

Monmouth Rambling and Hillwalking Club

PROGRAMME FOR WALKS DECEMBER 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024

(compiled by Sheila Hickman)

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 1st Sunday and also on the 3rd 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
3.12.23	RRCP 09:20	9.5			<p>We follow lanes and footpaths down to Longhope Village (tea coffee break). Gentle climb towards May Hill, then slightly steeper at final ascent. Lunch top of May hill. Drop down to follow the Wysis Way towards Mitcheldean (short walk along grass verge of busy road). From Mitcheldean, steep climb past rear of the Wilderness Centre to start point. 750ft ascent up May Hill, plus 200ft (steep in parts) to Plump Hill. Stiles tbc Fuel cost: £9</p>
3.12.23	09:45	3.5			<p>Walk from the Garden Centre to Upper Grove Common. Picts Cross, Loughpool Lodge. Easy walking on lanes, fields and tracks. This is a shorter version of the walk we did last year cutting out the muddy bit. 2 stiles. Toilets and café at garden centre. Fuel cost: £6.50</p>
10.12.23	09:20	7.5			<p>Wye valley walk, Pagets Wood, Capler camp, Brockhampton Church,(Arts and Crafts), return via Brinkley Hill and along the River Wye. Note: If the river and field paths are too wet, there is an alternative route along Capler Lane. Approx. 8 stiles, Undulating walk, no steep ascents. Fuel cost: £11.50</p>
17.12.23	09:35	8.5			<p>Trellech, Llanishen, Lloysey Woods. A mix of open country and woodlands with fine views of the Abergavenny mountains. An undulating walk with one short steep section. Total ascent of around 1000ft. 5 or 6 stiles. Fuel cost: £4</p>
17.12.23	09:30	3.5			<p>Spectacular scenery with views of the Sugar Loaf. We walk a labyrinth of paths through an area steeped in history, We take a coffee break in the old walled garden, walk through the orchard and restored Arboretum. A haven for wildlife which includes a bat house. Although a short walk, it's one that's packed with interest and one not to be missed. 2 ascents and descents, nothing too difficult though some care on descent particularly after prolonged rain could be muddy and slippery in parts. Walking poles will help. Fuel cost: £9.50</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
24.12.23			NO WALK		
31.12.23	09:50	6.5			<p>A gradual climb up to Mitchell Troy Common and then through High Glanau and it's surrounding woodland. There are good views before we start the descent to a quiet lane that leads to Cwm Carvan church. Another climb after lunch up to Graig-y-dorth before we descend once more to Mitchel Troy. 2 ascents - total of 1470 feet. 8 stiles. Fuel cost: £1.50</p>
7.01.24	09:30	9.5			<p>We follow Hewelsfield Lane to Hewelsfield village via field paths, then continue uphill from village on a quiet lane, -views of the River Severn-, to join the Gloucestershire Way. This takes us through Woolaston Woodside then on to reach woods. Uphill through woodland for 1.5 miles before emerging to join a lane at Bream Tufts, then a footpath to the B4228, which we follow for the final half mile back to our starting point. 12 stiles. A few undulations, plus a gradual rise through woods for a mile or so. Toilets at Hewelsfield Church. Fuel cost: £6.00</p>
7.01.24	10.00	4			<p>From car park flat easy walk across field to Wonastow Estate and back via Link Road, Beech Road and Chippenham Fields. No stiles. Some steps which can be avoided if necessary.</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
14.01.24	9.00	8			<p>From near Eastnor castle we will walk to British Camp (site of an iron age hill fort) on the Malvern hills. Then we will visit the Giant's cave (aka Clutter's cave). On our return route we will visit another hill fort and the Obilisk a 90ft monument for various distinguished members of the Somers Cocks family.</p> <p>Two steep but short ascents.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £18</p>
21.01.24	9.25	8			<p>An interesting and varied walk, initially we walk alongside the River Usk to Twyn y Gregan and cross Clytha Park up to the Castle (coffee). We gradually climb up the hill to the Iron Age Hillfort at Coed y Bwnydd and onto the Church at Bettws Newydd (lunch). The return is mainly on a delightful section of the Usk Valley Walk.</p> <p>No notable ascents or descents. Few stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £8</p>
21.01.24	09:35	3.5			<p>Walk from car park up to Angus Buchanan V.C recreation ground, then following a footpath to The Slowes. A 'there and back' walk, with coffee at Kiplins Café at the end.</p> <p>A fairly steep walk up road to recreation ground.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £4.50</p>
28.01.24	9.30	8.5			<p>After passing through the village heading south, we follow a footpath through a wood. Emerging onto a quiet lane -great views-, a short rise is followed by a long descent to the River Wye at Lydbrook for coffee and toilets. After crossing the river via Black Bridge we head uphill past Welsh Bicknor, then up through a wood onto Coppett Hill. Panoramic views as we walk along the hill top before turning into a field, to head downhill back to Welsh Bicknor, this time calling at its impressive church. Re-cross the river then a steady climb back to the village hall.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £5.30</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
4.2.24	09.15	7.5			<p>Climb to Rholben ridge, then follow to the start of the Sugar Loaf summit mound. Traverse round it to take the easiest paths to the summit (595m). Return along the Deri ridge and down through woodland to Sunny View. Follow the track back up then across the stream, and down the little Afon Cibi valley back to the start. Great views of the Black Mountains. Steep initial climb of 100m to Rholben ridge, then less steep 100m ascent to summit. 2 or 3 stiles. Fuel cost: £12</p>
4.2.24	09.40	3			<p>A pleasant walk mostly on tracks with one climb up to the Buckstone passing some interesting old houses. Fuel cost: £3</p>
11.2.24	09:40	6			<p>Follow the Monmouth and Brecon Canal for approx. 2k, then cross the canal and continue up through fields to begin the ascent of Tor y Foel. A steady 1 kilometre climb to the summit at 551m - spectacular views over Tal y Bont reservoir and Bannau Brecheiniog . A relatively gentle descent back to the canal and to Llangynidr and (optional) pub! Public toilets opposite the car park Car park free of charge at the time of writing Fuel cost: £16.50</p>
18.2.24	09:05	8			<p>Coppett Hill and River Wye. We follow a quiet lane uphill to join a footpath leading up to Coppett Hill, with views of the Black Mountains. Continue along the ridge, then downhill through woods to the River Wye. Return along the Wye. Fuel cost: £5</p>
18.2.24	09.30	3.7			<p>A walk around Brockweir and the Hudnalls. Gradual ascent of 200m at start of walk. Fuel cost: £6.60</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
25.2.24	09.40	7.3			<p>Starting with a view across the Beacons, through fields to Trellech and a good mix of open ground and woodland. There are standing stones an ancient ironworks, an Iron Age Hillfort, buildings once part of Tintern Abbey and optional drink at the Red Lion in Trellech</p> <p>Plenty of undulation but no steep ascents</p> <p>9 stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £4</p>
