

### Dunster Holiday 11th - 15th September 2015 - Report by Mike B



**I**t was Friday 11th September when 22 souls started our walking holiday.

Our first walk was a 5 mile 'Tall Trees' walk led by Richard, easy walking but it did take us 3 hours. We learned how to measure tree height.



The second day's walk to Wimbleball Lake was led by Denys and proved to be rather eventful. It was planned to be 10.2 miles but the experts tell me that it was over 12 miles and this was born out from my crude estimation when I thought we were at the end only to be advised that there was another 1.5 miles to go. After a showery start the weather cleared up and we finished in good conditions, just a few puddles and mud to contend with. Lunch was at a church in Morebath where some kind ladies turned up to provide tea and biscuits.



The main event occurred when our revered chairman fell off the radar. Initially we were not too concerned because the plus or minus 10 % rule applied but in the end a search party was sent out and was successful. A lesson was learned how important it is to have an effective TEC. (Tail End Charley!)



On the third day I took time off to attend St Georges church and visit Dunster castle and Sally has kindly written the following note.

*On Sunday Mike G directed us to a car park on Exmoor which he had sold to us as being "the most amazing car park in England" and, naturally, got ribbed for it. "What, no toilets/café/ice cream van etc.!" – you get the gist. However it did have lovely views. We set off on a gradual path through heather and gorse to Dunkery Beacon where we posed for a blustery photo before descending to a less breezy spot for coffee and blueberries/bilberries/myrtles. Our path was obstructed by a bellowing Galloway cow, who was disturbed not by 19 Ramblers but because she had lost her calf who we found quite a distance away and going in the opposite direction. Although everyone pretended not to be concerned, there were sighs of relief when we saw them reunited on the skyline. On to the candle-lit Stoke Pero church for lunch where the tranquillity was broken by the sound of a constipated lawn mower. Olivia relinquished her responsibilities as back marker and Alex took over. In the first 5 minutes she adroitly dealt with: Ramblers wanting to stroke a cat, Ramblers looking at pretty bantam chickens, Ramblers discussing a pet sheep with fat legs that got through the gate and had to be turned back. After that things went more smoothly (apart from some South Cots collecting enormous pine cones) until we had to descend a very steep slope to a stream. We followed the path to Horner, where most indulged in the biggest cream teas ever, and Di bought a plant. We began the climb up, Richard carrying the plant (and probably the enormous pine cones), through a series of sculptures until we returned to "the most amazing car park in England". (Sally)*





## DUNSTER (Continued)

Our fourth walk on Monday 14th September was led by Steve and Rosemary who made an excellent job with the logistics because we had to use three buses and no-one was left behind. The first stage was 6 miles from Minehead to Bossington starting with a steep hill and some rain at the start and a strong wind at the top, however the coast path was very good. After a healthy lunch at Bossington most of us walked a further 3 level miles to Porlock Weir. Two red deer were spotted en route and we passed a sad memorial to the crew of an American bomber which crashed during the last war. Our wait for the bus to take us back to Minehead was

only 15 minutes.

The bus stop for Dunster was next to the Minehead train station and we were fortunate to have a rare glimpse of a steam train, the Titfield Thunderbolt.



The fifth walk was a 4 mile stroll, on the way home, in the Quantocks from Holford Village. It rained quite heavily at the start but this fortunately cleared up for us to enjoy views from the top at Bicknoller Post and Alfoxton which included the Hinkley Point power station and the Somerset levels.



We finally took lunch at a teashop in the village of Kilve before setting off home after a very enjoyable and memorable holiday.

*By Mike B*



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Walking holiday partner



## GROUP WALKING HOLIDAY IN THE BRECON BEACONS AT HF BRECON

### Mon 12 - Fri 16 September 2016 - Leader Denys Thompson - 01453

As we are not averse to revisiting old haunts, and as we haven't been there since 2008, we are proposing to return to the Brecon Beacons for our autumn holiday in 2016. Once again we will stay at the HF Nythfa House on the edge of Brecon, complete with indoor swimming pool.



The house provides the usual high standard of meals, packed lunches and facilities that we have come to expect when staying at HF Houses.

As at Dunster, we are planning to lead our own walks. Apart from a slight mishap with the Chairman on one of the Dunster walks, having our own leaders worked well and has some advantages, as well as being significantly cheaper. This means that we would welcome offers from our pool of skilled, experienced and intrepid walkers to lead one of the walks.

As usual there will be a short walk on the first day. We will have three days of longer walks to be decided when the offers roll in, but the choice of walking is stunning. We have the whole of the Brecon Beacons to choose from. Apart from the series of waterfalls at the top of the Neath valley we have Pen y Fan, Cribyn, Corn Dhu, as well as the Black Mountains. Details of the walks should be available in the February Newsletter. We will have the usual shorter walk on our way home on the last day. If possible we would hope to be able to offer some shorter alternative walks, ideally as part of the longer walks, so that we remain an inclusive, cohesive group.

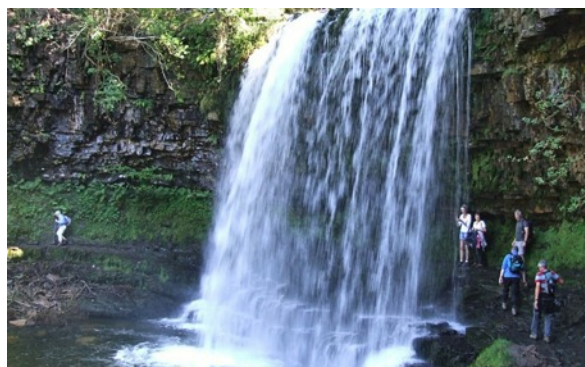
We are reserving 24 ensuite places. There are twin, double and single rooms, either in the main house or in the annex. There are also premium double or twin rooms available for a nightly supplement of £5 per person, but there is no single supplement. We have reserved 7 double rooms and 8 singles. In addition there is one premium twin room available for two single people who are prepared to share, at no additional cost.

Important note. There is only one ordinary double bed. The other double rooms are twins. For those couples who prefer a double bed the only option is to upgrade to a premium, where two singles are joined producing a super king size bed.



The price, which includes all meals and packed lunches, is £359 per person for those not HF members, and £354 for HF members. For details of membership see <http://www.hfholidays.co.uk/membership>. These figures also include £10 to help defray Group expenses.

If you wish to come please book as soon as possible as the rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please send a cheque **NOW**, and not later than 15 December, using the form provided, for £85 per person deposit. The balance will be payable by 15 July 2016. Late bookings might be possible - but there is no guarantee - and HF might ask for a supplement. In that case ring me first and I can but enquire.



### Brecon Walking Holiday Monday 12 to Friday 16 September 2016

To Denys Thompson, South View, Lower Street, Whiteshill, Stroud GL6 6AR (tel 01453 )

Please reserve \* ONE / TWO places for the holiday staying at HF Brecon for 4 nights @ £359/£354 for HF members.

*CIRCLE CHOICE* SINGLE      DOUBLE (if available) / TWIN / EITHER / PREMIUM DOUBLE £5pp pn extra (ALL ENSUITE).

Singles - I would be willing to share a PREMIUM TWIN room at no extra charge with .....

I / We enclose a cheque payable to South Cotswold Ramblers for £\_\_\_\_\_ (£85 per person non-refundable deposit) including £10 per person for Group Expenses in arranging the holiday. Please acknowledge the booking by **Email / SAE** enclosed. Please book early and in any case by 15 December 2015. Our reservation will then expire.

Signed

Date .....

Name 1).....

HF Membership No ..... if applicable

Name 2).....

HF Membership No ..... if applicable

Email.....

Tel No .....

## STILE STYLE

Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson were socialites as well as acclaimed writers and poets but perhaps they are best known for developing the famous gardens at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent. They married, had two sons and enjoyed a passionate love for each other expressed in hundreds of letters many written when Henry's duties as a diplomat took him away from home. Despite this great love, it was no secret that they both had multiple homosexual relationships before and after marriage.

This life-style seems unusual so it is perhaps appropriate that many of the stiles around Sissinghurst are also a bit odd (see illustrations). •The transverse bars of each stile pivot around central bolts and one side of the bars can be depressed enabling easy passage. •On release, the weight of segments of the thick, main vertical post on the other side of the pivot bring the transverse bars back to the horizontal position.



*Brian Witcombe*

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### Update on Maurice Dyett from his sister Sharron

Maurice has made real improvements and we are all feeling much more positive about the future. He can now walk a few steps with help and last week he moved from Breadstones to a reablement unit at Bourton-on-the-Water. It's less than half a mile from the centre of Bourton-on-the-Water and has plenty of parking.

The address is:

Kingham Unit, Jubilee Lodge, Meadow Way, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2HQ Tel 01451

He is there for intensive therapy, so he can have daily physio to help him improve further before moving on. The unit is lovely and modern. He has his own room with en-suite facilities. There is also a pretty garden and sitting room and the staff are happy to help him into a wheelchair so visitors can push him out into the garden or sitting room for a change of scenery.

He'd welcome a visit if anyone is in the area and is now much better in himself than earlier this year and very much up for a chat. He has his mobile phone with him, so people could also ring him. If anyone is thinking of visiting you can call any time but they ask that you avoid mealtimes - lunch is 12.30 to 1.30.

Kind regards Sharron

### GROUP VOLUNTEERS 2015

#### **Chairman:**

Richard Davis

chairman@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Vice Chairman:**

Mike Garner

mike@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Group Secretary:**

Andrew Hawkins 01452 857958

groupsecretary@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Group Treasurer:**

Brian Witcombe 01453 872220

treasurer@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Membership Secretary, Book Sales:**

Mike Garner 01453 873625

membership@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Publicity Officer:**

Vacant

#### **Without portfolio:**

Diana Davis Enid Sutcliffe Bernard Smith

#### **Website:** Mike Garner & Sally Davis

website@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **South Cots Newsletter:** Sally Davis

newsletter@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Footpath Chairman and Footpath Secretary:**

Bob Frewin 01453 545752

footpaths@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Footpath Committee Minutes Secretary:**

John Corry 01453 845574 john@corry.org.uk

#### **Footpath Clearance**

Bob Frewin

#### **Footpath Committee Member:**

Penny Fernando

#### **Led Walks Programme Co-ordinator:**

Mike Garner mike@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

#### **Led Walks Collectors for Mar - June 2016:** (dates needed by 31 December)

John G 01452 728760 Weekend Walks

Anne E 01453 842551 Start the Week Walks

Ann A 01453 839089 Midweek Walks

### Welcome to our new members

We welcome Andrew, Evelyn, Janice, Josephine, Lynda, Mary, Sarah, Steve and Trevor from Amberley, Box, Cam, Cheltenham, Minchinhampton, Prestbury, Stroud, Whitminster and Wotton-under-Edge and hope you enjoy walking with us.

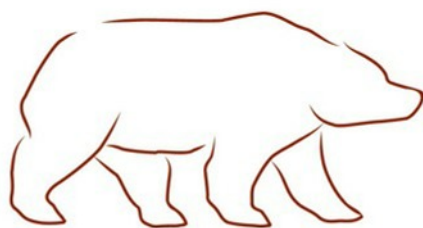
*Mike Garner - Group Membership Secretary*

If you wish to put any items in the next newsletter (which will go out in February), please send them to Sally Davis (newsletter@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk) by **20th January**

### **Going away with Ramblers' Holidays?**

We have recently received a sum of money for Group Funds from Ramblers Holidays where members taking a holiday with them have nominated South Cotswold Group. If you ever forget to tell them when booking, there is still time if you contact them before you go. By your doing so, they will donate £10, £20 or even £30 per person to our funds to be used to benefit walkers.

For more info, click the link to Walking Partnership on our Messages page.



# THE BEAR OF RODBOROUGH HOTEL

**South Cotswold Ramblers Annual Lunch Menu**  
**Saturday 16th January 2016**  
**12.30 for 1pm.**

## **Starters**

Carrot & Coriander Soup with Croutons

~

Smoked Salmon, Crème Fraîche, Lemon, Capers

~

Goat's cheese & Cherry tomato tart,  
Mixed salad, Chutney

## **Mains**

Traditional Roast Turkey, Bacon wrapped chipolatas, Sage & Apricot Stuffing, Turkey Jus

~

Roast Loin of Gatcombe Pork, Spring onion mash, Apple compote,  
Pork Gravy

~

Pan Fried Sea trout fillet, Crushed New potatoes, Wilted Bok Choy,  
Onion & tomato coriander salsa

~

Wild mushrooms & tarragon risotto,  
Mascarpone, pea shoots

## **Desserts**

Lemon Tart, Fruit Coulis, Clotted cream

~

Traditional Christmas pudding, Brandy Sauce

~

Dark chocolate torte, orange sorbet

~

## **To conclude**

~

Mince Pies & Coffee

~

£21.50 3 Course

## ANNUAL LUNCH - MENU ON PREVIOUS PAGE

VENUE: The Bear at Rodborough. **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.**

**There is a limit on numbers, so book early!**

CLOSING DATE: 6 December 2015

ACTION:

1) Please return the booking slip together with a cheque for the full amount, payable to SOUTH COTSWOLD RAMBLERS, to:  
Sally Davis, 23 Bownham Park, Rodborough Common, Stroud, GL5 5BY by the closing date – 6 December

2) Please send me your choices from the menu either by post or email to [sally@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk](mailto:sally@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk) by 15 December

## LUNCH BOOKING SLIP (by 6 December)

Please book ..... places(s) at the Annual lunch @ £21.50 per person.

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to South Cotswold Ramblers in full payment.

Signed .....

Contact details: Name:.....

Address:.....

Email:.....

Tel no.....

## OTHER NEWS.

### SUMMER EVENING WALKS

The committee agreed that the start time for summer evening walks in 2016 would be 6:30 (instead of 6pm as this year). However, leaders who choose to lead on the later August dates will need to make their walks shorter to allow for fewer daylight hours. This discussion resulted from S. Cots members who said that the 6pm start had meant a) driving to a start at the height of the rush hour, making a very difficult journey and b) people who worked were unable to take part. There were several workers who have said that they would be able to make a slightly later start, especially for walks that started near their place of work.

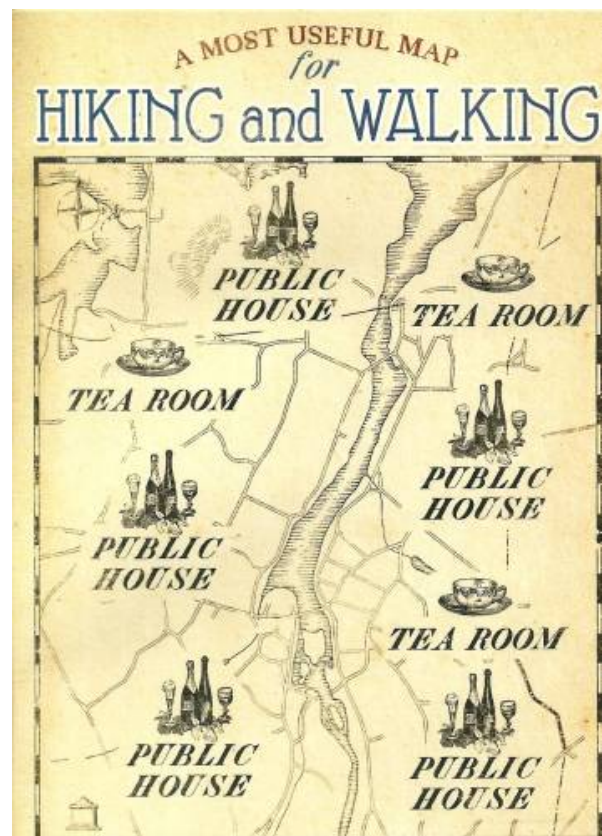
### POSTCODE PURGATORY

Recently we have been adding the nearest postcodes to our walk descriptions. This does encourage people to join our walks from further afield and we are very pleased to see them.

But Ann A has told me that the postcode quoted for Coaley Peak Picnic Site takes you to the nearest habitation. This is a bit of a disaster, as it is halfway down a steep narrow road on the way to Silver Street, Coaley.

So we are deleting the postcode on the description of Coaley Peak Picnic Site. It will now say **Do NOT follow SatNav to a postcode.** The site entrance is on the level B4066 road near Woodchester Park entrance. L162/E168•SO794013

Please has anyone had a similar problem with any other postcode. Please let us know on the Contact Us page of the website, or give Mike Garner a call.



A Very appropriate Birthday Card sent to John G by his family

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ALL INFORMATION THAT YOU NEED ABOUT THE SOUTH COTSWOLD RAMBLERS AGM ON SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER APPEARS AT THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER.



## TO SAPPERTON

Which way?

This way

The sign says Daneway

Along the towpath beneath the railway

The Frome flows freely

Tinkling - Really !

Murmuring, gurgling, gushing, rushing

Through the race where waterwheels turned in its pushing

Blocks of stone now green with moss

While everything else is white with frost

Dear God it's cold

But the brave and bold are out in force

Following the course of the overgrown and derelict canal

In a field a tiny hut

Its doors and windows firmly shut

The beechnuts crunching underfoot

Or frosted grass as thick as snow

Which sounds as though your careful feet

Are trampling through a giant's box of shredded wheat

The silence deafens when standing still

The slightest sound is all it takes

and from the hill the pigeons flap in panicked flight across the lake

Where Bee the Otter swims on bright and sunny days

Faerie grottos

Elfish scenes

Through a bower laced with reeds

Overhanging evergreens and fluffy puffs of clematis seeds

Finches, Wrens and Robins feed

The woodland high looks down on man upon the path and whispers welcome from the ridge

As passing by we raise our sights

and gaze in awe at such majestic pride

Over bridges, through a gate

Keeping up the steady rate

Of one step forward, stop and see

No leaves to flutter if indeed there were a breeze

But myriad sparkles in the sun

Mother Nature's bit of fun

A tree of diamonds

Only to be touched by wonderment's joyous eyes

Then miniature rainbows one by one and bye and bye

With an onomatopoeic 'plink'

Dissolve to liquid

Makes you think it's magic

and so at last to brief respite

A half of ale both clear and light

Then half a mile to journey's end

The tunnel where the leggers used to bend to aching toil

An ancient cottage crumbling to the soil

We shout 'Halloo' and wait

but no reply

So with a sigh we turn and wish the wish goodbye

Retracing steps in going home

*John L*

### **BACKMARKING, WHISTLES AND MOBILE PHONES**

On any group walk with more than about 8 people, a backmarker needs to be appointed by the leader. If the walk is longer than half a day, a new backmarker should take over for the afternoon as it is a very responsible job and needs concentration. I suggest you ask for both volunteers in the morning. **All walkers should carry a whistle.** If you need to drop back please make sure the backmarker knows and make sure they know when you have caught up again.

#### **IN WOODS**

Particularly in woods it is very easy to lose someone, so we have devised the following procedure to cover this.

#### **SIX BLASTS BY THE PERSON WHO NEEDS HELP**

If you have dropped back and suddenly realise you cannot see where the other walkers have gone, please STOP and give six long blasts on your whistle. •Don't be afraid to blow your whistle as soon as you realise that you can't see the others. The longer you leave it, the further they will have gone and the more chance they won't hear you. •Wait for one minute then do six more long blasts and wait for another minute. Continue like this and if someone has heard your six blasts, they should respond with three blasts on their whistle to let you know they are on their way. You should keep repeating six blasts and then waiting a minute to help the others locate you. If you stay on the path where you last saw the others, you will be found - DO NOT GO OFF ON PATHS - you may well be on another path and it will be much harder to find you. By the way, six blasts and then waiting a minute is the international emergency signal.

#### **ONE VERY LONG BLAST (SOUTH COTSWOLD SYSTEM)**

Anyone can blow their whistle if they spot a problem such as the party getting strung out too far. This time just take a deep breath and blow one very long blast - others could pass this signal on if needed and this means people in front STOP. This gives people further back a chance to catch up.

#### **MOBILE PHONES**

The leader's mobile phone number is usually given on the walks programme and as an additional safety measure you are encouraged to put it on your own mobile which you should carry with you and keep switched on. Reception is often very patchy but even with no appreciable signal it is possible for emergency services to locate the position of the phone as long as it is switched on.

*Mike and Richard*





## ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

The next concert will be on 21st November 2015 at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Rd., Stroud, Gloucestershire (next to the General Hospital)

### Programme

Berlioz	Les Francs Juges
Ravel	Piano concerto (Soloist: Alexander Soares)
Saint-Saens	Symphony No 3 (The Organ Symphony)

Listen to extracts at [www.stroudsymphony.org.uk](http://www.stroudsymphony.org.uk) Please order your tickets on the form below or from Stroud Tourist Information (01453 760960) or ask me on a walk or just come along on the night. Mike Garner 01453 873625

Ravel's Piano Concerto is a wonderful piece. From the opening whip-crack [literally] the first movement surges along with tremendous energy and angular rhythms, the piano staccato and percussive, the strings swooping about behind it.

The slow movement has become a Classic-fm play-list favourite and is a supremely lyrical creation. In large part the theme is carried by the flute and then the oboe, the piano taking a step back and softly harmonising behind the wind instruments. Truly, it is a gorgeous, rhapsodic, piece of music.

Crackle and fizz follows in the third movement. Back comes the dynamism, the torrent of notes from the piano, as percussive and galvanic as in the first movement. It's exhilarating, intense and bursting with energy.

The Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78, was completed by Camille Saint-Saëns in 1886 at what was probably the artistic peak of his career. It is also popularly known as the Organ Symphony, even though it is not a true symphony for organ, but simply an orchestral symphony where two sections out of four use the pipe organ. The composer inscribed it as: Symphonie No. 3 "avec orgue" (with organ). Of composing the work Saint-Saëns said "I gave everything to it I was able to give. What I have here accomplished, I will never achieve again." *Mike*

## Concert Tickets

Tickets £11.00 (concessions £9.00)

£1.00 reduction if purchased prior to the evening of the concert.

Sat 21 Nov 7:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud (next to the hospital with parking opposite)

To Mike, Southcot, The Headlands, North Woodchester, Stroud GL5 5PS. Please send me the following tickets: ..... @ £11 / ..... concessions @ £9/ ..... accompanied children under 14 free.

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to Stroud Symphony Orchestra and a Stamped Addressed Envelope for the despatch of tickets.

Signed .....

Please print your name, phone number and, if possible, email address below.

Name.....

Tel no:.....

Email address:.....

## NEPAL UPDATE

Dear keith and sally

•Namaste and warm greetings from Kathmandu. • Hope every things are well you •.

Because of monsoon we stopped all the construction and renovation for private houses and the school. We had supported villagers for zinc sheet and foodstuffs before the monsoon. We had supported villagers in Gorkha district, and Manbu vdc and Kharka villages, plus the Baseri villagers in Dhading district. After few festivals in Nepal, we shall all be going to rebuild the village, school, and health post.

One more things, many international donor agencies supported earthquake victims. However some of them publicised more than they actually did. Some of them couldn't focus on remote villages. One example. There was a lot news about the World Food Program providing rice to Laprak village in Gorkha. The rice was spoiled and the people couldn't eat it.

Nepali government are not doing enough, nor any planning yet how to start. They have formed one government department to rebuild Nepal, but little is planned yet. They are planning for a fund for every family to build their house but nothing has actually happened. There were many help came directly from person all around the world with connections to Nepal, like you send us, and we are distributing it to villagers. It was more effective. We distributed directly to who needs help.

Overall though, the much appreciated aid provided has been small scale to what will be needed.

Best regard

Saroj Neupane (Keith's friend/guide/owner of small trekking business)

[www.beyondthelimitstreks.com](http://www.beyondthelimitstreks.com)

If anyone is thinking of going to Nepal (you don't have to do Everest or Annapurna - there are plenty of easier treks), email [sallydavis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallydavis@hotmail.co.uk) and we will get in touch with Saroj to see what he can come up with. You will get a very personal service tailored to what you need and he will really appreciate your custom.

## FOOTPATH NEWS



I managed to get this terrible stile replaced in July 2015 after starting negotiations in December 2014. I was able to get the Cots. Wardens to install this.



PROW considered it very low priority and would do nothing.

*Bernard Smith*

Have you come across a stile or barrier that you have had difficulty climbing over? If so please let Bernard have details. My e-mail Address is

[smith.bernard@tesco.net](mailto:smith.bernard@tesco.net)

At present I have three such cases, one is nearing completion the other two are in progress. When you are out walking with the Group or out on your own please look out for anything difficult or broken and let me know giving if possible any or all of the following:- • Photograph, Grid Reference (those of you with GPS it would only take a moment to find this) or just describe the path as running between two known points.

I know it can be a hassle but the benefit to other walkers cannot be overstated. • Our committee has the money to pay for new kissing gates or stiles. • At the moment I am getting new cases by looking at photos on our website, but it would be much better for walkers to notify me as there must be other difficult stiles etc.



# Invitation to our Annual General Meeting

September 2015

Dear Members,

We warmly invite you to the **South Cotswold Ramblers' Group ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on Saturday 21 November 2015 to arrive at any time after 12:30 pm for the meeting at 1:30 pm at Rodborough Tabernacle, Tabernacle Walk, Rodborough, Stroud GL5 3UJ, Grid Reference SO 846039, (turn right off road leading up towards Rodborough Fort signed United Reformed Church and go downhill along Tabernacle Walk for 500 yards).

<http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughTab>

If you'd like a morning walk, Brian and Sheelagh are leading a 5 mile walk from there at 10:00 am.

At 12:30 pm you could bring a packed lunch and there will be tea or coffee and homemade cakes kindly provided by members, also an opportunity to have a chat with other members.

All of you are most welcome.

At the meeting Reports and Plans are discussed. Then all committee members stand down and are eligible to seek re-election as officers or committee members. We look forward to welcoming new people too, and we will ask for nominations during the meeting. Posts will be as shown in last year's minutes overleaf.

After any other business at the end of the meeting there will be an open discussion, a chance for questions.

Please do come. We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely

*Andrew Hawkins*  
Group Secretary (01452 857958)

## **SOUTH COTSWOLD RAMBLERS ANNUAL GROUP REPORT 2014/15**

We are coming to the end of another 'Ramblers' year and once again it has been a busy one. In the last 12 months we have produced a programme of 163 walks, one of our biggest ever. These have ranged from our 4 mile and under, easy paced, start the week walks on alternate Monday mornings, to longer walks of 5 miles and over, up to a maximum of 12 miles, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Through the summer we have also put on evening walks on a weekly basis. Once a month these have been run in conjunction with Rodborough Parish Council.



*South Cots on top of the world*

Numbers on walks have averaged between 25 and 30 and have at times exceeded 40. Ages have ranged from 7 to 85 but are mainly in the 60's.

*Our youngest walker poses with leaders Karen & Tony*

At the beginning of October we will be putting on 2 walks for the Dursley Walking Festival. This is run over 5 days with 18 varied walks. In addition 2 of our members are on the Steering Committee for the Festival, one acting as walks coordinator. South Cotswold Ramblers have also sponsored the event to the tune of £100 to cover production costs on the programme. The money has come from the Walking Partnership with Ramblers Holidays.



We have again arranged 2 holidays, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. In May this year 21 of us went to Lulworth on an HF Holiday break. The holiday was organised by Mike Garner who put on walks on our day of arrival and on our departure day. The 4 night holiday included 3 days walking with HF with a choice of three walks per day. We had opted for mainly coastal walks and had a wonderful time following the ups and downs of this part of the Jurassic Coast. Although HF have cut back on their evening entertainment programme they did arrange for a member of the Yetis, a fairly well known local group to give us a few Dorset songs.



*Old Harry Rocks*



*Yes there was a wet day*

We have just returned from our Autumn break in Dunster, a full report appearing elsewhere in this News Letter. We again stayed at the Yarn Market Hotel for 4 nights and enjoying a programme of 5 walks.



*Recreating a photo of a previous holiday on Exmoor*

Our main social event was the Christmas Lunch which this year took place in January at Minchinhampton Golf Club. Over 50 members attended.





In addition we regularly support concerts given by Stroud Symphony Orchestra. There have been three in the last year with up to 20 members attending.

Meanwhile what has been going on in the big world outside of South Cotswolds? Ramblers have won an important appeal on what is known as the 'Andrews Case'. In a judgement delivered on the 1st July, the three Court of Appeal Judges gave a clear ruling that the judgement of the original Andrews case, back in 1993, was wrong, and that section 10 of the 1801 inclosure Act did authorise inclosure commissioners to set out and award public footpaths and bridleways when making inclosure awards. This will allow the mapping of 100s of miles of footpaths and bridleways as public rights of way. It has taken Ramblers some 15 years of research and legal advice to get to this point. I am sure a number of you at this point are stifling yawns but I think it useful to include this item based on the number of times people complain that Ramblers never get involved in fighting a case in the courts. It does happen but involves a great amount of time and expense.

Another ongoing item is the Big Path Watch. I am sure I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of South Cotswolds members who have signed up to this project and yet it forms a major part of Ramblers' current activities. That's the organisation to which you pay your annual membership fee. We are now nearly halfway through the exercise. There have been a total so far of 12,292 registrants (a new word to me), and 71% of these are new to Ramblers showing that we are engaging a completely new audience. Why not give it a go. Don't be afraid of the technology. It's simple.

Ramblers Central Office are organising a development day in Gloucester on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016. There are a total of 11 courses, 2 full day, 5 morning and 4 afternoon, covering many aspects of our volunteering work. You can sign up by visiting the Volunteer Website.

Finally Central Office have made an appointment of someone to assist Areas. She will initially be involved in re-establishing two area committees which have been struggling of late but I am sure she will eventually provide valuable assistance for all areas.

*Richard Davis, Group Chairman*

### **FOOTPATH COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Footpath Committee meets four times a year and the main part of each meeting is spent reviewing all of the outstanding cases, usually involving referrals from and to the council PROW team. At the last meeting the outstanding cases totalled 54. Each case is allocated to a member of the Committee who is responsible for following it up and inspecting the site to make sure any works have been completed. Cases of encroaching vegetation are dealt with by members of the Committee wherever possible and by members of the Group on walks. We do not currently operate regularly scheduled work parties but carry out clearance work on an ad-hoc basis.

In the past year we have cleared vegetation at 19 different locations and reported over 70 footpath problems to the council. We have also been consulted on several applications for footpath diversions. Although these are few in number, our work on them is crucial and usually results in a much better solution for walkers than would otherwise be the case.

We are always looking for additional members to assist with footpath work so if you are interested in helping, why not get in touch? Everybody is welcome but those living in the northern part of the South Cotswold area are especially so since our team members by and large reside in the southern section.

*Bob Frewin, Footpath Secretary*

## **GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT 2014-2015:**

I shall relay full details of the Group's finances to the AGM in November but you can see from the following brief summaries that both our accounts are in a healthy position.

**HOLIDAY ACCOUNT:** During the last financial year, receipts for the Christmas lunch and the Dovedale and Dunster Holidays equalled expenditure. Complex booking arrangements and revision of numbers led to the cost of the holiday in Lulworth slightly exceeding expenditure by a tiny amount, less than 2% of the total cost. This cost was easily met from profit accumulated over the years and serves to illustrate the benefit of keeping a small

excess in this account: the balance at present is just over £200 whereas over eleven thousand pounds have passed in and out of the account over the year.

*Brian Witcombe, Group Treasurer*

**GENERAL ACCOUNT:** For many years general income has exceeded expenditure largely as a result of profit from the sale of walking booklets. This source of income will cease shortly as the books become dated. It is therefore good to report that we have a balance of well over four thousand pounds in this account. Much of this can be devoted to path improvements in due course.

*Brian Witcombe  
Group Treasurer*

## **CAKES FOR THE AGM**

We have several members to thank for very nice cakes on some of our walks.

Once again we ask any one who would like to offer to make a cake for consumption by eager appreciative Ramblers at the AGM to please let Heather know on 01453 873625 as soon as possible. Thank you !

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome by the Group Chairman, Richard Davis.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2014 AGM (see next page).
4. Matters arising not likely to be covered in reports below.
5. Consideration and adoption of the 2014 – 2015 Reports:
  - a) Chairman's Report
  - b) Footpath Chairman's Report
  - c) Treasurer's Report (available at the meeting or send a SAE to the Group Secretary)
6. Election of Officers and Committee Members (posts as last year, see next page)
7. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
8. Motions of which notice has been received by 1 November 2015
9. Any other business notice of which has been given in writing to the secretary prior to the meeting.

Following the formal meeting there will a discussion open to all members.





# Gloucestershire Ramblers

News around Gloucestershire Area October 2015

[www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/GRNews](http://www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/GRNews)



## Upper Forge Bridge – Forest of Dean Ramblers

As mentioned in previous GRNews, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 saw the opening of the bridge, stairs and newly dedicated footpath that replace a dilapidated stone bridge over the River Lyd at Upper Forge, the culmination of 3 1/2 years of determination and hard work.

The Mayor of Lydney Councillor Bob Berriman together with Ramblers President Kate Ashbrook cut the ribbon in the presence of Forest of Dean Ramblers, representatives from Dean Forest Railway and Forest of Dean District Council.

AGM & Walk 10:00am Sat 12th December Chedworth Village Hall



[ramblers.org.uk/bigpathwatch](http://ramblers.org.uk/bigpathwatch)

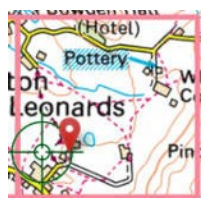
The Big PathWatch, an ambitious survey of all the paths in England and Wales, is now well under way. It's a snapshot of what anyone walking might think is the state of our paths. It celebrates what makes walking great, and highlights walk issues. The survey results should be useful to Local Councils, land owners and anyone interested in public rights of way.

Big Path watch can either be run on your computer, or an App can be downloaded to your smartphone (Android or Apple).

Once there you'll be able to select a 1km OS square and report on features along the route good or bad, an excellent view or a dodgy stile.

Hopefully it should help develop greater awareness of the benefits of footpaths & walking and perhaps improve wider understanding of our work.

The Big Pathwatch project is generously funded by Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust as part of Ramblers 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



7:45 pm Thursday 12th November  
'Green Road into the Trees' Talk

Hosted by GWG an illustrated talk from popular author Hugh Thomson outlining his book, an exploration along the Icknield Way from Abbotsbury to Seahenge



Exmouth Arms Bath Road Cheltenham GL53 7LX. Admission £3 on the day. Donations welcome to support the event & our work. For info [events@gwg.org.uk](mailto:events@gwg.org.uk)



## Message from the Chair

Ramblers Central Office is continuing to make strides in promoting the organisation across the country. The Big PathWatch has had national TV coverage on CountryFile and is a great way for anyone out walking to feed back the status of paths whether a fine view or a dodgy stile.

They also pursued the Andrews case to the Court of Appeal. John Andrews had been successfully claiming ancient rights of Way in Suffolk designated under the 1801 enclosure act. Often the line of these ways is obvious across the landscape but missing from late 1800 maps and more recent ones. Unfortunately a judgement a few years ago scuppered use of the act. Ramblers had to wait for another suitable case and one arose just south of us in Wiltshire. Again the local ruling went against us, so Ramblers was able to take the case to Appeal and eventually the courts agreed that a path designated under the old enclosure act could be claimed.

4<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Volunteer Support and Development days  
It's early notice but the team from Ramblers Central Office is coming to the Warehouse in Gloucester GL1 1HY. Free courses currently are 2 full day, 5 morning and 4 afternoon:

### Full Day

Making change happen: campaigning and working with the media.

Treasurer training.

### Morning

Introduction to leading group walks.

Get more people walking with Routes, webpages and walks.

Promoting your group using social media,

Understanding and explaining Ramblers mission and structure to members and the general public.

Basics to rights of way law.

### Afternoon

Successful short walks.

Leading more challenging walks.

Recruiting volunteers.

Rights of Way: Specialist Areas.

If you're keen, there are earlier days across the country  
<http://ramblersvolunteerdays.eventbrite.co.uk?s=44375468>  
Ray Chaney

Obituary It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing away of Catherine Benfield on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015. It was in March 2014 that Catherine as GWG chair travelled to Liverpool General Council as one of our representatives. Catherine had already helped those wishing to form a 20-30s sub group in GWG and had great plans ahead. However it wasn't to be. Soon afterwards she became ill and despite a hard fight, eventually succumbed. She was just 52. Far too young for someone with so much to do. Our thoughts are with her family and all her friends. Ray Chaney

'Where does the Membership fee go' is often a question when I'm out walking. Currently it's £34 a year, not too dissimilar to other large national charities. It can be said that roughly a third £11 is for running the organisation group structure and walk insurance much the same as a typical walking club. As a charity we're here to support anyone out walking whether a member or not. The second third is for supporting our footpath teams so that if your local footpath is under threat, if all else fails we can pursue the matter through the courts and if necessary set out case law such as Andrews left. We'd prefer to prevent these issues arising so the other £11 is spent lobbying parliament and other bodies to ensure that laws include support for walking and that Government assists in funding footpaths. You probably know of The Wales Coastal Path and now The England Coastal Path is made possible due to our campaigns.

'What about Legacies?' Sometimes members are generous enough to remember Ramblers in their Will. We used a legacy of Lilian Wise of Churchdown to part fund the accessible path at Winchcombe. Nationally Ramblers uses legacies for specific time limited projects. These include the change to the membership system a few years ago. Signage, plaques and publicity materials can all be funded through legacies.

'What does the Area committee do?' Ramblers is organised into some 50 Areas across the country based on Local Authority Boundaries. Each Area is responsible for meeting the charitable aims. Gloucestershire is a large county. It can easily take 4 hours to travel from say Coleford to Fairford. Just over 40 years ago began a welcome change to Ramblers Gloucestershire Area introducing Groups loosely based on our Borough, District, Town and City council boundaries. Each Group looks after a more manageable district on behalf of the Area. A few years later GWG came into being to cater for walking for younger members. The Area acts as a conduit to central office supporting Groups in their role, passing knowledge gained in one group to another, and holding the tube of glue that helps the Area work as a team. Every Ramblers' member belongs to one Area and up to one Group. Gloucestershire Area still continues to run mid week Area walks for members in any of the Groups or outside. You won't often see the work of the Area publicised as it mainly operates behind the scenes while supporting groups.

Each Year an Annual General Meeting is held, so that members can both see how the organisation in Gloucestershire has been doing, and also allow anyone willing to help, become part of the team for the following year. All posts become vacant and subject to simple election. There are many jobs to keep the organisation going. A short list of posts: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Footpaths (location issues), Footpaths (maintenance), Membership, Publicity

Volunteer for Ramblers! We can't exist without the help of volunteers. If you are interested in helping Ramblers either to support Groups across the Area or locally please contact [ray.chaney@btinternet.com](mailto:ray.chaney@btinternet.com) or tel. 01453 811545.



## Gloucester Group Report

The group has been very active during the summer months with some well attended beautiful walks. At the end of June our annual Strawberry Tea saw over 30 members tuck into bowls of strawberries and cream with lots of cakes, tea or coffee. On Sunday 6th September 53 members and guests "set sail" for Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. A First Aid course is planned for 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The footpath committee and our PMVs (Path Maintenance Volunteers) have been busy working too. We had three working parties on the path in the village of Down Ampney. The brambles and nettles were cut back, small trees removed and extra way marks installed. Eventually after 88 hours of labour on 20th July when we were able to put up 'Path Open' signs.

In May this year, we made a successful application for some grant funding from the Community and Environmental Improvements Fund to replace a single plank (and very rickety) bridge with a fully DDA compliant wooden bridge running from the canal tow path to the shores of Lake 6, at the Gateway Centre, near South Cerney. Thanks to a combination of partnership working, volunteering efforts, and some determination, this new bridge opens up a new accessible circular route in the Cotswold Water Park.

The recently opened Clemence Gate is named after Jean and Peter Clemence who were founder members of our group and acknowledges their commitment and involvement with Gloucester group over the years. Sadly Peter is no longer with us but the replacement of the original stile with a kissing gate means this important walking route from Gloucester to Preston is much easier for everyone to use, and could form some circular walks.

Pat Beckley Secretary



Coralie Dustin, Richard Holmes, Sid Mathews, and Jean Clemence make news in the Wilts Glos Standard

## Winchcombe Country Show

Over at the annual Winchcombe Country show we again shared a Gazebo with Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome. It was a damp day but by the afternoon, hardy folk ventured out to see Griff Rees Jones in an anorak and some took time to find out what was available around the town for walkers. A free competition by WWaW to win a box of chocolates (great after a day's walking) brought people in to see our displays.

## Other News

Kate Clark of BBC Radio Gloucestershire recently carried out some interviews for her Sunday morning show featuring the Big Pathwatch, a walk around Gtton and other places around the County.



BBC Countryfile and Children in Need are organising rambles over 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October.

South Cotswold members are helping with some walks at the Dursley Walking Festival 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> October

If you have a news item please contact us [grnews@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:grnews@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

**Shorter Area Walks** - a series of slow, short walks taking place on Thursdays in November 2015 .

A slow, short stroll for heart, lower limb, etc. Distance 2-3 miles. Slow and Easy. Contact: Molly, 01453 763813

Suitable for pushchairs if they can be lifted over occasional obstructions. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn.

Thu 5 November 2.5 miles/4 km - Edge - walk no. 1  
Starts at 10:30: Edge No. 63 bus stop on A4173. (SO848100)  
Linear walk from Edge to Brookthorpe via Harescombe. Optional pub lunch at Fagins.

Thu 12 November 2.5 miles/4 km - Edge - walk no. 2  
Starts at 10:30: Edge no. 63 bus stop on A4173. (GL6 6PG, SO848100)  
Linear walk from Edge to Brookthorpe via Huddinknoll. Optional pub lunch at Fagins.

Thu 19 November 2.5 miles/4 km - Edge - walk no. 3  
Starts at 10:30: Edge No. 63 bus stop on A4173. (GL6 6PG, SO848100)  
Circular walk via Spotsquar and Pitchcombe. Optional pub lunch at Edgemoor Inn

Thu 26 November 2.5 miles/4 km - Edge - walk no. 4  
Starts at 10:30: Edge No. 63 bus stop on A4173. (GL6 6PG, SO848100)  
Circular walk via Stockend and Randall's Farm. Picnic or Pub.





## A page of Mid Week walks for the Gloucestershire Area

2015	2016
<p>Wed 4 November 9.5 miles/15.3 km - Moderate Newnham 10:00: Park Riverside CP, Newnham, WCs. OL14/LR162 (SO693120). Walk to Dean Hall, Blaize Bailey, Lower Soudley, Dean Heritage Centre, Bullo Pill. Moderate riverside and woodland walk with wonderful views of the bends in the river Severn. Picnic. Contact: Henrietta &amp; David, 01452 302024 or 07831 234790</p> <p>Wed 11 November 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate Windrush Valley Starts at 10:00: National trust CP, Ewepen Buildings (OL45/LR163 North of A40) (SP159143). Walk Sherbourne Park, Windrush, Barringtons, Worthfield Barn. Picnic lunch. Contact: Trevor, 01242 230511 or 07729 822636</p> <p>Wed 18 Nov 11 miles/18 km – Moderate Herefordshire Ramble Starts at 10:00: Meet at CP just off the road on Marde Hill approx. 1m north of TV mast. Please use grid ref. Parking is limited so please car share if possible. E189/LR149 (SO630347). Walk Ridge Hill, Rushall, Putley, Durlow Common and back along Marde Ridge. Lovely views on a clear day. Picnic. Contact: Gill, 01531 670864</p> <p>Wed 25 November 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate Rodborough Starts at 10:00: CP on Rodborough Common (SO851034). A hilly walk going via The Heavens and Toadsmoor Valley. Picnic. Contact: Catherine, 01452 615382</p> <p>Wed 2 December 11 miles/18km - Moderate Coaley Peak Starts at 10:00: Coaley Peak CP (SO794014). A moderate walk with some lovely views. Bring a picnic.. Walk through Nympsfield and around Uley through Bencombe and Elcombe to have lunch on top of Downham Hill. Return via Uley Bury, Ham Farm and Frocester Hill. Contact: Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462</p> <p>Wed 9 December 8.5 miles/14km – Moderate Lower Dowdeswell 10:00: Park layby A436 (near Pegglesworth). OS 179 (SO989185). Walk Foxcote, Dowdeswell Manor, Andoversford, Sandywell Park, Lower Dowdeswell, Castle Barn Farm, Lineover Wood. Picnic. Short afternoon but almost all uphill! Contact: Roy, 01242 245488 or 07766413176</p> <p>Wed 16 December 6 miles/9.7 km - Moderate Shortstanding - Walk and Christmas Dinner Starts at 10:00: Park in the New Inn car park on Ross road, Shortstanding, Forest of Dean, OL14 (SO572135). Walk Joyford, English Bicknor, Redinghorne, Mailscoot Wood. Please book with Roy by 25th November. Deposit required. Menus distributed as soon as available. Contact: Roy, 01242 245488 or 07766413176</p> <p>Wed 30 December 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate Andoversford Starts at 10:00: Park Station Road, Andoversford. (SP024198) Walk Sandywell Park, Upper Dowdeswell, Shill Hill, Withington, Shipton Sollers. Picnic. Contact: Roy, 01242 245488 or 07766413176</p>	<p>Wed 6 January 11 miles/17.7 km – Moderate Moreton in Marsh 10:00: Park considerably in Fosseway Avenue, first turn right, opposite petrol station in Moreton coming from Stow on the A429. OL45 (SP207317). Walk Bourton on the Hill, Draycott, Aston Magna, Moreton in Marsh. Picnic. Contact: Roy, 01242 245488 or 07766413176</p> <p>Wed 13 January 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate Chedworth 10:00: Park Chedworth disused airfield (turn off Chedworth/Withington road to Compton Abdale, park ~ ¼ mile along by right hand bend). (SP039132). Walk Postcombe, Hill Bar, Thorndale, Withington, Roman Villa, Yanworth Mill &amp; Chedworth. Picnic. Contact: Barry &amp; Robert, 07407 359600 or 07807 342238</p> <p>Wed 20 January 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate Malverns Southern End Starts at 10:00: Hollybush CP 200 yards NW of Hollybush Church (A438) (L150/E190) (SO767368). Walk Hollybush, Chase Hill, Ragged Stone, Midsummers Hill, Gullet, Hangman Hill, British Camp and Golden Valley. Lunch/picnic at British Camp. Note two steep climbs early in the walk. Contact: Richard and Pete, 07984853775 or 07759262245</p> <p>Wed 27 January 9.5 miles/15.3 km - Moderate St Arvans 10:00: Meet: Car Park just off A466 Chepstow to Tintern road. (ST528972). To St Arvans into Chepstow Park Wood, Black Cliff Wood to Eagle's Nest Lookout, picking Valley Way returning via 360 steps. Walking through fields, on woodland trails and country lanes permitting some lovely views. Undulating terrain with a few stiles and two streams to ford (lets hope it is not a wet January). Picnic. Contact: Jackie, 01594 564417</p> <p>Wed 3 February 9 miles/14.5 km - Moderate Bisley and Swift's Hill 10:00: Park in Bisley in lay-by opposite Windyridge (E179). (SO903064). Walk Bisley, Swift's Hill, Steanbridge, Down Hill and return via Dillay farm and Sydenhams. Picnic. Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212</p> <p>Wed 10 February 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate Forest Green Starts at 10:00: Park in Forest Green Football Club CP (E168) (SO837001). Walk to Shortwood, Wallow Green, Horsley, Avening, Longford Mills, Box, Dunkirk Mills. Picnic. Contact: Dave, 01452 721792 or 07593 296983</p> <p>Wed 17 February 10.5 miles/16.9 km - Moderate Winchcombe 10:00: Winchcombe Back Lane (Pay &amp; Display £1) (OL45/LR163) (SP023284). Walk Sudeley, Humblebee, Woodpeckers, Cleeve Hill, Langley. Picnic. Contact: Arnold, 01242 603576 or 07789 317291</p> <p>Wed 24 February 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate St Briavels Starts at 10:00: Roadside parking near St. Briavels Church and Castle (Youth Hostel). Meet at church gate (OL14/LR162) (SO558046). Hilly walk via Sade Bottom, Wyegate Hill, Bigsweir Bridge, The Hudnalls, Offa's Dyke Path, St. Briavels Common. Picnic. Contact: Anne B, 01242 863504 or 07718499523</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Area organises a programme of day walks approx 10-12 miles long usually mid-week anywhere in the county and occasionally in neighbouring counties</p>	<p>Join Ramblers to support our efforts to keep footpaths open. For members all our walks are free. Anyone new is welcome to try a walk or two but check with leader beforehand <a href="http://gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/midweek/">gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/midweek/</a> Sorry no dogs except access dogs. All walks M = Moderate, S=Strenuous</p>

# South Cotswold Ramblers

## Our Walks - November 2015



**Mon 2 Nov morning 4m Cambridge walk at a gentle pace**  
Walk by river and canal and thru woods and fields. Terrain 0  
Level. Lunch available at the George. **Leaders - Sophia and Linda** 01453 860287 / 01453 549358 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Cambridge, George Inn on the A38. There is a large car park. (GL2 7AL) L162/OL14 SO749038  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapCambGeorge>

**Wed 4 Nov morning 6m Almost a straight line**  
Catch the Hawkesbury bus at 09:58. Linear walk from Hawkesbury to Wotton taking in Hillesley and Alderley. Terrain 1 Not much climbing except a bit of uphill to Wotton. Cafés and pubs there. **Leader - Anne E** 01453 842551 on day 07773 292363 Meet **09:45 for 09:55** at Wotton-u-Edge, War Memorial. Parking available on road near church or Potters Pond CP. Bring your travel pass if you have one. (GL12 7HB) L162/E167 ST758933 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWottonWM>

**Sat 7 Nov morning 5.5m Anyone for Pigs Ear?**  
Owlpen, Nympsfield, Coaley Peak and Uley Bury. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Possible pub meal at end. **Leaders - Steve & Rosemary** 01453 860130 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Uley, Old Crown. Park on road by Church or use pub car park at rear if visiting afterwards. (GL11 5SN) L162/E168 ST792985  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapUleyOldCrownCP>

**Wed 11 Nov morning 6.3m Tu fa tea?**  
Withington, Casey Compton, Chedworth Airfield, Withington Woods. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. Lunch available at pub after walk. **Leader - Jill** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Withington, Mill Inn. (GL54 4BE) L163/OL45 SP031154 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWithington>

**Sat 14 Nov morning 5.5m Familiarity Breeds Familiarity**  
Haresfield Beacon, Oxlynch, Cotswold Way. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Ice cream unlikely in CP. **Leader - Denys** 01453 751581 on day 07783 269574 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Shortwood NT CP (Cripplegate) ½ mile before Haresfield Beacon. (GL6 6PP) L162/E179 SO831086  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapShortwoodNTCP>

**Mon 16 Nov morning 4m Eastcombe Circular**  
Eastcombe, Nashend, Bisley, Hawkley, Eastcombe. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Hill at end taken slowly. Lunch possible at The Lamb Inn **Leaders - Brian & Ann** 01452 770510 on day 07770 895035 Meet 10:20 for **10:30 start** at Eastcombe, Lamb Inn if eating or park around The Green. (GL6 7DW) L162/E168 SO891044  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapEastcombeLamb>

**Wed 18 Nov morning 5m No cheese, No nettles November**  
Shurdington, Chargrove lane, Burley lakes, Shurdington Hill. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Meal at Pub if required. **Leader - Enid** 01242 863283 on day 07570 789317 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Shurdington, The Cheese Rollers, on A46. Only use pub car park if eating there at end, if not,

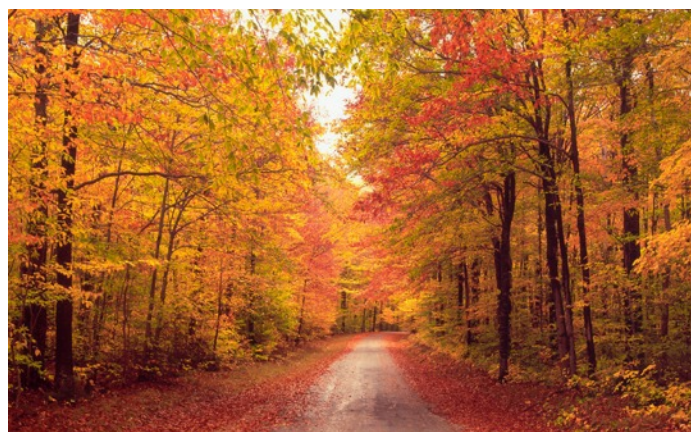
park in Lambert Gardens over the road. (GL51 4TN) L163/E179 SO919183 <http://tinyurl.com/ShurdingtonCheeseRollers>

**Sat 21 Nov morning 4.5m Amble to Amberley AGM Walk**  
Montserrat, Amberley, Manor Wood, Rodborough Fort. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Some steep bits. Bring a packed lunch if staying for the meeting. **Leaders - Brian and Sheelagh** 01453 872220 on day 07761 039595 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Rodborough Tabernacle CP - from Stroud go up road leading up towards Fort and just after cattle grid turn R signed United Reformed Church then downhill for 500 yards. (GL5 3UJ) L162/E168 SO845040 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughTab>

**Wed 25 Nov long morning 6.4m The Mint with a Hole**  
A mainly level walk (with two slight slopes) heading towards Daglingworth and then through Cirencester Park. Mix of open countryside. woodland and some small settlements. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Food is available at The Plough Inn, Gloucester Road, Stratton. **Leaders - Ros & Sally** 01285 239054 / 01453 872729 on day 07752 397855 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Stratton, Cirencester, Plough Inn, Gloucester Road. If not eating there please park in Overhill Road, opposite Stratton House Hotel. (GL7 2LB) L163/E169 SP014034  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapStrattonPlough>

**Sat 28 Nov long morning 7m Hidden Valleys & Ancient Motte**  
A wild walk with very little road walking. May be muddy in places. A couple of short but stiff climbs. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Lunch possible at Hunters Hall afterwards. **Leader - Colin B (Amberley)** 01453 872349 on day 07717 317510 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Kingscote, Hunters Hall Inn CP or park in lane opposite. (GL8 8YA) L162/E168 ST814960  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapKingscoteHuntersHall>

**Mon 30 Nov morning 3.5m Independence Walk**  
Miserden to Caudle Green via the Park. Terrain 3 Quite hilly but taken at a gentle pace. Coffee beforehand and chance to order lunch. Why not wear something Scottish. Prizes for men in kilts. **Leaders - Richard & Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet **10.00 for 10:30 start** from Miserden, Carpenters Arms. If CP full park considerably in road. (GL6 7JA) L163/E179 SO937088 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMiserdenCArms>







**Wed 2 Dec morning 5m Washbrook Wander**  
Painswick Valley Mills, Washbrook Farm, Edge Farm. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. Pubs available in Painswick afterwards.  
**Leaders - Patrick & Angela** 01452 616886 on day 07778 662951  
Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Painswick Walkers CP, off B4073 Painswick to Gloucester road near the Rococo Garden. (GL6 6SL) L162/E179 SO867105  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickWCP>

**Sat 5 Dec short day 8.1m Go to Jail**  
Tortworth, Charfield, Churchend, Bibstone, Leyhill Aboretum. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Picnic or Tortworth Farmers Table at end of walk. **Leader - Richard P** 01454 260397 on day 07984 853775 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Tortworth Farm shop. Use the top car park which is approx 30 yards on the right from the main B4509 road. (GL12 8HG) L162/E167 ST704930  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapTortworthFmShop>

**Mon 7 Dec morning 4.5m Arlingham circuit**  
From Arlingham down to the Severn Way around Arlingham Warth and back through the fields (half a mile longer than usual but completely flat). Terrain 0 Level. Food available at the Red Lion. **Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Arlingham, park considerably in centre. (GL2 7JT) L162/OL14 SO708109  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapArlingham>

**Wed 9 Dec morning 5.5m Hunters Bagging Two Paths**  
Newington Bagpath, Lasborough, Ozleworth Bottom, Bagpath. Can be muddy in places. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Lunch available at Hunters Hall. Order food before the start.  
**Leader - Denys** 01453 751581 on day 07783 269574 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Kingscote, Hunters Hall Inn CP on A4135. (GL8 8YA) L162/E168 ST814960  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapKingscoteHuntersHall>

**Sat 12 Dec long morning 6m The Lady's Well, Thank You**  
Following Gloucester Sharpness canal to the popular Victorian Christmas Market in the docks, staying for an hour. Returning via Llanthony Secunda Priory and Hempsted village. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Bring a snack. **Leader - John G** 01452 728760 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Gloucester, Rea Bridge CP. Follow B4008 towards Gloucester past Tesco Quedgeley roundabout and take 2nd L at traffic lights along Merlin Drive. At 2nd roundabout turn R along Elmore Lane West and CP is on L before canal bridge. (GL2 4NS) L162/E179 SO805150  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapGlosReaBridge>

**Wed 16 Dec long morning 6.5m Nymphaeum in a wide valley** Witcombe Reservoir Roman Villa and Cotswold Way through Witcombe woods. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. 1200ft ascent/descent, muddy in places. Take a snack. Pubs in Birdlip at end. **Leaders - Peter and Susan** 01453 860797 on day 07854 634090 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Barrow Wake, Birdlip Viewing Point CP off A417. (GL3 4UH) L163/E179 SO931153  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapBarrowWake>

**Sat 19 Dec long morning 7m Stanley Wood and Leigh's unfinished Mansion** Stanley Wood, Penn Wood then Woodchester Park. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. 1300ft ascent/descent, muddy in places. Take a snack. Pubs in Nympsfield or Uley at end. **Leaders - Peter and Susan** 01453 860797 on day 07854 634090 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Coaley Peak Picnic Site CP. Do NOT follow SatNav to a postcode. The site entrance is on the level B4066 road near Woodchester Park entrance. L162/E168 SO794013  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapCoaleyPeak>

**Mon 21 Dec morning 4m Leisurly Walk from Brookend** There will be some stiles on route. Terrain 0 Mainly level. The Lammastide Inn across the road does provide lunchtime food if required afterwards. **Leader - Ray C** 01453 811545 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Laburnum Cottage, Brookend, Berkeley. Car parking is in my garden at the rear of the house. (GL13 9SF) L162/E167 SO685020  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapBrookendLabCot>

**Wed 23 Dec morning 7m Chavenage Green at Christmas** Harley Wood, Ledgemore Bottom, Chavenage Green, back across fields. Lunch at end if required. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leader - John G** 01452 728760 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Nailsworth Garden Centre. (GL6 OBS) L162/E168 ST854995 <http://tinyurl.com/mapNailsworthGC>

**Mon 28 Dec short day 7m Lose those Christmas Pounds** 3 miles pre coffee and 4 miles post coffee. Along side of hill towards Brimscombe then back along the canal. Through Manor Woods back up to Common and return. This is not an easy paced Monday walk but will be at a pace commensurate with its seasonal nature. You may opt to do the whole walk or one section. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Coffee break will be between 11.30 and 11.45 at Rodborough Tabernacle where coffee and cakes etc will be served for a small charge. **Leaders - Richard & Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Rodborough, Car Park just above Fort on Rodborough Common. (GL5 5BL) L162/E168 SO851040  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughCommonCP1>

**Wed 30 Dec morning 6.2m Last chance this year to wear that festive hat?** Across Estcourt Park to Shipton Moyne. Back to Tetbury via Wormwell Lane and Doughton. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Lunch possible at the Royal Oak, next to the car park, after the walk. **Leader - Jacqui** 01666 826139 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** Tetbury old station CP (free). L162/E168 ST893933 <http://tinyurl.com/mapTetburyOldStation>



*Richard our Chairman always knows how to dress appropriately. He wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*





**Sat 2 Jan morning 6.3m Golden Valley New Year walk**  
From Brimscombe up through Cowcombe Woods then across the road and down to the canal. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Steep and rarely used path at start of walk and one steep and awkward path down to canal otherwise muddy in places but reasonably flat. Food available at the Ship Inn after walk. **Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Brimscombe Ship Inn car park if eating after walk, otherwise park in lane at back of pub. (GL5 2RD) L162/E168 SO867023

<http://tinyurl.com/mapBrimscombeShipInn>

**Mon 4 Jan morning 4m Three of a kind and a lot of one**  
We will walk behind Frampton Court, cross the road and pick up the river, then the canal to Saul Junction. Terrain 0 Level. There are two pubs in the village and also The Stables at Saul Junction which is very pleasant. **Leader - Anne E** 01453 842551 on day 07773 292363 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Frampton-on-Severn, small car park on left at far end of Green, at start of turning to Sailing Club. If this is full park considerably by the Green. (GL2 7DX) L162/OL14 SO747075

<http://tinyurl.com/mapFramptonSmallCP>

**Wed 6 Jan day 8m Wednesday Winter Wonderland Woodland Walk** Through woods via Doverow and back along the Cotswold Way. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Bring packed lunch. **Leaders - Richard & Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Shortwood NT CP (Cripplegate) ½ mile before Haresfield Beacon. (GL6 6PP) L162/E179 SO831086

<http://tinyurl.com/mapShortwoodNTCP>

**Sat 9 Jan morning 5.4m Brockhampton area**  
Meadows and tracks via Whittington, Syreford and Sevenhampton. Some minor road walking out of Brockhampton. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Food available after at the Craven Arms if required. **Leader - Dave G** 01242 862564 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Brockhampton, Craven Arms car park if you are eating or drinking otherwise sensibly in the village. (GL54 5XG) L163/OL45 SP035223

<http://tinyurl.com/mapBrockhamptonCrava>

**Wed 13 Jan day 9m Down in the Valleys Again**  
Marshfield, Monkswood Reservoir, Tadwick, Nimlet, Marshfield. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. Can be very muddy. Picnic lunch. **Leader - Ray W** 01453 547213 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Marshfield, slip road off the A420 at west end. (SN14 8JN) L172/E155 ST771737

<http://tinyurl.com/mapMarshfield>

**Sat 16 Jan No Walk** (Annual Lunch, book early - see Newsletter)

**Mon 18 Jan morning 3.6m Pinbury Park leisurely walk**  
From Sapperton through parkland to Pinbury Park. Up to Gloucester Beeches and back through Dorvel Wood. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Lunch available at the Bell at Sapperton. **Leaders - John & Cheryl** 01452 500143 on day 07789 608050 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Sapperton village, near Church. (GL7 6LG) L163/E179 SO947033

<http://tinyurl.com/mapSapperton>

**Wed 20 Jan morning 5.5m Pinbury Potter**  
Sapperton, Pinbury and Siccridge. Parkland, grassy fields and woodland. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Pub lunch possible at end. **Leaders - Brian & Sheelagh** 01453 872220 on day 07761 039595 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Daneway Inn Car Park. If not eating please park on the Sapperton side of the bridge. (GL7 6LN) L163/E179 SO939034

<http://tinyurl.com/mapDaneway>

**Sat 23 Jan day 8m Birmingham City**  
Crickley Hill, Ullenwood, Salterley Grange, Leckhampton Hill, Hartley Hill, Coberley, Shab Hill • rating. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. Bring a packed lunch. **Leaders - Jill and Sue** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Barrow Wake, Birdlip Viewing Point CP off A417. (GL3 4UH) L163/E179 SO931153

<http://tinyurl.com/mapBarrowWake>

**Wed 27 Jan morning 5.7m Another one for the book**  
Down the Severn Way towards the bridges and back through Cow Hill. Terrain 0 Level. Food available at The Anchor Inn, landlord asks that we order and pay for food before we go. **Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Oldbury on Severn Anchor Inn carpark, big car park on opposite side of road to pub. (BS35 1QB) L162/E167 ST609924

<http://tinyurl.com/mapOldburyOnSevern>

**Sat 30 Jan morning 6m Pretty Painswick and strenuous Slad**  
Juniper Hill, Slad, Trillgate. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. **Leader - Olivia** 01453 751716 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Painswick Walkers CP, off B4073. (GL6 6RR) L162/E179 SO867104

<http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickWCP>

### PLEASE READ part 1 of 2

**RING** the leader if you are in any doubt, especially if you haven't walked recently. Perhaps try shorter walks first.

**PACE** Most of our walks are of **Moderate** pace, averaging 2 mph with stops. Monday walks are labelled **Leisurely** and are about 1.5 mph; a 10:30 start on a 4 mile walk means finishing between 12:45 and 1pm approximately.

**NON MEMBERS** - You are very welcome to walk with the Group a few times. Just turn up on the day. Ring the leader first if you have any questions. We hope you will then wish to join, either on-line at [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk) or with a leaflet, quoting GR03 if you wish to be in our particular Group. Once a member you can walk with any Ramblers' group in Britain.

**MESSAGES** on our website will show any walk changes or additional information (plus other news). Please check if travelling a distance.

[www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages](http://www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages)

**DOGS** - Sorry, registered assistance dogs only.

**PLEASE** do not walk ahead of the leader unless asked.

**HOW HILLY IS THE WALK?** **Terrain 0** Level.

**Terrain 1** Not much climbing. **Terrain 2** Hilly and level mix.

**Terrain 3** Quite hilly. **Terrain 4** Very hilly.

**WHAT TO BRING** Bananas are popular as a snack, and bring plenty of water. On day walks you are advised to bring food, even if planning a pub lunch, in case the pub is closed. Wear strong footwear. Bring waterproofs and/or warmer clothing and a simple first aid kit. Remove muddy boots in pubs/churches.



**Mon 1 Feb morning 3.5m Views from Stinchcombe Hill**  
Mostly the Cotswold Way around the top of Stinchcombe Hill at a gentle pace. Terrain 0 Level. **Leader - Jacqui** 01666 826139 Meet 10:20 for **10:30 start** at Stinchcombe Hill Public Car Park (not Golf Course CP). (GL11 6AQ). L162/E167 ST743983 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStinchcombeHillCP>

**Wed 3 Feb morning 5m Minchinhampton circular**  
Ragged Cot, The Bulwarks, Burleigh, Besbury Common, Hyde, Ragged Cot. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Pub meal available. **Leaders - Brian & Ann** 01452 770510 on day 07770 895035 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Minchinhampton Ragged Cot CP. (GL6 8PB) L162/E168 SO886011 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchRaggedCot>

**Sat 6 Feb long morning 7m Three Cotswold Villages**  
A circular walk from Hangman's Stone via Hampnett, Stowell and Yanworth. We will walk along the Macmillan Way and the Monarch's Way as well as some quiet lanes. We will visit 2 or 3 of the historic churches on the route. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. No pub at the start/finish point, but Northleach has pubs and cafes if required. **Leaders - Tim S and Ann T** 01242 530734 or 07931 683162 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Hangman's Stone layby on old A40 west of Northleach between Hampnett and Yanworth. (GL54 3QF) L163/OL45 SP088151 <http://tinyurl.com/mapHangmansStone>

**Wed 10 Feb day 8m Winter views of Uley and Dursley**  
Elcombe, outskirts of Dursley, Cam Peak and Long Down, Uley Bury. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. Bring a packed lunch. **Leaders - Karen and Tony** 01453 545824 on day 07721 605409 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Uley, outside St Giles Church. Please park considerably in the village. (GL11 5SN) L162/E167 ST791985 <http://tinyurl.com/mapUley>

**Sat 13 Feb short day 7.5m Snowdrops at Cherington Ponds**  
Old Common, Peaches Farm, Cherington Ponds, Avening, Steps Lane. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Bring a picnic. **Leaders - Sally & Keith** 01453 872729 on day 07818 425088 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Minchinhampton, edge of common behind Church. (GL6 9JR) L162/E168 SO872009 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchEdgeCommon>

**Mon 15 Feb morning 4m Lodge, Fort and Factory**  
Walk round the edge of Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons with one modest climb. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Mainly common paths with some lanes. Pub lunch possible at the end. **Leaders - Brian & Sheelagh** 01453 872220 on day 07761 039595 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from The Old Lodge Inn, Minchinhampton Common, which is along a track first right on the Nailsworth road from Tom Long's Post in the middle of Minchinhampton Common. Ample parking on the common next to the pub. (GL6 9AQ) L162/E168 SO853008 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchComOldLodge>

*THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (no 4458492) Registered office 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW. © South Cotswold Ramblers 2015*

**Wed 17 Feb morning 5.7m Lanes and tracks and villages**  
Fields, lanes and tracks with 1 or 2 stretches of minor road, via Waterlane, Oakridge Lynch and then Wysis Way via Bournes Green. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Food available after at The Bear at Bisley if required. Also The Stirrup Cup is just down the road. **Leader - Dave G** 01242 862564 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Bisley, Bear Inn car park if you are eating or drinking otherwise park sensibly in the road. (GL6 7BD) L163/E179 SO903060 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyBearCP>

**Sat 20 Feb day 8m Good views from around the Wysis Way**  
Longridge, Paradise, Painswick Beacon, Spoonbed, Hudington Hill, Washbrook, Skinners Mill. Bring a picnic. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. **Leaders - Mike & Heather** 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Bulls Cross layby B4070 above Slad. Please park diagonally if possible. It will enable more cars. (GL6 7QT) L162/E179 SO877087 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBullsCross>

**Wed 24 Feb morning 5m Woods, Coombes and Bottoms**  
Along the hillside towards Hyde then back along the Canal. Terrain 3 Quite hilly. **Leaders - Richard & Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Frampton Mansell. Turn off A419 near old White Horse and park on verge near village. (GL6 8JE) L163/E168 SO919022 <http://tinyurl.com/mapFramptonMansVerge>

**Sat 27 Feb day 10m I doubt we will see the Boar**  
Walking on cycle trails (dismantled railway lines) and forest tracks we will head towards Mallards Pike, passing the former Lightmore and Foxes Bridge Collieries and then walk past Dilke Hospital onto the former Drybrook Road Station and through the Linear Park. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Packed lunch. **Leader - Andrew** 01452 857958 on day 07900 390351 **Meet 09:20 for 09:30 start** from Cinderford Linear Park (southern end). (GL14 3EZ) L162/OL14 SO649127 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCinderfordLP>

### PLEASE READ part 2 of 2

**IMPORTANT - KEEPING TOGETHER ON A WALK** Most parties will have a back marker appointed for the walk. Please inform this person if you need to drop behind for a comfort stop, and tell them when you catch up again. All members of larger parties are asked to help by keeping a look out behind them. If the people behind you are in danger of losing touch, perhaps in a wood, please pause and tell the people in front of you to wait a minute as well. One way is to give a long blast on your whistle if someone has lost touch. Thank you.

**ADVERSE CONDITIONS** Leaders may decide to cancel or shorten the walk, taking into account everyone's health and safety. Please contact them if in any doubt before travelling or see [www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages](http://www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages).

**OUR WALKS ARE ALSO ONLINE HERE** <http://tinyurl.com/SCRWalks>

*ALL LEISURE ACTIVITIES have inherent hazards associated with them including rambling. In spite of participants' safety always being the paramount concern, accidents will occasionally occur. It is important that each person appreciates their responsibility to identify hazards and take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise the potential for accidents.*