

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another Chair's report. What's it to be this time? Forget the inspirational diatribes or the doom and gloom. I think just a few thank yous.

Last week I was lined up to do a Thursday evening walk and a 12 mile Saturday walk. Unfortunately, at the last minute I couldn't do either. So thanks to Tim who stepped in on Thursday and to Jill and Sue who just happened to have a walk up their sleeves to replace my Saturday walk. We do get the occasional emergency and it's nice to find that there are people in South Cotswolds who are willing to step in and help out. Don't leave it to the same people to step in every time.

Thanks as always to Mike and his team of collectors and collators for putting together the latest walks programme. Fifty four walks, plenty of variety and something to suit everybody. We often seem to struggle to find leaders for the last couple of walks. It would be nice if they could be snapped up quickly. Are there more potential Monday walks leaders out there? We could possibly think of putting on more walks but we would need to be sure that we could obtain leaders. Talk about it out on walks. Perhaps once a fortnight is enough. Certainly Mondays are becoming more popular. At least with our more discerning customers.

Then there is our website. Another miracle of modern systems' engineering keeping us informed of all South Cotswolds activities. Mike and his apprentice, Sally, do a marvellous job, sometimes up to their ears in muck and bullets as they fight the vagaries of Mr. Microsoft and the gnomes of Silicon Valley. Thank you both.

Footpaths continue to play an important part in our activities, although covered by a small number of members. Bob and his team regularly monitor a large number of problems and possible alterations ensuring that the rights of Ramblers are always maintained. Some of our members also do a bit of footpath clearing, mainly under the auspices of Penny Fernando and the Stroud Rambling Club footpath clearers.

Thank you also to the Committee who meet three times a year and help to steer the activities of the Group in the right direction. Mike, Brian, Andrew and Di ensure that we comply with everything we need to comply with to operate as a Group within the Ramblers organisation. A particular thank you to Ann who has been organising our Group Holiday programme. She has really added something to our holidays coming up with something different every time. As I write I see that Mike has just circulated her proposals for next Spring. Looks interesting. Finally thank you to everybody who has supported our walks and made all our efforts worthwhile.

Must go now. Got a plane to catch.

Richard Davis

Future Holidays - update from Ann

I'm hoping to book an 8 day holiday for the group to **Catalonia (Spain)** on March 11th* next year with Preferred Travel, flying either from Bristol or Birmingham.

This includes 3 lead walks but there are two other coastal walks that we should be able to do on our own. We would be staying on the coast at a place called Coma-Ruga where several railway lines meet up hence the name of the holiday "Catalonia Trails and Rails". Each of the walks involves either starting or finishing on the train and there is a train to Barcelona every 30mins if you wanted to go there on a free day. The walking is not too strenuous and you can view the holiday on their website.

At the moment the price is £699 half board with no single supplement but I don't know how many sole occupancy rooms we will be able to have. This is becoming a problem on all the holidays so if you are happy to share with another member of the group should it become necessary could you please let me know.

According to the website, the hotel has a gym, an indoor pool, an outdoor seasonal pool, spa treatment rooms and a Turkish bath.

*If there are 20 or more people interested in this holiday then we would get our own group booking and we can choose the date we want to go. We could go a couple of weeks later but this might put the price of the holiday up a bit.

I need to know initial interest ASAP in order to secure this holiday. Contact me either at holidays@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk or by phone on 01453 839089 or 07931 114439.

Also if anyone else is interested in the **St. Ives holiday, Sept 14th - 21st** please contact me and I will see what accommodation is available. *Ann*

Membership Report Spring 2019

Welcome to our new members

New members are a bit like proverbial buses. You see no new people joining for ages and then several appear in quick succession. We had a good number join in the new year, then a few weeks without any, then another mini-bulge around Easter and it has gone quiet again - perhaps it's the Brexit effect. Anyway we are now at 385 members. Perhaps we can get back up nearer to 400 by October? Tell your friends what enjoyment and companionship we enjoy with the South Cotswold Ramblers. And it's a great way to keep fit and see the countryside!

Mike

Membership secretary membership@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

Dursley Walking Festival 2 - 6 October

Make a note of these dates. More details about the variety of walks will appear on the website below nearer the time. There will also be programmes available.

<http://dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk/>

If you wish to put anything in the next newsletter (which goes out in October), please email it to *Sally* at newsletter@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk by September 22nd.

Going away with Ramblers Holidays?

We receive 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.

AMALFI ADVENTURE MARCH 23-30th 2019

It was Colin's suggestion, to go walking on the Amalfi coast, and 15 of us volunteered to join him.

Ann researched, planned and organised it all for us.

A week based at the Hotel Due Torri (two towers, not bulls!!) in Bomerano, which is not so much inland from Amalfi, as vertically "upland" from there, as we soon discovered!!

But first we had to get there!

Ann gave us a choice, 6am from Gatwick or 11am from Luton. No contest! 11am from Luton, of course!

Q) How do you get to Luton from Stroud?

A) Well, I wouldn't start from here!!

Mercifully for most of us, Wonky's Wheels knew the way, (though 2 intrepid couples managed to get there independently). We did have to set off at silly o'clock to get to Luton before 9, but after that it was simple. We were met at Naples by our Exodus leader Severio, and had an hour's drive up the wriggliest, squiggliest, most tortuous narrow roads imaginable!



But we arrived at the hotel in good time for a delicious supper of varied anti pasti, spaghetti and pannacotta, washed down with plenty of local wine. The hotel is very proud of [its](#) local cuisine and later in the week we had cookery demonstrations. Richard is now King of the Tiramisu, and Ann can spin a pizza base like no other! (See the photos on the website if you don't believe me!)

Next day (Sunday) we set out in glorious sunshine on our first "walk", down 3 thousand steps cut into the rocky cliff face. The views were stunning, the hillsides were terraced, and planted with hundreds of lemon trees, dripping with the first crop of the year, due to be harvested in April. They were all covered with nets to protect them from birds, hail and sun. We marvelled at the practical difficulties of planting, netting and harvesting these precious lemons on the vertical hillsides. We stopped at a little hostelry for delicious fresh lemonade and cake mid-morning, and we were allowed to eat our huge paninis at a local bar, on condition that we ordered a drink. It was here that we were introduced to Hugo. (For the uninitiated, Hugo is a (large) cocktail of Prosecco, Elderflower liqueur, a dash of tonic, ice and fresh mint, with lemon rubbed round the rim of the glass. Hugo became a welcome companion in the following days!!) In spite of help from Hugo, we all got down to Amalfi with achy joints and jelly legs. Thankfully there was a mini bus to take us back to Bomerano.



By Monday the weather had changed, the hills were shrouded in fog/cloud, and we were warned that the climb up to Monte Tre Calli (Mountain of 3 Peaks) might not be possible. However, we set off in good spirits, and toddled through Bomerano and the next village Pianillo, stopping at the local artisan mozzarella factory for a demonstration and cheese tasting. Every house had a small holding, growing their own vegetables and lemons. We plodded on uphill until we reached a long flight of steep steps up, at which point 8 pairs of legs rebelled, and took us back to Bomerano for a delicious coffee and lemon cake!! We then had the strength to take a gentle walk to a viewpoint from which we could see nothing because of the fog/cloud!! However, there were nice picnic benches, so we enjoyed our loaf sized paninis before ambling back to the hotel. 8 mountain goats had disappeared up the rock steps into the fog/cloud, and apparently did make it to the top of the Monte Tre Calli, and enjoyed their paninis in sunshine!!

Tuesday was The Walk of the Gods, starting high up, with spectacular views, finishing in Positano, to catch a boat back to Amalfi, and a mini bus back up to Bomerano. By this time we were getting quite good at the lingo, "buongiorno" (hello), "gracie" (thank you), "Mama Mia" (narrow squeak in traffic!) and the never to be forgotten "Andiamo!" (Let's Go!) (Or possibly, Get a Move On!!)





Wednesday dawned wild and windy, so plans had to be changed, because Vesuvius was a no-go area. However, that meant we could visit both Herculaneum and Pompeii. Our guides in both places spoke remarkably good English. Hector in Herculaneum had obviously been practising his Hs, and prefixed all words starting with a vowel, with an H!

Thursday was our free day, and many of us hoped to go to Capri, but it was not certain if the ferries would be running because of the windy conditions. At the very last moment we were told that although it was very windy, the sea was calm (how does that work?), so we went! We were not permitted up on the open deck, but a few of us managed to find seats in the open at the back of the boat. We were joined by a charming down at heel aristocrat with an ancient camera bag, who proceeded to make use of the other passengers to accommodate his ancient camera! First he sat on Sally, to get the view he wanted, then he leaned his elbows on the shoulders of a young couple to aim his camera between their heads, and lastly, he rested his lens on my head to steady it!! The day went downhill from there! We were met by Luigi, who drove us up to the chair lift which was not running because of the wind! So we did the tourist thing and had coffee and a wander to San Michele view point. Then lunch. After which we battled our way bravely through a forest of oriental self-sticks to see the garden of Augustus. By which time we needed more coffee and cake, before Luigi took us back to the ferry!



Our last day dawned bright and sunny, and we were bussed to Ravello, where we visited the Garden of Villa Cimbrone (more spectacular views!!), and encountered a caterpillar train!! 35 caterpillars, nose to tail, wending their way across the path. Sue was able to tell us they were Pine Processing Moth caterpillars, going off to pupate! You never know what you will see next! Then we walked down the gorge to Amalfi, passing numerous derelict paper mills, and stopping for another fresh lemonade, in the shade of the lemon trees.



Sadly, we had to leave on Saturday, but there was just time for a saunter out of the village to a little shack for a coffee and yet more lemon cake. And a demonstration of how to barbecue artichokes from grandma's garden, with garlic, oil and Guanciale (smoked pig jowl!!)

All in all, a fabulous week, lots of fun and laughter, excellent walks with stunning views and generous hospitality.

Many, many thanks to Ann for organising it.

Lenneke



ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

The next concert will be on 22 June 2019 at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Rd., Stroud, Gloucestershire (next to the General Hospital)

Programme

Tchaikovsky:	Capriccio Italien
Mendelssohn:	Violin Concerto (Soloist: Olivia Doflein)
Rossini/Respighi:	La Boutique Fantasque
Rimsky-Korsakov:	Capriccio Espagnol

Listen to extracts at www.stroudsymphony.org.uk.

Tickets will be available on the door at £12 (or £10 concessions)

Prosopagnosia (Do you know what this is?)

Well it is a medical condition popularly known as Face Blindness which means that people with this are unable to recognize people from their faces. There are various grades of this, some are completely unable to recognize anyone and some partly recognise a person.

I have recently found out that I have suffered from this all my life and I would like to apologise to anyone who I have ignored when meeting on a Ramble or elsewhere. I have met members in the street and elsewhere who have greeted me with a cheery "Hello Bernard" and I have been unable to know who they are but continued a conversation desperately trying to remember who they are. I have had many an embarrassing time trying to remember people. All my life I have thought that I was simply very unobservant. I recently blanked a neighbour in the street and the next day when I

saw her in her garden she completely ignored my cheery "Hello". My wife had to go and explain the problem. Sometimes I can recognize people from their voice.

It is such a relief to me to know that there is a reason for all this as I have been blaming myself all these years.

Bernard

This year's AGM is on Saturday 16 November 2019 at 13.00 at Rodborough Tabernacle. Could all members submit any motions for discussion by no later than 31 August 2019 to the secretary, Andrew Hawkins, at groupsecretary@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

GROUP VOLUNTEERS 2019

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Footpath Clearance

Bob

Footpath Committee Member:

Penny F

Led Walks Programme Co-ordinator:

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mike@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

Led Walks Collectors for Nov 2019- Feb 2020:

(dates needed by 30 Aug)

John G 01452 728760 Weekend Walks

Margaret 01453 828036 Start the Week walks

Olivia 01453 751716 Midweek walks



Ramblers Charity England & Wales No: 1093577 Scotland No: SC039799

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Choose any of our holidays and we'll contribute funds through **The Walking Partnership** to your group. Just tell us their name when you book.

Walking holiday partner



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LOVELY LUMPINESS

After visiting friends in Southwold on the eastern coast of Suffolk, we drove back west past all the Bs – Bury St Edmunds, Bedford, Buckingham, Bletchley, Bicester, and the bl***dy Oxford bypass. We didn't see hills until we got well this side of Oxford and three hours driving through level countryside brought home to me how lucky we are to live in hills. Hills add greatly to the pleasure of walking. Ups and downs and twists and turns add so much interest to a walk that close, curved contour lines on an OS map almost invariably foretell a good jaunt.

The Lakes, Scotland and Wales can beat the Alps for walking pleasure because their hills have a human scale. You can get up a peak or two in a modest day walk. But the Cotswold hills just like the Yorkshire Dales or the Peak National Park offer more concentrated variety with a changing vista round every corner or hillock. Woods and farmland, isolated mansions, pretty cottages and distant views can all be enjoyed in a short stroll. However, the hills around Stroud add something else.

In previous centuries drovers from South Wales took their animals through the Cotswolds to London and merchants carried their salt from Droitwich to Southampton. Villages appeared on the hills during centuries of sheep-farming and 146 wool mills relied on the water of the five streams converging on Stroud. Mill-owners built their mansions on hill-sides and endowed local churches, weavers' cottages were built where water emerged from the porous rock of the Cotswold hills and all the villages, cottages and mills were linked by drovers trails, pack-horse trails and myriads of footpaths. They are here still: the vast assortment of paths near Stroud is a walker's paradise but there is a further surprise. Tourists for some reason favour places in the eastern Cotswolds with over-blown names like Stow-on-the-Wold, Moreton-in-the-Marsh or Bourton-on-the-Water. Most tourists leave us alone even though our hills and valleys are easily accessed from motorways to the west and south. Despite the accessibility, the plethora of footpaths and the concentrated variety of attractions, we locals have the beautiful Stroud hills to explore largely by ourselves.

One I Brian



A Revolutionary Idea??

Do you recognise this? It's a trundle wheel. If you're not familiar with it, the circumference is a metre round and you push the wheel which has a clicker on it, counting the clicks as you walk along pushing it. As long as you start with the clicker on the ground, it's fairly accurate. However, you can't put a trundle wheel in your pocket so GPS enabled devices (GPSED) have become popular. Given the different readings S. Cots get after each walk, they are probably marginally more reliable than 30 Primary school children pushing trundle wheels.

Another advantage of the GPSED is that it stores data. This is an important source of walks and could revolutionise the way S. Cots is run. It could mean that the owners of all this walks data could lead walks without having to walk them over, and the majority of walks leaders would no longer be needed. This would free up a large number of people to volunteer in other capacities e.g. footpath clearance, dealing with PROW, even being on the committee. In view of Richard's story at the November AGM of the Ramblers group that folded because of lack of support and his appeal for more volunteers, problem solved!! *Sally*

3:25 am

Awake - can't sleep
Cup of tea (decaf) and a
ginger nut to dunk
Sitting in the dimmed
light of the conservatory
Thinking of nothing in
particular

Imagining a box full of
buttons

Each button a unique size
- shape - colour
Each button a different
thought waiting for me to
dwell on
A waterfall of memories
Cascades through my
mind
Moving too fast – evasive
Then gone

Listening to the silence

Utter silence

Except for:
The fridge
Humming its own
mysterious song

The roar of a motorbike
Receding down the by-
pass

The slow rumble of the
tanker train
Carrying petroleum to
Bristol

The tick of eternity
Waiting for the tock of
time
(subject to battery life)

And the dog
Snoring in his bed

Bed
Now there's a thought

John L



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Why not come walking with the South Cotswold Ramblers? There are no fewer than 54 walks to choose from in the next four months. Grateful thanks to all our volunteer leaders and walk collectors.

PLEASE READ BEFORE WALKING WITH US

NON MEMBERS - You are very welcome to walk with the Group up to 3 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 or with a leaflet from Mike, quoting South Cotswold if you wish to be in our particular Group. Once a member you can walk with any Ramblers' group in Britain. See our walks here: <http://tinyurl.com/SCRwalks> with maps.

RING the leader if you are in any doubt, especially if you haven't walked recently.

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.

DOGS - Sorry, registered assistance dogs only.

PLEASE do not walk ahead of the leader unless asked.

Terrain 0 Level.

Terrain 1 Not much climbing.

Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Terrain 3** 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.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS Leaders may decide to cancel or shorten the walk, taking into account everyone's health and safety. If in doubt, please contact them or see website.

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.

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.

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.
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South Cotswold Ramblers

Our Walks Programme

most of July 2019



Mon 1 Jul Green Stonehouse Leisurely 3.4m
Start 10:30 Est finish 13:00 Exploring interesting corners with wide views to finish. Terrain 1 Mostly level with just one hill near the end, taken gently. **Leaders - Mike and Heather G** 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087. Meet 10:20 Stonehouse High St CP (free). Please park at back. (GL10 2NG) L162/E168 SO806054 <https://tinyurl.com/mapStonehouseMainHighStCP>

Wed 3 Jul To the Old Bell Moderate 5.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00. An old favourite. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Refreshments available at Hunters Hall afterwards. **Leader - Ray W** 01453 547213. Meet 09:50 Kingscote, Hunters Hall Inn CP. (GL8 8YA) L162/E168 ST814960. Park at Hunters Hall if using facilities. If not park in road opp. <http://tinyurl.com/mapKingscoteHuntersHall>

Thu 4 Jul Peace and Quiet Moderate 4.5m
Start 18:30 Est finish 20:45. Lasborough and Scrubbetts. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leaders - Mike and Heather G** 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087. Meet 18:20 Newington Barn, turn off un-numbered road near Kingscote running between A4135 and A46 and park tidily on grass verge opposite barn. (GL8 8YN) L162/E168 ST821952 <https://tinyurl.com/mapNewingtonBarn>

Sat 6 Jul Golden Valley and Frampton Mansell Moderate 5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 12:45. Fields, woodland and canal path. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leader - Colin B A** 01453 872349 on day 07717 317510. Meet 9:50 Cowcombe Hill, lay by at top opposite Aston Down airfield. (GL6 8HR) L162/E168 SO909018 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCowcombeHill>

Wed 10 Jul Berkeley to Sharpness Moderate 6m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00. Through fields to Sharpness then back along Severn Way. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Food available at Berkeley Arms or other eating establishments. **Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439. Meet 09:50 Berkeley CP near library and one just across the road. Meet Marybrook St, road leading to library (GL13 9BA) L162/E167 ST683994 <https://tinyurl.com/mapBerkeleyLibrary>

Thu 11 Jul Transport - the old ways Moderate 4m
Start 18:30 Est finish 20:30. Dudbridge Station, cycle track, Fromebanks, Bowbridge, canal. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. **Leader - Tim C** 01453 757104. Meet 1820 Cainscross Car Park opposite Tricorn House, top end. (GL5 4JQ) L162/E168 SO834050 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCainscrossCP>

Sat 13 Jul Eagle's Nest & Wye Valley Walk Moderate 7.8m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14:15 Figure of eight walk including Penterry Church, Black Cliff Wood, Eagle's Nest, Giants Cave and Piercefield Park. Terrain 3 Hilly, some rough terrain in woods on Wye Valley Way, number of stiles. Bring packed lunch. places in Tintern after walk. **Leader - Derek T** 01454 218691 on day 07711 445395. Meet 9:50 Upper Wyndcliff CP. Go over FREE M48 bridge, then N on A466 from Chepstow. Take first left after St Arvans village on bend signpost Wyndcliff. CP is at top of hill on right. (NP16 6HE) OL14/L162 ST524972 <https://tinyurl.com/mapWyndcliffCP>

Mon 15 Jul Shall we see light aircraft? Leisurely 4m
Start 10:30 Est finish 12:45 Through the Deer Park, across fields returning over the landing strip. Terrain 0 Level. **Leader - Margaret T** 01453 828036 on day 07930 396204. Meet 10:20 Badminton Village, car share if possible and park considerately. Meet outside PO on High Street. (GL9 1DF) L167/E168 ST803826 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBadminton>

Wed 17 Jul Washpool Valley Moderate 7.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14:15 To top of Painswick Beacon and through Washpool valley. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Bring a picnic. **Leader - Colin B A** 01453 872349 on day 07717 317510. Meet 09:50 Painswick Walkers CP, off B4073. (GL6 6RR) L162/E179 SO867104 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickWCP>

Thu 18 Jul A pint and a pizza Moderate 3.5m
Start 18:30 Est finish 20:15. A zig zag up to common, around Mount Vernon then back along the canal. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Pizza night at Stroud Brewery, drinks definitely available. **Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439. Meet 18:20 Stroud Brewery CP, Kingfisher Business Park, London Rd. From Chalford direction take 1st entrance to Business Park, 2nd ent. if coming from Stroud. (GL5 2BY) E168 SO863028. <https://tinyurl.com/mapStroudBreweryCP>

Sat 20 Jul Birdlip to Caudle Green and back Moderate 7m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:30. A mix of open fields and woodland passing through Brimpsfield and Caudle Green before returning to Birdlip via Hazel Hanger Wood. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Bring picnic lunch. **Leader - Lawrence A** 07486 415265. Meet 09:50 Roadside parking near Birdlip Primary School. (GL4 8JH) L163/E179 SO928142 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBirdlipSch>

Wed 24 Jul Tippits or Tiltups? Moderate 5.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 12:45 A loop of Tippits Inn to Avening, with views over Nailsworth. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Lunch available at Tippits Inn, pre-book 09:45 onwards. **Leader - Dave I** 01453 872760 on day 07770 632652. Meet 09:50 Tippits Inn car park if eating, tidily close by if not. (GL6 0QE) L162/ E168 ST845972 <https://tinyurl.com/mapTippitsInn>

Thu 25 Jul Canals and Railways Moderate 4m
Start 18:30 Est finish 20:45. Rodborough Parish Walk. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leaders - Richard and Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07579 219065. Meet 18:20 Rodborough pavilion CP. Go up hill from Golden Cross and straight across Rodborough Hill into Butterow West. (GL5 3AU) E168/L162 SO847044 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodbPav>

Sat 27 Jul Will Wardens help us find Diamonds along the Way? Moderate 12.7m Start 09:30 Est finish 15:30 Along Windrush, Wardens and Diamond Ways via Naunton, Guiting Power and Guiting Wood. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Picnic. **Leader - Andrew** 01452 857958 on day 07900 390351. Meet 09:20 Hawling Methodist Chapel CP (£2) (GL54 5SZ) OL45 SP066230 <http://tinyurl.com/mapHawlingMChapCP>

South Cotswold Ramblers

Our Walks Programme

late July to late August 2019



Mon 29 Jul Kingswood to Charfield Leisurely 3.8m
Start 10:30 Est finish 12:45 Through fields and alongside a railway track to Charfield. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Some stiles and could be cows. Pubs and cafes in Wotton-under-Edge afterwards. **Leader - Colin B K** 01453 843716 on day 07525 453911. Meet 10:30 Kingswood, park considerably in village, meet on the Chipping outside Dinnewicks. (GL12 8RT) L162/E167 ST746917 <http://tinyurl.com/mapKingswood>

Wed 31 Jul Scout's honour Moderate 8.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14:45 Buckholt Wood, Witcombe Wood, Birdlip, Hazel Hangar Wood, Fostons Ash, Ebworth, Overtown. Terrain 3 Hilly. Bring a picnic. **Leaders - Jill and Sue** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467. Meet 09:50 Cranham Scout Centre, Cranham (GL4 8HP) by kind permission of the Scout Centre (donation per car welcome). L162/E179 SO895130 <https://tinyurl.com/mapCranhamScoutCentre>

Thu 1 Aug Lamb not Bear Moderate 4m
Start 18:30 Est finish 20:30 Lamb Inn Eastcombe, Fidges Lane, Cricketty, Nash End, Eastcombe. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix with a steep descent down steps. No arrangements for food but option for a drink in The Lamb after walk. **Leaders - Brian and Ann** 01452 770510 on day 07770 895035. Meet 18:20 Eastcombe village green, park tidily. (GL6 7DP) L162/E168 SO890043 <https://tinyurl.com/mapEastcombeVillageGreen>

Sat 3 Aug Painswick Circular Moderate 9m
Start 10:00 Est finish 15:30 Wragg Castle, Skinners Mill and Damsells Farm. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Picnic. **Leaders - Penny and Bill B** 01452 813094 on day 07928 676713. Meet 09:50 Painswick Walkers CP, off B4073. (GL6 6RR) L162/E179 SO867104 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickWCP>

Mon 5 Aug Bisley Again!! Leisurely 3.8m
Start 10:30 Est finish 12:45 The Readings, Battlescombe, Water Point, Nashend, Bisley. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix, small section of mud. Lunch at Bear Inn. Pre-book. **Leaders - Brian and Ann** 01452 770510 on day 07770 895035. Meet 10:20 Bisley, The Bear CP or street parking if not using pub. (GL6 7BD) L163/E179 SO903060 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyBearCP>

Wed 7 Aug From Fort to Court Moderate 5.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00 Old Sodbury, Horton Court, Horton, Little Sodbury, route includes Cotswold Way. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leader - Derek T** 01454 218691 on day 07711 445395. Meet 09:50 Old Sodbury Church. Travel down A46. Turn R at traffic lights (Cross Hands Hotel). In Old Sodbury turn R at crossroads by Dog Inn. Go up to Church/Primary School and park considerably (BS37 6NB) L172/E155 ST756817 <http://tinyurl.com/mapOldSodburyChurch>

Thank you to Ron B for all his help in compiling this large programme and thanks in advance to Ann A for her help in the next one! Mike G

Thu 8 Aug In search of Abbey Road Moderate 3.5m
Start 18:30 Est finish 20:30 Down into Toadsmoor. Terrain 2 Fairly hilly but some level stretches. No arrangements for food but option for a drink in The Lamb after walk. **Leaders - Richard and Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07579 219065. Meet 18:20 Eastcombe, on or around village green, park considerably. (GL6 7DP) L162/E168 SO890043 <https://tinyurl.com/mapEastcombeVillageGreen>

Sat 10 Aug Chavenage in Reverse Moderate 5.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00 Macmillan Way, Avening Church, Avening Park, Lodgemore Bottom and Pond. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. **Leader - John G** 01452 728760. Meet 09:50 Chavenage Green. (GL8 8XS) L162/E168 ST865957 <http://tinyurl.com/mapChavenageGreen>

Wed 14 Aug Planes, trains, and automobiles (but no boats) Moderate 6.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:30 Down to the river then Siccridge Wood, Dorvel Wood, Sapperton, return through woods and farmland. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leaders - Malcolm & Helena** 07817 395486. Meet at 09:50 Cowcombe Hill, lay by at top. (GL6 8HR) L162/E168 SO909019 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCowcombeHillLayby>

Thu 15 Aug Purton in Summer Moderate 4m
Start 18:30 Est finish 20:30 Severn Way to Sharpness, returning via Hinton over fields and along a short stretch of minor road. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leader - Karen** 01453 545824. Meet 18:20 Purton CP, alongside canal, opposite church (GL13 9HS) OL14/L162 SO692041 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPurtonCP>

Sat 17 Aug Success at last Moderate 7.6m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14.30 Over to Lower Wick, Damery, Woodford and back through Berkeley. Terrain 1 Almost completely flat walk but some challenging stiles. Coffee and lunch stop. **Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 day 07931 114439. Meet 09:50 Chapel Hill, Newport, lay by off the A38 opposite the old Newport Towers, down in the dip (GL13 9PZ) L162/E167 ST698974 <http://tinyurl.com/mapNewportLayby>

Mon 19 Aug Top of Stinchcombe Hill Leisurely 3.5m
Start 10:30 Est finish 12:30 Drakestone Point, Cotswold Way, Sheep Path Wood, Golf Course. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. **Leader - Jacqui P** 01666 826139. Meet 10:20 Stinchcombe Hill Public Car Park (not Golf Course CP). (GL11 6AQ) L162/E167 ST743983 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStinchcombeHillCP>

Wed 21 Aug Acknowledging Ivor and Enid Moderate 5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00 The banks of the Severn, a medieval tithe barn, Ashleworth Quay. Pre-order food. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. **Leader - Graham B** 01452 725405. Meet 09:50 Ashleworth Quay, Boat Inn CP (turn R off A417 at Hartbury then R in Ashleworth to Boat Inn. Small CP, but space in nearby lane. Car share if possible. (GL19 4HZ) L162/E179 SO818251 <https://tinyurl.com/mapAshleworthQuayBoatInn>

South Cotswold Ramblers

Our Walks Programme

late August to late September 2019



Thu 22 Aug Summer evening in Slad Valley Moderate 3.7m
Start 18:30 Est Finish 20:15 Frith Wood, Furners Farm, Steanbridge, Trillgate. Terrain 3 Hilly 200m ascent/descent, 1st mile level. Food available at the Woolpack, though could be busy. **Leaders - Sally and Keith** 01453 872729 on day 07818 425088. Meet 18:20 Bulls Cross layby B4070 above Slad. (GL6 7QT) L162/E179 SO877087 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBullsCross>

Sat 24 Aug What's in a name? Moderate 7m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14:00 Skirting Yanworth and Stowell, visiting Coln St Denis and passing through Fossebridge. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Bring coffee and a snack. **Leaders - Tim S and Ann T** 07931 683162. Meet 9:50 Hangman's Stone layby on old A40 west of Northleach between Hampnett and Yanworth. Please note that road from Northleach is open again, so take care turning into layby! (GL54 3QF) L163/OL45 SP088151 <http://tinyurl.com/mapHangmansStone>

Wed 28 Aug Horsley views and valleys Moderate 7m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:30 Newington Bagpath, Hazeltote Valley, Horsley, Kingscote. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Pub lunch at finish, pre-book. **Leader - Olivia** 01453 751716. Meet 09:50 Kingscote, Hunters Hall Inn CP. Please park in lane opposite if not using the pub. (GL8 8YA) L162/E168 ST814960 <http://tinyurl.com/mapKingscoteHuntersHall>

Thu 29 Aug Butterrow and Minchinhampton Common Moderate 4m Start 18:30 Est finish 20:45. Rodborough Parish Walk. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leaders - Richard and Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07579 219065. Meet 18:20 Rodborough pavilion CP. Go up hill from Golden Cross and straight across Rodborough Hill into Butterrow West. (GL5 3AU) E168/L162 SO847044 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodbPav>

Sat 31 Aug Fields and farms near Kingswood Moderate 5.7m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00 Elbury Hill, Swinhay, Bradley Green, Hawpark Farm, Abbey Gate. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Some stiles and probably cows. The Dinneywicks pub do food. Best to pre-book before the walk. **Leader - Colin B K** 01453 843716 on day 07525 453911. Kingswood, park considerably in village, meet on the Chipping outside Dinneywicks. (GL12 8RT) L162/E167 ST746917 <http://tinyurl.com/mapKingswood>

Mon 2 Sep Good day for a fire Leisurely 4m
Start 10:30 Est finish 13:00 Round Pinbury Park and back up Sapperton Valley. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leaders - Richard & Diana D** 01453 762373 on day 07579 219065. Meet 10:20 Sapperton Village near Church. Please park considerably. (GL7 6LG) L163/E179 SO947033 <http://tinyurl.com/mapSapperton>

Wed 4 Sept Stowaway! Moderate 8.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 15:45 Around Stow visiting several pretty villages. Terrain 2 Hilly/level mix. Bring a picnic. **Leaders - Sally and Ros** 01453 872729 / 01285 239054 on day 07818 425088. Meet 09:50 Stow on the Wold free public CP at Tesco, on A429. (GL54 1BX). Usually room but perhaps car share as other all-

day CP on A436 (GL54 1HH) is Pay / Display and 10 mins walk away OL45 SP191261 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStowTescoCP>

Sat 7 Sep Painswick Moderate 11m
Start 10:00 Est finish 15:30 Painswick via Hawkwood, return via Edge Common. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Picnic. **Leader - Alex** 01453 826907. Meet 09:50 Stroud Leisure Centre Car Park top end. (GL5 4AH) L162/E179 SO843057 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudLCCPtop>

Wed 11 Sep Two sheep path around Dursley Moderate 6.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:30 Upper Cam, Sandpits, Stinchcombe Hill, Hermitage Wood, Sheep House Farm, Coldharbour. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Bring a snack. **Leaders - Peter and Sue** 01453 860797 on the day 07854 634090. Meet 9:50 Cam Peak CP (Peaked Down). (GL11 5HH) L162/E167 ST767993 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCamPeakCP>

Sat 14 Sep 2 out of 6 Moderate 7.8m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14.30 Winchcombe, Waterhatch, Roel Gate, Deadmanbury Gate, Sudeley Lodge, Winchcombe. Terrain 3 Hilly. Picnic lunch. **Leader - Jill S** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467. Meet 09:50 Abbey Fields Community Centre, Back Lane, Winchcombe, GL54 5QH, park Back Lane Car Park (off B4632 Gloucester Street), currently £1 for all day. OL45 SP023284 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWinchcombeBackLnCP>

Mon 16 Sep Minchinhampton Commons Leisurely 4m
Start 10:30 Est finish 13:00 The Knapp, Besbury Common, Old Weaver's House, Burleigh, Amberley Camp, The Bulwarks. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. **Leader - Jacqui P** 01666 826139. Meet 10:20 Minchinhampton, edge of common behind Church. (GL6 9JR) L162/E168 SO872009 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchEdgeCommon>

Wed 18 Sep No cider, no Rosie Moderate 6.2m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00 Painswick Stream, Mann's Court, Pope's Wood, golf course. Terrain 3 Hilly. **Leader - Jill S** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467. Meet 09:50 Painswick Walkers CP, off B4073. (GL6 6RR) L162/E179 SO867104 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickWCP>

Sat 21 Sep Exploring the Berkeley Vale Moderate 10m
Start 10:00 Est finish 15:30 Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Bring a packed lunch. **Leaders - Ray and Gwen C** 01453 811545. Meet 09:50 Laburnum Cottage, Brookend, Berkeley. Car parking is in our garden at the rear of the house. (GL13 9SF) L162/E167 SO685020 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBrookend>

Wed 25 Sep Coaley Peak to Uley Moderate 6m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:30 Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leaders - Steve & Rosemary** 01453 860130 Meet 09:50 Coaley Peak Picnic Site CP. Do NOT follow SatNav to postcode GL11 5AU on last part of route. Site entrance is on level B4066 near Woodchester Park entrance L162/E168 SO 794012 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCoaleyPeakCP>

South Cotswold Ramblers

Our Walks Programme

late September to end October 2019



Sat 28 Sep Soudley - Severn Moderate 6.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14.30 Blaize Bailey, Collow Pill, Bullo, Lower Soudley. Terrain 3 Hilly. Bring a picnic. **Leaders - Patrick and Angela** 01452 616886 on day 07778 662951. Meet 09:50 Soudley Nature Reserve CP. Approach via Littledean. At mini roundabout follow main road R (not the Newnham road), then take left turn lane by shops signed Soudley. (GL14 3EQ) OL14/L162 SO662115 <http://tinyurl.com/mapSoudleyPonds>

Mon 30 Sep A Down and an Up Leisurely 3.6m
Start 10:30 Est finish 12:45 Through woods, down Juniper Hill, along Painswick Valley and up to the woods. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. **Leader - Margaret T** 01453 828036 on day 07930 396204. Meet 10:20 Bulls Cross lay-by B4070 above Slad. (GL6 7QT) L162/E179 SO877087 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBullsCross>

Wed 2 Oct Curses curses Moderate 8m
Start 10:00 Est finish 15:00. Uley, Elcombe, Woodmancote, Dursley, Cam Long Down. Terrain 3 Hilly. Bring a picnic. **Leaders - Jill and Sue** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467. Meet 09:50 Uley, near Old Crown. Park on road by Church. (GL11 5SN) L162/E168 ST791986 <http://tinyurl.com/mapUley>

Sat 5 Oct Monumental Walk Moderate 8m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14:30 Circular walk along Cotswold Way to Tyndale Monument. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Bring picnic. **Leader - Richard D** 01453 762373 on day 07579 219065. Meet 09:50 Stinchcombe Hill public CP. (GL11 6AQ) L162/E167 ST743983 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStinchcombeHillCP>

Mon 7 Oct Nailsworth to Box Leisurely 4m
Start 10:30 Est finish 13:00 Through Watledge, up to common, back through Box Woods. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Only one climb from Watledge up to common taken at gentle pace. Food available at Egypt Mill Bistro, pre-order. **Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439. Meet 10:20 Nailsworth, Egypt Mill CP, park over far side. (GL6 0AJ) L162/E168 ST850998 <http://tinyurl.com/mapNailsworthEgyptMill>

Wed 9 Oct Not another one! Moderate 6m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:15 Bull Banks, Duntisbourne Abbots, up to Winstone, back via Misarden Park. Terrain 3 Hilly, 1,400ft of ascent. Pub lunch possible. Please pre-book. **Leaders - Mike and Heather G** 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087. Meet 09:50 Miserden, Carpenters Arms. Only use pub CP if using pub after walk. If full park considerably in road. (GL6 7JA) L163/E179 SO937088 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMiserdenCArms>

Sat 12 Oct A desirable route along the Coln Moderate 5.6m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:00 From Quenington on to Coln St Aldwins through estate lands along the river Coln. Terrain 1 not much climbing. Pub lunch available at The Keepers Arms Quenington. **Leaders - Ros and Ron** 01285 239054 on day 07917 808234. Meet 09:50 Quenington. Park considerably in

village road alongside Keepers Arms pub. (GL7 5BL) OL45 SP146042 <https://tinyurl.com/mapQuenington>

Wed 16 Oct Remembering Marie Moderate 8m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14:30 Exploring Standish Woods and beyond. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Bring a snack. **Leaders - Richard and Diana** 01453 762373 on day 07579 219065. Meet 09:50 Shortwood NT CP (Cripplegate) ½ mile before Haresfield Beacon. Display NT sticker, otherwise pay & display. (GL6 6PP) L162/E179 SO831086 <http://tinyurl.com/mapShortwoodCP>

Sat 19 Oct Say cheese Moderate 5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 12.45 Severn Way, Wick Court. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. Red Lion PH at finish, pre-book. **Leader - Olivia** 01453 751716. Meet 09:50 Arlingham, Red Lion CP (space for 7 cars). Otherwise park carefully nearby. (GL2 7JR) L162/OL14 SO708109 <http://tinyurl.com/mapArlingham>

Mon 21 Oct To the Tower Leisurely 4.5m
Start 10:30 Est finish 13:15 Slightly longer walk but worth the views. Bournstream, Tyndale Monument, Brackenbury Ditches, Wotton Hill. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. One moderate hill taken at an easy pace. Food available at Royal Oak pub, pre book. **Leader - Chris L** 01453 842298 on day 07512 478477. Meet 10:20 Royal Oak, Haw Street, Wotton under Edge. Park at top of CP only if eating in pub. (GL12 7AG) L162 ST755933 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWottonRoyalOakCP>

Wed 23 Oct Speak softly and carry a big stick Moderate 8.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 14:45 Walk via Highfield Farm to Avening Church, back via the Macmillan Way. Picnic lunch. Terrain 1 Not much climbing. **Leader - John G** 01452 728760. Meet 09:50 Tetbury old station free CP. (GL8 8DQ) L162/E168 ST893933 <http://tinyurl.com/mapTetburyOldStation>

Sat 26 Oct Three Bs not freebies Moderate 5.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:15 Brimscombe church via Swell's Hill then to Burleigh and Box via Minchinhampton. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Pub lunch at Old Lodge can be pre-ordered. **Leaders - Brian and Sheelagh** 01453 872220 on day 07749 931449. Meet 09:50 Minchinhampton Common Old Lodge Inn. Find Tom Long's Post in middle of common, turn south towards Nailsworth and pub is along track on the right. Park on nearby common. (GL6 9AQ) L162/E168 SO853008 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchComOldLodge>

Wed 30 Oct Dawdle in Caudle without Snow Moderate 5.5m
Start 10:00 Est finish 13:15 Caudle Green. Brimpsfield. Climperwell. Terrain 2 Hilly and level mix. Lunch available at end. **Leaders - Brian and Sheelagh** 01453 872220 on day 07749 931449. Meet 09:50 Foston's Ash CP. (GL6 7ES) Park tightly at the far end. L163/E179 SO914114 <http://tinyurl.com/mapFostonsAsh>



10th Winchcombe Walking Festival – 17-19th May 2019

It was 10 years ago that the first of these popular events began and ramblers have continued to help every year since. This year some 500 people, both local and from further away, took part in various walks from a short evening stroll to a 26 mile challenge along the Winchcombe Way.

Ramblers Central Office sent through give away badges and pens for our display stand and we hope that everyone now knows a little more about what we do.

Walking Together Saturday 14th September 2019 - Winchcombe

Following on from the successful event last year at Kings' Stanley, Cleeve Group has offered to host another and what better place to choose than Winchcombe!

Many of our Groups and affiliated Clubs have moved their weekend walks to the Saturday, all meeting at Abbey Fields Community Centre. The day opens at 10am with a brief discussion of available walks. Non-members are welcome to join in too. There will be morning, afternoon & all day walks. Return to the Centre by 3:30pm for afternoon tea, cake etc. and a roundup by a speaker from Ramblers.

Ramblers Workshops Saturday 26th October Cheltenham

Advance notice. The venue will be in Cheltenham with various workshop sessions - essentially two categories, technical and volunteering. The technical ones help members deliver our mission on the ground say walk leading, or footpath issues.

Volunteering sessions focus on ensuring that the Ramblers can continue to function, committee team work, recruiting members or helping volunteers.

Diary Dates

Walking Together Winchcombe
10:00 – 16:00 Sat 14th Sept
Abbey Fields Community Centre
Back Lane GL54 5QH SP021283

Hosts: Cleeve Ramblers Group
Morning, afternoon and all day walks. Refreshments.
Parking behind Library Back Lane
GL54 5PZ £1 SP023284

Gloucestershire Ramblers
Area Council Meeting
Wed 25th Sept 2019 7:30pm
Gloucester Room, Premier Inn,
A38 Twigworth. GL2 9PG

Gloucestershire Area AGM
Sat 7th Dec 2019 10:00 am
Blockley Jubilee Hall GL56 9BY
Hosts: North Cotswold Group



Find us on Facebook and Meetup

First Aid Training Days



St John Ambulance held a successful pilot day with Ramblers at Twigworth in March. If you're interested in First Aid please let your Group know so more training days can be organised.

Like Walking with Dogs?

Would you be able to help us start a Group? The aim is to initially have one walk per month to load onto Walksfinder. Please email grnews if you'd like to give it a go.



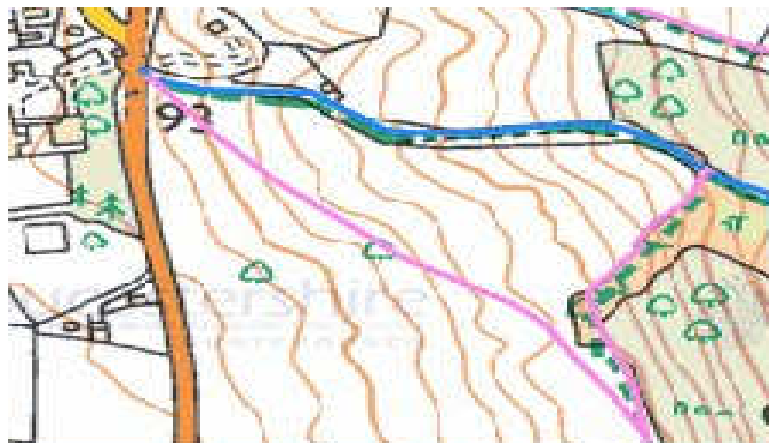
Volunteer with us

We're a close knit team. Why not join us to share with the roles, edit this newsletter, help with member's queries or respond to countryside protection issues? There is no pay but the rewards are great!

Don't forget to check out your contact preferences at 'My Account' on Ramblers website but note that some information can be sent to you anyway e.g. Walk magazine, volunteer newsletter, membership renewal etc.

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Bentley Lane – Southam, Cleeve Hill



It was 2011 when Cleeve Group began investigating the route of a popular footpath across fields from Southam to Prestbury.

Although sign-posted & described in walking books it wasn't shown on OS maps nor on the Definitive map held by the County Council. Following discussions with the Parish Council and the landowner, Gloucestershire County Council eventually created a Definitive Map Modification Order and in 2017 the path was confirmed on the mauve diagonal line shown above.

However there is also another signed Public Right of Way- a Bridleway on an ancient track heading up to Cleeve Common. A number of years ago wooden gates were installed across the entrance to the track and a fenced narrow footpath provided in the adjoining field. It was assumed it had happened through a formal process but it turned out overall was due to a mistake.

Evidence was gained from historic maps and recollection of past usage sought from local people. With the alignment along the track confirmed, the County Council began a process to reopen it which included two public consultations. The legal Order was completed in May 2019 and the gates removed.

It's great news that Cleeve volunteers with some help from the County Council are at last able to clear and restore the route.

A417 Preferred Route Announcement

March 2019 Highways England confirmed Option 30 as the preferred route of the new A417, adding a minor update to move it further east at Stockwell.

Although recognising concern about loss of the landmark Air Balloon Inn, the announcement made no mention of whether or not it is to be demolished.

The route plan doesn't show rights of way or other tracks. To help assess the impact of the scheme the map right overlays the options onto the OS map.

Alternative routes (1) (2) & (3) (dots) are offered to connect the A436 to the new A417. Retaining the Air Balloon Roundabout as a more sympathetic connection is not considered as it's to be removed.

The Birdlip link road (black) may be a step too far & could raise concerns of a rat run to Stroud. An idea to remove the Birdlip Bypass could force local traffic to use the old Roman Road or the busy new A417.

Surely to be recognised as a good scheme, it needs green bridges as in other AONBs & the Cotswold & Gloucestershire Ways kept in place. Would you join other members in a protest outside the Air Balloon?



Gloucestershire Ramblers Area includes eight Ramblers Groups and a number of affiliated Organisations. Over 60 Ramblers' Areas join together to form the Ramblers Association.

North Cotswold Ramblers Group

Our Group continues to walk every second Saturday in the month with a varied programme and an average attendance of 12-15 people.

Eleven members enjoyed a 4-night Away Break at Abingworth Hall on the South Downs. In addition to the spectacular Seven Sisters Walk along the coastal chalk cliffs we narrowly missed a massive hailstorm near The Cissbury Rings which turned the whole landscape behind us into a snow scene. A meander along the River Arun gave great views of Arundel Castle and Cathedral towering above us. A real added bonus was pre-dinner Tai Chi sessions – a great way to unwind after a days walk.



On May 14th we "christened" our Margaret Scott-Browne bench at the Westwoods Centre, Northleach. It was a glorious day & 5 members of Margaret's family plus old walking friends raised a glass of something bubbly & shared memories of her. Margaret was a founder Member of the Group and its Chairman for many years. We are very grateful to the Cotswold Wardens who did a magnificent job, preparing the site and fixing the bench in position.
Sue Salmon

Cleeve Ramblers Group

The Group Committee continues to meet every 2 months. Of the nine members usually at least six are present.

It was with great sadness we lost Ken Parker our oldest walk leader to a sudden short illness in this quarter, he was a cheerful, positive and a pleasure to walk with. A full programme of weekly Sunday walks & Monthly mid-week social short walks has been maintained. Walk averages for March - June are 19 walks, 7.5 miles, 18 walkers. Additionally the Group has appreciated an offer from Michael Leek to lead a number of Summer Evening Walks.

The Footpath team has raised some volunteers to form a working party to help with the reopening of Bentley Lane. Membership remains relatively stable.

Brian Payne

Facebook Message to Gloucester Ramblers

I would like to say a huge thank you to those who were on Robinswood Hill earlier today and stayed with my husband and I whilst we waited for ambulance crew having had a fall. Our dog would also like to thank the kind lady who was looking after him. Thank you all so much.

The Group delayed its walk until arrival of paramedics. Message from Ramblers' CO:

It's lovely to hear that those on the group walk were able to help – and were such brilliant ambassadors for the Ramblers.

Cirencester Ramblers Group

The usual variety of walks, Sunday, Mid Week and evening, have been well supported by members. Highlights included a Day Out in Bristol on Sunday 14th April, when 23 members and guests travelled to Bristol for a day of walking and sightseeing. This included The Giant's Cave in St Vincent's Rocks in the Avon Gorge, the Clifton Suspension Bridge, Camera Obscura and Museum.



This year away walking weekend, 21st to 25th March, was enjoyed by 52 members and guests at the Pines Hotel in Swanage. The majority took part in either long or short walks on both the Saturday and Sunday; and those that did not found other ways to amuse themselves and from feedback, it would appear that a good time was had by all. These weekends have become so popular that we are currently working on 2021 break to enable us to find a hotel big enough! Some Committee members are currently working on updating our walks leaflets.

Path Maintenance Volunteers (PMV) reopened an abandoned path at Jackaments Bottom. Work on the WYSIS Way has stalled whilst the route through Robins Wood Hill was clarified. Waymarking and some clearance have been completed, plus erecting 4 waymark posts. We are now able to progress towards the Forest of Dean. If you're interested in helping please contact Richard at footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk.

Pat Beckley - Cirencester Ramblers

A page of Mid Week walks for the Gloucestershire Ramblers Area

Gloucestershire Ramblers Area organises a series of day walks, approx 10-12 miles long, usually mid-week, in or perhaps outside the county. If you're not yet a member, why not give us a try (please contact leader beforehand). Once a member, all our walks are free! (Sorry Registered Assistance dogs only but see www.fodramblers.org.uk)

Wed 3 July 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **Around Ozleworth**
Park at the rear of Hunters Hall CP. E168. (GL8 8YA, ST814960)
A ten mile circuit up and down around the Ozleworth Valley. Picnic.
Drinks available at the pub after the walk.
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 10 July 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km – Mod **Snowhill**
Snowhill CP. OL45. (WR12 7JR, SP096340)
Winchcombe Way, Stumps Cross, Cotswold Way, Wood Stanway,
Stanway, Stanton, Laverton, Buckland, Littleworth Wood. Picnic.
Contact: Roy & Anne, 01242 245488 or 07766 413176 on day

Wed 17 July 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km – Mod **Sugar Loaf**
Abergavenny Byfield CP (free) OL13. (NP7 5YL, SO297140)
Strenuous (but no harder than usual for the Black Mountains).
Along the river and over Sugar Loaf. Picnic.
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day

Wed 24 July 10:00 - 11.5 miles/18.5 km – Mod **Whittington**
Park considerably in Whittington. OL45. (GL54 4HD, SP015209)
Walk from Whittington to Sevenhampton, Hawling, Charlton Abbotts
and return via Warden's wood and Puckham Scrubs.
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day. Picnic

Wed 31 July 10:00 - 10m/16km – Mod **Woods & Fields Birdlip**
Roadside parking nr. Birdlip School. E179. (GL4 8JH, SO928142)
A mix of open fields and woodland passing through Brimpsfield,
Caudle Green, Miserden, Sudgrove and Whiteway before returning
to Birdlip via Hazel Hanger Wood. Bring picnic lunch.
Contact: Lawrence, 07486 415265

Wed 7 Aug 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km – Mod **Tetbury to Stroud**
Tetbury -Stroud Chavenage, Longtree Bottom, Minchinhampton
Linear walk using bus 69 10.05am from stop K Merrywalks, Stroud
(SO 850054). Free parking Stratford Park Leisure Centre (SO 845056)
short walk (15 min) to bus stop. Or catch the bus London Rd. Thrupp,
if preferred for parking as last mile on canal.
Contact: Hilary, 01453 753398 or 07503754620 on day. Picnic

Wed 14 Aug 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **North Malvern**
Black Hill CP £4.20 opp British Camp CP (WR13 6DW SO766406)
Veranda path to the Wyche and St Anne's Well, then a steady climb
up the Green Valley to the Lady Howard De Walden Drive around
North Hill. Return along western slopes, with fine views across
Herefordshire. Final leg over the peaks of Perseverance Hill, Jubilee
Hill, Pinnacle Hill, and Black Hill. Picnic.
Contact: Martin & Roy, 07790437908 or 07766413176

Wed 21 Aug 10:00 11.5 miles/18.5 km Strenuous **Winchcombe**
Winchcombe Back St CP (£1.00). OL45. (GL54 5PZ, SP023284)
From Winchcombe follow Cotswold Way to Belas Knap. Then the
Winchcombe Way over Cleeve Hill & Nottingham Hill to Prescott.
Gloucestershire Way and return over Langley Hill to Winchcombe.
Contact: Michael, 07986 6162575 Picnic.

Wed 28 Aug 10:00 10m/16km Mod **Cotswold Way & Deviations**
Kings Stanley CP (not Village Hall). E168. (GL10 3JD, SO811034)
Selsley Common, Ruscombe, Whiteshill, Randwick, Doverow Hill and
Ryeford. Picnic.
Contact: Alex, 01453 826907

Wed 4 Sep 10:00 10 miles/16km Mod **Monnow Valley & Cats Back**
Meet Black Hill Picnic Site. OL13. (HR2 ONL, SO288328)
Stroll through the Monnow Valley then moderate ascent to Offa's Dyke
Path and returning via Cats Back with panoramic views. Lower route if
weather conditions dictate. Picnic.
Contact: Jenny & Peter, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

Wed 11 Sep 10:00 10m/16km Easy **"Capability" walk Croome Park**
Public CP off B4211 almost opposite Upton Bridge £2.00 all day. E190.
(WR8 0BP, SO840417)
Mostly flat Earls Croome, Baughton, Croome Estate, High Green,
Severn Stoke for Pub lunch/drink or picnic. Return Severn Way.
Contact: Guy, 01242 251412 or 07968 797186 on day.

Wed 18 Sep 10:00 12 miles/19.3 km – Mod **Prinknash**
Prinknash Abbey CP (£1.00 donation). E179. (GL4 8EX, SO880138)
Twelve mile hilly walk with superb views above Painswick Valley.
Passing Pitchcombe church and Scottsuar hill. Picnic.
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day

Wed 25 Sep 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **Winchcombe**
Winchcombe Back Lane CP (£1.00). OL45. (GL54 5PW, SP023285)
Gradual climb to Deadmanbury Gate past Sudeley Castle. Follow
Campden Lane to Beckbury Camp for picnic lunch. Return via Hailes
Abbey along the Winchcombe Way.
Contact: Bernard, 01242 602024

Wed 2 Oct 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km - Easy **A Riparian Ramble**
Meet at the lay-by on the east side of the A38 on the northern
entrance to Cambridge village. (GL2 7AL, SO751039)
Cambridge to Saul Junction and back by lakes, canal, rivers and
Frampton Village Green. This is part of the Dursley Walking Festival.
Contact: Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 on day Picnic

Wed 9 Oct 10:00 10m/16km Mod **A Different Llanfrynach Horseshoe**
Park Llanfrynach Village, meet at WCs OL12 (LD3 7BX, SO075257)
Ascent to Fan y Big and returning via the Three Rivers Ride. There may
be a steep descent. Moderate+ walk. Picnic.
Contact: Jenny & Peter, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

Wed 16 Oct 10:00 10m/16km Mod **Historical/Hysterical walk Bristol**
Mansion House CP (£1.20) 10:00 ST558718 BS41 9JN or 10.50am at
the mirrored globe on Millenium Square ST582725, 8.5m, if using
Portway park & ride.
Walk Aston Gate Mansion, Floating Harbour, Arno's Vale, Victoria Park
and many other Bristol sights plus a few tales on route. Lunch in the
park. Cafe at end. Contact: Richard 07512758229

Wed 23 Oct 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km - Strenuous **A Wye Wander**
Lay-by A4136 600m east of Staunton. OL14. (GL16 8NT, SO558123)
A Wye wander with likely subterranean activity and an airy lunch stop.
High Meadow Woods and Biblins suspension bridge, various workings,
caves and Sisters. Some narrow tracks on steep ground.
Contact: David P, 07824 603711 Bring a torch. Picnic.

Wed 30 Oct 10:00 At least 10m/16km Somewhere else **Mystery Walk**

This walks list is available at gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/midweek

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. Could 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.