Country Walks.

We are fortunate to live in an area with easy access to some wonderful countryside and a huge paths network so there is a very wide range of choice open to us.

There are actually two groups but they share a common membership list. The current leaders are Colin Edwards (07931 771686, jucol2@hotmail.com) and David Rodway (07935 887499, davidbrion@aol.com)

The start point for each of Colin’s walks is described in emails which he sends out a week or so beforehand. David produces a new programme every 6 months and publishes it on the Elmbridge U3A website.

There are two walks a month. David arranges 8 to 10 mile walks on the second Thursday, usually starting at 10:15 and aiming to finish by 4 p.m. or earlier in the winter. Colin arranges a 5 to 7 mile morning walk on the 4th Thursday of each month, usually starting at 10:00 and aiming to finish by 1 p.m. Colin selects start points less than half an hour’s and David less than one hour’s drive from Molesey. On the longer walks, there is normally the option of either a quick lunchtime pub snack or a picnic taken nearby. For all the walks, there are short breaks to allow walkers to refresh themselves in mid-morning and, for the longer walks, in mid-afternoon.

Nowadays the group has over 100 registered members but, fortunately, not all of them actually come every time. Usually there are only 12 to 14 but we sometimes see as many as 20. The only qualification for participation is “be at the start on time” and, of course, “be capable of doing the walk”. Members occasionally bring well behaved, well controlled, dogs.

Colin started his walks in late 2008, David in early 2010. Both started their groups because they enjoyed walking and, especially, doing so with like-minded company. For a long time they each designed and led all of their own walks but nowadays other members contribute to the programmes.

Our future plans are simply to deliver more of the same whilst trying not to repeat walks too often – an ambition which we achieve, mostly. We observe that, if too many people start turning out for walks, we would need to start new groups.