

Walking is such a sociable activity!

If you want to meet people and make friends, you might think of taking up a team sport like football or hockey, but these pictures show that there is a fair bit of chatting going on during South Cots walks!



Sitting on walls having coffee



In a field having lunch



By the roadside



Serious man's stuff



Removing boots at the end of a walk

And you never know, you might even meet someone. On the first walk that Ros and Sally led 3 years ago, Ros brought Ron along and in August this year they were married.



This is the card we commissioned from Di's sister-in-law which loads of South Cots Ramblers signed



This is Ros and Ron on their wedding day

Sally and Ros are leading a similar walk in October - but we have told Ron not to expect to get a wife on EVERY walk we lead from Hatherop!

South Cotswold visit to Derwentwater by Pete and Sue Jones

On 31st May 2014 twenty five South Cotswold Ramblers met for a holiday at HF Derwentbank near Keswick.

As usual on HF holidays there was a choice of harder, medium and easier plus even some discovery walks so everyone was catered for. We opted for all the harder walks which we thought would be good training for a planned trip to the Alps!

On the first day Cat Bells was a nice introduction to Lakeland walking although heaving with people on a fine Sunday at the end of the Half Term holiday. However we soon lost the crowds as we headed off up to High Spy and were rewarded with fine views of the lake and surrounding hills in glorious sunshine. Back in the valley some opted for the bus back while the rest of us walked to the steamer pier although the walk turned into a sprint as we realised the boat was nearly there and we were not. We made it and enjoyed a pleasant cruise back to our hotel.



Next day we slogged up to the summit of Grasmoor in thick mist but on our descent the skies cleared and we were able to observe the medium walk in the distance making their way along an adjacent ridge. The pub in Braithwaite provided a welcome distraction on the route back to Derwentbank as we walked back in the sunshine.

Blencathra via Hallsfell Ridge was the next day's harder walk and the leader did his best to discourage us with tales of vertical rock and sheer drops. Four of the South Cotswold Ramblers braved it anyway and were rewarded with an excellent scramble which was described by Wainwright as "positively the finest way to any mountain top in the district"!

Next day was a rest day so we were free to explore the local area in the pouring rain. Some visited Keswick and the pencil museum while we were rewarded with the sight of an Osprey fishing Bassenthwaite Lake and Red Squirrels in the forest.

Helvellyn via Striding Edge the next day promised spectacular views for the three South Cotswold members who tackled it but was actually shrouded in mist so we saw nothing until we descended Swirral Edge to Red Tarn where we emerged into the sunshine enjoyed all day by the more sensible people on the medium and easy walks.

Our last day's walk was up Scafell Pike via the Corridor Route. This was more popular with South Cotswold members, the weather was perfect and a great day out with superb views was enjoyed by all. Evenings at Derwentwater were busy with various activities organised by the leaders including a Barn dance, Casino night (no money changed hands) and a inter HF house quiz evening where Pete's knowledge of Scottish distilleries came in handy making his team the lead one at the house. Unfortunately we didn't win the HF bottle of fizz but made do with a mug and pen each instead.

Thanks go to Mike and Heather for all their hard work organising the trip and even giving us some extra beer money with a surprise refund of some of the cost.

South Cots team win quiz evening at Derwentwater with 53 points out of 60

The quiz takes place simultaneously at all HF holiday venues in the UK once a week. And the winning team across all the hotels is announced the next evening. Unfortunately the South Cots team missed winning a bottle of Champagne by 1 point. If only we had known the mountain in Ecuador, or recognised that old football team, we could have been sipping the bubbly.



Dunster by John Lang

Sunday - We arrived and checked in to the Yarn Market Hotel. A cup of coffee/tea and then off with Richard (our leader) for the walk up the local hills – then down again.

Monday - Looking for Lorna.

We met Richard (our guide) at Exford who led us in convoy to what he described as probably the loneliest spot on Exmoor – a good start. We yomped across the moor and then started to descend through the sparse vegetation until we came to a valley with a stream gurgling happily through its bottom, a marked contrast to the stark landscape up top. Wonderful sights and sounds of buzzards circling overhead – probably waiting for one of us to keel over – but not a hint of a black beast skulking in the gorse, eyeing one of us for a tasty meal. Lots of sheep skulls hanging on fences though. But I don't think black beasts are *that* artistic. At one part of the walk we were led to a circle of stone and banked earth which turned out to be a safe enclosure for livestock and after nearly a hundred years the layered hedge upon its top had grown into mature trees – an eerie place. We stopped for a coffee break in the grounds of the church at Oare – (spoiler alert – look away now) where the FICTIONAL character Lorna Doone (not really a Doone but a Dugal) was shot by Carver Doone (the baddie) who was subsequently dumped into the mire by John Ridd (the goodie) who then went back to the church to find Lorna still alive and after a period of suspenseful drama, they all lived happily ever after – read the book for the full story.

Hunger satisfied, we then set off again up the hill to Cloud Farm caravan site where the young chap in the tea room seemed overwhelmed by the request of “23 teas please” which he diligently executed albeit with the aid of what seemed like a travel kettle. A nice cup of tea and a welcome white chocolate Magnum. Journey resumed, and down the slope to the Doone Valley, surprising a young couple gambolling in the rushing water, covering their modesty as best they could with twenty three ramblers crossing the bridge in single file – each staring with amusement, but being British, averting the eyes after a suitable period of ogling. Beautiful scenery along the way and then upon reaching the bridge at Badgeworthy – pronounced ‘Badgery’ (and pronounced even less complimentary by the locals) a steady climb to the top with a sight of Exmoor Ponies and ruined farmhouses used as World War 2 Gunnery targets (the houses – not the ponies) and then back to the cars and a mad rush back to Dunster to get a prime parking place in the High Street. A total of 11 miles of wild and magical scenery one does not see from the A39 when driving across the top from Porlock to Lynmouth.

Tuesday – Trains and Boots and Pains

After another hearty breakfast – this time with black pudding – we assembled behind Richard (our leader) and heigh-hoed off to Dunster railway station to catch the something-past-ten steam train to Washford – the fare being £5 for a person of a certain age and £5.60 for the youngsters. All aboard and off we puffed, past Blue Anchor and the fields of static mobile homes, then around the hill to Washford where we alighted and gathered at the roadside, looked left, looked right and left again before running for our lives to the other side – the A39 takes no prisoners. Up a bit of an incline, Richard said it would be ‘undulating’, and so it was. After a while a voice murmured “Is it time for a coffee break?” to which Richard replied, “Coffee breaks are for wimps.” Hands up the wimps, mostly unanimous, and so we stopped for a break. Those immortal words then rang clear “Two Minutes!” So off and up again to overlook Philip Hobbs’ horseracing stables.

At last, a hill (incline) which went down with cries of “Oh, look. A beautiful shining white church” and sure enough, at the bottom, we came to Withycombe, where lay St Nicholas’ church, a brilliant white painted church which from above looked remarkably like someone’s wedding cake. Our arrival prompted Richard to pronounce “Okay people, time for lunch – twenty minutes.” Lunch? What? I ate mine at the wimp’s stop earlier on. Oh well, a drink of water then. People went into the church and reappeared with mugs of coffee. It seems that for a small donation towards church funds, the Vicar welcomes all walkers with coffee-making facilities. I suspect that he spent the last lot of donations at B&Q on BOGOF white paint.

Out of the side gate and a steady slow climb to the top following what I presume was the Macmillan Way. There is a lot of woodland management going on and as a consequence the rather large machines are churning up the earth into great corrugated ruts making the walking a bit dodgy underfoot. A rather steep knee-jarring down section led us home to the Gallox Bridge, an ancient stone bridge over the river Avill - originally 'gallows bridge'- which once carried packhorses bringing fleeces to Dunster market. And so another excellent walk came to an end as some of us (me) raced back to the hotel to remove boots and socks and let screaming feet shout loud to their heart’s content. The diet coke was most welcome.

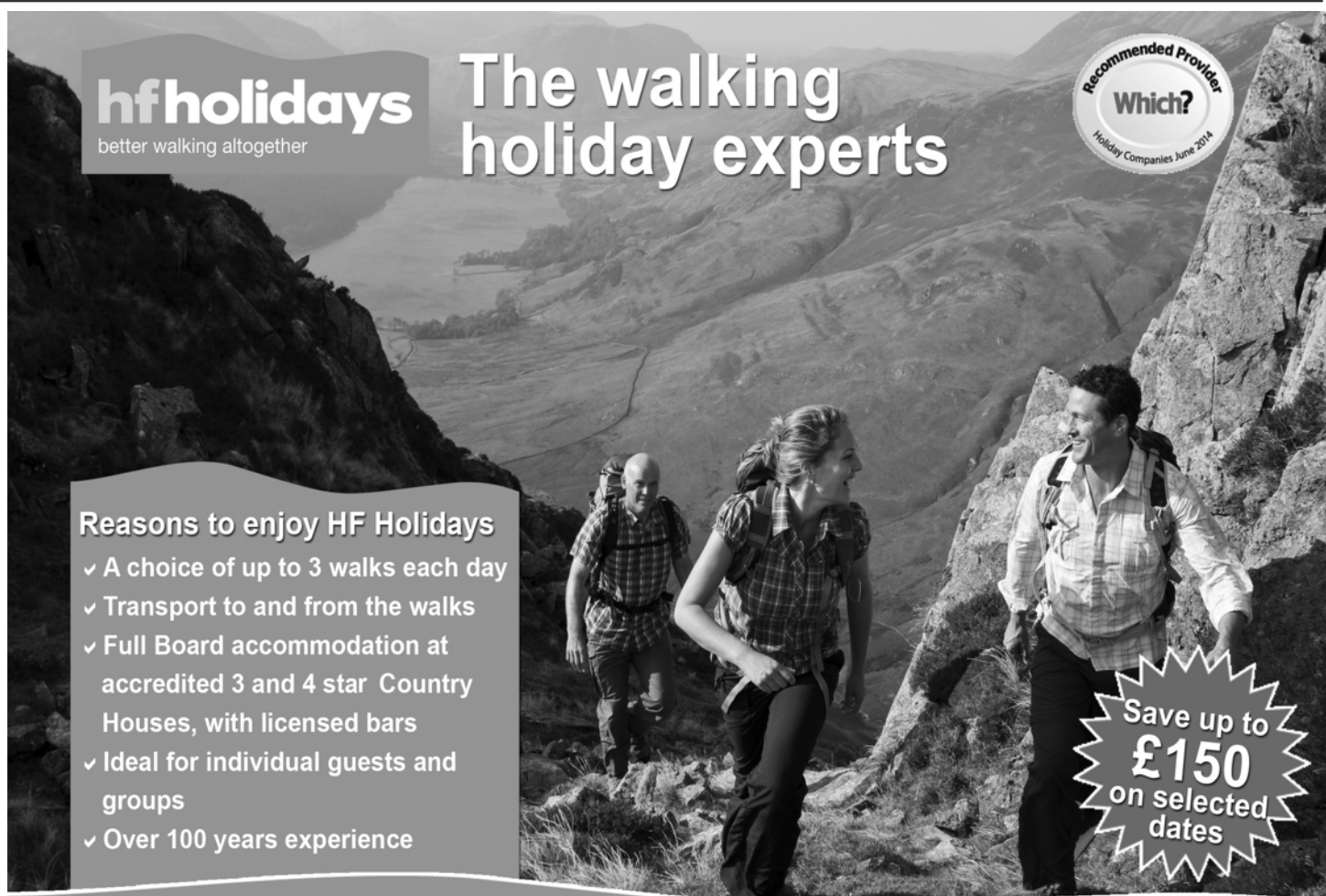
Wednesday – Back to Exmoor

The Yarn Market Hotel – A perfect location for walkers in that it is not a big, swish, posh place full of pretentious glass and plastic. The place is like the Tardis, there is a maze of rooms, 28 in all, each of diverse and interesting character – all of a homely nature and something to suit everybody. There are rooms to accommodate dogs (and their owners) and a boot cleaning room. Also a drying room (although with the weather being brilliant we had no need to search for it.) The food was of an excellent quality and the staff were attentive and responded to the guests' every need. The hotel is placed right in the centre of Dunster which has lots of tea rooms and gift shops. Minehead, the Castle and The Mill provided a diversion for those not considering a daily 10 mile walk. Although the bus to Minehead, a browse around the shops and a walk down to Blue Anchor, on up to the top and down again to Dunster seemed to satisfy some. A similar route but a cup of tea at Dunster Beach, a change of footwear and a slow walk back to the hotel was just right for some others (me).

We had a room with one of those twitching curtains – we could see all of those who went to spend their Rohan vouchers. There was an incessant stream of South Cotswold Ramblers furtively passing by our window with a blue bag containing their exotic booty. (I bought a pair of walking trousers by the way.)

A brilliant few days was had by all and with the only complaints being of the nature of getting bums stuck in shower cubicles and the frustrations of parking as near as possible to the front door of the hotel, a good time was had by all. Looking forward to next year.

Thursday – Going home by way of another fracking walk



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Jacqui Pycroft's Walking holiday in Cyprus

Cyprus in Spring was wonderful. Day after day of sunshine, but with a reasonable temperature. We saw wild irises, wild gladioli and lots of other lovely flowers which will have to be nameless. We were on the north-western coast near Paphos. The Akamas is a beautiful region of hills, valleys and rocky shores with tracks that are ideal for walking. Our group of 20 was organised by Bath & West Country Walks (www.bathwestwalks.com). They come twice a year to a very welcoming family-run hotel, with a wonderful sea-view terrace for breakfast. We had a most relaxing holiday.



LONGFELLOW PARK

Under the spreading Superstore
With placards forged from wood
The friends of the Village Blacksmith stood

Across the road
Her cheap curtains shutting out the world
The Milliner stares intently
Gently decapitating Joan Collins
Her mouth filled with hairpins
She gestures to the head
I wouldn't want to get involved
The writhing fingers said
Perhaps I should retire to bed or have a cup of tea
He drank red wine on Wednesday she confided
Preferring a more familiar subject

Under the spreading Superstore
The Village Blacksmith cried
His anvil-hardened arms hung limply at his side
and rocking back and forth
His eyes implored
I'm here to be ignored
Don't pity me
But more
Do pity these
Watching as you pass them by
The stumps of the butchered chestnut trees

By John Lang

MANOR FARM SOLAR ARRAY

Some of you may be aware of a recent planning application to install a solar array at Manor Farm, Upper Wick in the Berkeley Vale. While the proposal doesn't directly affect any public rights of way and might be considered 'greener' than some, it is fairly large and there is no doubt that it would have a significant impact on the views from the Cotswold

Way at Stinchcombe Hill, Drakestone Point and the Tyndale monument. You can find further information on the Stroud District Council website under planning reference S.14/1336/FUL where you may also comment on the application if you so wish.
Bob Frewin

DUNSTER HOLIDAY – SEPTEMBER 2015

That's right Dunster again. The same place two years running. Why? Well, we all seemed to enjoy the hotel. The food was very good and they made us most welcome. Dunster is a delightful spot with plenty to explore. I feel we have only scratched the surface of walking opportunities on Exmoor and I for one would like to, go back.

I have therefore made a provisional booking with the hotel for four nights from Friday 11th September 2015. Full details of the holiday including costings, walks proposals and a booking form will appear in the February news letter. So mark the dates in your diaries and be prepared to get your reservations in as quickly as possible so that I can let the hotel know our requirements. *Richard Davis*



Stroud Symphony Orchestra

The next concert will be held on November 22nd at 7.30 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Rd., Stroud, Gloucestershire (next to the General Hospital)

Programme

- Trim Beneath the Angel Strain
- Chopin Piano Concerto No 2 (Soloist:Poom Prommachart)
- Shostakovich Symphony No 5

Listen to the Shostakovich HERE <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeJPmbiqp4>

Please order your tickets on the form below, or from Stroud Tourist Information (01453 760960), or ask me on a walk near the date, or just come along on the night

Mike Garner 01453 873625

Concert Tickets

Tickets £11.00 (concessions £9.00)

£1.00 reduction if purchased prior to the evening of the concert.

Sat 22 Nov 7:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Stroud (next to the hospital with parking opposite)
To Mike Garner, Southcot, The Headlands, North Woodchester, Stroud GL5 5PS. Please send me the following tickets: @ £10 / concessions @ £8/ accompanied children under 14 free.

I enclose a cheque for £.....payable to Stroud Symphony Orchestra and a Stamped Addressed Envelope for the despatch of tickets.

Signed

Name.....

Tel No.....

Soloist



Poom Prommachart, born in Bangkok, began his concert career at the age of 13. He recently graduated with a Bachelors in Music with Honours from the Royal College of Music (RCM), London. He was a student of Thailand's leading pedagogue, Peerapong Surawan, and afterwards of both Rena Phua and Boris Kraljević at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore. He attained the FTCL Diploma from Trinity College at the age of 15. At age 16, he was granted a full scholarship by H.R.H Princess Galyani Vadhana and the Royal College of Music, which enabled him to continue his studies in London with Professor Ian Jones. He is currently a student of the renowned Russian pianist, Professor Dina Parakhina. This concert will be his third time playing with the Stroud SO!

Going away with Ramblers' Holidays?

We have recently received a sum of money for Group Funds from Ramblers Holidays where members taking a holiday with them have nominated South Cotswold Group.

If you ever forget to tell them when booking, there is still time if you contact them before you go. By your doing so, they will donate £10, £20 or even £30 per person to our funds to be used to benefit walkers.

For more info, click the link to Walking Partnership on our Messages page.



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www.thewalkingpartnership.org.uk



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GROUP VOLUNTEERS 2014

Chairman: Richard Davis 01453 762373
richard@riana.plus.com

Vice Chairman:

Mike Garner 01453 873625
mahgarner@gmail.com

Group Secretary:

Bernard Smith 01453 884013 (until AGM)
smith.bernard@tesco.net

Group Treasurer:

Brian Witcombe 01453 872220
witcombex@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary, Book Sales:

Mike Garner 01453 873625
mahgarner@gmail.com

Publicity Officer: Vacant

Members without portfolio

Diana Davis

Kathy Bullen

Andrew Hawkins

Website: Mike Garner & Sally Davis

Newsletter: Sally Davis

Footpath Chairman and Footpath Secretary:

Bob Frewin 01453 545752

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

Walks Programme Coordinator:

Mike Garner 01453 873625

mahgarner@gmail.com

Walks Collectors for March 2015 -

June 2015: (dates needed by 31 Dec)

John Geoghegan 01452 728760 Weekend Walks

Anne Eamer 01453 842551 Monday Gentle Walks

Kathy Bullen 01453 860004 Midweek Walks

Membership Report September 2014

It is pleasing to say that our numbers are fairly steady at 404. In the last four months we have welcomed new members from Avening, Cam, Eastington, Gloucester, Painswick, Rodborough, Ruscombe, Stroud and Uley including Liz, Sheila, Elizabeth, Peter, Pamela, Mick, Allison, Alison, Bob, Colin, Robert, Suzanne and Judith.

We trust you are all enjoying being members supporting us in working for all walkers.

Mike Garner, Group Membership Secretary.

If you wish to put any items in the next newsletter (which will go out in February), please send them to Sally Davis (sallydavis@hotmail.co.uk) by **20th January**

South Cotswold Ramblers' Lunch

January 17th 2015 12.30 for 1pm.

Butter Bean And Bacon Soup

Melon, Kiwi And Strawberry Cocktail

Prawn And Avocado Salad

Field Mushroom Topped With Walnuts And Stilton With Fresh Watercress

~~~~~

Traditional Norfolk Turkey

Pigs In Blankets, Sage & Onion Stuffing, And Pan Gravy

Roasted Salmon Supreme With A Lemon And Dill Crumb,  
Cherry Tomato Sauce

Camembert And Fig Wrapped In Filo Pastry With Roasted Chicory Leafs (V)

All The Above Are Served With Selection Of Fresh Market Vegetables

~~~~~

Traditional Christmas Pudding With Brandy Sauce

Spiced Apple And Cinnamon Tart Drizzled With A Salted Caramel Sauce

Fresh Fruit Salad

Cheese Plate

~~~~~

Coffee & Mince Pies

£19.95 Per Person

VENUE: Minchinhampton Golf Club. The new club on the road to Avening. Ramblers have been happy with this venue for several years and it has been well-supported. There is a limit on numbers, so book early!

CLOSING DATE: 6 December 2014

ACTION:

1) Please return the booking slip together with a cheque for the full amount, payable to SOUTH COTSWOLD RAMBLERS, to:  
Sally Davis, 23 Bownham Park, Rodborough Common, Stroud, GL5 5BY (01453 872729) by the closing date – 6 December

2) Please send me your choices from the menu either by post or email to [sallydavis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallydavis@hotmail.co.uk) by 15 December

## LUNCH BOOKING SLIP (by 6 December)

Please book ..... places(s) at the Annual lunch @ £19.95 per person.

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to South Cotswold Ramblers in full payment.

Signed .....

Contact details: Name:.....

Address:.....

Email:.....

Tel no.....



## GROUP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2013-2014

My report for the October News Letter traditionally seems to involve some sort of a review of our activities over the last year and I think I can confirm that it has been very much a case of business as usual. We have put on some 158 walks, pretty much the same as last year. Mike and I have arranged another long distance linear walk, the Ice Cream Walk, with 12 members completing the whole 80 mile walk from Rodborough Common to Uphill near Weston Super Mare.



*Members proudly displaying their certificates on Uphill beach on 4 October 2014*

We have had two group holidays, one in the Lake District and one on Exmoor both of which were well supported and next year plans are in place to go to Lulworth Cove and back to Dunster.



*Conquerors of Scafell Pike*

Sally once again organised a very successful Christmas Lunch and by regularly attending Footpath Committee meetings I can confirm that they continue to carry out their invaluable work to protect and maintain our footpaths.

Another good year in which we have been very active and attracted quite a few new members. But where do we go from here? Mike and I have no plans for another long distance walk. Are there any improvements or alterations which we could make to our Walks programme? Our holidays have settled into a pattern of either using holiday companies or local leaders, and using HF with their choice of walks has proved very popular. Does anybody have any other ideas? Is anybody interested in arranging a self guided holiday as we did in the old days? Does anybody feel they would like to get more involved in footpath work? Are there any other activities which you think the Group could usefully get involved in? We want ideas and, importantly, a willingness to develop them yourselves.

I would like to cover a couple of small news items. Firstly you will probably have read or heard rumours of a new agreement with Ramblers Holidays which has been put in place following the expiry of our arrangement with HF. A statement from Benedict Southworth confirms that:- "Ramblers is pleased to announce that from October 2014 it has entered into a three year agreement with Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. The agreement is focused on online opportunities to promote each other and we hope that it will bring in more members who want to support our work. Ramblers thank HF Holidays for its support over the last three years."

The second item of news is something that has also appeared in the press and concerns the England Coast Path. Nick Clegg has announced that the Government is committed to completing the path by 2020. This is something which Ramblers has been campaigning for for a number of years and it is good to see our hard work coming to fruition.

Finally you may already be aware that Bernard Smith is stepping down from his position as Secretary of our Group at the AGM. He has for many years been an enthusiastic and vital member of South Cots whether with his involvement on the footpath side, particularly the Kissing Gate Scheme, or as Secretary, where he kept us all on the procedural straight and narrow. He has indicated that he would like to remain on the Committee where we will continue to benefit from his many years of experience. So thank you Bernard for your contribution so far to the cause of South Cotswold Ramblers and we look forward to seeing you on walks for many more years.

*Richard Davis, Chairman*

## GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT

2013-2014



Brian Witcombe will present his report at the AGM on Saturday 15 November, or you can obtain a summary by contacting Brian, the Group Treasurer, (see contact details on page 7) after the meeting.

## GROUP FOOTPATH REPORT 2013-2014

Where would we be without our footpaths? Probably walking up the hard shoulder of the M5. And yet we are getting feedback that all is not well. Since the new contractors took over in April we are noticing a deterioration in our footpaths. The cutbacks are beginning to bite.

In South Cots over the last 12 months or so we have received some 33 reports of blocked footpaths and have been asked to consider 5 possible footpath diversions. Most of these have involved site visits by a member of the footpath committee and follow up action such as clearance where applicable or reporting to PROW. We then monitor the progress of work to see that it is completed, again involving site visits and contact with PROW. At our last meeting we had nearly 30 cases which were classified as 'ongoing' and which we will eventually

hope to classify as 'complete'.

As a group we have the largest network of footpaths in Gloucestershire and it is becoming apparent

that if we want to retain those footpaths and be able to walk them we will have to involve ourselves more and more in their upkeep. The new contractors have indicated that they hope to inspect every footpath once every ten years, not nearly frequent enough. We, however, have a regular walks programme which covers large parts of our area and we can all help by reporting any problems which we observe and by clearing footpaths where we feel able. If you want more involvement in footpath matters Bob Frewin will be only too happy to hear from you as we are always looking for more volunteers.

*Richard Davis*

## The AGM - a piece of Cake!

We have several members to thank for very nice cakes on some of our walks. Once again we ask any one who would like to offer to make a cake for consumption by eager appreciative Ramblers at the AGM to please let Kathy know on 01453 860004 as soon as possible. Thank you and yum, yum!



## VICE CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Walk choices? - Over the years we have expanded our choice of walk types, and I now wonder if it is time to cater for our small group of thwarted faster walkers occasionally. We have two walks on the second Saturday - perhaps we could find leader and participants. The idea is that people who don't like faster paced walks do a moderate pace walk, leaving the hares to get on with it! Tell John G or me and we will experiment from March to June next year.

Walks Books - Since 1995 we have sold over 10,000 Favourite Walks Books, encouraging many, many people to walk in the South Cotswolds. Copies are now rapidly running out, so if you need a copy or two for presents, now is the time to buy on the website or from Mike on a walk at a reduced price of £3 each (quoting MemOff). In addition we have some More Favourite Walks Books which are in perfect condition except for slightly rusty staples. These we are giving away on walks. You may care to make a small donation for S. Cots. footpath funds.

Thank you to the five walks collectors and over 50 leaders for working hard to make such an interesting and varied led walks programme. Occasionally I hear other groups saying they are short of leaders, but we do so well with such a variety of popular walks, and each year there are a few more new leaders stepping forward for their first go.

Grateful thanks to Sally and Richard for their great work in helping in keeping adding photos to our website [www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk](http://www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk) and enabling it to be a well used resource - such fun!

And thank you to all the participants on the recently completed Ice Cream Walk for making our eight walks so enjoyable.

*Mike Garner*

# *Invitation to our Annual General Meeting*

October 2014

Dear Members,

We warmly invite you to the **South Cotswold Ramblers' Group ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on Saturday 15 November 2014 to arrive at any time after 12:30 pm for the meeting at 1:30 pm at Rodborough Tabernacle, Tabernacle Walk, Rodborough, Stroud GL5 3UJ, Grid Reference SO 846039, (turn right off road leading up towards Rodborough Fort signed United Reformed Church and go downhill along Tabernacle Walk for 500 yards).  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughTab> If you'd like a morning walk, Richard is leading a 5 mile walk from there at 10:00 am.

At 12:30 pm you could bring a packed lunch and there will be tea or coffee and homemade cakes kindly provided by members also an opportunity to have a chat with other members. All of you are most welcome.

At the meeting Reports and Plans are discussed. Then all committee members stand down and are eligible to seek re-election as officers or committee members. We look forward to welcoming new people too, and we will ask for nominations during the meeting. Posts will be as shown in last year's minutes overleaf.

After any other business at the end of the meeting there will be an open discussion, a chance for questions.

Do come. We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely

*Bernard Smith*

Group Secretary (01453 884013)

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome by the Group Chairman, Richard Davis.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2013 AGM (see next page).
4. Matters arising not likely to be covered in reports below.
5. Consideration and adoption of the 2013 – 2014 Reports:
  - a) Chairman's Report
  - b) Footpath Chairman's Report
  - c) Treasurer's Report (available at the meeting or send a SAE to the Group Secretary)
6. Election of Officers and Committee Members (posts as last year, PTO)
7. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
8. Motions of which notice has been received by 31 August 2014
9. Any other business notice of which has been given in writing to the secretary prior to the meeting.

Following the formal meeting there will a discussion open to all members.

**Finally there will follow a short talk given by a mystery guest speaker.  
The speaker has been obtained after much careful negotiation  
and we hope it will be further encouragement for as many members as possible  
to attend the AGM.**

## South Cotswold Group of the Ramblers

**MINUTES of the 2013 Annual General Meeting** of the South Cotswold Group held at Rodborough Tabernacle GL5 3UJ on Saturday 16 November 2013 at 1:30 pm. Everyone was welcomed by the Chairman Richard Davis

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim & Caroline White, Penny Fernando, Bob Frewin, Jacqui Pycroft, Olivia Gunn, Ann & Brian Ruther, Ann Adams, Pam Browne, Denys Thompson, Peter & Susan Jones, Ray Chaney, Anne Eamer, John Geoghegan, Enid Sutcliffe, Steve Priddey, Rosemary Burne, Janet Hale, Mike & Heather Garner, Richard & Diana Davis, Kathy Bullen, John Corry, Bernard Smith.

**APOLOGIES** were received from Chris Creswick, Brian Witcombe, Patrick & Angela Marks, Sheila Lister.

**MINUTES of the 2012 AGM** were approved as accurate and signed by Richard Davis the Chairman. (Acceptance was proposed by Kathy Bullen and seconded by Mike Garner).

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.

There were none.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

**GROUP CHAIRMAN** - Richard Davis presented his report (printed in the Newsletter). He said he did not intend to go through this at the meeting but would add he was retiring from Area Chairman this year and now could concentrate on his position as Group Chairman. He reminded members of the forthcoming Area AGM on 8th December.

**FOOTPATH SECRETARY** - The Footpath Secretary (Bob Frewin) said that his report was printed in the Newsletter and had nothing to add.

**GROUP TREASURER** – The Group Treasurer was unable to attend but his report was printed in the Newsletter a copy of the accounts were distributed prior to the meeting and were available if required on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

The Treasurer had left with the Chairman some explanatory notes which the Chairman read out to the meeting.

These three reports were accepted after a motion was proposed by Kathy Bullen and seconded by Diana Davis.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### GROUP COMMITTEE

|                             | Nomination     | Proposed by    | Seconded by    |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Group Chairman              | Richard Davis  | Bernard Smith  | Andrew Hawkins |
| Vice Chairman               | Mike Garner    | John Geoghegan | Rosemary Burne |
| Group Secretary             | Bernard Smith  | Richard Davis  | Bob Frewin     |
| Hon. Treasurer              | Brian Witcombe | Richard Davis  | Olivia Gunn    |
| Membership Secretary        | Mike Garner )  |                |                |
| Newsletter Editor           | Sally Davis )  |                |                |
| Joint Website Editor        | Mike Garner )  | block vote     |                |
| Joint Website Editor        | Sally Davis )  | Andrew Hawkins | Pam Browne     |
| Walks Programme Coordinator | Mike Garner )  |                |                |
| Publicity Officer           | Vacancy )      |                |                |
| Committee Members           | Diana Davis )  |                |                |
|                             | Kathy Bullen ) |                |                |

At this point Bernard Smith said that John Corry was standing down from the committee and on the behalf of the Group would like to express many thanks to John for all the work he has put in, especially with the Kissing Gate programme. It was thanks to John that the kissing gates we had installed were marked with a plaque and he had been out with Bernard looking for suitable sites. Also John had put pictures of the gates onto our website for members to see. A round of applause took place.

#### FOOTPATH SUB-COMMITTEE

|                            |                  |             |            |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| Footpath Chairman          | Bob Frewin )     |             |            |
| Footpath Secretary         | Bob Frewin )     |             |            |
| Footpath Vice Chairman     | vacant )         | block vote  |            |
| Footpath Minutes Secretary | John Corry )     | Diana Davis | Pam Browne |
| Footpath Clearance         | Bob Frewin )     |             |            |
| Footpath Committee Member  | Penny Fernando ) |             |            |

#### AREA COUNCIL REPS

|                  |                |            |
|------------------|----------------|------------|
| Penny Fernando ) | block vote     |            |
| Richard Davis )  | Enid Sutcliffe | Pam Browne |

#### Walks Collectors

|                  |            |                |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Enid Sutcliffe ) |            |                |
| Kathy Bullen )   |            |                |
| Anne Eamer )     | block vote |                |
| John Geoghegan ) | Bob Frewin | Rosemary Burne |
| Jacqui Pycroft ) |            |                |

#### HONORARY INDEPENDENT

|                           |               |            |             |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>EXAMINER (AUDITOR)</b> | Steve Priddey | Anne Eamer | Olivia Gunn |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|

All elections were made by a show of hands, and without contest.

#### MOTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DUE DATE - None.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - The Chairman (Richard Davis) gave thanks to the ladies who organised the tea and cakes. This resulted in a round of applause. The Chairman thanked the Main Committee, Footpath Committee and other volunteers for all their hard work. There being no other business the meeting was then declared closed at 2.20pm.

There was then an open discussion, not minuted.



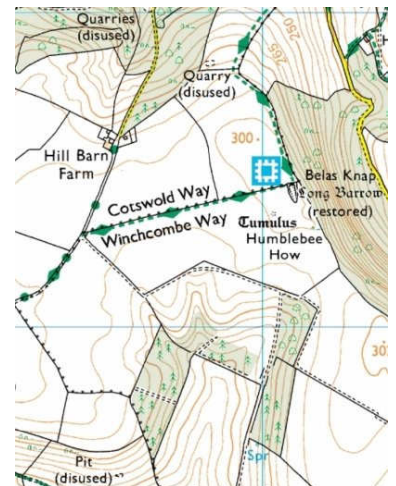
Cirencester Group at Belas Knap

### Message from the Chair

Over the past few months I've been out walking with many Gloucestershire groups, all doing what we enjoy - walking the countryside in all its forms. It's not just about green fields and sheep. It's a working countryside. Most features we see are man made, many from hundreds or even thousands of years ago. Eating sandwiches on Belas Knap at 1pm with Cirencester group, it was striking this was mid-day GMT, the sun was to the south, at its highest point of the day and shining the full length of the long barrow.

When established circa 4000 BC, with its western portal facing the setting sun at the spring and autumn equinoxes, it's believed it was used as a place of celebration. But why build it here? It's now thought that the track a few hundred yards west running north-south through Hill Barn Farm to Winchcombe could be an even earlier trading route. With clear views across west to the Malverns, east (pre-trees) to Oxfordshire and passing trade, what could be a better place?

Our landscape is full of this network of tracks and paths. The Cotswold Way follows a route shown in the photo above, across the short plain where many travellers could once have camped.



(map courtesy Bing and OS)

Over at Bredon Hill when the Saxons used its south facing slopes for lucrative agriculture, they modified many field boundaries to square up the fields. However they knew not to upset local travellers so kept historic footpaths along their original line which can often be found diagonal to the fields.

Maintaining paths this way continues to this day. Some months ago Mid-Glos group led a walk along the urban footpaths of Leckhampton past allotments, between back to back gardens and some 50s-60s estate roads following an historic path.

More recently the aim can be to create a green corridor around a path, shown in a recent planning application at Fairford (courtesy edp and Cotswold District Council)



Over time footpaths and tracks see many changes in the landscape through which they pass. When using these paths, not only can we value our rural or agricultural heritage, we can often understand the reasons for our built and industrial heritage too.

One of our challenges as ramblers is to try to keep these rights of way, not only for us today but for future generations of walkers who follow in our foot steps. We can do more as a team. Can you help? Bernard Gill [chair@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:chair@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

## 2014 AGM 10:00am Saturday 6th December

Hosted by Cleeve Group: Woodmancote Village Hall,  
Bushcombe Lane, nr Bishops Cleeve GL52 9HX SO971274

10:30 Introduction and Speaker from Central Office,  
11:00 Reports from 2014 and elections for 2015.  
12:30 Bring and share Lunch  
13:30 Short afternoon walk around Woodmancote

Your local ramblers Team needs you! If you can spare some time through 2015 please contact Ray Chaney  
[Secretary@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk) 01453 811545

Volunteer posts are:-

### Chairman

Keeps us moving forwards

### Vice chair

Stand in for above

### Secretary

Deals with correspondence

### Assistant Secretary

Keeps key minutes of meetings

### Footpath Secretary

Contact between Groups, County Council and Central Office

### Walking Environment Secretary

Comments on planning applications

### Access Officer

Seeks out unrecorded paths

### Publicity Officer

Lets everyone know what we do

### Webmaster

Learn how to use Wordpress

### Newsletter Editor

Publishes our news

### Membership Secretary

Makes sure our members are happy

### Treasurer

Checks we spend no more than we raise

## Chipping Campden Cotswold Way Marker Stone



Ramblers in Gloucestershire have had a long association with the Cotswold Way. When we learned that plans were afoot for a marker stone in the Market Square, highlighting many of the towns and villages along the way, we naturally felt we should be involved. The project is to allow walkers travelling the route to feel they've reached a start or finish point. There is already a similar stone in Bath. Such a stone doesn't come cheap, so together with Central Office we've pledged support from our Waymarker fund. (Although at 1.4metres diameter it's slightly larger than a standard marker!)

The unveiling ceremony will be at Noon Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. We hope to have a stall in the Market Hall and walk to the Stone.

## Gloucestershire Ramblers-OS Project

This unique project is still active, so if when you're out walking the countryside you find that a pub, telephone box or other feature isn't quite where it should be on the map please let your Group footpath contact know for forwarding to OS for consideration or email [footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](mailto:footpaths@gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)

## Jill Byrne

A brief note offering thanks & kind wishes to Jill our long standing Area Footpath Secretary who has stood down due to short illness.

## Bowmoor Lake

Our Group Walks are one way we monitor footpaths across the county but our footpath volunteers (would you like to be one?) also regularly check footpaths in their patch. Many issues are easily resolvable but sometimes it can be more difficult. It's always useful to have local support.

The path to the north of Bowmoor Lake is part of a network linking paths and track in the Cotswold Water Park. Like many others, when the lake was excavated the track was kept in place and used by many walkers. In recent times a developer has been erecting holiday lodges between the track and the lake and each time has requested a 'temporary' closure of the path. The path has survived construction of lakes either side and should be able to survive construction of lodges too.

Access to footpaths allows us to see our influence on the landscape over the years for better or worse. (map courtesy Bing and OS)  
As local people have stated, 5 years is not a temporary closure.

We have again pressed the County Council not to support a further closure and a local Councillor has organised a petition for presentation to the County Council. We're in contact and currently hoping this will at last allow the closure to be lifted.



## Group Reports

### North Cotswold

Our walks programme has continued to be a mix of circular and Figure of 8 walks, the latter intended to suit members who prefer a morning only walk of 5 or 6 miles.

This year the Group is walking the second half of "The Palladian Way" from Hatherop to Bath in monthly sections. We have a full Villager bus of 16 walkers plus a trio of retired walkers who join us for lunch.

Our willing Group member and driver, David Bell, transports us to the start every month and collects us from various pick-up points in order that we can all enjoy a relaxing pub lunch. The Palladian architecture has not been as obvious in the walks this year but we have enjoyed walking round the villages of Bibury and Castle Combe and through delightful woodland to Box Tunnel and Dundas Aqueduct. We were lucky to be joined by the book's author, Guy Vowles, on the section round Malmesbury. He selected an unusual morning coffee stop – The Mortuary Chapel at Cowage Farm!!  
Sue Salmon



### Cirencester



On Sunday 29th June, following a short walk, over 70 members and guests gathered at Chedworth Village Hall for our annual Strawberry Tea. After tucking into some 12kg of strawberries washed down with 5L of cream and numerous homemade cakes, Stuart Dyer, one of five group chair and ex-chair persons present spoke of his early memories of rambling with the group. This was followed by a speech from Benedict Southworth, Ramblers CEO, who congratulated Cirencester Ramblers on reaching their 40th Birthday and wished them another successful 40 years.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> August saw the opening of The Clemence Gate (named after Jean and Peter {deceased} Clemence who were founder members of the group and acknowledged their 100% commitment and involvement with the Cirencester group over many years). They were joined by Sid Mathews whose four generations of family have used this path over the last 100+ years. This was funded by the group as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

We also took part in the Totally Thames - Source to Sea River Relay in August, filling a bottle of water near the source of the Thames at Kemble and walking the 24 miles to Lechlade to hand it over to the lockkeeper from where it will do the rest of journey by river to the Tower of London.

Pat Beckley, Cirencester Group Secretary

### Mid Glos Group

Led by our Hon. Sec. Geoff Smithdale the Group took on the 52 mile **New** Wychavon Way walk from Broadway to Droitwich. The walk will follow a new amended 2012 route and we hope to complete it soon into 2015. The first 'leg' was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> July; Broadway to Aston-under-Hill, eight and a half miles of easy walking. Details of further sections will be added to the walks page of our Website ([www.midglosramblers.btck.co.uk](http://www.midglosramblers.btck.co.uk)). Why not join us?

Des Smyth (Chairman)



### Cleeve Group



Again Cleeve has maintained a full programme of weekly Sunday walks and monthly shorter walks on the first Wednesday. Numbers attending have remained stable on both. We are still in need of new/more walk leaders. Our winter programme is complete and due for publication shortly. The footpath committee remains active with no shortage of issues to deal with.

A boat trip from Upton to Worcester was well attended and enjoyed by a group of over twenty. There are plans for a walking holiday in Spring and a skittles bowl up in November. It's amazing how many directions the bowls can take. Winchcombe Medical centre asked us for help with a poster on a theme of walking.

Cleeve AGM in November had threatened to be an issue but a volunteer secretary stepped forward and other officers are standing again. We look forward to hosting the Gloucestershire Area AGM in December.

Cleeve Group would like to express their appreciation and thanks to Jill Byrne for her service to Rambling in Gloucestershire. Her knowledge and commitment will be sorely missed, we wish her well.

Brian Payne, Cleeve Group Chairman

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA MID-WEEK WALKS

Sorry, no dogs except registered assistance dogs

2014

**Wed 5 Nov 10:00 11m Malverns Catherine**  
**01452 61382** Park British Camp CP (£3.00 fee) SO 763404.  
Walk to Evendine then up to Worcestershire Beacon. Hilly walk with superb views. Picnic.

**Wed 12 Nov 10:00 10m Three Forest Ponds Marion & Trevor**  
**01242 235423 or 07729 822636 (walk morning)** Car Park on N side of B4226, 500m E of Speech House, SO 624124. Walk Speech House Lake, Mallards Pike Lake, Cannop Ponds. Pub lunch at Fountain Inn Parkend, or picnic. Leader will collect food orders before walk. Possibility of two courses "pensioners lunch" for £6.00!

**Tues 18 Nov 10:00 10m Gloucester Beeches Diana**  
**01242 578777 or 07528 697023 (walk morning)** Gloucester Beeches CP, SO 958120. Walk Brimpsfield and Elkstone. Picnic.

**Wed 26 Nov 10:00 12m Bella Vista Guy**  
**01242 251412 or 07968 797186 (walk morning)** Meet Quarry CP beyond Cleeve Hill Golf Club SO 989271. Walk around Cleeve Hill escarpment to Wontley farm and Belas Knap, Sudeley Castle. Pub lunch, café or picnic in Winchcombe. Return via Langley Hill Farm and Rushberry House. Tea in club house after?

**Thu 4 Dec 10:00 10m Leckhampton Hill Geoff**  
**01531 650349 or 07528 697023 (walk morning)** Meet CP at back of Leckhampton Hill, SO 951179. Walk Seven Springs, Pegglesworth, Upper Coberley & Ullenwood. Picnic.

**Wed 10 Dec 10:00 10m Forest of Dean Mike**  
**01594 562341** Speech House Woodlands CP, SO 623124. A route exploring some of the Industrial Archaeology of the Forest of Dean, including the former sites of Trafalgar and Waterloo collieries. Also via Woorgreen, Linear Park and Cannop. Picnic.

**Wed 17 Dec 10:00 7m Bisley Walk and Christmas Dinner at the Stirrup Cup Roy**  
**01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk day)** Park at Village Hall CP, SO 905062. Morning walk only from Bisley to Througham and Sudgrove. Afternoon: Christmas dinner at the Stirrup Cup. Please contact Roy in November for details.

**Wed 31 Dec 10:00 11m Pegglesworth Roy**  
**01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning)** Trying again on New Year's Eve with last year's very wet New Year's Day walk! Park on layby on A436, SO 989185. Walk: Castle Barn Farm, Upper Dowdeswell, Andoversford, Shipton Oliffe, Withington, Upcote Farm, Thorndale, Foxcote, Pegglesworth. Picnic.

2015

**Wed 7 Jan 10:00 12m Moreton-in Marsh Roy**  
**01242 245488 or 07766 413176 (walk morning)** Park considerably in Fossey Avenue (first turn on right opposite petrol station coming from Stow on A429.), SP 208317. Walk: Evenlode, Adlestrop, Chastleton, Frogmore, Dunstall Farm. Picnic.

**Wed 14 Jan 10:00 10m Frampton-on-Severn Des**  
**01242 245666 or 07939 615749 (walk morning)** Start from middle of village near the pub, SO 746076. Walk Severn Way, Arlingham, Framilode and return via canal path. Picnic.

### GRWalks (aka the Composite Programme)

**GRWalks lists all the led walks from Area Mid-Week Walks, the seven geographical Gloucestershire groups and the Gloucestershire Walking Group (for 20s 30s & 40s) in convenient date order. See [www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk](http://www.gloucestershireramblers.org.uk)**

**NO COMPUTER? Send one or more 9x6 inch SAEs to editor Mike Garner (GRWalks), Southcot, The Headlands, Stroud GL5 5PS.**

**Wed 21 Jan 10:00 10m Woodmancote Gerry & Ann**  
**01242 674107 or 07984 266321 (walk morning)** Park in Apple Tree CP (furthest away from pub) in Stockwell Lane Woodmancote, SO 975273. A hilly walk passing through Gotherington Halt, Dixon & Cleeve Hill. Picnic.

**Wed 28 Jan 10:00 10m Miserden Susanne**  
**01453 757212 or 07768 403530 (walk morning)** Park considerably in Miserden village and meet by pub, SO 937089. Walk Caudle Green, Winstone and Edgeworth. Picnic.

**Wed 4 Feb 10:00 9.5m Ozleworth & Tresha Richard P**  
**01454 260397 or 07984 853775 (walk morning)** Newark Park NT CP, ST 781932. Walk Newark Park, Ozleworth Bottom then climb up to Boxwell, Hens Cliff, Tresham, Alderley. Return via Cotswold way to Newark Park. Picnic. 950 feet ascent, one opt out en route.

**Wed 11 Feb 10:00 10m Haresfield Beacon Wendy & Andy**  
**01453 885498** Shortwood CP, SO 831086. Walk Stockend, Painswick (picnic lunch, pub for drinks), Pitchcombe.

**Wed 18 Feb 10:00 10.5m North Cotswolds Arnold**  
**01242 603576 or 07789 317291 (walk morning)** Park in Fish Hill CP, SP 120368. Walk Broadway Tower, Broadway, Saintbury, Weston Subedge, Dovers Hill, Chipping Campden. Picnic.

**Wed 25 Feb 10:00 10m Longhope David & Henrietta**  
**01452 302024 or 07831 234790 (walk morning)** Park in layby on A4136, west of Longhope, SO 682187. Walk Hope Wood, Welshbury Wood, Chestnut Hill, Flaxley. Return through fields. Picnic.



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# South Cotswold Ramblers

## Our Walks - November 2014



**Sat 1 Nov morning 6.5m The Bear and back but don't Dillay dally** - A lollipop route along the Wysis Way, then into High Wood before venturing into Rough Banks then follow the Dillay Brook towards Snows Farm and Driftcombe farm before returning to Bisley via the Wysis Way. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Food possible at The Bear afterwards.

**Leaders - Ann T & Tim S** 07860 836152 or 07931 683162 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Bisley, The Bear CP if eating or considerate street parking nearby. L163/E179 SO903060 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyBearCP>

**Mon 3 Nov morning 3.5m Horsley and Kingscote Valley walk at a Leisurely Pace** - Through a wooded valley in Autumn to a lovely bowl of countryside in the Kingscote Valley with a higher route back to Horsley. Terrain T1 The odd hill.

**Leader - Kathy** 01453 860004 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Horsley, meet outside The Hog pub (sadly closed on a Monday lunchtime). Park considerately nearby. Village Hall, further down lane, has more parking. E168/L162 ST838980 <http://tinyurl.com/mapHorsleyHog>

**Wed 5 Nov morning 5m Autumn colours near Wotton** Walk through Westridge woods to North Nibley and return via Daisy Farm and Bradley Green. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills.

**Leader - Anne E** 01453 842551 on day 07773 292363 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Wotton-under-Edge, Auction Rooms CP. Go up Tabernacle Pitch and just past the graveyard turn right. You will see two drives, so take the left narrower one to emerge into a large CP. L162/E167 ST75559350 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWottonAuctionCP>

**Sat 8 Nov EITHER day 10m Autumn in Westonbirt & Sherston** - A full day out visiting the autumnal Arboretum, the Norman church in Sherston, Pinkney and a peaceful spot in Easton Grey. Terrain T1 The odd hill. Bring a picnic.

**Leaders - Mike & Heather** 01453 873625 day 07749 282087 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Shipton Moyne, park in village N of pub near Street Farm. L162/E168 SO889897 <http://tinyurl.com/mapShiptonMoyneStFm>

**Sat 8 Nov OR long morning 6.5m Brockhampton, Sevenhampton, Whittington** - A walk in the upper Coln valley linking the three quiet and secluded villages of Whittington, Brockhampton and Sevenhampton. Some of the paths could be muddy. Terrain T1 The odd hill. No lunch stop but bring snack for coffee break.

**Leader - Andrew** 01452 857958 on day 07900 390351 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from A40 Large layby near Whittington about 2.5 miles east of Cheltenham. L163/ EOL45 SP010205 <http://tinyurl.com/mapA40laybyWhittington>

**Wed 12 Nov long morning 6.2m An Even Odda walk from Deerhurst** - Deerhurst, Severn way, Coombe Hill canal, Apperley. Terrain T0 Mainly level. Bring a mid-morning snack.

**Leaders - Enid and Graham B** 01242 863283 on day 07570 789317 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Deerhurst, Odda's Chapel. £1 Parking fee or nearby in village. L162/E179 SO869298 <http://tinyurl.com/mapDeerhurstOdda>

**Sat 15 Nov morning 5m AGM Prelude from Rodborough Manor Woods, Amberley Common.** Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Tea and cakes provided at Tabernacle meeting room from 12.30 after walk and before AGM at 1.30. Bring sandwiches if you feel you require additional sustenance.

**Leader - Richard** 01453 762373 on day 07973 860669 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Rodborough Tabernacle. Up Rodborough Hill towards Fort. 1st R past cattle grid. 1st R again. Signed United Reformed Church. Continue 500 yds. L162/E168 SO846040 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughTab>

**Mon 17 Nov morning 4m Cotswold Way walk at a Leisurely Pace** - Cotswold Way and Uley Bury. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills, a few steep pitches taken slowly. Sadly no convenient lunch pub but Uley Old Crown possible.

**Leaders - Sophia and Linda** 01453 860287/01453 549358 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Coaley Peak CP. L162/E168 SO794014 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCoaleyPeak>

**Wed 19 Nov morning 5m Laurie Lee Wildlife Way**

We follow Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's walk passing Laurie Lee's 11 Poetry posts. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. One particularly steep part uphill. Food at the Woolpack if required.

**Leaders - Sally & Ros** 01453 872729 / 01285 239054 on day 07818 425088 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Bulls Cross layby B4070 above Slad. L162/E179 SO877087 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBullsCross>

**Sat 22 Nov morning 5.25m JFK Memorial walk or Return of the Natives ( to Miserden Park )** - Sudgrove, Ashcombe Bottom & Miserden Park. Woods, fields and parkland. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Some steep ascents and descents. Note earlier meeting time of 09:40. Order food before walk.

**Leader - Denys** 01453 751581 on day 07783 269574 Meet **09:40 (coffee provided by pub) for 10:00 start** from Miserden, Carpenters Arms. Only use CP if using pub. If full park considerately in road. L163/E179 SO937088 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMiserdenCArms>

**Wed 26 Nov morning 6m Dursley Woods & Stinchcombe Hill** - Dursley Wood, Breakheart Quarry, Stinchcombe Hill. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Pubs and Cafes in Dursley.

**Leaders - Peter and Susan** 01453 860797 on day 07854 634090 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Dursley long stay car park (signed via Long Street). Drive steeply up and round LH bend to park on top level. L162/E167 ST757982 <http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt>

**Sat 29 Nov fig 8 9.5m Minchinhampton Figure of 8 again!** a.m. Burleigh, canal, St Mary's, Hyde Common. Picnic / refreshments available in Minchinhampton. p.m. Longfords, Box, Minchinhampton Common. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly.

**Leader - Alex** 01453 826907 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Minchinhampton, edge of common behind Church. L162/E168 SO87200 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchEdgeCommon>

### Why change terrain ratings?

To avoid confusion we are no longer using the letters L, M and H as they have different meanings on the updated Ramblers national website and the new Walksfinder. Hopefully our local members will soon be familiar with the logical labels T0 T1 T2 T3 and T4 and their meanings. It should also be useful for visitors and prospective members, so important in our hilly area.

### TERRAIN RATINGS

**T0** Mainly level. **T1** The odd hill. **T2** Mix of level/hills.

**T3** Mostly hilly. **T4** Extremely hilly.



**Mon 1 Dec morning 4m Walk Around Berkeley at a Leisurely Pace** - Circular walk to Wanswell. Terrain T0 Mainly level. Pub lunch available after walk.

**Leader - Maurice** 01453 811162 on day 07912 552075 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Berkeley, Mariners Arms. Use car park if going in after, or tidily on roadside. L162/E167 ST681992 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBerkeleyMarinersArms>

**Wed 3 Dec morning 5.5m Horsley - Homage to Richard Crookback** - Woods and fields to Kingscote, returning via Binley farm. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Excellent food & ales in pub. Slightly pricey but interesting.

**Leader - Denys** 01453 751581 on day 07783 269574 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Horsley, The Hog CP, on L if coming from Nailsworth. Park in CP if using pub or considerably nearby. Village Hall, further down lane, has more parking. E168/L162 ST838980 <http://tinyurl.com/mapHorsleyHog>

**Sat 6 Dec day 8.2m Owls Virgins & Rooks**

Woods and Hills around Uley, Nympsfield, Owlpen, Virgin's Corner, Elcombe & Uley Bury. Terrain T4 Extremely hilly. Picnic. **Leaders - Peter and Susan** 01453 860797 on day 07854 634090 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Coaley Peak Car Park. L162/E168 SO794013 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCoaleyPeak>

**Wed 10 Dec morning 5m Chavenage Green - There will be Mud** - Ledgemore, Bottom Shiptons Grave Lane, Brandhouse Farm, Avening Park, Chavenage House. Terrain T1 The odd hill.

**Leader - Ray W** 01453 547213 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Chavenage Green. L162/E168 ST865957 <http://tinyurl.com/mapChavenageGreen>

**Sat 13 Dec EITHER day 9m Bisley Winter Walk**

Oakridge, Daneway, Tunley, Waterlane. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Bring a packed lunch - pub stop for drinks/loos.

**Leader - Olivia** 01453 751716 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Bisley, Windyridge layby on Birdlip road. L163/E179 SO903064 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyWindyridge>

**Sat 13 Dec OR morning 6.5m Best coffee stop ever?**

Following the Gloucester Sharpness canal and the Severn Way. A wide choice of coffee at half time! Terrain T0 Mainly level.

**Leader - John G** 01452 728760 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Gloucester, Rea Bridge CP. Follow B4008 towards Gloucester past Tesco Quedgeley roundabout and take 2nd L at traffic lights along Merlin Drive. At 2nd roundabout turn R along Elmore Lane West. CP is on L before canal bridge. L162/E179 SO805150 <http://tinyurl.com/mapGlosReaBridge>

**Mon 15 Dec morning 4m Along Canal and River at a Leisurely Pace** - A local walk seeing the latest changes and a chance for a good chat. Terrain T0 Mainly level. Possible lunch at Ebley Wharf after.

**Leader - Anne C** 01453 752654 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Ebley Victory Park - From Westward Road coming from Tricorn House turn R along Church Road (P sign pointing R on L of main road). Then turn L just before St Matthews Church (P sign) and park at far end in SDC car park near Victory Park. E168 SO830049 <http://tinyurl.com/mapEbleyVictoryCP>

**Wed 17 Dec morning 5.2m Waterley winter warmer** Dursley Wood, Whiteway, Ashen Plains Wood, Waterley Bottom, Breakheart Hill. Terrain T4 Extremely hilly, with 1250 feet of ascent and descent. Pubs and Cafes in Dursley.

**Leaders - Mike and Heather** 01453 873625 on day 07749 282087 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Dursley long stay car park (signed via Long Street). Drive steeply up and round LH bend to park on top level. L162/E167 ST757982 <http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt>

**Sat 20 Dec long morning 7m Exploring the Uley Valley** Around the south side of Uley Valley. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Pub stop at end.

**Leader - Allen M** 01453 545588 on day 07749 564232 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Uley, Old Crown. Park on road by Church or pub CP at rear if visiting afterwards. L162/E167 ST792985 <http://tinyurl.com/mapUleyOldCrownCP>

**Sat 27 Dec morning 6m Two sides of the valley**

Stroud, Callowell, Pitchcombe, Painswick Steam, Hammonds Farm, Badbrook, Stroud. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills.

**Leader - Jill** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** Stroud Leisure Centre CP top end. L162/E179 SO843057 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudLCCPtop>

**Mon 29 Dec morning 4m Post Christmas walk from Wotton at a Leisurely Pace** - Across fields to Kingwood and the round house. A gentle incline back to Ellencroft and Wotton. Terrain T0 Mainly level. Pubs and cafes in the town if needed.

**Leader - Anne E** 01453 842551 on day 07773 292363 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** Wotton-under-Edge, The Chipping CP (long stay) or Symn Lane. Meet on the green. L162/E167 ST756931 <http://tinyurl.com/mapWottonCP>

**Wed 31 Dec morning 5.8m Nailsworth - A Tale of Two Walks**

- Two previous walks put together, cycle track, South Woodchester, Forest Green and down to the Miry Brook (always muddy). Back to Egypt Mill through Shortwood. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Bistro at Egypt Mill after walk if required.

**Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Nailsworth, Egypt Mill CP, far side. L162/E168 ST850998 <http://tinyurl.com/mapNailsworthEgyptMill>

### PLEASE NOTE part 1

**PACE** - Unless stated otherwise our walks are of **Moderate Pace**, average 2 mph with stops. Monday walks will be labelled **Leisurely Pace** and are about 1.5 mph; a 10:30 start on a 4 mile walk normally means finishing between 12:45 and 1pm. **RING** the leader if you are in any doubt about taking part, especially if you haven't walked recently. Perhaps try shorter, less hilly walks first.

**NON MEMBERS** - You are very welcome to walk with the Group a few times. We hope you will then wish to join, either on-line at [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://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 Ramblers' group in Britain.

**MESSAGES** on our website will show any walk changes or additional information. Please check if travelling a distance. [www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages](http://www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages)



**Thu 1 Jan morning 5m Bring in the New at a Leisurely Pace** - Start the year as you mean to go on. A walk round Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons to suit all levels of walker. Those wearing a funny hat particularly welcome. Terrain T0 Mainly level.

**Leaders - Richard & Mike** 01453 762373 / 01453 873625 on day 07973 860669 / 07749 282087 Meet 10:20 for **10:30 start** Minchinhampton, on common behind Church. L162/E168 SO872009 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchEdgeCommon>

**Sat 3 Jan morning 6m The Manors Circular**

Via Manor Woods, Rooksgrove, Little London and across commons. Terrain T1 The odd hill.

**Leader - Tim** 01453 757104 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Minchinhampton Common reservoir CP. L162/E168 SO855012 <http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchResCP>

**Mon 5 Jan morning 4m Purton in winter at a Leisurely Pace**

- A gentle walk, mainly on field paths but with some road walking, via Brookend & Halmore. Terrain T1 The odd hill.

**Leader - Karen** 01453 545824 on day 07721 605409 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Purton CP (alongside canal, opposite church. OL14/L162 SO692041 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPurtonCP>

**Wed 7 Jan morning 6m Doverow hill and beyond**

Nastend, Doverow Hill, Thames & Severn canal. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills.

**Leader - Olivia** 01453 751716 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from St Cyr's Church Stonehouse. Approach from Boakes Drive. At church turn right into dead end side road. L162/E168 SO800050 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStCyr>

**Sat 10 Jan EITHER day 10m Bounding round the bounds**

Selsley Common, Boundary Court Valley, North and South Woodchester, Woodchester Park, Penn Wood. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Picnic, possible hot drink stop.

**Leader - Jill** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Selsley Common main CP on B4066. L162/E168 SO829027 <http://tinyurl.com/mapSelsleyCom>

**Sat 10 Jan OR morning 5m Slad Slopes**

Catswood, Swift's Hill, Worgan's Wood. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly.

**Leaders - Brian & Sheelagh** 01453 872220 on day 07761 039595 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Bulls Cross layby B4070 above Slad. L162/E179 SO877087 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBullsCross>

**Wed 14 Jan morning 5.5m Pinbury Prowl**

Sapperton, Pinbury and Siccaridge. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Lunch available at the Daneway pub.

**Leaders - Brian & Sheelagh** 01453 872220 on day 07761 039595 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Daneway Inn Car Park. Park neatly in pub car park if eating. Otherwise there is parking 100yds. SE of the Daneway. L163/E179 SO939034 <http://tinyurl.com/mapDaneway>

**Mon 19 Jan morning 4m Walk from fort to canal at a Leisurely Pace** - Down to Butterow Lane then canal, gentle wind back up past Winstons and back over common. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills.

**Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Rodborough, Car Park just above Fort on Rodborough Common. L162/E168 SO851040 <http://tinyurl.com/mapRodboroughCommonCP1>

**Wed 21 Jan short day 8m Stroud The One Peak Walk**

Randwick Woods, Cotswold Way, Ryeford then along the Canal. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Bring a picnic.

**Leader - Graham W** 01453 885408 day 07977 863592 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Stroud Leisure Centre Car Park top end. L162/E179 SO843057 <http://tinyurl.com/mapStroudLCCPtop>

**Sat 24 Jan morning 5m On a clear day you can see forever (hopefully!)** - Rodborough Common to the canal then up to Lower Littleworth. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Pubs in Amberley afterwards.

**Leaders - Sally & Keith** 01453 872729 on day 07818 425088 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Amberley War Memorial (NB this is up on the Common not by the Amberley Inn). Park considerately on Common without damaging grass. L162/E168 SO851015 <http://tinyurl.com/mapAmberleyWM>

**Wed 28 Jan morning 5m Castle Combe Winter Walk**

By Brook valley, Long Dean, Ford, Castle Combe village. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Lunch in Castle Combe if required.

**Leader - Jacqui P** 01666 826139 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Castle Combe car park at top of village. L173/E156 ST845777 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCastleCombe>

**Sat 31 Jan day 10m Toadsmoor Tramp**

Toadsmoor, Bisley and Eastcombe. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Bring a picnic.

**Leaders - Andy & Wendy** 01453 885498 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Brimscombe, Pavillion Lay-by. L162/E168 SO877022 <http://tinyurl.com/mapBrimscobleLayby>

### PLEASE NOTE part 2

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

**TERRAIN - T0** Mainly level. **T1** The odd hill. **T2** Mix of hills and level sections. **T3** Hilly much of time. **T4** Extremely hilly.

**PACE** Most of our walks are of **Moderate** pace, averaging 2 mph with stops. Monday walks will be labelled **Leisurely** and are about 1.5 mph; a 10:30 start on a 4 mile walk means finishing between 12:45 and 1pm approximately. **Faster** walks may be arranged on the next programme if there is interest. On the same day there will be a moderate pace walk.

**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.

**DOGS** - Sorry, registered assistance dogs only.

**PLEASE** do not walk ahead of the leader unless asked.

*Saturday 17 January - Annual Lunch*

*See our newsletter & book early!*



ramblers  
at the heart of walking

# South Cotswold Ramblers

## Our Walks - February 2015



**Mon 2 Feb morning 4m Back to my roots at a Leisurely Pace** - Bisley, Calfway, Piedmont, Bisley. Terrain T1 The odd hill. Food possible after at The Bear Inn.

**Leaders - Brian & Ann** 01452 770510 on day 07770 895035 Meet 10:20 for **10:30 start** at Bisley, The Bear CP or street parking nearby. L163/E179 SO903060  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapBisleyBearCP>

### Wed 4 Feb morning 6m Cam to Coaley

Ashmead Green to Coaley then Silver Street and Cam Long Down. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills.

**Leader - Maurice** 01453 811162 on day 07912 552075 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Cam Peak CP (Peaked Down). L162/E167 ST767993 <http://tinyurl.com/mapCamPeakCP>

### Sat 7 Feb day 10.5m Northleach

Undulating, mostly arable, good paths and tracks, quiet lanes. Walking through Farmington, Cold Ashton, Turkdean and Hampnett. Terrain T1 The odd hill. Bring packed lunch.

**Leader - Andrew** 01452 857958 on day 07900 390351 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Northleach Market Place or roadside. L163/EOL45 SP113145  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapNorthleachMktPlace>

### Wed 11 Feb long morning 6.5m Changing views

Upper Cam, Upton, Lower Cam, The Quarry, Sheep Path and Westfield Woods. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills.

**Leader - Karen** 01453 545824 on day 07721 605409 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Dursley long stay car park (signed via Long Street). Drive steeply up and round LH bend to park on top level. L162/E167 ST758982  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt>

### Sat 14 Feb EITHER morning 5.5m Dursley - A DUD Walk

Dursley, Uley, Dursley. Various routes weather dependent. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills. Cafes & pubs on completion.

**Leader - Ray W** 01453 547213 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Dursley long stay car park (signed via Long Street). Drive steeply up and round LH bend to park on top level. L162/E167 ST758982 <http://tinyurl.com/mapDursleyLongSt>

### Sat 14 Feb OR long morning 7m Wotton to Nibley

Wotton, North Nibley and Westridge. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Pubs and Cafes in Wotton at finish if required.

**Leader - Allen M** 01453 545588 on day 07749 564232 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Wotton-under-Edge, The Chipping CP (long stay). L162/E167 ST756931  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapWottonCP>

### Mon 16 Feb morning 3.5m Tetbury Preston Park walk at a Leisurely Pace

Preston Park (the old Herd or driveway to the ancient Common), east of Tetbury. Terrain T1 The odd hill. Lunch at the Royal Oak, next to car park, if required.

**Leader - Jacqui P** 01666 826139 Meet 10.20 for **10:30 start** from Tetbury old station CP (free). Follow signs downhill to Long Stay car park. L163/E168 ST893933  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapTetburyOldStation>

### Wed 18 Feb morning 5m Hampton hike

Minchinhampton, Box, Amberley, Minchinhampton. Common, villages and woodland. Terrain T1 The odd hill.

**Leader - Jill** 01242 255994 on day 07815 786467 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Minchinhampton, edge of common behind Church. L162/E168 SO872009  
<http://tinyurl.com/mapMinchEdgeCommon>

### Sat 21 Feb morning 6.2m Roman Villa and Polish Schoolgirls

Starting at Chedworth Roman Villa on to Stowell Park then down to Fossbridge. Returning via Chedworth village and then through Chedworth woods. Terrain T3 Mostly hilly. Snacks available at the NT cafe at Chedworth Roman Villa.

**Leaders - Ros & Ron** 01285 239054 on day 07917 808234 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Chedworth Roman Villa overflow CP. Follow the signs for Chedworth Roman Villa. L163/OL45 SP055134 <http://tinyurl.com/mapChedworthOCP>

### Wed 25 Feb morning 6m Painswick Circular

Holcombe Farm, Edgemoor, Cotswold Way. Pub lunch if required. Terrain T2 Mix of level/hills.

**Leader - John G** 01452 728760 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Falcon Inn CP opposite Painswick church. L162/E179 SO866097 <http://tinyurl.com/mapPainswickFalcon>

### Sat 28 Feb short day 8m Another bit of the Severn Way

North on the Severn Way, back through the fields to Oldbury Naite and Severn Way back to car park. Can be changed to quite lanes if bad conditions under foot. Terrain T0 Mainly level. Bring coffee and packed lunch although as walk is almost completely flat it may not take as long as usual.

**Leader - Ann A** 01453 839089 on day 07931 114439 Meet 09:50 for **10:00 start** from Oldbury Power Station Visitors car park (BS35 1RQ) by kind permission of Magnox. L162/E167 ST607940 <http://tinyurl.com/mapOldburyVCP>

### PLEASE NOTE part 3

**NON MEMBERS** You are very welcome to walk with the Group a few times. We hope you will then wish to join, either on-line at [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://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.

**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 wait a minute as well. Thank you.

**MESSAGES** on our website will show any walk changes or additional information. Please check if travelling a distance. [www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages](http://www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk/messages)

**ADVERSE CONDITIONS** Leaders may decide to cancel or shorten the walk, taking into account everyone's health and safety. Please contact them if doubt before travelling.