

# Gillingham Walking Festival



**2nd-10th September 2017**

**Showcasing Gillingham's Medieval Royal Forest and introducing The White Hart Link**



*The small and friendly Walking Festival  
with guided walks for all to enjoy!*

*Terry Lucas*

**FREE Programme**

# Welcome to

# Gillingham Walking Festival 2017



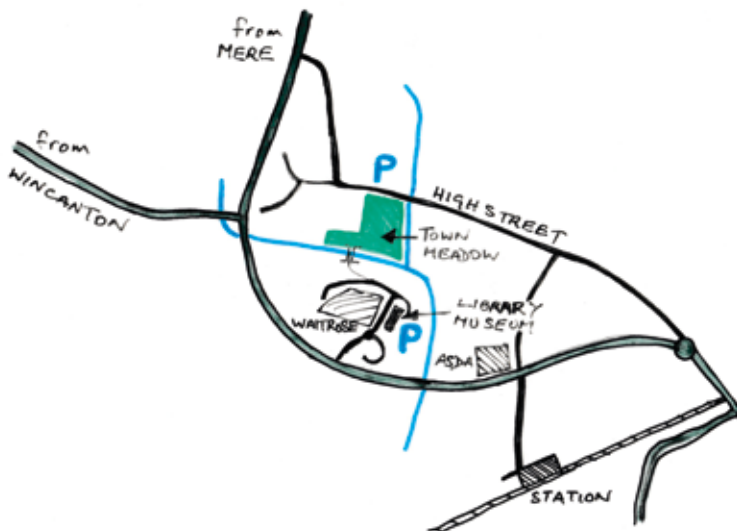
Enjoy our gently rolling farmland, our rivers, our history and our wildlife on a wide variety of walks. Experienced walk leaders from a range of local groups are looking forward to sharing their interests.

## How to Join a Walk

- » For most walks just come to the starting point in good time.
- » For some walks places are limited booking is strongly advised.
- » In a few cases booking is essential.
- » These walks are denoted by ✓ in the listing.
- » Book by ringing 07544 921671 or Email: [gillwalkfest@gmail.com](mailto:gillwalkfest@gmail.com)

## Finding Us

- » Most walks start from the Town Meadow, the grassy open space next to the river at the bottom of Gillingham High Street.
- » Toilets available at The Phoenix Inn nearby.
- » Bus and Train walks start from the Rail Station.
- » There is long and short stay parking across the High Street from the Town Meadow.
- » Public parking is also available behind the Library, which is opposite Waitrose. See map.



## Please note

- » Most walks are **FREE** but donations are most welcome towards costs of putting on the festival.
- » Bring water and snack or packed lunch as appropriate.
- » A hat, sunscreen and waterproofs are advisable on longer walks.
- » Please wear suitable footwear. Walk leaders can refuse to accept walkers who do not.
- » All ages welcome but if you are under 15 you will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- » We do not accept dogs, except guide dogs.

*Gillingham's Medieval Royal Forest* will be a feature of many of this year's walks. Learn about its history and hear some of its stories. Discover what remains: small earthworks, place names and more. These walks are denoted by RF in the listing.

*The White Hart Link* is a new project in North Dorset. The first phase is the development of a 50 mile long distance walking route linking the five towns of Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Blandford, Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge and the villages in between. It will make use of existing rights of way and quiet lanes passing through some of the iconic countryside of the Blackmore Vale. It will link to local communities and businesses, to local walks and to historic sites and viewpoints. On Sunday 3rd September the festival presents the inaugural walk of the first section of the route from Stalbridge to Gillingham.



*Adopt a Footpath* Gillingham is fortunate to have an extensive network of over 40km of public rights of way. We need lots of pairs of hands and eyes to help look after them. If you would like to help, please join our growing team of footpath adopters. Adopters undertake to

- » Walk "their" path regularly
- » Report any problems they encounter – we'll show you how
- » Help keep signs, gates and stiles free of vegetation
- » Pick up a leaflet in the Library or contact:

Gillingham Walkers are Welcome - see below

*Further Information* W: [gillwalkersarewelcome.btck.co.uk](http://gillwalkersarewelcome.btck.co.uk)

Facebook: Gillingham Walking Festival T: 01747 821269, 07544 921671

Email: [gillwalkfest@gmail.com](mailto:gillwalkfest@gmail.com)

Gillingham is proud to be a member of the national network of Walkers are Welcome Towns.

The Walking Festival is organised by Gillingham Walkers are Welcome Group.

We are grateful for support from Gillingham Town Council,

Three Rivers Partnership, and our advertisers.

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## Across the Royal Forest and along the Park Pale

**Starts: 10am \ Distance: 7 miles**

By field paths across the area of The Lawn Walk. Then by special permission along the upper reaches of The Lodden to walk a half mile section of the boundary bank and ditch (the Park Pale) where there is no public right of way.

**Leader: Sheila Messer - Walkers are Welcome**

- » Please bring picnic lunch and drink, something waterproof to sit on and wear stout footwear.
- » Limited numbers so booking strongly advised

## Visit the Threshold Centre with Cream Tea

**Starts: 2.30pm \ Distance: 4 miles**

The Threshold Centre at Cole Street Farm is a unique, pioneering cohousing community and sustainable education centre, which aims to demonstrate a way of life, which is more green, affordable, and neighbourly. Cohousing, combines small, self-contained homes with shared facilities. Reducing waste and lowering its green footprint has been an ideal for the Threshold Centre from the outset. Find out about the biodigester, solar panels, biomass heating, the vegetable garden and more.

**Leader: Gill Walkers**

- » Donations to Threshold Centre. Limited numbers so booking strongly advised.

## White Hart Link Inaugural Walk from Henstridge

**Starts: 9.15am \ Distance: 9.5 miles**

Note early meeting time in Gillingham for car share to Henstridge. Sent off from Henstridge at 10am Walk the newly way marked route with Route Manager Jan Wardell. Via Kington Magna. One steep climb.

**Leader: Jan Wardell - Ramblers**

- » Please bring picnic lunch and plenty of water, something waterproof to sit on and wear stout footwear.
- » Booking essential.



## The White Hart Link arrives in Gillingham

Welcome on the Town Meadow by the Mayor at approximately 2.45pm .

## Duncliffe and the Royal Forest from the South

**Starts: 9am \ Distance: 7 miles**

Note early meeting time for Minibus from Gillingham to the start. Views of Royal Forest from Duncliffe.

**Leader: Martin Hibbert**

- » Coffee stop at Udder Farm shop.
- » Please bring drink and a snack.
- » Cost £4. Booking essential.

## Chatty Walk

**Starts: 2.30pm \ Distance: 1.5 miles**

Join Gillingham Walkers for a typical Monday afternoon walk. Explore some of Gillingham's lesser known hidden corners and chat to friendly folk.

**Leader: Gill Walkers**

*Continues on page 8*

DATE	TIME	WALK
Sat 2nd	10.00am	<b>RF Gutchpool Farm and Park Pale</b>
	2.30pm	<b>RF Threshold Centre, Cream Tea, Donation</b>
Sun 3rd	9.15am	<b>WHL From Henstridge Car share from Gillingham</b>
	2.45pm	<b>WHL Opening Celebration</b>
Mon 4th	9.00am	<b>RF The View from Duncliffe Minibus to start £4</b>
	2.30pm	<b>Chatty Walk</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Map Reading - Planning a route</b>
Tues 5th	10.00am - 11.00am	<b>Nordic Walking Workshop £5</b>
	2.30pm	<b>Walking Meditation</b>
	6.00pm	<b>History Walk to Milton</b>
Wed 6th	10.00am	<b>Circular, Mere start</b>
	2.30pm	<b>RF Shreen Water and Bowridge Hill</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Map Reading - Finding your way</b>
Thur 7th	10.00am	<b>Walk in Faith : Meet at Station</b>
	2.30pm	<b>Wildlife Wander to Rolls Bridge</b>
Fri 8th	10.00am	<b>Silton &amp; Mere</b>
	6.00pm	<b>Evening Stroll</b>
Sat 9th	9.30am	<b>RF Train Walk : Meet at Station</b>
	10.45am	<b>RF Bus walk : Meet at Station</b>
Sun 10th	2.30pm	<b>Withywood Family Treasure Hunt</b>

√ : Booking required on 07544921671 or gillwalkfest@gmail.com

	BOOK	DIST	LEADER
	√	7 miles	Sheila Messer - WAW
	√	4 miles	Gill Walkers
	√	9.5 miles	Jan Wardell - Ramblers
	√	6.5 miles	Martin Hibbert
		1.5 miles	Gill Walkers
	√		Tony Otton - British Legion
	Book with Helen		Helen Gilchrist - Poles Ahead 07745 413194
		0.5 miles	Michael Giddings - Threshold Centre
		3-4 miles	Sam Woodcock - Local History Society
		10 miles	Sheila Davis - Ramblers
		3-4 miles	Penny Peat - Gill Walkers
	√		Tony Otton - British Legion
		8 miles	Eve Pegler & Peter Greenwood - St Mary the Virgin
	√	1-2 miles	Marion Hammond - U3A
		12 miles	Tony Otton - British Legion
		11 miles	Bob Messer
		4-5 miles	Peter Mouncey
		1.5 miles	Sheila Messer - WAW

**RF** : Royal Forest    **WHL** : White Hart Link

## Map Reading Workshop- Planning a Route

**Starts: 6pm**

Find out what you need to consider when planning a walking route and practice planning. Maps will be provided. Held at Royal British Legion Club, School Road.

**Leader: Tony Otton**

» Booking essential. » You will need to bring a compass.

## Nordic Walking Workshop

**10am -11am \ Distance: 1-2 miles**

A fun taster session, aimed at introducing the basics of how to Nordic walk. Also included will be information about the health and fitness benefits you get from Nordic walking, which are many. Poles Ahead will provide the poles for the session and give advice about what to look for when buying your own. Trainers or walking shoes should be worn and flexible clothing (not sandals or jeans). This is more about learning the technique than walking a long distance.

**Leader: Helen Gilchrist - Poles Ahead**

» Cost £5. Booking essential with Helen direct on 07745 413194.

## Walking Meditation

**Starts: 2.30pm \ Distance: 0.5 miles**

A chance to spend about 30 minutes using the experience of walking as a focus, to help develop calm and wakefulness. No previous experience of meditation needed.

**Leader: Michael Giddings**

## History Walk to Milton

**Starts: 6pm \ Distance: 3-4 miles**

Join Sam to learn more about Milton-on-Stour and the Local History Society's latest research.

**Leader: Sam Woodcock - Local History Society**

## Mere Circular

**Starts: 10am \ Distance: 10 miles**

Meet in Mere at the Main Car Park for a circular walk via Rodmead Hill, and White Sheet Down using the Mid Wilts Way. The route is hilly so this walk will be quite strenuous.

**Leader: Sheila Davis - Ramblers**

» For possible lift to Mere ring Sheila D on 01747 824705.

» Bring a picnic lunch and plenty to drink, something waterproof to sit on and wear stout footwear.

## Shreen Water and Bowridge Hill

**Starts: 2.30pm \ Distance: 3 miles**

This walk is based on Walk No. 5 available online at [gillwalkersarewelcome.btck.co.uk](http://gillwalkersarewelcome.btck.co.uk). Along Shreen Water and up to Bowridge Hill where there are beautiful views towards Milton-on-Stour and beyond. There will be a visit of about 30 minutes to The Bowridge Gallery so walkers can have a browse and/or a cup of coffee, before returning to the Town Meadow.

**Leader: Penny Peat - Gill Walkers**

## Map Reading Workshop-Finding Your Way

**Starts: 6pm**

Find out what all those lines and symbols on the map tell you. Tips on how to avoid getting lost and what to do to find yourself again Maps will be provided. Held at Royal British Legion Club, School Road.

**Leader: Tony Otton**

» Booking essential. » You will need to bring a compass.



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and use code **BOOTS** for a walking festival discount on stays of two or more nights.

## **Walking in Faith- Train walk Templecombe**

### **Thursday 7th Sept Starts: 10am \ Distance: 9 miles**

Meet at Gillingham station at 10am to co-ordinate buying of reduced fare tickets. Depart from Templecombe station at 10.30am. We hope there will be an opportunity to briefly look at Templecombe Church. We will stop at Langham Church for afternoon refreshments and a chance to see the thatched church. The walk begins and ends with a poem and short walking prayer.

**Leader: Eve Pegler & Peter Greenwood - St Mary's Church**

» Bring a picnic lunch and plenty to drink, something waterproof to sit on and wear stout footwear.

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## **Wildlife Wander**

### **Starts: 10am \ Distance: 1.5 miles**

Join Marion and members of the U3A Natural History group for gentle walk on flat ground along the riverside and meadows around Rolls Bridge. We'll pause to look at wildflowers, trees, birds, insects, etc. If we are lucky we may see evidence of water voles.

**Leader: Marion Hammond, U3A**

» Bring binoculars if you have them.

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## **Silton and Mere**

### **Starts: 10am \ Distance: 12 miles**

Discover Wyndham's Oak at Silton and climb Mere's Castle Hill. One steep climb.

**Leader: Tony Otton**

» Refreshments available at Gillingham British Legion after the walk.

» Please bring a picnic lunch, drinking water, suitable shoes and wet weather gear.

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## **Evening Stroll**

### **6pm \ Distance: 1 mile**

Unwind at the start of the weekend on a gentle stroll over an accessible route with no stiles.

**Leader: Gill Walkers**

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## **Train Walk Tisbury**

### **Starts: 9.30am \ Distance: 11 miles**

Meet at Gillingham station at 9.30am to co-ordinate buying of reduced fare tickets. If you prefer to join us at Tisbury, we'll depart from the station at 10.15am.

**Leader: Bob Messer**

» Please bring a picnic lunch and plenty of water something waterproof to sit on and wear stout walking shoes or boots. Cross the Royal Forest Deer Park between Motcombe and Gillingham.

» Coffee and cake stop at Bennet Arms, Semley.

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## **Bus Walk Motcombe – the Village at the centre of the Royal Forest**

### **Starts: 10.45am \ Distance: 4-5 miles**

At time of publication bus from Gillingham Station at 10.55. Arrives Motcombe Village Hall at 11.05. Please check nearer the time. Walk departs at 11.10.

**Leader: Peter Mouncey**

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## **Withywood Family Amble and Treasure Hunt**

### **Starts: 2.30pm \ Distance: 1.5 miles**

Admire the new steps up through the railway underpass on a circular walk. What treasure can you find in the wood?

**Leader: Sheila Messer - WAW**



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# Some Gillingham Events in Festival Week

## Friday 1st Sept 7pm for 7.30pm start

### Festival kicks off with A Grand Supper Quiz at The Olive Bowl

- » Teams of up to six. Quiz master Bob Messer.
- » Lasagne supper, bar, raffle.
- » Tickets £10 from Scenes or from Sheila on 821269.
- » Raising funds for Festival 2018.



## Saturday 2nd Sept 10am - 12.30pm

### North Dorset Rugby Club Registration Day

For the new season. A warm welcome to Players of all ages, starting at U6's, to come along and see what North Dorset Rugby Club has to offer. Find us at, Slaughtergate, Longbury Hill Lane, Gillingham SP8 5SY.

## Saturday 2nd Sept 7pm

### GMC - Community Cinema Film: The Way

A father heads to Spain to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the "El Camino de Santiago," and decides to take the pilgrimage himself.

- » Tickets £5 or £1 children under 16.
- » Reserve on 07817 379006, or [organ1234@btinternet.com](mailto:organ1234@btinternet.com)



## Monday 4th Sept 3pm

### Read Easy Gillingham and Shaftesbury

#### Talk by Rachel Billington, writer and journalist

- » Gillingham Library - Rachel will talk about her own work and her links to PEN a global literary network. Some of their work encourages prisoners to improve their reading and writing whilst in gaol.
- » There will be a limited number of tickets because of space.
- » More details: [lydia.everitt@uwclub.net](mailto:lydia.everitt@uwclub.net) or 07748 981935.

## Friday 8th Sept 8.30am - 11.30am

### Gillingham Country Market

- » Methodist Hall, High Street.
- » We sell genuinely home produced food, plants and crafts.
- » Meet for coffee and cake.

## Saturday 9th Sept 10.30am - 2pm

### Lovely Cakes Pop up Café

- » Vicarage Schoolroom, Queen Street.
- » There will be the usual Lovely Cakes, plus a gluten free cake, teacakes, fresh coffee, tea, hot chocolate.
- » Light lunches served from 11-45am.

## Saturday 9th Sept afternoon

### Wyvern Credit Union 10th Anniversary Tea Party

- » Community Office, next to Library.
- » Come and help us celebrate 10 years of credit union in Gillingham.
- » Find out what we offer our members.

## Saturday 9th Sept 7pm

### Cheese and Wine Evening

- » With an entertainment from Gillingham Arts Workshop "Voices of Gillingham" Riversmeet Leisure Centre.
- » Tickets £3 in advance to include first glass of wine.

