

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Windsor and Eton	Walk No.	373
Area	Windsor, including Windsor park, Thames Path, Eton	Type	Circular
Date	Tuesday August 2nd 2022		
Distance	9.7 miles		
Timing	4.5 hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Therefore expect to be at Paddington Station at 5pm.		
Meeting up & travel	<p>We'll meet at Paddington Station at the Elizabeth Line platform 12 at 9:35am.</p> <p>With our Freedom pass we will take the Elizabeth Line at 9:43am to Reading.</p> <p>We will disembark at Slough and change to catch the 10:36 to Windsor & Eton Central arriving at 10:42am.</p> <p>You will need to buy an off peak day return from Slough to Windsor & Eton Central. With a Senior railcard £2.10</p>		
Route	<p>We start the short walk through Windsor to Windsor & Riverside Station. The original plan was to walk through Windsor Park to join the riverside path along the Thames to Albert Bridge, but the park is now closed. The alternative route isn't ideal but the walk has a lot of positives. We will follow the Thames Path from Oxford all the way to the Albert Bridge, then loop back and head along the road directly to Datchet, which although not ideal, has pleasant and wide footpaths. We stop in the pleasant town centre of Datchet for our lunch. After lunch we walk on a path parallel to the golf course, across Eton's playing fields and the college, along the river and through some meadows to the hamlet of Eton Wick. Just before reaching Windsor, we will get a majestic view of Windsor Castle and we will return to the station for the journey back to London.</p>		
Lunch	<p>Lunch opportunities are scarce. We will make a very slight detour into Datchet for lunch at "The Royal Stag" in Datchet. Both the reviews and menus look good, about 12:15pm</p> <p>http://royalstagdatchet.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/menu.pdf</p> <p>There is a large outdoor space which allowed those not wanting to order food, space to join us. Alternatively the village green is opposite the pub.</p>		
Dropping out	<p>The lunch stop is at Datchet. Where there is a station and trains to London. Alternatively, to avoid buying an extra train ticket, from Datchet walk back the way we came, until after crossing the bridge, then follow the road next to Windsor Park back to Windsor where there are two railway stations with trains back to London.</p>		

<p>Suitability</p>	<p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. A flat and easy walk.</p> <p>Terrain: Comfortable walking shoes/ boots. Riverside meadows, parkland, Thames Path and a quick walk through Windsor and Datchet.</p> <p>Check weather forecast.</p> <p>Sun hat, plenty of water, sun cream, (or an extra layer; or a waterproof coat!).</p>
<p>Facilities</p>	<p>Toilets. At Windsor & Eton Central Station and the pub at lunchtime.</p>
<p>Walk source</p>	<p>Walk Leader's Creation amended and added to "The Home Counties From London by Train".</p>
<p>Map & other references</p>	<p>Books</p> <p>The Thames Path</p> <p>The Home Counties From London by Train</p>
<p>Leader & contact details</p>	<p><u>Walk Leader:</u> Jo-Ann Kennedy</p> <p><u>Beforehand</u> phone: 07973186167 (text or leave message if necessary) e-mail: jakennedynz@gmail.com</p> <p><u>On the day</u> mobile: 07973186167</p>
<p>Interesting facts</p>	<p>The playing fields of Eton and great views of Windsor Castle and Eton College.</p> <p>From the banks of the Thames, Castle Hill winds up to Windsor Castle, the largest castle in Britain and a royal residence for over 900 years. It was begun by William the Conqueror in the late 11th century as one of a chain of castles defending the approaches to London, but over the centuries successive monarchs have remodelled and added to it - notably Henry II (who rebuilt the original circular keep), Henry III, Henry VI, Charles II and George IV. Much of its present appearance dates from a particularly extensive programme of restoration and rebuilding carried out by George IV in the early 19th century. St George's Chapel, begun by Edward IV in 1478, is a masterpiece of Perpendicular architecture and contains many royal tombs. Despite all the additions and modernisation, Windsor still retains the basic plan of a Norman castle, with its varied buildings grouped around the massive 12th-century (though much restored) shell keep that dominates all the views of the fortress.</p> <p>Across the river is Eton, whose attractive High Street leads to the red brick buildings of Eton College, founded by Henry VI in 1440 but, like Windsor Castle, added to over the centuries. Many Prime Ministers have attended there.</p>