

## Jim's Late Ramblings

**Botanically inclined?** Interested in rarities? *Strongylodon macrobitys* (or Philippine Jade vine to the common dunce like myself) is one of the rarest plants in the world and is on show at Hampstead Norreys, Wyld Court Rainforest. The only one known to be in bloom the plant is the Mecca of nature boffins. Watch out for weedkiller! Also new beasts such as the Plumed Basilisk (medieval monster?) and the Panther Chameleon. Oh, and the spider exhibit will be ready at the end of the month. Arachnophobics be brave! Contact Wyld Court Rainforest situated off the M4: Tel. (01625) 200221. Adults £3.50, students and O.A.P's £3, 5-14's £2 and under 5's go free.

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I can sing. Prove it, HAH! The Crescent Singers, Abingdon, are looking for two sopranos and a tenor and any experienced singers. Sight reading is required, auditions necessary - nothing strenuous we are told. In July there'll be a Lamborghini ride through 18th century Italian music and a study of Mozart's works. All concerts are fund raisers, so help the Alzheimer's charity and sing ya heart out? Contact Pat Tubb: 01235 526963

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More singing! Wallingford church choir say thanks to all who helped and supported them in their latest concert—they raised £781 for their millennium appeal. They're now working towards Easter and then a hop over to Argentan, France where they will sing The Rutter Requiem. All interested, practice on Fridays, 8pm. Contact Sue Ledger: Tel/Fax 01491-835207.

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Fancy yourself as a Tom Bombadil?" Hey! Come merry dol!" Ramblers will be happy to hear that the National Trails Office have introduced new events in addition to The Ridgeway/Thames path walks. Now you can cycle, horse ride and bob along in a boat. Walks, led by a pro storyteller and archaeologist, weave fables with fact to enable a full appreciation of the land. A bus service, the Ridgeway Explorer, will stop along the western part of the Ridgeway. Walkers can get off, walk, get on and head home. Phone: 01865 810224

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A Ridgeway yearly event comin' up. Get your boots on for the annual Ridgeway walk on Sat. 8th May! Meet at Streatley and a coach will take you to the start. There's a choice of a 20 or 40 mile walk - feeling Herculean? you can run the 40 miles. Get revitalised at checkpoints along the way. Finish alive and get tea, cakes and a certificate to prove it. Everyone is welcome. Contacts: Ron: 01235 850578 (20 mile walk), Alan: 0181 301 3829 (40 mile walk) or Mike: 01235 532207 (40 mile run).

J.W.

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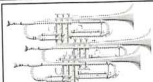
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