlan,  
**Ramble List Compiler:** John Haworth,  
E mail john\_haworth2003@yahoo.co.uk

**Publicity Co-ordinator:** Robert Slater,  
**Membership Secretaries:**  
Elizabeth Furlong, and  
Francis O'Sullivan,

**Committee Members:**

Carol Anley, E Mail:  
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Marta Haworth, E mail  
[martafhaworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martafhaworth@yahoo.co.uk)

Following is a sample of the venues available run by HF Holidays:

Choose one of our Country Houses in Britain. They vary in style, character, and facilities, but all have one thing in common: the warm welcome that awaits you from our attentive staff. All Country Houses have public rooms, car parking and a comfortable bar. We are currently being assessed by Visit Britain and the properties that have been assessed have been given a 3 or 4-star rating as Country Houses in the guest accommodation category.



### Cornish Coast, St Ives

**Chy Morvah** in Cornish means "house by the sea" • Views stretch across the golden sands of St Ives Bay to the lighthouse at Godrevy Point • Cornwall is famous for its remote coastal paths which lead to dramatic headlands and glorious sandy coves

#### Accommodation facilities

- 33 en-suite bedrooms • Accommodates up to 54 guests • Bar and three lounges for our guests to relax in • Nintendo Wii and board games
- Outdoor heated swimming pool, open May - September

#### Nearby attractions

- Eden Project: 45 miles • Tate Gallery, St Ives: 1 mile • Barbara Hepworth Museum & Sculpture Garden: 1 mile • Lost Gardens of Heligan: 39 miles • The Lizard Peninsula • Lands End • Praa Sands Beach



### Dartmoor, Haytor

**Moorlands** is situated below Haytor Rocks, one of the best known landmarks of the Dartmoor National Park • Around 1,000ft up in this beautiful National Park • Situated right on the very edge of the wild open spaces of Dartmoor • This grand setting inspired Agatha Christie to write her first book "The Mysterious Affair at Styles" in 1917 • Haytor itself is a stone's throw away from this Country House

#### Accommodation facilities

- 4-star Visit Britain rating • 32 en-suite bedrooms • Accommodates up to 53 guests, over three floors • Spacious ballroom • Two lounges and bar
- Games room including table tennis and pool table

#### Nearby attractions

- National Trust Castle Drogo: 15 miles • National Trust Compton Castle: 14 miles • National Trust Coleton Fishacre, a garden by the sea with an Arts & Crafts style house: 27 miles • Museum of Dartmoor Life: 24 miles • Buckland Abbey: 36 miles • Becky Falls Woodland Park



### Isle of Wight, Freshwater Bay

**Freshwater Bay House** is set on the west coast of the Isle of Wight • Dating from the 1790s this prominent local landmark is now a very comfortable Country House • Set in 57 miles of unspoilt coastland, overlooking the white cliffs that tumble down into the English Channel • Many of the rooms have sea views while others overlook the gardens and downs • Superb location to explore the islands' royal history • Travel to the Isle of Wight from the mainland by ferry

#### Accommodation facilities

- 4-star Visit Britain rating • 36 en-suite bedrooms • Accommodates up to 79 guests • Ballroom ideal for dancing, painting and yoga
- Three lounges and a bar for guests to relax in • Nintendo Wii and board games • Outdoor heated swimming pool, open May - September
- Children's playground

#### Nearby attractions

- Calbourne Water Mill: 8 miles • English Heritage Osborne House: 20 miles • Ventnor Botanical Gardens • English Heritage Carisbrooke Castle: 10 miles • National Trust Bembridge Windmill: 24 miles • Dinosaur Farm Museum: 7 miles • National Trust The Needles Old Battery: 2 miles
- Shanklin Beach: Blue Flag Water Quality Award 2008

reservations: 0845 470 7557 local rate or 020 8732 1260 standard rate