Walk 09 (16) Chertsey Meads, Weybridge & Shepperton
04 September 2016 – 10am start

We meet in Chertsey Meads car park (not the second car park further down Mead Lane)
OS Explorer map 160 ref: TQ 055662

Directions to meeting point
From Datchet, drive along the A308 through Runnymede, then beneath the M25 to the Staines Bridge roundabout. Take the second exit and follow the A320 past Thorpe Park. Just after the bridge over the M25, turn left along the B375 to Chertsey. Drive through the village centre. At the end of the main shopping area, the road turns sharp left. Soon after this bend, turn right at traffic lights into Weir Road. Take the second road on the left, Mead Lane. Drive straight ahead over the speed humps. Soon after passing the gated entrance to Chertsey Meads, turn left into the free car park.

Walk description
The walk is 5 miles long and it is flat. It starts at Chertsey Meads, an area of land that was traditionally farmed as hay meadows. Its SSSI status was withdrawn in the 1980’s when more intensive farming methods killed the indigenous wild flowers and grasses. There has been a move in recent years to manage the land more sensitively, thereby encouraging native flora and fauna to return. The walk continues along the towpath of the Wey Navigation, opened in 1653 to provide a navigable connection between Guildford and the Thames at Weybridge. Walkers then have to cross the Thames via a pedestrian toll ferry to Shepperton Lock (fee £2 per person, dogs free). There has been a ferry service at this point since the days of Henry VI. The walk follows the Thames Path back to Chertsey Bridge.

Guest walkers are very welcome. Please remember, guests will be expected to contribute £1.00 to ‘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.

Walkers may wish to take refreshments at The Kingfisher pub before crossing Chertsey Bridge near the end of the walk.

1. Exit the car park on to Mead Lane and turn left. Pass a residential road on the left and where the main road forks with a no entry sign ahead, take the public footpath to the right, beside a gate. Follow the path across the field and turn left along the path on the far side. Walk alongside the electricity pylons to the corner of the field and then turn right over a concrete bridge that crosses The Bourne stream.

2. On the far side of the bridge, climb the stile to the left and continue through the field following the line of the electricity pylons. Aim for the left hand corner of the caravan park ahead. Walk beside its boundary, keeping the caravan park on the right. Cattle graze in this field so beware. On reaching a footpath sign, turn left to cross the field and reach the stile at the far side.

3. Climb the stile and follow the path, which tends to be a little overgrown with brambles and nettles in the summer. On reaching the road, turn right. After about 100 yards, turn left down a narrow path through woodland to emerge on to the Wey Navigation.

4. Turn left along the towpath, which eventually reaches the Thames Lock. The hut on the left provides interesting information about the Wey Navigation. Cross the lock over the footbridge ahead and follow the gravel path to join the road. Follow the road round to the left and then turn right over an old iron bridge. Soon after the bridge, turn left down Church Walk. This path emerges next to the Crown PH.

5. Turn left along the pavement of Thames Street. Where the road turns sharply right, continue straight ahead through a small car park to the Thames Path ahead. Continue along the Thames Path for about 100 yards. Look out for the ferry steps on the left. The pedestrian ferry crosses the river on the quarter hour. When the quarter hour approaches, ring the bell to call the ferryman across.
6. Disembark at the far side of the river, climb the slipway and turn left to walk past Shepperton Lock. Continue along the Thames Path, which runs beside a residential road. Keep close to the river on the left, even where the residential road turns off to the right.

7. Continue alongside the river through Dumpsey Meadow, which holds SSSI status. Cattle graze here. On reaching Chertsey Bridge, take the path beneath the bridge then turn right up to the road and right again to cross the bridge. The pavement is narrow here and the road is busy, so be careful.

8. At the Bridge Hotel and Restaurant, cross the main road but take great care as the road is busy and there is no pedestrian crossing. Walk down the road opposite that passes through a modern complex of apartments close to the river. Follow the path ahead as it passes over the entrance to the marina. Continue ahead and after a short distance, turn right along the path that leads back to the car park.