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Walks Programme

All 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 December programme

This is just a small taster selection of the walks that are available. Always check the website for the full, up-to-date programme:

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

Sun 21st December – Solstice Stomp (A/B walk, 17 miles)

The Bristol Ramblers' traditional dawn-to-dusk walk marks the shortest day of the year. Sunrise is at 8.13; sunset at 4.03.

We meet at the Clifton end of the Suspension Bridge by 7.55. As usual there is a complicated route around the North Somerset countryside. There will be a pub stop at the Failand Inn. For the first time the exact time of the winter solstice occurs while we are walking and at 3.05 pm we shall pause to acknowledge this celestial event.

Thu 25th December – Short Christmas morning walk (B walk, 5 miles)

Beginning at Saville Road, we will walk down to Coombe Dingle, up the Blaise Estate, down Kings Weston hill, to Sea Mills then back up through Sneyd Park. The forecast is chilly, but with a possibility of mince pies.

News and Events

Bristol Ramblers Committee Meeting - Wednesday, 19th November

Walk leader training

The good news is that the majority of our current volunteer leaders have completed the Ramblers online walk leader training – a number that finally includes the editor! Thankyou very much to all. Thanks to those who have completed the training (and to those who have led so many walks that they can simply self-certify); our walks programme is looking strong. And for those who haven't managed to run through the training presentations yet, there is still time before the deadline.

Walk Fest 2026

Walk Fest may not be until May, but planning begins early. Ramblers members who have previously led walks for Walk Fest should have recently received an email from Carew asking whether they would be willing to do so again. Anyone who is interested in potentially leading a walk in the Bristol environs should please contact Carew, or indeed any member of the committee.

Succession planning

In any group as long-standing as this one, knowledge accumulates over time and does not necessarily get written down. Those stepping into new roles have occasionally faced minor difficulties due to, for example, not being aware that they needed to update the mailing details used by external contacts. All members of the committee have been asked to note down information that is relevant to their role; and also to check that they can access the committee-only areas where this information should be stored.

Next committee meeting

Given that projects such as leader training and Walk Fest are currently proceeding well and in good hands, the committee will not be meeting again until March. The exact details will be decided nearer to the time; any member wishing to attend is welcome to do so, and can contact the Chair on: ceiswyn@googlemail.com at any time to discuss the arrangements.

The full minutes of this meeting, and previous meetings, are all available on the website.

24 Peaks Challenge for St Peter's Hospice

St Peter's Hospice, a local charity providing free hospice care to adults in need in the Bristol, South Gloucs and North Somerset area, is currently looking for brave walkers willing to raise money for the hospice by tackling 24 Lake District peaks in only two days in June 2026.

In order to participate you will need to commit to raising at least £960 by mid-March, but the experience offers the opportunity to access routes not usually available to the general public.

For more information, see the charity's web page at:

<https://www.stpetershospice.org/support-us/join-our-events/24-peaks/>

(And if any of you do take part, the eBoot editor would love to know how it went!)

Feature Articles

Editorial

I'm not sure I've ever seen as many rainbows as I have this autumn.

Glowing against a backdrop of ominous stormclouds; cheerily receding with the sunlight in front of us as we raced to get off the hill while warning droplets of water collected in our hair; or spanning the misty valley to one side as we tried to figure out which way the moisture in the air was heading.

The Bible claims that the rainbow is God's promise never again to send "a flood to destroy the earth", which is not always as reassuring as it should be while you're standing on an exposed hillside trying to figure out whether the rain is coming your way. Or the hail. The water droplets that cause rainbows don't have to be liquid.



Rainbow in the Cairngorms

A rainbow forms when sunlight hits a raindrop (well, lots of raindrops, sadly) and is refracted. Each wavelength is refracted by a different amount, causing the original sunlight to separate into a spectrum. When the refracted light hits the back of the droplet it is reflected back out again. Since the light is reflected back at all angles the result is a circle of colours; though half of the circle is blocked by the ground.

As well as being circular, all rainbows are also double rainbows. The second bow is formed by the rays of light that were reflected twice by water droplets, rather than once; that's what makes them more faded, such that most of the time they can't be seen at all. It's also why the colours are reversed. You don't have to trust me; next time you see a bright enough double rainbow, you can check for yourself!

But most importantly, a rainbow, even a double rainbow, has no actual physical existence at all. The rainbow you can see is created entirely by your own eyes, and it springs into existence only when the rays of light hit your retinas (or your phone's camera). Irish folklore may say that at the end of the rainbow is a pot of gold, but the truth is even better; every single rainbow you see, is centred on you.

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, including chains such as Blacks and Millets.

Cotswold Outdoor



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

Note that Snow+Rock and Runners Need are part of the Cotswold Outdoor group.

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 20% discount to Ramblers members, with the code RAMBLERS20.

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.
