



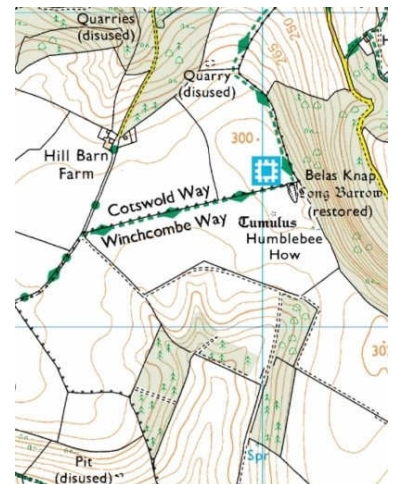
Cirencester Group at Belas Knap

### Ancient Ways

Over the past few months I've been out walking with many Gloucestershire groups, all doing what we enjoy - walking the countryside in all its forms. It's not just about green fields and sheep. It's a working countryside. Most features we see are man made, many from hundreds or even thousands of years ago. Eating sandwiches on Belas Knap at 1pm with Cirencester group, it was striking this was mid-day GMT, the sun was to the south, at its highest point of the day and shining the full length of the long barrow.

When established circa 4000 BC, with its western portal facing the setting sun at the spring and autumn equinoxes, it's believed it was used as a place of celebration. But why build it here? It's now thought that the track a few hundred yards west running north-south through Hill Barn Farm to Winchcombe could be an even earlier trading route. With clear views across west to the Malverns, east (pre-trees) to Oxfordshire and passing trade, what could be a better place?

Our landscape is full of this network of tracks and paths. The Cotswold Way follows a route shown in the photo above, across the short plain where many travellers could once have camped.



(map courtesy Bing and OS)

Over at Bredon Hill when the Saxons used its south facing slopes for lucrative agriculture, they modified many field boundaries to square up the fields. However they knew not to upset local travellers so kept historic footpaths along their original line which can often be found diagonal to the fields.

Maintaining paths this way continues to this day. Some months ago Mid-Glos group led a walk along the urban footpaths of Leckhampton past allotments, between back to back gardens and some 50s-60s estate roads following an historic path.

More recently the aim can be to create a green corridor around a path, shown in a recent planning application at Fairford (courtesy edp and Cotswold District Council)



Over time footpaths and tracks see many changes in the landscape through which they pass. When using these paths, not only can we value our rural or agricultural heritage, we can often understand the reasons for our built and industrial heritage too.

One of our challenges as ramblers is to try to keep these rights of way, not only for us today but for future generations of walkers who follow in our foot steps. We can do more as a team. Can you help? Bernard Gill [chair@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:chair@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

## 2014 AGM 10:00am Saturday 6th December

Hosted by Cleeve Group: Woodmancote Village Hall,  
Bushcombe Lane, nr Bishops Cleeve GL52 9HX SO971274

10:30 Introduction and Speaker from Central Office,  
11:00 Reports from 2014 and elections for 2015.  
12:30 Bring and share Lunch  
13:30 Short afternoon walk around Woodmancote

Your local ramblers Team needs you! If you can spare some time through 2015 please contact Ray Chaney  
[Secretary@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk) 01453 811545  
Volunteer posts are:-

### Chair

Keeps us moving forwards

### Vice chair

Stand in for above

### Secretary

Deals with correspondence

### Assistant Secretary

Keeps key minutes of meetings

### Footpath Secretary

Contact between Groups, County Council and Central Office

### Walking Environment Secretary

Comments on planning applications

### Access Officer

Seeks out unrecorded paths

### Publicity Officer

Lets everyone know what we do

### Webmaster

Learn how to use Wordpress

### Newsletter Editor

Publishes our news

### Membership Secretary

Helps make sure our members are happy

### Treasurer

Checks we spend no more than we raise

## Chipping Campden Cotswold Way Marker Stone



Ramblers in Gloucestershire have had a long association with the Cotswold Way. When we learned that plans were afoot for a marker stone in the Market Square, highlighting many of the towns and villages along the way, we naturally felt we should be involved. The project is to allow walkers travelling the route to feel they've reached a start or finish point. There is already a similar stone in Bath. Such a stone doesn't come cheap, so together with Central Office we've pledged support from our Waymarker fund. (Although at 1.4metres diameter it's slightly larger than a standard marker!)

The unveiling ceremony will be at Noon Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. We hope to have a stall in the Market Hall and walk to the Stone.

## Gloucestershire Ramblers-OS Project

This unique project is still active, so if when you're out walking the countryside you find that a pub, telephone box or other feature isn't quite where it should be on the map please let your Group footpath contact know for forwarding to OS for consideration or email [footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

## Jill Byrne

A brief note offering thanks & kind wishes to Jill our long standing Area Footpath Secretary who has stood down due to short illness.

## Bowmoor Lake

Our Group Walks are one way we monitor footpaths across the county but our footpath volunteers (would you like to be one?) also regularly check footpaths in their patch. Many issues are easily resolvable but sometimes it can be more difficult. It's always useful to have local support.

The path to the north of Bowmoor Lake is part of a network linking paths and track in the Cotswold Water Park. Like many others, when the lake was excavated the track was kept in place and used by many walkers. In recent times a developer has been erecting holiday lodges between the track and the lake and each time has requested a 12 month 'temporary' closure of the path. As local people have stated, 5 years is not a temporary closure. The path survived construction of the lakes either side so surely should be able to survive construction of lodges too.



Access by footpath allows us to see our influence on the landscape over the years for better or worse. (map courtesy Bing and OS) We have again pressed the County Council not to support a further closure and a local Councillor has organised a petition for presentation to the County Council. We're in contact and currently hoping this will at last allow the closure to be lifted.

## Group Reports

### North Cotswold

Our walks programme has continued to be a mix of circular and Figure of 8 walks, the latter intended to suit members who prefer a morning only walk of 5 or 6 miles.

This year the Group is walking the second half of "The Palladian Way" from Hatherop to Bath in monthly sections. We have a full Villager bus of 16 walkers plus a trio of retired walkers who join us for lunch.

Our willing Group member and driver, David Bell, transports us to the start every month and collects us from various pick-up points in order that we can all enjoy a relaxing pub lunch. The Palladian architecture has not been as obvious in the walks this year but we have enjoyed walking round the villages of Bibury and Castle Combe and through delightful woodland to Box Tunnel and Dundas Aqueduct. We were lucky to be joined by the book's author, Guy Vowles, on the section round Malmesbury. He selected an unusual morning coffee stop – The Mortuary Chapel at Cowage Farm!!  
Sue Salmon



### Cirencester



On Sunday 29th June, following a short walk, over 70 members and guests gathered at Chedworth Village Hall for our annual Strawberry Tea. After tucking into some 12kg of strawberries washed down with 5L of cream and numerous homemade cakes, Stuart Dyer, one of five group chair and ex-chair persons present spoke of his early memories of rambling with the group. This was followed by a speech from Benedict Southworth, Ramblers CEO, who congratulated Cirencester Ramblers on reaching their 40th Birthday and wished them another successful 40 years.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> August saw the opening of The Clemence Gate (named after Jean and Peter {deceased} Clemence who were founder members of the group and acknowledged their 100% commitment and involvement with the Cirencester group over many years). They were joined by Sid Mathews whose four generations of family have used this path over the last 100+ years. This was funded by the group as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

We also took part in the Totally Thames - Source to Sea River Relay in August, filling a bottle of water near the source of the Thames at Kemble and walking the 24 miles to Lechlade to hand it over to the lockkeeper from where it will do the rest of journey by river to the Tower of London.

Pat Beckley, Cirencester Group Secretary

### Mid Glos Group

Led by our Hon. Sec. Geoff Smithdale the Group took on the 52 mile **New** Wychavon Way walk from Broadway to Droitwich. The walk will follow a new amended 2012 route and we hope to complete it soon into 2015. The first 'leg' was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> July; Broadway to Aston-under-Hill, eight and a half miles of easy walking. Details of further sections will be added to the walks page of our Website ([www.midglosramblers.btck.co.uk](http://www.midglosramblers.btck.co.uk)). Why not join us?

Des Smyth (Chairman)



### Cleeve Group



Again Cleeve has maintained a full programme of weekly Sunday walks and monthly shorter walks on the first Wednesday. Numbers attending have remained stable on both. We are still in need of new/more walk leaders. Our winter programme is complete and due for publication shortly. The footpath committee remains active with no shortage of issues to deal with.

A boat trip from Upton to Worcester was well attended and enjoyed by a group of over twenty. There are plans for a walking holiday in Spring and a skittles bowl up in November. It's amazing how many directions the bowls can take. Winchcombe Medical centre asked us for help with a poster on a theme of walking.

Cleeve AGM in November had threatened to be an issue but a volunteer secretary stepped forward and other officers are standing again. We look forward to hosting the Gloucestershire Area AGM in December.

Cleeve Group would like to express their appreciation and thanks to Jill Byrne for her service to Rambling in Gloucestershire. Her knowledge and commitment will be sorely missed, we wish her well.

Brian Payne, Cleeve Group Chairman

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA MID-WEEK WALKS

Sorry, no dogs except registered assistance dogs

2014

**Wed 5 Nov 10:00 11m Malverns Catherine**  
**01452 61382** Park British Camp CP (£3.00 fee) SO 763404.  
Walk to Evendine then up to Worcestershire Beacon. Hilly walk with superb views. Picnic.

**Wed 12 Nov 10:00 10m Three Forest Ponds Marion & Trevor**  
**01242 235423 or 07729 822636 (walk morning)** Car Park on N side of B4226, 500m E of Speech House, SO 624124. Walk Speech House Lake, Mallards Pike Lake, Cannop Ponds. Pub lunch at Fountain Inn Parkend, or picnic. Leader will collect food orders before walk. Possibility of two courses "pensioners lunch" for £6.00!

**Tues 18 Nov 10:00 10m Gloucester Beeches Diana**  
**01242 578777 or 07528 697023 (walk morning)** Gloucester Beeches CP, SO 958120. Walk Brimpsfield and Elkstone. Picnic.

**Wed 26 Nov 10:00 12m Bella Vista Guy**  
**01242 251412 or 07968 797186 (walk morning)** Meet Quarry CP beyond Cleeve Hill Golf Club SO 989271. Walk around Cleeve Hill escarpment to Wontley farm and Belas Knap, Sudeley Castle. Pub lunch, café or picnic in Winchcombe. Return via Langley Hill Farm and Rushberry House. Tea in club house after?

**Thu 4 Dec 10:00 10m Leckhampton Hill Geoff**  
**01531 650349 or 07528 697023 (walk morning)** Meet CP at back of Leckhampton Hill, SO 951179. Walk Seven Springs, Pegglesworth, Upper Coberley & Ullenwood. Picnic.

**Wed 10 Dec 10:00 10m Forest of Dean Mike**  
**01594 562341** Speech House Woodlands CP, SO 623124. A route exploring some of the Industrial Archaeology of the Forest of Dean, including the former sites of Trafalgar and Waterloo collieries. Also via Woorgreen, Linear Park and Cannop. Picnic.

**Wed 17 Dec 10:00 7m Bisley Walk and Christmas Dinner at the Stirrup Cup Roy**  
**01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk day)** Park at Village Hall CP, SO 905062. Morning walk only from Bisley to Througham and Sudgrove. Afternoon: Christmas dinner at the Stirrup Cup. Please contact Roy in November for details.

**Wed 31 Dec 10:00 11m Pegglesworth Roy**  
**01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning)** Trying again on New Year's Eve with last year's very wet New Year's Day walk! Park on layby on A436, SO 989185. Walk: Castle Barn Farm, Upper Dowdeswell, Andoversford, Shipton Oliffe, Withington, Upcote Farm, Thorndale, Foxcote, Pegglesworth. Picnic.

2015

**Wed 7 Jan 10:00 12m Moreton-in Marsh Roy**  
**01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning)** Park considerably in Fossey Avenue (first turn on right opposite petrol station coming from Stow on A429.), SP 208317. Walk: Evenlode, Adlestrop, Chastleton, Frogmore, Dunstall Farm. Picnic.

**Wed 14 Jan 10:00 10m Frampton-on-Severn Des**  
**01242 245666 or 07939 615749 (walk morning)** Start from middle of village near the pub, SO 746076. Walk Severn Way, Arlingham, Framilode and return via canal path. Picnic.

### GRWalks (aka the Composite Programme)

**GRWalks lists all the led walks from Area Mid-Week Walks, the seven geographical Gloucestershire groups and the Gloucestershire Walking Group (for 20s 30s & 40s) in convenient date order. See [www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](http://www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)**

**NO COMPUTER? Send one or more 9x6 inch SAEs to editor Mike Garner (GRWalks), Southcot, The Headlands, Stroud GL5 5PS.**

**Wed 21 Jan 10:00 10m Woodmancote Gerry & Ann**  
**01242 674107 or 07984 266321 (walk morning)** Park in Apple Tree CP (furthest away from pub) in Stockwell Lane Woodmancote, SO 975273. A hilly walk passing through Gotherington Halt, Dixon & Cleeve Hill. Picnic.

**Wed 28 Jan 10:00 10m Miserden Susanne**  
**01453 757212 or 07768 403530 (walk morning)** Park considerably in Miserden village and meet by pub, SO 937089. Walk Caudle Green, Winstone and Edgeworth. Picnic.

**Wed 4 Feb 10:00 9.5m Ozleworth & Tresha Richard P**  
**01454 260397 or 07984 853775 (walk morning)** Newark Park NT CP, ST 781932. Walk Newark Park, Ozleworth Bottom then climb up to Boxwell, Hens Cliff, Tresham, Alderley. Return via Cotswold way to Newark Park. Picnic. 950 feet ascent, one opt out en route.

**Wed 11 Feb 10:00 10m Haresfield Beacon Wendy & Andy**  
**01453 885498** Shortwood CP, SO 831086. Walk Stockend, Painswick (picnic lunch, pub for drinks), Pitchcombe.

**Wed 18 Feb 10:00 10.5m North Cotswolds Arnold**  
**01242 603576 or 07789 317291 (walk morning)** Park in Fish Hill CP, SP 120368. Walk Broadway Tower, Broadway, Saintbury, Weston Subedge, Dovers Hill, Chipping Campden. Picnic.

**Wed 25 Feb 10:00 10m Longhope David & Henrietta**  
**01452 302024 or 07831 234790 (walk morning)** Park in layby on A4136, west of Longhope, SO 682187. Walk Hope Wood, Welshbury Wood, Chestnut Hill, Flaxley. Return through fields. Picnic.



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**01707 386804**

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