

Chairman's Chat July 2026. (A message from Mike Adye)

Dear Members

The lovely fine weather continues, however it has been too hot on some days to enjoy a walk and quite a few have been postponed. We look forward to these walks over the next few months.

Bob has decided to put on an evening walk to try and beat the heat as the hot weather continues. Your committee has agreed that we should trial some variations to our standard walks starting at 9.30am from Wilton on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Look out for walks starting earlier than the usual time to beat the hottest part of the day, also evening walks and weekend walks to add additional variety. We will be gauging your enthusiasm for these variations by numbers attending. We look forward to your support and participation.

Looking forward we hope to have a full programme of walks in the coming months. Bob is looking for a variety of walk grades and lengths to encourage participation from as many members as possible.

42 members attended the club social at the Yew Tree on 14th July. As usual the venue worked well with plenty of space and shade for all, and the food was delicious thanks the Cindy, Hilary and the rest of the catering team. Also a special thanks to Harry for his part in organising the event.

More social events are in the walks programme or being planned.

- Kath has organised the annual Round the Gardens event on 4th August. (See the walk programme for details).
- Dave has booked a charity walk in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Support on 29 September.
- Jenny is in the process of organising a skittles evening. She is trying to find a suitable venue and catering, but this is proving challenging. Your committee has agreed to subsidise venue hire for annual events such as this to make these events more affordable to all members.
- Phil is also planning to hold a Quiz night possibly in conjunction with the Pétanque club, Christmas and New Year walks/meals, and the annual blossom walk next spring.
- Mike and Sally are organising the club walking holiday to Exmoor from 23 to 26 April 2027. We have 18 people participating in this event. Other members are welcome to join this group, but will need to organise their own accommodation.

Your committee would welcome feedback, ideas and comments from all members to make the walks, and other club events as appealing to as many members as possible, and ideally to encourage new members to join and enjoy what the club has to offer. Please have a chat to any of your committee members. Your committee will also be seeking your comments through a brief members survey sometime over the next few months. We look forward to your input.

And finally the club needs more people willing to organise and lead walks. If you think you would like to try leading a walk you are welcome to ask for help from any of the experienced walk leaders. What better way to learn than “on the job” training.

Happy walking
Mike Adye