



Walking Together - Saturday 22 April 2023 Birdlip

Groups and Clubs from across the Area are meeting up for a Walking Together in April. Members can try out each other's walks and new people can join in too.

The event at Birdlip Village Hall, kindly hosted by GWG, features a variety of led walks in the countryside surrounding Birdlip. Ideas so far include :- Ebworth, Crickley Hill, Cranham Woods, Brimpsfield, Witcombe Roman Villa, and Elkstone. Walks long and short return mid-afternoon for refreshments including tea and cake - time to catch up with other members.

For further information and a programme schedule see page 4

A417 Missing Link agreed - Air Balloon closed.

Some intrepid ramblers braved a wet walk for the last day of the Air Balloon. With compulsory purchase in place, New Year's Eve 2022 seemed a fitting time for the pub to draw a line.

Keir has won the contract to build a road that fits well with the landscape of the AONB. They have sought input from all involved.



Diary Dates 2023

Sat 22 April 2023 Birdlip
Walking Together Event

Fri 19- 21 May

**Winchcombe Cotswolds
Walking Festival**

Seek out our display stand
and say hello!

Gloucestershire Ramblers
Area Council Meetings

Wed 22 Mar 2023 7:30pm

Wed 31 May 2023 7:30pm

Wed 26 Jul 2023 7:30pm

Find us: Meetup, Facebook



Know someone that might like to help?

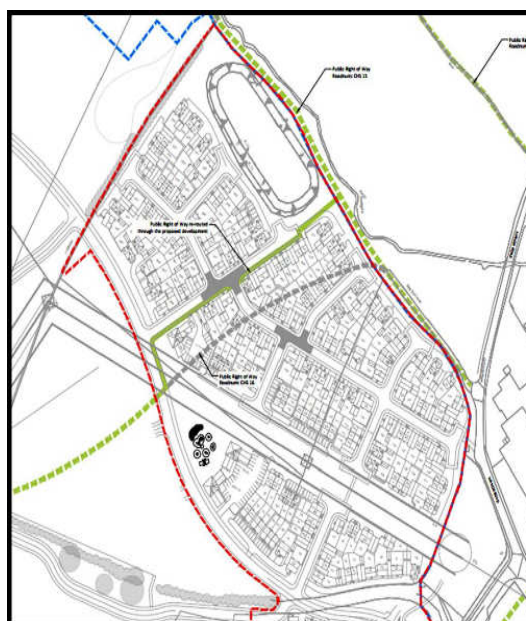
Eight new people have been found to help with the Don't Lose Your Way project to save historic paths. There are other ways to join in with the work of the Ramblers and always with a sense of achievement. Please let us and them know.

Swindon Village

An objection was raised to a diversion of a path through a new development.

It was exciting to hear that the plans were being realigned to retain the path and now included green space all around the site with segregation for a cycle route.

The plan snippets show the footpath before and after realignment.



2022 AGM Saturday 14th January 2023
Chedworth Village Hall, Hosts: Cirencester

Jack Cornish Ramblers Head of Paths (on the left in the picture) gave a presentation on Don't Lose Your Way and joined the afternoon walk around Chedworth.

The AGM resulted largely in the same committee as previously. Richard Holmes didn't stand this time and was thanked for all the good work he'd done over the years as Area Footpath Secretary, organising footpath meetings and interfacing with other organisations.



After thanking Cirencester for hosting the event and everyone for attending, the Chair expressed appreciation of the efforts of all involved in striving to meet Ramblers' charitable aims for the benefit of walkers across the County.

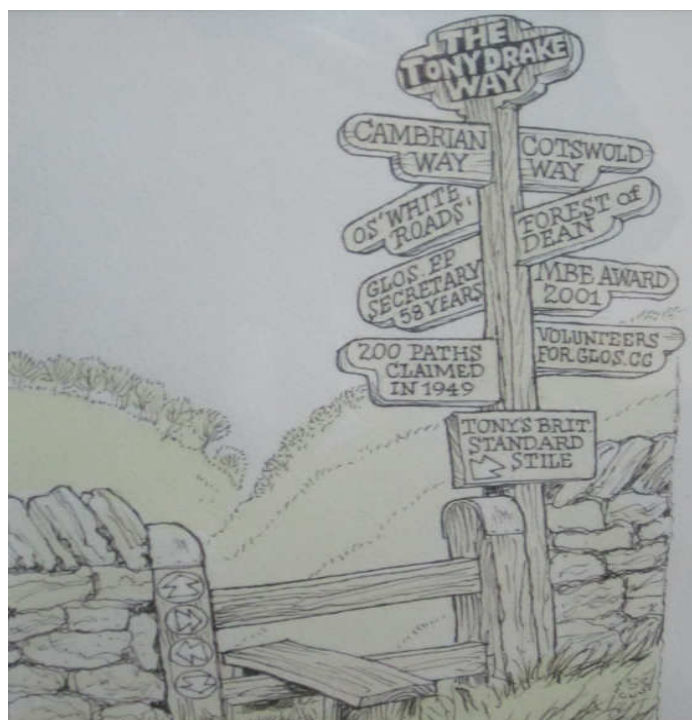
Tony Drake Remembered 10 years on

It's 10 years since the celebration on 22 May 2013 at Painswick on the Cotswold Way for the lifetime achievements of Tony Drake MBE:-

Cotswold Way, Offa's Dyke (both National Trails), Cambrian Way, green blobs on OS white roads, Waymark colours first used in the Forest of Dean, British Standard for Stiles and the preference: gap, gate, kissing gate, stile and the impetus to create a footpath manual - the 'blue book'.

As Janet Davis, Senior Policy Officer Rights of Way, said when speaking at the Eulogy:-

'Thank you for coming along today to join in this celebration of the life of Tony Drake, and for giving me the opportunity to say a few words about his impact on the Ramblers. The more I thought about it, the more important I could see it has been—there is much we take for granted now that has only come about because of Tony.'



Drainage and Path Surfaces

Some paths seem to be water-logged no matter the time of year.

Almost always a ditch is close by but how to link one to the other?

Ramblers is working with various organisations in order to build a series of examples.

Please let us know of any instances and also report the issue to the County Council. If reporting via FixMyStreet, zoom out for an OS map and select footpaths.

Some Group and Area Activities

One of 60 Ramblers Areas, Gloucestershire has 7 Ramblers Groups : Cirencester, Forest of Dean, South Cotswold, Gloucester, Cleeve, North Cotswold, Gloucestershire Walking Group with its 20s-30s sub-group

Gloucester Group

Attendance at midweek and weekend walks has been growing and a couple of new leaders have filled some dates in our next programme from March to June.

Our Annual Luncheon was held at St Andrew's Church Centre in Churchdown. 48 members enjoyed the meal, a fascinating talk by member Sarah Wyer and were entertained by our in-house group "Rambling Folk".

As well as a full programme of walks we are looking forward to a walking holiday around the Elan Valley in June and a visit to Hergest Gardens in July. Also in July as this is our 40th year, an Anniversary walk and BBQ.

John Bent-Marshall (Secretary)
www.gloucester-ramblers.org.uk



Cleeve Group



2023 has started promisingly for Cleeve Group, with two recent walks being very well attended. Our members know that they can save on their energy bills and keep warm with outdoor exercise!

The Sunday walks programme includes a walk every 2 months as a sequence along the Wardens' and Windrush Ways, between January and September.

Meanwhile, the monthly midweek walks (culminating in an optional pub/cafe lunch) are regaining popularity and we have leaders willing to organise them over the next few months.

The Committee is acutely aware that apart from walks, there have been few opportunities for members to socialise since the onset of the pandemic. We are therefore keen to resurrect the Annual Group Dinner and, in order to progress this, there is a short, anonymous survey on our webpage to gauge the level of member support for the proposal. The Group continues to respond to footpath issues.

www.ramblers.org.uk/cleeve

North Cotswold Group

Our AGM this year started with a walk near Blockley and welcomed a new chair. Grateful thanks were given to Sue and Tony who have led the Group for many years. Tony's legendary soup was enjoyed by all. The annual Boxing Day walk, held jointly with Cleeve Group, was fortunate with sunny views from Temple Guiting and Farmcote. Further walks this season include several from the Sparkling Walks book, featuring circular routes along the Diamond Way. Books are available from the Group Secretary.

Simon Jones www.ramblers.org.uk/north-cotswold



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www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk/wt23



Programme Schedule

Park in Ermin Way, the long cul-de-sac old Cirencester Road along from Birdlip School.
Meet Birdlip Village Hall Post code GL4 8JH; Grid Ref SO928142; W3W :///bronze.bedsread.taller

10.00	All	Welcome and Walk Leader Introductions at Birdlip Village Hall
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All Day walks

Start Time	Group	Description	Miles	Leader
10.05	Gloucestershire Area	Witcombe Reservoirs, Coopers Hill, Cranham, Workmans Wood, Ebworth, Climperwell	12 miles Brisk	David P
10.10	South Cotswold	Starvall, Hazel Hanger, Climperwell, Cranham Wood, Buckholt, Cots Way	6.8 miles	Jill S
10.15	Cheltenham Rambling Club	Caudle Green, Posten Wood, Wateredge Farm, Hazel Hanger	7/8 miles	Judi/Liz
10.20	Gloucestershire Area	Brimpsfield, Elkstone, Cockleford, Green Dragon, Stockwell Farm	7/8 miles	Charlie

Morning walks

Start Time	Group	Description	Miles	Leader
10.25	Cleeve	Figure of eight walk. Part 1 flat towards Coberley, return via Shab Hill	4 miles	Gerry
10.30	Gloucester	Witcombe Roman Villa	5.5 miles	John BM

Afternoon walks

Start Time	Group	Description	Miles	Leader
1.10pm	North Cotswold	An easy lollipop walk to Crickley Hill and Ochala Wood.	4.8 miles	Bernard
1.15pm	Cleeve	Figure of eight walk Part 2 Down to the Witcombes and back	4 miles	Gerry

3.30pm	All	GWG Tea and cake etc at the Village Hall
4.00pm		Roundup of the Day

Bring stout shoes or boots and suitable walking clothing/rain gear. Water, picnic
Other facilities: Royal George pub in the village
Check for possible road closures on the day
Events subject to change.