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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 August 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

Sun 16th August – Wellow (B walk, 11 miles)

The walk to the south of Bath has two fairly steep hills. From Wellow we climb the hill to Twinhoe, and then into Hinton Charterhouse for the coffee stop. There is then flat land to Norton St Philip. About two miles later we have the lunch stop in the pub called Tuckers Grave, where we will stay for about one hour.

The return is up the hill to Baggridge Farm and thence back to Wellow.

The walk has good views, especially from the top of the steep hills, so the climb is worth the effort!

Wed 26th August – Three Sodburys (B walk, 6 miles)

This walk was originally scheduled for the 24th of June, but had to be modified due to the June heatwave.

After leaving Chipping Sodbury alongside the river Frome, the walk begins and ends crossing fields mostly on the level. We climb to Old Sodbury Church at the edge of the Cotswolds for a coffee break with good views, before climbing further to the hill fort and descending to Little Sodbury.

News and Events

Committee Meeting 7th July

A committee meeting was held in July, starting on time despite the best attempts of the Chair to double-book herself.

The main discussion, once again, focused on the shortage of walk leaders. Particularly for Wednesday and Saturday there have been weeks where no walk could be offered, and the Sunday walks are increasingly relying on the efforts of a few stalwarts. At the request of the Saturday Coordinator it was agreed that a request would be put to Sunday leaders, to see whether they might be willing to lead Wednesday or Saturday walks on weeks that would otherwise have no walk, but the committee agreed that this is a sticking-plaster solution that does not address the underlying problem.

On the bright side, there is currently money available in area funds for first aid training for leaders and would-be leaders. The Bristol group previously offered first aid training a little over two years ago; anyone from that cohort who wishes to retain their first aid certification would therefore need to attend training again within the next year. First aid training is a valuable skill; prompt treatment can literally save lives. The committee will return to this subject in their next meeting; in the meantime, anyone who is interested in renewing their certificate or in learning outdoor first aid should contact their walks coordinator or the Chair.

There was also a discussion about the new Bristol Ring walk designed by Bristol City Council and GoJauntly. The route is not currently waymarked, but the app provides detailed instructions, including visuals, that make the walk (and its sub-sections) accessible to non-walkers even without waymarking. The committee hopes that initiatives such as this encourage more people to take up walking and enjoy the outdoors, and agreed to include a link to the GoJauntly web page on the website.

The next committee meeting will be after the Bristol AGM, which will be held on Wednesday 21st October.

New Wednesday Walks Coordinator Needed

For many years our Wednesday walks programme has been stalwartly organised by Margaret R. Unfortunately Margaret has of late been unable to join many of the walks that she has scheduled, and feels that she is no longer the right person to be coordinating leaders for the Wednesday walks. In December at the latest, she will be stepping down as Wednesday Walks Coordinator.

The committee would like to extend its appreciation to Margaret for all the hard work she has done; she will be much missed.

If you would like to see Wednesday walks continue, please consider stepping up! No walk leadership experience is required, though some acquaintance with the current regular walkers and leaders is essential. Please contact Margaret and Ceiswyn B if you are interested, or if you would just like to know more about the role.

The committee also recognises that the walks programme in its current form may not suit the current needs of its members. If you think there might be demand for walks

on a different day, and would like to experiment with setting up a new programme, please contact Ceiswyn B.

Somer Valley Walking Festival (Sept 11-13th)

The Annual Somer Valley Walking Festival will be taking place from 11th to 13th September 2026, with a programme of walks to suit walkers with a range of preferences. Tea/coffee and cake will be served at the end of each walk.

This year the walks will start at Radstock, which is accessible easily from Bath by bus; note that car parking is free at Radstock on Sundays.

All walk details can be found on the Avon Ramblers web site: www.avon-ramblers.org.uk/walks/walks-programme.html

YHA Festival of Walking (Sept 11 to Oct 11)

The Youth Hostel Association are once again running a Festival of Walking this autumn, with hostels providing activities, route maps, and organised social walks.

For more information, see: www.yha.org.uk/festival-of-walking

For organised walks within easy reach of Bristol, see: www.yha.org.uk/festival-of-walking/social-walks#south-west and www.yha.org.uk/festival-of-walking/social-walks#wales

Crossing the border with an English bus pass

Those with an English bus pass may not be aware that it can also be used to travel to and from some locations on the Welsh border:

- Bristol to Chepstow on the T7 bus
- Chepstow to Monmouth and back on the 69 bus
- Chepstow to Mitcheldean via Lydney and Cinderford on route 72 (providing the journey ends in Gloucestershire) and back again
- Chepstow to Beachley on route C4

This offers access to some beautiful areas for walking, or just enjoying.

Feature Articles

Editorial

Every year I promise myself that I will take full advantage of summer for lots of long, rugged, beautiful walks in the sun. This never happens.

Nor am I alone; Ramblers summer walks are often surprisingly poorly attended, as regular walkers take the opportunity to go off for long holidays, or spend time with children or grandchildren, or simply hide from the summer heat. But instead of despairing at the disappearing opportunities, it's worth remembering that summer is not actually the best season for walking (I tell myself, as I give my cat his fourth set of eye drops for the day while I stare yearningly out towards the hills).

Summer walks mean bracken or nettles crowding the trails, leaving welts across your exposed skin or keeping you awake from the prickling of stings. Summer walks mean hot, sweaty ascents. Summer walks mean biting insects that leave you scratching for the next week (unless you're walking with me to act as a sacrifice).

Summer is not the ideal season for hiking that we all dreamed of back in January; but it doesn't have to be. There are plenty of other ways to enjoy the outdoors in summer.

For starters, there is outdoor swimming. Now is the time to return to those tempting little beaches and rivers that you walked past in other seasons! The internet has plenty of information that will tell you if a location is safe (I was very disappointed to have to give up some lovely-looking beaches that would apparently smash me on hidden rocks), and if you follow the basic precautions (check for dangers downstream, take a friend with you, always get in slowly to avoid cold shock, etc) you can frolic very happily in some very picturesque cool water instead of staggering uphill under threat of heat stroke.

Bristol and environs also have some very nice outdoor archaeology that you can stroll around for cheap or even free (depending on whether you can find parking).

A visiting friend was the impetus for me to remember that there is both a castle with attached country park and a set of impressive Roman ruins within two and a half miles of my house in South Wales; both of them entirely free to stroll around (though I didn't dare look at the prices in the castle café).

So if you too are finding yourself with fewer walking opportunities than you might have hoped, try not to despair. There are plenty of other things to get up to in the meantime; and even this year, the heat probably won't last forever. Probably.

Ceiswyn

(pron. KICE-win)



Swimming in the Usk
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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.
