

About the Event

When?

This year's walk will be held on Sunday 9th October 2011.

Where?

The Test Way stretches approximately 45 miles from Inkpen Beacon in the north to the town of Totton in the south. Originally, the route was used by sailors arriving in Southampton as a transit route to the Midlands.

What Walks Are Available To Me?

Our walks start at 6 different points along this route with the furthest being a 25.5 mile 'marathon' distance starting at the village of St Mary Bourne alongside the Bourne Rivulet.

The Rivulet joins the River Test just before Wherwell and that is our second start point, some 16 miles from Romsey.

The route intermingles with the Test for the rest of our walks from Stockbridge at 11 miles, Horsebridge at 8 miles, Mottisfont church at 5 miles and the final 'stroll' from Squabb Wood into Romsey which is a distance of around 2 miles. The last walk is designed for the less able bodied and young children. All of our walks end up at the Romsey Memorial Park.

Where Do I Check In?

Please note.....ALL walkers must check in at the Crosfield Hall in Romsey. This is to ensure that the organisers are aware of your presence on the walk for insurance purposes.

At the Crosfield Hall, walkers will receive their final briefing notes and will be given their white identification tag and yellow transit token for their onward transportation to their designated start point.

Walkers will be transported to their chosen start point by coach. The coaches will be leaving at different times depending on the length of the walk – the longest walks will depart first. You will be advised of the check in time and

coach departure times after you have registered for the walk. Please allow 20 minutes minimum for check-in at the hall.

The approximate coach departure times are:-

Start 1: St. Mary Bourne **c25.5 miles (c41k)**

ALL coaches leave Romsey 07.00am

Start 2: Wherwell **c16 miles (c26k)**

coaches leave Romsey 08.30am

Start 3: Stockbridge **c11 miles (c18k)**

coaches leave Romsey 09.45am - 10.00am

Start 4: Horsebridge **c8 miles (c13k)**

coaches leave Romsey 11:00

Start 5: Mottisfont Church **c5 miles (c8k)**

coaches leave Romsey 11.45

Start 6: Squabb Wood **c2 miles (c3k)**

coaches leave Romsey 12.15pm

How Difficult Are The Walks?

The Test Way walk is a well trodden and established walk. Starting at St Mary Bourne, the walk slopes down the valley to Wherwell where the remainder of the walk is relatively easy and flat.

Appropriate footwear and wet weather clothing in the event of inclement weather are a must.

Walkers who are registering for the 'marathon' and the 16 mile walk from Wherwell must be familiar with walking these distances and should consider themselves capable of completing the course in less than 9 hours.

Few weather conditions would cause the event to be cancelled but this website will be kept up to date with information and we will email those who register electronically.

The entire course is marshalled and patrolled by Rotarians and other volunteers. Marshals are there to help and deal with any questions/difficulties you may have. Marshals will 'close' the route after the last walker has passed through each section of the walk.

Only the designated course is marshalled; we do not accept responsibility for walkers who leave the designated route.

Emergency Facilities/Procedures

St John Ambulance is in attendance and 3 ambulances will be available in the unlikely event of a medical problem affecting one or more of the walkers. Please contact a marshal immediately you or anyone in your party requires assistance.

Who Can Take Part?

Anyone can participate but we do *require persons under the age of 14 years to be accompanied by an adult*

There are no fitness requirements other than your ability to feel that you can complete your chosen walk. However, if you are in any doubt regarding a medical condition or disability that affects you, please consult with your GP beforehand.

It is hoped that part of the route could be available to participants with disabilities that may prevent them from overcoming obstacles such as gates or stiles. If you have such a disability but would like to take part, please contact the organisers for more details.

Remember, family and friends are most welcome so why not encourage them to seek sponsors and register!

The Finish!!

All 6 walks finish in the Memorial Park, Romsey. This is a short distance from The Crosfield Hall where your day started.

When you arrive back in the park, you will be greeted by the Rotary Club walk officials and be presented with your well earned 'Walk the Test Way' medal by our Club President in exchange for your white identification token.

Refreshments will be available from the 'café in the park' and our sponsors and representatives from the charities involved during the day will be on hand to explain more about why it is so important for us to be able to support their respective causes.

What Do I Do Next?

Now use the [Registration](#) button to book your place online, or print a copy of the registration form and post off to the Registrar or, contact one of the telephone numbers on the website.

There is a non-refundable deposit of £5.00 registration fee which is used to cover costs of transport, insurance and administration costs.

Sponsorship Forms

You can use our '[Just Giving](#)' facilities to raise sponsorship funds by email from your friends, family and work colleagues.

[Sponsorship forms](#) can be downloaded from this site if you wish to generate sponsors 'face to face'.

We are able to receive sponsorship monies collected via '[Just Giving](#)' or manually either on the day of the walk or within 3 weeks of completing the walk but all sponsorship money raised must be submitted promptly so that we can get this to our charities as soon as possible after the walk itself.

Registration fees not submitted electronically on registration, together with the registration forms and sponsorship money should be sent to:

The Registrar,
Walk the Test Way,
PO Box 335,
ROMSEY,
Hants SO51 1BP.

Cheques payable please to the 'Rotary Club of Romsey Test Trust Fund'

How Is Your Sponsorship Money Used?

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test Trust Fund is a registered charity (No. 10295250), and members provide their time as unpaid volunteers. ALL proceeds of the walk (less the cost of administration, insurance and transportation) will be donated to charity.

The sponsorship money you collect will be distributed 75% to the charity of your choice and 25% to Rotary supported charities. We encourage you

wherever possible to request your sponsors (if they are tax payers) to sign the Gift Aid section of the form as this can increase their donations by up to 25%.

We plan to collect and distribute to the selected charities all the money raised from this year's walk by the end of January 2012.

How Will Our Rotary Club Use Their Proportion of The Sponsorship money?

Over the years, our Club has raised many hundreds of thousands of pounds for local, national and international charities.

We are part of *Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland* (RIBI) which is an association of Rotary members, clubs and districts. It is part of Rotary International, a worldwide organisation with 1.2 million business professionals and community leaders in over 200 countries and geographical areas.

Rotary clubs are based in local communities across the world with its members meeting on a regular basis for fun and friendship, and to plan projects that will benefit the lives of others.

We are already well known for providing accommodation to thousands of people affected by earthquake, flood and famine through the Rotary Shelter Box programme. This was most recently in the news following the terrible earthquake in Haiti and through the efforts of our programme called 'Polio Plus', Rotary has virtually eradicated polio from the world.

Closer to home, our Rotary Club supports local groups such as Young Carers, Jane Scarth House, various cancer care groups and Southampton General Hospital. Many individuals and families locally have benefited from the support of our club from funds raised in this way; we also have a permanent reminder of the work done for our community at the Romsey Hospital with its new canopy over the front entrance.