

Tips for organising a Pub Lunch - Wendover U3A Walking Group

It is hoped these tips will be helpful if you are organising a pub lunch. Our walks don't have to be followed by a pub lunch, they can start and end at public car parks, cafés, or in summer there is always scope for a picnic lunch, but more often than not we lunch at a pub as they are normally easy to find and provide somewhere to park.

On your Practice Walk call in at the pub and check:

- are they happy to take walkers
- is it ok to park there while we're walking
- does the menu have lunch and bar snack options to suit everyone's pocket
- how many can they take
- are dogs allowed inside

If all seems agreeable:

- make a provisional booking for an estimated number (e.g. "about 15")
- arrange to pre-order food on the day before setting off
- agree that someone from the pub will be around, say 30 minutes before the walk start, to provide menus and to leave your food order with (if they say they will still be locked up at that time ask to collect the menus earlier or print them from their website)
- ask if it's alright for walkers to use the pub facilities before the walk starts
- get the venue's phone number and address
- once your walk is signed-up phone the pub and give them the accurate number for lunch. If the number changes keep the pub informed

On the Day of your Walk:

- take a piece of A4 paper with 2 columns, headed name and food choice, using a clipboard helps if you have one
- ask for a volunteer to pass this and the menus around and keep them moving as people are arriving (it is very difficult to look after the Register and the Menus and the Food List at the same time, it works much better if you ask for help). Where there are choices on the menu e.g. chips or mash, peas or salad, make sure they are indicated on the person's food choice on the list
- take the completed food list to someone inside the pub. Most pubs have it on the bar when walkers return and tick off people's names as they pay. It also serves to sort out mix ups with food orders.
- towards the end of lunch circulate a container around the tables for walkers to make a voluntary £1 contribution towards a tip for the pub staff. Give the pot to the Landlord or member of staff as you thank them on leaving

A note about Large Numbers

Usually we number under 20 for lunch but occasionally we have more than this. If the pub gives you a maximum number they can cope with for lunch and the number of your walkers exceeds this, do not worry. On the day, if more people turn up than the pub can cope with, just ask for the necessary number of volunteers to drive to another nearby pub for lunch or to one on their route home.