



West Berks Ramblers Coach Walks Report

AGM 2025

This time last year there was a certain amount of gloom about the prospects for this year's coach walks programme as only three trips were able to be scheduled instead of the five in 2024. This was due to the reduction in the number of available organisers and walk leaders. Furthermore, because of decreasing numbers opting for the long walk, it was also decided to offer only two walks on the day rather than three: a longer 7-9 mile walk and a shorter 4-6 mile walk. However, despite these changes, or perhaps because of them, this year's three outings were well supported by the membership, as can be seen from the following figures:

Windsor (27.04.25) – 45 paid, 43 participated; 9 did the longer walk (Dawn T), 28 did the shorter walk (Shona K), 6 spent the day in Windsor.

Chippenham (08.06.25) – 41 paid, 40 participated; 19 did the longer walk (Helen S), 16 did the shorter walk (Richard M), 5 spent the day in Chippenham.

Cirencester (27.07.25) – 44 paid, 43 participated; 16 did the longer walk (Neil L), 21 did the shorter walk (Eugene F), 6 spent the day in Cirencester.

The cost of the three coaches was £2,085 and recce expenses were £122.25, making a total outlay of £2,207.25. Total receipts were £2,340 (£18 x 130), leaving an unexpected profit of £132.75. It should be noted that not all walk leader expenses were claimed which would have significantly affected the profit figure.

Looking ahead to next year, it was decided at the coach walks committee meeting on September 10 to continue the policy of offering just two guided walks on the day, with the additional option for non-walkers to spend the day at the destination. With DT, NL and HS happy to organise a coach walk in 2026 and RM also able to offer one, we are therefore in the happy position of being able to propose four coach walks for next year, as follows:

Sunday 26 April – Thame: organiser HS, second walk leader NL

Sunday 07 June – Chichester: organiser RM, second walk leader DT

Sunday 26 July – Romsey: organiser NL, second walk leader RM

Sunday 06 September – Banbury: organiser DT, second walk leader SK

Barnes Coaches once again provided our transport in 2025, and their drivers were as usual punctual, courteous and extremely helpful in navigating our various pick-up and drop-off points. Trinity School continued to be the start and finish of our days out, and we are extremely grateful to them for providing us with free parking.

Assuming a similar turnout for next year's proposed coach walks, Peter B calculated that a modest increase of £2 per person from £18 to £20 should be sufficient for us to cover costs and break even. Given the general rise in the cost of living over the last 12 months, it was hoped that this would not deter members from participating. However, it was agreed to monitor the situation as the 2026 programme progresses, in case of a significant drop-off in numbers.

Richard Moore (28.09.25)

Chair, Coach Walks Committee