



Ramblers Gloucestershire Area

GRNews June 2017

www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk

gnews@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk

Cotswold Way National Trail 10th Anniversary

Surely the Cotswold Way has been around for more than 10 years?

Indeed it was some 60 years ago, just after legislation for National Parks & Countryside Access, that Gloucestershire Ramblers, principally Tony Drake and Cyril Trenfield (both now deceased), suggested a route for the Way.

Gloucestershire County Council eventually launched the route in 1970 along existing rights of way. Mark Richards, another ramble, produced a pictorial guide in 1973.

It wasn't until 24 May 2007 that the Way officially became a National Trail inaugurated at Stanway by the late Sir Martin Doughty, Chairman of Natural England.

(His father Harold was one of the legendary Manchester Ramblers who, in 1932, held a mass trespass to keep open Kinder Scout which, it's said, led to the above Parks & Access legislation)



Stuart Maconie has become the new Ramblers President.

A radio presenter and author Stuart is passionate about walking and has ticked off all 214 Lake District Wainwrights.

He joins Vanessa Griffiths our CEO working with Des Garrahan, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Cotswolds Conservation Board Cotswold Trail Celebration 24th May 2017



Cotswold Way Wardens, Ramblers and others met at an evening event hosted by the Cotswolds Conservation Board at Painswick Rococo Gardens.

Richard Watson of the Conservation Board opened the proceedings followed by Val Kirby also representing the Board who spoke about the history of the Way and challenges for the future. Val is also Chair of the Cotswold Trails & Access Partnership.

It was an honour to have Sheila Trenfield, Cyril's widow, present to cut the celebratory cake!



Dates for Diary

Wed 27 Sep 7:30pm

Area Groups Council Meeting

Gloucester Room Premier Inn
A38 Twigworth GL2 9PG

Advance Notice to be confirmed
Sat 13 or 20 Jan 2018 10:00am
Annual General Meeting
hosted by Gloucester Group



28 August Bank Holiday Monday
Come along and find us at the
Winchcombe Country Show.

Cotswold Way Walks

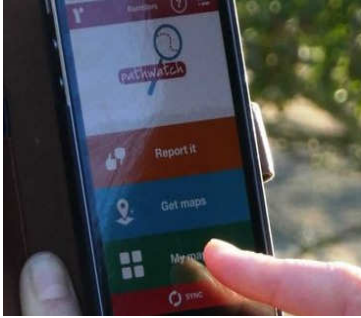
Our Groups are usually out walking a piece of the Cotswold Way somewhere, perhaps as part of a circular walk. Why not check our programmes for walks along parts of the Cotswold Way and let your friends, colleagues or anyone interested in walking know how it all came about! For social media find our Glos Ramblers page on facebook or search for GWG over on Meetup.

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TZ





Pathwatch in Gloucestershire

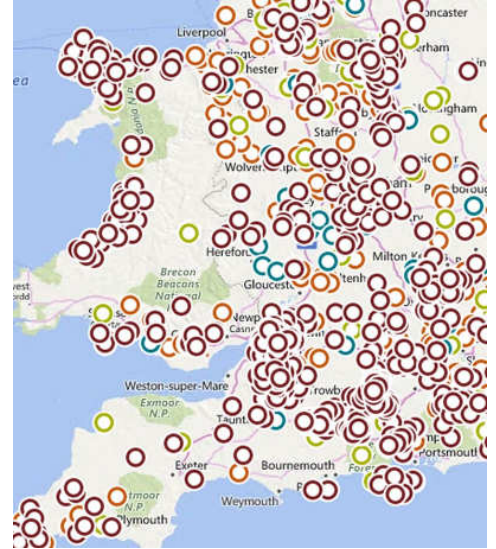


Pathwatch gets better all the time. Anyone should be able to use it to report issues good or bad either via their smartphone when out on a walk or back home on their computer. Ramblers Central Office in London collates the data and feeds it back to us and local authorities.

Gloucestershire County Council is currently working with the information from Pathwatch and seems to be finding it useful.

The map to the right is a snapshot of path successes on Ramblers website showing new paths, paths maintained and paths saved.

If you have any issues you believe we should know about please contact Richard Holmes, Area Footpath Secretary for Gloucestershire, footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk or use the GRNews email



Bradbury Bequest Mystery

Herbert Lucas Bradbury, was a far-sighted Cheltenham benefactor who in 1959 left £1,500 in trust for erecting and maintaining signposts on public paths within a six-mile radius of Cheltenham Post Office



It was administered by the Open Spaces Society, while Gloucestershire Ramblers arranged for signposts to be erected. Many of the signs had a sticker attached as shown.

However the fund kept growing. Eventually in 2013 the remaining

£7,000 was transferred to Gloucestershire County Council ring-fenced for signposting paths around Cheltenham, as Mr Bradbury had wished.

Recently the stickers have been appearing on Footpath posts in a wider area around Cheltenham, even Winchcombe and Bishops Cleeve. If you know how they're appearing or where you've seen one, please email us at GRNews. We're intrigued!



Here Des Garrahan, now Chair, Ramblers Board of Trustees stood next to one of the unusual signs near Gotherington when he came to visit us at our AGM a couple of years ago.

Winchcombe Walking Festival 19-21 May

We were again present at the 2017 Festival to see hundreds of walkers from across the country converge on Winchcombe.



There were odd rain showers throughout the weekend but when the skies cleared, they gave dramatic views across the landscape especially on the evening walk above.



Our stand was full of displays of the efforts of our Groups and teams around the Area.

We had some giveaway pens which all disappeared, as did many of our badges and a number of our Volunteer Welcome booklets.

If you'd like a badge, pen or booklet, let us know and we'll try to get them to you.



Within Ramblers Gloucestershire Area there are seven Groups that lead walks and respond to footpath issues within their territory. The territories are reasonably aligned to Borough/District Council Boundaries:-

North Cotswold - the northern half of Cotswold District, generally north of the A40.

Cirencester – generally the southern half of Cotswold District except around Tetbury

South Cotswold - mainly Stroud District including Tetbury of Cotswold District

Gloucester – Gloucester City plus portions of Tewkesbury Borough and Stroud District

Cleeve – Cheltenham Town plus northern Tewkesbury Borough

Forest of Dean - all Forest of Dean District

Additionally Gloucestershire Walking Group organises walks across the County for like minded members of working age and also operates a sub-group for 20-30s. There is also a get together Gloucestershire Area mid week walks programme overleaf. Most of our members join a Group but all are automatically a member of Ramblers Gloucestershire Area

Cirencester Group www.cirencesterramblers.org.uk

A busy few months for the Cirencester Group as usual. As well as having had many beautiful walks as far afield as Forest of Dean, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire, the group have been busy socially too. The Quiz night on the 31st January, held in Ampney Crucis Village Hall, On Friday night 31st March about 60 members and guests danced the night away to the music of The Amazing Matchless Band at Down Ampney Village Hall..

For our away weekend in Sidmouth there were 2 organised walks on the Saturday (6 and 11 miles); and 3 walks on the Sunday (3¾, 6 and 7 miles). The local attractions some explored during the stay included the nearby Donkey Sanctuary and Bicton Botanical Gardens.

On May 7th 23 members and guests had a day out at Blenheim in glorious spring sunshine. During the morning the group viewed the Palace and Gardens with a five mile optional walk in the afternoon. The monthly Village Visits, a short walk and a pub lunch, have been popular. We have also recently introduced Mid Week short walks which are proving very popular; as well as the summer evening walks which usually end up at a pub.

Our Path Maintenance Volunteers have continued to be busy on the Wysys Way, and are progressing well.



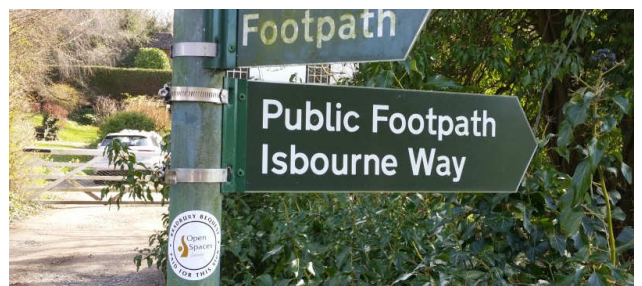
Cleeve Group www.cleeveramblers.org.uk

Cleeve Ramblers continues to run a full walk programme on Sundays with an optional walk on Wednesdays. Our walks venture across the county and sometimes into neighbouring counties.

We're trying out Prestbury Library for our bi-monthly meetings to try to save some costs and so far so good. One of the decisions was to move the Group AGM to a Saturday morning to see if more members are able to attend. It will be Saturday 25th November at Southam Village Hall. This year a walk of 60 - 90 minutes will be offered before the business session with a bring and share lunch afterwards. A skittles evening earlier in the year was a success all round. In October about 17 of us will be taking part in the annual Autumn walking holiday, this year to Mevagissey.



Our footpath teams continue to respond to footpath issues across our district. We found an errant Bradbury Bequest sticker too >>>>



Gloucester Group www.gloucester-ramblers.org.uk

The Group continued walking the entire 135 mile Glyndwr Way long distance path from Knighton to Welshpool to celebrate our illustrious Chairman's special birthday! We based ourselves in Machynlleth in early May for the next part of our walk which was from Dylife to Cemmaes Road in Powys, about 25 miles in total. We had excellent weather with lovely views and are planning to complete the remainder of the walk early in July.

Additionally the Group has provided an insert for the Glevum Way (Gloucester Circular Path) leaflet to reflect changes to the footpaths since the leaflet was first printed.



A page of Mid Week walks for the Gloucestershire Area

Gloucestershire Area organises a programme of day walks approx of 10-12 miles long, usually mid-week, in the county & neighbouring counties. Why not give us a try (please contact leader beforehand). Once a member, all our walks are free! (Sorry Access dogs only but see walks at www.fodramblers.org.uk) Feedback GRNews@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk

Wed 5 July 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Forest Green**
10:00: Forest Green Rovers far end CP (E168). (GL6 0ET, SO837001)
A valleys and hills walk to Owlpen Manor, Binley Farm, Kingscote, Horsley and Newmarket (the George for drinks at end of walk).
Contact: Dave, 01452 721792 or 07593 296983 on day Picnic lunch.

Wed 12 July 12 miles/19.3 km - Moderate **Malverns and Oyster Hill**
10:00: British Camp CP (fee) opposite Malvern Hills Hotel on A449 (E190). (WR13 6DW, SO763404)
Walk Malverns Hills Ridge, Eastnor, Ledbury, Oyster Hill. Picnic.
Contact: Robert & Barry, 07807 342238 or 07407 359600

Wed 19 July 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Around Llangorse Lake**
10:00: Park public loos at Llangorse Lake (OL13). (LD3 7TR, SO129272)
A repeat by request Level walk around edge of Llangorse Lake, ascent to Allt yr Esgair. Three Rivers Ride down to Bwlch. Steepish ascent Mynydd Llangorse, ridge (good views weather permitting) returning to Llangorse Lake via country lanes. Coffee stop and picnic lunch.
Contact: Jackie, 01594 564417 or 07767 351190 on day

Wed 26 July 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **A voyage of discovery a fort, a legendary cave, cliffs, a wobbly bridge, rapids & a pinnacle!**
10:00: Symonds Yat top CP. Charges. Meet loos OL14 (GL16 7NZ, SO562155) We'll see the Longstone Pinnacle circular earthworks of Doward Hill Fort, King Aurthur's cave, Seven Sisters, Symonds Yat Couple of short steep climbs and descents, but mostly levellish. Toilets and refreshments at start/end.
Contact: Lynn, 01291 689954 or 07957 662209 on day Picnic lunch.

Wed 2 Aug 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Miserden**
10:00: CP next Miserden Primary School. E179. (GL6 7JA, SO934089)
Walk to Edgeworth Church, Gloucester Beeches, Hen Wood, Dorvel Wood, Limbrick's Farm, Vellats and Sudgrove. Picnic possible drink.
Contact: Marion, 01242 335423 or 07552 754074 on day

Wed 9 Aug 10.5 miles/16.9 km Moderate **Late summer Trelleck trek**
10:00: Meet at unsigned (bridle way) car park. Left at Lion Inn in Trellech towards Maryland, along Greenway Lane, right onto Beacon Road and car park 100 yards on left. OL14 (NP25 4QJ, SO513057)
Wonderful views, ancient woodlands, Cleddon Falls, forest streams and standing stones. Moderate with ascents at a moderate pace.
Peter & Jenny, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day Picnic lunch.

Wed 16 Aug 12 miles/19.3 km - Moderate **Cheddar Gorge**
10:00: Park at Burrington Combe CP E141. (BS40 7AU, ST476587)
Walk over to the Gorge via Velvet Bottom. Lunch in Cheddar - pubs and cafes or picnic. Return via Beacon Batch and Black Down.
Contact: Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 on day

Wed 23 Aug 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Minchinhampton**
10:00: Park Minchinhampton back of church. (E168). (GL6 9JW, SO872007) Quiet lanes, great views, some steep ups and downs, canal path, commons and woods..
Contact: Hilary, 01453 753398 Picnic

Wed 30 Aug 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Beckford**
10:00: Beckford Village Hall CP (E190). (GL20 7AA, SO974358)
A walk from Beckford via Elmley castle. Picnic or optional pub lunch.
Contact: Rosie & John, 01684 273746 or 07933 783799 on day

Wed 6 Sep 10.5 miles/16.9 km - Moderate **Naunton and Slaughters**
10:00: Park considerably roadside Naunton. Meet outside Black Horse, east side of village. OL45. (GL54 3AD, SP119235) An easy/moderate walk passing Brockhill Farm, Upper Slaughter, Lower Slaughter, Lower Harford.
Contact: Anne B, 01242 863504 or 07718 499523 on day Picnic.

Wed 13 Sep 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Bath and Bath Skyline**
10:00: Bath Tourist Information, Abbey Square, Bath. Note: Lansdown Park and Ride, use bus to Milsom Street (£3.30 return). (BA1 1NW, ST751646)
Bath Abbey Square, Bathwick Prior Park, Sham Castle, University based on a National Trust route, but with a walk through Bath to start and finish
Contact: Richard, 07984 853775 Bring picnic. Cafes open at end of wal

Wed 20 Sep 11 miles/17.7 km Moderate **Two sides Hawkesbury Upton**
10:00: Park Hawkesbury Upton either Village Hall CP, considerably on road, Beaufort Arms if using it.. Meet Village Hall. (E167). (GL9 1AU, ST777871) Hills and Valleys - morning walk of 6m, Cotswold Way to Midger Wood. Return to Hawkesbury Upton via Small Coombe. Afternoon 5m to Hawkesbury church, Inglestone Common. Return via Hillesley. Bring a picnic.. Pub for drinks in Hawkesbury Upton.
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

----- New walks welcome for November-February programme -----

Wed 27 Sep 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **"A Malvern Wander"**
10:00: Hollybush car park (free). E190. (HR8 1ET, SO759369) Hilly walk crossing Midsummer Hill and British Camp amazing views on a clear day.
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day Picnic.

Wed 4 Oct 10 miles/16.1 km Moderate **Capler Camp Iron Age Settlement**
10:00: Fownhope Recreation Ground (HR1 4PR, SO578340)
From the tiny Herefordshire village of Fownhope, well walk to one of the most impressive iron age settlements of around 500BC, scenic views, ancient churches, woodlands with nature reserve. Drink and picnic lunch.
Contact: Peter & Jenny, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

Wed 11 Oct 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Haresfield Beacon**
10:00: National Trust Shortwood CP. There is now a charge. No charge for NT members. E179 (GL6 6PP, SO832085) Walk from Haresfield Beacon to Edgemoor returning through Pitchcombe, with views of at least 3 valleys. Bring a picnic lunch - you may get a drink at the Edgemoor pub.
Contact: Henrietta & David, 01452 302024 or 07832 234790 on day

Wed 18 Oct 10 miles/16.1 km Moderate **Malverns -Castlemorton Colwall**
10:00: Park in or near Swinyard CP Gullet Quarry, Castlemorton Common. £4.00 per day if machine working. E190. (WR13 6LQ, SO766383)
The walk includes a ridge top with views, a drop down to a small reserve in Colwall and a steady climb back up through fields and woods. Picnic.
Contact: Maggie, 01684 592727 or 07938 543055 on day.

Wed 25 Oct 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Cotswold B's**
10:00: Park on road(s) above or by Bowling Green in Blockley. Meet in Blockley centre by village stores and café. OL45. (GL56 9BW, SP165350)
High Wold walking across A44 to Bourton Downs, Hinchwick Manor, Longborough. Pub lunch/drink or own picnic. Return via Bourton on the Hill and Heart of England Way. Tea in village afterwards.
Contact: Guy, 01242 251412 or 07968 797186 on day.

Moderate - a good level of fitness. May include some steep paths and open country, and may be at a brisk pace.

Strenuous - above average fitness level. May include hills and rough country, and may be at a brisk pace.

Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.
If in doubt about fitness please contact the walk leader beforehand.