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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 August 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 2 Aug – Chew Valley and West Harptree (C walk, 5 miles)

A leisurely ramble from Herriotts Bridge across Widcombe Common to West Harptree, then to Chew Lake bird hide. We return to Herriotts Bridge across fields.

Long trousers are advised in case of nettles, and there is a farm shop and café near the start/finish.

Sun 3 Aug – Ten Bristol Parks (B walk, 10 miles)

A delightful exploration of South Bristol, linking 10 parks and green spaces.

The walk starts at Temple Meads Station.

Most walking is on paths. There are a couple of hills, but we are never far from a bus stop, if you need to drop out. There is no pub, but lunch is near Arno's Vale, where you can use the cafe.

Sun 3 Aug – Cleeve Common (A walk, 15 miles)

Lovely Cleeve Common, with views of Cheltenham Racecourse, Gloucester Cathedral, May Hill (of course), even Sugarloaf on a clear day. The route will include sections of the Cotswold Way and will visit Belas Knap, Winchcombe (lunch) and Sudeley Castle.

OS Maps: Expl 179

Wed 6 Aug – Blagdon, Rickford and Burrington Ham (B walk, 6 miles)

Join us for this varied walk on the Mendip Hills. We will have terrific views of Blagdon Lake from the start, walk through the picturesque village of Rickford, climb up to the Rock of Ages and finish by crossing Burrington Ham back to Blagdon.

There is a mix of surfaces, stiles and gates.

There are no toilets on the walk, but plenty of bushes.

The walk finishes near the New Inn in Blagdon. For those who wish to drink or eat afterwards then this is your place! If you do not intend to eat, please use street parking.

Sun 10 Aug – Canals, Rivers and Cider (B walk, 9 miles)

A mixed route (warning - at one point there is a broken stile. Long step up and down, or possible to slither under) with opportunities to spot trains before walking alongside the River Avon before crossing to the Kennet & Avon Canal. A bit of a stiff climb takes us to the Upper Westwood. A short wander along the minor road brings us to Iford Cider. We take a short break here. From here we descend to the A road, crossing carefully onto a permissive path alongside the River Frome.

At the farm shop we re-cross the road ascending on footpaths to Westwood Church. From here we rejoin the canal bank then the river for our return to Bradford on Avon Station car park.

Sun 10 Aug – Vale of Ewias (A hill walk, 19 miles)

We begin at Gospel Pass, the highest road pass in Wales, from which we ascend gently to Lord Hereford's Knob, with panoramic views over mid-Wales and Herefordshire. From here we follow a pleasant ridge walk south, gently undulating with views occasionally on both sides, before descending steeply to the atmospheric ruins of Llanthony Priory (and lunch).

The first part of the afternoon takes us partway back up the hill, then onto a set of poorly-maintained paths with some awkward stiles. This brings us to a splendid path that contours along the side of the ridge, with changing views across the beautiful Vale of Ewias. After afternoon break we descend into Capel-y-ffin to pick up the Cambrian Way, which takes us up our main climb of the day onto Darren Lwyd. There will be plenty of pauses to take in the valley, opened out spectacularly behind us.



Vale of Ewias from Darren Lwyd © Ceiswyn B 2025

Finally, some gentle ridge walking will take us back to Lord Hereford's Knob and thence back to the cars.

OS Maps: Expl OL13

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.

Wed 13 Aug – Compton Dando Circular (B walk, 7 miles)

A circular, undulating walk from Compton Dando, passing Tucking Mill, Marksbury Vale, Lords Wood, Hunstrete and Woollard.

Parking is available in the pub car park of The Compton Inn, if planning to use the pub for post-walk refreshments.

Sat 16 Aug - The Jubilee Way revisited - Rangeworthy to Yate Rocks (B walk, 6 miles)

The full Jubilee Way is a 26km/16mile route, which links Aust to Old Sodbury.

This walk follows the Jubilee Way from Rangeworthy to Yate Rocks, then local footpaths back to Rangeworthy. If desired, post-walk refreshments can be found at the Rose and Crown.

The going is mainly flat with kissing gates and a few stiles. A mixture of farmland and quiet lanes. One short section of the Jubilee Way is rather overgrown, with fallen trees and a couple of shallow ditches to negotiate. There may be livestock in fields.

Sun 17 Aug – Severn Beach (B walk, 10 miles)

From Severn Beach station, we walk inland via Redwick, Northwick to Aust, with a drink stop at the Boars Head Aust. The return is along the Severn Way coastal path via Old Passage and New Passage.

There is a possible café stop at the end (Shirley's café closes at 4 pm).

It is recommended that walkers catch the 0854 from Bristol Temple Meads, which arrives at Severn Beach at 0931. If you do not catch the train, there is limited on-street parking. There are return trains at 35 past each hour, or alternatively there may be the Bus Number 12 to Bristol Parkway station.

Sun 17 Aug – Porlock Figure-of-Eight (A walk, 14 miles)

We start with an easy walk to Bossington before ascending a path around Bossington Hill with hopefully excellent sea views. We then head for Selworthy Beacon before losing height to visit the lovely village of Selworthy. The route then meanders back to Porlock for lunch. Suitably refreshed we climb steeply to Doverhay Down in the hope of good views. Eventually we descend into Hawk Combe before one final climb to another good viewpoint. By the end of the day we should have enjoyed around 3,000 feet of ascent.

OS maps: Expl OL9

Sun 24 Aug – Cider with Rosie and Me! (B walk, 10 miles)

Mainly on the Laurie Lee Wildlife Trail with an extension through picturesque Painswick. Quite hilly. Lunch is a picnic in the churchyard opposite The Woolpack Inn (Laurie Lee's watering hole!)

Wed 27 Aug – English Coast Path: Avonmouth to Severn Beach (C walk, 5 miles)

A level, *linear* walk, following pavements through industrial Avonmouth and then paths to Severn Beach. Some busy roads to get out of Avonmouth but peaceful contrasts later.

Severn Beach has two cafes and a bakery that serves cakes and coffee.

There are a number of transport options to the start and end of the walk, as both Severn Beach and Avonmouth have train stations.

Sat 31 Aug – Uphill and Brean Down (B walk, 12 miles)

A walk along the river Axe up to the Fort at Brean Down, and back for a beach walk.

A/B Trip to West Cornwall, May 2026

Keith and Carew will be leading a five day trip to Penwith, 13-17 May 2026. There will be short walks on the first and last days, to break the journey, and three full day walks. The day walks will be circular walks, incorporating stretches of Cornwall's beautiful coastline and some exploration inland, rich in prehistoric sites and industrial archeology.

If you would be interested in joining the group, please contact:

secretary@bristolramblers.org.uk

It would be helpful if you could indicate whether you would join for all or part of the trip, and whether you would be interested in shared accommodation.

News and Events

Mountain Rescue turned Litter Pickers

In summers like this, the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) are a spectacular location for walking and picnicking; but increasingly, Mountain Rescue volunteers find themselves carrying out of the mountains not people, but litter.

Recently, a team out training were faced with so much rubbish that they had to put a halt to their training session in order to clear up broken glass, portable barbecues, and other items that are not only unsightly but dangerous. In dry conditions, anything that focuses the sun's rays can start a fire, and indigestible items like crisp packets can harm livestock and wild animals such as ponies.

When going out into the countryside it's handy to take a bag with you to pack your rubbish in for the trip back; and while it's not your or my responsibility to pick up the detritus left by others, it does at least provide a feeling of smug virtue. And it might save animal lives.

Feature Articles

Editorial

How do you keep interested when you're walking?

Obviously walking is enjoyable in itself; there is wildlife to look out for, scenery to admire, deep thoughts to ponder, wild bilberries to eat, etc etc. But when you're walking alone, no matter how carefully you chose your route, there is always that annoying bit of road, or that cut through an industrial estate, or that path between featureless fields, that is necessary to join the good bits together but, in itself... unrewarding.

And that is why, over the past couple of years, I have had a surprising number of conversations with other walkers about our favourite podcasts to walk to.

Tastes vary, of course. My beloved horror podcast, *The Magnus Archives*, is probably a bit of a niche interest. Real-life disasters are surprisingly popular; my own favourite, *Cautionary Tales*, intersperses terrible things happening with discussion of the statistical or psychological errors that caused them (I suppose that's what you get with *The Undercover Economist* as presenter). Or you could go highbrow, with *The Rest Is History* or *The Rest Is Politics*, although I personally find that combining them with staring bemusedly at a map wondering where the path has gone does not, perhaps, result in perfect comprehension of the subject at hand. And, of course, BBC Sounds gives you access to most of BBC Radio's programmes, at any time of your choosing.

However the most important thing, whatever your preferred podcast, is to remember to download the dratted thing before you leave home. Because the only thing more irritating than that unavoidable industrial estate, is for Anita Anand to be cut off in the middle of her sentence when you lose phone signal less than halfway through it.

Ceiswyn

(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.
