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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 July 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>

Wed 2 July – Clevedon (B walk, 5 miles)

A gentle wander around Clevedon, with some ascents and descents. The start is accessible by the X6 bus, and there is a pub available at the end.

Sat 5 July – Long Ashton Round (B walk, 6 miles)

This walk takes you around the North Somerset village of Long Ashton with extensive views to the west.

It follows a mixture of footpaths, tracks and roads; mostly flat, though with a few steep bits. A pub is available at the end of the walk.

Sun 6 July – Trym Valley to Lawrence Weston Moor (B walk, 11 miles)

Meeting outside the Millhouse pub we will go up through pretty woodland towards the Blaise estate, then on to explore the wetlands of Lawrence Weston moor and climb up Mount Skitham. We return for lunch at either St Marys Henbury for those with packed lunches, or else the Blaise Inn pub. The return in the afternoon is through Kings Weston Estate, with some sweeping views of the river from Shirehampton golf course.

There is one steep ascent at Mount Skitham, and it can get muddy at the top, so if it has been wet please bring appropriate footwear and walking poles! Cattle present in some of the fields.

Sun 6 July – Beer (A walk, 14 miles)

Meet at Priory Road at 0740 not 0800!

We start from the attractive village of Beer and head westwards to Branscombe beach. We then follow the undulating coast path to Weston Mouth from where an initially steep path will eventually reach the Donkey Sanctuary where we shall have the lunch stop. A different route returns us to the coast path before we head inland again to visit the pub in Street. Suitably refreshed our route goes through the linear village of Branscombe where we can enjoy some colourful cottage gardens. From the beach we rejoin the coast path which narrows and has views of the cliffs above us. A short climb leads back to the cliff tops and our return to Beer. This walk is at the top end of the A grade due to its frequent climbs and descents.

OS maps: Expl 115/116

Wed 9 July - Almondsbury, Pilning and Easter Compton (B walk, 6 miles)

An undulating walk across fields and through villages in South Gloucestershire.

Possible livestock in fields - so no dogs please.

Sat 12 July - Axbridge / Cheddar Lake (C walk, 5 miles)

This is a leisurely 5 mile circular walk starting outside the Town Hall in the centre of Axbridge. We will have great views of the reservoir and the nearby Mendips. The walk is mainly flat with a few stiles, and may be muddy in places.

Sun 13 July - Bath (One Canal, Two Tunnels and Two Famous Men) (B walk, 11 miles)

This is a semi urban walk starting at North Road, Bath.

The walk goes along the Kennet and Avon Canal towards Bath Spa railway station. This is the "One Canal" in the title.

Just before the station we turn left for a steep climb up Beechen Cliff where we will have a coffee break with views over Bath. We then go past Bear Flat and walk through the two former railway tunnels. These are the "Two Tunnels" in the title.

We then head for Monkton Combe for a lunch stop. On the way here we will encounter the house of a famous geologist and the grave of a famous soldier who lived in three centuries. These are the "Two Famous Men" in the title.

In the afternoon we will go over Claverton Down towards the Sham Castle and back to the cars.

This will appeal to anyone like me who is "nerdish" about railways and canals.

Please note that much of the walk, especially in the morning is on hard surfaces.

Wed 16 July - Pucklechurch-Abson-Siston (B walk, 7 miles)

A circular walk across fields and through woodland, with several stiles. There is the option of a café or a pub at the end.

Sun 27 July - Pontypool (B walk, 12 miles)

The walk starts in Pontypool Park and ascends past a grotto and folly to reach Mynydd Garn Wen for morning break. We then cross over the hill Mynydd Garn Clochdy before descending to the Goose & Cuckoo pub for lunch break. The afternoon is through quiet lanes, fields and woods.

Sun 27 July – Pen Twyn Glas (A Hill Walk, 14 miles)

Most of the ascent is in the morning. An attractive ascent by a valley stream brings us out into open country. We then ascend Pen Cerrig-calch and Pen Alt Mawr. Our route leads us to Pen Twyn Glas before a gradual descent along Tal Trwynau. We then reach the valley but before long our route climbs to Table Mountain. It's then downhill nearly all the way to the start point.

Note A Hill Walks are at the hard end of our walk categories. As such we don't recommend this walk to anyone who's not previously been on A walks.

News and Events

Your eBoot: Have Your Say

This newsletter started, a long time ago, as a paper notification of what the walks schedule would be for every month. Times have changed a little since then, so the committee is having a rethink of what your eBoot should look like in modern times.

We're soliciting feedback about two things in particular:

- **Walks listings** Walks listings are now available on the website, and we know that that's the first port of call for many people. Do you find the walk listings in the eBoot necessary still?
- **Frequency** If the walks listings are removed, the eBoot will become a lot smaller. Would you prefer to receive a slimmed-down eBoot every month (it would still include any news and an editorial) or would you be satisfied with a quarterly publication?

Please send all your comments and thoughts to: bristoleboot@gmail.com

Local volunteering opportunities

Are you interested in helping to inform and develop the local walking infrastructure?

The Bristol Ramblers have recently received a number of requests for assistance:

- Bristol City Council is seeking to develop a **Bristol Ring route**, a circular route drawn more tightly around the city than the Community Forest Path. The objective is to encourage recreational walking. Elements of the route are still under consideration.
- The charity Avon Needs Trees is leading a **Landscape Recovery Project** in the Lower Chew valley to the south-east of Bristol, and is looking for ideas about the development of the local paths network.
- There are plans to improve the signage on the **River Avon Trail**, and there is a request for help with the waymarking when outstanding issues with the route have been resolved.

If you would like to know more about any of these, please contact:

secretary@bristolramblers.org.uk

Somer Valley Walking Festival 12-14 September

Somer Valley Ramblers are organising five walks across the three days of the festival. These will be a superb opportunity to enjoy lovely countryside, meet members from other groups, and enjoy a cuppa and cake afterwards. Full details should soon be available on the website:

<https://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk/somer-valley-walking-festival.html>

Feature Articles

Editorial

It is possible that over the last couple of weeks, many of you have felt a sudden inexplicable loss of interest in walking up hills with a backpack, possibly in favour of reclining with a chilled drink in the general area of a fan.

However this is the time of year when riverside and seaside walks really come into their own, with the promise of finding some secluded bit of coastline or tree-shaded nook to dip refreshingly into when the sun gets too hot. The riverside path along the Usk winds past a number of such tempting little coves, although on sunny days it's always worth being alert to the possibility of an unexpected hiker coming round the bend just as you've got up the courage to try a bit of skinny-dipping.

Open-water swimming has become surprisingly popular in recent years. On the pro side, this means that there are now numerous websites and apps that you can use to look up potential wild bathing places that you can easily reach. On the down side, this means that other people can do this too and may beat you to them.

If you do find yourself tempted, do be careful to research the location thoroughly beforehand: to make sure the water isn't contaminated; that there aren't unexpected currents or deep drop-offs, and that it's not on private land. It's also worth taking a friend - not only are they handy in case of emergencies, but it's good to have someone to chat to (and to help keep an eye on any belongings you leave on the bank!) And finally, plan how you're going to warm up again once out of the water. Don't rely on the sun to dry you off (unexpected clouds are a menace), and a thermos of tea can as well be drunk after a dip as when hiking up a hill.

As with any activity, please do your own research beforehand and be careful when trying it for the first time. An eBoot editorial does not constitute expert advice.

You can find more links and tips at: <https://therivertrust.org/enjoy-rivers/wild-swimming>

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(pron. KICE-win)

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.
