

# Bristol HF Rambling Club

Affiliated to HF Holidays

## Summer 2024 Newsletter



### Greetings!

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. How time flies! Here we are, well into our summer, with the days gradually shortening and the fruits beginning to ripen. And such is the nature of life during the Internet age, that we are already booking the Christmas panto to take the grandchildren.

Nowadays, if you want to go to an event or an exhibition, or visit a building, the chances are that you need to plan it several months in advance if you want to be sure of getting in. And if it's a famous place you have in your sights for a visit, it probably requires even more forward planning.

We wanted to get the ferry to Skomer Island in May, to see the puffins and all the other lovely birds that flock to the island. Sue managed to find out when the bookings opened, so there we were on the stroke of midnight on the appointed day, poised to access the website. We did manage to get our tickets on the day we wanted, then all we

had to hope for was that the weather would play ball, as the ferry isn't able to operate on really bad weather days!

As the appointed day approached, the weather forecast was not looking promising; as the day itself dawned, it looked even less promising, with heavy drizzle and quite strong winds. We drove to the little ferry terminal fully expecting to be disappointed, but by great good fortune it turned out that the wind was blowing in a good direction and the little ferry boat would be able to dock on the island.



As you approach the island, you suddenly notice that the air is full of puffins zooming to and fro between the sea and their burrows. Then, as you walk amongst them, these charming and delightful little birds somehow make you feel so cheery that you forget about minor things like the weather.



There are said to be over 42,500 puffins on the island, as well as a staggering 350,000 breeding pairs of Manx Shearwaters. In addition, there are thousands of Guillemots, Razorbills and Kittiwakes. What a treat!

RG

## Chairperson's Message

Our Club continues to offer a varied and interesting programme of walks on Tuesdays and Saturdays, as well as a series of social events that provide all Club members the opportunity to get together.

Whilst the recent months have allowed us, at last, to enjoy walking on relatively solid, dry ground, a number of our members have been hit by injuries or illness that have prevented them from joining our walks.

The good news is that most are back out walking again, so our walk attendances have been improving.

Since the Spring Newsletter, we have had our **Summer Garden Party**, which this year fell on a sunny day! We had a lovely al fresco afternoon, with lots of delicious food provided by members.



Our **Club Weekend on Exmoor** (20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September) is fast approaching. We currently have a group of a dozen walkers; if you would like to join us, it's not too late to sign up. Just let me know that you might be interested and I will send you more details.

Sue and I enjoyed a lovely weekend in April doing a 'recce' for the walks as well as sampling the local pubs and restaurants. Exmoor is such a beautiful area, with its dramatic coastline, wild and remote moorland and picturesque villages and we are

very fortunate to have this in such close proximity to Bristol.



**Our next AGM** is also approaching. This will be held at the Henleaze Bowls Club at 6.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Among the issues that we would like to discuss at the AGM are **publicity** and **committee vacancies**.

As I touched on at the last AGM, the Club needs to improve on publicity to try to attract new members. Rowena has agreed to act as our publicity co-ordinator (alongside her role as Membership Secretary) and we have started the process of getting the Club's details listed in various local magazines. We would like to spend a modest amount on some enhanced listings, so we are going to propose that, starting in September 2025, the annual subscription is raised to £8, and we hope that this will receive your support.

We will be inviting members to step forward to fill committee vacancies. These include Webmaster (Tom is still fulfilling this role) and, of course, Newsletter Editor (I would welcome a break from doing this!). Also, Muriel, Sue and Tom have been walks co-ordinators for more than the normal tenure of five years. Although they are willing to continue, anyone interested in taking on one of these roles should let me know prior to the AGM.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the existing committee members, who are doing an absolutely fantastic job.

RG

## Christmas Party Lunch 2024

As previewed in the Spring Newsletter, this year we are planning something a bit different.

The event will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Henleaze Bowls Club. We will kick off at 12.30pm and the lunch will be a 'bring and share' meal. We are also planning a fun quiz and entertainment from a local choir.

Tickets for the party lunch will be £10, to cover the costs of running the event. We hope it will provide a bit of festive fun, with the opportunity to socialise in an informal atmosphere.

You will be receiving a separate notification that will contain all the details of the event.



## Posh Nosh

Gill Pocock has proposed that the next posh lunch will be at Cote Brasserie in Quakers Friars. We have been there before and have always enjoyed our meal.

The restaurant currently offers a fixed price menu at £17.95 x 2 courses and £21.95 x 3 courses, in addition to a la carte.

The date for the lunch has not been finalised at the time of publication of this Newsletter – if you are interested in joining us, please respond to the email that you will have received from Gill.

## Food Allergies

We don't want to put you off eating, but The Food Standards Agency has published a list of 14 allergens that we need to be aware of.

Some may be more obvious than others, but it is worth keeping them in mind.



In alphabetical order, they are celery, cereals containing gluten, crustaceans, eggs, fish, lupin, milk, molluscs, mustard, peanuts, sesame, soybeans, sulphur dioxide, sulphites and tree nuts.

## Great Western Air Ambulance

Looking ahead to next year, we are planning to arrange a presentation from Great Western Air Ambulance next February. This charitable organisation has been instrumental in saving many lives, with its iconic green helicopter and its fleet of first response cars.



The provisional date for this event is Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025, so please try to keep this date free. Further details will be published in the Christmas Newsletter.

## Congratulations!

Our congratulations and very best wishes go to the following Club members, who have each notched up 25 years of membership:

- Jean Day
- Jenny Stirratt
- Peter and Betty Fry

That's 100 years of membership between them! What an achievement.



## Map Reading and Navigation

We have just completed the second in a series of sessions aimed at improving map-reading skills. This time, a small group of us met 'out in the field' and worked our way around a planned route using map and compass and engaging the help of a phone App.

We started by the church at Lower Failand. Before setting off, we studied the 1:25000 OS map of the area and talked about the features of the map and how they relate to our physical surroundings. We also looked at compass use and the planning and tracking of a walking route on 'Outdoor Active', which is now probably the most widely used and most effective phone App. (other Apps are available!)



Then we started walking, taking it in turns to lead the group on the pre-arranged route. I think that by the end of our walk the group had an improved understanding of navigation skills and the way that the phone App can help us find our way around.

For those who couldn't make this session, we will be doing a re-run shortly. The walk is around 4 miles, starting at 10am and finishing around 1pm. Please keep an eye on your emails for further announcements.

## A Question of Stile

Continuing our series of 'interesting' stiles, we think that this one qualifies for the 'Most Imposing' title. It certainly appears to be solidly-built and, given the obvious change of levels, quite fit-for-purpose. You might also consider it to be somewhat throne-like.

Can you identify its location? Answer in our next Newsletter.



For those of you who may have been intrigued by the location of the stile featured in our last Newsletter, it is on Wooten Hill, near Litton (Grid Ref 582541).

Thanks to Jenny Hall for her 'stlish' contribution.

## Walk Groups – Reports from Co-ordinators

### Tuesday 'A' Group

We have managed to have a walk every Tuesday with a wonderful variety of locations. We are very glad not to have to clean our boots and have appreciated the better weather. Jenny has led on the 2 hottest days from Box and Cold Ashton. Janet had a record number of 16 on her walk starting from Badminton.

*Sue Finney*

### Tuesday 'B' Group

The B group has enjoyed a variety of walks, some close to Bristol and others further afield.

Numbers are variable but the Bluebell walk from Portbury in April was particularly well supported.



More recently, our walks have taken us to the countryside around Tickenham, Burrington Combe and Stanton Prior.

*Vanessa Pinniger*

### Saturday Group

It took a long time for conditions to improve but finally a combination of wind, reduced rainfall and now warm sunshine means that previously impossible paths are navigable and pleasurable again enabling us to enjoy walks of varying lengths and terrain.

Over the past three months we have walked various parts of the Mendips such as the

Chew Valley lake and Knowle Hill, the ups and downs around Charterhouse, Velvet Bottom and Beacon Batch as well as Badminton, Tresham and Doynton.

A bonus to the Doynton walk was that it coincided with an NGS Open Day at the Old Rectory. This is no ordinary garden: the garden here consists of 15 acres in which there is a combination of traditional sculptural and modern design, all carefully described and documented by the owner in her very beautiful "coffee table" book.



Sitting down for tea in these beautiful, elegant surroundings and enjoying homemade cakes of equal quality was a great way to end our walk and, hopefully, one to be repeated. *Muriel Reeves*

### Saturday Hill Walk Group

Our smallish but intrepid group have continued with the monthly programme of hill walks, with three visits to South Wales since the last Newsletter.

In May, we walked up to Fan-y-big from Llanfrynach, a route that Sue and Roger call 'The Toilet Walk', on account of the fact that it starts alongside Llanfrynach's picturesque public loo.

June saw Laurence leading a walk up to Pen-y-Fan from Tal Fechan Forest to the south of the Beacons and in July Peter led a group from Tonypandy in the 'Valleys' area to the south of the Beacons.

Our August walk takes us by a very scenic route to the summit of Sugarloaf.

*Tom Logan*

## 2023/2024 COMMITTEE

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Hon Membership Secretary : ROWENA NICOLL

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Hon. Walks Secretary : MURIEL REEVES

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Hon. Newsletter Editor: ROGER GUCK

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Hon Social Secretary : LINDA MOYSEY

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Hon. Saturday Walks Co-ordinator : MURIEL REEVES

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Hon. Tuesday Walks Co-ordinators:

'A' Walks : SUE FINNEY

'B' Walks : VANESSA PINNEGAR

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WEBMASTER : POSITION VACANT

Very Effective Temporary Cover being provided by  
TOM LOGAN