

Contents

Walks Programme	2
Walking with other Ramblers groups	2
Some walks from the June programme	2
News and Events	4
National Ramblers wins access appeal against Cumbrian landowner	4
Feature Articles	5
Cornwall A/B Long Weekend Retrospective	5
Editorial	6
Partners and Sponsors.....	8
Ramble Worldwide	8
Outdoor Retailers	8
Books and Maps	8

Walks Programme

All the latest information about our walks programme is available on our website: 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 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, avon-ramblers.org.uk lists forthcoming walks organised by the eight Ramblers groups in the Avon area.

During the summer, there are also Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks that start at various railway stations along the Bristol to Weymouth route:

www.wessexrailwaywalks.org.uk/

Some walks from the June 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:

www.bristolramblers.org.uk/display-programme

Wed 3rd June – Littleton-upon-Severn, Oldbury and the Severn Estuary (B walk, 7 miles)

Join us for a country and river-side walk which follows a series of undulating field paths and tracks between Littleton and Oldbury before returning on the Severn riverbank. There are wide-ranging views across to the Forest of Dean, Wales and the two Severn bridge crossings. Along the way we pass the tiny St Arilda's Church, on its small knoll with marvellous views, where we will stop for a short break. At the end of the walk there will be the opportunity for refreshments at the White Hart, Littleton.

There is a steady climb out of Littleton-upon-Severn at the start, but otherwise the walk is fairly level. There are a good number of stiles and gates, some awkward. Livestock of all sorts were passed on the pre-walk. My guess is that there will be some mud too! Please come prepared for all these features.



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Note that public transport to Littleton-upon-Severn is difficult. It is possible to take the T1 Lynx bus to a few miles away, or the train to Severn Beach, but in either case you will need to take a taxi for the last few miles.

Sat 27 June – Chepstow, Tintern and the Wye Valley Greenway (C walk, 6 miles)

Join us for this linear walk with a difference! The walk starts at Chepstow bus station where we shall catch the bus to Tintern. From Tintern, the path is an old railway line so is straightforward, well-surfaced throughout and there are only slight inclines. Walking shoes or stout trainers are sufficient. Walk highlights include:

- Passing through Tintern and glorious views of Tintern Abbey and the Wye Valley
- The novelty of walking through the Greenway tunnel for 15-20 minutes.
- Wide-ranging views of the Severn Estuary
- A walk through a small part of old Chepstow
- Views of Chepstow, Chepstow Castle and the River Wye. Unfortunately the old bridge is completely closed so we have to walk alongside the main road into Chepstow.

We'll stop for a break just before half distance. No pub or lunch is planned for after the walk, but there are plenty of cafes and pubs in Chepstow.



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Points to note:

There are charges for the bus and probably parking.

We shall walk through the Greenway tunnel for 1km. It is dimly, but adequately, lit. No other lights are allowed. It is definitely not for those who don't like enclosed spaces. It will be chilly inside so you may wish to bring an extra layer for this section.

The walk starts from Chepstow bus station at 10.00, from which we shall catch the 10.02 bus to Tintern (single fare £4.10. Concessionary bus passes are not valid. The journey takes about 20 mins.) It is possible to get the Bristol - Chepstow T7 bus to the start, where it should arrive at 9.46. For the return, the service is hourly.

News and Events

National Ramblers wins access appeal against Cumbrian landowner

In 2010, locals discovered that the new landowner of Hayton Woods, an offshore company based in the British Virgin Islands, had put up walls and barbed wire throughout the woods in order to prevent local people from using paths that had been in use for centuries.

If a path has been used by the public for over 20 years – never mind several hundred – the law considers it a public right of way. However, the landowner claimed that the path had not been used continually due to a four-month break during the foot and mouth crisis during which the public were asked to avoid walking in the woods.

The court quite sensibly ruled that such a break did not violate the principle of the path's usage, and the landowner's appeal against the ruling has now been struck down.

For more information, see: www.ramblers.org.uk/news/ramblers-win-court-appeal-15-year-legal-battle-protect-paths-cumbrian-community

Feature Articles

Cornwall A/B Long Weekend Retrospective

In mid-May, you are always taking your chances with the weather. (Arguably, living in the UK is taking your chances with the weather, but I digress). Going to the seaside in May, therefore, is really asking for trouble; but although we had some very stiff winds, and the odd lowering sky, we mainly missed out on actual rain during five days of hiking in glorious coastal scenery.

We started early from Bristol to get in a half-day on the north coast near Redruth. This is proper Poldark country, with old mine shafts visible almost wherever you look; we started at Wheal Coates and passed several other remnants on our way around the coast to St Agnes. Cutting inland we climbed St Agnes Beacon, with views of at least three mines as well as the sea, before descending to Chapel Porth beach inlet for a well-earned ice cream before the return uphill to our cars.



Part of the mining ruins at Botallack

Thursday, while we were all fresh, seemed like a good day for the longest walk of the weekend; fifteen miles starting at Botallack tin mine, following the coast round to the wind-battered point of Cape Cornwall before climbing up to the moors. There we passed the ancient stone-capped Chûn Quoit (looking rather like a giant rocky toadshroom) and the holed stone of Mên-an-Tol; on being informed that clambering through the hole would bless you with children, every woman in the group took a precautionary step back. We descended again in a sudden rainstorm as brief as it was unwanted, then followed the coast back past the old tin mines and arsenic labyrinth (yes really) of the Botallack Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, to the National Trust car park.



Wheal Coates near St Agnes

By Friday we were no longer fresh. But the sun was shining brightly (even if the wind was still vigorous) and more coast walking awaited; this time around Land's End.

In the sun, this part of the coast is pretty. Very pretty. If I were a poet I might talk about seas of turquoise and cobalt blue and aquamarine, about flaxen sands and vaulted rock arches, about jagged cliffs and headlands and the black mouths of caverns. But I'm not. So I'll just suggest you go there and look for yourself.

On Saturday the weather was greyer and the going a little harder; we returned to the area near Botallack but this time went northeast, along a much rougher and more

clambery section of the coast path, with a few more ups and downs. Eventually we climbed a long flight of stairs up to the town of Zennor, where the local pub was happy to serve us surprisingly good coffee (and a biscuit). From there we climbed



The Cheesewring

Zennor Hill to enjoy the rocks (and views) at the top, and then rested our tired legs with a series of rather flatter tracks along the ridge, passing two quoits and taking a short detour to the small Nine Maidens stone circle. We descended along a very familiar path, which was much more pleasant without the rainstorm.

Finally, we packed our bags and returned to Bristol, via Bodmin Moor, taking in the Cheesewring natural rock tower, an unexpected marsh, a surprisingly nice lake in an old quarry, and The Hurlers stone circle for seven miles full of interest.

Very many thanks to Keith and Carew for all their work planning, prewalking and organising, and to everyone who made the trip such a success.

(All photographs copyright © Ceiswyn B, 2026)

Editorial

I hope you all enjoyed summer. The forecast suggests that after the last week's unseasonable (and un-British) heat, we should now be returning to more usual summer weather; by which I mean, of course, rain.

But before we all sigh, return to our sofas, and begin to plan ahead for Christmas, it's worth considering that maybe going outside in the wet isn't all bad. It might even be good for us.

Firstly, when raindrops splash onto a surface – such as an unprotected head – they release negative ions. Negative ions can have many beneficial effects, such as alleviating depression, lowering blood pressure, and improving erythrocyte deformability whatever that means (Google tells me it has to do with the ability of red blood cells to transport oxygen). Sounds good to me.

Secondly, rain acts as a scrubbing brush for the sky. Raindrops pull small particles of pollutants and pollen out of the air (admittedly at the cost of replacing them with large particles of water). So during and immediately after rain, the air itself is healthier.

Thirdly, there's petrichor; that distinctive earth-after-rain smell. Humans are, apparently, highly sensitive to that smell – having largely evolved in arid environments – and it makes us feel more relaxed (or just fatalistic about being a mile from home and already soaked).

And finally, there's the sound of rain. Apparently the rhythmic white noise (Google tells me it's actually pink noise, but I've already vanished down one investigative rabbit hole during the course of this editorial, I'm not starting on another) of heavy rainfall reduces stress. Though I suspect one can achieve a very similar effect with some kind of meditation or sleep app.

If you're getting the impression that I'm not entirely convinced, you're not wrong. But whether I'm convinced or not, the sequence of little black clouds on my weather forecasting app suggests that:

*Into each life some rain must fall
Some days must be dark and dreary*

- and since we can't avoid it, we may as well find some way to enjoy it. Or at least, buy a really good umbrella.

Ceiswyn

(pron. KICE-win)

(With assistance from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807 - 1882)

Partners and Sponsors

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

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 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

Many outdoor gear shops offer discounts to Ramblers members, including chains such as 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.

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.
