

CEC Walking Section Report for 2024

There were four seasonal walks in 2024: April, May, September and November and a Walking Weekend in June.

In April the walk started from Putney Bridge Tube Station and followed the path along the north bank of the River Thames to Barnes via Hammersmith and Chiswick. After lunch at the Bulls Head, the return route to Putney Bridge went via Barnes Common and Putney Lower Common

Thanks to Mike Packer for the 8 mile which 26 walkers enjoyed.

The walk in May started from Cranbrook and took a route through the church yard and along a woodland path leading to Sissinghurst Castle for lunch the return walk was via an alternative route.

Thanks to Derek Gregory and Laurence Bayard who led 12 walkers on the 7.5 miles.

The walk in September started from Faversham Railway Station and took a route down to the market and on to Faversham Lower Creek before joining the coastal path at Seasalter and heading towards Whistable. Lunch was at the “Forget Me Not” café near the sea at Seasalter. The walk continued along the coastal path to Whitstable Harbour, before going through the town to the station to take a train back to Faversham.

Thanks to John Coplestone, seven walkers enjoyed this coastal walk of 9 miles.

The last walk of the year took place in November from Wimbledon Park Underground Railway Station and took a route through Wimbledon Park, by the All England Lawn Tennis Club and onto the Commons.

An excellent lunch was provided at the “Fox and Grapes”, followed by an opportunity to walk around the grounds of Cannizaro House before heading past Rushmere Pond and through Wimbledon Village passing by Oliver Read’s favourite Dog & Fox Pub and lots of smart shops before heading downhill to Wimbledon Station.

The 9 mile walk was enjoyed by 17 walkers. Thanks to John Baron.

CEC Walking Weekend 2024

The 10th annual Walking Weekend Event was held in Purbeck, Dorset.

The event started on Friday afternoon at Swanage Railway Station where the group took a train ride to Norden pulled by a steam locomotive. They were given a private guided tour around the Clay Mine, where some mining equipment and a reconstructed mine were on display. Clay is still mined in the area and used to make China pottery and exported to Spain for manufacture of tiles.

The group walked to Corfe to relax and enjoy some refreshments and the opportunity to climb the mound and visit the ruins of Corfe Castle and enjoy some fantastic views. The trip finished with a visit to the signal box at Corfe Castle Station and a train ride back to Swanage.

The day finished with an excellent meal at Tawny’s Restaurant in Swanage.

The walk on Saturday started at Broad Road car park for a circular route of 8 miles which had many points of interest and fantastic views along the coast line, a coffee break at Durlston Castle and lunch in The King's Arms at Langton Matravers. In the evening there was a convivial dinner at La Trattoria Restaurant, Swanage.

On Sunday there was a circular walk of 4 miles starting from the National Trust car park at Middle Beach, Studland. The route took us by Fort Henry, where Winston Churchill, was joined by King George VI, to witness Operation Smash, the largest live ammunition practice of the entire war. We saw the iconic 'Old Harry' formation, and continued along Purbeck Way with stunning 360° views, before descending back to Studland. Lunch was at Bankes Arms Inn on the way back to the car park.

Thanks to Peter and Fiona Ahm for arranging for such a brilliant weekend for the 25 walkers.

Tony Barber
March 2025