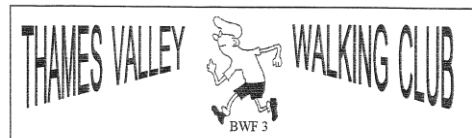


HENLEY TOWN & RIVER WALK (PT58)



- CONTACT:** Peter Tilbury - 116 Wykeham Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1PL
Telephone - 0118 966 6523 E-mail - BTreading@aol.com
- DISTANCE:** 20km
- ENTRY FEE:** £1.00 per walker (Cheques made payable to Thames Valley Walking Club)
- AWARD:** Cloth badge at £2.00 each.
- START VENUE:** Town Hall, Market Place, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 2AQ
(OS Landranger Map 175 GR: SU 760826)
This route can also be started from Shiplake Station (at ** after Question 3)
- DIRECTIONS:** Follow signs to Henley and once in the town, there are several 'Pay & Display' car parks around the Market Place.
- CAR PARKING:** None at start venue.
- TRANSPORT:** Train & bus services to Henley. (From the train station, follow entrance road to t-junction. Turn left & at traffic lights turn right & follow road to reach Market Place on left hand side).
- FACILITIES:** Various cafe's, pubs & restaurants in Henley.
- TERRAIN:** Urban area's, minor roads, farmland & riverside footpaths. Not suitable for pushchairs.

The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

(Updated 23rd August 2021)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE GREAT CARE ON ALL ROAD SECTIONS OF THIS TRAIL

With the Town Hall steps behind you, walk down through the Market Square. At the traffic lights, turn left into Bell Street. At the next junction, turn right into New Street.

Question 1: What is the name of the cottage at 58 New Street?

As the road bears right, cross over and use the riverside path to reach Henley Bridge. Turn left over the bridge crossing River Thames. Continue ahead, passing the 'Little Angel PH' and 'Henley Cricket Club' on your left. Follow main road uphill, passing allotments on left. Just after passing 'Ivy Gate House' on left, turn left on footpath up steps, by white picket fence. Cross driveway & continue ahead on footpath uphill, with wooden fence on right. Go ahead on footpath through woods, following white arrows on trees & ignoring all turnings, through kissing gate to reach road.

Turn left & after 10m turn right on footpath. Go ahead across field to reach kissing gate. Go through & continue ahead across next field, in same direction, to reach kissing gate. Go through & follow path through woods to reach driveway. Turn sharp left on second track (in direction of footpath sign), passing in a few yards sign 'Yewgate Cottage (Private Drive)'. Follow footpath along track. At end of track continue ahead on narrow footpath between concrete posts to reach road. Turn right & follow road uphill past telephone box on left. Immediately before t-junction, turn left through kissing gate onto footpath. Go diagonally left across field to reach stile at end of trees. Cross stile and follow right hand edge of next field.

At corner of field, by footpath sign, turn left. Continue to follow right hand edge of field for approx. 200m. Continue on gravel track with hedge on right for 100m. At 'Private Road' sign, turn right through gap in hedge and gate. Go downhill towards large stone building in the distance, following line of marker posts, to reach driveway. Turn left on tarmac drive. As drive turns right, bear left following footpath markers across driveway, through trees, downhill still following marker posts to finger post. Turn left on 'Thames Path', to kissing gate, by large house (Culham Court).

Question 2: What are not allowed on the footpath according to the sign?

Go through kissing gate, passing large house, keeping river off to your right, heading towards white house in distance. Go through gate & follow path to reach driveway. Ahead on tarmac driveway, bearing right to reach t-junction at lane. Turn right in direction of 'Thames Path'. After approx. 50m you reach 'Remenham Lane'. Turn right, then bear left at 'The Flower Pot' and follow lane for approx. 1,500m, to reach church. Turn right, keeping church on your right & follow lane to reach metal gate. Continue ahead on gravel track, through kissing gate then metal gate, to reach River Thames. Turn left on riverside footpath, with river on your right, & follow for approx. 1,600m towards Henley.

Just before Henley Bridge, pass the 'Leander Club' (pink hippos on gates) & bear left on footpath to reach main road. Turn right and cross road at traffic island. Turn right and follow road over bridge across River Thames. Turn left on road (Thameside) with 'The Angel PH' on your left, following the Thames Path. At road junction, continue straight ahead on riverside footpath to reach 'Hobbs of Henley'. Continue ahead on riverside footpath for approx. 1,000m past Mills Meadows (toilets) & 'River and Rowing Museum'. At far end of meadows, ahead to end of path. Turn left over 'Horsebridge' to reach 'Marsh Weir/Marsh Lock'.

Question 3: Who sponsored the "Salmon Ladder" at Marsh Weir?

Continue on 'Horsebridge' & rejoin riverside footpath. Follow footpath & at far end of large meadow, bear right on footpath to cross over footbridge. Go ahead on footpath & follow footpath alongside wooden fence by driveway (note railway & 'St Moritz' station in garden on your left). At end of footpath, continue ahead on lane. At fork, bear left on lane (sign post 'Thames Path') & follow for approx. 650m. Follow lane round right hand bend to cross over railway level crossing to reach Shiplake Station Car Park. (****Alternative starting point**). Pass 'The Baskerville PH' on the left.

Question 4: What is the number of the Post Box by 'The Corner Shop'?

At cross roads, turn right into 'Northfield Avenue' (following direction of bridleway arrow). Follow lane & at end, go through kissing gate & follow footpath between wooden fences. Go through kissing gate to reach road. Cross main road **WITH GREAT CARE** & go ahead on bridleway. Follow track for approx. 700m, passing through wooded area & uphill to reach road. Cross road & continue ahead on bridleway (signposted 'Mays Green 1') on private driveway. Follow lane, bearing right in front of 'Upper Bolney Cottage', then bear left & continue to follow lane for approx. 200m.

Just after lane passes green sheds on right, ignore kissing gate on your right, then after a further 10m, bear right on track with wooded area on left & field on right. Follow track, keeping field on right. Immediately before white house on your left, turn right on footpath between fence & hedgerow. Follow footpath to reach kissing gate. Go through gate & follow left hand edge of field to pass through kissing gate to reach road. Turn right & follow road **WITH CARE** to pass between golf courses & then downhill through trees. At bottom of hill, at t-junction, turn right & follow road to reach 'Harpsden Hall' on your left.

Question 5: What are the dates on the Hall?

Continue on road & after approx. 30m, turn left on footpath (signposted 'Henley') and go through kissing gate at end. Go ahead steeply uphill, following left hand edge of field through kissing gate onto footpath. Follow footpath & at 'Drawback House', continue ahead on footpath through metal barrier. At end of footpath, go through metal barrier & turn right on road. 10m after 'Berkshire Road' on your left, turn left on footpath, opposite 'Vinehart'. At junction with road, go straight ahead on footpath next to house no. 27. At junction with road, turn left.

Follow road & at t-junction, cross road & go ahead on footpath to left of large white house (no. 7). At end of footpath, cross road & continue ahead on footpath. At end of this short section, turn left on road. Follow road, passing St. Marks Road & as road turns right, go ahead on footpath between barriers passing school on your left. Continue ahead to pass 'Holy Trinity Church' on your left & go ahead on 'Church Street'. At t-junction, turn right on road, cross over road & turn left into car park. Walk through car park (toilets) to return to the Town Hall & the end of the walk.

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PLACES OF INTEREST ON THE WALK

- Kenton Theatre:** This is the fourth oldest theatre in England, built in 1805 and is still in regular use.
- Henley Bridge:** Built in 1786 to replace the former wooden bridge damaged in Civil War, then lost to floods. Note 'Old Father Thames' over central arch looking downstream over the regatta course towards London & 'ISIS' looking upstream towards Reading & Oxford.
- Marsh Lock:** Approached over Horsebridge (built for the barge towing horses), this is a spectacular setting.
- Shiplake:** Derived from the place name. Reputed to be a large flooded lake area of the Thames where the Danes marshalled their ships on the conquest along the Thames Valley.

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To claim your IVV stamp, please use the 'Permanent Trail Completion & IVV Stamp Claim Form' which is downloadable from the BWF website and send with your record books to the walk contact.