

Contents

Walks Programme.....	2
Walking with other Ramblers groups	2
Some walks from the September programme	2
Walking News and Events.....	4
Outdoor Skills for 18-26 year olds – 7-8 Oct.....	4
Hallen Marsh guided tour – Wed 16 Oct.....	4
Somer Valley Walking Festival – 6-8 Sept.....	5
Feature Articles	5
Editorial	5
Partners and Sponsors.....	7
Ramble Worldwide	7
Outdoor Retailers	7
Books and Maps	7

Walks Programme

The latest information about our walks programme is available on our website: <https://bristolramblers.org.uk>. Any additional walks are added as they are submitted. To see all the walks on specific days, or of specific lengths or difficulties, go to <https://bristolramblers.org.uk/display-programme>. From this page you can also download or print the list of walks, or add walks to your calendar.

Walking with other Ramblers groups

Remember that your Ramblers membership entitles you to join walks all over the country. Locally, <http://www.avon-ramblers.org.uk> lists forthcoming walks organised by the eight Ramblers groups in the Avon area. The website also has links to other groups' websites.

Some walks from the September programme

This is not an exhaustive list of the walks available. Always check the website for the most up-to-date information:

<https://www.bristolramblers.org.uk/display-programme>

Sun 1 Sep – Kilmersdon (B walk, 10 miles)

The route of this Kilmersdon walk may be familiar to some, but has been reversed to allow for a lunch break at Mells. The walk is largely on hard surface but includes woodland and fields that may be muddy. It also incorporates an industrial landscape that, in the 1500s, manufactured edged agricultural machinery that was sent all over the world.

Mells offers a choice of refreshments - picnic tables, a community cafe, a walled garden cafe and Talbot Inn.

Note that the Google maps route via the A37 and Midsomer Norton uses some very narrow roads. You may prefer to take the A4 and A39 via Peasedown St John.

Wed 4 Sept – Cold Ashton Circular (B walk, 6 miles)

We descend from Cold Ashton village to join the footpath along St. Catherine's Valley as far as Monkswood reservoir, where we have our coffee stop. We continue westwards and take a short steep climb before crossing the A46. We then descend to the village of Tadwick and continue a gradual descent to join the Cotswold Way, which we follow towards a steep climb and back to the start.

There will be a second, shorter break at some point as the first coffee stop is only a third of the way round the walk. Walking poles are advisable, if you have them, as paths can be muddy in places.

Sat 7 Sept – Purton (B walk, 6 miles)

Leaving the village of Purton, we will walk along the Sharpness Canal past the famous Purton 'hulks' to Sharpness. We then walk inland through fields and meadows, returning to Purton.

This walk has some fantastic views across the Severn and over to the Cotswolds, but may be muddy in places and there are some stiles.

Sun 8 Sept – Keynsham and River Chew (B walk, 10 miles)

From Keynsham, along the river Chew to Compton Dando and back via Woollard and Queen Charlton. There is an optional cafe or pub at the end.

Sun 8 Sept – Tintern and the Lower Wye Valley (A walk, 15 miles)

A scenic tour of the forests, cliffs, tunnels and calendrical steps that combine to create the magical lower Wye Valley, which has been a tourist paradise for centuries.

OS Map: Explorer OL14

Wed 11 Sept – Swineford, Upton Cheyney and Bitton (B walk, 6 miles)

The route ascends from Swineford picnic site into North Stoke and then heads across fields, via Pipeley Bottom, into Upton Cheyney. Descending into Bitton, the route continues until meeting the River Avon for a level return following the river to Swineford. There is an optional pub or café at the end.

Sun 15 Sept – Two St Annes (B walk, 12 miles)

Walking to Willsbridge Mill and by the River Avon.

Wed 18 Sept – Slimbridge, Frampton on Severn and Canal (B walk, 7 miles)

A pleasant, largely flat, walk from Slimbridge village, across the fields to Frampton-on-Severn and returning along the Gloucester and Sharpness canal. There are excellent views across the River Severn towards the Forest of Dean and Wales.

There's a mix of surfaces so come prepared, depending on recent weather.

Sat 21 Sept – Willsbridge and the Dramway (B walk, 6 miles)

An interesting local walk, mostly on good paths and tracks following sections of the old horse tramway. One long incline, a busy road to cross and possible livestock.

Sun 22 Sept – Mendips and Dolebury Warren (A walk, 15 miles)

From Kings Wood car park, crossing the A38, we climb Shute Shelve up onto the Mendip hills, heading toward Shipham where we follow the West Mendip way for a while. Then, via Black Down, we head for Dolebury Warren (SSSI), an Iron Age hill fort with magnificent views across the western Mendips and Bristol channel, weather permitting.

After descending to Dolebury Bottom, crossing the A38 again, we continue up on to Lyncombe hill, then down to reach Winscombe to join the Strawberry line (a disused railway track) for about a mile. We then turn west to head towards Crook Peak and

back to the car park. It is mostly gentle ups and downs with several fantastic viewpoints along the way.

OS Map: Explorer 141

Sat 28 Sept – Burrington Ham (B walk, 6 miles)

A circular walk in the Mendip Hills. We initially walk to Blagdon, with superb views of the lake, then through fields to Rickford, and on to Burrington village. This is followed by a long climb up to Burrington Ham, rewarded with some great views across the Mendips at the top. Some stiles and may be muddy in places.

Sun 29 Sept – Bruton to Castle Cary (B walk, 12 miles)

A walk from Bruton across rolling open hills via Lamyatt to Castle Cary, returning via the River Brue and Wyke Champflower.

Sun 29 Sept – Celebration in the Quantocks (A walk, 15 miles)

A traverse of the western ridge of the Quantocks, from Beacon Hill to Wills Neck, taking in magnificent views along the way.

OS Map: Explorer 140

Sun 5 Oct – Slimbridge, Frampton-on-Severn and canal (B walk, 7 miles)

A pleasant, largely flat, walk from Slimbridge village, across the fields to Frampton-on-Severn, where we will stop for coffee. The return is along the Gloucester and Sharpness canal. There are excellent views across the River Severn towards the Forest of Dean and Wales.

There's a mix of surfaces so come prepared, depending on recent weather.

Walking News and Events

Outdoor Skills for 18-26 year olds – 7-8 Oct

The national Ramblers Association is running a series of events to introduce young people to navigational skills and local walking routes.

One of these 'Out There' events will be held in the environs of Blaise Castle, on Monday and Tuesday the 7th and 8th of October. It's free, and comes with a certificate and a year's Ramblers membership!

For more information, see: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/out-there-award-bristol-tickets-992503704297>

Hallen Marsh guided tour – Wed 16 Oct

Over recent years, the new flood defence scheme at Hallen Marsh/Avonmouth has involved the Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way (PROW) team in the creation of a network of diverted Public Rights of Way routes, that they hope will enhance the area, and provide wildlife enhancement: <https://news.bristol.gov.uk/press-releases/89ca4cc4-f3ee-485b-b19a-ee60af0884a0/new-wetland-is-a-splash-for-local-birdlife>

The Council PROW team has kindly offered to showcase their work and the new routes, by leading a guided walk at 10am Wednesday 16 October. Although this is primarily for the benefit of the Council's PROW Liaison Group, there will be a few additional spaces for a few others to attend.

Numbers will be very limited and car sharing will be helpful. Anyone interested should contact Roger Britton, our Area Footpath Officer at:

rogerjbritton@yahoo.com

The PROW team remind that it is very exposed within Hallen Marsh, so walkers should bring sufficient water, suitable clothing etc.

Somer Valley Walking Festival – 6-8 Sept

On the first full weekend of September, Somer Valley Ramblers are hosting a walking festival with a variety of walks varying from 3 to 14 miles.

All walks start from The Somer Centre, Gullock Tying, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2UH.

For full details, see: <https://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk/somer-valley-walking-festival.html>

Or contact: somervalleyrediscovered@bathnes.gov.uk

Feature Articles

Editorial

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?

*Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

- John Keats

What, autumn already? I'd barely got used to summer!

According to the meteorological definition of the seasons, we wave farewell to the hot season at the start of September. If you want to hang onto summer a little longer, you can calculate by the astronomical dates instead; in which case your autumn will start at the equinox, on the 22nd. Fortunately, whichever you pick, the Met Office's long-range forecast holds out some hope for sunny spells to continue a little longer.

But it's worth remembering that although the darkness encroaching at each end of the day may feel a little depressing, autumn is one of the best seasons for walking. All those briars that hooked themselves into you earlier in the year are now covered in delicious purple berries; apples and pears are ripe for the scrumping; harvested

crops mean you no longer have to squeeze yourself onto the uneven ground around two sides of large fields, and your editor has already cooed happily over her first toadshrooms of the season.

We all know they will not be the last.

Ceiswyn

(pron. KICE-win)

Partners and Sponsors

Ramble Worldwide



Ramble Worldwide (previously Ramblers Walking Holidays) is the Ramblers holiday walking partner. If you book a holiday with Ramble Worldwide and let them know that you are a Bristol Ramblers member, this Group will receive a contribution (£10 for UK holidays, £20 for short haul, £30 for long haul). See <https://www.rambleworldwide.co.uk/faqs#tab-the-walking-partnership>

Note that this has no impact on the price you pay for the holiday.

Outdoor Retailers

Most outdoor gear shops offer discounts to Ramblers members.

Cotswold Outdoor



Cotswold Outdoor is the Ramblers national sponsor, and their discount is 15%.

Taunton Leisure



Taunton Leisure sponsors this local Group, and also offers 15% discounts. There are stores available in Bristol, Taunton and Exeter.

Books and Maps

Ordnance Survey

The Ordnance Survey are working with the Ramblers to open the way for everyone to enjoy the outdoors in a more accessible, safe and sustainable way.

Ramblers members can enjoy 25% off a new subscription to OS Maps Premium, using code RAMOSM. Additionally, £5 will be donated to the Ramblers for each valid subscription.

Stanfords Book Shop

Stanfords is a specialist retailer of maps, travel books and other travel accessories, with stores in London and Bristol. They offer a 10% discount to Ramblers members.

Cicerone Press



Cicerone publishes guide books for walkers and cyclists. They offer a 25% discount to Ramblers members, with the code RAMBMD25.

You are receiving this communication as a member of the Bristol group and you have previously asked to be kept informed of the Ramblers work by email. If you no longer wish to receive communications like this, please update your mailing preferences at www.ramblers.org.uk/my-account.
