



St Francis of Assisi Catholic Ramblers Club

Visit our website at www.stfrancisramblers.org.uk

The Club is Approved by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and Affiliated to the Ramblers Association

Programme of Events March - May 2007

Greetings Ramblers,

Welcome to this programme of walks and other events to take us through the months of Spring. Please let Maurice have the ramble details for the next programme by April 29th and let Tony have other items by the same date.

Sunday 4th March (Explorer Map 146) Leader: Maurice Hickman

MEET : Victoria at 0940 for 1004 train to Redhill (arr. 1037)

LUNCH : Plough, Leigh

TEA : Sun, Redhill (Wetherspoon)

DISTANCE : 12 miles, returning from Redhill

FARE : £5.10 COR with Network Card

Sunday 11th March (Landranger Map 197) Leader: Philip Groves

MEET : Waterloo at 0840 for 0900 train to Rowlands Castle. Change at Petersfield for SWT bus (arr. 1055).

LUNCH : Hare and Hounds, Stoughton (good food)

TEA : Buriton or Petersfield

DISTANCE : 17 miles, returning from Petersfield

FARE : £14.45 COR Rowlands Castle with Network Card

Saturday 17th March: Poetry reading and music at Joe O'Reilly's, 4 Rona Road, NW please come early - first reading 19.29 sharp. How to get there: Bus 24 from Pimlico or Victoria to first stop past St Dominic's Church, Southampton Road NW5 (Request Stop), walk up to traffic lights, turn right to 5th turning on left. No. 4 Rona Road is second house on right. Top Bell is Joe's. Second way: Gospel Oak station on Metro Silverlink (formerly "North London Line") from Stratford or Woolwich. Turn right out of station, second road on right and second house on right. Please ring Joe so confirm you are coming. Last call 16 March 2007 - It's St Patrick's Day so enjoy yourself.

Sunday March 18th (Landranger Map 178) Leader: Paul Connolly

MEET : Fenchurch Street at 0945 for 1010 train to Pitsea (arr. 1049) NB See "Fare line" below for advice on ticket to buy.

LUNCH : Leigh-on-Sea a good choice of pubs, cafes, and seafood stalls on a 200 yd stretch of Leigh old town.

TEA : Benfleet

DISTANCE : 10 miles, returning from Benfleet -level in the morning and a gentle climb up to the remains of Hadleigh Castle (no charge to go round) with views over the Thames estuary to Kent.

FARE : £7.25 COR Benfleet with Network Card (£5.60 if bought at Fenchurch Street) Fenchurch Street is about 2 or 3 minutes walk from Tower Hill underground station. Paul will meet the ramblers at Pitsea.

SATURDAY 24th MARCH (Explorer Map 146)

Leader: Maurice Hickman

MEET : Victoria at 0910 for 0933 train to Ockley (arr. 1036)

LUNCH : Parrot Inn, Forest Green

TEA : Leith Hill and Plough, Coldharbour

DISTANCE : 8 miles, returning from Holmwood

FARE : £10 CDR Ockley with Network Card

There are some hills including one very steep one but the pace will be very leisurely

Day of Recollection, Sunday 25th March 2007: This time we have chosen a new venue - the beautiful

Brigettine Centre at Fulmer Common Road, Iver Heath (convenient to Uxbridge and Gerrards Cross)

It will be necessary to pay £18 (or £13 if not sharing the Brigettine lunch. Please send Anne Dunne (address on Page 7) a cheque for the relevant amount payable to the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Ramblers Club to reach Anne by 16th March at the latest.

The Day of Recollection will commence with Mass at 11 am. To be sure of getting to the Centre by then take the 9 15 train from Marylebone to Gerrards Cross (Arr. 09 36) and take a taxi from outside

the station. The train fare is £6.25 with Network Southeast discount or £2.90 with all zone travel card. The taxi ride costs £8.50 for up to four people sharing or a mini bus £14 for up to seven people Sharing and it is advisable to book in advance by ringing 01753 885645 or 887738 (if walking the three miles to the Centre take the 8 53 train (Arr. 09 24) and make sure to have house shoes to change into on arrival at the Centre).

Sunday 1st April (Explorer Map 146) Leaders: Maurice and He/ She who comes

MEET : Victoria at 1010 for 1034 train to Coulsdon South (arr. 1103)

LUNCH : Woodman, Woodmansterne (early lunch) - TQ 274598

TEA : Fanny's Farm Shop, Markedge Lane (TQ 277545)

DISTANCE : 12 miles, returning from Redhill

FARE : £5.10 CDR Redhill with Network Card

Beg, borrow or buy Explorer Map 146 and bring it with you!

Good Friday 6th April

L-o-n-g W-a-l-k Landranger Map 177 Leader: Robert Slater

MEET : Liverpool Street at 0840 for 0902 train to Shenfield (arr. 0930)

LUNCH : The Greyhound, Childerditch Common. A selection of non-meat meals at reasonable prices.

TEA : Brentwood

DISTANCE : 12 miles, returning from Brentwood

FARE : £5.80 CDR Shenfield with Network Card

S-h-o-r-t W-a-l-k Landranger Map 177 Leader: Antoinette Connolly

MEET : Liverpool Street at 0850 for 0915 train to Harold Wood (arr. 0940) NB See "Fare Line" below for advice on ticket to buy.

LUNCH : The Greyhound, Childerditch Common - plenty of non-meat options

TEA : As above

DISTANCE : 7 miles, returning from Brentwood

Fare : All Zones travelcard £4.80 with NSE discount plus single Brentwood to Harold Wood (£1.40 with NSE discount). Antoinette will meet the ramblers at Harold Wood.

N.B. We shall all leave the Greyhound at 1.30 pm to arrive at Brentwood Cathedral by 2.30 in good time for the Good Friday service at 3 O'Clock. Slower walkers may be able to leave slightly earlier .

Sunday 8th April (Explorer Map 147)

Leader: Paul Brunning

MEET : Charing Cross at 0940 for 10.00 train to Sevenoaks (arr. 1046)

LUNCH : Buck's Head, Godden Green (good grub)

TEA : Sevenoaks

DISTANCE : 12 miles, returning from Sevenoaks

FARE : £5.80 CDR Sevenoaks with Network Card

Monday 9th April (Landranger Map 165)

Leader: Philip Evans

MEET : Marylebone at 0950 for 10.18 train to Princes Risborough (arr. 11 01)

LUNCH : The Pink and Lily, Parslows Hillock, Lacey Green (good food)

TEA : What's that?

DISTANCE : 10 miles, returning from Princes Risborough

FARE : £10.00 COR Princes Risborough with Network Card

Easter Week at Wells-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk

MauriceHickman is organising an Easter break at Wells-Next- The-Sea in Maurice Hickman is organising an Easter break at Wells-Next-The Sea in Norfolk and has already booked in for himself at Wells Youth Hostel for the nights of Tuesday 10th of April to Saturday 14th April 2007 inclusive. We will catch an 11.30 train on the Tuesday from Liverpool Street to Sheringham (arrives 14 41) for a late lunch and then the North Norfolk coast 'Coast Hopper' bus service to Wells, arriving there at about 4.30 pm. On the following Sunday we will return on an 11 am bus back to Sheringham for a lunch stop before catching the 1.43 pm train, arriving back at Liverpool Street at (about 5pm. The network southeast discount is not available but anyone with a Senior Rail Card can get the return for £26.40 or anyone booking in advance with One Railway may be able to get single tickets out and back for as little as £6 each way. Ring One Railway on 08456007245. The hostel does not provide meals but it has self-cooking facilities and there are plenty of places to eat out around town in the evening. The coastal area is rich in bird life and Walsingham is only a steam train ride away. Those coming should bring something to eat for breakfast at least for the first day.

Wells hostel is now closed for the Winter period so those wishing to come should apply to Sheringham Youth Hostel. It is advisable to ring first to confirm that beds are still available. If you wish to stay at the Hostel you are strongly advised to book **as soon as possible**. The Hostel is already fully booked for the Bank Holiday period! The overnight charge is £14; i.e. £70 if you stay for the 5 nights. The phone number of Sheringham Youth Hostel is: 01263 823215. The address is: YHA Reservations, 1 Cremer's Drift, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8HX.

For guest house and B & B accommodation contact North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, Norfolk. Tel. No. 01263513811 www.northnorfolk.org

Erratum: Please note the time of the return train from Sheringham is 1.43 and not 1.54 as stated in the last programme.

Seven people so far have declared that they are coming to Wells-next- the-Sea. I think there still may be some room at the hostel.

For more information contact Maurice. Address is as for Rambles Compiler on page 7.

Sunday 15th April (Land ranger Map 166)

Leader: Tony Finnegan

MEET : King's Cross Thameslink at 0940 for 1002 train to St Albans (arr. 1033)

LUNCH : Sandridge (two pubs - the Green Man and the Rose and Crown - do good food)

TEA St Albans Cathedral

DISTANCE 12 miles returning from St Albans

FARE £5.95 CDR with Network Card

Sunday 22nd April (Explorer Map 121)

Leaders: John & Marta Haworth

MEET: Victoria at 0840 for 0904 train to Arundel (arr. 1033)

LUNCH: The Sportsman, AmberJey

TEA: Arundel maybe

DISTANCE: 14 miles, returning from Arundel

FARE: £12.35 COR AmberJey with Network Card

Sunday 29th April (Explorer Map 120)

Leader: Maurice Hickman

MEET : Victoria at 0750 for 0817 train to Emsworth (arr. 1013)

LUNCH : Hare and Hounds, Stoughton (good food)

TEA : Chichester

DISTANCE : 16.5 miles, returning from Chichester

FARE : £12.35 COR Emsworth with Network Card

This walk will also be led by Maurice as part of this year's Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage which will go from Wells to Arundel (fuller details of the pilgrimage page 6 and a booking form is on back page of this programme).

Sunday May 6th (Explorer Map 147)

Leader: Paul Brunning

MEET: Victoria 1005 for 1024 train to Eynsford (arr. 1106)

LUNCH: The Crown, Shoreham

TEA: Eynsford

DISTANCE: 13 miles, returning from Eynsford. A bit hilly.

FARE: £4.50 COR with Network Card

Monday 7th May (Landranger Map 167)

Leader: Paul Connolly

MEET : Liverpool Street at 0940 for 1002 train to Ingatestone (arr. 1035).

LUNCH : The White Hart, Margaretting Tye (Good Food).

TEA : Chelmsford

DISTANCE : 10 undulating miles (could be some mud), returning from Chelmsford.

Three trains an hour back to Liverpool Street

FARE : £7.60 COR Chelmsford with Network Card discount

Sunday May 13th (Landranger Map 165)

Leader: Robert Slater

MEET: Euston at 0915 for 0939 train to Bletchley (arr. 1032)

LUNCH: The Old Red Lion, Great Brickhill

TEA: The Globe Inn (by canal), Linslade

DISTANCE: 12 miles, returning from Leighton Buzzard

FARE: £11.30 COR Bletchley with Network Card

Walk includes Grand Union Canal and Stockgrove Country Park.

Sunday May 20th (Landranger Map 176)

Leader: Tony Finnegan

MEET: Boston Manor Underground Station at 1015 for 1030 am start

(Allow 35 minutes from Central London on Piccadilly Line)

LUNCH: The Packhorse (should have said "Black Horse"), Greenford (good food)

EAT: 'The Windermere' by Kenton South station

DISTANCE: 13 generally easy miles but with a few hills in the afternoon, returning from Kenton South. A surprisingly rural walk entirely within 10 miles of Central London.

FARE: Travel Card to Include Zone 4 as the walk begins and ends in Zone 4.

Sunday 2th May (Explorer Map 145)

Leader: Witold Sokolowski

MEET: Waterloo at 0935 for 1000 train to Witley (arr. 1102)

LUNCH: Early picnic snack on top of small hill followed by walk to the Ladywell Shrine for Pentecostal May celebrations.

Late lunch/High tea at Wetherspoon in Godalming

DISTANCE: 9 or 12 miles, returning from Godalming or Guildford

FARE: £9.05 COR Witley with Network Card

MONDAY 28th MAY (Explorer Map 120)

Leader: Angela Shardlow

MEET: Victoria at 0845 for 0917 train to Chichester (arr. 1103). NB see "fare" line below for advice on ticket to buy.

LUNCH: The Ship, Itchenor

TEA: Bosham (hopefully)

DISTANCE: 12 miles, returning from Bosham.:

FARE: £13.55 COR Bosham with Network Card plus ferry from Itchenor to Bosham (about £1.50)

Lourdes Trip in 2008: This item has been under "Future Dates for your Diary" in previous programmes but the time has come to firm up bookings now and Gillian McLauchlan has kindly agreed to act as the bookings contact within the club. Please let her know as soon as possible if you intend to travel (some have already notified Anne Dunne and their interest is already noted). We will need deposits of £75 but do not send this until we ask you to. A date by which deposits must be paid will be in the next programme.

The plan is to fly from Stansted on Monday 17th March 2008 and return on the following Monday 24th. March (Easter Monday). We will be making use of the services of Tangney tours who are very experienced in this sort of event. They will arrange a full spiritual programme with English speaking support staff and Priest, shared with other Tangney groups. Needless to say there will be Mass at the Grotto and it will be possible to use wheelchair in Lourdes for those who can't manage hills.

There will be walking tours of appropriate sights.

Unfortunately we cannot get a definite price until September but it is likely to be between £450 - £600 inc. plus £15 single supplement (slightly less if more than 20 book up as they give one place in 20 free and we will share that saving among all who are going).

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. Please Note (this especially applies to trains which usually start at Charing Cross). Engineering work sometimes mean that trains are diverted to start from a different main line station, e.g. Charing Cross trains are diverted to start from Victoria or Cannon Street. It's wise to ring national rail during the week to ask if there are any special arrangements the following Sunday

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. 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.

Several Rail Companies now offer three or four tickets for the price of two so if a few members are at the ticket office at the same time it is worth asking if there are any deals going. The ticket clerks will not necessarily volunteer the cheapest way to travel.

And remember you can still get an all zone travel card for £4.80 even at an Underground station using your Netw()rk Southeast Card discount. That's a saving of £1.90 on a Zone 1-6 card and £3 on a Zone 1-6 + D card

News, Views and Items of Interest

Welcome to New members: A hearty welcome to Rosemary Pickford and best wishes to her for many years of happy rambling with the club. This programme also goes to 20 people to whom the Membership Secretaries sent details recently and we hope to see them on walks and on the new members list in the next quarter. Congratulations to Alison Clarke, Kevin Kerins and Catherine Scott on attaining Life Membership.

Renewal of Membership: At the time of writing 26 members who were members last year have failed to renew their membership and will therefore not receive this programme. If you know anybody who just forgot to renew despite the reminder in the last programme please urge them to send their subscription to the Treasurer right away. Any for whom we have an email address have received an email reminder.

Life Membership. A reminder of an important change in the conditions for life membership which was agreed at the AGM. From October this year any member can apply for life membership and it will not be necessary to have been a member for 10 years prior to becoming a life member. The downside is that those becoming life members from October 2007 will have to pay 20 times the annual membership subscription and not 10 times as at present (that is £100 for UK based members and £140 for overseas members). This change has no effect on those who are already life members.

Please remember in your prayers club members who are unable to walk due to illness. I was very sad to get a letter from Peter Storrow with the news that he is unable to continue walking. He was a member *since* 1993 and some of us also benefited from his contribution to the Arundel and Brighton Walking Pilgrimage. I was also sad to hear that Marion Miller fell and broke her hip and is having a painful recovery. At the time of writing Ossie Barrett is seriously ill in hospital. Please pray for all of them.

Thanks for publicising the Club in your Parish Church: Many thanks to all who put up the new poster in *their* Church. From the number of enquiries addressed to Angela Shardlow *it is* clear that the new poster *is* being displayed. If you have not already done so please check whether there is one up already in your Church. If there *is*, then replace it with the one that was enclosed with the last programme so that *this* year's membership secretary details are publicised. If there is not an announcement there already please ask your Parish Priest for permission to put one up.

Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage 2007 - Wells to Arundel:

The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton are *organising* a Walking Pilgrimage this year from Wells to Arundel. The pilgrims will leave by coach to Wells on Saturday 11th August and finally arrive at Arundel on Saturday 25th August for a celebratory meal. They make their own way home the next day. The pilgrims will sleep overnight on floors of schools and church halls and have their breakfast and evening meals cooked for them by an excellent chef. They walk each day from 15-20 miles and *visit* churches en route and, of course, stop at a pub for lunch. Rolls, however, are provided for those who wish it. These are made by some pilgrims the previous evening. Total cost only £125. All luggage not required by pilgrims during the day *is* carried by van from one overnight stop to the next. Maurice will be leading the *section* from Emsworth to Winchester on Friday 24th August. He has put this same walk on our programme for Sunday 29th April. Contact Maurice if you would like an application form and further information or complete application on the last page of this programme. Closing date for applications 30th June or when all places taken.

Future Dates for Your Diary

Friday 1st or Friday 8th June: Anne Walsh will be celebrating her 60th birthday early in June. The date of the celebration will be either Friday 1st or Friday 8th June. If any St Francis members would like to come, could they please let Anne know by email on Annesthename@aol.com. If you don't have email ask someone who does to pass on your message. You are welcome to come for a week or a few days. Anne will arrange B & B accommodation with family and friends at below the commercial rate. Edinburgh is only 20 minutes on the train and there are lots of suitable walking and sightseeing places within easy reach. Please state which date suits best. There is a coach from Victoria to Livingston and plenty of trains to Edinburgh from Kings Cross (though a bit on the costly side - even with a senior rail card reduction a saver return costs £64.80, but you can get a return air ticket for £74 without any concession).

Holiday in St Ives, Cornwall 24th - 31st May 2008: Marie Tisi reports that already 37 people have put down their names for this week's walking holiday in St Ives, Cornwall. The dates have been fixed and accommodation arranged for 24 - 31 May 2008. Accommodation has already been booked so if you want to be included Marie asks that you email her (no phone calls please) at marietisi@yahoo.co.uk.

Lourdes trip in 17th to 24th March 2008: Please see box on page 5 above.

And Finally Don't forget that the club belongs to you the members and your active participation wit! ensure its future. We are ever grateful to leaders for giving *semessly* of their time and map reading skills to make up successive programmes and could do with some new leaders to increase the pool of available talent. We are also constantly looking for new members to come forward to serve a time on the committee. Please give serious consideration to what you can do to ensure the future and vitality of the club and do not presume that there will always be somebody else there to do it do it.

Happy Rambling.

Signed: Tony Finnegan and Maurice Hickmam

