

Step out for

The Festival of Winter Walks

Saturday 23rd December 2017 to Sunday 7th January 2018

The theme of this year's Festival of Winter walks is 'New Year's Resolutions'.

Why not join in one of our winter walks during the festival or give the gift of walking to family and friends with a Ramblers gift membership? And what better way to kick off the New Year than with a resolution to start walking more?

We all know that walking with a group or scheme gives people the chance to make new friends, boost their mood, and get some all important exercise. Ramblers is encouraging everyone to start their resolutions early by attending a walk over the Christmas period. After all one month's gym membership could buy a whole year's Ramblers subscription! Find all our walks on the GRWalks page of our website.

Stowfield Bridge



Stowfield Bridge (or the Black Bridge), is an important connection across the River Wye at Lydbrook. It was used by over 20,000 walkers a year as part of the 136 mile Wye Valley Walk.

The bridge has been closed for almost two years now due to concerns for the structure and the board walk. Its closure has been noticed by the Youth Hostel over the river at Welsh Bicknor and other local businesses in Lydbrook.

The Forest of Dean Ramblers Group has been pressing for its reopening and given support to Sid Phelps the local member at Forest of Dean District Council.

Gloucestershire County Council and Herefordshire District Council have now announced they're working together to ensure the long term sustainability of the bridge and have commissioned and made available a feasibility report into various options.

Updates are discussed at Forest committee meetings and with support of other Groups across the Gloucestershire Ramblers Area it is hoped the bridge will eventually reopen to complete this vital link across the Wye. (Also see Re-open Stowfield River Crossing Facebook page)

For social media, find our Glos Ramblers page on Facebook or search for GWG over on Meetup

Dates for Diary

Sat 23 Dec 2017 -Sun 07 Jan 2018
Festival Winter Walks

Sat 26 May - Sun 03 June 2018
Walk About Festival 2018

Area AGM

Sat 13 January 2018 10:00am
Gloucestershire Ramblers Area
Annual General Meeting
Hosted by Gloucester Group at
Norton Village Hall, Norton, Glos.
GL2 9LJ Bring and Share Lunch
Speaker from ramblers
All members Welcome
Short afternoon walk Wainlodes

Group AGMs

Forest of Dean Group
Friday 10th November 2017
7pm Yorkley Community Centre
Lydney GL15 4RS

South Cotswold Group
Saturday 18 November 2017
10:30am Rodborough Tabernacle
Stroud GL5 3UJ

Cirencester Group
Sunday 19th November 2017
11:45am Ampney Crucis Village
Hall short walk. Lunch AGM

Cleeve Group
Saturday 25 November 2017
Southam Village Hall GL52 3NS
10.00am -1.00pm Short Walk
AGM, bring and share lunch

North Cotswold Group
Saturday 25 November 2017
10:00am Blockley Café & Shop
for short walk followed by Soup &
Snacks £2.50 Little Village Hall,
Blockley GL56 9BB AGM 1:00pm

Gloucester Group
Thursday November 30th 2017
7 pm The Pavillion, Birchhall Lane,
Upton St Leonards GL4 8AD

Gloucestershire (Working Age)
Walking Group TBD





There are 61 Ramblers Areas that together form the Ramblers Association. Gloucestershire Ramblers Area includes eight Ramblers Groups and around a dozen affiliated Organisations and Clubs. Groups respond to footpath issues within their territory. A territory is reasonably aligned to Borough/District Council Boundaries:-

- **North Cotswold** - the northern half of Cotswold District, generally north of the A40.
- **Cirencester** – generally the southern half of Cotswold District except around Tetbury
- **South Cotswold** - mainly Stroud District, including Tetbury of Cotswold District
- **Gloucester** – Gloucester City plus nearby parts of Stroud District and southern Tewkesbury Borough
- **Cleeve** – Cheltenham Town plus northern Tewkesbury Borough
- **Forest of Dean** - all Forest of Dean District

Gloucestershire Walking Group GWG organises walks across the County for members of working age and has a 20-30s sub-group. **Gloucestershire Area** itself operates a get together mid week walks programme (see page 4) for any member. Most members join a Group but all are automatically a member of the Gloucestershire Ramblers Area.

Some Group News:-

Forest of Dean Group www.fodramblers.org.uk



From time to time Forest Group organises longer walks across the border into Wales, the Sugar Loaf overlooking Abergavenny. Some members bring their well behaved 4 legged friends here discovering bracken. As part of our 40th Anniversary in 2018 we're taking an all inclusive holiday 6-13th May in Skipton at the aptly named Rendezvous Hotel. We already have 33 walkers but for now the hotel has another 12 spaces so members of other Groups are welcome to join us. We're organising a choice of two walks daily and a coach to take us there and for the walks. The Hotel is ensuite, Full English breakfast and three course dinner. Free wifi and use of hotel gym facilities, Swimming pool & Jacuzzi! What else can you need? Twin/ double rooms £495 Singles £635 £50 deposit to FOD ramblers Sue Marshall at soozie1946@outlook.com 07808 150741

Cirencester Group www.cirencesterramblers.org.uk

The last few months have been busy as usual with a variety of walks in Gloucestershire, as well as further afield in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. Steve from the Forest group also took us on a fabulous walk in the Wye Valley.

Our walks programme included many evening and midweek short walks finishing in a local hostelry for lunch or drinks. These have been very well attended and appreciated by those who enjoy a shorter walk.

On 25th June Halina hosted our annual Strawberry Tea in her beautiful garden in Bibury. The weather was kind to us and a good time was had by all.



Path Maintenance Volunteers have now helped clear the Wysis Way from Kemble to Far Oakridge. The last section was not well marked and after finding the start with some difficulty due to a car parked across it, work commenced! Richard our FP Sec keeps us well supplied with his famous homemade flapjacks (bribery works wonders!)

Our Christmas lunch plans at the Corinium Hotel are progressing well and the Weekend Away next April in Ilfracombe is fully booked.

Gloucester Group www.gloucester-ramblers.org.uk

The Group continued walking the entire 135 mile Glyndwr Way long distance path from Knighton to Welshpool to celebrate our illustrious Chairman's special birthday! Accommodation was arranged in bed and breakfasts or hotels. The route is very well signed with yellow-topped posts showing the way on open moorland. We used buses as far as possible to get us out and back with shared taxis when this was not practical. After several long weekends, we finally completed the Way on July 5th. A most enjoyable project.

Meanwhile the Group continues to organise walks every week meeting first in Gloucester for a car share to the walk start. It also monitors and responds to various footpath issues. There's a lot of new development proposed for Cheltenham/Tewkesbury Borough.

Your Ramblers Area (& Group) needs you!
What does an Area do?
 Create this Newsletter? Support & work with our Groups. Highlight the needs of Gloucestershire within Ramblers. Help us meet the Ramblers charitable aims for all walkers
 Ramblers continues, thanks to the activity of its members.
 Gloucestershire Ramblers urgently needs an Area Secretary, an Area Communications Officer, and next year Area Membership Secretary and Area Webmaster to join the team of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Footpath Secretary. These roles are quite flexible and can be adjusted to fit around your other commitments with help available to get you started along the way. We'd also like to find some organisers, bringing together a team to help maintain those stiles or good checking maps and lists of footpaths? To learn more, please contact
 Bernard Gill vice-chair@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk
 For the Membership Secretary role,
 Mike Bailey membership@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk

Margaret Scott-Browne
 It is with great sadness that we report that Margaret Scott-Browne has passed away. The North Cotswold Ramblers Group was founded in 1988 and Margaret was a founder member, Chairman, Walks Programme Co-ordinator and staunch supporter of the North Cotswold Ramblers Group. In the last few years she was unable to walk with the Group, a source of considerable frustration to Margaret, but up until October 2016 she still came along to join us for lunch on our "linear walks with the minibus". As Chairman her sign off phrase was "Enjoy your walking" and that was something that Margaret certainly did!
 Sue Salmon



The Cotswold Way in Gloucestershire

Many groups walked the Cotswold Way as part of the 10th Anniversary of our efforts resulting in the Way becoming a recognised National Trail in 2007.

These images show in no particular order:- Cirencester on Cleeve Hill. Gloucester below Belas Knap, North Cotswold on Dovers Hill and at the Chipping Campden Beginning and End Marker Stone, Cleeve catching the 606 Cotswold Way bus and at the 2007 Stanway Plaque. Lastly a photo highlighting our work with Walkers are Welcome at the Winchcombe Country Show.





A page of Mid Week walks for the Gloucestershire Ramblers Area

Gloucestershire Ramblers Area organises a programme of day walks of approx 10-12 miles long, usually mid-week, in the county & neighbouring counties. Why not give us a try (please contact leader beforehand).
Once a member, all our walks are free! (Sorry Access dogs only but see walks at www.fodramblers.org.uk)

2017

Wed 1 Nov 10:00- 11 m/17.7 km - Moderate **Sugar Loaf**
 Meet large layby on the left of A40 just past Glangrwyney village OL13. (NP8 1EE, SO231169)
 Following the Gywyne Fawr valley to skirt the foot of the Sugar Loaf before ascending to summit, at pace to suit all, weather permitting Jackie, 01594 564417 or 07767 351190 on day Coffee and picnic lunch

Wed 8 Nov 10:00 - 10 m/16.1 km - Moderate **A Cotswold Saunter**
 Park rear Seven Springs Hungry Horse E179 (GL53 9NG, SO968170)
 Seven Springs, Cowley, Ullenwood and Cotswold Way. Picnic with possibility of a drink afterwards.
 Marion and Trevor, 01242 235423 or 07552 754074 on day.

Wed 15 Nov 10:00 10 m/16.1 km - Moderate **Miserden to Bisley**
 Park in road Miserden or school CP E179. (GL6 7JA, SO934089)
 Walk via Honeycombe, Sudgrove and Battlescombe to Bisley (picnic lunch/pub for drinks), return past Sydenham and Camp. Hilly.
 Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 22 Nov 10:00 10 m/16.1 km - Moderate **Stratford Park**
 Meet at Stratford Park Leisure Centre CP. E179. (GL5 4AQ, SO844055)
 Walk to Whiteshill, Randwick, Doverow Hill, Selsley and Rodborough.
 Dave, 01452 721792 or 07593 296983 on day Picnic.

Wed 29 Nov 10:00 - 10 m/16.1 km - Moderate **Honey Pot Bs**
 Stanton Village Hall CP. Donation? OL45 (WR12 7NF, SP068343)
 am Hilly up along Cotswold Way to Broadway Court, Broadway Tower, Fish Hill and descend to Broadway for picnic/cafes, or pub drink/lunch pm - short flat return via Buckland. Moderate/strenuous in places.
 Guy, 01242 251412 or 07968 797186 on day.

Wed 6 Dec 10:00 10 m/16.1km - Mod **Cowcombe Hill to Edgeworth**
 Park Cowcombe Hill layby opp gliding club E168 (GL6 8HR, SO911019)
 Frampton Mansell, Sapperton canal Edgeworth churchyard Siccaridge
 Hilary, 01453 753398 Picnic.

Wed 13 Dec 9:30 10.5m/16.9 km – Mod **A Christmas Bristol Bonanza**
 Mansion House car park. £1.20 E172. (BS41 9JN, ST558718)
 Bristol city Red deer park, street art, naval history, Suspension Bridge. Toilets and cafe at start/end. Three short steep climbs, optional ascent Cabot tower. NOTE START TIME.
 Contact: Lynn, 01291 689954 or 07957 662209 on day Picnic lunch

Wed 20 Dec 10:00 7.5m/12.1km Mod **Morning walk Christmas lunch**
 Meet at Painswick Wakers' CP. E179. (GL6 6SL, SO868105)
 A short walk around Painswick prior to the Group's Annual Christmas lunch. Lunch at the Falcon Inn Painswick. For bookings and details contact walk leaders. Please book by 18th Oct.
 Contact: David & Henrietta, 01452 302024 or 07831 234790 on day.

2018

Wed 3 Jan 10:00 11 m/17.7 km - Moderate **Bus & Walk Birdlip**
 Birdlip School, parking nearby. E179. (GL4 8JH, SO928143)
 A route around the scarp on some less frequented tracks to lunch in a bus (hopefully) at Seven Springs, A more direct route back to suit the daylight.
 David P, 01793 771068 or 07824 603711 on day

Wed 10 Jan 10:00 – 10 m/16.1 km – Moderate **Painswick**
 Meet at Painswick Walkers' CP off B4075. E179. (GL6 6SL, SO867105)
 A hilly walk in the surrounding countryside. Bring a picnic.
 Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day.

Wed 17 Jan 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Elkstone**
 Park in layby opposite Hungry Horse pub at Seven Springs. Limited spaces, car sharing would be advantageous. E179. (GL53 9NG, SO968170)
 Upper Coberley, Lower Cockleford, Elkstone, Stockwell, Coldwell Bottom.
 Barry & Robert, 07407 359600 or 07807 342238 Picnic. Pub at end .

----- New walks welcome for March-June programme -----

Wed 24 Jan 10:00- 9.5 m/15.3 km - Moderate **Tresham and Ozleworth**
 Newark Park NT car park. E167. (GL12 7QD, ST781932)
 From Newark Park walk to Alderley on the Cotswold Way, steady climb up the Tresham valley, Tresham, Hens cliff, Boxwell and Ozleworth.
 Richard, 07984 853775 Please note Newark Park will be closed. Picnic.

Wed 31 Jan 10 am- 10 m/16.1 km – Moderate **Coaley**
 Meet at Coaley Village Hall. Park in the CP at the rear of the hall. E167. (GL11 5EB, SO772017)
 A moderate walk around some lesser walked paths in Coaley, Cam, Leonard Stanley and Frocester. Bring a picnic.
 Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 on day

Wed 7 Feb 10:00 10m/16.1km Mod **St Wulstan's Nature Reserve Malvern**
 St. Wulstan's Nature Reserve. E190. (WR14 4JW, SO781414)
 Walk to Little Malvern Priory, then on to the Malvern Hills to the Wyche Cutting, the golf course, Malvern Common and back to the nature reserve.
 Gill, 01531 670864 Picnic.

Wed 14 Feb 10:00 10m/16.1km - Mod **Haresfield Beacon Circular Walk 1**
 Park at NT Shortwood CP. £3.00 fee, free to members, or park on road nearby. E179. (GL6 6PP, SO832085)
 Walk from Haresfield Beacon via Harescombe and Standish. Picnic.
 Andy & Wendy, 01453 885498

Wed 21 Feb 10:00 10m/16.1km – Mod **Haresfield Beacon Circular Walk 2**
 Park at NT Shortwood CP, £3.00 fee, free to members, or park on road nearby. E179. (GL6 6PP, SO832085)
 Walk from Haresfield Beacon via Painswick and Pitchcombe.
 Sue L, 01452 741229 or 07808 116725 on day Picnic.

Wed 28 Feb 10:00 10m/16.1km - Mod **Early Spring in the Monnow Valley**
 Meet Skenfrith Castle free CP. E189. (NP7 8UG, SO456203)
 Walk along the river and orchards with two moderate climbs, a medieval church and castle, wonderful views and hopefully some early spring flowers. A drink at the Bell, a 17th Century Coaching Inn for those that want at the end of the walk. Warm drink and picnic lunch.
 Jenny & Peter, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

Moderate - a good level of fitness. May include some steep paths and open country, and may be at a brisk pace.

Strenuous - above average fitness level. May include hills and rough country, and may be at a brisk pace.

Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.
 If in doubt about fitness please contact the walk leader beforehand.