



### **Fri 20-Sun 22 June 2022 Winchcombe Walking Festival**

The first festival after the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions proved very popular. Ramblers helped with a lively stall and walks led too by Cotswold Wardens.



### **Diary Dates**

Gloucestershire Ramblers  
Area Council Meetings

Wed 27th July 7:30pm  
Wed 28th Sept 7.30pm

2022 AGM Cirencester  
14 Jan 2023 Chedworth

Walking Together  
Saturday 22 Apr 2023

Winchcombe Country  
Show Mon 29 Aug 2022

Find us Meetup Facebook



### **Jill Byrne Area Footpath Secretary -2013**



Jill Byrne the last Gloucestershire Area Footpath Secretary to work with Tony Drake MBE, passed away on 31st May 2022.

Jill took on various roles over many years including Area Countryside Officer and Footpath Secretary for Mid Glos Group and was inspirational in setting out a framework for responding to consultations on the A417 Missing Link at the Air Balloon.



The Ramblers' Association (Ramblers) is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492).

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## Group and Area Activities

There are 7 Ramblers Groups within Gloucestershire Ramblers Area : Cirencester, Forest of Dean, South Cotswold, Gloucester, Cleeve, North Cotswold, Gloucestershire Walking Group with its 20s-30s sub-group

### Cirencester Ramblers

The Walks Leaflets are still being developed with new logos and three additional routes. The County Council has installed two new bridges and reopened 100 metres of path through the woods past Thornhill Farm (between Fairford and Lechlade). In addition, the landowner on the other side of the A419 has also created a link to a permissive path around the lake. 26 members and guests attended our Weekend Away at the Pines Hotel in Swanage on 18 March. There were options of 2 walks on both the Saturday and Sunday, to suit most abilities. Our thanks to the local Ramblers who led both the long walks on the Saturday at Studland and Sunday at Worth Maltravers.

We continue to organise short and long walks and would also welcome anyone who would like to lead. Pat Beckley, [www.cirencesterramblers.org.uk](http://www.cirencesterramblers.org.uk)

### Gloucester Ramblers

Gloucester Group returned to a four monthly full programme of walks from March which have been well supported by members. This photo was taken on the Gloucestershire Way above Hailes Abbey.

Social events are also restarting and 15 members will be going on a week's walking holiday around Porlock from 11<sup>th</sup> June. West Somerset Ramblers have been most helpful and invited us to join one of their walks, lead two others specifically for us.

In late June, 48 members and friends will visit Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire and we'll be holding an evening walk and picnic at Upton St Leonards on the 28<sup>th</sup> July.

We'd encourage anyone to help lead our midweek and weekend walks and will also be seeking two new committee members (for minutes and footpaths) at our AGM in November.

John Bent-Marshall (Secretary) [www.gloucester-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.gloucester-ramblers.org.uk)



### South Cotswold Ramblers

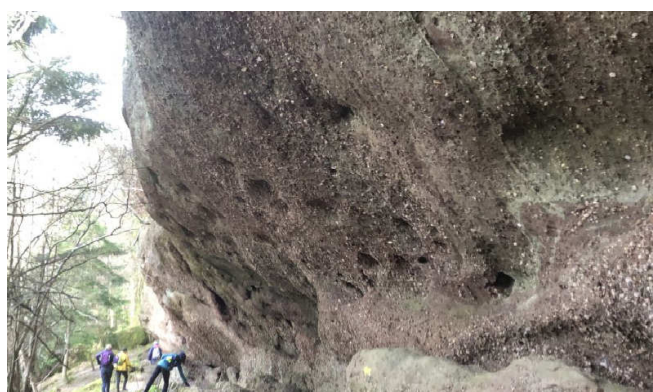
Although our membership numbers seem to remain static we are seeing a turnover in walk leaders. about six new leaders who have come forward to lead walks but on the flip side of the coin about the same number of established leaders have had to drop out either through illness or injury. During the various restrictions the 4 month programme changed to 2 months, and now 3 months. The number of people walking has steadily increased. The fortnightly Monday walks regularly have 20+ walkers.

We are still seeking to fill our Footpath Secretary role and the group is grateful to those who have been helping us out. Sometime ago we raised some money for footpath improvements in our patch and we have just purchased 4 kissing gates one of which the Cotswold Wardens have installed at Shipton's Grave Lane above Nailsworth. Some publicity about this will be shared on our website and Facebook page.

Ann Adams, [www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk](http://www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk)



**North Cotswold Ramblers at Stanton**



**Forest of Dean Ramblers The Suck Stone, Staunton**



## Responding to Planning Applications

Area Walking Environment (Countryside) activity includes responding to pre-planning and outline planning applications within the six local Districts and Boroughs - Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Forest of Dean, Cotswold and Stroud, assisting or with the help of local Group footpath secretaries.

Please let us know if you're interested in visiting proposed housing or industrial development sites in your neighbourhood and checking if there are unfavourable impacts.

We campaign to

- retain paths on or close to their current alignment in green corridors rather than along streets
- ensure adequate segregation width for cycle and pedestrian routes
- provide open amenity space for residents
- ensure health benefits for walkers such as access to nature, facilities and countryside on foot.

Adverse visual impact on national trails can also be checked such as the Cotswold Way or regional routes such as the Severn, Gloucestershire, or Glevum Ways.

Responses are reasonably similar and typically cite the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Defra Circular 1/09, the National Planning Policy Framework and the local plan where relevant.

Joint efforts continue across the county and can result in proposals being amended or turned down. However with the volume of planning applications being made it would be great and welcome if more members became involved - the more the merrier.



The Cirencester Path Maintenance Volunteers are continuing along the WYSIS Way, now well into the Forest of Dean and joined by local Group members. It may only need one or two more trips to reach the end at Monmouth, and perhaps then, like painting the Forth Bridge, time to start again at Kemble.

### **Cleeve Ramblers - Mill Lane Greet Nov 2008**

A submission for a modification to the Definitive Map and claim an historic route has made it to the GCC committee stage and Public Notices have been displayed on site.

### **A417 Missing Link at the Air Balloon - Public Inquiry**

The Planning Inspectorate is now in the process of examining the application for a Development Consent Order made by National Highways. Various submissions have been received and a report should be available in August.

### **Barrow Wake Viewpoint Car Park**

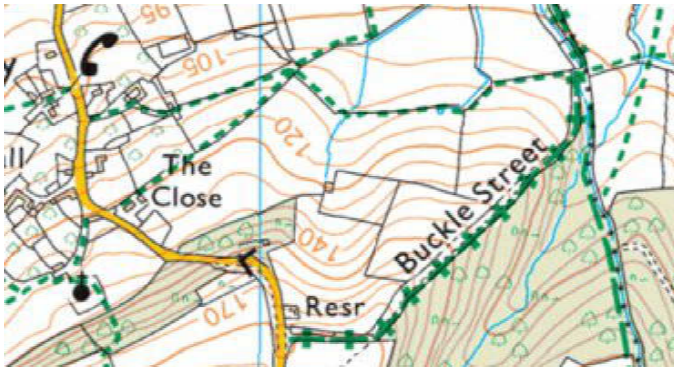
Although not part of the A417 scheme, proposals are being considered by the County Council for making improvements to the car park. What may be said to be an improvement to one person or organisation may not be seen as beneficial to another. If proposals are significant they may be taken to public consultation later this year.



## Places we Walk (Map snippets courtesy of Ordnance Survey)

A Gloucestershire Walking Group suggestion for some mapping tips

1. Public Rights of Way include Footpath (green short dash), Bridleway (long dash), Restricted Byway, Byway Open to All Traffic (cross bars).



2. Roads in yellow, orange or red indicate public access. A track shown with green blobs indicates Other Route with Public Access - ORPA.



3. Short black dashes may indicate where a path is in use, but not recorded on the Definitive Map. Here the short black, rather than green, dashes show the line of the footpath on the ground, just about in line with the Parish Boundary (black dots).



4. White roads can be found in housing estates and elsewhere. Not all are public access, some are private. Sometimes it is obvious that public access is allowed so as to link a set of footpaths.



Note the diagonal black dashes with a square indicate power cables and a pylon.

5. Permissive Footpath - Orange dashes if marked on the map - waymark badge on post shown.



6. Access Land - edged in sandy brown - can be used to walk from one path or track to another.



Note the Restricted Byways with offset side bars.