

## Contents

|                                                                 |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Walks Programme.....                                            | 2 |
| Walking with other Ramblers groups .....                        | 2 |
| Some walks from the October programme .....                     | 2 |
| Walking News and Events.....                                    | 5 |
| Bristol Ramblers AGM – 16 Oct .....                             | 5 |
| City Centre Transport Changes Consultation – until 30 Sept..... | 5 |
| Hallen Marsh guided tour – Wed 16 Oct.....                      | 5 |
| ‘Tracey’s Trek’.....                                            | 5 |
| Behold Ye Ramblers theatrical performance – 29-30 Oct.....      | 6 |
| Feature Articles .....                                          | 6 |
| Editorial .....                                                 | 6 |
| Partners and Sponsors.....                                      | 8 |
| Ramble Worldwide .....                                          | 8 |
| Outdoor Retailers .....                                         | 8 |
| Books and Maps .....                                            | 8 |

## 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 October 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>

#### **Sat 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.

#### **Sun 6 Oct – Welsh Newton (B walk, 12 miles)**

This is a delightful excursion into the woods, hills and open countryside of South Herefordshire and North Monmouthshire, with a great variety of scenery and situations encountered.

We begin in the grounds and lake of handsome Sellarsbrooke House, then move on via pleasant footpaths and minor roads to Llangrove Church (and our mid-morning break), before a drovers road takes us to Welsh Newton. A bird sanctuary is next, then forestry, before a steep track eventually leads us down into Buckholt for lunch (with pub available!).

The afternoon is relatively short, but very attractive; it begins with a lovely, scenic golf-course, then beside a stream, across fields, and then into Goldsmiths Woods, before we emerge at a wonderful viewpoint above Ganarew (and the strong possibility of seeing deer!). We finish by descending to the hamlet of Ganarew, with its manor, church & green, before returning to our Little Doward car park start point.

I hugely enjoyed putting this walk together, so I hope you'll care to join me on it!

### **Sun 6 Oct – Mendips and Dolebury Warren (A walk, 15 miles)**

From Kings Wood car park, crossing the A38, we climb Shute Shelve up onto the Mendips 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, 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 carpark. It is mostly gentle ups and downs with several fantastic viewpoints along the way.

OS map: Expl 141

### **Wed 9 Oct - Pucklechurch, Doynton, Cleeve Bridge (B walk, 6 miles)**

A moderate walk, mainly across fields, from Pucklechurch to Doynton, Cleeve Bridge and back, with a coffee break at Dyrham Church. There are several stiles.

Note: This walk has been amended from its original planned route due to closure of paths in Wick Golden Valley.

### **Sun 13 Oct – Tormarton (B walk, 12 miles)**

This walk starts in Tormarton and follows the Cotswold Way to Dyrham for a coffee stop. We then go across to the Monarchs Way, leading to our lunch stop in Codrington at the Wishing Well pub.

The afternoon follows the Monarchs Way to Kingrove Common then through Doddington Park back to Tormarton. The walk is undulating but there are no steep hills. Likely to be muddy in places.

### **Sun 13 Oct – Y Fâl (A hill walk, 14 miles)**

This old favourite starts from Abergavenny from where our route takes us to Deri. After some fine ridge walking, the second climb leads us to the summit of Y Fal which is better known as Sugar Loaf. We descend to Llangenny for lunch before a short stretch on a river bank and the chance to see a very old tree. Our route climbs steadily to Mynydd Llanwenarth and more fine ridge walking. On our way back to the start we visit St Mary's Vale before a last short climb and the return to the cars. The total ascent is in the region of 3,000 feet.

OS Map: Explorer OL13

### **Wed 16 Oct – Tockington and Littleton (B walk, 6 miles)**

A circular walk with a few stiles. We start from the village green in Tockington, through to Littleton and up the hill for coffee stop. Then across to Old Down and back to Tockington.

Please park thoughtfully in the village, and car share if possible. Those planning to visit The Swan pub post-walk may like to use the pub car park.

### **Sat 19 Oct – I Can See for Miles and Miles (B walk, 6 miles)**

Join us for far-reaching panoramic views over Bath, Bristol, and Somerset, and possible distant views of the Black Mountains in Wales and the Westbury White Horse.

Passing Beckford's Tower, we head down through Primrose Hill Community Woodland and Weston to make our way up to the popular viewpoint of Kelston Roundhill.

We continue to another excellent viewpoint - Prospect Stile, and then pass Bath Racecourse, where we can either cross the playing fields to return to our cars, or stop off at the Charlcombe Inn first.

There are one or two steep ascents and descents, and some sections could be muddy, so walking boots are recommended and, if you have them, walking poles would be helpful.

Please bring a drink and picnic for a short refreshment stop along the way.

### **Sat 26 Oct – South Stoke and Combe Hay (B walk, 6 miles)**

Join us for a lovely walk through meadows and the unspoilt villages of South Stoke, and Combe Hay, enjoying glorious countryside views and passing impressive remains of the disused Somerset Coal Canal.

Please bring a drink and picnic lunch. We have permission to eat our picnic in the rear pub garden at The Wheatsheaf at Combe Hay, and there will be time to buy a lunchtime drink in the pub if you wish.

The route could be muddy in places and there is one short hill to climb, and a long downhill section. Walking boots are recommended and walking poles would be helpful, if you have them.

You can take the Park & Ride bus up from the city centre (4 and 41). Notices state that people driving to the Park and Ride, but not then catching a bus, need to pay a £2 parking fee – payment can be done by card, or by a mobile phone.

### **Sun 27 Oct – Flute Player (B walk, 10 miles)**

This walk starts flat, through the docks and the city centre. Then we climb up to Redland and the Downs and back via the suspension bridge. This walk provides interesting sights of historic Bristol, mostly walking on pavements and/or footpaths. There will be a lunch stop at the Duke of Cambridge in Redland.

### **Sun 27 Oct – Round Chew Lake (A walk, 15 miles)**

A circumnavigation of Chew Valley Lake, taking in a variety of viewpoints along the way.

OS Maps: Explorer 141 & 155

## Walking News and Events

### Bristol Ramblers AGM – 16 Oct

The Bristol Ramblers Annual General Meeting is taking place in Redland Green Bowling Club on Wednesday 16th October at 7pm to 9pm. If you have been before then you will know that there is a speaker and refreshments. If you haven't, then why not pop along and see what it's all about? All members welcome.

The speaker is Lesley I. with 'Finding the Way: Journeys on Foot' - a presentation about self-organised, moderate, multi-day walks in New Zealand, France & the UK.

This is also your opportunity to find out what your committee does for you, and to contribute your views and thoughts.

### City Centre Transport Changes Consultation – until 30 Sept

The City Centre consultation covers the area of Broadmead, Temple Way, Redcliffe, and Bedminster Bridges, and how it should be developed over the coming years. Current plans prioritise north-south transport links and additional bus and cycle lanes.

To see details of the proposals, and give your response:

<https://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/bristol-city-centre-transport-changes-consultation-2024>

### 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](mailto:rogerjbritton@yahoo.com)

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

### 'Tracey's Trek'

Scottish Rambler Tracey, having lost her wife to cancer, will be attempting to walk the entire British coastline over the course of the next few months. She expects to be in the Bristol/Bath area near the beginning of February, and is interested in

contacting fellow Ramblers who might be able to offer local knowledge, company, or other forms of assistance.

For more information, see: <https://news.stv.tv/west-central/bearsden-woman-to-walk-5000-miles-fulfilling-wifes-retirement-dream-after-she-lost-life-to-cancer>  
<https://www.fionaoutdoors.co.uk/2024/08/5000-mile-round-britain-traceys-trek-in-memory-of-much-loved-wife>

Or email: [traceystrek@gmail.com](mailto:traceystrek@gmail.com)

## **Behold Ye Ramblers theatrical performance – 29-30 Oct**

The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers was one of numerous working and middle-class groups inspired by the popular socialist newspaper, *The Clarion*. They were heavily involved in countryside access, committing numerous trespasses.

A play about the Clarion Ramblers and related clubs will be showing at the Alma Tavern and Theatre at the end of October. For more information:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/almatheatrecompany/1309469>

## **Feature Articles**

### **Editorial**

*A brilliant morning. Sun shining bright for this hemisphere. Went out without my umbrella. Before I got one hundred yards it began to rain. Went back for the umbrella.*

- The Private Journal of Aaron Burr

Burr is lucky he'd only got a hundred yards. Last time I innocently wandered out of the house in bright sunlight, I got all the way to the far end of the nature reserve before the skies opened and gave me a thorough soaking on the unplanned jog home.

For some reason, walking blogs and articles in walking magazines tend to miss out the trusty umbrella as a key component of the rainy season. But they are an invaluable addition to standard waterproofs when it comes to, for example, keeping the rain off your spectacles or out of your dubiously-waterproof rucksack.

In my time I've seen the umbrellas wielded by walkers span the gamut from expensive specialist hiking umbrellas to umbrellas retrieved from a bin with half the spokes broken. There are pros and cons to each.

Specialist hiking umbrellas have the advantage of durability. They can be blown inside-out multiple times and still function, which is kind of useful when you're in a gale on top of the Black Mountains. Cheap (or free) umbrellas will break almost immediately, but they'll probably just about keep you dryish for the rest of the hike, and at least you won't care so much when you lose them.

And lose them you will.

During his four years in European exile, Aaron Burr lost at least five umbrellas (including one with a secret knife in the handle), and he wasn't even catching any trains. My first hiking umbrella was carried off by the 0653 to Taunton, and my

favourite umbrella from Kew somehow disappeared from a locked car boot a mere three weeks ago. I think I know where my replacement hiking umbrella currently is, but I daren't go look...

Maybe I should see if there are any half-usable ones hanging around the local bins. But more importantly, once you've chosen your umbrella, don't leave the house without it. The sunshine is a trap.

*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](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/my-account).*

---