



South Cotswold Ramblers' Group

Newsletter - December 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

Welcome to our new-look Walks Programme

With this brief newsletter you will have received our January/February 2022 Walks Programme. We also think you should keep it as a souvenir - it might be the only one of its kind and could become a collector's item (more of that later). We also think we should explain why we have changed it.

We realised quite early that, however dedicated we all are, no-one was going to be prepared to put the amount of time into the South Cotswold Ramblers that Mike had done over decades, and so we needed to simplify/streamline things. You probably don't realise this, but each of your walks has to be cut and pasted line by line into ramblers.org.uk, and in addition to that, Mike was also repeating the same process to compile our own walks programme that you know and love. A massive task. So we have decided to reduce the time spent on this and produce this programme directly from the ramblers.org.uk site.

However the reason I say that this might be a "limited edition" is because Ramblers is having a revamp, including the area where walks details go. So this means that our walks programmes will be completely different. Ann, Karen and I did an online information session where Ramblers.uk seemed to be advocating no printed walks programmes and an online rolling programme, but we'll see what happens.

What else is new?

Ramblers Head office is changing their logo and redesigning their website. Not sure about the value of rebranding, (though it does show walking as a more normal activity, and not just mountain climbing) but their current website is a mess, where it is difficult to find what you need. Ros, our membership secretary, has real problems trying to get basic information from their database of our members, so hopefully things will be improved.

There were some screams of horror when we were told that all Ramblers groups were to have a page (maximum 2 pages) on their main website, fearing that our own website which we are so proud of would disappear. Ann and I sat through a presentation on this where it became very clear that more than half the groups have their own websites and that these are going to continue. What in fact is going to happen is that at the start of the new year we are going to be invited to submit text and photos for these 2 pages, but it will include a link to our own website, which will carry on as normal. See below about photos for this.

A single photo that sums us up??

If anyone has got any suggestions for a photo that we have somewhere on our website that is the epitome of the South Cotswold Ramblers and makes us distinct from all the other groups, could you let Sally know your choice please. Just the year and month it appears, which walk and which number it is on that page e.g. Rodborough Dec 2018 3rd photo down. Email sally@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk. This is a competition with NO PRIZES but LOTS OF GLORY!! I will need it by the 5th Jan 2022 please.

Words, quotes for the Ramblers web page

Similarly if there are any words, phrases or quotes that you think would help us put together this picture in words of what we represent as a group, could you also email them to sally@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk by 5th January.

Midweek walks

Although we have fallen back into our old regime of midweek walks predominantly being on Wednesdays, we feel strongly that we should keep the flexible system of allowing leaders to have complete freedom of choice on days of the week. Ros and I led a walk on a Thursday in November. We chose it because one of us couldn't do the Wednesday, but on our walk was someone who worked for the NHS whose only day off was Thursday and who had tried unsuccessfully to reduce her hours, but, given the demands on all their employees, this was turned down. By keeping our flexible option to days, we are supporting more people, and maybe even finding new leaders who didn't volunteer because they weren't free on a Wednesday. Since the pandemic we have gained several new leaders who are on your January/February programme, though it would be lovely to have more of our "old" (i.e. previous) leaders back as well.

Leaders

Be assured that your Walk Date Booking forms and your Submit a Walk forms have been going to Karen, our new walks coordinator, from the start, even though some of them come back with Mike's email or mobile number on. We are in the process of getting these removed and by the time we are collecting for the next programme this will have been changed. Your completed forms are also backed up on our website so nothing should get lost.

Karen has done an excellent job of mastering how to update the Walk Planning Progress page on our website and putting your walks on the ramblers.org.uk page, whence our walks programme comes (can I still use "whence"??)

A big **Thank you** to the leaders who have come forward and made our January/February Walks programme possible. Well done to Alex L and Loren who will be leading their first walks for the group. They have been mentored by Ann and me (though they really didn't need it!) We are both happy to do that for anyone else who would like this support. It was more a matter of talking about important issues when choosing a walk, walking it over with them, and being around to backmark for them. You can get in touch with Ann on 0793 111 4439 or me (Sally) on 07818 425088 if you would like us to help you with your first walk as a leader.

We will be discussing at our next committee meeting as to whether we need to stick with a 2 monthly walks programme, return to our 4 monthly one, or compromise on 3 months.

Gloucestershire Area AGM

You should have received via mailchimp Notice of Gloucestershire Area AGM, minutes of their 2021 AGM and their Annual report sent out on their behalf by Ros, our membership secretary, on 13 December (Area cannot send these directly to you, but depend on groups to send them out for them). Any problems, contact www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

