



**RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION
MENDIP GROUP**
*The Charity Working for Walkers.
Charity number 1093577
Company limited by guarantee 4458492.
www.ramblers.org.uk*

WINTER PROGRAMME December 2011 – March 2012

FROM THE COMMITTEE

We would like to express our condolences to Mo Williams, whose husband Bill passed away in July. Many Mendip members will remember Bill walking with Sadie by his side.

Our condolences also go to Colin Mansfield, whose wife recently passed away after many years of poor health.

Mendip Ramblers Needs You (from Clive Edney, Chairman)

If you are a regular walker and at present do not lead walks, we need you to come forward and volunteer. We are still short of walk leaders.

Some of our present leaders are doing two or three walks on each programme.

Without such excellent commitment and indeed the willingness of many of you to offer at least one walk on each programme, we simply would not be able to continue to run walks every Thursday and Sunday.

It may be that you lack confidence because you have never led a walk before, or that you cannot read a map. This does not matter because we have lots of support and guidance on hand and even a collection of readymade walks to rely upon.

So, if you can help, please contact me (01749 671339) or any other member of the committee.

Keep footpaths walkable (how you can help)

The responsibility for repairing stiles, gates and bridges etc. lies with Somerset County Council Rights of Way Team. However, with 9,000 rights of way totalling 3,808 miles, the team cannot be expected to know all the problems.

As we walk these paths, it is in our interest to keep them clear and in good order. So, what can we do?

1. Walk leaders should identify problems on their walks when they do a recce and either put these faults on the interactive map or give the grid ref of the fault and the description to the Mendip Ramblers Footpath Secretary.
2. When out walking, take a pair of secateurs with you and clear as you go. It only takes a couple of minutes to cut down brambles and/or other overgrown vegetation off a stile, whereas it could cost much more to get someone out from Taunton to do it.
3. Walk the paths around where you live and report any problems as in 1 above.
4. Check that any problems reported, have been addressed.

If we all work together on this, we will keep the network in good working order for future generations.

A reminder to all walk leaders

Some walkers are not confident when crossing fields with cows and horses. The committee recommends that all walk leaders gather their group together before crossing such field, enabling members to walk together in a group if they so wish. Could walk leaders be also mindful not to underestimate the distance they specify for walks.

FUTURE EVENTS

15 December 2011

Christmas lunch at The Highwayman Inn, Shepton Mallet
 £12.95 pp. For booking and menu please contact Paula on 01458 860751 before Sunday 11 December 2011. Please check walk pages for the pre-lunch Christmas walk (start: 9.30am!).

21 January 2012: Meal at The Queens Arms, Wraxhall

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start. Three courses and coffee £17 per head + £1 extra if choosing salmon. MENU: Starter: pate, soup or prawn Main course: chicken, beef or salmon Dessert: cheese cake, pavlova or apple tart with custard and coffee. Please contact Alice with YOUR MENU CHOICE (or queries) on 07989 218856 or 01373 474695 and send your cheque (made payable to Mendip Ramblers) to 8 Beverley Close, Frome, Somerset, BA11 4EP. Closing date: 13th January 2012.

Thursday 9 February 2012 7.30pm

At the Wells Museum (opposite the north door of the cathedral), **Peter Clark** will be talking about the book he has written to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens.

Dickens's London, follows five walks around central London, by places associated with the life and the novels of Charles Dickens. Where did Bill Sikes (Sykes) kill Nancy? Where did Mr. Pickwick live? Where did the young Dickens work in a blacking factory – or go to school? Where was his father imprisoned? Peter's book will reveal all. It will be on sale at £9.99. Tickets will be available from Judy Newberry after Christmas at £4 each.

→ **Saturday 11 February 2012 Area AGM** ←

The Area AGM will be held in Shipham Hall, New Road, Shipham BS25 1SG, grid ref ST444579, EX141. Start: 2pm. Our hosts: Woodspring Ramblers. A 10am walk is being arranged from Shipham Hall. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Friday 23/03/12 to Monday 26/03/12 Spring Holiday Torquay

(At the time of compiling the programme). There are 11 places still available. If you would like to join, please contact Mike Beveridge on 01278 722740.

September 2012

We are planning a self-booking holiday near to Concarneau in the South West Brittany area of France during the middle of September 2012. Further details to follow when they are available.

OTHER NEWS

Mendip August Walking Festival 2011

Priddy – top of the Mendips and this year's event – turned out to be an excellent choice. Much praise was received about the location, the superb walks, the organized parking and of course, the teas. The total number of walkers on the 12 walks was around 330, a figure increasing every year. Very many thanks from the festival committee to all who supported us, helped us and brought cakes, the highlight of each day. Paula. (See also page 5 of the Somerset Rambler)

September/October 2011 Somerset Area walking weekend

A sun-blessed long weekend for the group of 56 participants in South West Wales (some even had a daily dip in the sea). The hotel was right at the sea front and the views were glorious. There was a choice of walks of various lengths on coast paths, farmland, the Miners' Trail and through woods. For the linear walks there were train rides and the car shuttle system. Roger Conway.

Mid October 2011 Hay-on-Wye weekend

Fabulous weather and some fine ridge views over the Wye Valley and the Black Mountains made for a memorable weekend. Perhaps for some eclipsed by the drive to the farmhouse restaurant for the group meal on Saturday night as drivers battled

down a narrow country lane whilst visitors to a church function came from the opposite direction! Seven walks in total and many thanks to the walk leaders who made it all possible. Rod & Peggy.

Wednesday walkers

These walks are not surveyed, so they can be quite exciting.

The start is usually 10am, the walks are between 8-11 miles and often nearing a pub for lunch. Details of the start point can be obtained from David Rawlins (01373 836252), Alice Lock (01373 474695) and Alan Hancock (01749 675836) after 6pm on Tuesday before the walk. Bring your secateurs.



Thank you for your walks in this programme!



Committee 2011 (composition pre AGM 19/11/2011)

Chair:

Clive Edney clive@mendipramblers.co.uk 01749 671339

Vice Chair:

Mike Plaskitt mike@mendipramblers.co.uk 01373 472101

Secretary:

Les Stather les@mendipramblers.co.uk 07768 556735

Treasurer:

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Footpath Officer (East):

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Membership Secretary:

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Press Secretary & Publicity Officer:

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Social Secretary:

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Area Committee Rep:

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Web Designer (co-opted):

Tony Dyson tonyd@mendipramblers.co.uk 01761 232715

Assisted by Les Stather

Walks Programme Co-ordinator:

Peggy Frampton peggy@mendipramblers.co.uk 01278 783270

Assisted by Alice and Paula

Committee Member:

Mary Birchall mary@mendipramblers.co.uk 01373 474530

~~ 6 February 2012 Please submit your walks ~~
~~ for the next programme ~~

Date	Description	Contact
Thursday 1st December Time 10am Map: EX142 LR183	Chapmanslade to Corsley Distance 6 miles. Meet: Chapmanslade, High Street opposite The Three Horse Shoes	Rose R & Trevor 2 Phone 01761 435178 ST 827 478 BA13 4AS
Sunday 4th December Time 10am Map: EX142 LR183	Oakhill, Gurney Slade, Stratton and Stoke Bottom Distance 9 miles. Meet: Oakhill Village Hall car park	Bryn Phone 07709 282394 ST 633 475 BA3 5AN
Sunday 4th December Time 1:40pm Map: EX143 LR183	Frome Rights of Way walk: Cley Hill and Corsley Distance 5 miles. Meet: Cley Hill car park (Meet Cork Street car park, Frome ST 776 481 BA11 1BL)	Mike P Phone 01373 472101 ST 837 444 BA12 7RE
Thursday 8th December Time 10am Map: EX140 LR193	Langport and Muchelney Distance 6 miles. Meet: Langport, Parrett visitor centre, overflow car park near river bridge	Dave O Phone 07966 257878 ST 418 265 TA10 9NZ
Sunday 11th December Time 10am Map: EX143 LR183	Horningsham, Cold Kitchen Hill Distance 10 miles. Meet: Nockatt Copice car park	Dave O Phone 07966 257878 ST 828 423 BA12 7LG
Thursday 15th December Time 9:30am Map: EX142 LR183	Christmas lunch walk from The Highwayman Inn Distance 4.5 miles. Meet: Shepton Mallet, Highwayman Inn car park	Tony & Mary Phone 01749 342285 ST 626 418 BA4 4LY

<p>Sunday 18th December Time 10am Map: EX141</p>	<p>Undulating walk in Blagdon Lake area Distance 9.5 miles. Meet: Blagdon Fire Station car park</p>	<p>Alan M Phone 01458 860421 ST 501 591 BS40 7RL</p>
<p>Thursday 22nd December Time 10am Map: EX141</p>	<p>Undulating walk around Wedmore Distance 6 miles. Meet: Wedmore village car park off Cheddar Road</p>	<p>Alan M Phone 01458 860421 ST 437 482 BS28 4EJ</p>
<p>Monday 26th December Time 10am Map: EX142 LR183</p>	<p>Frome Rights of Way walk: around Coleford Distance 5 miles. Meet: Coleford Doctors' Surgery</p>	<p>Eric Phone 01373 812605 ST 686 507 BA3 5NQ</p>
<p>Thursday 29th December Time 10am Map: EX143</p>	<p>Berkley, Dilton Marsh, Chapmanslade Distance 6 miles. Meet: Berkley Church car park</p>	<p>Les Phone 07768 556735 ST 810 493 BA11 5JH</p>
<p>Sunday 1st January Time 11am Map: EX143 LR183</p>	<p>Festival of Winter Walks. Undulating: Heaven's Gate, Crockerton and Shear Water. Bring stout boots, lunch and a drink Distance 6.5 miles. Meet: Nockatt Coppice car park, near Longleat Holiday Village</p>	<p>Richard & Lisa Phone 01749 672373 ST 828 423 BA12 7JW</p>
<p>Thursday 5th January Time 10am Map: EX142</p>	<p>Shepton Mallet - Doultong - Waterlip Distance 7 miles. Meet: Great Ostry car park</p>	<p>Ruth and Chris Phone 01761 232503 ST 617 436 BA4 5DJ</p>
<p>Sunday 8th January Time 10am Map: EX142 LR183</p>	<p>Cock and Bull Drove, Beard Hill and Whitstone Hill Distance 10 miles. Meet: Shepton Mallet, Compton Road (opposite Westway Lane)</p>	<p>Bob & Rosemary Phone 01749 346023 ST 617 428 BA4 5QT</p>

<p>Thursday 12th January Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182/3</p>	<p>West Pennard, Washing Stones Gully and Castle Wood Distance 6 miles. Meet: West Pennard Church. Park on roads around the village</p>	<p>Tony & Mary Phone 01749 342285 ST 552 382 BA6 8NR</p>
<p>Sunday 15th January Time 10am Map: EX141</p>	<p>Cheddar and Shipham Distance 12 miles. Meet: Cheddar, bottom of Jacob's Ladder. Park in small free car park and on roads</p>	<p>Tony D Phone 01761 232715 ST 464 539 BS27 3QJ</p>
<p>Thursday 19th January Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>Croscombe, North Wootton and Worminster Distance 6.5 miles. Meet: Croscombe, The Fayreway (at eastern end)</p>	<p>Gus Phone 01749 840349 ST 589 444 BA5 3QS</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd January Time 10am Map: EX154 LR172/182</p>	<p>Wrington, Goblin Combe, Congresbury Distance 10 miles. Meet: Wrington, Broad Street</p>	<p>Suzanne Phone 07875 839010 ST 468 628 BS40 5LA</p>
<p>Thursday 26th January Time 10am Map: EX141 LR183</p>	<p>MendipTops around Priddy Distance 6 miles. Meet: Priddy Church</p>	<p>Clive and Ros Phone 01749 671339 ST 527 513 BA5 3BE</p>
<p>Sunday 29th January Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>Walk around Glastonbury Distance 10.5 miles. Meet: Glastonbury, Bretonex Road</p>	<p>Janet Phone 01458 835238 ST 503 381 BA6 8DP</p>
<p>Thursday 2nd February Time 10am Map: EX141 LR172/182</p>	<p>Cheddar Reservoir, River Yeo, Axbridge Distance 6.5 miles. Meet: Cheddar Reservoir car park, east of Axbridge (north east side of reservoir). Just off A371</p>	<p>Chris Phone 07971 237728 ST 446 544 BS27 3DB</p>

<p>Sunday 5th February Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>Fairly hilly, probably muddy walk from Charterhouse to West Harptree Distance 10 miles. Meet: Charterhouse car park</p>	<p>Laurence Phone 01373 452294 ST 505 557 BS40 7XR</p>
<p>Sunday 5th February Time 1:45pm Map: EX142 LR183</p>	<p>Frome Rights of Way walk: Nunney - Whatley Manor Farm - Holwell Distance 4.5 miles. Meet: Nunney Quarry car park</p>	<p>Les Phone 07768 556735 ST 735 457 BA11 4NL</p>
<p>Thursday 9th February Time 10am Map: EX 141 LR182/3</p>	<p>Ebbor Gorge, Lynchcombe and Cook's Field Nature Reserves Distance 6 miles. Meet: Wookey Hole Caves car park. PLEASE SHARE CARS IF POSSIBLE</p>	<p>Brian U Phone 01749 672457 ST 531 476 BA5 1AZ</p>
<p>Sunday 12th February Time 10am Map: EX141 LR183</p>	<p>Pilton, Pylle, East Pennard Distance 10 miles. Meet: Pilton, Shop Lane</p>	<p>Francoise Phone 01458 831823 ST 588 409 BA4 4AY</p>
<p>Thursday 16th February Time 10am Map: EX142 LR183</p>	<p>Coleford area Distance 6 miles. Meet: Coleford, Royal British Legion car park, Anchor Road</p>	<p>Ken Phone 01373 812865 ST 686 494 BA3 5PB</p>
<p>Sunday 19th February Time 10am Map: EX143 LR183</p>	<p>Five leaders walk Distance 12 miles. Meet: Mere, Salisbury Road car park. PLEASE SHARE CARS IF POSSIBLE</p>	<p>Bob & Rosemary Phone 01749 346023 ST 813 323 BA12 6DH</p>
<p>Sunday 19th February Time 1:30pm Map: EX141 LR183</p>	<p>Wells circular, using part of the Monarch's Way via North Wootton Distance 5 miles. Meet: Wells, Bishop's Barn in Silver Street</p>	<p>Judith Phone 01749 672196 ST 550 454 BA5 1UN</p>

<p>Thursday 23rd February Time 10am Map: EX142 LR183</p>	<p>Mells and Great Elm Distance 7 miles. Meet: Mells Green. By school on road, not on grass</p>	<p>Alice Phone 07989 218856 ST 722 487 BA11 3QE</p>
<p>Friday 24th February Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>Pub walk from The Hunters' Lodge Inn to The Mineries (top) and Priddy. If eating, please arrive early to order. Menu is on Mendip Ramblers website Distance 6 miles. Meet: The Hunters' Lodge Inn on cross roads, about 1.5 miles south east of Priddy. PLEASE SHARE CARS IF POSSIBLE</p>	<p>Brian U Phone 01749 672457 ST 549 502 BA5 3AR</p>
<p>Sunday 26th February Time 10am Map: EX155 LR172</p>	<p>Chew Valley, Stowey and Stanton Drew, with diversion to waterfall Distance 9.5 miles. Meet: Chew Valley Lake tea shop car park at north end of lake. Free in February</p>	<p>Richard & Lisa Phone 01749 672373 ST 574 613 BS40 8SZ</p>
<p>Thursday 1st March Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>Wells, Wookey Hole, Upper Milton Distance 6 miles. Meet: Wells, east end of Ash Lane</p>	<p>David & Hilary Phone 01458 442081 ST 548 464 BA5 2LW</p>
<p>Sunday 4th March Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>East Harptree, Wooten Hall and Litton Distance 10 miles. Meet: West Harptree, Doctors' Surgery on B3114</p>	<p>Gus Phone 01749 840349 ST 561 569 BS40 6HA</p>
<p>Sunday 4th March Time 2:20pm Map: EX143 LR183</p>	<p>Frome Rights of Way walk: Oakhill - Harridge Wood - Ashwick Church Distance 3.5 miles. Meet: Oakhill village Hall car park</p>	<p>Mary Phone 01373 474530 ST 633 475 BA3 3AQ</p>

<p>Thursday 8th March Time 10am Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>Undulating walk: Wedmore and Blackford Distance 6 miles. Meet: Wedmore Leisure Centre car park</p>	<p>Rose D Phone 01749 670697 ST 427 475 BS28 4BS</p>
<p>Sunday 11th March Time 10am Map: EX143</p>	<p>Erdington and Bratton Distance 10 miles. Meet: Westbury White Horse car park</p>	<p>Mike P Phone 01373 472101 ST 898 513 BA13 4TA</p>
<p>Thursday 15th March Time 10am Map: EX129 LR183</p>	<p>Easy walk: Lytes Cary, Kingsdon and the Charltons Distance 6.5 miles. Meet: Lytes Cary, National Trust car park</p>	<p>Maggie & Mary Phone 01458 447204/01373 474530 ST 533 265 TA11 7HU</p>
<p>Sunday 18th March Time 10am Map: EX142 LR183</p>	<p>The Deverills and Maiden Bradley. A fairly hilly and probably muddy walk Distance 12.5 miles. Meet: Car park at the foot of White Sheet Down. End of narrow lane off B3092</p>	<p>Barbara Phone 01373 452294 ST 797 350 BA12 6RP</p>
<p>Sunday 18th March Time 2pm Map: EX141 LR182</p>	<p>Undulating afternoon walk: Tor woods, the Lyatt and Dinder Distance 5 miles. Meet: Wells, east end of Ash Lane. PLEASE SHARE CARS IF POSSIBLE</p>	<p>Brian U Phone 01749 672457 ST 549 464 BA5 2LW</p>
<p>Thursday 22nd March Time 10am Map: EX129 LR193</p>	<p>Mostly flat walk around South Petherton, Bower Hinton and Martock Distance 6.5 miles. Meet: South Petherton, Lightgate Lane recreation ground</p>	<p>Brian R Phone 01935 840579 ST 437 169 TA12 5BB</p>
<p>Sunday 25th March Time 10am Map: EX155 LR172</p>	<p>Chew Magna and Maes Knoll with panoramic view of Bristol Distance 9.5 miles. Meet: Chew Magna, car park behind the Pelican Inn</p>	<p>Richard & Lisa Phone 01749 672373 ST 576 630 BS40 8SQ</p>

<p>Thursday 29th March Time 10am Map: EX142 LR172</p>	<p>Undulating walk: Wellow area Distance 6.5 miles. Meet: Wellow, old railway station car park</p>	<p>Trevor 4 & Val Phone 01761 232311 ST 738 580 BA2 8PY</p>
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Tip for walkers: When the weather is really bad, ring the leader to check if the walk is still on.

Are you going on holiday and you don't know the area?

Check the Ramblers website,

http://www.ramblers.org.uk/areas_groups/groupswalksfind simply key in where you are going and you will see all the walks in that area. Click on a walk to get the details.

As a Ramblers member you will be able to walk with any of them.

Walking: the most ancient exercise and still the best modern exercise

