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Walks Programme

All the latest information about our walks programme is available on our website: bristolramblers.org.uk. Any additional walks are added as they are submitted. To see all the walks on specific days, or of specific lengths or difficulties, go to bristolramblers.org.uk/display-programme. From this page you can also download or print the list of walks, or add walks to your calendar.

Walking with other Ramblers groups

Remember that your Ramblers membership entitles you to join walks all over the country. Locally, avon-ramblers.org.uk lists forthcoming walks organised by the eight Ramblers groups in the Avon area.

During the summer, there are also Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks that start at various railway stations along the Bristol to Weymouth route:

www.wessexrailwaywalks.org.uk/

Some walks from the July programme

This is just a small taster selection of the walks that are available. Always check the website for the full, up-to-date programme:

www.bristolramblers.org.uk/display-programme

Wed 8th July – Goblin Coombe (B walk, 6 miles)

A moderate walk through woods and pasture with a steep ascent and steps.

We start walking along the bottom of Goblin Coombe, before a steep ascent (some steps) to the crag top with views. We descend through more woodland to the edge of the wood at Spying Copse. We walk through open pasture and along a lane before entering Corporation Woods, passing Woolmer's House, then walking through King's Wood and returning to the start.

Note that woodland paths in the combe may be muddy. Please wear suitable footwear. Also, the car park has limited spaces, so please car-share if possible.

Note The Ramblers return to the Goblin Coombe area for a longer walk on Sunday 26th of July.

Sun 19th July – Nempnett Thrubwell and Beacon Batch (A walk, 15 miles)

The steep scramble up from the car park is the most demanding section of the walk. After skirting Burrington Ham, there is a more gentle ascent of Beacon Batch. The route circumnavigates Blagdon Lake, passing through Ubley Warren Nature Reserve, Ubley, Nempnett Thrubwell and Butcombe. There may be an afternoon pub stop at Blagdon, before returning to the start point. Extensive views, rolling Somerset countryside. For the pre-walk, there was a spectacular cloud inversion.

News and Events

Community Infrastructure Schemes

A number of small neighbourhood schemes are currently being considered for funding through Bristol City Council's Area Committees. Minor projects shortlisted under this scheme include a number of pedestrian crossings on and near Gloucester Road in Bishopston (Area 2), the 'transformation' of Oxford Street by the Temple Mead railway arches to increase pedestrian space and create a plaza-style area (Area 4), walkability improvements to Hotwells Corner and Dowry Square (Area 3), and many more.

For more information on the process and next stages, see:

campaign.emailblaster.cloud/MTkyNDA/181.html

To see all the applications, see: www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/people-and-communities/area-committee-local-funding/funding-for-local-projects (click on **Apply for Area Committee Funding** and scroll down)

Feature Articles

Wild Pony Welfare

One of the delights of walking the Welsh mountains is seeing the Welsh mountain ponies.

These semi-wild ponies have been roaming the Black Mountains for hundreds of years, but increasingly concerns are being raised about the number of ill and emaciated ponies among the herds.

Traditionally, these ponies have been managed by local smallholders and breeders.

However horses have been declining in value, and transport and sales now require checks and tracking that make wild ponies increasingly uneconomic as a commercial proposition. As a result, many of them have largely been abandoned to fend entirely for themselves in an area that is suffering from an increasing pony population and poor grazing due to the dry and hot summer weather of recent years.

The Welsh mountains are not the only places where ponies roam wild or feral in Britain; Dartmoor ponies have recently been in the news with fears that over-grazing on Dartmoor commons could result in the 'commoners' culling ponies instead of more commercially viable sheep, while in the New Forest all ponies are carefully managed, and their breeding carefully controlled by restricting stallion access.

Local people are increasingly calling for the Welsh ponies to be similarly controlled, particularly as it looks as though we're heading into another hot summer of dried-up grass.

For more information:

ITV news segment at www.itv.com/watch/news/we-meet-the-volunteers-stepping-up-to-save-wild-ponies-in-the-black-mountains/b8dr3zn?fbclid=IwY2xjawSt7KpleHRuA2FibQIxMQBicmlkETBUV2NYWFJSaUhiVmxHU0xlc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHpy5C-6rpTiLa6HmZ4KKnkrKZWNB0ssDjDK_0B-T1ok_uOHadGVFTnegcpUy_aem_lo2oLcRJ5EDkPYToxoTCIlg

The Black Mountains Pony Welfare Watch on Facebook at www.facebook.com/share/v/1GkiMCpF9T/



Ponies on the ridge near Pen y Gadair Fawr

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Editorial

I guess my last editorial spoke too soon about summer.

But as I gird my loins to face up to another beautiful summer full of sunshine and heat, just like the long hot summers of my childhood books (I would say ‘of my childhood’ but I was brought up in Scotland, so never mind), I once again face The Coffee Problem.

I’m sure you’re all familiar with it, in some form. It’s that moment where you pause after the first part of your morning hike, you settle down in the long grass with the sunshine beating down on you and the sky an implausibly deep blue overhead, to enjoy a well-earned coffee break; and realise that piping hot coffee is just *not* the thing you want to be pouring into your overheated face.

My usual café order, of a summer’s afternoon, is cold-brewed coffee and tonic. Unfortunately, this requires me to have remembered The Coffee Problem in advance and started cold-brewing before I went to bed. There is a 99% chance that I didn’t do this. And also, I never have the requisite slice of dried grapefruit to garnish, without which it’s just not the same.

Fine. So I’ll make a kind of iced latte. Of course, this has to involve actual ice, if it is not to be merely a kind of sad cold coffee, so here I alternate between the two failure modes of ‘the ice all melts over the course of the day so that by afternoon I’m drinking sad cold watery coffee’, and ‘the ice fails to melt at all so that by afternoon I’m sucking on coffee-flavoured ice cubes’.

Tea at least has some classic chilled recipes, but once again they ideally need to be brewed cold. This is also normally the point at which I discover that I don’t have any Earl Grey and that the lemon I have been saving for ‘I need a dash of lemon juice’ emergencies has gone mouldy in the bottom of the freezer.

Perhaps I should just switch to drinking flat Coke until October.

Ceiswyn

(pron. KICE-win)

Partners and Sponsors

For a full list of official Ramblers partners, see the website at:

www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/offers-and-promotions

Ramble Worldwide



Ramble Worldwide (previously Ramblers Walking Holidays) is the Ramblers holiday walking partner. If you book a holiday with Ramble Worldwide and let them know that you are a Bristol Ramblers member, this Group will receive a contribution (£10 for UK holidays, £20 for short haul, £30 for long haul). See www.rambleworldwide.co.uk/faqs#tab-the-walking-partnership

Note that this has no impact on the price you pay for the holiday.

Outdoor Retailers

Many outdoor gear shops offer discounts to Ramblers members, including chains such as Millets.

Cotswold Outdoor



Cotswold Outdoor is the Ramblers national sponsor, and their discount is 15%.

Note that Snow+Rock and Runners Need are part of the Cotswold Outdoor group.

Taunton Leisure



Taunton Leisure sponsors this local Group, and also offers 15% discounts. There are stores available in Bristol, Taunton and Exeter.

Books and Maps

Ordnance Survey

The Ordnance Survey are working with the Ramblers to open the way for everyone to enjoy the outdoors in a more accessible, safe and sustainable way.

Ramblers members can enjoy 25% off a new subscription to OS Maps Premium, using code RAMOSM. Additionally, £5 will be donated to the Ramblers for each valid subscription.

Cicerone Press



Cicerone publishes guide books for walkers and cyclists. They offer a 20% discount to Ramblers members, with the code RAMBLERS20.

You are receiving this communication as a member of the Bristol group and you have previously asked to be kept informed of the Ramblers work by email. If you no longer wish to receive communications like this, please update your mailing preferences at www.ramblers.org.uk/my-account.
