Walk 05 (15) Aston, Remenham & Henley
03 May 2015 – 10am start

The Datchet Health Centre Walking Group

We meet in the car park of the Flower Pot Hotel, Aston
OS Explorer map 171 – ref: SU 784843

Directions to meeting point
The easiest route is probably to drive west along the M4 and exit at junction 8/9. Follow the A404(M) towards High Wycombe. After about 2 miles, leave the dual carriageway and take the A4130 towards Henley. Continue along this road for about 4 miles. On reaching Remenham Hill, turn right down Aston Lane (the lane can easily be missed). The Flower Pot Hotel is further on down the lane.

Walk description and brief history
This walk is about 5¼ miles long but there are shorter alternatives (marked by dotted lines on the sketch-map). The main walk is hilly in parts. Starting in the hamlet of Aston, the walk ascends a little to a path that offers fine views across the Thames Valley towards the Chiltern Hills. It then passes through fields and woodland and almost reaches Henley-on-Thames. The return leg climbs through woodland, passes through farm fields and eventually reaches the estate of Culham Court. The route then descends to the Thames Path and thence back to Aston. Bluebells should be in flower in the woodland sections of this walk.

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.

We hope to stay for refreshments at the Flower Pot Hotel after the walk.

Walk instructions

1. From the car park, ascend Aston Lane but beware of traffic on the road as there is no pavement. Immediately after Highway Cottage, take the marked footpath on the right. Climb the slope and cross the stile. Follow the path ahead, which becomes a gravel track. Parts of the route here offer fine views across the Thames Valley towards the Chiltern Hills on the right. The track eventually leads to a lane.

2. Turn left along the lane but beware of traffic, as there is no pavement. After about 250 yards, turn right along a marked footpath. The path crosses a field and enters woodland. Where the path emerges from the wood, cross a stile and maintain the same direction to reach a main path with direction signs. Bear left here.

3. Just after the next stile, follow the path diagonally across an open grassy area with a large house to the left. Pass through a gate and follow the signed path along a gravel track that leads to a gate onto a lane. Turn left and continue along the pavement to reach a main road with a pub on the corner to the left and Henley Bridge to the right. Turn left here and walk along the pavement of the busy main road as it climbs the hill. Pass a cricket pitch and some allotments to the left and where the pavement ends near a private drive to the left, look out for a narrow, steep set of steps ahead.

4. Climb the steps and follow the footpath as it climbs through the woods. Cross the private drive to Underwood and continue on ahead. The path bears right at a broad grassy crossing track and continues through the wood to reach a stile beside a lane.

5. Cross the stile and look for a path through the hedge opposite, a little to the left. Cross the lane with care and pass through the gate opposite to the left. Continue along the path as it crosses two fields. The path then bears right through a wooded section to reach a driveway to Common Barn. Turn left here and walk down a driveway signposted to Yewgate Cottage (there is public right of way here).

6. Where the driveway turns sharp right towards the cottage, continue along the footpath straight ahead. The path leads to Acton Lane. Turn right and walk up the lane taking care of any traffic, as there is no pavement. Just before the lane reaches a main road, turn left to cross a stile at the corner of a field. Follow the path across this small field to reach another stile.
7. Cross the stile and walk along the path that runs alongside the rear gardens of houses to the right. Upon reaching the last property on the right, follow the path left along the field perimeter. Pass a farm track on the right and continue straight ahead. Look out for a gap in the hedge on the right and follow the footpath sign through the gate to enter a large field.

8. This is part of the estate of Culham Court. The field contains a herd of deer. The walk offers pastoral views over the Thames Valley here. Follow the posts that mark the path as it descends to a tarmac drive. Turn left along the drive and bear left to follow the signed footpath through light woodland. Walk down a grassy area ahead and on to the Thames Path. Turn left here.

9. Follow the footpath signs ahead, passing Culham Court on the left and the River Thames a little distance away to the right. After passing through gates, the path leads to a driveway; continue in the same direction to reach Acton Lane with the Flower Pot Hotel nearby on the right.