

Time to gear up for summer walking

After what feels like a long winter, it seems that summer has arrived and with it even more walks for you to join in with.

You can find the draft programme for **TRIPS AWAY** in 2026 inside, so if you missed out on a trip this year, you can find out what our plans are for next year

EVENING WALKS begin again in April, with a walk in Harpenden followed by a sociable drink/meal at the Oddfellows Arms.

Also starting up again, we have trips to the seaside at **WEYMOUTH** and to the mountains of **NORTHERN SPAIN** for our trip abroad, which gives the opportunity for members to stretch their legs on tougher terrain than we find in Hertfordshire. We are guided again by Hike Pyrenees, who led our very popular trip to Biescas in 2022.

All our regular walks continue and if you like a challenge, you may want to take note of the **CHILTERN 'THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE'**. This 19 mile walk will take place in August and when we last did this walk, it proved very popular. It is good to see so many members looking to challenge themselves.

If you want to try out a walk with us, you will always get a warm welcome and there are walks to suit all levels, from a short walk of about 4 miles followed by lunch or a drink in a local hostelry, to a brisk 7 mile morning walk or an all day walk over 10-12 miles.

SAVE THE DATE and EXPRESS INTEREST **Summer Social event: Thursday 10th July.**

In celebration of 30 years since the creation of St Albans Rambler, as a tribute to Julian Hubbard, the founding member who established the constitution and policies of the group. Join us for a day of celebration in Redbourn with a choice of half day or shorter social walks followed by lunch (or just come along to the lunch if you prefer not to walk). This event is open to all members and spouses but previous members who knew Julian are also welcome. The anticipated cost for lunch is £20. Do come along and make this a day to remember.

Please register your interest so that we can estimate numbers in advance of the event: contact Brian Hutton

Full details and request for payment will be released in the June newsletter.

**IF YOU WANT TO TAKE
PART IN ANY OF OUR
ACTIVITIES, READ ON!**

JOINING A DAY WALK

Please ring or email the contact a few days in advance to let them know you are planning to come and for full details: start time, directions, etc. They will look out for you, especially if you are a new member. If you're subsequently unable to come please try to let the organiser know, so we don't keep the whole party waiting. Most organisers can give you a mobile phone number.

JOINING A TRIP AWAY

EXPRESS INTEREST!

Helps us get a handle on likely numbers. It does **NOT** constitute a firm booking, but please let organisers know if your plans change.

BOOK NOW!

To secure a place you need to confirm your participation with the named contact and **pay the deposit**. Follow the process outlined on the final page of the Newsletter to secure your place. All monies paid to SAR are accepted on the understanding that members agree the terms in the Finance Policy.

FULLY BOOKED!

If you're interested in an event flagged **fully booked**, do ring or email the event contact. Sometimes participants drop out, especially for events planned a long way in advance. We may still be able to find you a space. And apologies if you find many events fully booked. We have to work well in advance to secure the accommodation we want, especially at peak times.

Join our WhatsApp Group

The SAR WhatsApp group is a member led group and is useful for lift sharing or walk sharing and also for sharing photos.

If you would like to be included, you can contact **Richard**, who manages the group. His details are on the back page.

First aid kits

It is a condition of our insurance that first aid kits are carried on all SAR walks. Committee members have a kit, which is available for all members.

If you are leading a walk, you should either ask any committee member who is coming to bring a first aid kit or arrange to get one from anyone on the list on the last page

Local bird life

Hertfordshire birds (feathered variety) have been making the news recently.

In the Markyate/Flamstead area a Harris Hawk has been attacking local people (and presumably other walkers.)

One resident has lost two hats to the bold bird and several have had blood drawn by a sharp beak.

This is an area that features in our walks programme, so look out!

The other local bird news is that the pair of Peregrine Falcons at St Albans Cathedral that have captured the public's interest since they produced a chick in 2022 are nesting again.

One of only five breeding pairs in Hertfordshire, the established couple have been sighted on and around the Cathedral since early spring. Following on from a webcam being installed at the Cathedral, which attracted a large number of views, the public will once again be able to view all the action, live, from the nesting tray.

Peregrine Falcons normally mate for life and often remain loyal to their nest site each year so the Cathedral is now an established breeding ground. The webcam provides the public with a birds-eye view of the iconic birds of prey and the live feed is available for all to view via the Cathedral's website. <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/peregrine-live-cam>

YOUR IDEAS?

Please ring or email one of the **COMMITTEE** if you have an idea for a walk or event or have seen a good place to stay for walking. Even if you don't want to organise or lead, we can pass ideas on for further investigation. Or have a chat to any committee member on one of our walks

YOUR SAFETY

Leaders take reasonable care for the safety of the party, but it's your responsibility to see that you are properly equipped, to take responsibility for your own safety and that of others. SAR has appropriate Public Liability Insurance but you should have your own personal accident cover.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting is on **6th March**. If you have items you would like the committee to discuss, please send to **Janet as soon as possible**.

NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be out on **1st June 2025**. If you have anything for inclusion, please send to Diane by **28th April**. Walk descriptions for any walks you are leading in **July and August** should also be sent by **20th May**.

Contributions are **always** welcomed. If you have seen an item related to walking, please do send it to me. **Diane**



These fluffy balls will grow into a powerful bird of prey



The adults have blue/grey plumage, a white face and a contrasting black moustache, the Peregrine Falcon is extremely quick and agile. It holds the record for not only the fastest bird in the world, but also the fastest member of the animal kingdom with a diving speed in excess of 200 miles per hour.

The number of breeding pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Southern England are gradually increasing and are mainly using high buildings such as cathedrals, churches and office blocks in our cities, towns and some villages, along with some more natural sites such as quarries. Despite this, the St Albans pair are thought to be one of only five pairs breeding in Hertfordshire. Other pairs have bred in Watford, Hemel Hempstead, Welwyn Garden City and Wyomondley.

SAR Six Month Events Plan April to September 2025

DATE		LEADER	DURATION	LOCATION
APRIL	1 (Tue)		Evening/ Social	Harpenden
	4-6		Away	Weymouth
	13		All Day	Capital Ring, Hendon
	16		Morning	Pegsdon & Deacon Hills
	27		Q10k	Wheathampstead/Harpenden
MAY	1 (Thur)		Evening	Drop Lane
	3-10		Away	Riglos & Alquezar, Spain
	18 (Sun)		All Day	Coombe Hill Circular
	22 (Thur)		Morning	Guided Walk St Johns Wood
	25		Q10k	Verulam/Chiswell
JUNE	28		Short Social	Dunstable Downs
	3 (Tue)		Evening	Childwickbury/Batchwood
	8		All Day	Capital Ring: Stoke Newington— Woolwich
	18		Morning	Ridge
	25		Short Social	Sandridge
JULY	29		Q10k	Chiswell Green
	30 Jun/6 Jul		Away	Pembroke Coastal Path
	3 (Thur)		Evening	TBA
	10 (Thur)		Morning social	Walks & social at Redbourn
	13/14		All Day	
AUG	27		Q10k	Batchwood
	6		Evening	Shenley
	10		All Day	Chiltern 3 Peaks 19 miles
	20		Morning	TBA
	24		Q10k	Heartwood
SEPT	2/3/4		Evening	
	8-12		Away Trip	Hope Valley High Peaks
	16/17/18		Morning	
	20		All Day	TBA
	28		Q10k	Wheathampstead/Harpenden

GREEN - AWAY EVENTS

BLACK - WEEKEND WALKS

RED - MID-WEEK WALKS

BLUE - SOCIAL/

TRAINING

FULL DAYS – Longer walks, often further afield (10-12 miles) and with a wide variety of interest, usually on the 2nd Saturday or Sunday in the month. Occasionally extended to provide an additional challenge.

QUICK WALKS (Q10k) – Sunday morning brisk exercise, finishing around noon, on local circuits of approximately 7 miles (10-12k) on the 4th or 5th weekend in the month

MORNING WALKS - These are 5 – 7 miles long, on the 3rd Wednesday morning in the month, varied in character and followed by an optional café or pub lunch. Occasionally held on a Tuesday or Thursday.

SHORT SOCIAL WALKS - 3-4.5 miles at an easy pace with a chance to have lunch or a drink with fellow walkers afterwards.

EVENING WALKS – On lighter evenings, local walks of 4- 5 miles in length are offered on a day suiting the leader, in the 1st week of the month.

SAR WALKS require a moderate to good level of fitness and pace, 2 – 2.5 mph, except the Q10k walks, which are at 3mph. All are additionally graded as EASY, MODERATE, CHALLENGING or TOUGH.

WALKS IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE

Tuesday 1st April

EASY

Evening social walk: Harpenden

An easy walk of 4 miles from Harpenden Sports centre around Rothamsted Park, then along the “Nicky Line” where we will enjoy all the fresh growth of Spring as we walk past Redbourn Golf Course to Harpendenbury Farm and back past Knott Wood, where we can admire the bluebells. Across the fields, where we may glimpse a skylark, to Rothamsted Manor and back to the start. For those who would like a drink or a meal we can meet in the Oddfellows Arms across the road.

If you wish to join this walk, please notify Steve Williams

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th April

Away trip: Weymouth

We plan to arrange a short walk on Friday afternoon and choice of long and shorter walks on Saturday around Abbotsbury. And on Sunday we plan to walk on the coast near West Lulworth with views of Durdle Door, aiming to leave for home mid-afternoon.

See page 10 for more details

Sunday 13 April 2025

Day Walk; Capital Ring; Hendon to Stoke Newington

EASY WITH A FEW SHORT STEEP SECTIONS

11.1 miles

Our penultimate leg of the Capital Ring Walk, postponed from last year, begins at Hendon Central and takes us through mainly green spaces and ancient woodlands to finish at Stoke Newington. The route is mostly level and on firm footpaths with a few steeper climbs just before Highgate. There are plenty of pubs, cafes and toilets along the way. Interesting features along the walk include the Decoy lake in Brent Park, some interesting statuary at Finchley Road and East Finchley and three woods – Cherry Tree, Highgate and Queen’s Woods, all remnants of the ancient forest of Middlesex.

The path parallels the North Circular briefly (although in a park and at a lower level) before entering Hampstead Garden Suburb and Highgate Wood.

Although the route after Highgate is densely populated, it is one of the greenest on the Ring. It continues along Parkland Walk (a disused railway track now a wildlife haven), then borders the New River (neither new or a river being a 400-year-old artificial watercourse built to bring water into London) before arriving at Clissold Park and House. The end of the walk takes in St Mary’s Church Stoke Newington, and Abney Park Cemetery, the first European Garden Cemetery in the country.

We start the walk from Hendon Central, after changing onto the Northern line at St Pancras and travel home via Finsbury Park and St Pancras, first taking a replacement bus from Stoke Newington to Finsbury Park. It's not as complicated as it sounds, and detailed instructions will be sent nearer the date of the walk.

Wednesday 16th April
Morning walk: Pegsdon and Deacon Hills

MODERATE

This walk in the north of Hertfordshire is a 6.5 mile walk over Pegsdon and Deacons Hill with some of the finest views in North Hertfordshire. There also will be the opportunity to walk through Knocking Hoo to see a display of rare wild flowers.

Sunday 27th April.
Quick '10k': Harpenden/ Wheathampstead

MODERATE

This brisk 6.8 mile walk follows a varied route initially along the old railway line from Harpenden to Wheathampstead, then heading north towards Gustard Wood and Mid Herts golf course, before returning via Mackerye End to Harpenden around 12:00pm. Walking conditions should be reasonable but be prepared for some short muddy sections.

Thursday May 1st
Evening walk: Drop Lane

GRADE: EASY TO MODERATE. MOSTLY FLAT, WITH A LITTLE UPHILL. 5-6 MILES

Meet at 5.50, start at 6.00pm.

The walk will start at the free car park off Drop Lane. We will head across the fields to the River Colne, pass near the confluence of the two rivers, and return along the Ver Valley path. Some parts can be muddy after heavy rain.

Refreshments are available at the Moor Mill pub/restaurant.

The nearest post code is AL2 3TX . Access is via Smug Oak Lane, off the A5183 between St Albans and Radlett.

Saturday May 3rd to Saturday 10th May
Away trip: Riglos and Alcazar—Pre Pyrenees

MODERATE/CHALLENGING

Walks guided by Hike Pyrenees are classified as Moderate/Challenging but if we have more than 24 members Hike Pyrenees will provide a third guide so that we can include an Easy option.

Spring is a perfect time to hike in the pre-Pyrenees. First, we'll stay in Murillo de Gallego with views over the wonderful cliffs of Mallos de Riglos and after three days hiking amongst the Mallos, we'll head to the canyons of the Sierra de Guara.

Here we stay in Alquezar – a beautiful village, regularly voted as one of the prettiest in Spain. Excellent accommodation in two lovely hotels, both with pools and small spas. In Alquezar we'll eat out in fantastic restaurants in the village and in Murillo, we eat at the hotel's restaurant which has wonderful views over the cliffs.

This trip is fully booked but if you are interested, please contact Ralph (details on back page)

Sunday 18th May
Day walk: Coombe Hill Circular

MODERATE/CHALLENGING

There are a couple of steepish hills with one short but particularly steep downhill. It is about 10 miles starting at Coombe Hill car park which is a short drive beyond Wendover. It is a lovely walk in fact one of my favourites with some fantastic views across the Chilterns.

Let Judy know if you can join her judy_kiln@hotmail.com

Thursday 22nd May
Morning walk: London Philanthropists, Painters, Poverty and Plenty, and Pop Stars
EASY

This year's London walk takes us to St John's Wood, now one of London's most exclusive locations.

Once known as the Great Forest and the property of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. It was sold by the Crown after the reformation to wine merchant Henry Samuel Eyre and the Duke of Portland, who developed the area. Attracted by the flora and fauna of nearby Regents Park, it later became an ideal setting for creative minds to take up residence and in the 1960s it became a centre for music and adoring cricket fans.

On the walk we will discover men and women who over the years have added to our rich cultural, religious and military heritage and for some of us it will be a stroll down memory lane as we visit what has been the heart of the music industry for 80 years. We finish in Regents Park, with lunch/picnic in the rose garden.

We can complete the day with a walk in Regents Park before heading home.

We meet at St Albans Station at 9.30 to catch the train to West Hampstead, then three stops to St Johns Wood. The walk is limited to 18 people.

Please let me know if you would like to join and if you will stay for lunch
jangrimsey@hotmail.com 078023 6555

Sunday 25th May
Quick 10k Verulam/Chiswell

MODERATE

Meet at 9.45am for a prompt 10.00am start.

Please join me for a sprightly, early-summer-Sunday morning wander through Verulam and Chiswell Green.

The meeting point will be outside the entrance to Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1, 2DJ. We will aim to maintain a steady pace of 4.8km an hour (aka 3 miles) aiming to return by 12.30pm. Please wear walking boots, bring a drink, sunscreen and a hat (hopefully!), and, if it has been raining at all in the week before the walk, walking pole(s) would be helpful.

Please register your interest in joining this walk before Friday 23 May Barbara Cahalane.
barbaracahalane@yahoo.co.uk. 07770996902

Wednesday 28th May
Short walk: Dunstable Downs

EASY

We start from the Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre walking towards Whipsnade and visiting the Tree Cathedral and the little church then returning to the Centre for tea and refreshments. It's flat with no hills, the ground is generally good with no stiles. The distance is about 3.5 to 4 miles. We will set off about 10.30.

Let Terry know if you will join him terry.halls@ntlworld.com

Tuesday 3 June
Evening walk: Batchwood

Meet at 17.50 to start at 18.00.

A pleasant 4-5 mile walk round Childwickbury and the wooded area and golf course at Batchwood.

Sunday 8th June
Day walk: Finishing the Capital Ring: Stoke Newington to Woolwich EASY/MODERATE

12.5 miles (to be confirmed after recce)

Our final Capital Ring walk covering sections 13-15 starts at Stoke Newington and finishes with a walk through Woolwich Foot Tunnel to finish the circuit we began in May 2023. After a bus journey from Kings Cross to the start at Stoke Newington, the walk takes in Springfield Park, then follows towpaths along the River Lee as it winds its way towards the Thames. A surprisingly green middle section passes Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and continues to the Greenway and Old Ford Lock. The final stretch will either take the riverside route over the locks (currently intermittently closed) or go over the Steve Redgrave Bridge before we cross the Thames to Woolwich Arsenal.

Walking is mostly on the level with a few moderate slopes. There are cafes, toilets and train and bus links all along the route.

Wednesday 18th June
Morning walk: Ridge (near South Mimms)

MODERATE (5.5 miles)

Meet at 9:45 for a 10:00am start, at The Old Guinea pub (EN6 3LH) on Crossoaks Lane in the village of Ridge. Please park on the road or in the pub car park. Our walk is circular to the north west of the village. We will go past a WWII Pill Box and the church of St Margaret (established in the 13th century). We pass Rabley Park before walking up another low ridge from which we should have a fine view looking towards St Albans. Our path will turn towards Shenley before we head south and follow the Hertfordshire Way back towards Ridge. There are two small wooden stiles on this walk which has consequently been graded as moderate rather than easy. Lunch will be available at The Old Guinea at the end of the walk. From the very popular restaurant at the back of the pub you will have a fine view down across the valley to the south of the ridge.

Wednesday 25 June 2025
Short social walk: Sandridge

EASY

Meet at 10.30am for a 10.45am start.

A varied and interesting 4 mile circular walk starting from the public car park in Sandridge. The walk follows the Hertfordshire Way through fields and tracks before heading into Heartwood Forest and returning via Pound Farm and along the High Street back to the car park. Drinks and food are served in the village café or in one of the pubs nearby.

Sunday 29th June
Quick 10k ; Bricket Wood

MODERATE

This brisk 6.8 miles walk takes us through open spaces of farmland, Bricket Wood Common and alongside Rivers Colne & Ver.

SPACES AVAILABLE

30th June to 6th July
Pembroke Coastal Path

MODERATE/CHALLENGING

A seven day linear walk along The Pembrokeshire Coast, beginning in Milford Haven – via Marloes, Broad Haven, St Davids, Trefin, to finish in Fishguard.

The Path takes in some of the most breathtaking coastal scenery in Britain, from steep limestone cliffs and undulating red sandstone bays, to volcanic headlands, beaches, estuaries and flooded glacial valleys. Lying almost entirely within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the trail displays an array of coastal flowers and bird life, as well as evidence of human activity from Neolithic times to the present.

AWAY TRIPS - 2025

Due to a few recent cancellations, there are spaces on several of the 2025 Away Trips as shown below. If you are interested in joining any of these trips, please contact the organiser whose contact details you will find at the end of the articles below:-

Our 2025 programme comprises:-

Weymouth – Friday 4th to Sunday 6th April – **FULLY BOOKED**

Riglos and Alquezar – Saturday 3rd to Saturday 10th May – **FULLY BOOKED**

Pembrokeshire Coast Path – Monday 30th June to Sunday 6th July – **4 SPACES**

Hope Valley, Peak District - Monday 8th to Friday 12th September – **1 SPACE**

Yorkshire Dales and Malham – Friday 10th to Monday 13th October – **3 SPACES**

FULLY BOOKED!

Friday 4th-Sunday 6th April, 2025
Weymouth & the Dorset Coast (code WD25)

It is several years since we last had a successful weekend in Weymouth with its many attractions that include Portland and the Dorset coast. Leisureplex has recently acquired the Royal Hotel, situated on the Weymouth beachfront, offering the usual excellent value for half board.

Due to limitations in available dates, the trip will involve a **two-night stay**. We plan to arrange a short walk on Friday afternoon and choice of long and shorter walks on Saturday around Abbotsbury. And on Sunday we plan to walk on the coast near West Lulworth with views of Durdle Door, aiming to leave for home mid-afternoon.

Contact Alison for more details: amhuttonz@yahoo.co.uk

FULLY BOOKED

Saturday 3rd May to Saturday 10th May 2025 (code RA25)
Riglos and Alquezar, Pre-Pyrenees, Spain **MODERATE/CHALLENGING**

Many of the participants in the 2022 trip to the Pyrenees reckoned it was their best SAR trip, so without hesitation, we offer another Hike Pyrenees trip, but this time to Riglos and Alquezar in the pre-Pyrenees, with transfers to/from Zaragoza.

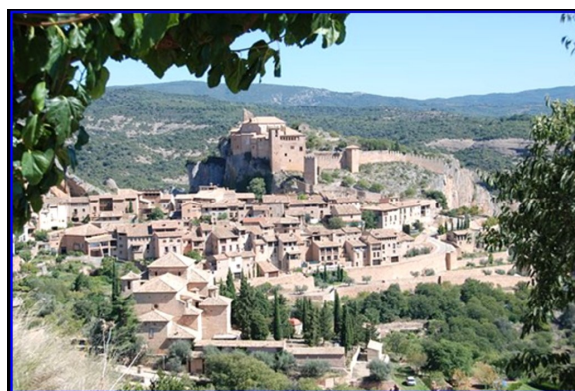


The guided walks are classified as Moderate/Challenging but if we have more than 24 members Hike Pyrenees will provide a third guide so that we can include an Easy option.

Spring is a perfect time to hike in the pre-Pyrenees. First, we'll stay in Murillo de Gallego with views over the wonderful cliffs of Mallos de Riglos and after three days hiking amongst the Mallos, we'll head to the canyons of the Sierra de Guara.

Here we stay in Alquezar – a beautiful village,

regularly voted as one of the prettiest in Spain. Excellent accommodation in two lovely hotels, both with pools and small spas. In Alquezar we'll eat out in fantastic restaurants in the village and in Murillo, we eat at the hotel's restaurant which has wonderful views over the cliffs.



Price: 1549 € for a group of 28 to 32 and 1599€ for a group of 16 to 27 Single room supplement: 359 € for rooms with balconies and cliff views in Riglos and 179 € for standard rooms. The double rooms are all the hotels have with balconies and views (in Alquezar 11 rooms have balconies). We'll fill these first and then rooms without balconies.

Included is:

- 7 nights accommodation
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches (no lunch on arrival or departure day), 7 evening meals
- Wine/water included with the meals for the 4 nights in Hotel Aguas de los Mallos
- 5 days guided hiking
- Vineyard tour, wine tasting and lunch at the bodega on rest day
- All transfers to/from hikes and between the two venues

Contact Ralph for more information (details on back page)

4 SPACES

Monday 30th June to Sunday 6th July 2025
Pembrokeshire Coast Path (code PC25)

MODERATE/CHALLENGING



A seven day linear walk along The Pembrokeshire Coast, beginning in Milford Haven – via Mar-loes, Broad Haven, St Davids, Trefin, to finish in Fishguard.

The Path takes in some of the most breathtaking coastal scenery in Britain, from steep limestone cliffs and undulating red sandstone bays, to volcanic headlands, beaches, estuaries and flooded glacial valleys. Lying almost entirely

within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park,

the trail displays an array of coastal flowers and bird life, as well as evidence of human activity from Neolithic times to the present.

There are train stations in both Milford Haven and Fishguard which take approximately 6 hours travel time from St Albans. Accommodation is in a local hotel with transport to the walk each day. Costs will be approx £1100 sharing and £650 single.

1 SPACE

Monday 8th to Friday 12th September 2025 (code HV25)
Hope Valley, High Peak District

MODERATE/CHALLENGING

Following the success of the very popular trip to Dovedale last year, another trip to the Peak District is being planned. This time it will be to the Hope Valley in the northern area of the Peak District, often referred to as the High Peak.

We plan to stay at the ***Bike & Boot***, a newly built hotel in the Hope Valley that was opened in June 2023.



A possible itinerary for the trip would be:

1. **Arrival Day:** Walk from "Bike & Boot" to Win Hill & return via Aston, or alternatively via Bamford depending on time etc.
2. **Long walk:** Hathersage to Stanage Edge: 9.5 miles / 5 hrs / 1,700ft ascent -
Short walk: Hathersage to Moorseats and/or Brontë Cottage also viewing Little John's grave near South door of St Michael's church, Hathersage.
3. **Long walk:** Edale to Kinder Downfall & Jacobs Ladder: 9+ miles / 5hrs 30min / 1,885 ft ascent.
Short walk: Edale to Jacobs Ladder & return partly on circular route: 5-6 miles.

4. **Long Walk:** Edale to Mam Tor & Rushup Edge: 7 miles / 4 hrs / 1,380ft.

Short Walk: Reservoir circular walk from Info Centre - around Upper Derwent Reservoir or Ladybower Reservoir: 4-5 miles / flat.

5. **Final Morning:** Castleton & Blue John Caverns

The cost for B&B will be in the region of £240 per person for those sharing a double or twin room, or £350 for single occupancy. In addition, there will be the usual £5 per person recce levy.

Dinner is not included in the price but is available in the on-site restaurant and currently costs in the region of £30 for a three-course meal.

3 SPACES LEFT!

**Friday 10th October to Monday 13th October 2025 (code YM25)
Yorkshire Dales & Malham Cove**

MODERATE/CHALLENGING

Based at the HF Country House, Newfield Hall, we have the opportunity for up to 30 SAR members, to enjoy a weekend of walking in this wonderful area of Yorkshire, with Malham Cove close-by. For details visit the HF Holidays website.

[3 Night Southern Yorkshire Dales Self-Guided Walking - HF Holidays](#)



There will be a choice of two levels of walk each day, led by the Leveys and Huttons details of which will be offered in due course.

For half board plus packed lunches, the cost of the HF trip is £380. In addition, there will be the usual SAR recce levy of £5 per person, plus an amount to cover gratuities.

AWAY TRIPS 2026

We have pleasure in sharing with you the draft **Away Trips** programme for 2026.

EXPRESS INTEREST

Friday 13th March to Monday 16th March 2026
South Downs (code SD26)

EASY/MODERATE



Once again, we will be based at one of the HF Holidays Country Houses. In this case, we will have sole occupancy of Abingworth Hall at the edge of the South Downs. For more information about Abingworth Hall and the surrounding area, please follow the link below:-

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/news/country-houses-abingworth-hall>

The walks will be led by SAR members Paul Weaver, Jane Williams and Richard Brailstord.

The cost for 3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast, and packed lunch, will be circa £300. This includes the SAR recce levy of £5 per person.

Further details will be included in the June Newsletter at which time the trip will be classified as "Book Now".

EXPRESS INTEREST

Friday 8th May to Monday 11th May 2026 (code CC26)
Cotswolds from Cheltenham

MODERATE/CHALLENGING



From our base at Leonardo Hotel in Cheltenham, we will explore this beautiful area of the Cotswolds



This is the same hotel used by Ramble Worldwide, for their Heart of the Cotswolds trip. For more information about the hotel and the surrounding area, please follow the link below:-

<https://www.rambleworldwide.co.uk/united-kingdom/england/cotswolds/cheltenham-and-gloucester>

The walks will be led by SAR members Brian Hutton, Alison Hutton, Ralph Levey and Diane Levey.

The cost for 3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast, will be circa £300 (shared basis). This includes the SAR recce levy of £5 per person. We are currently in negotiations with the hotel regarding the single supplement.

Further details will be included in the June Newsletter

EXPRESS INTEREST

Sunday 14th June to Sunday 21st June 2026
Cumbria Way (Ulveston to Carlisle)(code CW26)

MODERATE/CHALLENGING



After many successful treks with Absolute Escapes, most notably the West Highland Way, SAR is now offering a walk right through the heart of The Lake District. For further details follow the link below:-

<https://www.absoluteescapes.com/holidays/cumbria-way/>

Absolute Escapes will organise all of the accommodation and baggage transfers, and provide maps and route information to enable the SAR group to self-guide.

The costs will be £1,055 (shared basis) and £1545 (single basis).

More details will be included in the June Newsletter where the trip will be classified as "Book Now".

September 2026 -Majorca



We are at an early stage of planning a one week trip to the Soller area of Northern Majorca. More details will be provided in the June Newsletter.

October 2026 Melrose – Scottish Borders.



We are at an early stage of planning a 3/4 night trip to Melrose in the Scottish Borders. More details to follow in the June Newsletter.

RECENT WALKS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

As winter becomes a memory, walking becomes more inviting and the number of members on walks is holding up well.

Below you can see some of the walks we have done in the last couple of months



Left: A cold but sunny early spring day near Digswell.



Below: A walk around Wheathampstead shows that the recent rain has left its mark



Below: A beautiful spring day in the Chilterns brought walkers out to enjoy a fine walk in the sun and lunch afterwards was a sociable affair.

