



**Chilterns  
National  
Landscape**

# Chilterns Walking Festival

Health and wellbeing events  
Taster sessions and outdoor learning  
Walks for all

**Welcome to the 14th  
Chilterns Walking Festival**  
10 May – 1 June 2025

© Becky Salisbury

From Hitchin in Hertfordshire to Goring in Oxfordshire, the Chilterns Walking Festival provides over 60 opportunities to enjoy beech woodlands, nature reserves, family walks and much more, all in the expert care of a knowledgeable guide.

## Exploring the beautiful Chess Valley

We are very pleased to have a number of walks taking place in the Chess Valley as part of this Festival. The Chess Valley water catchment is all the land that water drains from before flowing into a river, this includes the surrounding hills, woodland, grassland, towns and villages.

Visit [chesssmarterwatercatchment.org](http://chesssmarterwatercatchment.org)



**River Chess  
Smarter Water  
Catchment**

## Book online

Please visit our website  
[www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest](http://www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest)  
where you will also find full details of all events, including information on walk grades, suitability for children and dogs, accessibility and proximity to public transport.  
You can search for walks by location, date, theme or walk distance to help you find the right walks for you.

This programme gives you a taste of what's on offer during the Festival. But additional walks and events are being added regularly, so do check online for the latest, or follow us on **Facebook @ChilternsWalkingFestival**





Woodoaks Farm

© Sue Lacey



© Marieke Bosman

### Chesham Beating the Bounds – 25 mile walk

Saturday 10 8am 25 miles 3701

Please come and join us on this challenging walk around the ancient parish of Chesham which celebrates the old custom of Beating the Bounds.

### Chesham Beating the Bounds – 5 mile walk

Saturday 10 2.30pm 5 miles 3801

Please come and join us on this walk around part of the ancient Parish of Chesham as we celebrate the old custom of Beating the Bounds. The first section of the walk will make its way to Tylers Hill and then follow the old parish boundary as it winds its way back to Chesham. The route will take us through some beautiful Chilterns scenery and alongside the lovely River Chess.

### Accompanied walk at Chiltern Open Air Museum

Wednesday 14 10am 1 mile 2801

The Chiltern Open Air Museum is offering a number of Accompanied Walks during the Festival designed for people with additional support needs. Accompanied Walkers have up to 90 minutes with a friendly and compassionate volunteer for a VIP tour of the site. The route is mainly on the flat and includes a chance to explore the Museum's collection of rescued buildings, gardens and allotments, and to meet the farm animals. Tours conclude with a cuppa and chance to chat. See walk listing for further information.

### Bassibones Wildlife habitat creation

Thursday 15 10am 3 miles 3101

Join the Chilterns National Landscape's Landowner & Farming Engagement Advisor for a fascinating tour of Bassibones Farm, an historic Chilterns farm on the edge of Lee Common. Find out how wildlife habitat creation has been undertaken through hedge planting, hedge rejuvenation, hazel coppicing and pond renovation.

### Plants and places: An Amersham Amble

Saturday 17 10.30am 1.5 miles 1306

Join a local botanist for a gentle walk around the lanes and fields of Old Amersham. Discover the plants that grow on your doorstep, learn about the history of your local landscape and how land use has changed over the years, whilst enjoying wonderful views over Old Amersham. This is the first of 3 walks taking place in spring, summer and autumn, jointly organised by Amersham Museum and Wild Amersham. Each walk follows the same route, helping us to notice the seasonal changes as we progress through the year.

### Key to walks

- Easy**  
(pretty flat, good paths)
- Fairly easy**  
(some gentle inclines, steps/stiles)
- Moderate**  
(more challenging, for keen/active walkers)
- Fairly strenuous**  
(challenging – steep gradients, rough terrain)
- Strenuous**  
(long/challenging walk for fit/experienced walkers)



# Book online

[www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest](http://www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest)





© Penny Blake

## Ivinghoe Beacon

### Ivinghoe views walk and painting workshop

Saturday 17 10.45am 3 miles 2 1201

A beautiful 3 mile walk from the pretty village of Ivinghoe, passing 17th Century Pitstone Windmill, with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Return to the Old School Community hub for your packed lunch and a cuppa. Local artist Jay Nolan-Latchford will guide us through a 2 hour watercolour workshop. It doesn't matter if you've never painted, Jay will bring out the creativity in everyone! Come for a wonderfully therapeutic day.

### Roald Dahl meets Midsomer Misbourne

Saturday 17 11am 4.5 miles 2 2101

Starting from the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden we walk through the town and into the countryside visiting sites that inspired Roald Dahl's inventive stories, as well as locations which have provided colour and atmosphere to ingenious deaths in episodes of Midsomer Murders. See the memorial seat and BFG footprints in the churchyard, the tunnel where Roald Dahl told ghost stories, walk through the woods where Roald Dahl took his dog and mulled over his storylines. Visit three locations and hear how they feature in the plots of Midsomer Murders.

### Practical map reading and walk planning (Piddington)

Saturday 17 1pm 4.5 miles 3 1701

On this half day course we will navigate ourselves around a scenic 4.5 mile walk, through typical Chilterns terrain of fields and woodland, using common navigation techniques. You will learn about the useful bits of information a map can give and this will help you plan your own walks. During the walk we will also introduce some compass techniques.

### Historic Mapledurham, Chazey Heath and The Caversham Golf Club, featuring writer Annabel Streets

Saturday 17 1.45pm 5 miles 3 2301

Join us for a beautiful 5 mile route from Chazey Heath. We will visit a mysterious statue in the woods and share the folklore surrounding it. Walking through the Mapledurham Estate we will see the beautiful Elizabethan Mapledurham House, Church and Watermill and experience this oasis of peace. We are excited that award winning writer, Annabel Streets will be joining us for this walk. In her most recent book, "The Walking Cure", Annabel investigates different landscapes and their proven abilities to change how we see, feel and experience ourselves and the world.



© Chilterns Conservation Board

### Chill out in the Chilterns (Hambleden Explorer)

Sunday 18 10am 7 miles 4 1103

A good walk in the glorious Chilterns countryside can have a powerful positive impact on our mental health. So, grab some boots and give yourself a boost – and help to support the Riverside Counselling Service, a local charity dedicated to providing affordable counselling and psychotherapy to adults and young people. On this circular 7 mile walk we step out to explore the Hambleden Valley and surrounding hills. This is England at its best – Chilterns countryside, rolling hills, towering beech woods, a sparkling chalk stream an idyllic picturesque village with brick and flint cottages and a thriving pub. Join us and experience why this is such a favoured spot for so many, including TV and movie makers!

### Lane End Hills and Views Loop

Sunday 18 10am 6 miles 3 0703

A 6 mile Chiltern Society walk that goes from Lane End to Cadmore End then to the villages of Fingest and Frieth and back. A very scenic walk over rolling countryside with two key hills. Enjoy one of the best views in the Chilterns looking back down the valley to Fingest.





© Adrian Porter

## Sarratt River Restoration Walk

A worker's village, a medieval settlement, and four ways to climb a hill

Sunday 18 10am 3 miles 3 2601

We start at a "worker's village" and discover which of their products can be seen on TV every day. Then explore several routes up the hill - first a cattle drovers road forming a deep hollow-way, then a toll road which was made too steep for the traffic (!), a third way built using a team of tiny steam engines, and the 4th route which was shown on Vicar of Dibley titles. On the way we see a well-preserved Medieval settlement which was investigated by the police. Finish back at the village pub.

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## Whipsnade Tree Cathedral

© National Trust

The History of the Whipsnade Tree Cathedral

Sunday 18 10.30am 3 miles 1 0501

A beautiful circular route from the Chiltern Gateway Centre at Dunstable Downs to Whipsnade Tree Cathedral led by National Trust staff. Whipsnade Tree Cathedral, was created from an array of trees, shrubs and plants to emulate the majesty of a place of worship. It was created after the First World War in the spirit of 'faith, hope and reconciliation'. On this gentle guided walk, we will cover the history of the Tree Cathedral including the life of the founder, Edmund Kell Blyth, where the idea came from, the stages of creating the Tree Cathedral and future plans.

Explore Old Amersham's early history

Sunday 18 2.30 pm 1.5 miles 1 1301

Discover the historic buildings and the interesting stories of the people who lived in and shaped Amersham in the past. Explore local patronage and its influence, the parish church and its rectors, the brewery and the maltings, the Town Mill and the Charter Fair, and almshouses dating from the 1600s and the Victorian era. To continue Amersham's story, you can book the Expansion of Amersham Walk on Sunday 25 May. If you can't join this walk during the Festival, note that it runs fortnightly through to the end of October.

Sarratt River restoration tour

Monday 19 10 am 3 miles 2 2201

Join the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project's Rivers Officer for a walk through a part of the River Chess that has been shaped by humans across many centuries, through farming, milling and watercress production. We will visit the Crestyl site, the last watercress farm in the Chilterns and the location of a recent project where the Chilterns Chalk Streams Partnership partnered with the landowner to improve conditions for a wide range of creatures who rely on our chalk stream landscape.

The Hills are alive - sing and walk!

Sunday 18 11am 4 miles 3 2401

Come and experience a joyous combination of walking and singing outdoors. We will be accompanied on our scenic walk through Golden Valley by professional voice coach Victoria Williams. She has years of experience in making singing fun for all ages and abilities. All voices welcome! We will stop for a picnic lunch so please bring food and drink supplies in a rucksack. We may even get to 'busk' in the courtyard cafe at Ashridge House afterwards!





**Bradgers Hill, Luton**



**Barton Hills**

© Aleksandra Warchol

**To pole or not to pole? Introduction to Nordic Walking in Capability Brown's Golden Valley**

**Monday 19** **10am** **1 mile** **2** **2502**

Learn for yourself the fantastic benefits of pole walking. A fun and enjoyable way to improve your fitness in the beautiful outdoors. Improve cardiovascular health, strengthen muscles, better posture and helps with weight management. We will use the contours of Golden Valley (created by Capability Brown) to explore how poles can propel you forward on the flat, help you uphill and support you on the downhills. Poles will be provided. Opportunity for social refreshments afterwards in the lovely Bakehouse cafe, within the courtyard of Ashridge House.

**The striking High Street in High Wycombe in 60 minutes**

**Monday 19** **10.30 am** **0.3 miles** **1** **0801**

This walk starts, finishes and visits the Guildhall. Hear about Buckingham House (Bobbin Castle), a school and warehouse for lace-making in the mid 19th century, learn about why Wycombe was considered a Rotten Borough through the centuries and hear about Weighing the Mayor, an annual event now uniquely carried out only in Wycombe.

**The Beautiful Barton Hills – farm and nature walk**

**Tuesday 20** **11am** **2.5 miles** **2** **1401**

Join nature-friendly farmer and food producer Whizz at Barton Hill Farm for a fascinating behind the scenes tour. We will start at the farm with a brief introduction to the farm and its history. The walk will then take us up onto the Barton Hills, stopping briefly a few times to discuss what we can see; the arable crops, environmental work we do and the wonderful view over the Barton Hills Nature Reserve. We end back at the buildings for refreshments and your chance to ask questions and try / buy the award-winning rapeseed oils that we produce from the oilseed rape grown on the farm.

**Walk better, feel better – easing neck tension as we walk**

**Wednesday 21** **10am** **1 mile** **1** **0401**

Linear, gentle walk from the Bottle and Glass in Binfield Heath to beautiful Bones Wood, on flat, soft terrain. We will focus on being relaxed and strong, making simple postural tweaks and gentle movement, focusing on our neck. We can share a drink afterwards for those who are able/want to (not included in the price of the walk).

**Walking the Chalk around Ashridge and Aldbury**

**Wednesday 21** **10am** **8 miles** **3** **0201**

A beautiful circular route starting at the historic Bridgewater Monument in the Ashridge Estate, with views down Monument Drive towards Ashridge House. Going downhill from the Monument we will walk around the edge of Aldbury, through fields and woods, taking in Aldbury Nowers and a section of the Ridgeway. We will be climbing hills with wide views across the local countryside.

**A watery walk around the canals and reservoirs of Marsworth**

**Wednesday 21** **12.30pm** **6 miles** **2** **2501**

From Mead Farm shop near Tring this circular walk weaves its way along canals and around reservoirs, and through the peaceful grounds of Drayton Beauchamp Church. Immerse yourselves in waterside nature, bird spotting, insects and wild flowers. Come for the exploration, and maybe a social cuppa/cake in the farmshop cafe afterwards.







Riverfly training



Barton Hills

#### A walk around the footpaths of Hedsor

Wednesday 21 2pm 3.5 miles 3 1702

Enjoy an afternoon walk through Chilterns beech woodlands and field giving us an opportunity for a natter with other, like-minded people. We'll also visit the interesting Medieval flint built church of Hedsor with some glorious views along the Thames valley where the Thames makes its sharp turn to run through the picturesque Cliveden reach.

#### Introduction to riverfly monitoring on the Hughenden Stream

Wednesday 21 5.30pm 1 mile 2 2001

Join the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project for a gentle stroll along the Hughenden Stream to learn more about Riverfly Monitoring, including a hands-on demonstration. The Riverfly Monitoring initiative is part of a national "citizen science" programme where volunteers are trained to collect invertebrate samples from the river as an indicator of the health of the river. This helps spot pollution incidents and gives long-term trends in river health. Wellies essential for anyone who wants to get in the river, but there's also plenty to do on the bank if you'd rather not!

#### '3-Ways' Traverse of the Chilterns

Thursday 22 9.30am 16 miles 5 3301

Join us for a challenging 16-mile traverse of the Chilterns between the historic riverside market towns of Wallingford and Henley. We hike along 3 long distance trails - the Ridgeway National Trail, the Chiltern Way, and the Oxfordshire Way - and there is plenty of interest along the way, including Grimms Ditch, the ruined church of St James, and Henley Park. It's a hilly one with four significant hills. This is a linear walk and there is a regular bus service between our start and finish towns.

#### The Canal Duke, Capability Brown and wartime - Ashridge Estate through history

Thursday 22 10am 8.5 miles 3 3601

A days walk between stations with plenty of time to immerse ourselves in the rich history and beautiful countryside of this area, including Berkhamsted Castle, the Grand Union canal, WW1 practice trenches, Capability Brown's landscaped Golden Valley, Ashridge House, Bridgewater Monument and the quaint village of Aldbury.

#### Whither to? To wondrous Withymead

Friday 23 10.15am 2 miles 1 3201

A walk for women of any faith or background. Salaam Seekers would love to welcome you for a stroll through the serene, historic village of South Stoke, followed by a visit to an intriguing, secret little haven of plants and wildlife at the Withmead wetland Nature Reserve. The Warden and one of the Trustees will take us on a tour of the Reserve, to highlight some of the wildlife, history and fascinating stories! Oh, and we feel quite sure, you'll love the little spot we plan to have lunch! Those living in isolation, especially welcome.

#### Explore the Gaddesden Estate and ponder on the origins of the 'Roman' road

Friday 23 10.30am 8.5 miles 3 2402

We will explore the Gaddesden Estate, home to the Halsey family for over five Centuries and used by the film industry since the 1960's. Marvel at the huge 400yr old sweet chestnut tree. Dip your toes in the clear waters of the Gade chalk stream over a picnic lunch. Ponder the origins of the so called 'Roman' road as you walk through this unusual sunken route.





**Gaddesdon Estate**

### Butties, Birds and Beautiful Views - A walk from The Alford Arms

 Saturday 24  9.30am  4.5 miles  3  2701

Join us for a bacon butty & cuppa (on the house) at The Alford Arms before venturing out into the lovely Gade Valley. The walk starts out along a Roman Road, passes a Buddhist monastery and through the water meadows beside the River Gade. Along the way there are outstanding views over the valley and the opportunity to spot the local wildlife.

### Explore Heritage and Wildlife of Galley and Warden Hills

 Saturday 24  10am  3 miles  3  1502

Join Matt from the Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust to explore the beautiful rolling chalk hills of North Luton. Starting from Links Way on the edge of Warden Hill we will walk along the Icknield way, taking in the heritage of this ancient landscape before returning along the ridgeline of the Galley and Warden Hills to enjoy far-reaching views over the countryside and Luton, returning through conservation meadows.

### Awakening your senses – a mindful walking experience

 Saturday 24  10am  4 miles  3  1202

Boost not only your physical but mental wellbeing on this walk, exploring various techniques which promote awareness in the present moment. We will be pausing at the Amaravati Buddhist Monastery for some quiet reflection either inside their beautiful temple or gardens. Opportunity for a social cuppa/lunch after at the garden centre.

### Take the train for a walk Princes Risborough-High Wycombe

 Saturday 24  10.15am  11 miles  3  1703






Enjoy a day long, linear walk of 11 miles with lots of beautiful scenery and interest along the way. We start by taking the train from Princes Risborough to High Wycombe and from there we start the relaxed day's walk back. We'll climb out of the Wye valley, before dropping down to Cryer's Hill then Speen and finally down the steep chalk escarpment to Princes Risborough station.

### Dunstable Downs and Totternhoe Knolls

 Saturday 24  10.30am  9 miles  3  0601

From the Chilterns Gateway Centre we make our way downhill and along the bottom of Dunstable Downs towards Totternhoe. Above the village we'll come to the impressive earthworks of an 11th Century castle, where we'll stop for a packed lunch break. We'll step down to The Cross Keys pub for a drink, then track around to the Sewell Greenway, a path along a former railway line. We then join part of the Icknield Way trail, taking us steeply uphill back onto the Downs. We'll be rewarded for our climb with a fantastic view and optional refreshments back at the Chilterns Gateway Centre.

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(pretty flat, good paths)
-  **Fairly easy**  
(some gentle inclines, steps/stiles)
-  **Moderate**  
(more challenging, for keen/active walkers)
-  **Fairly strenuous**  
(challenging – steep gradients, rough terrain)
-  **Strenuous**  
(long/challenging walk for fit/experienced walkers)







**River Lea, Marsh Farm, Luton**



#### Misbourne Museums Walk: martyrs, mills and Milton

Saturday 24 2pm 4 miles 2 1304

Plotting a picturesque route along the River Misbourne, this guided walk between two museums takes in the landscape, literature and heritage of the Chilterns. Starting at Amersham Museum, home of local stories, you'll follow in the footsteps of local quakers and other religious radicals on this scenic route to Milton's Cottage, where John Milton completed his epic masterpiece Paradise Lost. This is an easy 4 mile walk through fields and woods, suitable for all ages. Tickets include refreshments and an optional tour of Milton's Cottage, where this guided walk ends.

#### The Village Swan and Ridgeway Circular Walk

Sunday 25 9.30am 3.1 miles 3 3401

Fancy a walk with breathtaking views and a tasty reward at a traditional country pub? Join us at The Village Swan at 9.30am for complimentary bacon rolls and tea/coffee before we set off on a circular hike to the top of Ivinghoe Beacon. After admiring the panoramic views we'll continue our ramble across the hills and return to The Village Swan for around 12pm, the perfect opportunity to refuel with a well-deserved drink or lunch if you wish.

#### A walk around Great Hampden, Hampden House and Grim's Ditch

Sunday 25 10am 5 miles 2 0702

A beautiful 5 mile walk led by the Chiltern Society, starting from the Hampden Arms pub in the central Chilterns. The walk takes in woods and commons, hamlets and sights of interest including Hampden House and part of the ancient Grim's Ditch.

#### Hike Smart – step out and up-skill your walk!

Sunday 25 10am 6 miles 3 3501

Are you new to hiking, or have some experience but want to boost your confidence and knowledge? Then this day is for you! We will meet at the Village Café in Goring for introductions and briefing over a hot drink then head out into the hills. The aim of this day is to up-skill your walk – to give you more confidence to get out and discover the joys walking and exploring. We will pause to cover aspects of walk planning, where to walk, simple navigation, kit and equipment, safety and responsibilities, etc - all this while we enjoy a fantastic walk. You will be given plenty of tips, advice and guidance along the way, and you can also expect some awesome views!

#### The expansion of Old Amersham

Sunday 25 2.30pm 1.5 miles 1 1302

Discover the historic buildings and the interesting stories of the people who lived in and shaped Amersham in the past. Explore the workhouses, coaching inns and 18th and 19th century travel, social housing, cottage industries, and Post War development from Brazils factory to Tesco, the Gas Works to offices, the Bus Garage to retirement homes, and the Workhouse to the hospital. To investigate earlier history of Amersham, you can book the Explore Old Amersham's Early History walk on 18 May or 1 June. If you can't join this walk during the Festival, note that it runs fortnightly through to the end of October. Further details on the Amersham Museum website.

#### A Walk With The Pigs

Monday 26 9.45am 0.5 miles 2 0301

Join us at Kew Little Pigs Farm to walk through our land and meet our micro pigs. This leisurely walk will be circular with a start and end point at the site entrance, plenty of opportunities to stop and meet the pigs at their pens, and time to visit our cafe for a break and refreshments.





#### Midsomer Murders easy access walk

Tuesday 27 11am 1 mile 1 1901

Amersham is a quintessentially Midsomer town and is used as a location in numerous episodes. Amersham also represents the perfect place to live in *Midwich Cuckoos*, the perfect place to stay in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and the perfect Cornish fishing village in *My Cousin Rachel*. Our walk is a one-mile circular guided walk designed to be as inclusive as possible and should be suitable for people with limited mobility and additional needs with their families. The route will be on the flat around Amersham Old Town. The pace will be slow with stops for description, allowing plenty of time to take in the sights and stories!

#### Ghostly tales from the Riverbank

Tuesday 27 1pm 7 miles 2 1101

Do you believe in ghosts? England is a haunted country and along the iconic Henley Reach of the River Thames there are plenty of Ghostly Tales from the Riverbank to be told! So, don't be frightened... join us for a ghost walk and discover Henley's infamous murderous woman, the Phantom of Regatta Island, and more. Our 7-mile route takes us from historic riverside market town of Henley along the Thames Path National Trail to Mill End, returning on the opposite bank via Greenlands and Fawley Court. We walk at a moderate pace with plenty of stops for some ghostly tales along the way.

#### Family walk and meet the sheep event

Wednesday 28 1.30pm 2 miles 3 1501

Bring the family for a nature activity walk in the beautiful Pegsdon Hills near Hitchin, led by Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust. There will be a gazebo with information and nature crafts for children. The walk will set off to our livestock holding area for a sheepdog demonstration and talk about our livestock and their role in conservation. The walk will then take in Hoo Bit before returning along the ridge enjoying fantastic views as we go.

#### Key to walks

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(pretty flat, good paths)
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- 3 **Moderate**  
(more challenging, for keen/active walkers)
- 4 **Fairly strenuous**  
(challenging – steep gradients, rough terrain)
- 5 **Strenuous**  
(long/challenging walk for fit/experienced walkers)

#### Walk better, feel better – easing chronic or recurring lower back stiffness

Wednesday 28 10am 1 mile 1 0402

Linear, gentle walk from the Bottle and Glass in Binfield Health to beautiful Bones Wood, on flat, soft terrain. We will focus on being relaxed and strong, making simple postural tweaks and gentle movement, focusing on our lower back. We can share a drink afterwards for those who are able/want to (not included in the price of the walk).

#### Dipping into the Wells

Thursday 29 9.30am 12 miles 5 1102

Join Pipsticks Walks for an 11-mile walk into the hills around Goring to discover the fascinating story of water, including deep wells and dipping ponds, dry valleys and more. In days gone by the communities here relied on the River Thames, local ponds and wells for their water. Starting from Goring Station we climb up to the dipping ponds on Greenmoor Common, one of the highest points in the Chilterns. Keeping to the wooded high ground, our route takes us on to Crays Pond and Whitchurch Hill before descending on an ancient track to an iconic viewpoint and then following the River Thames back to Goring.





© Chilterns Conservation Board

**Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve**



© Catherine Catriona

**Amersham Museum – Tudor costumed tour**

© Catherine Catriona

#### Walk for wellbeing at Dunstable Downs

Thursday 29 1pm 1 mile 2901

Join us for a relaxing walk in the beautiful setting of Dunstable Downs. This gentle walk will follow a path that runs along the top of the Downs, offering stunning views of the surrounding countryside. As well as taking in the sights and sounds of this special place, you will have chance to learn more about how walking can support our wellbeing and the Ramblers Wellbeing Walk programme.

#### Riverside Stroll: a gentle walk along the River Lea from Wardown Park

Thursday 29 1pm 1.2 miles 3001

Join Sam from Luton's Parks & Countryside Services for a short scenic walk along the River Lea from Wardown Park and back, ending at the cafe and museum which is an ideal stop for families. We will pass through an orchard, meadow, formal garden and small woodland keeping our eyes peeled for Kingfishers and Little Egrets and enjoying some nature snippets from Sam as we go!

#### Twilight River Chess bat safari

Thursday 29 8.30pm 2 miles 0901

Join the Chilterns Chalk Stream Project for an evening walk exploring the fascinating world of bats in a beautiful location, not usually open to the public. During the walk, you'll have the opportunity to use bat detectors to listen to the echolocation calls of different bat species, observe their flight patterns, and learn about the vital role they play in the ecosystem. We will also look out for other wildlife along the river. The route is short but we will be stopping at regular points to look out for bats.

#### Botany at the Band

Friday 30 10.30am 1 mile 1002

Come on a short stroll through old Amersham, visiting the churchyard and then a meadow that is being restored at Amersham Band (with the help of Wild Amersham). Learn lots about the wildflowers and plants you see on your way from a local volunteer who is passionate about wildflowers. This walk is short and gentle and starts inside the Memorial Gardens and ends back there allowing you to explore Amersham's lovely historic architecture and enjoy its shops and cafes.

#### Wildflower Wander with wild Amersham

Friday 30 11am 1.5 miles 1003

Come on a short but lovely wander through old Amersham to the small but delightful wildflower meadow restored by St Mary's School. You will learn more about chalk wildflower meadows and get introduced to quite a few of the wildflower species that grow in them. This is a short and easy circular walk starting at and returning to the Memorial Gardens in Old Amersham, allowing you to enjoy its historic architecture and cafes and shops there before you go home.

#### Wildflower walk at Amersham Hospital

Friday 30 2pm 1 mile 1004

For the benefit of patients, staff and visitors, Amersham Hospital has revitalised its gardens and restored wildflower meadows on its site with the help of Wild Amersham. Come for a gentle stroll with a local wildflower devotee who will show you the meadows and tell you about the common and uncommon wildflowers you can find there. This will be a short stroll with lots of stops to look at lovely plants.





© Aleksandra Warchol



© Paul Jennings

## River Chess walk

### Walk and sketch around Old Amersham

Saturday 31 10am 2.5 miles 2 1801

Enjoy a linear walk from Amersham new town to the historical old town through rolling countryside, stopping to sketch on the way. We will look out for birds, plants and nature and learn something of the history and geology of the area, including the chalk stream that runs through the valley. This is an introduction on how to use your sketchbook to enhance your walks. We will quickly sketch countryside scenes and some of the delightful quirky buildings. We finish in the historic Old Town.

### Nettlebed Common and surrounds – a walk back in time

Saturday 31 10.30am 3 miles 1 0101

A circular walk around Nettlebed starting and ending at the kiln. This walk will cover the area of the common and some of the area to the east of this. It will give an opportunity to examine the geological, landscape and economic history of the area. We will see evidence of some of the brickmaking history of the area and also have a chance to discuss the earlier history over the last 100 million years.

### Practical map reading and walk planning (Chenies)

Saturday 31 1pm 4 miles 3 1704

On this half day course we will navigate ourselves around a scenic 4 mile walk, through typical Chilterns terrain of fields and woodland, using common navigation techniques. You will learn about the useful bits of information a map can give and this will help you plan your own walks. During the walk we will also introduce some compass techniques.

### Explore Tudor Amersham

Saturday 31 2.30am 2 miles 2 1303

Join guides in Tudor costume to learn about life – and death – in 16th Century Amersham. We'll explore food and drink, markets and fairs, buildings and burgage plots, clothing and work, health and cures, religious beliefs and the Lollard martyrs.

### A walk near River Thames, centred on the historic village of Hambleden

Sunday 1 10am 5 miles 2 0701

Join the Chiltern Society for a 5 mile walk. It starts with a climb out of the historic village of Hambleden, continues through woodland and then offers magnificent views. We will return alongside Hamble Brook which recently saw the completion of a major restoration project.

### Wild Amersham's Chiltern Charms

Sunday 1 10am 3.5 miles 2 1001

Get to know the 'wild' side of Amersham, on this nature walk through a historic Chilterns town. You will pass through a beech wood, down rolling hills, through an ancient hollow way and along a chalk stream.

On the way you will learn lots about these typical Chiltern and rare habitats from a 'Wild Amersham' volunteer. There will be lovely views on the way and the walk ends in historic old Amersham for you to enjoy its architecture, cafes and shops.

## Book online

[www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest](http://www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest)





© Walk Works

River walks

### The Lee and Lee Common

Sunday 1 2pm 3 miles 3 1601

To coincide with the 150th anniversary of Liberty & Co. this walk will explore the contribution made in the late C19th and early C20th by Arthur Lasenby-Liberty to the Parish of The Lee, a leading figure of the 'Arts & Crafts' Movement who lived there at the time. Walk itself is a 'figure-of-eight', on and off roads/paths.

## Book online

[www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest](http://www.chilterns.org.uk/walkingfest)



### Explore Old Amersham's early history

Sunday 1 2.30pm 1.5 miles 1 1305

Discover the historic buildings and the interesting stories of the people who lived in and shaped Amersham in the past. Explore local patronage and its influence, the parish church and its rectors, the brewery and the maltings, the Town Mill and the Charter Fair, and almshouses dating from the 1600s and the Victorian era.

### Key to walks

- 1 Easy**  
(pretty flat, good paths)
- 2 Fairly easy**  
(some gentle inclines, steps/stiles)
- 3 Moderate**  
(more challenging, for keen/active walkers)
- 4 Fairly strenuous**  
(challenging – steep gradients, rough terrain)
- 5 Strenuous**  
(long/challenging walk for fit/experienced walkers)



Less than an hour away from London, the Chilterns National Landscape is easily accessible by both road and rail. With 20 railway stations, and even a London Underground line, our market towns are easily reached by public transport and provide an excellent gateway to the Chilterns. **Plan your journey** [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)



[www.chilterns.org.uk](http://www.chilterns.org.uk)

The Chilterns Walking Festival is an initiative of the Chilterns National Landscape.