



different (1)

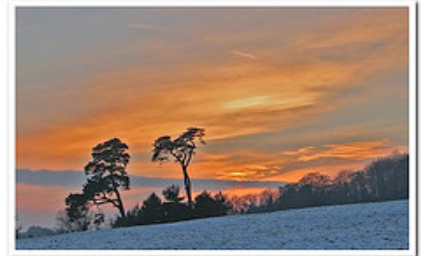
eBoot – December 2011

This month's festive edition includes:

- Forthcoming walks;
- The Group's AGM;
- Events (including Group ceilidh);
- And now for something completely

Forthcoming walks

This year's Bristol Festival of Winter Walks (organized by 'the inimitable Bristol Ramblers', according to Venue magazine) is our third:



Saturday 17 Dec **Redfield Hill** (5 miles)

Sunday 18 Dec **The famous Solstice Stomp** (16 miles – see below)

Tuesday 27 Dec **Ebbor Gorge** (13 miles – see below)

Wednesday 28 Dec **The Downs to Temple Meads** (5 miles)

Wednesday 28 Dec **Bath Parks** (3 miles)

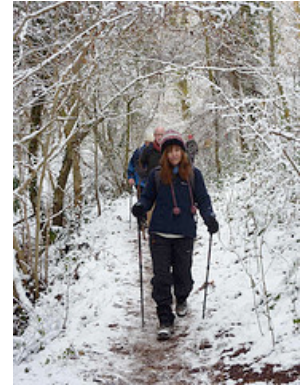
Sunday 1 Jan **Crook Peak (the Mendips)** (12 miles)

Monday 2 Jan **Classic Pen y Fan horseshoe** (11 miles)

On **14 December**, Julie Boston is leading an urban walk showcasing some of the improvements of the past twenty years. From the Arnolfini, Narrow Quay at 10 am, we will start with the River Avon on our right and follow the Bristol Ramblers Triangular City Walk. We turn left before the Create Centre and make our way through a blissful stretch of

woodland known as Burwalls – opened to the public about 10 years ago. On entering Ashton Court, we will stop at the Green Man and look over the valley and farmland threatened by South Bristol Link Road. We will return along the river and dine @Bristol .

This year's Solstice Stomp (**18 December**) leaves Bristol for the first time to visit the Bath area. We shall start the walk from Bath Spa station on the arrival of the 0745 train from Temple Meads and no later than 8.00 so that we are under way by sunrise. Those travelling by train should buy a return ticket as this is a circular walk. Please allow plenty of time for buying tickets at Temple Meads or for parking in Bath and walking to the station.



Our 16 mile route takes us out of the city to Sham Castle before contouring around Bathampton Down. We eventually descend to the Dundas aqueduct before heading for Limpley Stoke and Monkton Combe. We head west along the valley to Midford before a short climb takes us to South Stoke and the pub stop. Next on the agenda is Combe Down before we join the best section of the Bath Skyline Walk with lovely views of the city. As darkness falls we reach the Abbey and enjoy the festive atmosphere in the city centre.

This is a more strenuous Stomp than its predecessors (although slightly shorter) but it takes in some lovely scenery and attractive villages. Should anyone want to shorten the walk there are a number of opportunities to do so.

Pete Rogers' Ebbor Gorge walk (**27 December**) starts near Priddy and heads across the top of the Mendips to Pen Hill above Wells. From there we drop down towards Wookey Hole before climbing back to up to visit Ebbor Gorge for lunch, hopefully with a good view across to Glastonbury Tor. After lunch we drop down to Westbury Sub Mendip and finish by

climbing back up to visit the Queen Victoria in Priddy for a drink before heading back to the cars.

AGM

The Group's AGM took place on 6 December. Due to a touch of double-booking, this year's meeting took place in Redland Park Church itself, and not in the church hall. The minutes will be circulated with the next eBoot, but some highlights were:

The committee for 2011/12 is:

- Chair – Carew Reynell
- Secretary – Stephen Draper
- Treasurer – Pauline Platts
- Minutes Secretary – Tony Parsons
- Membership Secretary – Eileen Bartlett
- Programme Coordinator – Tony Parsons
- Footpaths Officer – Keith Budd
- Planning and Environment Officer – Susan Carter
- Committee member – Tony Wood



The leaders of the 292 walks in the 2010/11 programme were thanked. Gwyneth Littlejohn, Nigel Andrews and Peter Gould are pictured receiving certificates of thanks for the many walks that they led.

Peter, the outgoing chair, was also thanked for his many contributions to the work of the Group – leading walks; chairing the committee; Footpaths Secretary; managing the website; handling interviews, meetings...

Members were also asked for their views about possible activities for the new year. There have been a number of suggestions:

Walks programme - some longer evening walks? occasional use of coaches for distant A/B walks? more group trips (long weekends?)?

Other activities - monthly social evenings? occasional social events? footpath clearance/signage?

Wider community - active support for 'Get walking, keep walking' active support for the Council's Walking Strategy? support for Ramblers' national campaigns?

Let us know what you think.

And if you would be willing to help with footpath clearance work, contact Keith Budd at leoni.keith@gmail.com.

Events

Karen O'Sullivan has organized a ceilidh for the Group on Friday **16 March** at the Civil Service Sports Club. The last one was a great success. This one will be even better! Live band. Tickets are £10. Contact Karen at karenosullivan123@hotmail.com.

The annual **wildlife photography exhibition**, at the City Museum and Art Gallery until 11 March, is as always a seasonal treat.

There is a Civic Society event **Living Streets: Investing in the Walking Environment** at the Friends Meeting House, Hampton Road at 7.30pm on 15 December (charge of £4). The Society also organized an event on Transport in Bristol early in November. The City Council speaker said that one of the Council's key strategic (transport) objectives is 'an attractive and walkable centre'. Consultation on a Public Realm and Movement Framework will take place early in 2012.

And now for something completely different (1)



A walk for when you are feeling blue.

Go for a walk. The suggestion is to look very carefully at everything around you. To look at the detail of each leaf, or the shapes of the buildings, or the movement of the clouds. To attend to each object as though seeing, hearing, smelling or touching it for the first time. To consider the poet Patrick Kavanagh's thought, that to know a field is a lifetime's experience.

Walk until you feel better.

(Thanks to www.mis-guide.com)

A Merry Christmas to all our readers.