

## Monmouth Rambling and Hillwalking Club

### PROGRAMME FOR WALKS DECEMBER 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025

Compiled by Tom Clarke

Please note that Walk Leaders should pre-walk their route and advise on the Walk Leader Form of any relevant risks (such as steep climbs, risky river crossings, steep drops etc.)

Insurance - The only cover provided is Public Liability: the damage or injury that any member of the Club may cause to a third party or property. Walkers walk with the club at their own risk and therefore need to be mindful of and responsible for their own safety. Appropriate clothing and footwear is essential and bring packed lunch and drink.

Walks start at 10am. Departure Time from Rockfield Road Car park (RRCP) is given for each walk.

Car sharing: Fuel contribution is calculated at 30p per mile, shown as cost per car for each walk, to be shared equally between the number of people in the car. It has been increased to reflect the rise in costs of running a car. Please read the notes on car-sharing in the Club's Guidance for Members Revision C, dated 21 Aug 2021.

No dogs please.

On the first Sunday of each month there will be a longer, more strenuous walk for those members who enjoy a more challenging day. There will be alternative short walks on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and also on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Please see programme below for details. *The short walks are intended for those members who prefer a less demanding walk and a more leisurely pace. All our walks will be paced at the speed of the slowest walker. Please assist the walk leaders by not getting too far ahead of the leader, especially when the pace is leisurely.*

**Covid** – see our revised Guidance for Members Revision C, dated 21 August 2021. All participants need to have signed the declaration form to say they have read and agree to abide by these guidance notes.

**Please book in with the walk leader, by 2.00pm on the previous day, so that we know who's coming on the walk.**

**Note** – to ensure the health and safety of attendees, a walk must have at least 4 participants. The leader must cancel the walk if numbers fall below 4.

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
1.12.24	08.50*	8			<p>A good climb of around 590m (1800ft) of ascent on old tramroads to Keeper's Pond, then onto the summit of the Bloreng, descending past The Punchbowl to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Fabulous views in all directions. Steep ascent for about the first hour. Very few stiles.</p> <p>*Aiming to start walk at 9.30 to make the most of daylight hours.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £10</p>
1.12.24	09:45	3.5	Short Walk		<p>Gentle walk through woodland and fields. Nice views. Interesting rock formations.</p> <p>Two gradual slopes.</p> <p>No stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £2.50</p>
8.12.24	09:25	7.5			<p>A gentle stroll around Herefordshire taking in some magnificent scenery with two crossings of the river Wye (by bridge!) and four interesting churches en-route: St Dubricious, Hentland, St Catherines, Hoarwithy, St Tysilios, Sellack and St John the Baptist, Kings Capel. Some road walking mostly on very quiet rural roads but careful single file walking will be essential as we cross the A49. 3 stiles. Can be muddy in places.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £6.50</p>
15.12.24	09:20	6			<p>Leaving the car park we almost return to the A466, then take the track up to St Mary's church, burned out in 1977. We continue up through Limekiln wood then across fields to Black Cliff wood just under an Iron Age hillfort. After a steep climb, we follow the ridge path for 1 km, emerging to cross fields to a quiet lane which comes to a junction, where a steep footpath leads up to the top of Gaer Hill, with great views over the Wye and Severn. We Descend to reach another quiet lane to Fair oak, with a possible diversion to Penterry church. Crossing more fields past Penterry Farm we enter woods and follow the tracks down past the ruins of St Mary's and back to the car park. Depending on weather, some paths could be slippery, and risk of wet fields. A few stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £6.00</p>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time RRCP</b>	<b>Walk Length (miles)</b>	<b>Leader(s)</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Description and Further Information</b>
<b>15.12.24</b>	<b>09:30</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>Short Walk:</b>		<p>A delightful walk mostly along woodland tracks and old country lanes, with fine views over Wye valley. One gentle climb, with relatively good paths underfoot.</p> <p>Car share where possible parking can be limited.</p> <p>Public toilets nearby.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £4.50</p>
<b>22.12.24</b>	<b>09:15</b>	<b>7.5</b>			<p>Golden Vally, Vowchurch Common. From St Peters church we follow the Herefordshire Trail to Turnastone, turn onto a lane to Vowchurch, then uphill to Vowchurch common – great views of Black Mountains, Garway and beyond. Descend to Monnington Court, then uphill through woods to a ridge walk with more great views this time of the Malverns, Forest of Dean, including (of course!) May Hill. Return through fields and woods to start.</p> <p>One steep section up Vowchurch common, but nothing too challenging. The rest undulating or flat. A few stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £13.80</p>
<b>29.12.24</b>	<b>09:45</b>	<b>7.5</b>			<p>Through the field near Treowen, then some lane walking onto the outskirts of the Rolls Golf Club. Return along Offas Dyke, with a gradual climb back towards the Hendre barns, then through fields towards St Dingats Church in Dingestow.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £2.50</p>
<b>05.01.25</b>	<b>09:00</b>	<b>8.5</b>			<p>The walks begins near the church in Brewerdinge. There is a motte and bailey and fish ponds nearby, then we will head to Arthur's Stone (burial chamber). Later will pass Newton Tump motte and Bailey before heading back to Bredwerdinge via Merbach hill.</p> <p>2 gradual ascents.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £16.75</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
05.01.25	10.00	4	Short Walk		<p>Flat walk around Monmouth, past Historic Monnow Bridge to Allotments next to River Monnow, then walk around two meadows on bank of River Wye and back across Chippenham Fields and Vauxhall Fields</p> <p>No toilets in car park. Public toilets next to Monnow Bridge,</p>
12..01.25	09:30	9.5			<p>This is a good walk for the time of year on generally flat paths.</p> <p>We head south-east along Hewelsfield Lane which leads to field paths through to Hewelsfield village and its church. We rise out of the village to continue on a quiet lane, with views over to the River Severn, to join the Gloucestershire Way. This takes us through Woolaston Woodside then up through the delightful woodland for 1.5 miles to emerge on a lane at Bream Tufts. From here we head west on a footpath to the B4228, which we follow the final half mile or so back to our starting point.</p> <p>12 stiles. A few undulations, plus a gradual rise through woods for a mile or so.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £6.00</p>
19.01.25	10.00	6.2			<p>Fairly gentle walk with gradual ascent into Kings Wood via the Offa's Dyke path. Pass Caxton Tower and head towards opening in the woods giving fine views towards Skirrid Fawr, Sugarloaf and the Black Mountains. Return via Lady Grove. Approx 270m ascent over the whole walk. A few stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: n/a</p>
19.01.25	09:30	4.5	Short walk		<p>A 'there and back' walk from camp site to Symonds Yat. Great views from Yat Rock, coffee break at cabin. Return to camp site café for refreshments.</p> <p>One steep ascent and descent.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £4.75</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
26.01.25	9.10	8			<p>From Keepers Pond car park we walk over to the industrial heritage town of Blaenavon where we will have a tea stop. Return to Keepers Pond with stop for lunch.</p> <p>As the walk starts on the Blorenge, there are no significant ascents or descents.</p> <p>No stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £12.50</p>
02.02.25	09.25	8			<p>An initial climb to the Coppit Hill summit before descending to the river Wye. Continue east along the riverbank before returning to the start via Courtfield House and Welsh Bicknor. Hopefully we can retire to the Hostellerie for post-walk refreshments.</p> <p>One ascent at the start.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £4.40</p>
02.02.25	09.30	4	Short Walk		<p>Easy walk on forestry tracks, gentle gradients, no stiles Toilet stop and cafe during the walk at Beechenhurst Visitor Centre</p> <p>Fuel cost £6.50</p>
09.02.25	09:00	7			<p>We ascend Waun Fach, the highest mountain in the Black Mountains at 810m, via a gradual climb via Cwmfforest and the Cambrian Way to the summit for the panoramic views.</p> <p>We descend Y Grib, a narrow spur of land, to Castell Dinas to see the impressive Iron Age Hill Fort with a commanding view of the Rhiangoll Valley. Then a short walk down to the starting point to end the walk.</p> <p>Total ascent for the walk is 640m.</p> <p>A gradual climb to the summit, then a steady descent undulating down the Dragons Back to the finish.</p> <p>Note: donations box in pub for use of car park.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £19.00</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
16.02.25	09:25	5-6			<p>Sustained ascent through fields and metalled lanes to St Briavels and its 12<sup>th</sup> century castle. Coffee break on the Green, with views across the Wye Valley. Past the church (of Norman origin), descending further fields into woodland where a track leads to the picturesque Mork Brook. This is characterised by a series of miniature waterfalls created by a rare form of limestone known as tufa. Following the brook as it flows down through the woods to Mork itself. Steep ascent up the opposite side of the valley for a lunch stop at the top. Continuing up a stony track to then drop down into Cadora Woods and back to the car park.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £5.00</p>
16.02.25	09:30	3.5	Short Walk		<p>Riverside walk along the river Usk, return through parkland on the Clytha Estate.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £6.50</p>
23.02.25	09:45	7.1			<p>From Redbrook we follow the disused railway line to Wyesham, then from there ascend from via lane and track to Offas Dyke Path and The Kymin. We then continue along Offas Dyke Path to Upper Redbrook, then across country to Newland. The return to Lower Redbrook is via a descent through Forge Wood.</p> <p>Gradual sustained ascent from Wysham to the top of the Kymin; the descent through Forge wood is steep in parts, and if there has been rain can get slippery.</p> <p>£1 parking fee in car park, or free parking on the main road.</p> <p>Total ascent 1323ft.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £3.00</p>