



# Gloucestershire Ramblers

News roundup around the Area June 2016

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## Gloucester Hosts Ramblers Development Day



Saturday 4th June and Ramblers young and old from Gloucestershire, neighbouring counties and as far away as Reading, Birmingham and Bristol meet at the Warehouse Gloucester. Ramblers Central Office came out in strength from London to run a series of seminars and workshops on successful short walks, leading walks, challenges on walks, being a Treasurer, rights of way introduction and specialist areas, how to use ramblers website and social media. At the end of the event members said it was great to have joined in, picked up useful information and met colleagues in other groups. Thanks to all at Central Office for making an enjoyable day.

## Path Maintenance Volunteers lending a hand on the Wysis Way at Cirencester



After clearing an ancient Dew Pond near Northleach, Cirencester Group's Path maintenance Volunteers set to helping with the Wysis Way from the Kemble end. (The Way is 55 miles/88 km and links the Thames Path National Trail to Offas Dyke National Trail at Monmouth) If you'd like to become a PMV, please contact RichardH at [footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

## Walk about Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016

the Ramblers  
**Walk about**  
Britain

Although walking is very straightforward, the benefits are endless. It's good for your health, it lifts your mood, it's a sociable activity you can do with family or friends and a great way to meet new people. It also counts towards the 150 minutes recommended physical activity people should be doing each week. The Peoples' Postcode Lottery supports ramblers aims to promote walking for everyone.



### Social Media

Post onto our facebook page about anything when walking that catches your eye



Search **GWG** on Meetup for our working age and 20s-30s walkers

## Cotswolds AONB Celebrates 50 years 1966-2016

63% of the Cotswolds AONB, some 1284 square kilometres, lies within Gloucestershire and many ramblers will be taking part in celebratory walks and other events published on the AONB website [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50)



It's come a long way. It was back in 1953 that Gloucestershire Ramblers committee put forward a plan for the Cotswold Way, the County Council eventually launching the Way in 1970. It was eventually inaugurated as a National Trail in 2007 and a couple of years ago we helped fund local efforts for an end of way marker stone in the Market Place at Chipping Campden.

### Cotswold Way under Threat? – an Appeal

Government funding to the Cotswold Way National Trail has been cut over the past 3 years and is likely to be cut yet again this year. Something needs to be done to safeguard the future of the most popular walking trail in the Cotswolds.

To try to address this threat the Cotswold Way Association (CWA) has been set up as a completely new charity with the objective of the conservation and protection of the Cotswold Way, its circular walks and other long distance trails of the Cotswolds.

The initiative has been taken up by members of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and Ramblers. The urgent need right now is for volunteers, some to take on specific administrative roles, including Treasurer and Membership Secretary. This is a fantastic new opportunity for enthusiastic volunteers to help get a new charity up and running.

Once it has a core team of volunteers, the CWA will establish a website and then be in a position to encourage members to join. In addition to the satisfaction of knowing that you're supporting the Cotswold Way, members will in the future receive e-newsletters and "inside information" on the trail and its many attractions.

To join in or find out more, please contact the Secretary, Simon Mallatratt [simonmallatratt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:simonmallatratt@yahoo.co.uk) or Mavis Rear on [mavis.rear@outlook.com](mailto:mavis.rear@outlook.com)

## Winchcombe Walking Festival May 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> 2016



Many thanks to ramblers who were walk leaders or looked after the stand to support our presence at this year's successful Festival.

For one path on a prewalk day we discovered a broken stile. Like some other Groups, North Cotswold creates walk leaflets and booklets to try to raise funds for path maintenance wood and other materials. The local Cotswold Wardens quickly took the task in hand and soon remade the stile.



Numbers were up again this year especially for the tempting 21mile Winchcombe Way Challenge. Saturday's weather forecast promised a dismal 90% chance of rain and indeed there were a few spots just after lunch. However the rest of the time it was clear ideal outdoor weather – an at least 90% dry day welcome by walkers.

## Don't lose that Path!



At the end of 2025 no more historic paths or Rights of Way can be added to the definitive map – the map held by the County Council showing the location of our paths.

It's estimated that in every County there may be around 100 paths that appear to exist on the ground in one form or another but which aren't correctly marked on the map. Restoring the Record is an ambitious process to try to help the County by registering potential lost ways & make them known before the cut off date.

A number of ramblers from Gloucestershire were shown a template to simplify and speed the process (with a target of just 3 hours)

Many mapping sources are now freely available online, so most if not all research can be done from historic records using your PC. If you've an interest in paths and maps and have heard of FootPaths, BridleWays, Restricted Byways, BOATS and probably ORPAs please let us know [Lostways@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:Lostways@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)





There are 7 Groups within the 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 for members of working age with an active sub-group for 20-30s; Cheltenham Spa Walkers offers walks for Cheltenham. Most members join a Group but everyone is automatically a member of Gloucestershire Area and also able to enjoy the walks overleaf.

### Cheltenham Spa Walkers

We meet about twice a month within Cheltenham to allow members to car share. The Group structure is relatively straightforward. Jill Whitmore has kindly offered to be walks coordinator but if the Group is to continue in its present form, it needs more volunteers to help with informal roles and act as walk leaders. If you are interested in being part of this group, perhaps offer walks or have ideas about the way we should support walking and walkers in Cheltenham in the future please let me know.

Mike Bailey 01666 577755 or email [CSW@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:CSW@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

### South Cotswold

Start the Week Walks. In October we will reach the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our under 4 mile leisurely walks on alternate Monday mornings. Right from the start we have found that it has encouraged not only regulars, but quite a group of other members whom we have never seen before. We start later, at 10.30, which gives the walks a different feel and often finish up at a pub or cafe. Several members have begun to regularly lead the walks.

We also run walks in conjunction with Rodborough Parish Council. They have been going for 6 years now and take place once a month throughout the summer. They are advertised around the Parish and as a result we reach a wider audience. On many walks we find new walkers trying Ramblers for the first time.

*Mike Garner and Richard Davis*



### Cirencester

It has been a busy few months for the group. Social events have included visits to Torquay (cider tasting and cream teas in between walks) and Bournemouth –weather great, but drenched by huge waves at Mudeford, a Murder Mystery Evening (great fun) and 3 Village Visits for retired members. (short walk followed by pub lunch).

Our Path Maintenance Volunteers continue to be active and our normal Sunday walks have been very well supported and have been featured nearly every week complete with a photo in our local paper, The Wilts and Glos Standard.

Our Town Liaison Officer attended the local Sports Development Forum in April which is to look at the future of sports provision in Cirencester and described the health aspect of walking with the Ramblers.

*Pat Beckley*

### North Cotswold

Our Group offers walks of 5-10 miles every second Saturday. They are generally somewhere in the North Cotswolds, which covers quite a large area, and we pride ourselves on being a friendly Group as our Members enjoy talking nearly as much as they do walking! Recent walks have attracted 12-15 Ramblers, just right for a 5 mile sociable ramble, a pleasant pub lunch and an optional afternoon stretch!

Last month we walked round Kenilworth Castle with great views in all directions and 17 members visited The Long Mynd Hotel in Shropshire at the end of April. The weather, a mix of hailstorms and sunshine, highlighted the already dramatic skylines of The Long Mynd and The Stiperstones to create some really memorable views. We also have an active role in responding to local footpath issues.

*Sue Salmon*





## A page of Mid Week walks for the Gloucestershire Area

Wed 6 July 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Painswick**  
10:00: Stamages Lane CP P&D Painswick. E179 GL6 6UN, SO866097  
A hilly walk with all the usual ie stiles, nettles and possibly mud,  
but lots of lovely views as compensation. Picnic.  
Hilary, 01453 753398

Wed 13 July 10 miles/16.1 km - Mod A Walk in the North Cotswolds  
10:00: Park National Trust CP Snowhill. OL45 WR12 7JR SP097341  
From Snowhill walk past Great Brockhampton farm then past  
Buckland and Laverton and on to Stanton and Stanway. Return  
through Lidcombe wood and across fields. Picnic.  
Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 20 July 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Minchinhampton**  
10:00: Meet CP reservoir Minch Common. E168 GL5 2PP, SO855013  
Starting on Minchinhampton Common a walk through Gatcombe  
Park, Avening, Hazel Wood and Box. A mixture of Cotswold scenery  
and villages with several medium ascents. Picnic.  
David & Henrietta, 01452 302024 or 07831 234790 on day.

Wed 27 July 11.5 miles/18.5 km Mod **Llangattock Escarp/Mountain**  
10:00: Take Hillside Road into Llangattock, turn left into Park Drive  
and park on left. Free public toilets. OL13 (NP8 1PA, SO212178)  
Steady climb escarpment to Eglwys Faen & Lonely Shepherd  
stunning views. Some off-path walking, climbs and descents taken  
at own pace. Moderate to energetic. Bring torch to explore cave.  
Jenny, 01600 715719 or 07455 267262 on day Picnic lunch

Wed 3 Aug 12.5 miles/20.1 km - Moderate **A Forest Ramble**  
10:00: New Fancy View Point CP. OL14 (GL15 4HS, SO627095)  
From New Fancy view point to Mallard's Pike Lake, then over Staple  
Edge view point to Soudley, passing the ponds on the way to Blaize  
Bailey view point. Return via Wenchford and Mosely Green. Picnic.  
Mike, 015494 562241 or 07490 138413 on day

Wed 10 Aug 11.5 miles/18.5 km - Mod **Newark Park & Leighterton**  
10:00: Start Newark Park N T CP. L162/E167 (GL12 7QD, ST781932)  
Walk Newark Park, Ozleworth Park, Bagpath, Lasborough,  
Bowldown Farm, Leighterton, Tresham, Hens Cliff. Bring a picnic for  
lunch at Leighterton. Newark Park will be open.  
Richard, 07984 853775

Wed 17 Aug 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Three Pens and a Table**  
10:00: Park Crickhowell High School. OL13 (NP8 1DE, SO216185)  
Walk takes in one main climb in the morning, ridge walking along 3  
escarpments and then an optional climb of Table Mountain. Picnic.  
Jude, 02920 254201

Wed 24 Aug 10mile/16.1km Moderate **May Hill and back**  
10:00 Meet CP near The Wilderness - RHS of A4136 top of Plump  
Hill if coming from Mitcheldean EXP OL14 Grid ref SO 659 171  
May Hill, Longhope church then return by the Gloucestershire way.  
Super views on affine day. Hilly. Picnic lunch.  
Catherine, 01452 615382 or 07456 425880 on day.

Wed 31 Aug 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Forest of Dean**  
10:00: Mallard's Pike CP. fee £3.50. OL14 (GL15 4HD, SO638088)  
Lovely forest trails footpaths to Bradley Hill, dropping down to  
Furnace Bottom, quiet lane up Viney Hill views Severn Estuary. On  
to Oldcroft, Yorkley descend to Mallard's Pike via Cockshoot woods.  
Jackie, 01594 564417 or 07767 351190 Picnic

**Gloucestershire Area organises a programme day walks approx of  
10-12 miles long usually mid-week anywhere in the county and  
neighbouring counties. Sorry no dogs except access dogs. Check  
walks for updates at [gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/midweek/](http://gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/midweek/)**

Wed 7 September 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Clevedon**  
10:00: Entrance to Salthouse Fields CP on Old Church Road. Plenty of parking  
nearby. (BS21 7TY, ST396710)  
Poets walk, through town and out across the motorway to Cadbury Camp.  
Back across the Vale of Gordano and onto the coast path back to Clevedon.  
Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 Bring Picnic.

Wed 14 September 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **From Stroud to Slad**  
10:00: Meet Stroud Leisure Centre. E179. (GL5 4AH, SO844057)  
From Stratford Park Leisure Centre walk to the Heavens, Toadsmoor Valley,  
Swift's Hill, Slad (pub for drinks) and Wickridge Hill. Picnic.  
Dave, 01452 721792 or or 07593 296983 on day

Wed 21 Sept 11.5 miles/18.5 km - Mod **Herefordshire Ramble Haugh Wood**  
10:00: Meet at the CP in Haugh Wood. E189. (HR1 4QX, SO593365)  
Walk to Backberry Hill, Checkley and return via Woolhope and Haugh Wood.  
Gill, 01531 670864 Picnic.

\*\*\*24 September Walks Deadline for October GRNews \*\*\*

Wed 28 September 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Llangynidr Mountain**  
10:00: Park at Llangynidr free CP opposite the village hall. Public toilets.  
OL13 (NP8 1NJ, SO155195)  
Steady climb up Llangynidr mountain at own pace in the morning, enjoying  
panoramic views, swallow hole, shake holes, and bronze burial cairns,  
visiting the Chartist cave then across the trig point before dropping down to  
return via the Mon and Brecon Canal. Coffee break and picnic lunch.  
Jenny, 01600 715719 or 07455 267262 on day

Wed 5 October 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Hewelsfield**  
10:00: lay-by off the B4228 near Hewelsfield. OL14 (GL15 6UP, SO564008)  
From Hewelsfield we walk through Poors Allotment, the Park to Devil's Pulpit  
then along Offa's Dyke and pick up the disused railway track to Tintern. We  
then make out way towards Brockweir and up to Cows Hill Wood. Picnic  
Sue S, 01594 531227 or 07547 740633 on day

Wed 12 October 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Garway**  
10:00: Park in Garway by side of common. E189. (HR2 8RF, SO466225)  
From Garway to Garway Hill and Orcop via Garway Church, White Rocks,  
Garway Hill, Orcop and return via Trolway. Picnic.  
Peter, 01242 524575

Wed 19 October 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Frome valley and Bisley**  
10:00: Lay-by at top of Cowcombe Hill (A419). E168 (GL6 8HR, SO909018)  
Picturesque walk to Frampton Mansell across Frome to Bisley via Waterlane.  
Lunch stop in Bear or Stirrup Cup and return via France Lynch. Steep climbs  
and descents in places. Bring packed lunch if you do not want a pub lunch.  
Steve & Sheila, 01453 766895 or 01453 299012

Wed 26 Oct 9 miles (14km) Moderate **St Briavels**  
Deep in The Forest - something stirred!  
10.00 Meet opposite church around castle. LR 162 / OL14 ref 558046  
Walk Lower Meend- The Hudnells - Wye Valley Walk to Brockweir for Pub  
lunch or picnic. Return via Lower Chase - Hewelsfield - Aylesmore Court. Quite  
a strenuous walk in places but lovely woodland and views to admire.  
Guy 01242 - 251412 or mob on day 07968 797186

Advance Notice **Dumbleton Manor**  
Wed 14 December 6 miles 10km BernieG 01242 602024  
Christmas extended lunch in Cotswold Historic Manor House with views  
Book (£25) by 26 Oct to Maggie 01684 592727.

**Join Ramblers to support our efforts to keep footpaths open. For members  
all our walks are free. Anyone new is welcome to try a walk or two but  
check with leader beforehand.**

**Feedback on GRNews welcome : [GRNews@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:GRNews@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)**