

Gillingham Walking Festival



**3rd-11th
September
2016**



*The small and friendly
Walking Festival with
over 20 guided walks
for all to enjoy!*



**Short Town Walks - Nordic Walks
Longer Rambles - Farm Visits
Geocaching - Constable Trail
Train Walks and much more.....**



For more information:

Tel 01747 821269

gillwalkersarewelcome.btck.co.uk

facebook.com/GillinghamWalkingFestival



FREE Programme



Welcome to

Gillingham Walking Festival 2016

**Festival Launch - Saturday 3rd Sept
9.45am on the Town Meadow**



The festival will be officially opened by Barry Von Clemens, Mayor of Gillingham and Phil Sterling, Coast and Countryside service manager at Dorset County Council. Come and hear about Gillingham as a Walkers are Welcome Town and the Stiles to Gates project.

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.

- » Walks start from the **TOWN MEADOW** unless otherwise stated.
- » Most walks are **FREE** but donations are most welcome towards costs of putting on the festival.
- » Places are limited for some walks and booking is strongly advised.

For Bookings Tel: 07544921671 Email: gillwalkfest@gmail.com

Further Information W: gillwalkersarewelcome.btck.co.uk

Facebook: Gillingham Walking Festival T: 01747 821269, 07896 641122

Please note

- » 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.
- » Special Dog Walk on Sunday 11th.
- » Please wear suitable footwear. Walk leaders can refuse to accept walkers who do not.
- » Bring water and snack or packed lunch as appropriate.
- » A hat, sunscreen and waterproofs are advisable on longer walks.

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, The Ramblers, Shaftesbury and District Tourism and our advertisers.

Festival Quiz



**Festival kicks off with a Grand Supper Quiz
at The Olive Bowl Friday 2nd Sept 7pm for 7.30pm start**

- » Teams of up to six. Quiz Master Bob Messer
- » Lasagne Supper, Bar, Raffle. Tickets from Scenes or from Sheila on 01747 821269

Across The Royal Forest **Saturday 3rd Sept 10am**

Distance: 6 miles

Join Peter for a pleasant circular 6 mile stroll over the fields between the historic Kingscourt site in Gillingham and Motcombe. The walk also passes by Kingscourt Wood and through Motcombe Meadows, owned by Motcombe Parish Council. We will stop for lunch at the historic Coppleridge Inn on the edge of the village, where there are lovely views across the Blackmore Vale and to Mere Down. We return to Gillingham using part of the outbound route. There are no hills on this walk making it particularly suitable for families with young children'.

Leader: Peter Mouncey - Motcombe

- » Book your own lunch with Coppleridge Inn www.coppleridge.com/dining or 01747 851980 Mention you are with walking festival group.

Visit the Threshold Centre with Cream Tea **Saturday 3rd Sept 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 have been ideals for the Threshold Centre from the outset. Find out about the biodigester, solar panels, biomass heating, the vegetable garden and more.

Leader: Penny Peat - Gill Walkers

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

Milton, Silton and Cucklington **Sunday 4th Sept 10am**

Distance: 10 miles

Mainly flat terrain, route via Milton, Silton and Cucklington. Lunch on Cucklington Ridge, with great views.

Leader: Sheila Davis - Ramblers

- » Please bring picnic lunch and plenty of water, waterproofs to sit on and wear stout walking shoes or boots.

In the Footsteps of Constable to Eccliffe **Sunday 4th Sept 2.30pm**

Distance: 3-4 miles

A walk through the Stour Valley to Eccliffe Old Mill and Bridge which Constable sketched during one of his visits to Gillingham, returning past the spot in Common Mead Lane where he sketched 'Entrance to Gillingham'. Noting as we go the changes but recognising similarities in the landscape that Constable would have observed. The walk will be over some field footpaths with stiles and along some roads.

Leader: Sam Woodcock - Local History Society

Edge of the Royal Forest **Monday 5th Sept 10am**

Distance: 6 miles

Along Shreen Water and up to Bowridge. Along an old drove, passing Forest Side Farm to Huntingford where we rejoin the Shreen. We hope that the stiles on the return leg will have been replaced by gates in time for this walk.

Leader: Sheila Messer - Walkers are Welcome

- » Please bring drink and a snack.

Chatty Walk

Monday 5th Sept 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

Nordic Walking Workshop

Tuesday 6th Sept 10am-11am

Distance: 1-2 miles 1 hour

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

Meditation Walk

Tuesday 6th Sept 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

Bat Walk

Tuesday 6th Sept 7pm

Distance: 1 mile

A one hour walk to listen for bats using bat detectors. How many different species can be found in Gillingham? How can we tell? Followed by question and answer session over soup and rolls in the Vicarage Schoolroom served by GANG (Gillingham Action for Nature Group).

Leader: Stephen Oliver & Briony Baxter - Dorset Wildlife Trust

» Limited to 15 places. Cost £5 Booking essential.

Farm Visit, East Stour

Wednesday 7th Sept 10am

Distance: 6 miles

A chance to look around a working livestock farm and talk with the farmer. Tea/coffee and cake provided.

Leader: Jan Wardell - Ramblers

» Bring your own picnic. Donations to defray costs. Limited numbers, booking strongly advised.

Shreen Water and Bowridge Hill

Wednesday 7th Sept 2.30pm

Distance: 3 miles

This walk is based on Walk No. 5 in the Gillingham Walkers are Welcome Group's new walk pack, leading 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 (there is a machine), before returning to the Town Meadow.

Leader: Penny Peat - Gill Walkers

Geo-Caching Trail

**Six special festival geocaches in position throughout the festival.
Can you find them all?**

- » Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game.
- » A geocache is a container with a log book and small treasures.
- » Using GPS on your phone or other device, find your way to a specific set of GPS coordinates and look for the geocache hidden there.
- » Sign the log book, add a treasure and take one.

More information and sign up for **FREE** at www.geocaching.com. GPS co-ordinates for festival geocaches will also be available on gillwalkersarewelcome.btck.co.uk and Facebook: **GillinghamWalkingFestival**



Gillingham School Tree Trail

Wednesday 7th Sept 6pm

A one hour discovery wander in the school grounds to discover and celebrate our wide variety of trees and their stories.

Leader: Maggie Durkee

- » Leaflet £1. Limited numbers, booking strongly advised.

The Relax At

The Café at RiversMeet

Wednesday 7th Sept from 7pm

Cheese and Wine and a little music



@RiversMeet

Enjoy

a great selection of
fresh food & drink
in comfortable surroundings

NEW

OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK

**FREE
WIFI**

1hr PER DAY



www.riversmeetgillingham.org

Tel: 01747 834013



Like us today

RiverKidz

Softplay | Nerf | Parties | fun

NEW!
NOW
OPEN

NEW WELCOME TO RiverKidz
RIVERSMEET LEISURE CENTRE

**SOFTPLAY, FUN &
ADVENTURES**

FOR KIDS BETWEEN 0 - 12 YRS OLD



Softplay

- AGES 0 - 12 YEARS
- SUPERVISED FUN & PLAY
- COMFORTABLE VIEWING AREAS
- REFRESHMENTS FROM THE CAFÉ @ RIVERSMEET

Parties

- WIDE RANGE OF FUN PARTY OPTIONS
- INSTRUCTOR LED / RUN YOUR OWN
- CHOICE OF REFRESHMENTS OR BRING YOUR OWN
- FLEXIBLE & FUN - LET US TAKE THE STRAIN!

Walking in Faith

Thursday 8th Sept 10am

Distance: 9 miles

A walk, open to all, around the fields and lanes of Gillingham and beyond, visiting four churches on the way. We take a walk across fields to St Simon and St Jude's Church in Milton-on-Stour, on to St Nicholas Silton for a lunch stop with breathtaking views before ending at a little jewel of a thatched church - St George's, at Langham. Here we will most likely stop for refreshments before walking back to St Mary's Gillingham.

We'll begin and end with a poem and short walking prayer.

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

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

Wildlife Wander

Thursday 8th Sept 2.30pm

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 Chantry. 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. Limited numbers so booking advised.

Cider Farm Visit

Friday 9th Sept 10am

Distance: 8 miles

Walk to Sandley to visit the new cider farm. Tour of the orchards featuring old varieties and planting for pollinators. The cider press may be in action. There will certainly be cider to taste. Bring your own picnic to have at the farm.

Leader: Sheila Messer - Walkers are Welcome

» Limited numbers so booking advised.

Evening Stroll

Friday 9th Sept 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

Hidden Pizza

Friday 9th Sept 5pm to 9pm On the Town Meadow

Start the weekend with a pizza from the woodfired oven and live music

Train Walk Templecombe

Saturday 10th Sept 9.30am

Distance: 8 miles

Meet at Gillingham station at 9.30am to co-ordinate buying of reduced fare tickets (single fare £2.90) Train departs 9.58am, arrives Templecombe 10.05am. If you prefer to join us at Templecombe, we'll depart from the station at 10.15am.

Leader: Bob Messer

» Please bring a picnic lunch and plenty of water. Coffee and cake stop at Stapleton Arms in Buckhorn Weston - book on the day. £2.50

The Red Lion

High Street Gillingham
Tel: 01747 822751

Fantastic *NEW*
Function Room & Restaurant

£5.00 Lunch offer

*For all your needs
Your Local!*

CROCKERS

TRADITIONAL IRONMONGERS

GILLINGHAM, HIGH STREET
01747 822900

WWW.CROCKERSLTD.CO.UK

HOMEWARES

DECORATING & DIY

YANKEE CANDLES

DULUX PAINTS

ROBERTS RADIOS

CUPRINOL PAINTS

HG CLEANING

CHALK FINISH PAINTS

STELLAR COOKWARE

GARDEN FURNITURE

KETTLES & TOASTERS

WALKING STICKS

CAR CARE & CAMPING

GARDENING

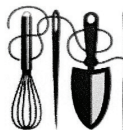


THE UDDER FARM SHOP

Offering an award winning farm shop and coffee shop, butchery, fishmongers and deli, The Udder Farm Shop is dedicated to providing quality, local produce, 7 days a week.



Manor Farm, East Stour, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5LQ
01747 838899 www.theudderfarmshop.co.uk



**COUNTRY
MARKETS**
COOK • CRAFT • GROW

**GILLINGHAM COUNTRY MARKET
OPENS EVERY FRIDAY FROM
08.30-11.30am.**

Gillingham Country Market offers a truly local shopping experience and a warm welcome.

We sell genuinely home-produced foods, plants and crafts.

Buy direct from our local producers.

It is a place to meet friends for coffee, home-made cakes and biscuits.

You will find us at the Methodist Church Hall (next to Lloyds Bank) High Street, Gillingham.

Lovely Cakes Pop up Café

Saturday 10th Sept 10.30am to 2pm
Vicarage Schoolroom, Queen Street

- » There will be the usual Lovely Cakes, plus a gluten free cake, teacakes, fresh coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and light lunches served from 11-45am.
- » Fundraising for St Mary's Church and Historic Churches Trust.
- » We will also be having a table top gift sale from "Pip's Gifts" who will be giving a donation to the charities. Many of her gifts are suitable for the shoe box appeal.
- » We look forward to seeing you.

Wildflowers and Wind

Saturday 10th Sept 2.30pm

Distance: 2 miles

Meet at Manor Farm, Silton (just before the church) for guided tour of the wild flower meadows that now surround the recent solar panel installation. Parking will be available at the farm.

Leader: Keith Harris - Milton Farm, Sheila Messer - Walkers are Welcome

Festival Film

Gillingham Community Cinema presents WILD
Saturday 10th Sept 7pm

- » Tickets £4 (children £1) from... 07817 379006,
or by emailing: organ1234@btinternet.com. Pay on the door.

Strayed (Witherspoon) makes a rash decision. Haunted by memories of her mother Bobbi (Academy Award® nominee Laura Dern) and with absolutely no experience, she sets out to hike more than a thousand miles on the Pacific Crest Trail all on her own. WILD powerfully reveals her terrors and pleasures as she forges ahead on a journey that maddens, strengthens, and ultimately heals her.



Wincanton Challenge

Sunday 11th Sept 9am

Distance: 20+ miles

This is a 20+ mile circular route starting and finishing at the Gillingham town meadow. We head out through Cucklington and back via Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna. We will stop for morning and afternoon breaks with a picnic lunch stop at Wincanton. There are few hills on this walk so a good one to do as a 20 mile taster. It is however a walk that requires a good level of fitness and stamina. There will be live stock and plenty of stiles.

Leader: Angela Gray

- » Please bring sufficient food and drink. I would suggest 2 litres of water.
Please contact Angela on 07860 352356 to discuss before joining this walk.



Gillingham's Crooked Mile

Sunday 11th Sept 10am

Distance: 4.5 miles

Join Sonia to follow the Stour and the Lodden to Madjeston. Then up the track known by some as Gillingham's Crooked Mile – you will see why. Return via the old mill at Eccliffe and across Chantry Fields. There are four stiles on this stretch. One of the walks from the New Gillingham Walks Pack.

Leader: Sonia Booth - Ramblers

Silverband Open Rehearsal

Come and listen to our town's band, as they practise their entry for the National Brass Band Finals.

Sunday Sept 11th from 2pm

The Band Room, South Street

» There is no charge. Limited space, first come first served.

The Gillingham Imperial Silver Band has been invited to compete at the prestigious National Brass Band Finals on the 18th September. All the bands in our section will play the same piece which this year is Lake of the Moon by Kevin Houben. You will hear the band working on some aspects of the piece and a complete run through. The music itself is diverse - containing fragments of oriental and South American rhythms, and even a hint of eastern Russia, whilst the music follows the Aztec journey of hope, expectation, danger and eventual fulfilment as they finally find their new spiritual home at the lake of the moon -Texcoco lake in the valley of Mexico which is now Mexico City.

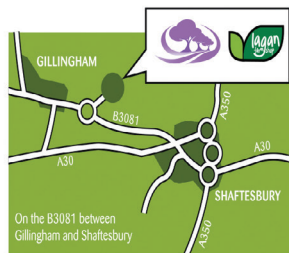
Dog Walk

Sunday 11th Sept 2.30pm

Distance: 3.5 miles 1.5 / 2 hours

Bring your dog and join Scrumpy on one of his favourite walks. We will stop for a 20 minute refreshment break at The Buffalo. Although most of the walk is off road, you will need a lead, 'Poo' bags and money for refreshments. Each dog must be accompanied by an adult and please remember you are responsible for your dog and any damage it causes, at all times.

Leader: Tina Setchell



ORCHARD PARK GARDEN CENTRE

Shaftesbury Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5JG
T: 01747 835544 E: info@orchardpark.uk.net

OPENING TIMES:

Mon – Sat 9am to 5.30pm
Sun 10am to 4.30pm



Discover more at www.orchardpark.biz



Festival Walking Log

Record your walking and you could win a prize!

At the end of each walk you do, ask your walk leader for a sticker. At the end of the festival hand in your card to the Community Office, Chantry Fields, (next to the library).

Visit the
Threshold
Centre with
Cream Tea

Milton
Silton and
Cucklington

In the
footsteps of
Constable to
Eccliffe

Across The
Royal Forest

Chatty Walk

Nordic
Walking
Workshop

Meditation
Walk

Bat Walk

Farm Visit,
East Stour

Shreen Water
and Bowridge
Hill

Gillingham
School Tree
Trail

Walking
in Faith

Wildlife
Wander

Cider Farm
Visit

Evening Stroll

Train Walk
Templecombe

Wildflowers
and Wind

Wincanton
Challenge

Gillingham's
Crooked Mile

Dog Walk

Name:

Tel:

