

### Ramblers in Gloucestershire, Walking Together, Welcoming Walkers 10:00 am Saturday 15 September Kings Stanley

Groups (and affiliated Clubs) from across the Area are meeting at Kings Stanley Village Hall for a choice of walks. Why not come along or let your friends know about the long and short walks we have planned for the day. If you'd like to help lead or backmark a walk let us know that too. Bring a packed lunch to eat out on longer walks or eat in the hall for short walks. All meet back at the hall 3:30pm. Teas/coffees etc kindly hosted by Gloucester Group. The morning will have a map reading course. Kings Stanley is a great place for walks either low level along the Stroud canal or higher up on the Cotswold Way. The more the merrier!

### Winchcombe Walking Festival 18-20 May



Once again we displayed our wares and helped with some walks at this celebration of what's become known as the centre of walking for the Cotswolds. Proceeds help maintain local paths and install gates. The sun decided to show its appreciation over the weekend too.

### Lost Ways - restoring the record

Some of our members attended an event with the British Horse Society about restoring lost ways to our current maps. We may be using these paths all the time without realising. If you'd like to join in or find out more, please email [footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

### Path Maintenance Volunteers

The Path maintenance volunteers continue along the Wysis Way updating waymarks etc as they trek from Kemble to Monmouth.



### Stowfield Bridge Update

Stowfield Bridge in the Forest of Dean is closed while Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Councils carry out a feasibility study. The Wye Valley AONB has applied for Lottery funding to help towards the project.

### Cheltenham Circular Path

A temporary closure while works are carried out is supposed to let us have the footpath back when works are complete. It's good to have an alternative route in place during the closure. The image shows the CCP in Yellow. While it was closed through the site, a temporary path came into use (Orange dots) but now that's closed too. Gloucester Group are discussing with Tewkesbury Borough Council what to do next.



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

**GDPR-** These new regulations should help give us all control of our email.

If GRNews arrived by post and you're ok to receive it by email, it would be great if you could amend the settings at [www.ramblers.org.uk/my-account](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/my-account) (Update profile. Contact preferences)

The first selection needs a tick for email. Other tick boxes are for post and phone. If you prefer to do it by phone try Ramblers 0207 339 8500. Otherwise please email us at [grnews](mailto:grnews)

### Diary Dates

**Mon 27 Aug from 10:00am**

Winchcombe Country Show

Why not meet us at our stand

**Sat 15 Sep Walking Together**

Kings Stanley see left

**Wed 26 Sep 7:30pm**

GR Area Council Team Meeting

Gloucester Room, Premier Inn

A38 Twigworth GL2 9PG

### Jobs

We're all volunteers. If you can spare some time, helping the organisation run, perhaps putting together items for meetings, collating footpath issues or creating say a data base for a website, please let us know.



Pathwatch is a way to send footpath issues to Ramblers Central office. The problems are collated and issued to our footpath teams and to local authorities. Pathwatch operates on a smartphone or can be accessed on a computer when back home. <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/pathwatch.aspx>  
As a further benefit, Pathwatch gives free on screen access to OS maps and lets you know where you are!

**A417 Air Balloon Update** [www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/A417](http://www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/A417)

Since the last newsletter Highways England has carried out a consultation on two route options 12 & 30. Option 12 forms a loop following much of the present road but HE suggests it would require speed limits and variable speed cameras in the loop. It also mixes local traffic with through traffic. Option 30 instead takes a route around the back of Shab Hill to Nettleton and could separate the types of traffic.

Ramblers have campaigned for a tunnel ever since traffic levels built up. Some footpath crossings became just about impassable. 2004 saw the 'toot for a tunnel' protest with other interested local bodies. Imagine walking, cycling, horse riding and local driving around the Air Balloon with most of the through traffic gone. However it may not have to be with a tunnel, is there another way?

Highways England concluded the way to solve the problem (same in both options), was to dig a 20-30 metre (100ft) deep cutting through the area, and demolish the pub. It also requires a new bridge over the deep cutting for A436 and B4070 traffic.

Back in 2014, the County Council opened a consultation which first came up with a green bridge for footpaths to cross the new road and eventually the possibility appeared of keeping the pub on top too. The Air Balloon can be a great meeting place for walkers with the Gloucestershire and Cotswold Ways passing by.

A number of members attended the presentations and in consultation with Gloucestershire Ramblers Area Council, Option 12 was rejected. Option 30 was also rejected but left an opening that support could be given, if some modifications were included as the proposal developed. A plan was submitted, which seemed cost neutral, keeping the pub on a green bridge - a 150 metre tunnel.

Members were asked to support this simplified Option 30 (below right) if they could. The local press seemed supportive too. Just about everyone wants something done about the traffic at the Air Balloon; it's how to do it with least effect on the countryside.

As a follow up, we were invited to attend an informal meeting at Highways England. Although HE were still trying to promote Option 30 they did give some insight into some of the issues involved. It's just about impossible to put a road through this part of the Cotswolds without having an impact on some special or restricted sites, so one has to be balanced against the other. In both options they felt demolishing the pub was favourable. They are considering creating a distinct memorial feature nearby.

However HE seems unsure how to build the new road. How to keep traffic moving when a 100ft deep cutting has cut through the pub & present A417 before they can build a new bridge? Alternative routes via the A436 or A46 in Cheltenham could quickly come to a standstill

It brought us back to simplified Option 30 with its 150 metre wide green bridge (or short tunnel). The whole of the new route could be constructed while the present A417 traffic flows unimpeded, over it.

Should we continue to press for the simplified Option 30?  
email: [A417@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:A417@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

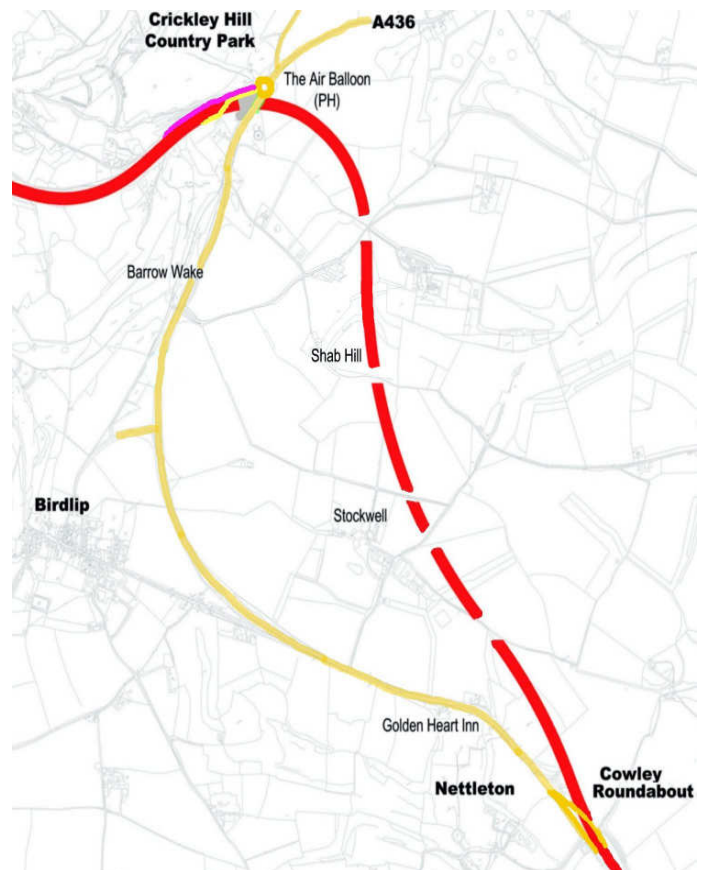


Photo: mouth of the curved tunnels at Hindhead courtesy Martinvl and Wikipedia

Map Highways England





Over 50 Ramblers Areas get together form the Ramblers Association. Gloucestershire Ramblers Area includes seven 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 the rest of 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:-

**North Cotswold Ramblers Group** [www.ramblers.org.uk/north-cotswold](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-cotswold)

Our Group has enjoyed walks in all corners of our patch and beyond. Memorable walks include a stroll along the canal from the Wharf Inn at Fenny Compton where the towpath was nearly 2 feet underwater (and the walk leader had checked it out two days before!!) and a walk around Bearley followed by tea and cakes in a historic setting in Snitterfield and a tour of a member's delightful garden (which had been under about a foot of snow earlier in the week!). Our 4-night Away break took us to Larpool Hall in Whitby where we managed to include walks along the coast, the Esk Valley and over the Moors at Castleton Rigg where there is a new statue of the Seated Man which has generated quite a bit of debate regarding its appropriateness on the North York Moors, its meaning and its likeness to Jeremy Corbyn. The HF property at Whitby has the advantage of being within walking distance of the town with lots to see and do plus the famous Magpie Cafe for fish and chips.

Sue Salmon

**Forest of Dean Ramblers Group** [www.fodramblers.org.uk](http://www.fodramblers.org.uk)

2018 is a special year for the group which celebrates its 40th year in September. We are fortunate to have two of our leaders, Susan Warren and Roger Cox, who have regularly led walks over these 40 years which is a stunning achievement. Roger's celebratory walk was earlier in the year with 27 members walking with him. Susan's celebratory 5 mile walk will be on Sunday 5th August starting from Lydney, full details will be in the July to October programme.



In early May the Forest of Dean Ramblers enjoyed a wonderful week's walking in the Yorkshire Dales. Based in Skipton, members not only had two walks daily to choose from but enjoyed seven days of sunshine....it was great not to have muddy boots to clean at the end of the day! The Dales were seen at their best and members were delighted to see so many curlew and lapwings on the moors as well as dippers, kingfishers and grey wagtails in the clear waters of babbling brooks.

**Cleeve Ramblers Group** [www.cleeveramblers.org.uk](http://www.cleeveramblers.org.uk)

Cleeve Ramblers has continued to offer its normal full programme of walks each Sunday and first Wednesday of the month. Sadly between December 10th and March 18th we lost 5 Sunday walks, 2 due to snow, 1 due to flooding and 2 due to extreme wind and rain. Many of our walkers have been struggling to remember a winter when so many walks had to be cancelled. Our November to February programme saw 19 walks completed at an average of 8 miles and 17 walkers. We have seen some new faces on our Sunday walks and had hints that amongst them there may be a couple of new walk leaders.

The General Committee has also seen an increase in active members and meeting numbers, the bi-monthly meetings are still popular especially as it ensures all business is complete and up to date. Since the AGM we have a new Treasurer in David which has allowed Gerry to move to Webmaster which will hopefully help with a maintaining a more relevant and informative site.

In April we held our Annual Dinner, returning to the Cotswold Hills Golf Club for an enjoyable evening with good food and obviously great company. All being well we shall return there next year. Sue and Ruth are working hard to try and extend our range of social activities in an attempt to attract more participants.

Cleeve Ramblers Footpaths Committee has been active across our area checking on issues and making reports to the County Council. The Inspector has rejected the Council's Order re-establish public access to Bentley Lane because they used the wrong legal instrument. The Committee has taken prompt action so a new order is raised using the correct process which should enable this ancient Right Of Way to be restored. This process, which will take some months to complete, will include us collecting written statements from walkers who used the route before it was closed in 2009 by the wooden gates which currently remain in place. Brian Payne Cleeve Ramblers Secretary



## 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](http://www.fodramblers.org.uk))

Wed 4 July 10 am - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **Nailsworth to Chavenage**  
Park Wyevale Garden Centre, Nailsworth, off B4041 to Avening. E168 close to CP entrance. Drinks in café at end (GL6 OAL, ST854996)  
Starting from Nailsworth we follow a circular route of hills, valleys, woods, views, and farmland up to Chavenage and back. Picnic lunch.  
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 11 July 10 am - 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate **Winchcombe**  
Meet Back Lane CP (P&D £1.00) (OL45/LR163) (GL54 5PZ, SP023284)  
Sudeley, Waterhatch, Roel Gate, Lynes Barn, Little Farmcote, Dunn's Hill. Picnic.  
Contact: Arnold, 01242 603576 or 07789 317291

Wed 18 July 10 am - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **Three Pens and a Table**  
Crickhowell Info Centre CP (parking fee). OL13 (NP8 1BN, SO218183)  
Pen Gloch-y-pibwr, Pen-Alt-mawr and Pen Cerrig-calch then returning via Table mountain. Picnic.  
Contact: Jenny & Peter, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

Wed 25 July 10 am - 10m/16.1 km – Mod **Black Mountains Pilgrimage**  
Goytre Wood CP (just off A4042 south of Goytre Hall) OL13. (NP7 9DL, SO317062) AM - Hilly - Climb Pentre Hill to Bomber Crash Memorial. Continue to Cwmavon to reach the unique Goose and Cuckoo Pub for lunch/drink or picnic. PM - mostly flat to reach Mon& Brecon canal.  
Contact: Guy, 01242 251412 or 07968 797186 on day.

Wed 1 Aug 10 am- 11 miles/17.7 km – Mod **Broadway by Steam**  
Park at Toddington Railway Station. OL45. (GL54 5DT, SP050323)  
Travel by steam on the newly completed rail link to Broadway Station which now looks as it did originally. Meet 10am buy single ticket to Broadway £6.00. Walk back Cotswold Escarpment. Picnic lunch.  
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day

Wed 8 Aug 09:50 am - 12.5 miles/20.1 km – Mod **St Tewdrig's Way**  
Meet free CP behind Severn Bridge Social Club in Bulwark. Short walk to catch bus from Chepstow to Tintern. (NP16 5JX, ST534928) Long gradual climb from Tintern Station and gradual descent to Mathern. A well is where Tewdrig's wounds were washed, a church where he died  
Contact: Lynn, 01291 689954 or 07957 662209 on day Picnic lunch.

Wed 15 Aug 10 am - 11 miles/17.7 km – Moderate **Kerne Bridge**  
Meet Kerne Bridge. park at Canoe Centre next to Bishop's Wood Village Hall (signposted from B4234) £2 car (was £5). Please consider café after OL14. (HR9 5QT, SO581189) Follow Wye Valley Walk Leys Hill and Bulls Hill before a steep climb up Chase Woods. On to Penyard park return via Howle Hill. About 2000 ft ascent. Picnic lunch.  
Contact: Jackie, 01594 564417 or 07767 351190 on day

Wed 22 Aug 10 am - 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate **Tresham**  
Park in Tresham on the verge alongside the Millenium Green. E167. (GL12 7RW, ST793913) Moderate but quite hilly walk taking in Hawkesbury Monument and Kingswood. Picnic.  
Contact: Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 on day

Wed 29 Aug 10 am - 11.5m/18.5 km – Mod **Which Lench for Lunch**  
Park at Sports Bar CP, Lench Rd, Church Lench. (WR11 4UQ, SP024514) Walk Church Lench, Wychavon Way, Sheriffs Lench, Craycombe Coppice, Hill, Throckmorton and Bishampton. Picnic.  
Contact: Martin, 07790437908

**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.

Wed 5 Sep 10 am - 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Miserden**  
Meet at CP adjacent to Miserden School. E179. (GL6 7JA, SO934089)  
Gloucestershire countryside and villages. Picnic lunch.  
Contact: Hilary, 01453 753398 or 07503754620 on day

Wed 12 Sep 10 am - 10m/16.1km – Mod **Stinchcombe and Nibley Knoll**  
Meet Stinchcombe Hill Walkers CPark. L162/E167. (GL11 6AQ, ST743983)  
Walk Hermitage Woods, Ashen Plain, Waterley Bottom, Laycombe Woods, Westridge, Nibley Knoll, then return to Stinchcombe on the Cotswold Way. Bring picnic. 1000 ft of Ascent, Moderate to Hard.  
Contact: Richard, 07512758229

Wed 19 Sep 10 am - 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **Tor y Foel Wander**  
Henderson Hall, Talybont, parking £1.00. OL13 (LD3 7YQ, SO113228)  
Following the Henry Vaughan Trail and Brinore Tram Road, then walking over Tor y Foel and returning via the canal. Picnic.  
Contact: Jenny & Peter, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

----- New walks welcome for Nov -Feb programme -----

Wed 26 Sep 10 am- 10 miles/16.1 km – Moderate **Coaley Peak**  
Meet at Coaley Peak Picnic Site. E168. (GL10 3TP, SO794018)  
An undulating walk including Cam Long Down and Uley Bury. Picnic.  
Contact: Dave, 01452 721792 or 07593 296983 on day

Wed 3 Oct 10 am- 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Stroud Boundaries**  
Meet Stroud Leisure Centre (Stratford Park). E179. (GL5 4AH, SO844057)  
Hilly with good views following boundaries around Stroud. Picnic lunch.  
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day

Wed 10 Oct 10 am - 10 miles/16.1 km - Moderate **The Malverns**  
Hollybush Upper CP. Free parking. Additional parking along Ledbury Road A438. E190. (HR8 1ET, SO758368)  
Walk along the hills to the Wyche cutting, drop down to Colwall, back along the West side of the hills. Picnic.  
Contact: Maggie, 01684 592727 or 07938 543055 on day.

Wed 17 Oct 10 am - 12 miles/19.3 km - Moderate **Birdlip**  
Meet at 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, with other options.  
Contact: David P, 01793 771068 or 07824 603711 on day

Wed 24 Oct 10 am- 11 miles/17.7 km - Moderate **Seven Springs**  
Meet at the Hungry Horse CP, Seven Springs. E179. (GL53 9NG, SO968169)  
Walk Cotswold Way, Hartley Hill, Devil's Chimney, Long Barrow, Cowley Wood & Cockleford Wood. Picnic.  
Contact: Robert & Barry, 07407 359600 or 07807 342238



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