



Some Events: Winchcombe Walking Festival



FoD at Speech House Forest Active Day

General Council (March 2014 Liverpool) is the place where ramblers from across the country get together to debate current topics. Motions are put forward by Members through their Groups and Areas. However time is set aside for workshops discussing ideas for the future. Politicians from various backgrounds spoke briefly about the benefits of walking and ramblers. It may not be surprising that every £1 spent on walking can save £7 on the NHS. We learned about the House of Commons walking & mountaineering club and the way MPs have enjoyed ramblers' walks. Also the usefulness of legacies in funding ramblers & special projects.

The **2026** cut off date is looming for adding missing paths and rights of way to our local definitive map held by the County Council. Definitive maps only show known confirmed Rights of Way so there are still many unlisted paths, that are walked regularly or where it may be obvious there used to be a path. After 2026 it will be too late to add these to the map. 2026 may seem a long way off but we're already half way through from the Bill being passed in 2000.

The British Horse Society is becoming very active in trying to add lost Bridleways. On 24th May Jill Byrne, our Footpath Secretary for the Gloucestershire Area, took part in a breakfast programme on BBC Radio Gloucestershire. Together with the BHS it was stressed how important for everyone to register **lost paths** and ways. If you know of one – please let us know.

After agonising for a while about Highways proposed **A417 loop** at the Air Balloon roundabout, we decided to offer support to the scheme. There are naturally environmental issues but moving the A417 away from the edge of the escarpment and creating new crossings should give significant benefits to walkers on the Cotswold Way and the Gloucestershire Way long distance trails, in addition to the safety benefits for local road users. However it's ten years away and we do need better crossings there now!

Someone once famously said 'many hands make light work'. We're grateful to members who volunteer for the little jobs and the large ones, to help the organisation support walkers and walking. If you feel able to give some time or perhaps take turns as a team (you may not be in a usual committee) with website, facebook, this newsletter, enjoy a display stand at a show, please let us know! Contact **Bernard Gill** by mail: bernard.gill@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk or phone 01242-60204

Cotswold Way Association - proposed

Is the future of the Cotswold Way secure? As the newest National Trail it is in good order but government funding cuts for the care and maintenance of National Trails mean a less certain future and potential degradation of this jewel in Gloucestershire's crown.

The Cotswold Wardens cherish the Way as do Ramblers. Faced with increasing funding cuts, what do we do about it? Nothing? We could, but do we want to see standards drop and the Way become less usable? If not, then what can we do? Well, some Cotswold Wardens have invited us to work with them to set up a Cotswold Way Association run by volunteers along similar lines to the well established South West Coast Path Association or the less well known Offa's Dyke Association.

I believe that we should pick up the legacy of Tony Drake and look after what we regard as our Cotswold Way - the number one footpath in Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds.

Interested? Want to know more - with no commitment?

Contact Mavis Rear by email mavis.rear@tesco.net or telephone 01242-674470

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Chipping Campden

Gloucestershire Ramblers - OS Project

When out walking and finding our way in the countryside many of us use an OS (Ordnance Survey) map. However sometimes we might find that the map doesn't quite show what is on the ground.

To try to ensure future maps are as correct as they can be for walking, OS asked Gloucestershire Ramblers to work with them to set up a new project. Developed by our Footpath Secretaries this unique UK pilot allows any GR member to report mapping errors and since April the seven Gloucestershire Ramblers OS Contacts have been submitting issues directly to OS.

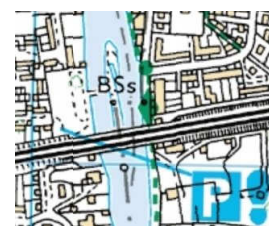
While changes to buildings, roads, or new housing estates will typically be reported by Planning Agencies, the types of updates GR members could report may include missing field boundaries, woods that have matured or felled, new farm tracks, public houses shown on maps that have closed, or any other difference between what is on the ground and what is shown on the map.

Other footpath issues should continue to be made to the local footpath secretary

As another element to this project, OS would like suggestions for features that are currently not included or shown on maps. OS have asked that as a walking organisation we may have suggestions for additional 'nice to have' information.

This innovative project should help ensure accuracy of local maps and in the longer term, if it proves to be a success in Gloucestershire, there is an expectation that it will be rolled out across the country.

For further information please contact Richard Holmes, Footpath Secretary, Cirencester Ramblers or Jill Byrne, Gloucestershire Area Footpath Secretary, footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk



Gloucester

GROUP REPORTS

The Group have just returned from a wonderful weeks walking in the Chirk nr. Wrexham with walks on all but the one rest day. The scenery was quite outstanding with gentle hills, quiet places and lots to see and do. All of the walks were planned by individual members off the map' and we were helped considerably by the well marked

footpaths. We managed a return journey on a steam train, had our first cream tea of the year and two excellent group meals at local pubs...so not all hard work!

David Sanderson, Secretary



Mid Glos.

This photo of Lydney Marina was taken on a recent walk by Keith. It was spotted on our Website (www.midglosramblers.btck.co.uk) by the compiler of the Lydney Town Council Neighbourhood Develoement Plan who requested if he might include it in the Plan. I was delighted to accept the free advertising and the Group are now featured in the above publication. Well done Keith

Mid Glos Group are happy to report six new members this quarter with a further two lapsed members re-joining.

Des Smyth

South Cotswold

As Mike Garner puts the finishing touches to the July-October walks programme we are

breaking more records with a total of 59 walks. Walks continue to be well supported with turnouts frequently exceeding thirty and sometimes over forty. Our ice cream walk has now reached well South of Bath and by the time this news letter is published we will have completed the fifth stage to Hallatrow.

We have introduced a new type of walk to the walks which we arrange in conjunction with Rodborough Parish Council. The first two walks this year have been designated family walks and parents have been encouraged to bring children along. An activity sheet has been produced by the local Scouts for children, old and young, to complete on the walk.

The holidays to the Lake District and Dunster have both attracted in excess of 20 members and we are now starting to plan next years holidays which will hopefully include a visit to the HF House at Lulworth.

We still have funds available for kissing gates although our stock of walks books used to finance this project is rapidly running out with no plans to reprint.

Our Footpath Committee are still being kept busy. In February two members attended the annual meeting with Glos PROW where they were able to obtain more information on the

outsourcing of PROW work and the current situation with footpath work. At the last Committee meeting they reviewed 8 new reported obstructions as well as one new planning application for a new path near Wotton Under Edge.



SCR in Box on the ice cream walk – doing what they do best

to be called The Marchesi Walk. In addition they reviewed the situation on another 32 outstanding cases.

We continue to support Stroud Symphony Orchestra and in March over 20 members attended a concert to hear them play Walton's Johannesburg Festival Overture, Brahms Violin Concerto and Dvorak Symphony No7.

Richard Davis, Chairman

Cleeve Cleeve Group have returned to normal walking following several cancelled walks due to bad winter weather.

Our Spring / Summer programme is now available and is complete apart from one Sunday for which no leaders are available. There maybe a last minute volunteer.

We have just returned from our Spring walking holiday at the HF house in Dovedale, it was a good weekend apart from a few showers the weather was good for walking. The leaders and walks were excellent as always with HF.

Cleeve Committee is reverting to bi-monthly having trialed less frequent meetings and found that they were not conducive to



Forest of Dean Ramblers

Twenty one Forest of Dean Ramblers and two dogs had an energetic four day holiday based just outside Aberystwyth. Walking around the beautiful Hafod Estate, the Ramblers were puzzled about where the bridge had disappeared: luckily a replacement foot-bridge was supplied.

The area was perfect for walking and our leaders excelled, taking us exploring on the coast, in woodland, over mountains,



through sites of industrial archaeology, past lakes and waterfalls and around nature trails. The strikingly beautiful scenery and variety was greatly enjoyed by all. The group walked a total of 33 miles through rain, wind and then two days of sunshine. We would like to thank the friendly staff the Conrah Hotel who looked after us well, with spacious rooms, good food and good beer (as I am informed by some members of the group!).



Cirencester The last six months have been very busy for the group.

The annual Away Weekend at Torquay began on Friday 21st March. On the Saturday they walked Torquay to Totnes Trail (also known as the John Musgrave Trail. (John was well respected ramblor from this area). After dinner at the hotel many went into the sister hotel to watch a Beatles Tribute duo perform. Some were persuaded onto the dance floor despite having walked all day before retiring to bed for a well-earned rest. On Sunday 23rd March the group took the bus to Churston Ferrers to walk into Brixham. After overlooking the harbour from the viewing platform, they began the climb up to Berry Head taking in the wonderful views

We have completed 7 of our 40th Anniversary Walks which recreate the inaugural walks from 1974/5 when our group was first created. The Anniversary Skittles evening on 26th April was held at Down Ampney Football Club, Broadleaze. It was very well attended and a good time was had by all. On Friday evening 16th May 48 members and guests enjoyed a 40th Anniversary Barn Dance at Daglingworth Village Hall dancing to the Amazing Matchless Band.

And on 29 June we hold our Annual Strawberry Tea at Chedworth Village Hall with Benedict Southworth, Ramblers CEO and other dignitaries attending. Our Path Maintenance

Volunteers (PMVs) have been busy clearing footpaths in Siddington, Eastleach and Winstone areas with guidance from Richard Holmes, our Footpath Secretary who works extremely hard organising these days and even provides his workers with excellent home made cakes.



Pat Beckley

GLoucestershire AREA MID-WEEK WALKS

Sorry, no dogs except registered assistance dogs

Wed 2 July 10:00 10m A Severn Saunter Guy
01242 251412 or 07968 797186 (walk morning) Meet in layby adjacent to Severn and Wye Valley Smokery, Chaxhill (A48), or in lane immediately before Smokery (OL14) SO 736143. This is a very flat and easy going walk. Long morning to Bollow alongside river Severn. Westbury on Severn for pub or picnic and time to look around Westbury Court Gardens (NT card handy). Short return to Chaxhill and tea at Smokery plus any fishy purchases (cool bag in car?).

Wed 9 July 10:00 10m Staunton Roy
01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning) Park at Staunton Garden Centre (please consider patronising - café for tea after walk, or plants etc) (E179) SO 792294. Walk Corse Wood Hill, Foscombe Farm, Wickridge Street, Hasfield (picnic lunch stop), Old Farm, Tirley Court, Woodside Farm. Steady walk, many stiles.

Wed 16 July 10:00 11m Llanthony Valley (both sides) Mike I
01594 562341 Llanthony Priory CP (OL13) SO 289278. Climb Loxidge Tump then follow Offa's Dyke path, dropping back down into the valley at Capel y Ffin. Climb the other side to Blacksmith's Anvil then along the ridge via Bal Mawr, descending Cwm Bwchel to Llanthony. Strenuous with two steep ascents. Picnic.

Wed 23 July 10:00 10m Oyster Hill Janet & Geoff
01531 650349 or 07933 737891 (walk morning) Meet Ledbury Bridge Street CP (£1.50 fee) Third CP on right down Bye Street from High Street beside Clock Tower (E190/LR149) SO 708377. Walk Bradlow Knoll, Hope End, Oyster Hill, Colwell, Ridgeway, Eastnor. Picnic.

Wed 30 July 10:00 10m Sapperton Susanne
01453 757212 or 07768 403530 (walk morning) Park considerably in Sapperton and meet by church (E168) SO 948033. A hilly walk via woods, Ile's Green, and Strawberry banks to Oakridge, then Wysis way to Bisley (picnic, pub for drinks), return via Waterlane and Tunley farm.

Wed 6 Aug 10:00 12m Stow on the Wold Roy
01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning) Park Tesco town CP (OL45) SP 192263. Walk Maugersbury, Maugersbury Hill, Icomb. Middle Farm, Lower Farm, Bledington (picnic lunch stop), Bledington Heath, Oddington, Broadwell, Stow Well. 2 steady climbs.

Tue 12 Aug 10:00 10m Redmarley D'Abitot Diana
01242 578777 or 07528 697023 (walk morning) Park in layby on A417 just south of the pub at road junction (E190/LR150) SO 764313. Walk Lowbands, Park Farm, Ryton, Dymock, Ketford, Durbridge Rd. Walk includes parts of Poet's Paths. Picnic lunch. Drinks only at pub in Dymock. Possibly tea at end of walk.

Wed 20 Aug 10:00 11m Hawkesbury Upton Des
01242 245666 or 07939 615749 (walk morning) Meet Village Hall CP (small contribution for CP) (E168) ST 777870. Figure of 8. AM Walk Horton, Cat Cottage. PM Walk Monument, Lower Kilcott, Long Coombe. Pub lunch at Beaufort Arms or picnic. Leader will collect food orders before walk. Good views, woods, and secluded valleys.

Wed 27 Aug 10:00 11m Sugar Loaf Derek
01242 678655 or 07710 339297 (walk morning) Byefield long stay free CP, Tudor Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5YL. Easiest approach is from the 'Waitrose' direction. Park at the lower end of the CP where the path leads off to the river. SO 297140. Along the river Usk to Llanwenarth then ascend to the top of Sugar Loaf. Return along the Deri and Abergavenny centre.

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

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

Wed 3 Sep 10:00 11m Castle Combe Alan
01249 720518 Park in Castle Combe Upper CP, just off B4039 (E156) ST 845777. Walk North Wraxall, Ford, Long Dean & Castle Combe. Picnic.

Wed 10 Sep 10:00 10m Forest of Dean David & Henrietta
01452 302024 or 07831 234790 (walk morning) Wenchford CP, nr Blakeney (OL14/LR162) SO 654081. Walk Wenchford, Cockshoot Wood, Moseley Green, Stone Edge, Mallards Pike. Mixed woodland walk. Picnic.

Wed 17 Sep 10:00 10m Alderton Arnold
01242 603576 or 07789 317291 (walk morning) Park on road in Alderton village, meet at road junction near the Gardener's Arms (E190) SO 998334. Walk Alderton, Dumbleton, Wormington, Toddington. Hilly start, but mostly easy going. Picnic.

Wed 24 Sep 10:00 12m Welsh & English Bicknors Peter
Meet layby at old SCA factory, Lower Lydbrook, on B4234 to Coleford (OL14) SO 590175. Walk Welsh Bicknor, Coppet Hill, Huntsham Bridge, Yat Rock, English Bicknor, Carterspiece and Lydbrook spur path. One steep climb to Yat Rock, otherwise moderate. Picnic.

Wed 1 Oct 10:00 10m Haresfield Val
01452 419827 Park at Haresfield Beacon CP (E179) SO 832085. Walk Painswick Valley and Edge. Picnic.

Wed 8 Oct 10:00 11.5m Chedworth Anne B
01242 863505 or 07718 499523 (walk morning) Denfurlong Farm Shop CP, on right furthest from shop (OL45/LR163) SP 066106. Walk Lower Chedworth, Fossebridge, Stowell Park, Hampnett, Yanworth, Chedworth Woods, Chedworth. Picnic.

Wed 15 Oct 10:00 10m Woodchester Park Hazel
01242 254105 or 07884094363 (walk morning) Coaley Peak CP on B4066 (E168/LR162) SO 794011. Coaley Peak, Nymphsfield, Woodchester Mansion, Woodchester Park, Inchbrook, Brown Hill, Stanley Wood, Buckholt Wood. Picnic.

Wed 22 Oct 10:00 10m Mitchell Troy Catherine
01452 615382 Meet Mitchell Troy Village Hall. Some parking by church and Village hall (OL14) SO 490102. A hilly walk passing through Whitebrook and by Penallt church. Beautiful views and attractive woodland. Picnic.

Tue 28 Oct 10:00 9.5m Hawling Diana
01242 578777 or 07528 697023 (walk morning) Park considerably in village or small CP by chapel (OL45/LR163) SP 066231. Walk Roel Gate, Newmeadow farm, Charlton Abbots, Brockhampton. A hilly walk which will be taken gently! Picnic.

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