



10th Winchcombe Walking Festival – 17-19th May 2019

It was 10 years ago that the first of these popular events began and ramblers have continued to help every year since. This year some 500 people, both local and from further away, took part in various walks from a short evening stroll to a 26 mile challenge along the Winchcombe Way.

Ramblers Central Office sent through give away badges and pens for our display stand and we hope that everyone now knows a little more about what we do.

Walking Together Saturday 14th September 2019 - Winchcombe

Following on from the successful event last year at Kings' Stanley, Cleeve Group has offered to host another and what better place to choose than Winchcombe!

Many of our Groups and affiliated Clubs have moved their weekend walks to the Saturday, all meeting at Abbey Fields Community Centre. The day opens at 10am with a brief discussion of available walks. Non-members are welcome to join in too. There will be morning, afternoon & all day walks. Return to the Centre by 3:30pm for afternoon tea, cake etc. and a roundup by a speaker from Ramblers.

Ramblers Workshops Saturday 26th October Cheltenham

Advance notice. The venue will be in Cheltenham with various workshop sessions - essentially two categories, technical and volunteering. The technical ones help members deliver our mission on the ground say walk leading, or footpath issues.

Volunteering sessions focus on ensuring that the Ramblers can continue to function, committee team work, recruiting members or helping volunteers.

Diary Dates

Walking Together Winchcombe
10:00 – 16:00 Sat 14th Sept
Abbey Fields Community Centre
Back Lane GL54 5QH SP021283

Hosts: Cleeve Ramblers Group
Morning, afternoon and all day walks. Refreshments.
Parking behind Library Back Lane
GL54 5PZ £1 SP023284

Gloucestershire Ramblers
Area Council Meeting
Wed 25th Sept 2019 7:30pm
Gloucester Room, Premier Inn,
A38 Twigworth. GL2 9PG

Gloucestershire Area AGM
Sat 7th Dec 2019 10:00 am
Blockley Jubilee Hall GL56 9BY
Hosts: North Cotswold Group



Find us on Facebook and Meetup

First Aid Training Days



St John Ambulance held a successful pilot day with Ramblers at Twigworth in March. If you're interested in First Aid please let your Group know so more training days can be organised.

Like Walking with Dogs?

Would you be able to help us start a Group? The aim is to initially have one walk per month to load onto Walksfinder. Please email grnews if you'd like to give it a go.



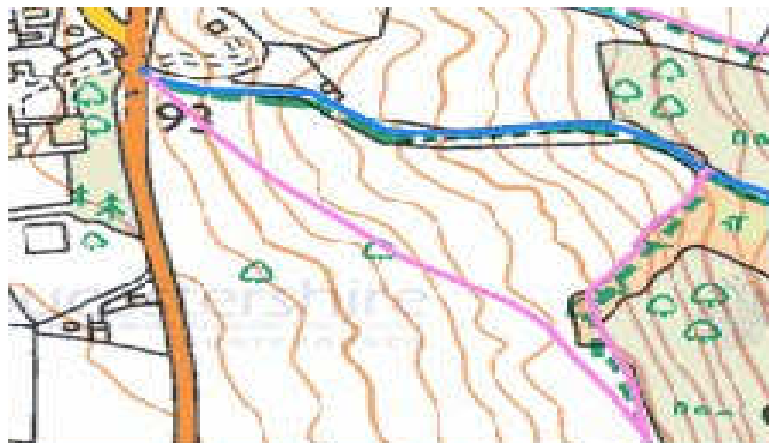
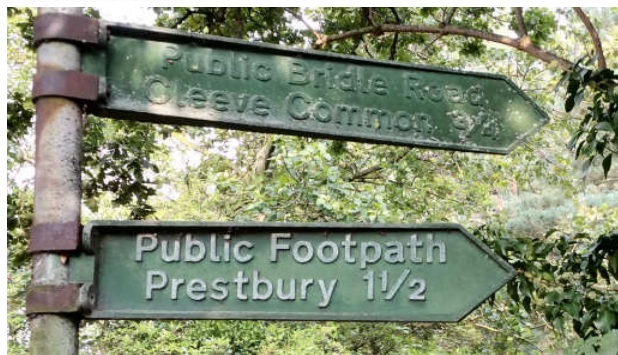
Volunteer with us

We're a close knit team. Why not join us to share with the roles, edit this newsletter, help with member's queries or respond to countryside protection issues? There is no pay but the rewards are great!

Don't forget to check out your contact preferences at 'My Account' on Ramblers website but note that some information can be sent to you anyway e.g. Walk magazine, volunteer newsletter, membership renewal etc.

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Bentley Lane – Southam, Cleeve Hill



It was 2011 when Cleeve Group began investigating the route of a popular footpath across fields from Southam to Prestbury.

Although sign-posted & described in walking books it wasn't shown on OS maps nor on the Definitive map held by the County Council. Following discussions with the Parish Council and the landowner, Gloucestershire County Council eventually created a Definitive Map Modification Order and in 2017 the path was confirmed on the mauve diagonal line shown above.

However there is also another signed Public Right of Way- a Bridleway on an ancient track heading up to Cleeve Common. A number of years ago wooden gates were installed across the entrance to the track and a fenced narrow footpath provided in the adjoining field. It was assumed it had happened through a formal process but it turned out overall was due to a mistake.

Evidence was gained from historic maps and recollection of past usage sought from local people. With the alignment along the track confirmed, the County Council began a process to reopen it which included two public consultations. The legal Order was completed in May 2019 and the gates removed.

It's great news that Cleeve volunteers with some help from the County Council are at last able to clear and restore the route.

A417 Preferred Route Announcement

March 2019 Highways England confirmed Option 30 as the preferred route of the new A417, adding a minor update to move it further east at Stockwell.

Although recognising concern about loss of the landmark Air Balloon Inn, the announcement made no mention of whether or not it is to be demolished.

The route plan doesn't show rights of way or other tracks. To help assess the impact of the scheme the map right overlays the options onto the OS map.

Alternative routes (1) (2) & (3) (dots) are offered to connect the A436 to the new A417. Retaining the Air Balloon Roundabout as a more sympathetic connection is not considered as it's to be removed.

The Birdlip link road (black) may be a step too far & could raise concerns of a rat run to Stroud. An idea to remove the Birdlip Bypass could force local traffic to use the old Roman Road or the busy new A417.

Surely to be recognised as a good scheme, it needs green bridges as in other AONBs & the Cotswold & Gloucestershire Ways kept in place. Would you join other members in a protest outside the Air Balloon?



Gloucestershire Ramblers Area includes eight Ramblers Groups and a number of affiliated Organisations. Over 60 Ramblers' Areas join together to form the Ramblers Association.

North Cotswold Ramblers Group

Our Group continues to walk every second Saturday in the month with a varied programme and an average attendance of 12-15 people.

Eleven members enjoyed a 4-night Away Break at Abingworth Hall on the South Downs. In addition to the spectacular Seven Sisters Walk along the coastal chalk cliffs we narrowly missed a massive hailstorm near The Cissbury Rings which turned the whole landscape behind us into a snow scene. A meander along the River Arun gave great views of Arundel Castle and Cathedral towering above us. A real added bonus was pre-dinner Tai Chi sessions – a great way to unwind after a days walk.



On May 14th we "christened" our Margaret Scott-Browne bench at the Westwoods Centre, Northleach. It was a glorious day & 5 members of Margaret's family plus old walking friends raised a glass of something bubbly & shared memories of her. Margaret was a founder Member of the Group and its Chairman for many years. We are very grateful to the Cotswold Wardens who did a magnificent job, preparing the site and fixing the bench in position.
Sue Salmon

Cleeve Ramblers Group

The Group Committee continues to meet every 2 months. Of the nine members usually at least six are present.

It was with great sadness we lost Ken Parker our oldest walk leader to a sudden short illness in this quarter, he was a cheerful, positive and a pleasure to walk with. A full programme of weekly Sunday walks & Monthly mid-week social short walks has been maintained. Walk averages for March - June are 19 walks, 7.5 miles, 18 walkers Additionally the Group has appreciated an offer from Michael Leek to lead a number of Summer Evening Walks.

The Footpath team has raised some volunteers to form a working party to help with the reopening of Bentley Lane. Membership remains relatively stable.

Brian Payne

Facebook Message to Gloucester Ramblers

I would like to say a huge thank you to those who were on Robinswood Hill earlier today and stayed with my husband and I whilst we waited for ambulance crew having had a fall. Our dog would also like to thank the kind lady who was looking after him. Thank you all so much.

The Group delayed its walk until arrival of paramedics. Message from Ramblers' CO:

It's lovely to hear that those on the group walk were able to help – and were such brilliant ambassadors for the Ramblers.

Cirencester Ramblers Group

The usual variety of walks, Sunday, Mid Week and evening, have been well supported by members. Highlights included a Day Out in Bristol on Sunday 14th April, when 23 members and guests travelled to Bristol for a day of walking and sightseeing. This included The Giant's Cave in St Vincent's Rocks in the Avon Gorge, the Clifton Suspension Bridge, Camera Obscura and Museum.



This year away walking weekend, 21st to 25th March, was enjoyed by 52 members and guests at the Pines Hotel in Swanage. The majority took part in either long or short walks on both the Saturday and Sunday; and those that did not found other ways to amuse themselves and from feedback, it would appear that a good time was had by all. These weekends have become so popular that we are currently working on 2021 break to enable us to find a hotel big enough! Some Committee members are currently working on updating our walks leaflets.

Path Maintenance Volunteers (PMV) reopened an abandoned path at Jackaments Bottom. Work on the WYSIS Way has stalled whilst the route through Robins Wood Hill was clarified. Waymarking and some clearance have been completed, plus erecting 4 waymark posts. We are now able to progress towards the Forest of Dean. If you're interested in helping please contact Richard at footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk.

Pat Beckley - Cirencester Ramblers

A page of Mid Week walks for the Gloucestershire Ramblers Area

Gloucestershire Ramblers Area organises a series of day walks, approx 10-12 miles long, usually mid-week, in or perhaps outside the county. If you're not yet a member, why not give us a try (please contact leader beforehand). Once a member, all our walks are free! (Sorry Registered Assistance dogs only but see www.fodramblers.org.uk)

Wed 3 July 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **Around Ozleworth**
Park at the rear of Hunters Hall CP. E168. (GL8 8YA, ST814960)
A ten mile circuit up and down around the Ozleworth Valley. Picnic.
Drinks available at the pub after the walk.
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 10 July 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km – Mod **Snowhill**
Snowhill CP. OL45. (WR12 7JR, SP096340)
Winchcombe Way, Stumps Cross, Cotswold Way, Wood Stanway,
Stanway, Stanton, Laverton, Buckland, Littleworth Wood. Picnic.
Contact: Roy & Anne, 01242 245488 or 07766 413176 on day

Wed 17 July 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km – Mod **Sugar Loaf**
Abergavenny Byfield CP (free) OL13. (NP7 5YL, SO297140)
Strenuous (but no harder than usual for the Black Mountains).
Along the river and over Sugar Loaf. Picnic.
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day

Wed 24 July 10:00 - 11.5 miles/18.5 km – Mod **Whittington**
Park considerably in Whittington. OL45. (GL54 4HD, SP015209)
Walk from Whittington to Sevenhampton, Hawling, Charlton Abbotts
and return via Warden's wood and Puckham Scrubs.
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day. Picnic

Wed 31 July 10:00 - 10m/16km – Mod **Woods & Fields Birdlip**
Roadside parking nr. Birdlip School. E179. (GL4 8JH, SO928142)
A mix of open fields and woodland passing through Brimpsfield,
Caudle Green, Miserden, Sudgrove and Whiteway before returning
to Birdlip via Hazel Hanger Wood. Bring picnic lunch.
Contact: Lawrence, 07486 415265

Wed 7 Aug 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km – Mod **Tetbury to Stroud**
Tetbury -Stroud Chavenage, Longtree Bottom, Minchinhampton
Linear walk using bus 69 10.05am from stop K Merrywalks, Stroud
(SO 850054). Free parking Stratford Park Leisure Centre (SO 845056)
short walk (15 min) to bus stop. Or catch the bus London Rd. Thrupp,
if preferred for parking as last mile on canal.
Contact: Hilary, 01453 753398 or 07503754620 on day. Picnic

Wed 14 Aug 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **North Malverns**
Black Hill CP £4.20 opp British Camp CP (WR13 6DW SO766406)
Veranda path to the Wyche and St Anne's Well, then a steady climb
up the Green Valley to the Lady Howard De Walden Drive around
North Hill. Return along western slopes, with fine views across
Herefordshire. Final leg over the peaks of Perseverance Hill, Jubilee
Hill, Pinnacle Hill, and Black Hill. Picnic.
Contact: Martin & Roy, 07790437908 or 07766413176

Wed 21 Aug 10:00 11.5 miles/18.5 km Strenuous **Winchcombe**
Winchcombe Back St CP (£1.00). OL45. (GL54 5PZ, SP023284)
From Winchcombe follow Cotswold Way to Belas Knap. Then the
Winchcombe Way over Cleeve Hill & Nottingham Hill to Prescott.
Gloucestershire Way and return over Langley Hill to Winchcombe.
Contact: Michael, 07986 6162575 Picnic.

Wed 28 Aug 10:00 10m/16km Mod **Cotswold Way & Deviations**
Kings Stanley CP (not Village Hall). E168. (GL10 3JD, SO811034)
Selsley Common, Ruscombe, Whiteshill, Randwick, Doverow Hill and
Ryeford. Picnic.
Contact: Alex, 01453 826907

Wed 4 Sep 10:00 10 miles/16km Mod **Monnow Valley & Cats Back**
Meet Black Hill Picnic Site. OL13. (HR2 ONL, SO288328)
Stroll through the Monnow Valley then moderate ascent to Offa's Dyke
Path and returning via Cats Back with panoramic views. Lower route if
weather conditions dictate. Picnic.
Contact: Jenny & Peter, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

Wed 11 Sep 10:00 10m/16km Easy **"Capability" walk Croome Park**
Public CP off B4211 almost opposite Upton Bridge £2.00 all day. E190.
(WR8 0BP, SO840417)
Mostly flat Earls Croome, Baughton, Croome Estate, High Green,
Severn Stoke for Pub lunch/drink or picnic. Return Severn Way.
Contact: Guy, 01242 251412 or 07968 797186 on day.

Wed 18 Sep 10:00 12 miles/19.3 km – Mod **Prinknash**
Prinknash Abbey CP (£1.00 donation). E179. (GL4 8EX, SO880138)
Twelve mile hilly walk with superb views above Painswick Valley.
Passing Pitchcombe church and Scottsuar hill. Picnic.
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day

Wed 25 Sep 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km – Mod **Winchcombe**
Winchcombe Back Lane CP (£1.00). OL45. (GL54 5PW, SP023285)
Gradual climb to Deadmanbury Gate past Sudeley Castle. Follow
Campden Lane to Beckbury Camp for picnic lunch. Return via Hailes
Abbey along the Winchcombe Way.
Contact: Bernard, 01242 602024

Wed 2 Oct 10:00 - 10 miles/16.1 km - Easy **A Riparian Ramble**
Meet at the lay-by on the east side of the A38 on the northern
entrance to Cambridge village. (GL2 7AL, SO751039)
Cambridge to Saul Junction and back by lakes, canal, rivers and
Frampton Village Green. This is part of the Dursley Walking Festival.
Contact: Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 on day Picnic

Wed 9 Oct 10:00 10m/16km Mod **A Different Llanfrynach Horseshoe**
Park Llanfrynach Village, meet at WCs OL12 (LD3 7BX, SO075257)
Ascent to Fan y Big and returning via the Three Rivers Ride. There may
be a steep descent. Moderate+ walk. Picnic.
Contact: Jenny & Peter, 01600 715719 or 07455 257262 on day

Wed 16 Oct 10:00 10m/16km Mod **Historical/Hysterical walk Bristol**
Mansion House CP (£1.20) 10:00 ST558718 BS41 9JN or 10.50am at
the mirrored globe on Millenium Square ST582725, 8.5m, if using
Portway park & ride.
Walk Aston Gate Mansion, Floating Harbour, Arno's Vale, Victoria Park
and many other Bristol sights plus a few tales on route. Lunch in the
park. Cafe at end. Contact: Richard 07512758229

Wed 23 Oct 10:00 - 11 miles/17.7 km - Strenuous **A Wye Wander**
Lay-by A4136 600m east of Staunton. OL14. (GL16 8NT, SO558123)
A Wye wander with likely subterranean activity and an airy lunch stop.
High Meadow Woods and Biblins suspension bridge, various workings,
caves and Sisters. Some narrow tracks on steep ground.
Contact: David P, 07824 603711 Bring a torch. Picnic.

Wed 30 Oct 10:00 At least 10m/16km Somewhere else **Mystery Walk**

This walks list is available at gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/midweek

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. Could 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.