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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 October 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

Sun 4th October – Sheepscombe's Autumnal Beechwoods (A walk, 14 miles)

This walk takes in a number of stretches of the National Beechwoods in the Cotswolds around Sheepscombe and Painswick, to see how the autumn colour there is shaping up. There will also be the opportunity of cheese rolling during one of the breaks on Cooper's Hill. Bring a Babybel cheese if you've never tried it. They work surprisingly well, and there's a number of wild animals and birds who would thank you for it this coming winter.

Sun 25th October – From Murder to Monks (B walk, 11 miles)

From Rode village hall we soon pass Road Hill House which was the scene of the murder of 3 year old Francis Savill Kent in 1860. (The book & subsequent film 'The Suspicions of Mr Whicher' was written about the case).

We then walk along the river to Tellisford Mill before a gentle ascent through fields takes us to Wingfield. Further fields take us down to Stowford before another ascent to Westwood. From here we descend to Avoncliffe & a walk along the river to The Inn at Freshford for lunch. We then continue to the small hamlet of Friary (where the lay brothers to the Carthusian priory at Hinton Charterhouse lived) & onwards to Iford before passing the castle at Farleigh Hungerford. 50 steps (or a detour) & a quiet lane takes us past Farleigh House before returning to Rode.

News and Events

Bristol AGM – Wednesday 21st October

As is traditional, we will be brightening up the dark and rainy part of the year with the Bristol Ramblers AGM, held on Wednesday 21st of October at the Redland Bowls Club. There will as usual be a selection of drinks and nibbles, and a talk to enjoy after the main business.

This year, we will be joined by Alan of the Bristol Walking Alliance, and Susan who represents the Ramblers in the BWA. They have offered to talk not just about what the BWA is and what it does, but about its overlap with the Ramblers and some issues it is currently involved with that are particularly relevant to Ramblers members.

Please do come along, whether that is to chat to other members, learn a bit about the future of walking in Bristol, score some free food, or to corner the Chair behind the buffet table!

New Wednesday Walks Coordinator needed

If you would like to see Wednesday walks continue, please consider stepping up as coordinator! No walk leadership experience is required, though some acquaintance with the current regular walkers and leaders is essential. Please contact Margaret and/or Ceiswyn B if you are interested, or if you would just like to know more about the role.

Alternatively, the committee recognises that the walks programme has been in its current form for some time now, and may no longer suit the needs or preferences of its members. If you think there might be demand for walks on a different day, and would like to experiment with setting up a new programme, please contact Ceiswyn B.

National Ramblers: Protecting public footpaths

You may (or may not) recall from some months ago that the Ramblers had won an important victory in the Court of Appeal, preventing a foreign-owned company blocking rights of way that ran across its property.

As of the end of July, the case is officially over, the landowner having been refused a hearing in the Supreme Court.

The landowner's case rested on the argument that the paths had not been in use "without interruption" because the public had avoided them during the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak. If the court had decided in their favour, that same argument might have been applied by landowners to paths that had gone unused during the Covid lockdowns, resulting in an unknowable number of historic rights of way being denied to walkers.

Fortunately that did not happen, and the Ramblers' victory in this case sets a precedent that protects public rights of way against such temporary disruptions. We wish the walkers of Cumbria many happy rambles through Hayton Woods both now and in decades to come!

Feature Articles

Editorial

Sometimes, the best rambles are the unexpected ones.

I recently took a holiday to the US, themed not around hiking but around one of my other interests: the American Revolutionary period. Walking, in fact, didn't enter my thoughts at all, except as one of multiple ways that I could employ to get me between every major revolutionary site, museum or grave in five cities. Arguably slightly stressed sitting was more my focus, as I wove together subway and bus schedules (I really must uninstall all those different public transit apps from my phone) to go from pre-booked tour to museum to pre-booked tour in a constant mild fret that all my carefully timed plans would fall apart and leave me missing something I'd been anticipating for months.

However one day, after a packed morning in heavy rain, and with an evening on Broadway to follow, I found myself at a loose end in a dilapidated hotel room with the sun coming out. Too excited to sleep, sick of subways and streets, and completely mentally exhausted, I decided to go look for a pleasant park to have a relaxing stroll; and I found myself on the High Line, a mile-and-a-half long green space suspended above the New York streets.

It had not been my original intention to spend an afternoon strolling along a wide, accessible path between miniature wetlands, grasslands and jungles, eating strawberries topped with crumbled cookies and chocolate sauce while mimes blew bubbles about me, but I am nothing if not adaptable.

Adaptability was also my watchword later in the trip when I decided to take the (non-existent) public transport route to Jefferson's plantation home in Virginia. After a surreptitious sprint across a multi-lane highway (do not try this at home), I found the head of the trail that winds gently up to Monticello; but I couldn't help noticing that there was an information board with a number of other trails also marked, some with lookout points.

It would have been rude not to, right?

Half an hour later I was humming gently to myself to warn any bears of my approach, my feet quiet on the packed dirt path that contoured through the native woodland just below the crest of the hill, cicadas (I assume) chirping loudly on both sides of me. At one point a shallow stream parted the trees enough that I could see the city of Charlottesville spread below, with the Blue Ridge mountains living up to their name in the far distance. A small flock of (probably) night-herons ran across the path in front of me and dispersed into the woods; later I saw a funny-looking stick lying across a sunny stretch of the lower route, and realised it wasn't a stick just in time to



High Line amidst high rises

take a few photos as the irritated black racer snake (fortunately non-venomous) slithered off into the undergrowth. Eventually, I even got to Monticello.



Maybe not very like a stick after all

You don't always have to go out with a plan. Sometimes, there are just good things waiting for you unexpectedly; you just have to be open to the opportunity - not to mention being sufficiently fit to take advantage of it when it's offered to you! (But if the opportunity takes you towards Monticello, take a taxi.)

Ceiswyn

(pron. KICE-win)

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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 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.
