Walk 02 (17) Eton and Herschel Park
05 February 2017 – 10am start

We meet in the Meadow Lane car park off Eton Court, Eton
OS Explorer map 160 – ref: SU 966774

Directions to meeting point
Leave Datchet along Eton Road and drive to the far end, where it becomes Pococks Lane. At the mini-roundabout, take the first exit to Eton. At the traffic lights beside Eton College Chapel on the left, drive straight ahead along the High Street. Half way down the parade of shops, turn right into Eton Court, signposted to parking. Follow the road as it bends left and look out for the car park on the right. There is a parking charge (presently £3.00 for three hours - £1.50 for Advantage Card holders). Additional roadside parking is available along meadow lane. Car-share where possible. Cross all roads with care.

Walk description and brief history
This walk is about 5 miles long and it is flat. There are a number of opportunities for shorter circular walks. The outward leg heads north, passing between college buildings and playing fields to reach The Myrke. The walk continues through Herschel Park. This grade II listed park has been transformed into a modern replica of its original Victorian design with an adjoining wildlife area. The route then continues along the Jubilee River for a stretch before heading south alongside the railway to reach the River Thames. It then crosses the river and continues along a riverside path to Eton Bridge and thence back to Eton.

Guest walkers are very welcome. Please remember, guests will be expected to contribute £1.00 to the ‘The DASH charity’ 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.

We hope to stay for refreshments at the Waterman’s Arms PH after the walk.

Walk instructions

1. Exit the car park through its northern gate (in the opposite direction to the castle) and walk across South Meadow to reach the gate on the far side of the field. Pass through the gate and turn right along the pavement of Keats Lane. Follow the pavement right at the T-junction ahead and stop at the main road. Cross the main road at the traffic lights and turn left to walk past Eton College Chapel and the main school entrance.

2. Walk through the brick archway ahead and cross an entrance drive to reach the pavement opposite. Turn right and walk alongside the wall as it swings round to the left. Exit the quadrangle through a stone archway ahead. Follow the hard-standing path, leaving the college buildings behind. Just after the brick pedestrian bridge, fork right keeping the River Thames to the right and cricket nets to the left.

3. The path passes over a small footbridge to reach Pococks Lane. Cross the road and continue in the same direction along the footpath ahead as it passes through a long avenue of trees. Walk over the footbridge that spans the Jubilee River and follow the path ahead to reach a road called The Myrke. Turn left here.

4. Cross to the opposite pavement and continue to the end of The Myrke. Turn right down a marked footpath that ascends to the main road. Turn left alongside the road and cross the M4 motorway. On reaching the entrance to Herschel Park, turn left along a gravel path beside a small car park.

5. Where there is a junction of paths, take the left fork, which climbs gently through an area of grass and scrub. This reclaimed land is being converted into a nature area. Follow the path as it bends round to form a short circuit that leads back to the junction of paths beside the car park again. Turn sharp left here and follow a lower path that leads to the park itself.
6. On entering the park, take the right fork and follow the path as it gradually bends left to pass between ponds. The path leads to an exit in the corner of the park. Pass through the park gates and continue ahead along a path that leads to a residential road. Walk to the main road. Turn left, pass beneath the M4 bridge and walk on as far as the pelican crossing. Cross the main road here and look for the footpath entrance just to the right. Pass through the barrier and continue along the path alongside the Jubilee River. On reaching a footbridge, cross the river and turn right along the path on the far side.

7. Immediately after a tunnel beneath a railway, turn left. Follow the path for a few hundred yards, with the rail track alongside to the left. On reaching a pedestrian tunnel, turn left to pass beneath the railway and immediately right to continue alongside the railway arches (now on the right hand side). The path leads to Eton Wick Road. Cross the road and follow the path opposite, in the same direction.

8. The path passes allotments to the right and follows the line of the railway. On reaching a lane, turn right beneath the rail bridge and immediately left through a metal barrier. Follow the path down to the River Thames. Turn right along the Thames Path. Immediately after it passes beneath a road bridge, look out for a path to the right that leads up to the level of the roadway. Take this path and walk along the pavement to cross the River Thames. Descend down a path on the far side and walk beneath the road bridge to the left. Continue along the pavement, passing Windsor Leisure Centre on the left.

9. Follow the pavement beneath the rail bridge and continue along the riverside path. After about ¼ mile, the path ascends some steps that lead up to Eton Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left into Meadow Lane. The Waterman’s Arms PH is straight ahead. The car park and start point lie just beyond.