

Cotswold Way 50th Anniversary Sunday 17th May 2020

At midday, the Cotswolds Conservation Board and Cotswold Way Association will host an event at Chipping Campden to celebrate the launch of the Cotswold Way by Gloucestershire County Council during Footpath Week 1970.

The Way was first mooted by Tony Drake of Gloucestershire Ramblers following the passing of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 - prompted by the 1932 Kinder Scout Mass Trespass.

A memorial to Tony is at Painswick. A bench to the other principal Cyril Trenfield (Cotswold Voluntary Wardens) is at Dyrham Park. Some of the original waymarks with a white spot are still to be found along the route. In 2014 Ramblers helped sponsor a significant 'beginning & end' marker stone outside the Market Hall at Chipping Campden.

North Cotswold Ramblers will open with a morning walk on the Sunday up to Dover's Hill. Other Groups are organising walks on the day and throughout the year.



2019 AGM Blockley Jubilee Hall

10:00 am on Saturday 7th December 2019 saw Ramblers from across the Area meet up for our Annual General Meeting. North Cotswold Group kindly hosted the event and Paul Rhodes a volunteer Ramblers Trustee spoke about the work of the organisation. We're once again grateful to members who volunteered to take on committee roles as well as those who continued in post.



Diary Dates

Winchcombe Walking Festival
Fri 15th – Sun 17th May 2020
including a walk along the original route of the Cotswold Way 50 years ago.
Why not check out our stand!

Gloucestershire Ramblers
Area Council Meeting
Wed 27th May 2020 7:30pm
Gloucester Room, Premier Inn,
A38 Twigworth. GL2 9PG



Find us on Facebook and Meetup

After lunch, Sue Salmon the Group Secretary led a short walk around Blockley – and found this intriguing gate sign.

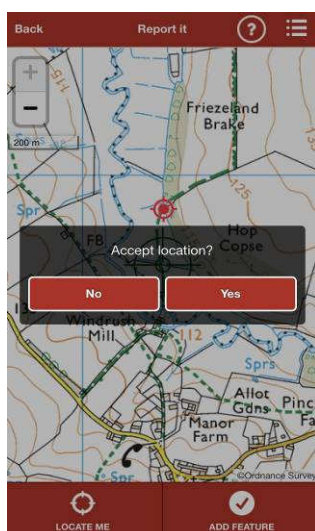


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PathWatch Restores a Bridge?



These before and after photos show a bridge at Arlingham. A South Cotswold walk found the broken planks and made a report through PathWatch. Three months later and the bridge is as good as new!



Change in use of the Countryside

Gloucestershire Ramblers have a new volunteer Area Walking Environment Officer to help protect the countryside and the places we like to walk. The role includes protecting and enhancing precious landscape, improving access to the outdoors, and inspiring people to have increased contact with nature. There is also supporting local communities to influence the future of their surroundings and supporting sustainable development to reduce our carbon footprint.

The biggest observation in the first few months has been the sheer scale of "change of use" that is taking place in our regional countryside both now and in future plans.

This includes multiple new housing developments within the green belt, especially around Tewkesbury, Stroud, Gloucester and the Forest of Dean. Farming is changing into industry, a proposed school included plans to stop up a popular footpath and a major infrastructure road scheme could change our landscape in the AONB.

Ramblers volunteers review planning applications, respond to statutory consultations, register ancient trees and hedgerows and work with other organisations to protect and defend the heritage and environment in these places. If you're concerned about a change of use near you please email countryside@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk

A417, Air Balloon, Cotswold Way, Consultation

Thanks to great efforts of Ramblers volunteers, a 40 page response was submitted to Highways England on their plans for the new A417 dual carriageway. Our forbears only wanted through traffic removed so local roads could become walkable and crossable again. They didn't seek a landscape where most paths crossing the new road were either diverted or extinguished. We're not the only organisation trying to find an appropriate balance for the Cotswolds.

It seems the project may have stalled while plans are rethought. Meanwhile survey work is being carried out in the countryside near Shab Hill. Deep bore holes are used to monitor ground water at the 30 metre, 100ft depth of the proposed road. The swathe of land examined is some 100metres wide.



A concern now is whether the scheme will pass the high threshold for planning consent in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Other schemes around the country (Shoreham, Hindhead) used tunnels in preference to cuttings.

Some Group News

North Cotswold Ramblers Group

Our Group members are scattered across the North Cotswolds and beyond with a number of our regular walkers travelling some distance to join our sociable Group for a Saturday walk. Similarly, our regular walks can take us to the extreme edges of our region and beyond. Keen walkers will travel for a good walk! One example is where Beatrice took us on a delightful walk through Felix Dennis's Heart of England Forest, an inspirational area of woodland containing over 1.8 million examples of native species trees plus some interesting memorial statues and poetry. Along the way we had some glimpses into the lavish lifestyle of Felix Dennis, the philanthropist who donated the land and created the concept of this Forest. The image shows members of the Group discussing one interesting gateway!



2020 has started well with a classic Figure of 8 round Guiting Power and a circular walk round the Slaughters. Despite recent wet weather, both walks were well attended so here's to an active and varied year of good, friendly walks with the North Cots Group.

Sue Salmon

Cirencester Ramblers Group

January 2020 Cirencester Group

We had a successful AGM on 17 November preceded by a walk in the Ampney Crucis area with a delicious lunch being provided by members. Thanks to the team who organised it. We also gained one new Committee Member, Alan, who is a welcome addition to the team.

The Corinium Hotel provided members and guests with a superb Christmas Lunch on 24th November. On Saturday 30th November 47 members and guests enjoyed a visit to Longleat with a 2 hour drive through the Safari Park. There was time to explore Longleat and its beautiful house decorated to represent a Christmas Party in the 1920's. By 4.30pm as darkness fell we were able to experience the Festival Light.

Walks have been very well attended and included a dog friendly one at Bourton on the Water.

Path Maintenance Volunteers are progressing with clearing and signposting the Wysis Way and have now reached Rudford near Gloucester.

Pat Beckley - Cirencester Ramblers

Gloucestershire Area mid week walks

Our regular 10-12 mile walks, where members of groups from across the Area can meet up for a great day out, are proving as popular as ever. Below at Haresfield and Charlton Abbots.



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 4 Mar 10:00 - 10 miles/16 km - Moderate **Kilkenny**
Park Picnic Site near radio mast/Kilkenny Inn off A436
Andoversford - Seven Springs Rd. OL45. (GL54 4LW,
SP005184) Walk Shill Hill, Elwell, Withington, Thorndale and
Foxcote. Picnic. Contact: Barry, 07407 359600

Wed 11 Mar 10:00 - 10 miles/16 km - Mod **Malvern Hills**
Hollybush CP (off A438). E190. (HR8 1ET, SO759369)
Passing over Midsummer Hill, British Camp, Worcestershire
Beacon. Picnic. Mod/Stren walk.
Contact: Catherine, 01452 559924 or 07456 425880 on day

Wed 18 Mar 10:00 10m/16km Mod **South Malverns Eastnor**
Hollybush CP off A428. E190. (HR8 1ET, SO759369)
Midsummer Hill, Eastnor, Bromsberrow, Chase End Hill. Picnic.
Contact: Robert, 07807 342238

Wed 25 Mar 10:00 10m/16km - Mod **Birdlip Caudle Green**
Park near Birdlip school but please leave the area near school
clear for afternoon pick-up. E179. (GL4 8JH, SO928142)
A mainly woodland walk passing through Hazel Hanger,
Climperwell, Barn and New Seal woods before returning to
Birdlip via Ostrich, Poston and Rookery woods. Mixed
hilly/level terrain. Bring picnic lunch.
Contact: Lawrence, 07486 415265

Wed 1 Apr 10:00 10 miles/16km Moderate **Bisley**
Bisley village hall/playing field CP, at the end of Van Der
Breen street. E168. (GL6 7BP, SO907061)
Bisley to Waterlane and Sudgrove, past Honeycombe farm
and return via Sydenhams. Picnic.
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 8 Apr 10:00 10.5m 17km Mod **Woodchester Selsley**
Coaley Peak CP. E167. (GL10 3TP, SO795015)
Coaley Peak, Woodchester Park, Woodchester, Selsley
Common and return via Stanley Wood. 1500ft ascent. Picnic.
Contact: Richard, 07512758229

Wed 15 Apr 10:00 10m 16km Mod **Eastern Edge Malverns**
CP at Hollybush A438 (crest of hill). E190. (HR8 1ET,
SO761369)
Malvern Ridge to Hangmans Hill - down to Boulsters Farm -
picnic/pub lunch at Robin Hood pub Castlemorton. Return via
Birts Street - Rye Street - Whiteleaf Oak.
Contact: Guy, 01242 251412 or 07968 797186 on day.

Wed 22 Apr 10:00 10m 16km Mod **'Earth Day' Benthams**
Park Dog Lane past Benthams. E179. (GL3 4XB, SO917160)
From Benthams an ancient road then (noisy in places) up to
Crickley Hill to find a coffee stop. Head to the longest source
of the Thames before using quiet trails past a veteran
hedgerow for lunch. Views to Gloucester Beeches. Return past
Barrow Wake - all within range of the proposed A417.
Contact: Bernard, 01242 602024 Picnic.

Wed 29 Apr 10:00 11m 18km Mod **Kings Stanley**
Kings Stanley free CP (opposite King's Head). (GL10 3NS,
SO803035)
Woodside Lane then Gypsy Lane/Stanley Wood to Coaley
Peak Viewpoint; south following Holloway down to
Hodgecombe Farm, Cam Long Down, Cam Peak, Uley,
Nymphsfield, back to Coaley Peak and return. Picnic lunch.
Contact: Pete V

Wed 6 May 10:00 11.5m 18.5km Mod **The Lenches**
Park in the Sports Bar CP, Church Lench, in Ab Lench Road.
E205. (WR11 4UQ, SP024514)
Church Lench, Throckmorton, Bishampton, Wychavon Way.
Picnic or pub lunch.
Contact: Martin, 07790437908

Wed 13 May 10:00 10m 16km Mod **Spring in Monmouthshire**
Meet Fedw Wood forestry commission CP, off minor road
between St Arvans and Devauden. OL14. (NP16 6HJ,
ST505984)
Walk through Ravensnest wood, along the Anghidi stream,
fields and wood to Cobbler's Plain. Return via Great House,
past Kilgwrwg and fields to Chepstow Park Wood. Picnic.
Could be tricky/broken stiles and a locked gate to climb.
Contact: Susanne, 01453 757212 or 07587 713668 on day.

Wed 20 May 10:00 10m/16.1 km - Moderate **Painswick**
Starts at 10:00: Stamages lane CP on the A46 in Painswick.
E179. (GL6 6UU, SO865095)
Walk will include part of the Laurie Lee Poetry Trail and a
Nature Reserve. Picnic.
Contact: Sue L, 01452 741229 or 07808 116725 on day

Wed 27 May 10:00 13m/21km Stren **Cotswold Link Trail (1)**
Charlton Kings to Andoversford
Parking at rear of Charlton Kings Social Club, Church Street by
kind permission of manager. (GL53 8AP, SO965204)
This is the first walk of the Cotswold Link Trail, a 420m circuit
around the northern section of the Cotswolds AONB. Currently
being established. Walk Wistley Hill, Chatcombe Wood, Foxcote,
Dowdeswell Manor, Andoversford, Upper Dowdeswell, Lineover
Wood, Ravensgate Hill, return through village. 1500ft of
ascent. Andoversford pub lunch drink/picnic.
Contact: Roy, 01242 245488 or 07766413176 on day

Wed 3 Jun 10:00 - 10m/16km - Moderate **Miserden**
Park near but avoid Miserden School. E179. (GL6 7JA,
SO934089)
A walk around Miserden and the surrounding villages and
countryside. Picnic.
Contact: Hilary, 01453 753398 or 07503754620 on day

Wed 10 Jun 10:00 12.5m/20km Moderate **Dovers Hill**
Cotswold Link Trail, Circular Walk #11
Park at Dover's Hill CP. OL45. (GL55 6UW, SP136397)
Chipping Campden, Broad Campden, Blockley. Return
Northwick Hill, Broad Campden, Westington. Picnic/possible pub
lunch/cafe in Blockley. Approx. 1100ft of ascent.
Contact: Roy, 01242 245488 or 07766413176 on day

Wed 17 Jun 10:00 10m/16km Moderate **May Hill**
Park in road beside Huntley Church just off A40 signposted to
Leaf Garden Centre. OL14. (GL19 3EX, SO714196)
Walk May Hill, Aston Ingham, Clifford's Mesne, Three Choirs
Way, Glasshouse. Picnic.
Contact: Anne, 01242 863504 or 07718499523 on day

Wed 24 Jun 10:00 - 10m/16km Moderate **Castle Combe**
Park CP Dunns Lane above Castle Combe SN14 7JN ST845777
Walk to West Kingston, North Wraxall and Ford. Several climbs.
Bring a packed lunch.
Contact: Mick, 01453 542082 or 07443 643462 on day

This walks list is also 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.