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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 September 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 16th September – Flax Bourton/Tyntesfield Estate/Wraxall (B walk, 6 miles)

A moderate, circular walk with one gentle ascent and no stiles, including crossing part of the lovely grounds of Tyntesfield (a National Trust estate). The terrain is across fields, on woodland paths and cycle path.

After the walk there is the possibility of lunch at the George Inn, Backwell or The Greedy Goose cafe/Gatcombe Farm shop near Long Ashton.

Sun 20th September – Sugar Loaf (A walk, 14 miles)

We start from the fringes of Abergavenny and climb gradually to the ridge of Deri. After a stretch of fairly level walking the route becomes steeper to reach the summit of Sugar Loaf. A gradual descent eventually reaches our lunch stop at Llangenny. On resuming the walk we soon see a remarkable tree before a steady climbs leads us Mynydd Llanwenarth. A long easy stretch follows before we visit a fine stretch of woodland. It is then an easy walk to take us back to the cars.

Note that this walk is suited to fit and experienced hikers only. The total ascent is around 3,000 feet.

News and Events

New Wednesday Walks Coordinator Needed

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

Alternatively, the committee recognises that the walks programme has been in its current form for some time now, and may no longer suit the needs or preferences 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.

Free Outdoor Training for 18-26 year olds

The Ramblers is offering two days of outdoor training for young adults in order to encourage more young people to get out and enjoy our walking landscape. The “Out There Award” introduces outdoor skills such as rights of way and map-reading, and then puts those skills into practice on a local walk.

As well as a certificate, anyone taking part receives a goody bag and a year’s free Ramblers membership – what more could anyone want?

There are events scheduled in Caerphilly this Saturday, and at Blaise Castle on September 12th, for anyone (or their friends or family) interested in taking advantage.

For more information see: www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/out-there-award

Feature Articles

Editorial

*Before the Roman came to Rye or out to Severn strode,
The rolling English drunkard made the rolling English road.
A reeling road, a rolling road, that rambles round the shire,
And after him the parson ran, the sexton and the squire;
A merry road, a mazy road, and such as we did tread
The night we went to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head.*

I feel like G. K. Chesterton would have fitted right in on a Ramblers walk.

Having spent a certain amount of time striding out towards the Severn myself, I can see the appeal of his theory that our footpaths were made by drunkards. What else could explain that bridleway near Tintern that would break the leg of any horse foolish enough to venture down it, or the two rights of way near Chew Lake that part ways near the field boundary and rejoin on the other side, a whole five metres later?

Some, one can understand. That right of way I followed curiously that really did just terminate suddenly at the end of a giant field and abandon me to stumble guiltily and trespassily (look, it's a word now, OK?) around wet barley for a couple of miles – that had clearly once continued across the woodland beyond the field, until the Ministry of Defence had built a ruddy great fence around the wood and erected “keep out” signs. The sensible thing to do would have been to remove the right of way entirely to save innocent Ceiswyns from walking up them for a mile, but they hadn't, and so there still lies the long stub, a trap to the unwary. Why yes, yes I am still bitter.

Drover's roads that nobody drives livestock down anymore to markets that are now under water; the reason for the path is gone but the path is still there, and one can while away the odd five minutes on a ramble trying to figure out what useful places a given path might once have gone between, while at the same time enjoying its current state of picturesque overgrowth. Our rolling English (and Welsh) roads preserve our history, though we may not recognise it, and there can be something spiritual in the awareness that we are following in the very literal footsteps of the people who lived in this land long before us.

There can be something much less spiritual in the discovery that the old path on the map has been entirely swallowed up by brambles and that we're going to need to retrace our steps and find another way. Footpaths can develop meanders over time as trees fall or the winter mud creates obstacles to be worked around; but a path unwalked just disappears entirely with frightening rapidity, and each one takes a tiny bit of our heritage with it.

So as you ramble round the shire, perhaps with the odd unexpected scenic diversion, you're not only following in the footsteps of those before you but leaving an important legacy to those who come after. And, if Chesterton was right, we may even find a decent inn at the end of it all.

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.
