



Job Done - Locked gate replaced with one of our kissing gates near Tiled House Farm, Standish.

Earlier in the year one of our programmed walks encountered a gate on the footpath into a field which was not only locked shut but also dangerous to climb over. The matter was reported to the PROW team by Bernard, who also offered one of our kissing gates to resolve the matter. Despite the cutbacks in Shire Hall the PROW team moved very quickly, arranging to contact the landowner and installing the kissing gate, as can be seen from the before and after photos.

This is yet another path which has been improved by one of the gates funded by the sale of our walks books. **LATEST NEWS** - Members on a Start The Week walk at Frocester struggled with three horrible stiles a few months ago. Shire Hall has now agreed to install three more of our kissing gates. This will complete a very user friendly level walking route towards Coaley.

Dursley Long Stay Parking

You may have heard that Stroud District Council recently put forward proposals to close the existing long stay parking facility in Dursley, making it permit holders only and transferring the long stay to another site which rarely has adequate free space, not ideal for walks.

We only discovered these proposals a couple of weeks before the deadline for objections. Using our website and email communication we appealed to members to write to the council objecting. Forty five objections were sent and we also attended the Town Council meeting. In withdrawing their proposals the District Council said that their original investigations had not discovered the extent to which the car park was used by organisations such as ourselves. Any future development plans must now take this type of usage into account.

Chairman's Report

Like a large number of you I joined Ramblers to walk. Others wanted to involve themselves in footpath work. Others are members because they support our charitable aims and objectives. But how many of us fully appreciate the work that has been done and continues to be done by our organisation? Are you concerned to know what happens to the money raised from your subscriptions? Were you aware that Ramblers is the Country's leading walking charity and that without the dedication of its volunteers we would not have the magnificent network of well-documented and maintained footpaths, which we have today?

There have been a number of events this year, which serve to bring home to us the essential work done by Ramblers, the first being the sad death of Tony Drake. There was much press coverage of his work for our footpaths for which he received the MBE. He was the main driving force behind the setting up of the Cambrian Way and was involved in other long distance paths in our area such as the Cotswold Way and the Wysis Way. He played an instrumental role in mapping local footpaths, pioneered a footpath waymarking scheme and campaigned tirelessly for better access to the countryside.

Another event was the 80th anniversary celebrations of the Kinder Trespass, not on the face of it a large demonstration, with just over 400 walkers 'trespassing on Kinder Scout to try and establish a right to access, but five were arrested and the event was well covered by the press. As a result a collection of Ramblers Federations came together a couple of years later to form the Ramblers Association. An initial step for the new organisation was to campaign for our National Parks giving access to all on our open areas of mountain and moorland. By 1949 the first was in place and we are now all benefiting from the right to roam on areas such as Dartmoor, the Peak District and the Lake District.

There have been many more campaigns since then and the work continues. Ramblers are involved in many committees set up to consider matters which affect the countryside such as the sale of forestry land and HS2. By going to the Ramblers Volunteer Website you can register your support of a petition for the completion of the England Coastal Path, started by the last government but in danger of being sidelined. It looks as though it may now be back on course but we need to continue pressure.

And it is not only at national level that this work continues. You will doubtless have heard of our campaign to keep the long stay car park in Dursley open as well as the further kissing gates, which we have installed, and the continuing work of our footpath committee. So rest assured your money is being well spent but please don't be afraid to come forward if you feel you can spare time to volunteer in some way, whether it is leading walks, footpath work or committee work.

Richard Davis

Stroud Walking Festival

In September Stroud is going to be buzzing, and that's nothing to do with its new status as a beehive. No, it is staging a month of festivals and the walking festival will last from the 8th to the 30th of the month. Once again South Cots are putting the majority of their September walks on the programme and I would ask you to try and support them all to show any guests how enjoyable it is to walk with our Group. At the same time please try and support some of the other walks on offer. I am sure there will be an interesting mix. Watch out for the brochure which will be out hopefully in July and which will detail all of the varied events for the five festivals and also keep a eye on the new Festival website at <http://www.stroudvalleysfestivals.co.uk>

GROUP VOLUNTEERS 2011-12

Chairman:

Richard Davis 01453 762373 richard@riana.plus.com

Vice Chairman:

Mike Garner 01453 873625 mahgarner@gmail.com

Group Secretary:

Bernard Smith 01453 884013 smith.bernard@tesco.net

Group Treasurer:

Brian Witcombe 01453 872220 witcombex@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary, Newsletter, Book Sales:

Mike Garner 01453 873625 mahgarner@gmail.com

Press Secretary:

Kathy Bullen 01453 860004 mail@ajnd66.plus.com

Without portfolio:

John Corry Brian Kirkman Diana Davis

Website :

Mike Garner & Sally Davis

Footpath Chairman:

vacant

Footpath Secretary and Vice Chairman:

Christopher Gent 07917 473146

footpaths@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

Footpath Committee Minutes Secretary:

John Corry 01453 845574 john@corry.org.uk

Footpath Clearance

Bob Frewin

Footpath Committee Member:

Penny Fernando

Led Walks Programme Co-ordinator:

Mike Garner 01453 873625 mahgarner@gmail.com

Led Walks Collectors for November - February:

Mike Garner 01453 873625 *Start the Week Walks*

Jacqui Pycroft 01666 826139 *Midweek Walks*

John Geoghegan 01453 834141 *Weekend Walks*

Group Walking Holidays



In May twenty of us went to Abingworth in the South Downs for a walking holiday with HF Holidays. Mike arranged walks on the days of arrival and departure and we had three days of walking with HF, with a choice of three walks each day of varying degrees of difficulty.

On the arrival day Mike's walk started on the edge of the Downs where we had views of Goodwood Racecourse and park as well as down over Chichester and across to the Isle of Wight.

The HF walks started with walks in the Pulborough area and taking in a cottage rented by Elgar, the River Arun, Pulborough and an RSPB nature reserve, where some of us experienced the very loud singing of a nightingale.

On the second day all walks finished at Petworth where there was an opportunity to visit Petworth House with its Turner paintings. The walks took in such sights as the Wey and Arun Canal, Burton Park Mansion and the Mens, an important SSSI of ancient woodland.

On the last day all three walks finished at Arundel with its castle and churches. Walks included stretches of the river Arun while the harder walk also took in some of the South Downs Way. On the day of departure Mike took us on a walk from Amberley, circling round the valley then back on the South Downs Way where some had a quick look in the museum.

The holiday was much enjoyed by everyone. The accommodation was excellent and the food guaranteed that we weren't going to lose any weight. In the evenings we could take part in the entertainment put on by HF or we could take advantage of the fact that the company has now put TVs in all rooms.

Isle of Wight

The Autumn holiday on the Isle of Wight is now definitely going ahead. It may still be possible to fit in a couple more bookings for double rooms. If you are interested please contact Richard. This is a very good value holiday. It starts on 22 September for seven days.

Walks Galore!

Our led walks programme continues to be very well supported. With the start of the summer evening walks we sometimes put on as many as five walks a week. The July to October programme is now in place with a record 62 walk choices thanks to the hard work of the walks collectors and coordinator.

The Start the Week Walks are attracting good numbers although we would like to think that we could encourage more of the Health Walkers to come out with us when they have want to move on to something slightly more challenging. This is an ideal opportunity to increase our membership bearing in mind the Ramblers new national involvement with the Health Walks programme.

Get 15% off at Cotswold Outdoor

Although your Ramblers' membership card says 10%, you can now get a discretionary **15% off at the tills and online with Cotswold Outdoor**, and every purchase will see a donation made to the Ramblers. (This was seen on the address slip accompanying the latest Walk magazine). Also in the plastic bag holding the magazine is a mini **Ramblers handbook** to refer to during the rest of 2012.

More New Members

Since February we have welcomed another 9 new members. We hope you enjoy belonging.

Thank you to all our members for the support you give to the Ramblers Association. **Mike Garner**

Welcome to Walking Weekend

Our annual joint weekend with Stroud Rambling Club will be with us soon, on the weekend of the 21 and 22 July. Please try and support the South Cots walks and don't forget that we can also join in the Stroud Club Walks. It would be nice to see a few more of our members joining in on the Sunday. **Richard Davis**

Stroud Symphony Orchestra Concert Saturday 23rd June 2012 7:30 pm

Holy Trinity Church (near Hospital)

Trim Olympic Fanfare
Bruch Violin Concerto No 1
Soloist: Emil Huckle-Kleve)

Coates London Suite
Beethoven Symphony No 3 in Eb Major
Tickets available from

Stroud Tourist Information Office and on the door

Ramblers Footpath Clearance Work

One of our Led Walk Leaders had reported a blocked path in the Frocester/Coaley area. This had necessitated the group walking along a busy narrow country lane with a real danger from passing lorries.

The blockage was located by the flag below (SO 770029) :



When our clearance team, led by Bob Frewin, got there, they found the footpath had disappeared completely. Its only existence was a footpath sign pointing into a dense hedge.



The position of the footpath was checked with GPS and the online definitive map to make sure that it was still in existence.

Both confirmed that this was indeed a Public Right of Way!

The footpath crossed the road and continued across a field via a gate, overgrown to the extent that it would not open and climbing it was seriously obstructed. See below:

After a few hours work by Bob and his helper George, the gate was not only safer to climb but now could be opened to pass through.



However the other side of the road was a different story - the footpath was not only blocked by undergrowth but by the remains of a fence and rusty barbed wire on both sides of the hedge.

It was decided that, in the interests of safety, further clearance could have led walkers to attempt to use it with the high probability of injury. When clearing footpaths we do not as a rule interfere with landowners' fences which we leave to Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way to deal with.

This has been reported to the PRoW together with photographs and the offer of kissing gates - progress will be monitored by the South Cotswold Ramblers Footpath Committee to ensure that this dangerous situation is rectified as soon as possible.



John Corry

It's Holiday Time

And don't forget if you are booking with Ramblers Holidays or HF Holidays to tell them that you are a member of South Cotswold Group. In the case of Ramblers Holidays we will receive a donation from the holiday company to go towards Group funds. In the case of HF Holidays they will make a donation direct to Ramblers, money which is urgently required to continue with our vital work in guarding the precious heritage of our footpaths and countryside.

"Christmas" Lunch - advance notice

We have moved our normal Christmas meal to January because December was already booked at the popular Minchinhampton Golf Club. Please note the date is Saturday 19th January. Although this change comes about for a practical reason, it will also be nice to have a meal at a quieter time of the year when it will be appreciated, rather than having too many festive dinners in a short period of time.

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SPRING WALKING ON DARTMOOR AND BY THE SOUTH DEVON COAST

From Saturday 11 May 2013 for 4 or 7 nights – Organiser Mike Garner, tel 01453 873625

Our survey - After recently doing a survey amongst our members, three HF locations stood out as favourites. The top one Lulworth in Dorset is a new HF acquisition and does not yet have enough bedrooms suitable for a group but there are plans to expand so 2014 may be possible. Almost as popular were Haytor on Dartmoor and Dovedale. Members were divided on their preferred length of stay between 4 or 7 nights, and upon enquiring, we have discovered you CAN choose either.

The decision - We have therefore arranged a provisional booking (held until the 31 July) for 8 singles and 8 twins or doubles at Haytor, everyone to start their holiday on Sat 11 May and depending on their choice either finishing on Wed 15 May or Sat 18 May.

The house - We will be staying at the 4-star Moorlands House, below the famous Haytor Rocks. It has extensive public rooms with superb views. The lavish interiors are a reminder of its previous ownership by a colourful local millionaire. The main lounge with its popular bar is especially flamboyant and is dominated by its huge chandelier. The dining room and adjacent sun lounge are particularly light and enjoy panoramic views over the Devon countryside and glimpses of sea on a clear day. There is also table tennis, board games and books. Moorlands has extensive gardens with a croquet lawn and a putting green. And you can always go for a stroll straight onto the moor.

Hill and coastal walking - During our stay there will be opportunities for more challenging hill walking through southern England's last great wilderness as well as gentler options. Dartmoor once had a milder climate, and there is much evidence to support this in the ancient stone circles, clapper bridges and Bronze-Age villages we shall come across. As a complete contrast there will be some walking on and near the South Devon coast, with its sandy beaches and cliff-top paths. People staying for 4 days will be able to do both hill and coastal walking if the same patterns as 2012 are followed.

The Wednesday - will either be our day off or the going home day. Activities that day could be a trip on the Paignton to Dartmouth Steam Railway, a very scenic heritage line that Michael Portillo so enthused about on his recent Great Railway Journeys TV series. If you went by car to Kingswear you could spend a good part of the day at Coleton Fishacre, 2 miles away, the NT 1920's arts and crafts house with art deco interior



and tropical gardens, the D'Oyly Carte summer home (5* Trip Adviser). There are many other possibilities. After your day out you would return to Haytor or set off for home.

Accommodation - There are 32 bedrooms, all in the main building. As at Abingworth there are TVs in each room if you wish to forgo an evening activity. In 2013 HF have decided to make a small additional charge for single and premium rooms. **Standard rooms** offer comfortable accommodation and have en-suite bathroom with WC and shower or bath, tea and coffee making facilities, television and hairdryer. There are a few double or twin **Premium rooms** which have extra space or exceptional views and in addition to the Standard room facilities have an Alarm clock with iPod player, enhanced toiletries, towelling robe and complimentary slippers. Also these rooms will be available from 12 noon on arrival day.

Moorlands is situated just 3 miles from Bovey Tracey, with post office, shops, restaurants and pubs.

HF Walks on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Easier Day Walks:

6 or 7 miles, between 500 and 850 feet of ascent in a day.

Medium Day Walks:

8 to 10 miles, between 650 and 1700 feet of ascent in a day.

Harder Day Walks:

10 to 12 miles, between 850 and 2100 feet of ascent in a day.

Food - consists of the usual excellent HF full board with an extensive help yourself and/or cooked breakfast, choose your own picnic lunch and sociable evening meal.

Social Activities - arranged each evening - these are optional.

Getting there - Haytor is about 120 miles from Stroud. Members are advised to ensure that they have made their transport arrangements as early as possible.

Price of the holiday

4 nights £444 per person (2013 brochure price will be £479).

7 nights £648 per person (2013 brochure price will be £699).

Single rooms - £5 per night to be added.

Premium rooms - £5 per person per night to be added.

If you wish to come, please book with the form and a cheque for £80 per person deposit **no later than 20 July**.

The deposit includes a non-returnable £3 to help defray Group expenses in arranging the holiday. If you cancel, the rest of the deposit is also non-refundable unless your place(s) is/are filled by other members. Book **now** as the rooms are allocated on a **first come first served** basis. Late bookings might be possible but ring me first and I will check with HF. The balance will be payable by 20 February 2013.



HF Holiday starting 11 May 2013 - To Mike Garner, Southcot, The Headlands, North Woodchester, Stroud GL5 5PS Please reserve * ONE / TWO places for the holiday staying at HF Haytor for *4 nights / 7 nights @ * £444 / £648 per person. Tick as appropriate COUPLES ___ twin ___ double ___ don't mind. SINGLE ___ (* £20 / £35 extra). All rooms are ensuite. ___TICK HERE to reserve a Premium Room if one is available (£5 per person per night extra).

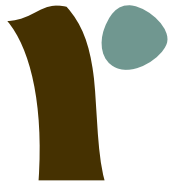
I enclose a cheque payable to **South Cotswold Ramblers** for £_____ (£80 per person non-refundable deposit) including £3 per person for Group Expenses in arranging the holiday. Please acknowledge my booking by * email / SAE enclosed. **Please book early and by 20 July to avoid disappointment.** After this date please telephone Mike 01453 873625 to see if there is room.

Signed

Date

PRINT Name (s)..... Tel no.....

* delete as necessary



ramblers
at the heart of walking

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA NEWS

June 2012

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office: 2nd floor, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

Editor: This edition is typeset and layout designed by: Nichola Goodliffe ☎ 01242 539642, email: areanews@gloucestershirearearamblers.org.uk

Area News is issued three times a year in February, June and October. Items of news and suggestions or other features are always welcome.

Deadline dates: 6th January, 6th May and 6th September

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

I seem to be responsible for quite a bit of this newsletter but at the risk of boring you further with my rhetoric, there are a couple of other points I would like to raise.

Firstly, I must mention the search for volunteers for Area Officers. We scraped through last December's AGM with a workable Committee, thanks to some very kind volunteers, particularly Mavis and Geoff, but I am afraid that we cannot afford to sit back and leave things until the next AGM. We are already missing a vice chairman and we know that for next year we will require a new Secretary.

It would be nice to be in a position to go into the next AGM with these two posts filled rather than leave it to the last minute. Mavis will be only too pleased to talk to anybody regarding the work involved, which I have said repeatedly is not too onerous, and to this end she has been trying to get out to see the individual Groups. Please do all you can to help. Continually spending time trying to fill vacancies makes it all the more difficult for us to fulfil our normal duties. Area has a very important role in the Ramblers

structure and I am conscious of the fact that in Gloucestershire we have perhaps not done all that we can in recent years.

This brings me on to my second point. As is mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, we seem to be entering some quite exciting times in Ramblers with fresh initiatives coming from the new Chief Executive and the new look Board of Trustees. A lot of good work is being done at all levels but I do not believe that details are percolating down to the rank and file, or very often not past Area Council, perhaps a factor in making it difficult to fill Area posts. The Area Newsletter is not published often enough and in any case we could not finance a more regular postal circulation. However, we do have the facility of electronic communication which is free, and I would like to see some form of monthly newsletter/information sheet produced. I would welcome any comments.

Richard Davis, Area Chairman

The Kinder Trespass

On the 30th April, the Western Daily Press carried an article by our CEO, Benedict Southworth. The article provides very good publicity for the activities of Ramblers and Benedict tells me that it arose from changes made at Central Office which resulted in the campaigns and communications divisional heads working closely together. Hopefully we will be seeing more of this type of activity in future. Indeed, on the anniversary of the Kinder Trespass, I was interviewed on the Radio Gloucestershire breakfast programme and was followed later in the day by a member of the CO campaigns team, giving a more in depth analysis of this great historical event.

The Western Daily Press article gives Benedict's assessment of the progress, which has been made since the Trespass. In it, he refers to the many areas of mountain and moorland over which Ramblers have won the right to roam but then goes on to talk about the many areas which remain out of bounds and which will be highlighted in the Ramblers Kinder 80 campaign. He talks of the many successes in the South West, including the South West Coast Path, which is estimated to generate over £300 million a year for the local economy, and the new Wales Coast Path. He then goes on to list some of the fights which we are still faced with in our campaign to achieve open access to many more areas of countryside, including the danger posed by the reduction in local authority budgets and its effect on rights of way departments.

In the article Benedict also expressed concern over plans to sell off large areas of land such as Somerset Council's plans for the Quantocks, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which, if sold off to a private individual, could severely reduce the quality and level of access. There was also the need for continuing monitoring of proposals to sell off our woodlands.

He praised the Ramblers volunteers who were continuing to give up their own time to roll up their sleeves and keep footpaths accessible for walkers and appealed to all walkers and countryside lovers to get involved in the Kinder 80 campaign to highlight access problems which can be found all over the country. Details can be found on our website.

Richard Davis, Area Chairman

Lilian's Legacy

Gloucestershire Area has received a generous donation of £4,000 from the estate of the late Lilian Wise. Lilian was a member of Gloucester Group who lived in Churchdown and until her health deteriorated, was a regular walker and leader with the Area Mid-week Walkers.

The terms of the legacy are that it is to be used for 'support of the activities of the Ramblers' Association in Gloucestershire', and so the money has been 'ring-fenced' into a separate restricted account that we have named 'Lilian's Legacy'. We need to decide how to spend it. The first ideas are to provide some kissing-gates on Churchdown Hill, but it is likely that there will be money available for other worthwhile projects in the county. Bids are therefore invited for consideration by Area Council.

Geoff Smithdale, Area Treasurer

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GLoucestershire AREA MID-WEEK WALKS

Map numbers: E = Explorer; OL = Outdoor Leisure; LR = Landranger. Sorry, no dogs!

2012

- Wed 4 Jul 10:00** **10m** **Garway Hill** **Anne - 01242 269236**
Skenfrith, parking near Castle (E189/LR161) SO 457202 Walk via Garway Hill. Picnic.
- Wed 11 Jul 10:00** **10m** **Winstone** **Susanne - 01453 757212**
Grass verge near bend in road just West of Winstone (E179/LR163) SO 957095 Walk Edgeworth, Througham, Miserden Park. Picnic.
- Wed 18 Jul 10:00** **12m** **Charlton Kings** **Roy - 01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning)**
Lay-by opposite Hungry Horse, Seven Springs (E179/LR163) SO 966170 Walk Chatcombe Wood, Ravensgate Hill, Capel Lane, Colgate Farm, Ham, Balcarras Farm, Timbercombe. Strenuous. Picnic.
- Wed 25 Jul 10:00** **10m** **Blockley fig 8** **Hazel - 01242 254105 or 07884 094365 (walk morning)**
Park west side of Blockley Village Green (OL45/LR151) SP 164350 Walk (a.m.) Batsford, (p.m.) The Warren, Norcombe Wood. Lunch: Picnic/café/pub.
- Wed 1 Aug 10:00** **10m** **Cirencester** **Shirley - 01242 524031**
Roadside parking by Rugby Club on Whiteway, Cirencester (OL45/LR163) SP 023027 Walk Rendcombe by River Churn (Monarch's Way), returning via Woodmancote and Daglingworth. Picnic.
- Wed 8 Aug 10:00** **10m** **Alderton** **Catherine - 01452 615382**
In Alderton village turn right at Commemoration cross and park in street.(OL45 or E190/LR150) SP 000332 Walk Langley Hill and Gretton. Fine views on a clear day. Picnic.
- Wed 15 Aug 10:00** **13m** **Brailes Hill** **Roy - 01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning)**
Lower Brailes Village Hall CP (E191/LR151) SP 308396 Walk Milne Hill House, Traitor's Ford, Whichford Mill, Sutton-under-Brailes, New House Barn, Brailes Hill. Moderate. Picnic.
- Wed 22 Aug 10:30** **10m** **Cambrian Way Taster** **Steve - 01242 524031**
Blaen Bran Community Woodland CP; see separate note. (E152/LR171) ST 273969 Walk Llanderfel, Mynydd Henllys, Pegwn-y-bwlch, Twmbarlwm (picnic), Mynydd Maen. **NOTE LATER START.**
- Wed 29 Aug 10:00** **12m** **Redbrook** **Derek T - 01242 678655 or 07710 339297 (walk morning)**
CP on A466 at Redbrook (OL14/LR162) SO 536100 Strenuous hilly walk (approx 750m ascent) to Bigsweir via Newland and Offa's Dyke, returning via The Argoed. Picnic
- Wed 5 Sep 10:00** **12m** **Chavenage** **Martin - 01249 720809**
Chavenage Green (E168/LR162) ST 865957 Walk Chavenage Lane, Westonbirt, Silk Wood, Leighterton, Goss Covert, Broad Newell Covert. Picnic
- Wed 12 Sep 10:00** **11m** **Stanton** **Jane - 01242 235214 or 07790 412223 (walk morning)**
Stanton village CP near Cricket Club (OL45/LR150) SP 067343 Walk Snowhill, Buckland Wood, Broadway Tower Country Park, Buckland. Picnic.
- Thu 20 Sep 10:00** **10.5m** **Chipping Norton** **Diana - 01242 578777 or 07812 637094 (walk morning)**
Chipping Norton CP off A44 town centre (E191/LR151) SP 312270 Walk Cornwell, Salford, South Hill Farm, Little Rollright. Picnic lunch, tea after!
- Wed 26 Sep 10:00** **11m** **Sherston** **Alan - 01249 720519**
Park in Sherston High Street and meet outside Angel halfway along the High Street (E168/LR173) ST 853858 Walk Sopworth, Westonbirt, returning via Easton Grey. Picnic.
- Wed 3 Oct 10:00** **10m** **Hollybush & Ledbury** **Janet & Geoff - 01531 650349 or 07933 737891 (walk morning)**
Lay-by on minor road North from Hollybush opposite Fair Oaks Farm (E190/LR150) SO 764377 Walk The Gullet, Netherton Farm, Kilbury Camp, Ledbury (pub, cafe or picnic), Eastnor, Hollybush Hillfort.
- Wed 10 Oct 10:00** **10m** **Newent** **Des - 01242 245666 or 07979 505780 (walk morning)**
Newent free CP by the lake, just off High Street (OL14/LR162) SO 722260 Walk Brand Green, Kefford, Botloes Green. Picnic. Moderate/easy walking through fruit farm country.
- Wed 17 Oct 10:00** **10m** **Sheepscombe** **Catherine - 01452 615382**
Bull's Cross lay-by (E179/LR162) SO 878087 Walk Sheepscombe and return. Picnic.
- Wed 24 Oct 10:00** **10m** **Uley** **Susanne - 01453 757212**
Park by roadside in Uley. Meet by church. (E168/LR162) ST 791985 Walk Dursley Wood, Ashen Plains Wood, Bowcutt Farm, Lampern House, Owlpen. Picnic.
- Wed 31 Oct 10:00** **10.5m** **Blockley** **Sue - 01759 763942**
Blockley Village shop (OL45/LR151) SP 164350 Moderate walk to Hinchwick, Longborough (pub lunch or picnic), Sezincote, Bourton-on-the-Hill, Batsford.

LEADERS - Offers of walks for the next programme (November 2012 to February 2013) are requested as soon as possible. New leaders are particularly welcome! Please contact Geoff Smithdale (Tel: 01531 650349) Email: gsmithdale@freeukisp.co.uk
Walks details required by 31st August 2012, please.

AS A MEMBER YOU CAN WALK WITH ANY RAMBLERS' GROUP - GRWalks lists all the walks from the seven geographical Gloucestershire groups, the Gloucestershire Walking Group (for 20s 30s & 40s) and the Area Walks in convenient date order. See the Area website at www.gloucestershirearearamblers.org.uk

NO COMPUTER? Send SAE(s) (9x6 inch, C5 size) to editor Mike Garner (GRWalks), Southcot, The Headlands, Stroud GL5 5PS.

GROUP ACTIVITY REPORTS

CIRENCESTER GROUP: The group have enjoyed a varied walks programme so far in 2012. Walks ranging from 4½ to 9½ miles around the Cotswolds have been well supported, with 33 members attending a walk from Gloucester Beeches.

Our annual weekend away in March, took us to Torquay. This was organised by Stuart Dyer, who managed to arrange beautiful, sunny weather as well. The Carlton Hotel was superb with so many facilities – swimming pools, sauna, steam room and jacuzzi. Stuart organised 2 lovely coastal walks and on the Sunday, Mike Bailey offered a shorter walk too. A very competitive game of bowls was enjoyed by some members who stayed an extra night.



Cirencester group at Thatcher Point, Torquay

GWG: The group has had a good start to the year with our usual full schedule of Sunday walks and with the lighter evenings, we've started up our Thursday evening walks again. At the time of writing, we are about to set off on a trip to Wales, so are hoping that we have seen the last of the wet weather. With a trip to the Alps due not long after, and planning underway for other trips in the autumn, we anticipate having a lot more to say in our next contribution to the area newsletter! Finally, congratulations are due to Gordon and Rosey on the birth of Arran – best wishes from all in the group.

Geoff Cochran, Chairman

MID GLOS: A mixed bag during the winter/spring quarter with as many as 26 walkers attending Fran's Uffenham walk in January, but with as few as 3 for Stuart's walk in April, and Geoff's walk in March had to be cancelled due to severe bad weather! The Chairman's walk on 6th May attracted 25 Ramblers. The sun shone, there was minimal surface water and South Cerney Water Park looked splendid.

A more up-beat news item was the successful repair to a stile after a report was submitted by one of our members regarding the poor condition of a stile on a Cirencester – Baunton footpath (see *photographs below*). In fact, four poorly maintained stiles in the immediate vicinity were replaced by kissing gates!

The group continues to struggle without a Secretary after the departure of our stalwart, Sheila Houston, due to illness and we offer our sincere thanks for the amazing job she did when in the post. A hard act to follow and no mistake.

Des Smyth, Chairman



Mid Glos walking the plank...

Before

After

An 'Away Day' is planned for 27th May when Andrew will take us through varied scenery, views and history; and a slope called '365 steps'. We will follow the Wye Valley Walk up the Welsh side of the river, with views to the ruins of Tintern Abbey and then cross the river onto the English side, returning to Chepstow on the Offa's Dyke Path. On the same day, Bill and Jane will 'Get Walking for the Games' and lead a local 5 mile walk around Cirencester.

The annual 'Strawberry Tea' is on 24th June and will be hosted by Mike and Rosemary Bailey, with a short walk in the Crudwell area beforehand.

We have some evening walks planned as well. These always seem to end up in a pub – perhaps this is why they are so popular! Although Gloucestershire is a beautiful county, it is always nice to visit other areas. We have walks planned in the Devizes area to take in the famous Caen locks, Wootton Rivers, and to walk through the ancient Savernake Forest, Castle Combe of Dr Doolittle fame and Biddestone.

Preparations are well in hand for our Ramblers stall in the Abbey grounds on Monday 4th June, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It will be an opportunity to meet the public and give information about group.

*Pat Beckley, Group Secretary /
Publicity Officer*

SOUTH COTSWOLD: Our walks programme continues to grow with 57 walks in the period March to June 2012, with 61 scheduled for July to October. Attendances are still buoyant, often exceeding 30. Our Monday 'Start the Week Walks' are proving popular, attracting many walkers who find our normal programme a little daunting at present, as well as regular members who like the idea of a leisurely stroll with a pub stop to finish. They have included a walk from Cricklade to see the fritillaries. Our Gloucestershire Way walks continue for those looking for something a bit more challenging and we have now reached Minsterworth.



South Cotswolds' kissing gate success in Haresfield

It has been an active period for our Footpath Committee. As well as the usual liaison activities with PROW on footpath alterations, they have been active in reporting footpath problems. One notable success has been the improvement of the right of way into a field in Haresfield. Access involved climbing over a metal gate, which was locked shut and dangerously unstable. The matter was reported to PROW at County Hall, who contacted the landowner. Arrangements were made for the installation of a kissing gate, which was supplied by South Cotswold Ramblers – see *photo above*.

On the campaigning front we have also been active. Stroud District Council attempted to close a long stay car park in Dursley, which we frequently use as a starting point for our walks, leaving us with no town centre alternative. Via our website, we encouraged members to write to the Council objecting to the closure. We also sent a letter on behalf of our Group. Forty five objections were sent which we know of and in the communication withdrawing their proposals, the Council stated that the wide use of the Car Park had not been revealed in their surveys.

Richard Davis, Chairman

GROUP ACTIVITY REPORTS cont/d...

FOREST OF DEAN: The group has experienced a very good quarter, our average turnout for a walk is approximately 20 intrepid souls. Sometimes we surprise ourselves and have nearer forty, but this is mostly on our shorter and average walks of anything up to about 8 miles.

So far this quarter, we have had three walks in excess of 10 miles, but we have also had a further 9 walks in March, plus another ten in April. We also had a well attended quiz and supper to test our ageing brains, and also that of the quiz master as it turned out! Our walk programme for May and June is also full, with a good selection of areas and mileages to suit everyone's ability – please see our website www.fodramblers.org.uk for more details.

The next programme promises to be even more adventurous, with a rail trip to Cardiff and an 8 mile walk around Cardiff Bay, touching on the coastal path when we cross the Barrage. We also have plans for another rail trip from Kidderminster with a walk back. There are yet more longer walks (12½ miles) from the Skirrid, plus stage 9 of our Cotswold Way trek gets underway from Painswick with 9 miles, and the Black Mountain circuit of 12½ miles.

During the wettest April on record, 13 of us ventured to Rhayader, to walk the Wye Valley from the Hafren Forest southwards to Rhayader. It was billed as 3 days of 10, 9 and 7 mile rambles. *Right is a photo of our group* who attended the 'Wye Valley Walk', followed by a short report from their heroic leader, Ronnie Walker.

Day 1 was rainy but we made good progress from the River Severn to the view point of the source of the Wye. This is 484m above sea level with the source of the Wye some 206m above us and about a mile away. We pressed on through Sweet Lamb to walk alongside the River Wye, which was by now, an 8 to 10 foot wide raging river, to the end of day at Ty Mawr.

Day 2 was cloudy and windy but not raining, yippee...! From Ty Mawr, we picked up a little dog called Eddie that followed us all the way to Llangurig and the Black Lion Hotel – fortunately, the landlord knew the dog. Lunch break was followed by the highest point of the day at 480m above sea level. This was a good climb, followed by a steep descent to our transport at Ty Nant.

Day 3 was windy and raining and as a result, only 4 brave souls took part in the ramble. Our lunch break at the Nature reserve in Gilfach was a most welcome retreat from the weather. After lunch

and another hill, we reached the Rhayader Leisure centre. Wet, but not all the way through, the rain had abated to drizzle and the wind not as strong as earlier in the day, our destination was a very welcome sight.

I certainly counted the ramblers all out and counted them all safely back. Next year Builth Wells and another set of adventures to come.

June Burden, Secretary



Forest of Dean group braving the elements in the Wye Valley

GLOUCESTER GROUP: We continue to have a short mid-week and a full-day weekend walk almost every week, and more recently a monthly short weekend walk has also been introduced. We are very grateful to the many leaders that volunteer to support this programme. With the longer evenings we have been able to stretch our legs further from home and we enjoyed a coach trip to the Cheddar Gorge with an interesting and dry walk, and as a 'reward', our first cream tea of the year!

Plans are well advanced for a week in southern Snowdonia in June and we are currently searching the horizon for the highest mountains to tackle with shorter walks as an alternative, to give everyone an opportunity.

David Sanderson, Secretary

* Apologies on this occasion – no reports available for Cleeve and North Cotswold groups.

General Council 2012

The dawning of a new age. At least it felt a bit like that with the new Chief Executive Officer making his first appearance at Council, the appointment of a new president, Kate Ashbrook, the appointment of a new Board of Trustees chairman, Jonathan Kipling, the appointment of a new treasurer, Robert Peel and the appointment of four new members to the Board of Trustees.

The Meeting started with an introductory session, which included an address by Benedict Southworth, the new CEO, outlining his commitment to Ramblers and proposing a change of emphasis for the organisation away from urban walking to valuing members and volunteers, and traditional work protecting footpaths and the countryside.

During Council, nine policy motions were considered, including two emergency motions, and seven constitutional motions. The policy motions produced some lively debate, particularly the one calling for the re-opening of negotiations with HF Holidays and Ramblers Holidays, thus enabling Groups to benefit from the new financial arrangements with the latter, in the form of The Walking Partnership.

Discussions opened with widespread criticism of the old Board and the former Chief Executive for severing a 60 year long relationship with Ramblers Holidays in favour of a competitor, HF Holidays, for a three year commercial deal as exclusive preferred partners. The matter was further compounded by a refusal to reveal details of the deal to members, supposedly because of commercial

sensitivity. The board accepted the validity of the arguments and the Chairman apologised. The debate released the tensions and opened up channels for the new Chief Executive to sort out the problems created by the debacle.

Among other motions carried was one calling for the Board of Trustees to support Groups in developing schemes to provide local authorities with footpath maintenance services. An investigation was also called for, into the apparent disparity between single and joint membership and in another motion, it was agreed that efforts should be made to recruit from the great numbers of experienced walkers who choose to walk independently and to increase public awareness of our work.

On the final day, we were treated to speeches from Jane Davidson, Ramblers Cymru President, and Huw Irranca-Davies MP, Shadow Defra Minister, on Coastal Access. Both had been very much involved in the creation of the Welsh coastal path and showed great enthusiasm for the project as well as giving us much food for thought for the creation of the English path.

Before the Council was closed by the outgoing Chairman, we heard from the new President, the Chairman elect and our new CEO. All demonstrated confidence in the future of our organisation and a determination to get out and make things happen.

Richard Davis, Area Chairman

TONY DRAKE, MBE (1923-2012)

Rambler Extraordinaire



When Tony told me that he would like me to deliver the address 'come the day', I agreed, secretly hoping that his well known attention to detail and insistence on accuracy, would include writing the script – but sadly he left that to me. That being the case, I shall endeavour tell you something about him, but with such a long and action packed life, I can at best, only skim the surface.

We remember Tony as a Rambler extraordinaire – as a man of passion with an enduring love of the countryside and of the great outdoors. We remember him too, as a great campaigner, who achieved so much and who inspired so many – to work with him, for access on foot, for the enjoyment of our glorious countryside.

Born on the 25 January 1923, Tony was the only child of Leslie and Gladys Drake.

He was educated at Pates Junior School and at Wycliffe College, Stroud. At Wycliffe he joined the Scouts and relished outdoor pursuits. The Wycliffe boys enjoyed a fair amount of freedom. At weekends they took ferry trips across the River Severn for expeditions to the then remote and industrialised Forest of Dean, with its coal mines and iron works. This was a very different Forest from the green and beautiful place which is so attractive to tourists today. He was on a school expedition to the Mediterranean when World War 2 was declared. The party, undaunted, carried on and completed the trip.

He left school at the age of 16 and entered the family business. Drakes was a significant department store, established in 1888, in Cheltenham by his grandfather. In order to train Tony for his intended ultimate role of proprietor of Drakes, he was sent to learn the business, starting at the bottom, at The Bon Marche, now Debenhams, in Gloucester. This business training seems to have been thorough because it stood Tony in good stead in his chosen role of RA Glos Area Footpath Secretary, where his record keeping was unparalleled.

At the age of 18, he volunteered to join the Royal Air Force. He trained as a radar technician and during this time he was posted to various far flung locations in Britain. He was demobbed in 1946.

From then until the 1970's he worked at Drakes – as 'Mr Antony'.

At some time, Tony took up Morris Dancing, which he often reminded us was for tough men doing strenuous warlike dancing, and in due course became Bag Man (the secretary). He played the accordion.

Like many others, he took walking holidays with CHA and HF in England, and with Ramblers Holidays in Europe. Travel then was always something of an adventure.

Tony is first recorded as Footpath Secretary in 1951, at the age of 28. He held that role until his retirement in 2008, and even after that he continued as Area Footpath Consultant, finally retiring in December 2011 when he also gave up the post of Area President, which he had held since 2009.

Though working in the family business, his real interest was the countryside and walking. He was inspired by the passing of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and the subsequent Acts which opened up opportunities for walkers and the creation of the Definitive Map. Tony and his teams of Ramblers volunteers were very heavily involved in survey work, and in recording the newly defined rights of way.

The creation of the Definitive Map really caught his imagination and he seems to have worked tirelessly on this – in the early days to the detriment of his business. He obtained copies of the 1:10,000 OS maps and organised teams of volunteers to mark up, in colour, the rights of way onto hundreds of maps - and he ensured that they were constantly kept up to date as new footpaths were registered. His maps, and his files, one for each of the over 200 parishes in Gloucestershire were transferred to

Gloucestershire CC Archives, according to his wishes, just one week before he died.

Tony inherited the business from his father in the early 1970s. He had long been more interested in the countryside than the business, although he continued running the family business for a few years. But times were changing and old established family firms were losing ground, to newer ways of retailing, so Tony did some calculations, then took the bold decision to sell up, to invest the proceeds and to live off his income – and to devote his time to the real love of his life – the Ramblers Association.

Tony was a major contributor to the creation of The Cotswold Way – the 100 mile walk, which he visualised as a cliff top walk along the Cotswold edge, with occasional descents down the escarpment, and back up again, in order to take in the beauties of the lovely villages along the Way.

Tony, with characteristic thoroughness, created a series of Cotswold Way maps, based on out of copyright OS maps, marking the route with stick-on dots, (using Lettraset), to create masters which he subsequently had printed and which sold in their thousands, as did copies of his other creation, the Cotswold Way Handbook and Accommodation guide.

In May 2007, the Cotswold Way was officially inaugurated as a National Trail with Tony and his fellow creator, Cyril Trenfield of Avon Area, as guests of honour at the Stanway House celebratory event.

Tony was not only a walker, he was also a keen mountaineer who climbed extensively in the Alps. More easily accessible though, were the Welsh mountains, a not too distant drive from Gloucestershire.

In 1955, Tony became a founder member of the Gloucestershire Mountaineering Club. He played a major part in the club's acquisition and conversion of a terraced house in Deiniolen, in Snowdonia, for use as a 'Club Hut', a base for mountaineering activities in that area. He became Hut Manager for several years and later became Club President. During this period, the 1970s, he was accompanied by club members on many of the surveys from which he developed his proposals for the Cambrian Way.

He was a very active member of the YHA in Wales and when he disappeared from Gloucestershire at the weekends he could often be found with a paint brush or tools in his hand, hard at work enhancing the limited resources of the most rural hostels tucked away in mid Wales. He always had a preference for the simple hostels, where he could hark back to his Scouting days.

Perhaps his greatest creation was the Cambrian Way, a hugely imaginative and demanding project for mountain connoisseurs, a challenging 270 mile walk with an ascent of 61,540 feet, which goes over every bit of high ground between Cardiff and Conwy. Again, Tony created a guide book, with hand drawn maps and a detailed route description, a list of B&B accommodation and prefaced by a history of its creation. At his instigation, there is now a

website for the Cambrian Way. He took particular interest in the YHA hostels along the Way and he regularly updated the framed maps in those hostels. For fun, he asked those who completed the Way to send him a post card of Conwy Castle. He was delighted to receive several each year.

He was ambivalent about the Cambrian Way as a national trail, but he was mindful of the need for action to ensure its long term future and he has made some provision for this.

Of lasting national importance was Tony's 'White Roads Campaign'. These were the class 4, 5 and 6 roads, shown white on the OS maps as minor roads and which were often unmetalled, and hence vulnerable, at a time when government grants were being given for hedgerow removal in order to accommodate agricultural machinery of ever increasing size. It is largely thanks to Tony's dogged determination and persistence these ORPAs (other routes for public access) are now marked on OS maps, as green dots.

He served on the Ramblers Board of Trustees for 20 years and he finally stood down in 2000. At General Council that year, he was made an Honorary Life Member for services to the Association.

In 2001, he was awarded an MBE for Services to Public Rights of Way.

I sat with him quite a lot during the last couple of weeks of his life. Whilst sitting with him, I reflected on the positive impact of knowing him, and working very closely with him for 15 years, and the consequences that this had had on my life. I felt privileged to have known him and grateful for the opportunities which this had opened up for me, as it had for so many others.

Since he died I have thought a great deal about what made him so special. He was a quiet, courteous gentleman. He was at the very heart of Gloucestershire Ramblers with his quiet authority and his encyclopaedic knowledge of the county and its footpaths. He was someone who always seemed to know the answer. He was thorough and patient. He somehow drew the best out of people. He set very high standards and expected them from everyone else and somehow everyone responded by giving their best.

We shall miss him enormously, but he trained us well, set us standards and in our hearts we shall feel him with us as we carry on his great work.

We shall not see his like again, but we have his work to do and we shall do it – for him.

*Mavis Rear, RA Gloucestershire
Area Secretary and former Area Chairman*

21 March 2012

South Cotswold Ramblers

Led Walks - July to October 2012

- Wed 4 Jul morning 6m M Spot some American trees Graham B - 01452 725405**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Cranham, Black Horse pub car park. <http://tinyurl.com/mapCranhamBlackHorse> L163/E179 SO 896129 Cranham Common, Wysis Way, Sheepscombe. Pub lunch available.
- Thu 5 Jul evening 4m M Get weaving in Nailsworth Christine & Brian - 01452 812718 on day 07787 924327**
Meet 18:20 for 18:30 start from Nailsworth Car Park opposite Bus Station. <http://tinyurl.com/mapNailsworthCPoppBusSt> L162/E168 ST 849996 Newmarket, Shortwood, Windsorede, Waghill, Ruskin Mill. Possibly stop at The Britannia afterwards.
- Sat 7 Jul day EITHER 10.8m L Gloucestershire Way No 4 Mike & Richard - 01453 873625 / 01453 762373 on day 07749 282087**
Meet **09:20 for 09:30** at Twigworth, Premier Inn 2nd CP N on L of A38. L162/E179 SO 843218 <http://tinyurl.com/mapTwigworth> (Please leave 2 spare car seats for shuttling to layby near Minsterworth (SO 756162) <http://tinyurl.com/mapNrMinsterworth>). 100 mile linear walk - Forest, Vale and High Blue Hill. Today's linear walk is from Minsterworth along and near the Severn, finding a green route around Gloucester to Twigworth. Picnic.
- Sat 7 Jul morning OR 6.5m M/H A Cotswold Way Bus Ride Steve & Rosemary - 01453 860130**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from outside Beaufort Arms in Hawkesbury Upton. Use pub car park if visiting afterwards or Parish Hall Car Park opposite (honesty box). L172/E167 ST 777870 <http://tinyurl.com/mapHawkesburyUptonVH> Catch 10:10 bus to Chipping Sodbury, return via Frome Walkway and Cotswold Way. Possible pub lunch at end.
- Mon 9 Jul morning 4m M Start the week Valley Views gentle walk Sheila L - 01453 757295 on day 07972 904325**
Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Stroud Uplands allotments CP - From left side of Folly Lane take track where houses end. Parking also on Folly Lane. L162/E168 SO 854061 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudUplands> Short walk with views of Stroud, Slad Valley, then over to Lower Painswick Valley, returning (by permission) through the grounds of Hawkwood College. Quite a few stable stiles.
- Wed 11 Jul morning 6m L Ashton Keynes and Cotswold Water Park Jacqui - 01666 826139**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Ashton Keynes. Park in village and meet at White Hart. L163/E169 SU 045940 <http://tinyurl.com/mapAshtonKeynesWH> Village, Water Park, Thames Path. Lunch afterwards if required.

PLEASE NOTE

RING the leader if you are in any doubt about taking part, especially if you haven't walked recently. Try shorter walks first.

TERRAIN RATINGS L - Level or little climbing L/M - The odd hill

M - Moderate amount of climbing, but with plenty of easy walking

M/H - Moderate to Hilly with quite a lot of hills

H - Hilly ups and downs for most of the time.

STW = START THE WEEK WALKS are short (no more than 4 miles), easy paced sociable Monday walks suitable for:- 1/ Those who are new to Ramblers and wish to build up their confidence and fitness. 2/ Those who have been on Health Walks who want to move on to slightly longer walks. 3/ Existing members for whom our normal walks programme is becoming too strenuous 4/ Anyone who wants an amble rather than a ramble, stopping to admire the countryside, walking and talking, and possibly finishing up with a half of shandy or perhaps even lunch. Do tell your friends!

WHAT TO BRING Bananas are popular as a snack, and bring plenty of water, to avoid dehydration. On day walks you are advised to bring food supplies, even if planning a pub lunch, in case the pub is closed. Wear strong footwear. Bring waterproofs and/or warmer clothing. It is advisable to bring a simple first aid kit. Remove muddy boots in pubs/churches. Sorry, registered assistance dogs only.

MESSAGE BOARD will show any changes or additional information about any walk www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messageboard

NON MEMBERS You are welcome to walk with the Group three times. We hope you will then wish to join, either on-line at www.ramblers.org.uk or with a leaflet, quoting GR03 if you wish to be in our particular Group. Once a Member you can walk with any group in Britain. Newly joined members please email Mike (info@southcotswoldramblers.org.uk) or ring 01453 873625 for new member information.

IMPORTANT - KEEPING TOGETHER ON A WALK Most parties will have a back marker appointed for the walk. Please inform this person if you need to drop behind for a comfort stop, and tell them when you catch up again. All members of larger parties are asked to help by keeping a look out behind them. If the people behind you are in danger of losing touch, perhaps in a wood, please pause and tell the people in front of you to stop too. Thank you.

PLEASE don't walk ahead of the leader unless asked.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS Leaders may decide to cancel or shorten the walk, taking into account everyone's health and safety. Please contact them if doubt about conditions before travelling. Leaders are welcome to have news put on the message board. Contact Mike.

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Thu 12 Jul evening 4m M Siccridge Woods and Chalford Valley Richard & Diana - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet 18:20 for 18:30 start from Daneway Inn Car Park. <http://tinyurl.com/mapDaneway> L162/E179 SO 939034 Wander through Siccridge Woods nature reserve along the canal and back along the other side of the valley. Pub stop at end for food and drinks.

Sat 14 Jul day 11.5m M Another walk from Ilmington Karen & Tony - 01453 545824 on day 07721 605409 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Ilmington Church, CV36 4LJ. Please park considerably in the village. L151/E205 SP 209434 <http://tinyurl.com/mapIlmington> Ebrington, Chipping Campden, Hidcote Manor. Bring a packed lunch. Possible Hidcote tea stop.

Wed 18 Jul morning 6.5m M Use it or lose it! Karen - 01453 545824 on day 07721 605409 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Dursley long stay car park (via Long Street). <http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt> L162/E167 ST 759982 Dursley, Stinchcombe Hill, Stinchcombe.

Fri 20 Jul evening 4m M Rodborough Parish Council Walk Richard & Diana - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet **17:50 for 18:00** start from Rodborough Pavilion Car Park. Go up from Golden Cross A46 and straight across Rodborough Hill into Butterow West. L162/E168 SO 847044 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughPavilion> An evening mystery tour.

Sat 21 Jul morning 4m L WWW Slimbridge easy paced walk Mike & Heather - 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087 Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Slimbridge WWT grassy CP 1st turn right off Newground Lane. L162/EOL14 SO 724046 <http://tinyurl.com/mapSlimbridgeWWTgrassyCP> A gentle walk via Slimbridge village, the river Cam and Gloucester and Sharpness canal. Lunch and WWT visit possible afterwards. Part of Welcome to Walking Weekend with Stroud Rambling Club.

Sat 21 Jul day 10m M/H WWW Up to Haresfield Richard & Diana - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Stroud Leisure Centre Car Park. L162/E179 SO 844055 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudLCCP> Pitchcombe and Haresfield. Bring a picnic. Part of Welcome to Walking Weekend with Stroud Rambling Club.

Sun 22 Jul day 11m M/H WWW Around Nailsworth Paul - 01453 884631 Meet **08:50 for 09:00** prompt start from Stroud Leisure Centre Car Park. <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudLCCP> L162/E168 SO 844055 Nailsworth area. Bring a picnic. Dogs on lead. Mileage 60p. Part of Welcome to Walking Weekend with Stroud Rambling Club.

Sun 22 Jul afternoon 5m M WWW Canal Stroll Richard - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet **13:50 for 14:00** start from Stroud London Road CP - free on a Sunday. <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudLondonRd> L162/E168 SO 852049 Canal stroll. Part of Welcome to Walking Weekend with Stroud Rambling Club.

Mon 23 Jul morning 4m M STW Callowell and beyond Anne C - 01453 752654 Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Stroud Old Nelson Inn CP near Tesco. <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudOldNelson> L162/E179 SO 847055 A gentle Start The Week walk. Possible lunch or drink afterwards.

Wed 25 Jul long morning 7m M/H Roman March around Chedworth Ros & Sally - 01285 655521 on day 07752 397855 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Denfurlong Farm Shop left turn off A429 from Cirencester. L163/OL45 SP 066106 <http://tinyurl.com/mapDenfurlong> Through Stowell Park and Chedworth combining valleys and woodland. Past the Chedworth Roman Villa (coffee stop possible). There are at least 10 (well maintained) stiles mostly in one stretch. Cooked lunch or snacks available at farm shops at end which is fully licensed.

Thu 26 Jul evening 4m L/M River Churn and Around Enid - 01242 863283 on day 07962 561888 Meet 18:20 for 18:30 start from Cockleford, Green Dragon, near Cowley. Use far end of car park. L163/E179SO 968141 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCockleford> A circular walk round Cowley, Coberley and Tomtit's Bottom. Food and drink at end if required.

Sat 28 Jul day 8.5m M/H Painswick and Prinknash Park Mike B - 01452 616864 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Upton St Leonards Birchall Memorial Institute car park. Turn R opposite USL church into Bondend road. BMI is about 100 yards on right. L162/E179 SO 864148 <http://tinyurl.com/mapUptonStLeonardsBMI> Picnic lunch in Painswick churchyard and optional drinks only at Falcon Inn. Also refreshments stop at Prinknash Park cafe on homeward leg.

Wed 1 Aug long morning 7.5m M Falcon Walk John G - 01453 834141 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Falcon Inn CP opposite Painswick church. <http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickFalcon> L162/E179 SO 866097 Golf course, Painswick Beacon, Spoonbed farm. Sheephouse. Pub lunch at end, later than usual, about 1:45.

Thu 2 Aug evening 3.5m M Walk around Uley Steve & Rosemary - 01453 860130 Meet 18:20 for 18:30 start from outside Old Crown in Uley. Park on road by Church or use pub car park at rear if visiting afterwards. L162/E167 ST 792986 <http://tinyurl.com/mapUleyOldCrownCP> Owlpen, Stouts Hill, Angeston Grange. Poss. pub meal at end.

Sat 4 Aug day EITHER 9m M/H Coaley Peak Bernard - 01453 884013 on day 07816 834828 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Pike Lock. At Little Chef roundabout on A419 turn L towards Eastington and immediately L into CP. L162/E168 SO 784060 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPikeLock> Beards Mill, Leonard Stanley, Coaley Peak, Coaley Wood. Bring a picnic.

Sat 4 Aug morning OR 6m L/M Summer round Sherston Jacqui - 01666 826139 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 Park in Sherston High St, meet outside The Rattlebone. <http://tinyurl.com/mapRattleboneInn> L173/E168 ST 853859 Fosse Way, Easton Grey, Pinkney Park. Lunch afterwards if required.

Mon 6 Aug morning 4m M Horsley & Ruskin Mill gently paced STW walk Olivia - 01453 751716 Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Nailsworth Garden Centre. L162/E168 ST 854995 <http://tinyurl.com/mapNailsworthGC> Ruskin Mill, Horsley, Downend. Coffee/toilet stop at Horsley community shop half-way around; lunch at Tubby's at end.

Wed 8 Aug morning 5.5m M Seven Springs, Three Stiles Enid - 01242 863283 on day 07962 561888 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Seven Springs layby on A436 near junction with A435 opposite Hungry Horse. Use their car park if eating there at end. L163/E179 SO 966169 <http://tinyurl.com/mapSevenSprings> Coberley, Churn valley, Cowley and Upper Coberley. Pub lunch at end if required.

Thu 9 Aug evening 4m M Cainscross circular Tim - 01453 757104 Meet 18:20 for 18:30 start from Cainscross Car Park (top end) opposite Tricorn House. <http://tinyurl.com/mapCainscross> L162/E168 SO 834051 Hilly Orchard, Canal, Ryeford, Cotswold Way, Victory Park.

Sat 11 Aug morning 6.2m L/M Tunnel House, Monarch's Way and Macmillian Way Ros & Ron - 01285 658505 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Tunnel House Inn, Coates. E168/L163 SO 966006 <http://tinyurl.com/mapTunnelHouse> Starting alongside remains of Severn/Thames canal the walk is via Tarlton on to Rodmarton then turning north on the Macmillian Way. Returning to the pub through Hailey Wood. Pub meals available.

IMPORTANT - SEE NOTES ON PAGE 1

Offers of Walks for Nov 2012 to Feb 2013 - Please get in touch with: John G (Saturdays) 01453 834141, Jacqui (Midweek) 01666 826139 and Mike (STW Start the week) 01453 873625. Offers needed by 31 August and details by 20 September. Thank you.

South Cotswold Ramblers

Led Walks - July to October 2012 continued

- Wed 15 Aug morning 6m M What, Hawkesbury again! Anne E - 01453 842551**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Hawkesbury Upton Beaufort Arms, (park at rear of car park if using pub). L162/E167 ST 778869
<http://tinyurl.com/mapHawkesburyUBeaufortA> The Monument, Hillesley, Inglestone Common, Orange End. Lunch possible.
- Thu 16 Aug evening 4m M Around the Royal William Pam - 01453 765541 on day 07572 438754**
Meet 18:20 for 18:30 start from Royal William A46 at Cranham. Please park in the car park behind the pub. L162/E179 SO 878127
<http://tinyurl.com/mapRoyalWilliam> Starting on the East side of the A46, passing stately homes and returning on the West side along the Cotswold Way in the setting sun (hopefully!). Food possible at end of walk. Food orders taken up till 8.50pm.
- Sat 18 Aug day 10m M/H St. Catherine's and the Cotswold Way Ray - 01453 547213**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Marshfield, slip road off the A420 at west end. <http://tinyurl.com/mapMarshfield> L172/E155 ST 771737 Monkwood Reservoir, Tadwick, Cold Ashton. Picnic. Pubs and cafes in Marshfield at end.
- Mon 20 Aug morning 3.5m L/M Bisley Waterpoint Gentle STW walk Brian & Ann - 01452 770510**
Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Bisley, Windyridge layby on Birdlip road. <http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyWindyridge> L163/E179 SO 903064 The Reddings, Waterpoint, Joiners Lane. Bear Inn for food/drink if wanted.
- Wed 22 Aug short day 6.5m L/M Fields, canal and river Maurice - 01453 811162 on day 07912 552075**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Sharpness picnic area CP. B4066 to Docks entrance. At mini roundabout turn left, then signed on right. L162/E167/OL14 ST 668020 <http://tinyurl.com/mapSharpnessPicnicArea> Newtown, Brookend, Purton, Severn Way, Purton Hulks, Sharpness Docks. Bring a picnic.
- Fri 24 Aug evening 4m M Rodborough Parish Council Walk Richard & Diana - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669**
Meet **17:50 for 18:00** start from Rodborough Pavilion CP. Go up from Golden Cross A46 and straight across into Butterow West. L162/E168 SO 847044 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughPavilion> Railways and/or canals.
- Sat 25 Aug day 10m L Coates and Kemble Circular Tim - 01453 757104**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from verge of Kemble Road in Coates. L162/E168 SO 982003 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCoatesVerge> Monarch's Way, Ewen, Kemble (pub lunch possible), Thames Path, Thames and Severn Canal, East portal of tunnel.
- Mon 27 Aug day 10m M Bank Holiday Walk John G - 01453 834141**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Frampton Mansell. Park on verge near village. <http://tinyurl.com/mapFramptonMansVerge> L163/E168 SO 919022 Sapperton, Cirencester Park, Tunnel House (pub lunch or picnic), Tarlton, Monarch's Way.
- Wed 29 Aug day 10m H South Malverns Ray - 01453 547213**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Hollybush on the right just past the Church on grassed area. L150/E190. SO 767367
<http://tinyurl.com/mapHollybush> Ragged Stone hill, Midsummer hill, The Gullet, British Camp, Hollybed Common. Picnic.
- Thu 30 Aug evening 4m M/H Dursley views Mike & Heather - 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087**
Meet 18:20 for 18:30 start from Dursley long stay car park (signed via Long Street). <http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt> L162/E167 ST 758982 Evening walk via Cotswold Way, Cam Peak, Upper Cam and Kingshill. Excellent views if fine. Pub food/drink possible at end.
- Sat 1 Sep day EITHER 9.5m L am, H pm Gloucestershire Way No 5 Mike & Richard - 01453 873625 / 01453 762373 on day 07749 282087**
Meet **09:20 for 09:30** at Barrow Wake, Birdlip Viewing Point CP off A417. L163/E179 SO 931153
<http://tinyurl.com/mapBarrowWake> (Please leave 2 spare car seats for shuttling to Twigworth Premier Inn 2nd CP (SO 843218) <http://tinyurl.com/mapTwigworth>). 100 mile linear walk - Forest, Vale and High Blue Hill. Today's linear walk is from Twigworth via golf course, Staverton, Shurdington and Crickley Hill to Barrow Wake. Bring a picnic.
- Sat 1 Sep morning OR 5.5m L/M Cranham & Painswick for a change Denys - 01453 751581 on day 07783 269574**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Cranham, Royal William A46. Please park in the car park behind the pub, not on the A46. L162/E179 SO 878127 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCranhamRoyWil> Cotswold Way, Painswick, Damsell's Mill. Tocknell's Court & return. Drinks and food available at end.
- Mon 3 Sep morning 3.75m M/H Start The Week short walk from Dursley Mike & Heather - 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087**
Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Dursley long stay car park (signed via Long Street). L162/E167 ST 758982
<http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt> Easy paced walk via Kingshill, Upper Cam, around Peaked Down and return via Cotswold Way. Two short climbs taken slowly. Well worth it for the views. Pub lunch possible at end.
- Wed 5 Sep morning 5.5m M Swifts Hill view Brian & Ann - 01452 770510**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Bisley, Windyridge layby on Birdlip road. <http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyWindyridge> L163/E179 SO 903064 Copsgrave, Round Elm, Fennels, Swifts Hill, Sydenhams. Food or drink possible at the Bear afterwards.
- Sat 8 Sep short day SWF 8m L Cricklade and back along the Thames Andrew - 01452 857958 on day 07900 390351**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Cricklade High Street CP by Town Hall at the Swindon end of High Street. L163/E169 SU 100934 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCrickladeTownHallCP> Level lanes and tracks that can be prone to flooding. Includes section of Water Park and Thames Path. Picnic.
- Wed 12 Sep morning SWF 5.5m M Foston's Ash to Sheepscombe & back Denys - 01453 751581 on day 07783 269574**
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Foston's Ash CP. Park on gravel starting from the rear of the CP. L163/E179 SO 914114
<http://tinyurl.com/mapFostonsAsh> Whiteway, Bidfield Farm, Sheepscombe, Ebworth Estate and return. Drinks & lunch available
- Fri 14 Sep evening SWF 3m M Rodborough Parish Council Walk Richard & Diana - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669**
Meet **17:50 for 18:00** start from Rodborough Pavilion Car Park. Go up from Golden Cross A46 and straight across into Butterow West. L162/E168 SO 847044 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughPavilion> A wander around Rodborough.

SWF - A walk that is part of the Stroud Walking Festival. See <http://www.stroudvalleysfestivals.co.uk>

IMPORTANT - SEE NOTES ON PAGE 1

Sat 15 Sep morning SWF 5.5m L Eastington to Leonard Stanley Bernard - 01453 884013 on day 07816 834828
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Pike Lock. At Little Chef roundabout on A419 turn L towards Eastington and immediately L into CP. L162/E168 SO 784060 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPikeLock> Beards Mill, Leonard Stanley, Middleyard, Stanley Mill.

Mon 17 Sep morning SWF 4m L/M Uley Gentle STW walk Sophia & Linda - 01453 860287 / 01453 549358
 Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Uley, meet by Old Crown Pub and park considerably nearby. L162/E167 ST 792986 <http://tinyurl.com/mapUleyPub> A circumnavigation of the village paths plus Owlpen. Food/drink available afterwards if wanted.

Wed 19 Sep morning SWF 5.5m M/H Miserden Morning Meander Richard & Diana - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669
 Meet **09:40 for 10:00** start from Carpenters Arms Miserden. Park in pub CP or road if full. Meet at pub for coffee and choose lunch if required. L163/E179 SO 937088 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMiserdenCArms> Through Park. Route to include Bull Banks. Pub lunch available.

Sat 22 Sep day 11m M/H Marshfield day out Graham W - 01453 885408 on day 07977 863592
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Marshfield, slip road off the A420 at west end. <http://tinyurl.com/mapMarshfield> L172/E155 ST 771737 south to Little Solsbury Hill and Northend. Bring a picnic lunch.

Wed 26 Sep morning SWF 6m M What's in a name? Waterley Bottom/Bottoms Jane & Jan - 01453 872133 on day 07774 485483
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Waterley Bottom, New Inn. GL11 6EF. Car Park at rear of Pub. L162/E167 ST 758963 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWaterleyBottom> Steady climb from pub to Laycombe Woods, Upper Rushmire Farm, Old London Road, overlooking Coombe, loop back via road. Meals available at the pub after.

Sat 29 Sep short day SWF 8m M Cam and Dursley Allen - M 01453 545588 on day 07749 564232
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Dursley long stay car park (via Long Street). <http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt> L162/E167 ST 758982 Dursley, Cam, Dursley circular. Bring a sandwich.

Mon 1 Oct morning 3.5m M A Stroll round Wotton - STW easy paced short walk Anne E - 01453 842551 on day 07773 292363
 Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Wotton-under-Edge, Auction Rooms CP. Go up Tabernacle Pitch and immediately past the cemetery turn right. Keep the beech hedge on your right. <http://tinyurl.com/mapWottonAuctionCP> L162/E167 ST 75559350 Wotton Hill and Coombe Lakes. One hill to be taken slowly. There are several cafes in Wotton for those who like to have lunch at the end of walk.

Wed 3 Oct morning 5.5m L Shuttle to Badminton Ray - 01453 547213
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Hawkesbury Upton Beaufort Arms, (park at rear of car park if using pub). L162/E167 ST 778869 <http://tinyurl.com/mapHawkesburyUBeaufortA> Petty France, Badminton, Grickstone Farm. Pub lunch available at finish.

Sat 6 Oct day EITHER 9m M/H Iron Age Fort and Cheese Roll Bernard - 01453 884013 on day 07816 834828
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Sneedhams Green, Matson, Gloucester. Please park tidily by the lane. L162/E179 SO 849142 <http://tinyurl.com/mapSneedhamsGreen> Cud Hill, Painswick Beacon, Coopers Hill, Peaked Acres, Moorend. Bring a picnic.

Sat 6 Oct figure of 8 OR 6m+5m M/H Common Wood and Box Brian & Sheelagh - 01453 872220
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Minchinhampton Common reservoir CP. <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchResCP> L162/E168 SO 855012 10:00 AM: 6m Common, lanes and woodland with some short steep bits. Bownham, Butterow, Kingscourt. Littleworth. 1:30 PM: 5m Box, Minchinhampton, Burleigh. Bring a picnic.

Wed 10 Oct morning 6m L Rodmarton Circular Tim - 01453 757104
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Rodmarton, Cherrington Road, park on verge. <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodmarton> L162/E168 ST 939979 Macmillan Way, Tarlton and Monarch's Way.

Sat 13 Oct day 9m M/H Peter's Wortley walk Olivia - 01453 751716
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Newark Park NT Car Park (free). L162/E167 ST 782931 <http://tinyurl.com/mapNewarkPark> Cotswold Way, Wortley, Alderley, Tresham, Ozleworth Bottom. Bring packed lunch.

Mon 15 Oct morning 4m L/M Hilltop east of Bisley Richard & Diana - 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669
 Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Bisley, Windyridge layby on Birdlip road. <http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyWindyridge> L163/E179 SO 903064 Gently paced walk across fields to Battlescombe. Possible pub lunch at end.

Wed 17 Oct short day 7.5m M/H Woodchester Circular Brian & Sheelagh - 01453 872220
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from South Woodchester, off A46 near Bottlegreen Factory. Park considerably in lanes. L162/E168 SO 840017 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWoodchesterOffA46> Dingle Wood, Pen Hill, Stanley Wood, Woodchester Park. Bring picnic.

Sat 20 Oct longer 11m M/H Minchinhampton and Avening John G - 01453 834141
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from edge of common behind Minchinhampton Church. <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchEdgeCommon> L162/E168 SO 872009 Weighbridge, Hazel Wood, Avening, Cherrington Ponds, Peaches Farm. Picnic.

Wed 24 Oct morning 5.5m M Winchcombe Wanderings Enid - 01242 863283 on day 07962 561888
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Winchcombe, Back Lane Car Park (off B4362 Gloucester Street). Parking is £1 all day. OL45/L150 SP 024284 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWinchcombeCP> Climb Salters Hill (500ft) then Hailes Abbey, return via Cotswold Way. Eating places in Winchcombe at end if required.

Sat 27 Oct day 9.5m M Gloucestershire Way No 6 Mike & Richard - 01453 873625 / 01453 762373 on day 07749 282087
 Meet **09:20 for 09:30** at Andoversford, park by Old Cattle Market. L163/OL45 SP 023198 <http://tinyurl.com/mapAndoversford> (Please leave 2 spare car seats for shuttling to Barrow Wake CP (SO 931154) <http://tinyurl.com/mapBarrowWake>). 100 mile linear walk - Forest, Vale and High Blue Hill. Today's linear walk is from Barrow Wake via Coberley, Foxcote and Shipton Solers to Andoversford. Bring a picnic.

Mon 29 Oct morning 3.5m L STW easy paced short walk via Lakes and Fields Bernard 01453 884013 on day 07816 834828
 Meet 10.20 for 10:30 start from Frampton-on-Severn, small car park on left at far end of Green, at start of turning to Sailing Club. If this is full park considerably by the Green. L162/OL14 SO 747075 <http://tinyurl.com/mapFramptonSmallCP> Frampton Sailing Club, Claypits A38, Nastfield Farm. Pub Lunch possible in Frampton.

Wed 31 Oct long morning 6.5m M/H Pope's Wood and Abbey Mike & Heather - 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087
 Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start from Painswick Walkers CP, off B4073. L162/E179 SO 866104 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickWCP> The Beacon, Pope's Wood, Portway, Prinknash Abbey (possible morning coffee stop), return via the Cotswold Way.

SWF - A walk that is part of the Stroud Walking Festival. See <http://www.stroudvalleysfestivals.co.uk>

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