Walk 01. (15) Datchet and Eton
04 January 2015 – 10 am start

We meet in the Datchet Health Centre car park
OS Explorer map 160 – ref: SU 990769

Walk description
This is our traditional New Year circular walk. It is about 5½ miles long and it is flat. The walk passes alongside Datchet Golf Course past Eton College, down Eton High Street, over Windsor Bridge, then back to Datchet through the Home Park and along the Thames Path. By taking the anti-clockwise route, the walk provides a better view of familiar landmarks. Some of the paths are muddy after rain and may be bypassed if waterlogged, by keeping to the roadside pavements.

Guest walkers are very welcome. Please remember, guests will be expected to contribute £1.00 to the charity ‘Friends of the Datchet Health Centre’ on the day of the walk. Guests and occasional walkers will be asked to become members if they attend more than 2 walks in any one year.

Please join us for refreshments at the health centre after the walk.

1. From the health centre car park, turn right down Green lane and left at Horton Road. Follow the path into the village centre and at the Manor Hotel, cross the High Street to continue in the same direction. Pass the Morning Star PH and turn left at the level crossing. Walk down Queens Road to the T-junction with Windsor Road. Turn right and cross the Queens Road with care.

2. Continue along Windsor Road for about 200 yards. Just after the last house on the right called Sumpter Mead, take the footpath to the right through light woodland. The path emerges on to the golf course. Follow the path beside the golf course perimeter for about ¾ mile. At the end of the golf course grounds, continue along the footpath straight ahead. Pass beneath the rail bridge arches to reach the wooden pedestrian bridge over the Jubilee River to the left. Cross the bridge.

3. The footpath passes through a gate, across a gravel driveway and though another gate to a small field. At the far end of this field, the path passes through a gate to an open concrete area in front of Eton College Boat House. Continue in the same direction to reach Pococks Lane. Walk along the pavement for 100 yards and then turn left over a small footbridge that leads to Eton playing fields.

4. Follow the gravel path through the fields with views of the river to the left. The path leads to the college itself. Pass through an archway between college buildings and keep to the right. Turn right ahead to emerge onto a main road. Turn left along the pavement, pass Eton College Chapel on the left and walk down the full length of Eton High Street to Windsor Bridge. Cross the river and enjoy the view.

5. At the far side of the bridge, turn left down some steps and continue alongside some railings at the river’s edge. After about 300 yards, enter Romney Walk. This route follows the towpath out of Windsor alongside the River Thames; it led to the Datchet Bridge, which no longer exists. The route became obsolete when the new Windsor Road and Victoria Bridge were built.

6. Romney Walk leads to a narrow roadway. Turn left, pass Romney Lock and walk into the boatyard. Keep to the left and follow the Thames Path sign through a gate and into a field. Walk alongside the lock cut to the left. Pass beneath the arches of a rail bridge and continue along the Thames Path through the Home Park keeping the river close to the left and some trees to the right. There are good views of Windsor Castle to the right.

7. After about ¼ mile, when the line of trees comes to an end, turn right away from the river and walk towards the main road. On reaching the pavement, cross the road but take great care, as it is a difficult road to cross safely. Turn left along the opposite pavement and cross Windsor Bridge. Look out for the steps that lead down to the Thames Path on the north side of the river. Descend the steps.
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8. Follow the path through woodland beside the river. It eventually emerges onto the main Windsor Road again. Cross the road with care and turn right along the pavement on the other side. Cross over Queens Road and then the High Street. Turn left down the next road called The Avenue. After 150 yards, turn right down Montagu Road.

9. Follow the left hand pavement and after about 300 yards, turn left down a footpath. Cross the railway footbridge and continue down Green Lane on the far side. The Datchet Health Centre is just ahead on the left.