



Spelthorne U3A K2
Walking Group AGM

8th November 2025

11am start



Agenda

- Welcome & Refreshments
- Review of 2025
- Group funds
- Plans for 2026
 - Annual Lunch
 - Annual Picnic
 - Annual Coach Walk
 - Project Walk
 - Walking Group holiday / exchange
- Committee members
- Website
- AOB



Review of 2025

- ▶ **38 walks were planned and 35 were completed since the last AGM**
 - ▶ 26 “local” walks plus 9 project walks
 - ▶ 3 cancelled (hot weather, lack of participants, no leader)
 - ▶ Ranged from 2½ to 10½ (planned!) miles
 - ▶ 222 miles in total (230 last year); including the Project Walk
 - ▶ 59 individuals have participated (50 last year). 14 were “guests”
- ▶ **Project Walk completed (9 legs) February to September**
 - ▶ St James' Way – Reading to Southampton, 77 miles
 - ▶ One overnight stay for legs 8 and 9
 - ▶ Around 15 walkers on each leg
- ▶ **Our “paid up” membership: 59 people (2024-5)**
 - ▶ New K2 members are expressing an interest in the group

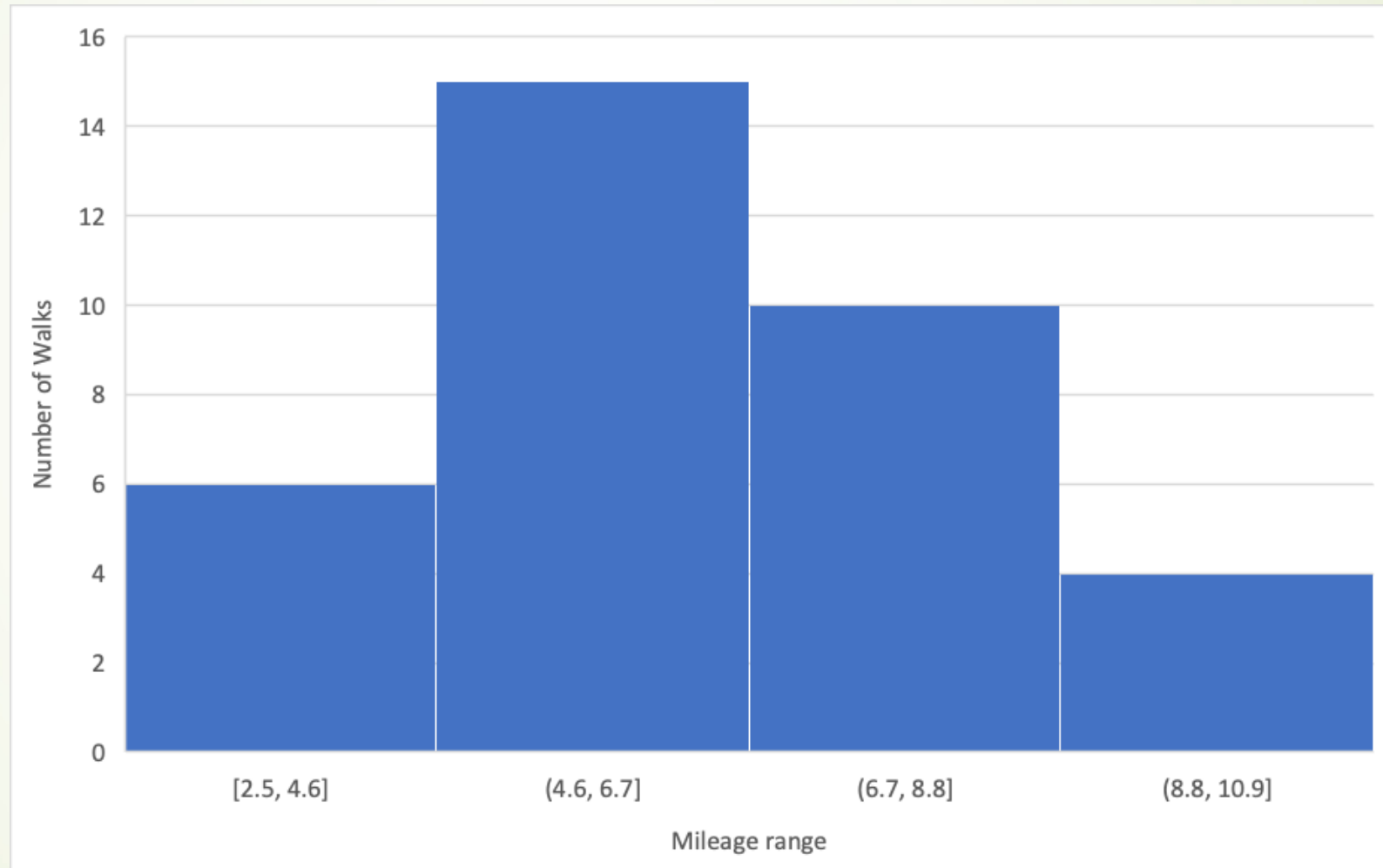


Review of 2025 continued

- Excellent effort throughout the year from Walk Leaders
 - We have had a full programme for almost the whole year
 - A few “Fancy Free” walks have been done
- Some people still not happy with the “mix” of walks
 - Long, short, slow, fast, hilly, flat
- We have lost some Walk Leaders
 - Places bigger burden on a small group of leaders
 - We need more volunteers to lead walks, especially the shorter walks

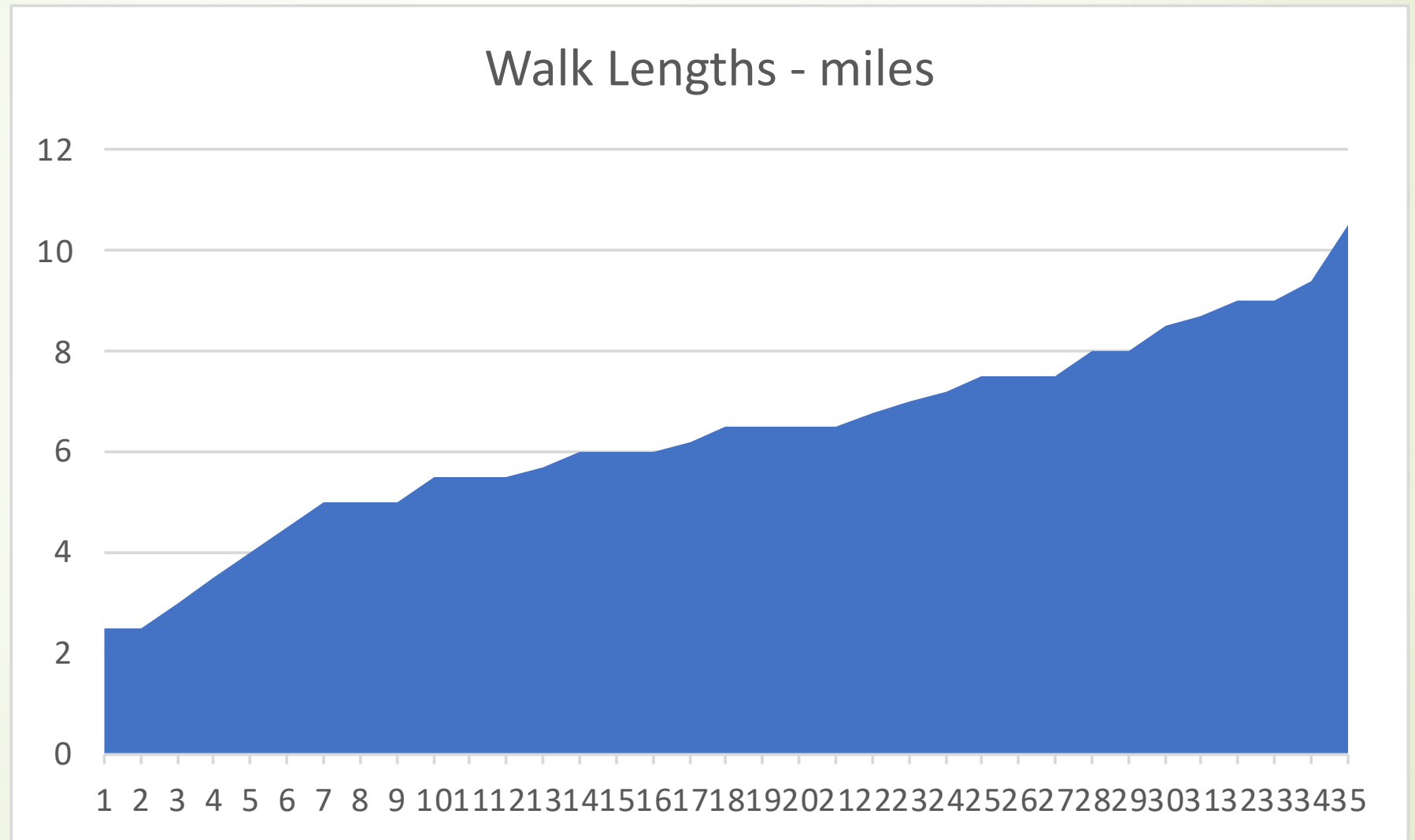
Walk Lengths over the year

35 walks, including project walks



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Review of 2025 continued

- The **Annual lunch** at the Three Horseshoes and **Annual Picnic** at Sylvia's house were both a great success
 - Thanks to Jacqui, June and Sylvia
- There was no annual coach walk or walking holiday
- Ambling Group status is unclear (was closed, then re-opened)
 - 73 members listed (maybe 30 active members??)
 - Amble on Thursdays
 - No subs required
 - Frank still says he is happy to be the POC
 - Are there many people prepared to lead ambles?



Group Funds

	£
➤ Funds brought forward as of 8 Nov 2024	115.88
➤ Annual Subscriptions (2024-5)	295.00
➤ Recce costs (only 7 claims*)	(89.85)
➤ AGM plus other costs	<u>(67.38)</u>
➤ Current funds	253.65
➤ Annual Subscription for 2025-6: £2	

** Walk leaders should claim for all recces!*



Plans for 2026

➤ Walks

- Length, pace, transport options
- Programme to include more Fancy-Free Walks (group led)??

➤ Lift Share WhatsApp

- Any changes needed?
- NB – many car parks now require an App on your phone and do not take cash or cards.

➤ Leading walks

- Appeal for new leaders
- WG Leaders meeting – Q&A session?



Annual Lunch

- Venue and date TBC
- Volunteers required!



Annual Picnic

- Hosted by ???
- Short walk included
- Walking and Ambling groups invited
- Date TBC



Annual Coach Walk

- Viability?
- Leader?
- Destination and date TBC



Project Walk – 3 options

- Shakespeare's Way (first half)
 - 75 miles, The Globe to Chalgrove
 - Three Castles Path
 - 60 miles, Windsor to Winchester
 - The Ver-Colne path
 - 50 miles, St Albans to Staines
-
- Probably scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month
 - Will need people who are willing to drive

3 Castles Path – Windsor to Winchester - 60 miles

Inspired by the 13th century journeys of King John. The route takes in Windsor Great Park to Ascot, the Crown Estate south of Bracknell, the Blackwater Valley, Odiham Castle, the Basingstoke canal, the Whitewater River and the River Itchen from Itchen Abbas to the Great Hall, at The Castle, Winchester. Less than 5 miles are on roads

	Leg	Mileage	By car	By public transport
1	Windsor Castle to Ascot	7		Yes, train
2	to Swinley Forest	5.5	Y	
3	to Horseshoe Lake	6	Y (60*)	
4	to Hartley Witney	7.5	Y	
5	to Greywell Tunnel	7.5	Y	
6	to Ellisfield	7	Y (60*)	
7	to Lower Weld	5.5	Y	
8	to Abbotstone	7	Y	
9	to Winchester	7	Y (90*)	

* Time in minutes to drive each way.

Only the first leg is easily accessible on public transport. Subsequent legs require 2 hrs plus each way on a variety of trains, busses and walking, so car share/shuttling is advised. There could be an option to drive one way and get public transport back to the cars or to the start of the walk.

Summary: Flat route, varied scenery, generally quiet, not too much road walking. Not very accessible by public transport, so will need car shares for most legs.

Shakespeare's Way – London to Chalgrove - 75 miles

Inspired by the journey Shakespeare may have taken between his home town of Stratford and London. It is a 146 mile route, so we would only cover roughly half of this during the year. The route takes in London, Wandsworth, Kew, West Drayton, Iver, Farnham, Burnham Beeches, Cookham, Marlow, Hambledon, Chalgrove. The walk starts out following the Thames for the first stretch, followed by the Grand Union Canal; from Iver onwards it follows largely woodland paths. The Thames is re-joined from Cookham to Marlow, then back onto woodland paths. There are short stretches of road on most sections.

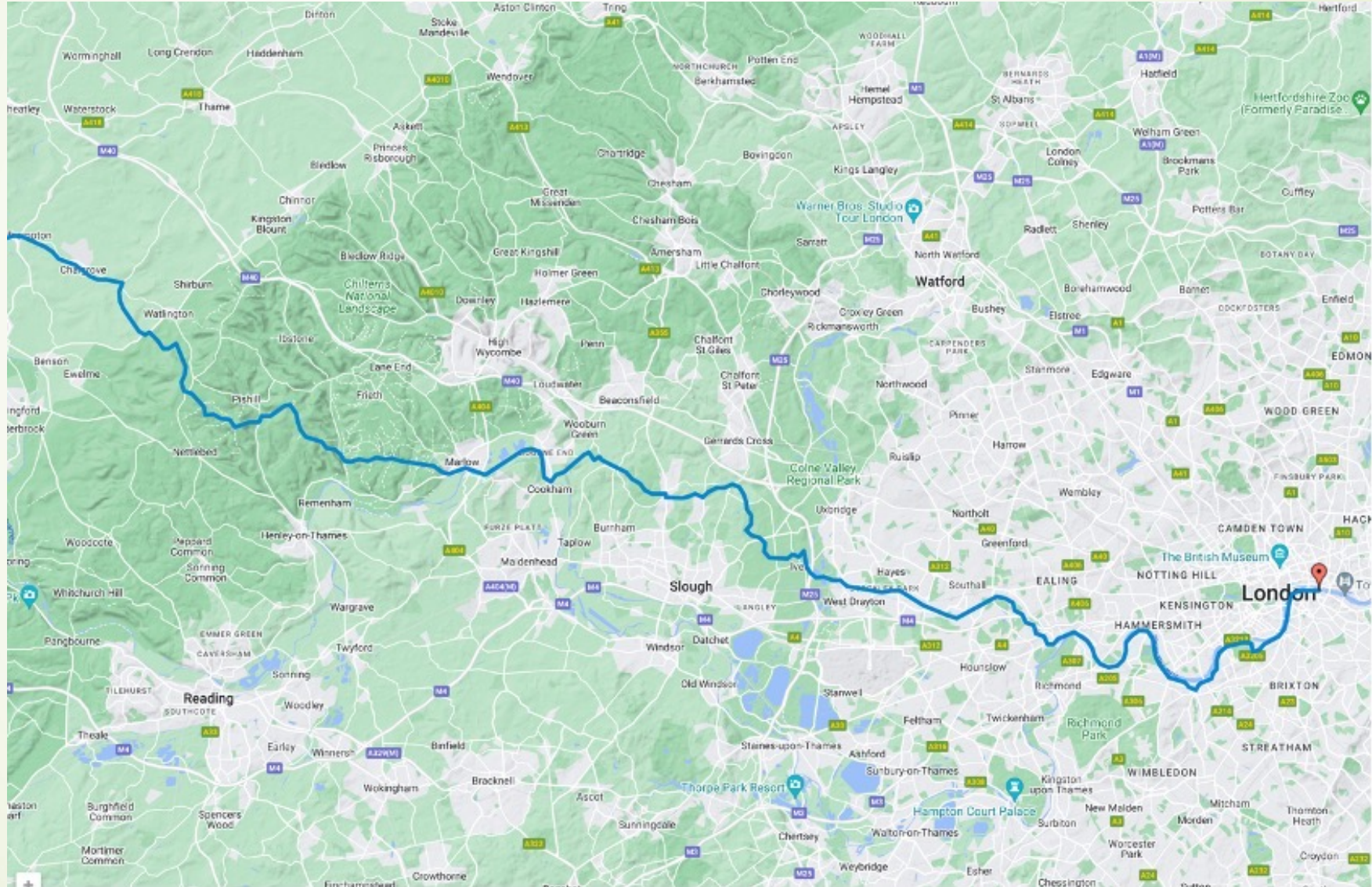
	Leg	Mileage	By car	By public transport
1	The Globe to Battersea Bridge	6		Yes, train
2	to Barnes Bridge	8		Yes, train
3	to Hanwell Locks	7		Yes, train and bus
4	to West Drayton	6	Y	Possible, buses
5	to Langley (Black Park?)	7	Y	
6	to Burnham Beeches	6	Y (40*)	
7	to Bourne End	7	Y	
8	To Hambledon	9	Y (55*)	
9	to Cockley Green	9	Y	
10	To Chalgrove	10	Y (80*)	

* Time in minutes to drive each way.

The first three legs (and maybe the fourth) should be accessible on public transport. Subsequent legs require 2 hrs plus each way on a variety of trains, busses and walking, so car share/shuttling is advised. There could be an option to drive one way and get public transport back to the cars or to the start of the walk.

Summary: Public transport possible for early legs. Some nice villages towards the end. Follows the Thames and Grand Union Canal for some of the route, these are areas we have walked before.

Shakespeare's Way



Ver-Colne Path – Kensworth to Staines – 50 miles

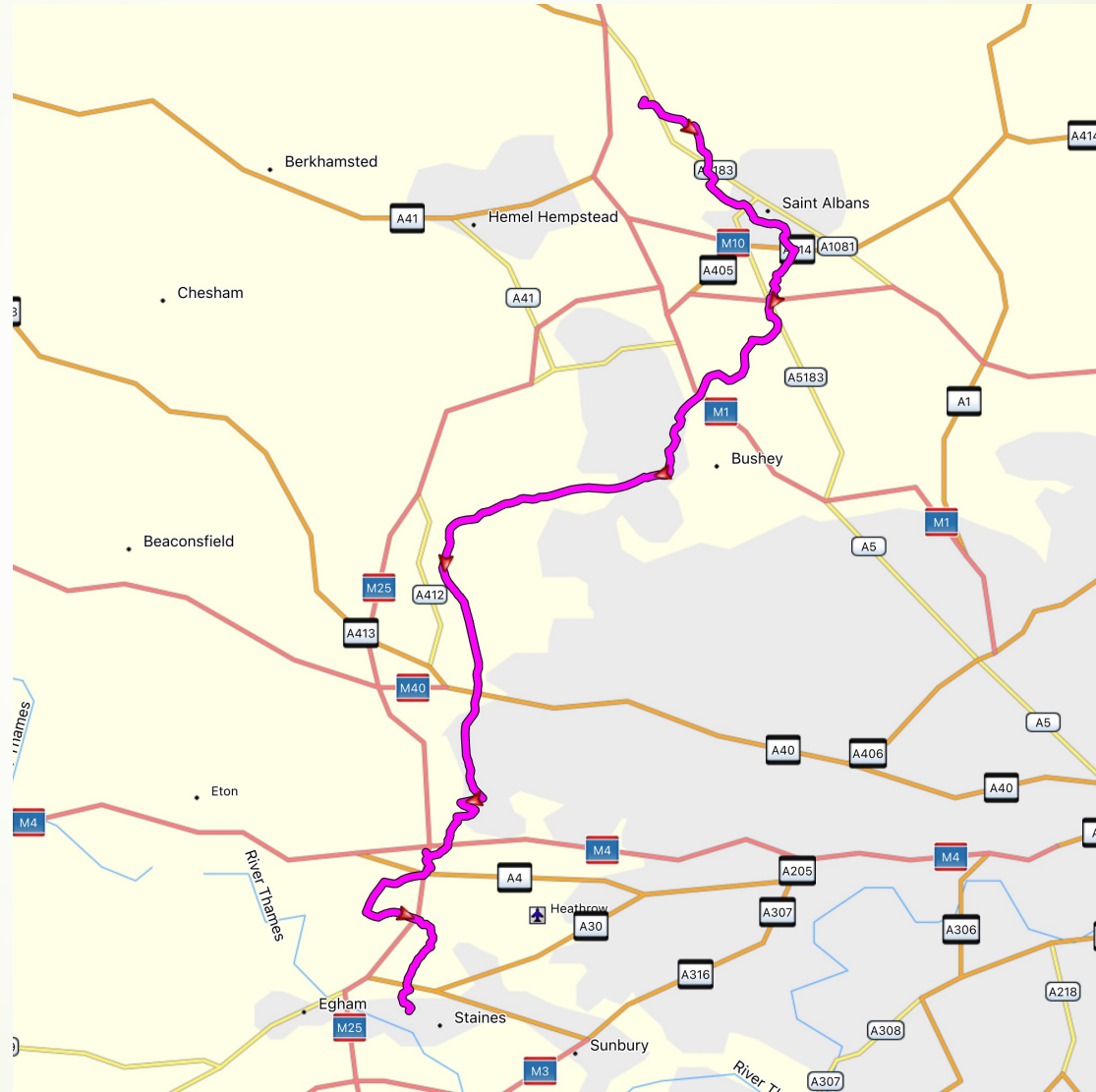
This is a route that Dick Beresford has walked in the past. It follows the River Ver at the start and then the Colne. The advantage is that travel to and from the legs is not too difficult and Dick has been trying to make use of public transport to avoid the need to shuttle the cars where possible. The walk will generally be quite flat as it follows the rivers. The maximum elevation is 520ft and the minimum is 320ft.

	Leg	Mileage	By car	By public transport
1	The Packhorse at Kensworth to Redbourn	6.8	Y	Bus used instead of car shuttle
2	Redbourn to St. Albans Abbey Station (option to spend time in St Albans)	5.9	Y	Bus used instead of car shuttle
3	St. Albans Abbey Station to Garston Station	8.1	Y	Bus used instead of car shuttle
4	Garston Station to Rickmansworth	7.7	Y	
5	Rickmansworth to Uxbridge Station	7.7	?	
6	Uxbridge Station to Colnbrook	7.3	?	
7	Colnbrook to Staines	5.7	?	

The fact that the route can be done in 7 legs means we can start in March (when the danger of flooding will be less) and finish in September (or October if we miss a month).

Summary: New route for us, quite flat, could be muddy as it is by rivers. Plenty of opportunities for cafes and pubs as towns are not far away. Will need car shares for most legs, but buses or trains can be used to avoid car shuttling on the first 3 legs (and maybe later ones).

Ver-Colne Path





Walking Holiday / Exchange

- Format TBC – but possibly using HF Holidays or similar
- Own transport to/from the accommodation
- Ideas (for venue etc) and volunteers required!

- Walking Exchange Scheme
 - Link up with other U3As in the UK – day trip or several days
 - Participating U3As offer to share and lead a group on some local walks
 - In return we should be willing to lead walks for visiting U3As
 - Neil has a contact and details for this



Committee Members

- Current:

- Programme Organizer Marion Edwards
- Membership & Treasurer Jacqui Thake
- WhatsApp Coordinator Gill Tuck
- Communications Mike Mertens

- New members/volunteers always welcome



Website

- Website & walk programme
 - Main Walking Group page with future and past walks
 - Buttons added to make the programme easier to find!
 - Click on a walk to get a printable version
- Password-protected files:
 - Walk Programme with contact details
 - Contact details of Walk Leaders
 - Both available via new “buttons”
- Emails sent to all members (ad-hoc)
 - When there has been a significant update to the programme
 - Links to the programme are provided and always stay the same!



AOB