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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 May 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>

Fri 2 May – Hidden Stoke Bishop (Evening walk, 4 miles)

Prepare to be both impressed and maybe a little bewildered as we explore the array of leafy lanes and green spaces proffered by this very handsome and affluent area of Bristol. Some steep sections will be encountered, but mostly on solid surfaces, albeit in surprising situations.

Sat 3 May – Failand Bluebell Walk (B walk, 5 miles)

This walk undulates through fields and woods with some stiles and the likelihood of horses and cattle. Extensive views across the estuary on a clear day. Several bluebell woods en route. Likely to be muddy in places.

Sun 4 May – Bluebell Walk near Avebury (B walk, 11 miles)

Featuring fantastic views in all directions if clear. On the White Horse Trail, Mid Wilts Way, and Wansdyke paths with a couple of moderate hills.....and, with any luck, bluebells!

Sun 4 May – Kymin (A walk, 15 miles)

This walk starts from Cadora Wood near Bigsweir Bridge in the Wye valley, heading east towards Slade Brook. After following the stream, it climbs up in a north/northeast direction to Clearwell through fields. Turning west and then north, we reach the village of Newland with a fine church. Continuing to and through Bunjups wood to reach A4136, the walk heads for Kymin Naval Temple where we should be rewarded with fine views of Monmouth, the Black Mountains and further fields if the weather is agreeable. The rest of the route follows Offa's Dyke path back to Cadora wood passing Redbrook. It is a gentle A walk through streams, fields and dotted

woodlands where wild garlic, bluebells, wood anemones and celandines flower in abundance if the timing is right.

Wed 7 May – Westbury Weaver (B walk, 5 miles)

An intriguing wander around the leafy suburbs of Westbury-on-Trym and adjacent parklands. Using a complex array of quiet, hidden lanes, we make our way from the Downs through handsome Henleaze to lovely Badocks Wood. Then it's on to innermost, historic Westbury village, Canford Park, Badminton School, and eventually back to our starting point on the Downs. Expect to be in for some delightful surprises.

Sat 10 May – Badocks Wood, Brentry and Southmead (B walk, 5 miles)

An urban walk on a mixture of surfaced paths and footpaths, some of which may be muddy in places. Mainly flat, two short uphill sections. Bring own refreshments for break during the walk.

Sun 11 May – King Arthur's Cave and the Dowards (B walk, 10 miles)

A rather delightful romp into the wild woodlands, hills & rock-formations that form 'The Dowards': A complex & intriguing outpost on the opposite banks of the River Wye from the popular Symonds Yat region.

We're on the less well-known Monmouthshire side for this outing, & will be visiting a series of caves, (King Arthur's included of course), plus an impressive hill-fort, a swing-bridge, & some great views of, & beside, the River Wye. To this you can add a classic riverside pub & a fascinating network of quiet, intricate footpaths & hills to navigate!

I really enjoyed searching out this previously unknown to me & very secretive area, so I'm hoping you'll come along to discover it for yourselves - I don't think you'll be remotely disappointed....!

Sat 17 May – Waterfall Walk (B walk, 5 miles)

A circular walk from Clutton Church. A lovely spring walk on fields: a couple of stiles and a bit of up and down, but nothing too strenuous. The route will initially follow the Limestone Link and then on Nanny Hurn's Lane to Cameley (12th century church). We will follow the Cam stream to Temple Bridge and cross fields to the Stephen Vale Nature Reserve. Then on to the waterfall and back to Clutton Church.

Sun 18 May – Nailsea Round (B walk, 9 miles)

The route follows roads and foot paths, which may be muddy occasionally. There will be a lunch stop at the Blue Flame pub.

Sun 18 May – Southern Malverns Rollercoaster (A walk, 13 miles)

From the start near Hollybush we make the steep climb to the summit of Ragged Stone Hill before heading to Chase End Hill. We then head northwards to climb Midsummer Hill arriving there more than a month early for it to live up to its name. We continue northwards to eventually reach Herefordshire Beacon. After lunch we have a section of relatively gentle walking at lower level. Inevitably we soon start climbing again to reach the ridge where we visit all the tops on our return to the lunch

stop. We return to the cars by an undulating route which is less strenuous than what has preceded it. The total ascent is in the region of 3,000 feet.

Wed 21 May – A Ramble on the Western Edge of Bristol (B walk, 7 miles)

From Brunel's splendid suspension bridge our route meanders downhill through the Georgian houses of Clifton and then across the Cumberland Basin, with its 19th century lock gates and Brunel's other bridge. Passing through the 19th century Greville Smyth park the route soon runs alongside our first section of Colliter's Brook. Passing a wetland area the route now begins to head out into open country. Another, attractive section, of Colliter's Brook takes the route to the start of a fairly short climb up Hanging Hill, with a great view over Bristol. On to the church and Angel Inn at Long Ashton and finally a lovely walk through the parkland of Ashton Court and back to the Suspension Bridge.

Sat 24 May – Clutton to Folly Farm (B walk, 6 miles)

After carefully crossing the main A37 we walk across fields and woods with wonderful views before reaching Folly Farm nature reserve. We stop for a short coffee break before climbing Round Hill and walk through Folly Woods. We cross a beautiful wild flower meadow and have views back down over the farm estate before exiting onto Featherbed Lane. The return to Clutton is partly along the route of an old railway track. One stile. Dogs are not permitted on this walk.

Sun 25 May – Ozleworth (B walk, 12 miles)

The usual Cotswold menu of hills and valleys, with constantly changing vistas and picturesque golden stone architecture. This walk will have a longer morning and a shorter afternoon, with a pub stop at lunch time.

WalkFest Walks

This month there are many additional walks that Bristol Ramblers members are providing as part of Bristol WalkFest. These include multiple evening walks that take advantage of the lengthening daylight. See the WalkFest programme for more details!

Walking News and Events

Bristol WalkFest 2025

Bristol WalkFest is live!

This year, there are 77 different walk providers leading 150+ unique walks. With some providers offering walks on multiple dates and times, that makes more than 400 walks available between 1 and 31 May.

Karen Lloyd, Bristol Walk Fest director, says:

“Bristol Walk Fest is a great chance to discover something new about the city, explore a new area, or try walking for the first time. With a choice of free walks every single day of the month, you’re bound to find something to pique your interest! Printed programmes are out now; available in libraries and community centres across Bristol. We are still adding new walks to the website too, so it’s worth exploring online.”

Walks are listed by categories: nature & wildlife; art, history & architecture; health & wellbeing, walking sports and walking for pleasure. Difficulty level search: easy, fairly easy, moderate or challenging. Access needs search: wheelchair, visually-impaired, buggy and family-friendly, rest stops, accessible by public transport, toilets/accessible toilets nearby.

All details can be found here: <https://www.bristolwalkfest.com/events/>

Bristol WalkFest Walking Challenge

Join Bristol's May Walking Challenge, hosted by Travelwest and Bristol City Council! Walk at least 3k steps a day to get to 93k steps in May.

The challenge is a great way to stay active, explore the city, and improve your physical and mental wellbeing. Bristol-based participants are eligible to win prizes! Get the GoJauntly app and sign up now:

<https://walks.gojauntly.com/challenges/bristol-s-walking-challenge-1171>

Feature Articles

Bristol Ramblers Photo Archive

For years, photographs taken by the Bristol Ramblers were posted to Flickr. This archive still exists, stretching back to 2010 (which is longer ago than I like to think!) and containing hundreds of photographs from Ramblers walks. You can see the full range of photos at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bristolramblers/>

In addition, Tony P has selected some photos featuring members who used to be regular walkers, but who no longer join us on walks. These photographs of old friends can be found here: bristolramblers.org.uk/flickr

Editorial

If you've been out in the woods over the last few weeks, you may have noticed the bluebells.



It's a very familiar seasonal spectacle, of course; we're all used to the woods turning gloriously blue for a while at the same time as the first warm, sunny days appear in April and May. The vibrant violet carpet beneath ancient woodlands is one of the best known signs of spring.

...in the UK.

Our little island is, in fact, home to around half of the entire world population of bluebells. Nowhere else do they grow in such profusion. The riot of colour that is so ordinary to us is something alien and extraordinary as far as the rest of the world is concerned.

So if you haven't been out in the woods over the last few weeks, looking at the bluebells – well, the second best time to see them is right now.

Ceiswyn

(pron. KICE-win)

Bluebells in the Wye Valley copyright © Ceiswyn B

Partners and Sponsors

For a full list of official Ramblers partners, see the website at:

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking-hub/offers-and-promotions>

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.
