Spelthorne U3A K2
Walking Group AGM

7th November 2026

11am start

Agenda

- Welcome & Refreshments
- Review of 2026
- Group funds
- Plans for 2027
  - Annual Lunch
  - Annual Picnic
  - Annual Coach Walk
  - Project Walk
  - Walking Group holiday / exchange
- Committee members
- Website
- AOB

Review of 2026

- **32 walks were completed since the last AGM (35 last year)**
  - 23 "local" walks, 7 project walks
  - 2 coach walks
  - Ranged from 1 to 9 miles. 4 walks had options (e.g. 3.5 or 6.8 miles)
  - 207 miles in total (222 last year); including the Project Walk
  - 51 individuals have participated (59 last year)
- **Project Walk completed (7 legs) March to October**
  - Ver-Colne Way – St Albans to Staines, 51 miles
  - Public transport used for all legs instead of the usual car shuttles
  - Number of people on each leg varied from 8 to17
- **Our "paid up" membership: 54 people (2025-6)**
  - There were 59 paid up members last year
  - New K2 members are expressing an interest in the group

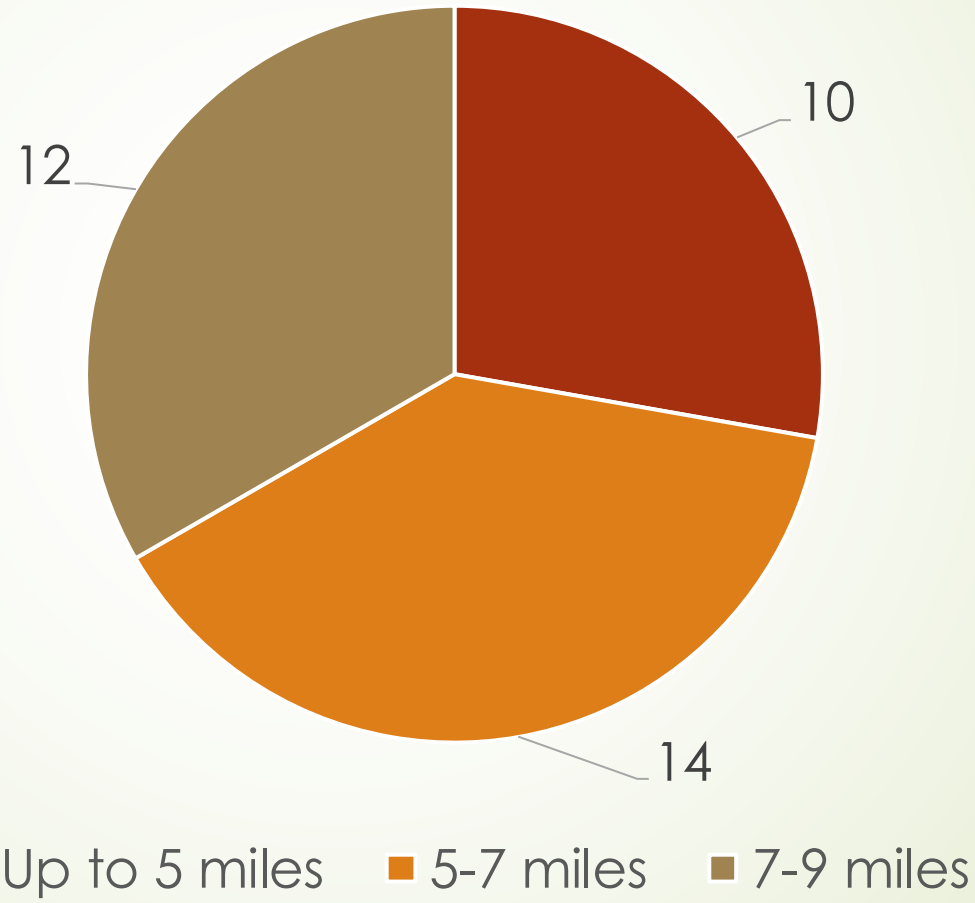
Review of 2026 continued

- **Excellent effort throughout the year from Walk Leaders**
  - We have had a full programme for almost the whole year
  - During the summer, a number of walks had to be postponed due to the high temperatures. There were no walks in August as a result
  - 2 walks were also cancelled due to very wet weather, both were rescheduled
  - A few "Fancy Free" walks have been used, but normally led (rather than being a group effort)

- **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

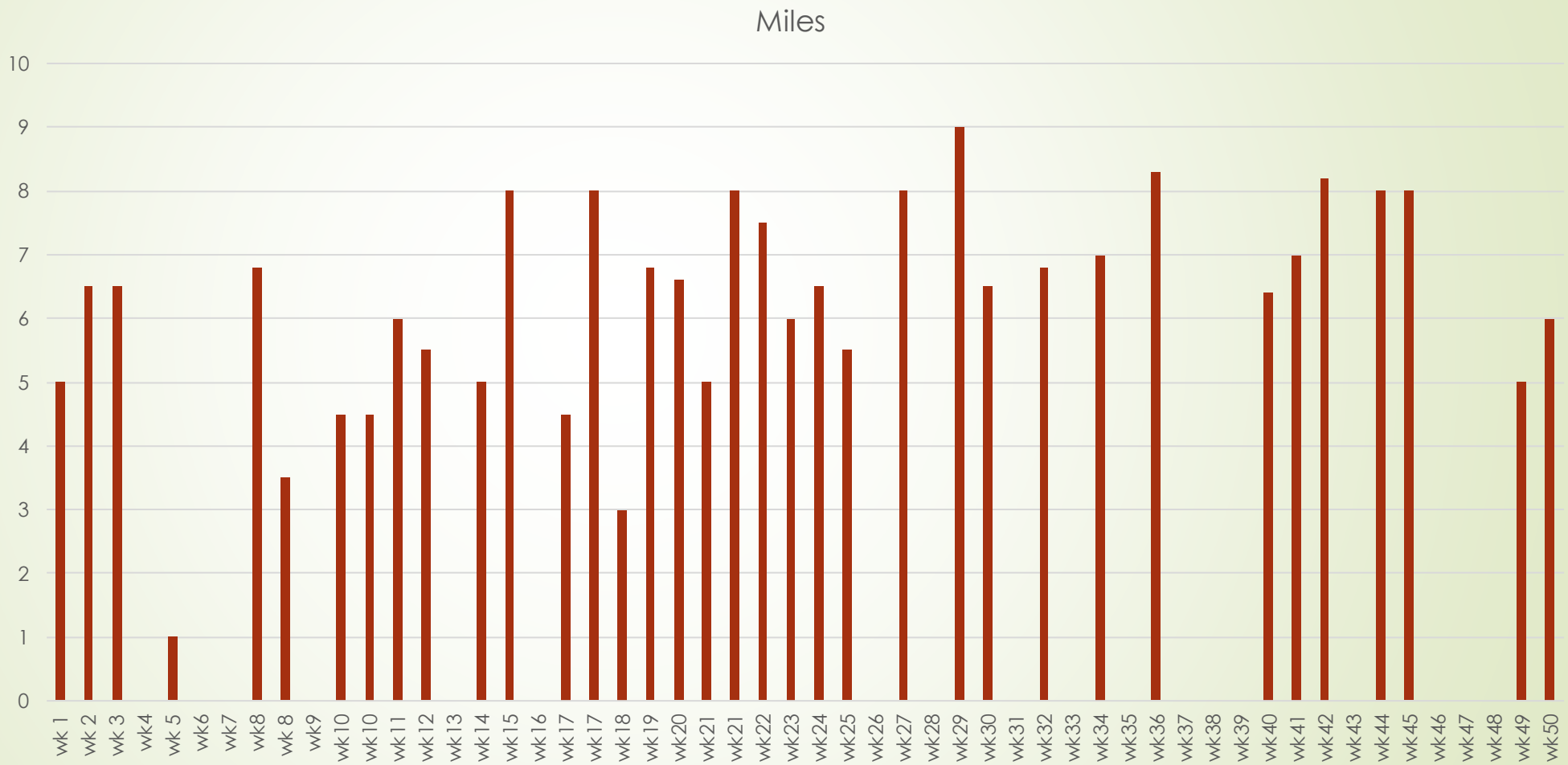
Walk Lengths over the year

36 walking distance options (4 were dual length)



Walk Lengths over the year

November 2025 to November 2026



Review of 2026 continued

- **Annual lunch** at the Three Horseshoes – 4th March, organized by Jacqui
- **Annual Picnic** at Sylvia's house – 5th August
- **2 Coach Walks** were organized by Lesley O'Malley
  - Wrest Park - 8th June. 5.3 miles flat and muddy led by Gail and Chris (9 walkers)
  - South Downs (from the Weald and Downland Museum) – 16th September. 8 miles hilly and sunny led by Della and Mike (17 walkers)

Group Funds

	£
Funds brought forward as of 7 Nov 2025	253.65
Annual Subscriptions (2025-6)	108.00
Recce costs (8 claims*)	(142.30)
AGM plus other costs	(66.00)
Current funds	153.35

- Annual Subscription for 2026-7: Propose **slight increase to £3**
- Suggestion that car share contributions should increase from 10p per mile to **15p per mile**. Recce costs from 30p per mile to **45p per mile**.

** Walk leaders should claim for all recces!*

Plans for 2027

- **Walks**
  - Length, pace, transport options
  - Very few walks scheduled from now to Xmas and none in 2027 yet
  - Programme to include more Fancy-Free Walks (group led)??
  - Should we also walk on the 2nd Wednesday in the month?
  - One suggestion is that we should not walk in July and August…..thoughts?

- **Lift Share WhatsApp**
  - Any changes needed?

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

Annual Lunch

- Venue and date TBC – 3 Horseshoes again?
- Volunteer(s) required to lead the walk

Annual Picnic

- Sylvia has very kindly offered to host at her house
- Short walk included
- Walking and Ambling groups invited
- Date TBC

Annual Coach Walk

- Viability?
- Leader?
- Destination and date TBC

Project Walk – 2 suggestions

- **Shakespeare's Way** (first half)
  - 75 miles, The Globe to Chalgrove
- **Three Castles Path**
  - 60 miles, Windsor to Winchester
- Other ideas welcome

- Probably scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month
- Recommend a small committee organize the Project Walk (it is a lot for one person to do)

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

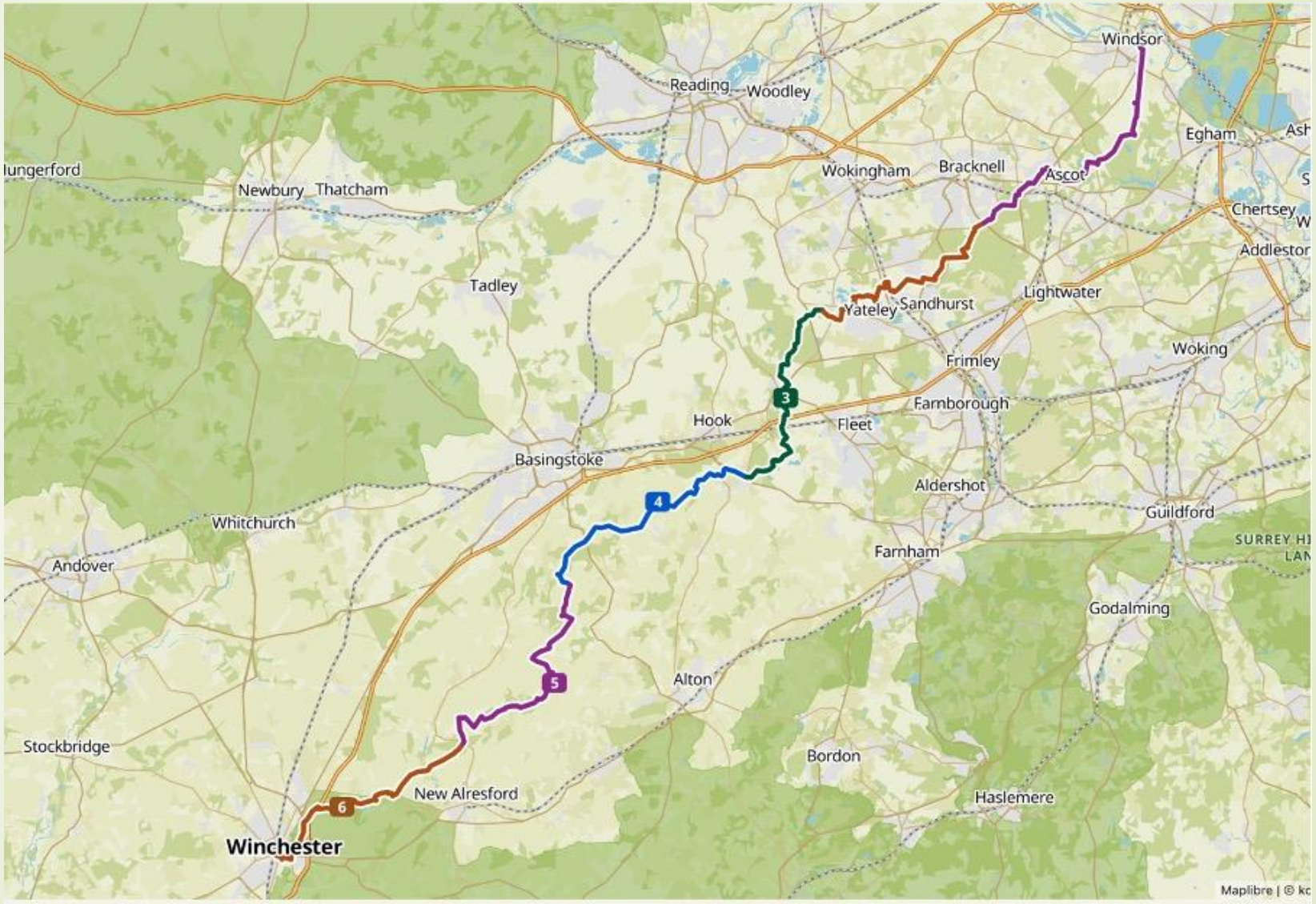
	Leg	Mileage	By car	By public transport
1	Windsor Castle to Ascot	7		Yes, train
2	to Swinley Forest	5.5	Y	
3	to Horseshoe Lake	6	Y (60*)	
4	to Hartley Witney	7.5	Y	
5	to Greywell Tunnel	7.5	Y	
6	to Ellisfield	7	Y (60*)	
7	to Lower Weld	5.5	Y	
8	to Abbotstone	7	Y	
9	to Winchester	7	Y (90*)	

* 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.

3 Castles Path



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.

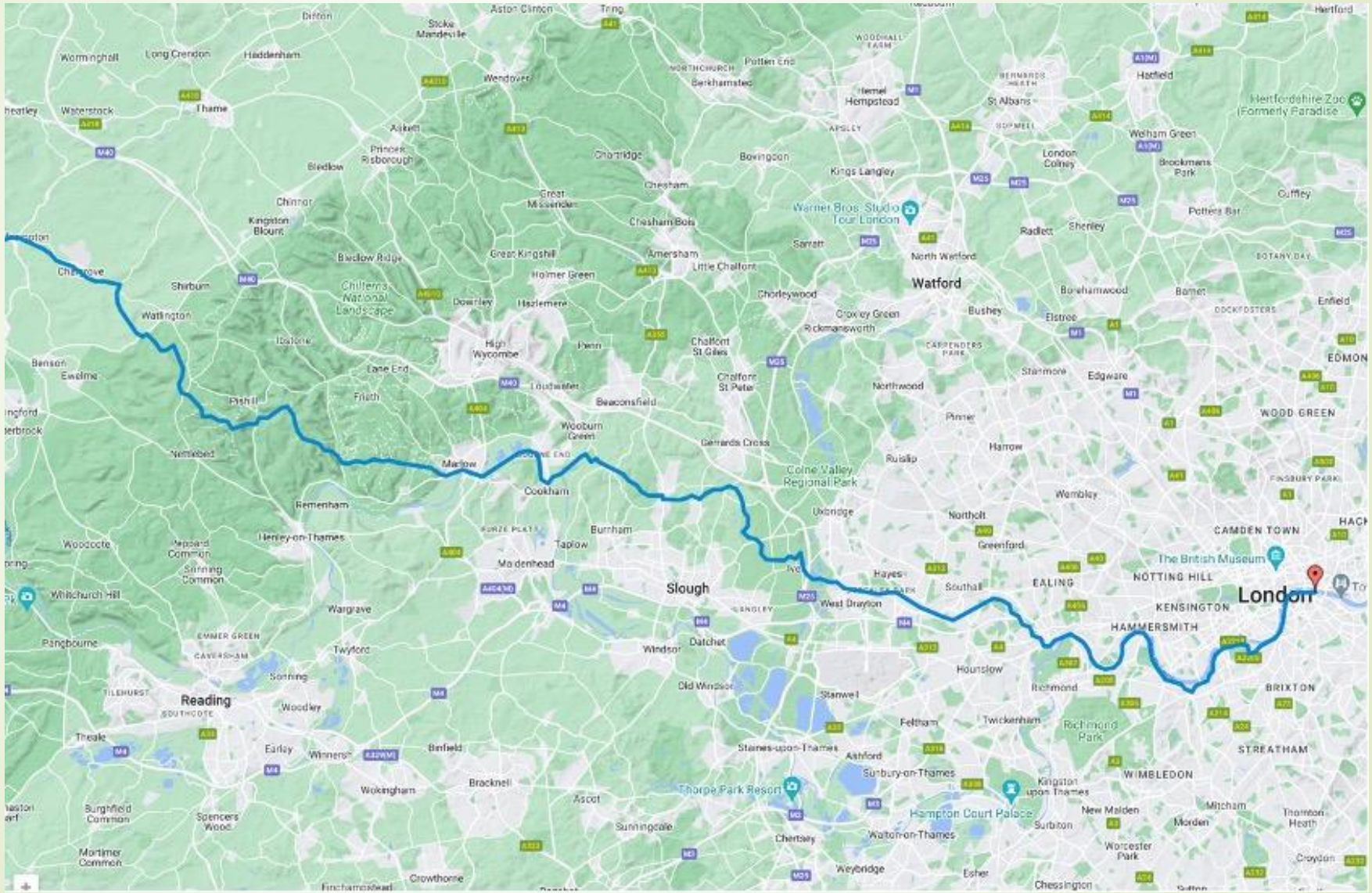
	Leg	Mileage	By car	By public transport
1	The Globe to Battersea Bridge	6		Yes, train
2	to Barnes Bridge	8		Yes, train
3	to Hanwell Locks	7		Yes, train and bus
4	to West Drayton	6	Y	Possible, buses
5	to Langley (Black Park?)	7	Y	
6	to Burnham Beeches	6	Y (40*)	
7	to Bourne End	7	Y	
8	To Hambledon	9	Y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



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