

Islington U3A Longer Walks Group

Walk Title	Wye to Chilham	Walk No.	381
Area	Kent Downs	Type	Linear
Date	Thursday, 29 th September, 2022		
Distance	Just over 9 miles (14.5 km)		
Timing	<p>About four hours walking time + travel + lunch stop. Allow at least 8 hours in total.</p> <p>Therefore expect to be back at St Pancras by 6.21pm (just possible we will finish early enough to catch train that gets back an hour earlier).</p>		
Meeting up & travel	<p>Upstairs at St Pancras in front of platforms 11-13 at 10.00am to catch 10.12am, arriving at Wye at 11.11am. Leader, Jan, will meet you there at 11.17am. Return trains from Chilham at 4.11pm (if we are fast!), arr 5.21; or 5.11 (more likely – but with tea!), arr 6.21. Best fare I could find is St Pancras to Chilham off peak day return costing £23.05 with Senior Railcard. You will need to check which trains you can use this for. Unfortunately you cannot use your Freedom Pass on these high speed services.</p>		
Route	<p>From Wye station we pass through Wye Village and its impressive church, with views of the Wye Crown etched in the Downs above us. We then walk up to it and along the edge of the Wye Downs with fantastic long views down to the plain to the south and west. We turn away from the downs' edge, going through rolling and very peaceful downland country which is with us for most of the walk. We stop for lunch at the tiny hamlet of Sole Street, still high in the downs, then resume our downland walk before finally descending slowly and gently to the pretty "hilltop" village of Chilham, for tea if we have time and for the train if we haven't.</p>		
Lunch	<p>Food is available at the apparently 14th century Compasses Inn at Sole Street. The pub normally serves hot food but as they are currently chef-less they are only serving hot sausage rolls (4 varieties), scotch eggs, cold platters of meat, cheese and bread, and bar snacks. If these don't suit, please bring a packed lunch or buy something at the Co-op in Wye.</p>		
Dropping out	Not really possible.		
Suitability	<p>Suitable for any reasonably fit regular walker. There are no particular difficulties.</p> <p>Terrain: rolling but not tough</p> <p>Possible obstacles: None known</p> <p>Comfortable waterproof walking shoes/ boots. Waterproof jacket. Check weather forecast for temperature and likelihood of rain. Wear, or carry, an extra layer.</p>		
Facilities	There are toilets at the Compasses Inn and in Chilham.		
Walk source	Leader's invention		
Map & other references	OS Explorer 137		

Leader & contact details	<u>Walk Leader: Jan Filochowski</u> <u>Beforehand</u> phone: 07879698902 (leave message if necessary) e-mail: jan@filochowski.net <u>On the day</u> mobile: 07879698902
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