



South Cotswold Ramblers' Group

Newsletter - Spring 2021

Published normally in February, June and October. We look forward to hearing from you with stories, opinions, photos, poetry, art, funny tales, cartoons, appeals, you name it. This edition was edited by Sally 01453 872729, email: newsletter@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

RESUMPTION OF WALKS

Although the Ramblers Association have told us that walks can be re-started from March 29th for groups of up to 30 we have decided to resume our walks from April 12th. This takes into account that the Easter weekend is likely to be busy everywhere particularly if the weather is good. We have, however, decided to limit our groups to a total of 10 including the leader, partly not to alienate the public who have to walk in 6s.

There will not be a Walks Programme for the time being but all walks will be posted on the website and you will have to book a place on the walk with the walk leader for the foreseeable future. The leader will tell you how they wish to be contacted and the number they want on the walk. Once the walk is fully booked this will be marked on the website but we may be able to provide more than one walk each day and not necessarily on the usual days of Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Unfortunately for those of you not online there is no other way for us to provide this information at present so perhaps you could ask a friend to help you.

Everyone on the walk will need to bring a mask and hand gel, continue social distancing and follow the Government guidelines.



JUST SMALL
SOCIALY
DISTANCED
GROUPS FOR
NOW, BUT AT
LEAST IT'S
SOMETHING!!

CHAIR'S REPORT

This is our first newsletter for a while, mainly because there has been no news other than yes we can walk again, no we can't. It is also my first newsletter as Chair. You may have seen in our AGM minutes that there have been some changes on the committee. For several years Richard has been trying to persuade someone to take over from him to no avail. When I was asked last autumn if I would consider the role my reply was that I wouldn't say no but I wasn't saying a definite yes either. I agreed that I would only take on the role if no one else came forward so here I am. Mike also said that he wanted to give up some of the roles that he was doing so Sally is our new vice chair and Ros has taken over from Mike as the membership secretary. Mike remains walk co-ordinator and joint website editor with Sally. I would like to thank Richard and Di (who has also stood down from the committee) and Mike for all their work in steering the group for many years. Fortunately Richard and Mike have both stayed on as committee members so we can " phone a friend " if we're not sure about anything. Brian is remaining as Treasurer and Andrew as Group Secretary.

Malcolm Taylor was also voted on as our official footpath chair and although not much can be done on the ground at the moment he is sifting through the numerous planning applications that are being sent to him. He is also representing us on the area group that is dealing with the A417 planning application at the Air Balloon which seems to impact a lot of footpaths. If anyone feels they would like to help Malcolm on the footpath committee please do contact us. Again many thanks to Bob Frewin who I believe was the footpath chair for many years.

We have also become affiliate members of the Cotswold Way Association and registered our interest in " Slow Ways ", more info in the newsletter.

Ann

Group Chairman

WALK LEADERS

I hope that most of you who have lead walks in the past will consider doing so again - we really need you!! We have decided that **walk leaders can decide how many walkers they are willing to lead (although we are limiting the numbers to 10 or less for the time being including the leader)** and also **what day they would prefer, so not necessarily our usual days.** We can perhaps have more than one walk on the same day from a different location so that we can keep the numbers low but still accommodate those who want to walk. You can also choose your distance so those of you that used to lead 4 mile walks on a Monday can do them on any day. The usual " Submit a walk form" will still have to be sent to Mike and a simple risk assessment done for each walk which has to be kept for a year. There is a link to this (either PDF or Word) on the Leaders page on our website and it is easy and not time consuming. You also have to keep the details of all those on your walk for Track and Trace for 3 weeks. Walkers will have to book on to your walk so you need to let Mike know **how you wish to be contacted e.g. phone, text or email.** Once your walk is full, with perhaps a reserve or 2, please let either Mike or Sally know, and they will mark the walk as Full on the website to avoid more people contacting you. Another thing to take into consideration is parking at start places as there will be no car sharing.

We hope that this interim system will work well with :

- No worrying that 40 people might turn up and where will they all go
- No committing to a walk months in advance, and missing a chance for a holiday or a visit to family elsewhere (if that ever happens!)

WALKERS

What you need to do:

- Keep an eye on the website for information as new walks appear - these will go on when we get them from leaders
- Check there are still spaces - don't contact the leader if there aren't.
- Contact the leader in the way they have asked
- Turn up, follow all the Government guidelines (social distancing etc.) and enjoy the walk
- **DON'T TURN UP IF YOU ARE NOT BOOKED ON, YOU WILL BE SENT HOME!!**

All of this will be reviewed at our next committee meeting at the end of April.

GROUP VOLUNTEERS 2021

Chairman:

Ann 07931114439

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Vice Chairman:

Sally 07818425088

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Group Secretary:

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Group Treasurer:

Brian W 01453 872220

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Membership Secretary:

Ros 07752397855

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Publicity Officer:

Vacant

Without portfolio:

Richard

Website: Mike & Sally

website@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

South Cots Newsletter: Sally

newsletter@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

Footpath Chairman and Footpath Secretary:

Malcolm

footpaths@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

Led Walks Programme Co-ordinator:

Mike 01453 873625

mike@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk



ONE DAY WE MIGHT HAVE WALKS WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE, LIKE THIS!!

NEW MEMBERS

Since the start of 2021 we have welcomed 10 new members - Patricia, Christopher, Gina, Dirk, Neil, Steve, David, Damien, Phil and Susan. We look forward to meeting you in person on our walks.

Ros (Membership Secretary)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE STONE STILES

Some of you might be interested in this project being organised by the Council for the Protection of Rural England to create a record of stone stiles in the county.

www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/

EMAIL V POST

We currently have 360 members. At the moment roughly 60 of those receive their newsletters by post. For these 60 people to have paper copies of newsletter 3 times a year it costs **£4.20** per person for the printing, the stamps, the envelopes. There is also the time that the poor Membership Secretary has to spend collecting the newsletters from the printers, putting them in envelopes and posting them. The cost for the other 300 is **83p** per person (the cost of the website).

However it is not just the cost and the time spent on this. Probably more importantly, **it dictates how frequently we can communicate with the whole group (or rather how infrequently)**. With the constantly changing scenarios of the moment, this is a major disadvantage. It prevents us from reacting to changing circumstances.

We definitely do not want to exclude people who genuinely have no access to the internet, but we are convinced that many of those 60 people will have had to be able to do various tasks online in order to survive during the pandemic. NOW is the time to think about letting us know if you have an email address. If this is so, can you email our Membership Secretary, Ros, at membership@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk and she will sort it out for you.

SLOW WAYS

We were sent this letter which we think Ramblers members might be interested to hear about.

Slow Ways is a new organisation who, working in collaboration with Ordnance Survey, have developed a proposed network of 110,000 km of existing pathways to join all towns and cities and thousands of villages as directly as possible. Ultimately the plan is for a nation map of routes that will be searchable and allow route planning. All routes start at central places such as bus and train stations and pass through stopping places such as pubs, shops, cafes. The organisation is at the stage of having the full map of proposed routes that now need walking testing and recording. They are looking for 10,000 walkers to undertake this task. People can sign up as individuals or as groups.

Information about this can be found on www.slowways.uk

COTSWOLD WAY ASSOCIATION

The Cotswold Way Association (CWA) is a registered charity dedicated to preserving and improving the Cotswold Way and other major trails in the Cotswolds. Our web site is: www.cotswoldwayassociation.org.uk Our fund raising enables maintenance and improvements to our trails for the benefit of everyone. This includes creating new circular walks and opening up access to less able-bodied people. We're working closely with the Trails and Access Officer of the Cotswold National Landscape to ensure most needed projects are dealt with. It's great that the pandemic has prompted many more people to get out and enjoy our trails but, as you are no doubt aware, this has taken a heavy toll on the paths. We are therefore trying to raise funds to help fix the problem areas so that they continue to be enjoyed by us all.

You can help us by ...

- Becoming a member of the CWA by going to <http://cotswoldwayassociation.org.uk/join-us/> and following the on-line application, OR
- Making a donation to the CWA by going to our fundraising page <http://cotswoldwayassociation.org.uk/fundraising/>

All funds raised by the CWA go directly into projects. We are all volunteers, so donors know their generosity is not being used on administration and overheads.

We are also seeking volunteers to join us and help shape the way we support the Cotswold Way and other major trails in the future. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining us.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support. *John Bartram, Cotswold Way Association Secretary*