

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Watford and Sarratt	Walk No.	295
Area	Hertfordshire, Chilterns	Type	Circular
Date	Wednesday 14 October 2020		
Distance	9 miles (14.5km)		
Timing	4½ hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow 8 hours in total. Therefore expect to be back in Islington by 5.30 pm		
Meeting up & travel	Meet at 9.20 in the open area between the Metropolitan and Circle line platforms at Kings Cross to catch the 9.34 Metropolitan line train to Watford (arr. 10.22). Watford is in the Freedom Pass area.		
Route	<p>Shortly after leaving the station we enter Cassiobury Park. We then cross the river Gade, the Grand Union Canal and the West Herts golf course to reach Whippendell Wood. After leaving the wood a mile on a metalled road follows through Chandler's Cross over the M25. Open fields and a farm track take us to Sarratt Green for lunch (4½ m, 2 hours).</p> <p>After lunch we go across Dawes Common to an open path above the Chess valley to Church End. Then we go back across the M25 to Micklefield Hall, followed by mostly open fields to the golf course, the canal and the outward path through Cassiobury Park.</p>		
Lunch	Lunch is at The Boot on Sarratt Green, or a picnic under the oak tree on the Green outside.		
Dropping out	A bus leaves Sarratt Green for Watford at 13.57.		
Suitability	<p>We will observe Covid19 precautions. Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There are no particular difficulties.</p> <p>Terrain: Mostly gravel paths; some puddles and mud.</p> <p>Possible obstacles: three stiles on the afternoon leg.</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Waterproof jacket.</p> <p>Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain.</p> <p>Wear, or carry, an extra layer.</p>		
Facilities	There are toilets at Watford station and The Boot. Toilets and coffee/tea are available at The Hub café in Cassiobury Park near the canal 15 mins from Watford station.		
Walk source	"Discovering Walks in Hertfordshire" by Ron Pigram Shire Publications.		
Map	OS Explorer 172		
Leader & contact details	<p><u>Walk Leader: Stuart Beare</u></p> <p><u>Beforehand</u> phone: 020 7609 0766 (leave message if necessary) e-mail: stuart.beare@btinternet.com</p> <p><u>On the day</u> mobile: 07951 928415</p>		
Interesting facts	<i>Cassiobury Park was once the property of the Earls of Essex from whose family it was bought in stages by Watford BC. The mansion was demolished in 1927.</i>		

	<p><i>The original site of the village of Sarratt was at Church End. Holy Cross Church (12th century), which is likely to be closed, lies on a straight line between the churches at Chenies across the Chess and Aldenham, suggesting the site's prehistoric origins. Sarratt is the fictional location of a centre for agent training and interrogation in some of John le Carre's early novels.</i></p>
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