



Above North Cotswold Group waving their flags at Farmcote Church as part of the Ramblers 9 day **Walk About festival from 3 -11 September**
 Below Cirencester Group have their flags too and 'met the artist' at an evening walk around the famous Hare Trail in Cirencester



Why not sign up to ramblers.org.uk/walkabout ? There is still time to register how far you walk and apparently there are badges to be won!
 (Supported by the People's Postcode Lottery)

Festival of Winter Walks

If you're interested in festivals and walking please let your friends know about the Festival of Winter Walks from mid December to January. It's a great way of getting out & meeting other walkers over the festive break.

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TZ

Ramblers GB has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer.

Vanessa Griffiths joins from the National Trust in Wales. With over 10 years in the charity sector, Vanessa was a top civil servant in Welsh government.

Gloucestershire Ramblers first became aware of Vanessa when she spoke with passion about walking and ramblers at Ramblers Wales General Council- we attend as a visitor.



Dates for Diary

- Fri 04 Nov Forest of Dean AGM 7 for 7:30pm**
 The Catholic Church Hall, Nash Road, Coleford. GL16 8HN
- Sat 12 Nov South Cotswold AGM**
 Rodborough Tabernacle, Stroud GL5 3UJ
- Thu 17 Nov Cleeve AGM 7 for 7:30pm**
 Southam Village Hall School Lane GL52 3NS
- Wed 23 Nov Area Groups Council 7:30pm**
 Gloucester Room Premier Inn A38 Twigworth GL2 9PG
- Sun 20 Nov GWG Working Age & 20-30s AGM 1.30 pm**
 The Sherborne Arms, Aldsworth GL54 2RB
- Thu 24 Nov Gloucester AGM 7.30pm**
 The Pavillion, Birchhall Lane, Upton-St-Leonards GL4 8AD
- Sat 26 Nov North Cotswold AGM 10am walk**
 Walk, lunch and AGM, Blockley Little Village Hall
- Sun 27 Nov Cirencester AGM walk then 12:30**
 Ampney Crucis Village Hall GL7 5RY
- Sat 17 Dec to Sun 8 Jan Festival of Winter Walks**

- Sat 14 Jan 2017 Area AGM 10 for 10:30am**
 Rodborough Tabernacle, Stroud GL5 3UJ
- Wed 25 Jan 2017 Area Groups Council (pos) 7:30pm**
 Gloucester Room Premier Inn A38 Twigworth GL2 9PG

An ongoing diary of Group and Area meetings etc allows any interested member to visit and see how we work.

Volunteering

Ramblers locally and nationally wouldn't survive without its volunteers – members who are able to lend that extra piece of time to join committee teams to try to make sure footpaths are available to current and future generations.

The most popular way of joining a team is 'to be asked' but how do we know who to ask?
 If you feel you can help one way or another why not pop along to a Group or Area meeting? Or quietly let us know your interest on a walk. There's always room for one more



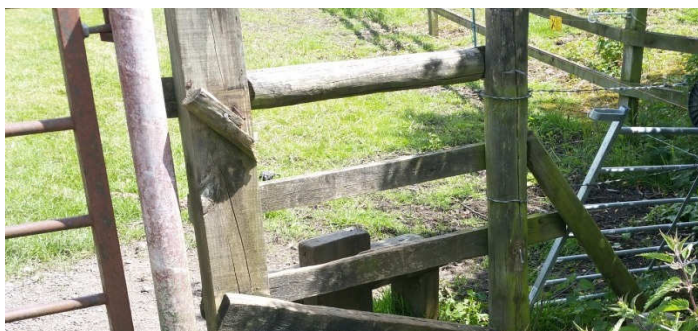
Cleeve members and guests at Cheltenham racecourse for a ride on the GWR Steam Railway and a walk back over Cleeve Hill.

All Change at Cheltenham Spa!

Over the past few months we've been again reviewing the way we support members within Cheltenham. Since the last change almost 2 years ago Cleeve Group has been looking after footpath work in Cheltenham. Cleeve's District also covers Tewkesbury Borough, east of Cleeve Hill to west of the Severn at Tirley and includes the towns of Tewkesbury and Winchcombe. At the same time Cheltenham Spa Walkers was set up to try to organise walks based around Cheltenham. Unfortunately it's proved difficult trying to maintain a walks programme. Members support our work in many ways and there are a number of walking opportunities for members in Cheltenham, including groups affiliated to Ramblers such as Cheltenham Rambling Club and Cotswold Rambling Club.

Cleeve Group has kindly offered to help link up CSW members with Cleeve's efforts around Cheltenham. We're currently asking CSW members if they'd like to move over to Cleeve (or to any other local ramblers groups). Once that's complete it seems inevitable Cheltenham Spa Walkers will come to a close. We're grateful to everyone who's been involved over the years and with Mid-Glos Group previously. We hope the change works well both for Cheltenham and for Cleeve and strengthens Ramblers within the Area.

British Standard BS5709 and Dodgy Stiles



Ever seen a stile in dire need of repair and wonder why it hasn't been fixed? It could be due to BS5709. To comply the preference is for a gap (if no livestock) self closing gate or kissing gate and no barbed wire within 1 metre. The remains of the stile above give the 1metre barbed wire free space to the unlocked gate on the left, which is now prime means of access. Good or bad?

Let us know about a footpath issue and see it appear at ramblers.org.uk/news/news/volunteer-success-stories/map-of-successes.aspx

Winchcombe Country Show 29 August 2016

A lovely sunny August Bank Holiday Monday we were delighted again to share a tent with Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome .



It's a great way of meeting walkers and helps show the way the Ramblers tries to keep footpaths open for everyone on foot. There are huge benefits to health, well-being and the economy of a community. Historic Winchcombe must be a prime example. It's become a centre for walking in the Cotswolds with many trails passing through. Why not drop by and see what's available.

There are 7 Groups within Ramblers Gloucestershire Area:- North Cotswold, South Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Cirencester, Cleve and Gloucester, monitoring and responding to footpath issues across the region. Additionally Gloucestershire Walking Group provides walks for members of working age with an active sub-group for 20-30s. Most members join a Group but everyone is automatically a member of Gloucestershire Area and also able to enjoy the walks overleaf. Some Group Reports:-

GWG – Gloucestershire Walking Group www.gwg.org.uk



We now have over 500 walkers in Meetup an online place where many people find new friends and groups. Our walks cover much of the county and sometimes beyond. We're often out socially too at evening or weekend events especially if there's a walking theme. Special thanks must go to Nicky who, a few years ago, helped get our 20s-30s group off the ground. Photo – on a bridge near Kemble, launch event for Ramblers 20th anniversary of the Thames Path.



Cleeve Group www.cleeveramblers.org.uk

New Footpath Working Group – would you like to be involved?

We're lucky we have the Cotswold Wardens in half our area who do a brilliant job keeping paths clear and sorting out stiles gates and walls etc. However, outside the Cotswold AONB we are looking to set up a group to help the County Council where we can. First steps are to find our team and get together to talk about what's involved and how we can help improve our local footpaths. The Gloucestershire Way and the Severn Way are regional trails you may know about. If you think you're interested, may like to help or know where somewhere needs attention please feel free to make contact without commitment. footpaths@cleeveramblers.org.uk



Cirencester Group www.cirencesterramblers.org.uk

Footpath Maintenance volunteers have continued with the daunting task of clearing and way marking the 55 mile Wysis Way which Kemble and ends at Monmouth. Three sessions have resulted in a good area being cleared up to the Tunnel House Inn. It is anticipated that the group will clear a good part of the trail that lies in Gloucestershire.

We've been enjoying the lovely weather with walks long and short, so something for everybody. Visiting places as far afield as Adelstrop and Chipping Norton, we also ventured over to Stanton St Bernard in Wiltshire where our gallant menfolk helped a damsel in distress to change her car tyre at Alton Barnes. She rewarded us with a potted history of the area, showing us the source of the River Avon and a beautiful redundant Saxon church. The walk finished tea and cakes at Honeystreet Café next to the Kennet and Avon canal.

Our monthly village Visits have included a trip on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway and a visit to the Cotswold airport with lunch at the AV8 restaurant.

Gloucester Group www.gloucester-ramblers.org.uk

The Group had a very enjoyable time during a week in Pwhelli in June with 22 members sharing walk leading and using self catering accommodation. Even the weather was kind to us which meant that we were able to see the views from all of the mini mountains we climbed...well it was a holiday. And, for something completely different, we also visited Trentham Gardens with enough members to fill a coach! Meanwhile we are also able to maintain our programme of weekend and midweek walks.

North Cotswold Group www.ramblers.org.uk/north-cotswold

We have a Footpath Maintenance Fund, generated from sales of Liz Bell's "The North Cotswold Diamond Way" and "30 Sparkling Walks" guidebooks, which is used to provide materials for footpath improvements. We work closely with the Cotswold Wardens who help the County Council maintain the local footpath network. Wardens either repair or replace a broken stile with a gate or kissing gate, routinely including a grab post to help walkers negotiate local stiles. If you'd like to support our work in the North Cotswolds why not enjoy one of the walks in the books? We offer two led walks per month often between 6 and 10 miles. Our walks are normally circular or figure of 8 with a sociable pub/café lunch. We also respond to footpath diversion requests. We'd also like to thank David Bell who has kindly driven the mini Bus for our away day linear walks along The Cotswold Way, The Wysis Way, The D'arcy Doulton Way, The Palladian Way, The Warwickshire Millennium Way – to name but a few!

A page of Mid Week walks for the Gloucestershire Area

Wed 2 November 10.5 miles/16.9km - Moderate **Winchcombe**
 10:00 Winchcombe Back Lane £1 GL54 5PZ OL45/LR163 SP023284
 Walk Sudeley, Humblebee, Woodpeckers, Cleeve Hill, Langley.
 Arnold, 01242 603576 07789317291 walk morning Picnic

Wed 9 November 11.5 miles/18.5km – Mod **Tetbury & Westonbirt**
 10:00: Tetbury Old Railway Station GL8 8EP E168/E167 ST893933
 Tetbury, Hillcourt, Westonbirt, Arboretum, Highgrove, Tetbury. Picnic
 lunch in Silk Wood, plenty of refreshments in Tetbury.
 Richard, 07984 853775 Picnic

Wed 16 November 10 miles/16.1km – Moderate **Cranham**
 10:00: Park on side of Cranham Common. Meet by school.
 E179 (GL4 8HZ, SO894126) Walk via Brimpsfield and Sheepscot.
 Andy & Wendy, 01453 885498 Picnic.

Wed 23 Nov 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **Penyard and Chase Woods**
 10:00: Far end village hall CP Weston-under-Penyard. OL14. (HR9 7PA,
 SO633231) Explore Penyard & Chase Wood, mix of trails, footpaths
 lane walking. Several moderate ascents/ descents, pace to suit all.
 Contact: Jackie, 01594 564417 or 07767 351190 on day Picnic lunch

Wed 30 Nov 10.5 miles/16.9km – Mod **Stone & Berkeley Deer Park**
 10:00: Park considerably Court Meadow, off A38, at Stone. GL8 8EP
 E167. (ST684955)
 Walk to Michael Wood, Stone, Berkeley Castle and Deer Park.
 David & Henrietta, 01452 302024 or 07831 234790 on day. Picnic

Wed 7 Dec 10m/16.1km - Mod **Selsley Common, Randwick Woods**
 10:00: Stratford Park Leisure Centre CP. Near Tesco on the A4171. GL5
 4AQ E179/168. SO844055 Walk Canal, Selsley Common, Cotswold
 Way, Randwick Woods and Whiteshill.
 Hilary, 01453 753398 Picnic

Annual Christmas Fayre Lunch – 3 courses + coffee **Dumbleton**
 Wed 14 December 6 miles/9.7km Moderate
 10:00: Park at Historic Dumbleton Hall. (WR11 7TS, SP013356)
 Views across Cotswolds. Drop down to Alderton north to
 Worcestershire return via Ice House to the Manor
 BernieG 01242 602024 Book by 26 Oct Maggie 01684 592727

Wed 21 December 9 miles/14.5 km - Moderate **Frampton Mansell**
 10:00: Park on roadside verge just south of village
 GL6 8JE E168/LR163 SO920023
 Walk from Frampton Mansell to Edgeworth and back via Siccaridge
 Woods, Daneway banks and Sapperton. Picnic.
 Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 28 December 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate **Tyndale Monument**
 09:30: Stinchcombe Hill CP (not golf club) GL11 6AQ E167 ST745983
 Walk from Stinchcombe Hill to Breakheart Quarry then through
 Waterley Bottom to Tyndale Monument and back via Drakestone
 Point. Picnic lunch. Please note an earlier start to be back in daylight,
 but a torch would be a sensible precaution.
 David P, 01793 771068 or 07824 603711 on day Picnic

Check walks for updates gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/midweek/
 Feedback welcome GRNews@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk

Wed 4 Jan 10m/16.1km Mod **3Bs Triangle: Brockweir- Beacon – Bigsweir**
 10:00: Meet: Layby on A466 near Brockweir. OL14. (NP16 7NL, SO536013)
 Climb to the Wye Valley path, on to Cleddon falls, cross to the Beacon with
 fantastic views of the Black Mountains. Onto Duchess's Ride viewpoint,
 looking back to the Severn estuary, continue along before dropping down
 to Bigsweir bridge. Steepish initial climb. Total ascent about 1200ft.
 Lynn, 01291 689954 or 07957 662209 on day Picnic lunch

Wed 11 January 12 miles/19.3 km - Moderate **Winchcombe to Stanway**
 10:00: Winchcombe Back Lane CP (£1) OL45 (GL54 5PZ, SP023284)
 From Winchcombe to Hailes Abbey, Beckbury and Stanway, returning via
 Stumps Cross, Coscombe Corner, Farmcote, Parks Farm and Sudeley. The
 walk uses the Cotswold Way and Warden's Way.
 Barry & Robert, 07407 359600 or 07807 342238 Picnic.

Wed 18 January 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Bulls Cross**
 10:00: Bulls Cross lay-by. E179. (GL6 7QT, SO878087) A hilly walk from
 Bulls Cross to Piedmont, Dillay Farm, Lord's Wood and Painswick Beacon.
 Catherine, 01452 615382 or 07456 425880 on day Picnic.

Wed 25 January 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate **Sevenhampton**
 10:00: Park near Sevenhampton Church. Take turning to Sevenhampton
 Church, not the one to the village. OL45. (GL54 5SW, SP032217)
 Walk on footpaths, tracks, fields and lanes via Whittington, West Down,
 Wontley Farm, Belas Knap, Humblebee, Newmeadow Farm, Charlton
 Abbots and Brockhampton.
 Anne B, 01242 863504 or 07718 499523 on day Picnic.

Wed 1 February - 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Stinchcombe & Dursley**
 10:00: Stinchcombe Hill Public CP. E167 (GL11 6AQ, ST744984)
 A moderate walk including Stinchcombe village, Dursley town centre (Old
 Spot for lunch/picnic) and returning via Cam Peak and Upper Cam.
 Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 Pub lunch

Wed 8 February 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Painswick**
 10:00: Walkers CP off B4073 (E179/LR161) (GL6 6SL, SO868105)
 Hills and Valleys around Painswick.
 Catherine, 01452 615382 or 07456 425880 on day Picnic Lunch

Wed 15 February 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate **Tidenham Chase**
 10:00: Tidenham Chase CP (OL14) (GL15 6PT, ST558993)
 Walk above the Wye Valley forests through meadows and woodland with
 panoramic views over the rivers Wye and Severn. Slightly undulating but
 no steep climbs.
 Jenny, 01600 715719 or 07455 267262 on day Picnic. Finish 15:30 approx.

Wed 22 February 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate **Coaley Peak**
 10:00: Meet at Coaley Peak Viewpoint CP. E168 (GL11 5AU, SO794013)
 Walk to Nympsfield through Woodchester Park then to Selsley Common
 and along the Cotswold Way.
 Dave, 01452 721792 or 07593 296983 on day Picnic

**Gloucestershire Area organises a programme day walks approx of 10-12
 miles long usually mid-week in the county and neighbouring counties.
 Why not try give us a try - please check with leader beforehand.
 Joining Ramblers supports our efforts to keep footpaths open.
 Once you're a member enjoy all our walks for free!
 (Sorry no dogs except access dogs but see walks at fodramblers.org.uk)**