

Avon Area News



www.avon-ramblers.org.uk

October 2019

Dear members

In this issue is an article by Keith Weller on how to report issues on PROW, Keith hopes that this gives some guidance to encourage reporting in the way that any individual finds most convenient.

Ken Mill chair of Severnside Ramblers has provided some very useful information about the proposals for the Aust to Brean Down Coastal path

He says that Natural England are to be commended for publishing a very comprehensive set of proposals.

This is a significant opportunity to improve public access to this stretch of coast with benefits for residents, businesses and visitors. More people will have easier and more extensive access to the coastal environment for open-air recreation, which is widely acknowledged to have significant benefits for human health and well-being.

Once approved and established, this part of the England Coast Path will be managed as part of the family of National Trails.

With Best Wishes **Kathy Thomas - Editor**

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Coastal Path—Trevose Head North Cornwall - from Kathy's holiday pictures



Coast Path – Aust to Brean Down

I asked Ken Mill if he would give an update on Natural England's proposals for the Aust to Brean Down section of the Coastal Path which are out for consultation until Thursday 19 Sept. Thank you Ken, he writes that from a walkers point of view their proposals seem reasonable. A number of new sections of path have been identified giving access to the coast, improvements to existing paths giving better access and protection of habitats are also proposed. It remains to be seen how and when the path will be taken forward after all comments and objections have been addressed.

Aust to Brean Down Overview

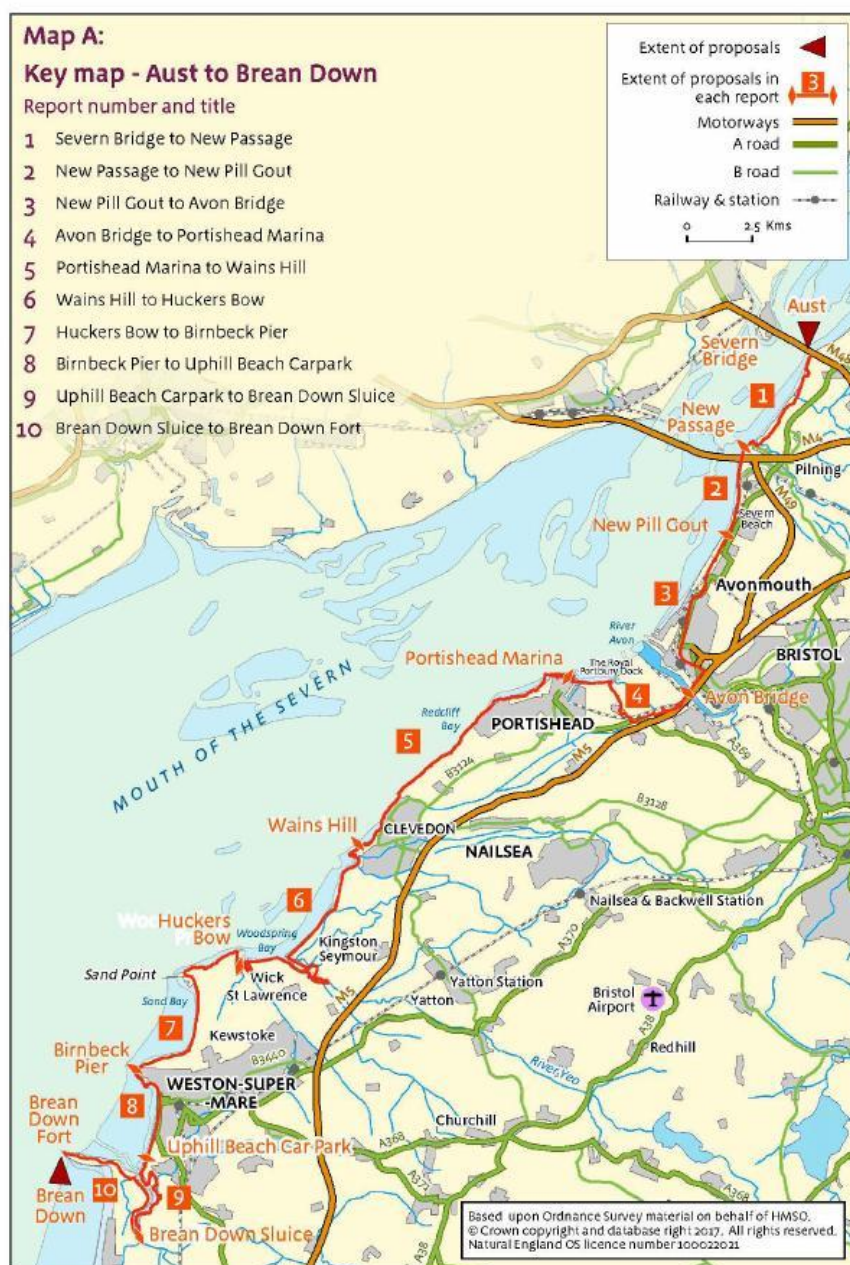
- ABD 1 **Severn Bridge to New Passage** (Maps ABD 1a to ABD 1c)
- ABD 2 **New Passage to New Pill Gout** (Maps ABD 2a to ABD 2c)
- ABD 3 **New Pill Gout to Avon Bridge** (Maps ABD 3a to ABD 3d)
- ABD 4 **Avon Bridge to Portishead Marina** (Maps ABD 4a to ABD 4e)
- ABD 5 **Portishead Marina to Wains Hill** (Maps ABD 5a to ABD 5g)
- ABD 6 **Wains Hill to Huckers Bow** (Maps ABD 6a to ABD 6f)
- ABD 7 **Huckers Bow to Birnbeck Pier** (Maps ABD 7a to ABD 7c)
- ABD 8 **Birnbeck Pier to Uphill Beach Carpark** (Maps ABD 8a to ABD 8c)
- ABD 9 **Uphill Beach Carpark to Brean Cross Sluice** (Maps ABD 9a to ABD 9b)
- ABD 10 **Brean Cross Sluice to Brean Down Fort** (Maps ABD 10a to ABD 10e)

The England Coast Path will be the longest managed and waymarked coastal path in the world.

Natural England's published proposals for the coastal route from Aust to Brean Down are available via <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-aust-to-brean-down>

As far as Avon Area is concerned we are interested in the route from Aust to Clevedon section of the proposed coast path. From Aust there is a new section over the Aust Cliffs then the route follows the Severn Way until reaching Chittening Industrial Estate. The proposed route then follows various roads and lanes and joins up with the route across the Avonmouth Bridge. From the Avonmouth Bridge the route follows the boundary of Royal Portbury Dock to Sheepway, Portbury Wharf and onto the Portishead Marina. From the Marina the route follows the coastal path to Wain's Hill, Clevedon. Various improvements to provide better access, path surfaces, protection to sensitive areas of habitat are all addressed within the reports. From a walkers point of view their proposals seem reasonable.

Ken Mill



Avon Area Themed Walk - Rock n' stroll.

Severnside Ramblers: Sunday 28th July

The group gathered at the public car park by Yat Rock above the river Wye - conveniently, outside the public convenience! We first took in Yat Rock itself with its wonderful bird's eye views across the valley and river below - the weather being very kind to us so that views extended way into the distance (great photo opportunity). The route then took us steeply down towards the river, through woods. We followed the river for a stretch before climbing steeply again to the 'Suck stone' and 'Near Harkening Rock' - huge boulders sat insecurely on the steep hillside. More views - this time to the west and the Breacon Beacons. More woods and slopes brought us to Staunton for a very welcome lunch stop - an attractive spot just below the church (another photo opportunity!).



More woods followed, which afforded welcome shade from the heat, taking in some of the industrial heritage of the district - coal mining figuring large in the area. A gentle undulating stretch then led us back to the car park and, for some, refreshments at the 'Yat Rock cafe' - those of us who also indulged in cake were joined by the odd wasp, but a minor inconvenience after a most enjoyable excursion. Many thanks to Chris B. for the guidance for the day, and thank you to all those who joined us - hope you all enjoyed the day as much as the author.

Photos of the day (about 50) can be found via our web site in the 'photo gallery'.

Andy Pearson (Severnside Publicity Officer)

Thank you Andy for the pictures.



Kingswood Group has taken full advantage of the good weather and put on a full programme of Sunday and Wednesday evening walks, which have been well attended. We have enjoyed identifying an abundance of wild flowers, birds and butterflies, and all the walks have been accompanied by enthusiastic write ups and numerous photos on our Facebook page. A few of our newer members have taken the plunge and led walks for the first time, which is brilliant.

We held our now annual summer bake-off in June. Four assorted fairy cakes were very professionally judged on taste, texture and appearance, with Helen's beautifully presented assortment (far left) the worthy winner.



A Common Purpose

In the past few months the Footpath Teams have continued to maintain local paths, repair stiles and install kissing gates in conjunction with South Gloucestershire Council staff.



Some of our paths are on a local common. We branched out from our usual work recently when we assisted the local "Friends of Siston Common" to erect signs indicating the entrance to the Common. They have other signs to erect in the future and we will be helping with this as we're all working for the same purpose.

Photographs and article from Julia King- Kingswood Ramblers

Keith Weller writes on:

REPORTING PATH ISSUES

The Avon Ramblers Path Volunteer Teams are able to fix many issues that are reported to the Public Rights of Way teams by members of the public.

If you find a problem when you are out on a walk, such as a broken stile or an impassably overgrown footpath, there are a number of ways to report this.

Report it

The more times people report the problems on the paths the more likely they are to be fixed and the more likely it is that the paths will stay open and accessible. Please bear in mind that some problems may be more difficult to fix than others (for example, legal issues). The Authorities will usually check out reported problems fairly promptly and fix them (or ask Volunteers to fix them) as soon as possible, sometimes prioritised by the "importance" of the route or the amount of use it gets.

Which authority is responsible?

The Local Authorities remain responsible for solving these issues and they can be contacted directly on the following email addresses:-

Bristol rightsofway@bristol.gov.uk

Bath & NE Somerset prow@bathnes.gov.uk

South Glos <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/transport/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way-useful-facts/> See the "Contact" section on this page.

N Somerset <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/leisure/parks-countryside/prow/find-public-rights-way/> Here it is necessary to log in to report a problem.

For other areas outside Avon you can usually find an email address on the relevant Authority's website.

Which Way Now?



Path cleared and new post installed on the Fosseway at Dunkerton Hill by BRAMS following a meeting with the B&NES ROW officer.

Reporting through the Ramblers

A more general method of reporting is through The Ramblers. This can be by using the webpage:

<https://reportit.ramblers.org.uk/report-it> , links to which can also be found on your own Group's website

Pathwatch App on a smart phone, which can be accessed from:-

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/pathwatch-report-path-features-and-problems.aspx> .

Using either of these methods the reports are sent to the Local Authorities.

Give a clear description and location

When reporting an issue it is helpful to give a clear description of the problem and most importantly a clear location. Consider using a:

Photograph

Grid reference

Path number

Path reference

Each path has a number (just like road numbers) and these can be found nationally on rowmaps.com.

Choose your location and your base map (usually OS), then click on a path to find its path number.

Each Local Authority also may have its own website for identifying path numbers.

South Glos outdoorswest <http://www.outdoorswest.org.uk/map/>

BathNES isharemaps <https://isharemaps.bathnes.gov.uk/atmycouncil.aspx?tab=maps> . In Bristol <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/public-rights-of-way-service> and in North

Somerset <http://map.n-somerset.gov.uk/dande.html> .

On most of these you may have to Select "Highways" "Public Rights of Way" from the menu and then click on the path to find its number.

Bath Ramblers

Bath Group continues to offer a varied programme of walks although, like other groups, we really do need some new walk leaders to come forward.



A view of Bath

In July we held a successful midweek evening walk along the canal, up to Smallcombe cemetery and then across Bathwick meadows back to the canal and returning through Henrietta Park before adjourning to a local pub for a welcome drink. This is certainly something we will repeat more frequently next summer. We are also looking at ways to increase our profile in an attempt to recruit new walkers and members."

Photographs and article from Mary Young - Bath Ramblers



Henrietta Park Bath

Clevedon Group

The weekend of 13th and 14th July was Clevedon Groups 2019 visit to Dunster and Malmsmead, this has never intentionally been a group weekend away but over the years as members have chosen to make their own overnight arrangements with some camping and others in local B&B's it has developed into an annual event to take in the summer weather, enjoy the glorious countryside and have a few nights away.

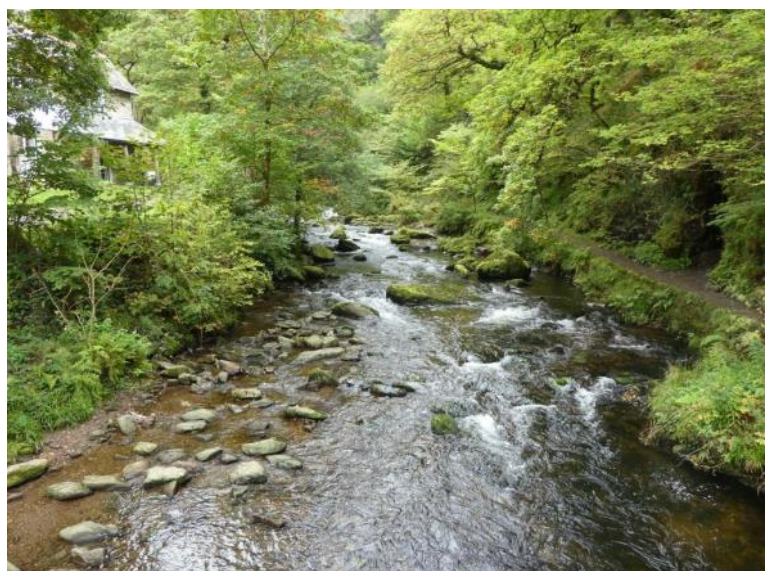
On Saturday we met at Dunster Castle car park for a 6 mile walk around the local area to be followed by a visit around the Dunster Castle estate, we managed to squeeze in the obligatory cream tea before we went in to the castle. It was one of those hot weekends when we needed quite a few refreshment breaks throughout the day to keep well hydrated. We had an extremely enjoyable day out with some members returning to Clevedon that same day and other staying over for the Malmsmead walk on the Sunday.



On Sunday we were able to offer once again a short 7.5 ml and a longer 12.5 ml walk, quite a few members travelled down for the day with both walks being well supported, it was another warm day with the shady wooded areas being very welcome. These walks have become firm favourites with the group so we do try to adjust the time that they appear on the programme whilst keeping away from the area in August.

Pictures from Clevedon Ramblers of the group at Dunster and the river on the Malmsmead walk.

Photographs and article from Lynda Brine



Somerdale Social

Reps from seven Ramblers groups in our area shared ideas, and raised queries with Nicky and Richard from Ramblers Head Office at our summer get together in the Somerdale Pavilion in Keynsham.

Among the topics discussed were ideas for encouraging members to consider standing for committee posts, and for recruiting walk leaders.

Since the social, follow-up notes from Nicky have been circulated to group chairs and secretaries, and Nicky has also replied direct to members who raised queries about specific issues.

I was impressed that Nicky and Richard both travelled some distance to get to our evening event, and it's good to know they are keen to continue supporting us in future.

Jeff Rowland Area Chair



Livestock on Public Rights of Way

Would you walk across this field at Wellow near Bath? - photograph by Kathy Thomas

I attended a workshop to review a pilot project that was run in Cornwall for temporary by passes to avoid land with cattle. We were presented with the outcome of the project which had been supported by Cornwall County Council and various agencies and for Cornwall it had worked. Could the project be rolled out to other authority areas. Generally it was agreed that it was a project that would be best managed nationally by the interested parties these include Farmers, Country Land Owners, BHS, Ramblers, HSE, NFU and others.

The proposal is that temporary by passes are made available to avoid livestock on land with a PROW but that the PROW remains open. In no way does this proposal override the law in which a landowner should not have a known dangerous animal on land with a PROW.

Kathy Thomas

Ramblers national event comes to Bristol in April

Like to find out more about what's happening in the Ramblers nationally?

Why not come along to the Ramblers General Council (AGM) in Bristol on Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th April?

Staff and volunteers from England, Scotland, and Wales will be in Bristol to hear some interesting speakers, take part in workshops, join short city walks, and enjoy meeting Ramblers from other areas.

Avon Ramblers will be working at the Marriott Hotel, with Ramblers staff, to help ensure an enjoyable and successful event for our visitors.

There are opportunities to attend the whole weekend as a delegate, or observer, and Avon Ramblers, including those who've not been to General Council before, are encouraged to volunteer for one of those places.

We are also looking for volunteers to lead short city walks from the Marriott Hotel, (the one opposite Castle Park), or to spend two or three hours welcoming our visitors at the registration desk, or assisting at one of the General Council sessions, by counting votes, or acting as timekeepers. When our volunteers are not 'on duty' they will be very welcome to sit in and listen to the General Council sessions.

Further details will be given at group AGMs, and in area and group newsletters.

In the meantime, if you'd like further details about what's involved in attending as a delegate or observer, or in assisting for part of the weekend, please let me know.

Jeff Rowland

Area Chair

mobile: 07985 024650

email: area-chair@avon-ramblers.org.uk

photo © Geoff Keogh **Geoff thank you for this picture of the Floating Harbour at Bristol**



Bristol

The spring and summer walks programme have again provided an abundance of walks, although we do struggle to attract enough walk leaders to sustain a full programme.

There have been three highly successful 'away' trips over the period. Starting in April with Nigel Andrews' Pembrokeshire four day weekend based in St David's. An April mixture of wind, sun and rain prevailed on what was a glorious few days in this beautiful area. Typically, Nigel leading a range of interesting coastal and inland routes to pre-planned historical vantage points. And in the evening, the St David's hostelries.

The month of May quickly followed with 13 members attempting the Bob Graham Round in the Lake District, led by John Wrigley and supported by Anna Kulisa. Bob Graham devised a route ascending 42 peaks on a route of 66 miles with 27,000ft of ascent. He achieved this in 24 hours at the age of 42. Our average age being well over the age of 42, (apart from one youngster aged 45) Bristol's attempt was to complete the Round in six days, and with creature comforts at the end of each day. Even so, this still provided plenty of challenge for ageing limbs with some long days and stiff climbs, but we got there in the end. Everyone had taken the challenge seriously by ensuring their fitness beforehand, and it paid off.



Nigel Andrews' Pembrokeshire trip



Bob Graham Round in the Lakes led
by John Wrigley

With little respite, and in complete contrast, the summer solstice was celebrated by the Group on Exmoor. No daisies and dancing, but plenty of walks over four days organised by Chris Sanders, Ikuko Wilson, Derek Bones, Sarah Marshall and Lesley Insall. Hilltops and moorland, wind blasted trees and wooded coombes, wildflowers, and sunshine punctuated with cream teas. Some camped, others B&B'd, or rented houses. This didn't stop an end of holiday celebratory meal for 21 at the local Thai on the last evening, and plenty of evening meet-ups in between.

These trips are meticulously planned, so much preparatory work goes into the route planning, booking accommodation, pre-walking and more. These leaders provide the opportunity for the Group to attempt challenges or walk in areas they might not otherwise attempt to do.

In the midst of all this activity the Group was also involved with Bristol WalkFest that ran for the whole of May. We led walks, assisted with admin and provided some modest financial support. The event was a huge success culminating in 257 led walks and in the region of 7,000+ participants.

And of course, the staple of our programme, the plethora of walks that run on weekends, mid-weekdays and in the summer, evening walks too. They don't come without interest or incident, yapping dogs, cattle avoidance techniques, chasing errant hats. Happy walking!



The 'errant hat incident' on a Sunday walk in the Quantocks.



Exmoor trip organised by Chris Sanders and Iku-ko Wilson, photo on Exmoor near Luccombe

Photographs and article from Wendy Britton

Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks - based on the Bristol to Weymouth (Heart of Wessex) Railway Line

With the weather ranging from very wet to rather hot, numbers attending the walks on the 2019 programme have been mixed but as a contrast to last year there have been fewer problems with the railway service

At the time of writing the future of the Heart of Wessex Community Rail Partnership remains unknown although there have been assurances that the brand 'Heart of Wessex' will remain even if the boundaries it presently covers changes. If this does happen the question of funding may be an issue though.



At the annual GWR Community Rail Conference, held in June, the video covering the HoWRP activities during the last year was based on the Wessex Wanderer Walks. The video was filmed on the first walk of the 2019 programme when there were twenty-eight people on the walk, highlighting the popularity of the walks

It was quite a feather in our cap and does illustrate the value the Partnership places on the WWWs and the video may well be used for marketing purposes elsewhere

By coincidence the conference took place in the Marriott Hotel, Castle Green, Bristol, which is where Ramblers' General Council is being held next April and, apart from attending the conference, I also took the opportunity of partaking in the evening meal and an overnight stay prior to the conference all of which left a favourable impression

Joy (Harrison) wasn't able to attend the conference but attended the evening meal enabling some serious networking to take place



The small 'WWW 2020' sub-committee continues to work on ideas put forward to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and arrangements for the 2020 Annual Get Together

Although the 2020 programme, which will be a souvenir edition, will be printed and distributed a little later than it has been of late Joy would still like walks details to be submitted by the end of this year

So an early plea for as many Leaders as possible to offer walks, whether you have led for the WWW programme before or not, and help make 2020 a really special year for the WWWs

For the latest information on the 2019 walks please refer to the WWW website www.wessexrailwaywalks.org.uk
Sylvia Popham

Photographs and article from Sylvia Popham



Volunteer Roadshows - Skill up, step out

Meet other members and volunteers and get direct access to our walking experts and specialist partners at one of our Ramblers Roadshow locations across England, Scotland and Wales.

Enjoy a Day Out, and Learn Some New Skills!

New workshops have been added to the Gloucestershire Ramblers Roadshow programme on Saturday 26th October, and the event has been moved to the Cotswold Water Park, South Cerney GL7 5FP.

These free events are a great opportunity to meet other Ramblers, and learn some new skills, or brush up on your existing skills.

Advance Notice for the Avon Area Ramblers AGM

To be hosted by the Somer Valley Ramblers

Venue: Camerton Community Hall
Camerton
Bath

Saturday 22nd February 2020

Workshop options are:

- ◆ Walk Leadership
- ◆ Welcoming new members
- ◆ Using the membership dashboard
- ◆ Rights of Way Basics
- ◆ Navigation
- ◆ Data and Digital Transformation
- ◆ Don't Lose Your Way
- ◆ Supporting and Managing Volunteering

If you're reading this online, you can view more details, and book, via this link:

[Ramblers Roadshow - Gloucestershire](#)

If you're reading this in a printed copy of the newsletter, please go to www.ramblers.org.uk, and search for 'volunteer roadshows'. Travel expenses can be claimed from Head Office.

Jeff Rowland

Area Chair

Tunley looking towards Keynsham—open countryside close to the venue for the AGM

Photograph by Kathy Thomas





Ramblers Charity England & Wales No: 1093577 Scotland No: SC039799

TOGETHER

A moment to pause. Breathing in clear air. Sharing interests and conversations as you ponder the hills ahead. We have your passion for exploring worldwide and in the UK.

Choose any of our holidays and we'll contribute funds through **The Walking Partnership** to your group. Just tell us their name when you book.

Book a great value holiday:
ramblersholidays.co.uk
 or call **01707 386804**



Walking holiday partner



Do remember to mention the name of your group when you book a Ramblers Holiday so that your group receives a contribution from The Walking Partnership .

Free First Aid Training – Saturday 12th October

The Ramblers and St John Ambulance have created an excellent half-day First Aid course specifically covering incidents which could happen on walks.

I completed one of these courses at Bradley Stoke in July and, if you haven't had recent First Aid training, I can thoroughly recommend booking on the next course in our area, which takes place in Bath, from 9.30 – 1.00 on Saturday 12th October.

Everyone comes away with a First Aid Reference Guide and, after the course, Ramblers staff will email you a First Aid certificate, valid for three years.

To book a place on the Bath course, click on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/first-aid-training-bath-12102019-registration-69725148797>

Jeff Rowland

Area Chair



Image from Ken Lansdowne (Flickr)

Articles for the February 2020 edition of AAN are required
by 21st December 2019 to the editor Kathy Thomas

If you have my email address please use that otherwise use the
link on www.avon-ramblers.org.uk but please do not send pictures by that link.

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Avon Area Ramblers

For details of the officers and walking groups please use the links on the web site.

www.avon-ramblers.org.uk

Walks Finder

Walks Finder is also to be found on the web site, you can walk with any of the groups so if you see a walk that appeals to you please go along and take the opportunity to meet new people.



Thank you Andy Pearson for this picture from the

Themed Walk In July 2019



You are receiving this newsletter as you are a member of Ramblers.