

Monmouth Rambling and Hillwalking Club

Programme For Walks June 25 - August 25

Compiled by Sheila Hickman

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.

Appropriate clothing and footwear is essential and bring a packed lunch and drink. No dogs please.

Date	Time	Length (miles)	Description and Further Information
01/06/25	09:25	4.0	Walk on Forest tracks past the remains of Mushet Darkhill foundry to Whitemead Park for refreshment and return via the same route Fuel cost: £5.50
01/06/25	09:15	8.0	A woodland walk on forest tracks with gentle slopes. A variety of wildlife including several species of butterfly and, if we're lucky, muntjac. We should also see a spectacular display of wildflowers including an abundance of orchids. An undulating walk with a total of around 800ft of ascent spread throughout the walk. Fuel cost: £12.00
08/06/25	09:15	6.4	Through Busland Wood up onto Marcle Ridge. Follow ridge southwards and descend towards Sollers Hope, return via Alfords Mill. Good views from the ridge (weather permitting). Old church at Sollers Hope associated with Whittingtons - of Lord Mayor of London fame. Total ascent of approx. 800ft spread across walk, with 300ft climb up to Marcle ridge. Fuel cost: £12.00
15/06/25	09:30	3.5	A varied walk full of interest. From village we pick up the Brecon Canal, with plenty of wildlife. One steep decent to take us through open fields and woodland, before arriving at 13th cent St Bartholamews church where we stop for a break. Our return journey takes us through the magnificent setting of Llanover Park. Before returning to the village and end of our walk. Fuel cost: £0.00
15/06/25	08:30	8.0	Fan y Big via Blaen y Glyn. About 1350 feet of climb and descent, with the climb concentrated into one steep pitch of some 800 feet. 1 stile. This is a strenuous and exposed but very rewarding walk! Good waterproof boots a must. Route: We pass through Blaen y Glyn wood, its trees festooned with lichen, to emerge into the immense U-shaped glacial valley. Crossing Caerfanell stream, we climb the eastern side - gently at first, but the last few hundred feet are steep and need care. This is the only serious climb! Huge panoramic view south at the top. We then follow Cwar y Gigfran crest - see the memorial below to Canadian airmen killed when their Wellington crashed. After a mile the peaks - Pen y Fan, Corn Du, Cribyn - come into view ahead, and we turn sharp left to skirt Bwlch y Ddwyallt then Craig Cwareli and Craig Cwmoergwm, with vast valleys dropping away to our right. Continue on to Fan y Big, with its Diving Board rock cantilevered out over the drop - a photo opportunity for those with a head for heights! Returning to Craig Cwmoergwm, we take a track on the right for 3/4 mile to a cairn, before reaching the Craig a Fan Ddu crest looking across to our earlier ascent. We follow this right to join the Beacons Way back to the car park - the last half mile steeply down a well engineered track. Fuel cost: £22.25
22/06/25	09:20	8.7	From the Skirrid Inn we cross the railway track (beware trains!) and after a climb we follow the river along the Cwm Lau valley. There is a steep climb up to the Offa's Dyke path with great views from the top of Hatterall Hill. We return via the Beacons Way to the start point. Fuel cost: £12.60

Date	Time	Length (miles)	Description and Further Information
29/06/25	09:10	7.0	<p>Bryn Arw, Pantygelli and Deri Ridge</p> <p>Features: upland wildlife, skylarks, pipits, stonechats, wheatears and maybe a kite or peregrine.</p> <p>Views of the Bristol Channel.</p> <p>Total ascent 360 metres/1200 feet. Two steep climbs both before lunch.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £11.40</p>
06/07/25	09:30	3.5	<p>Easy walk on tracks and woods, some road walking. Usk riverside. No stiles</p> <p>Fuel cost: £8.00</p>
06/07/25	09:20	7.3	<p>From Tidenham Chase Car Park stroll over farmland to the Devils Pulpit. A steep descent to the railway track. Follow the railway track towards Chepstow as far as Tintern Quarry then ascend to Boatwood Plantation on the Offa's Dyke Path to the Devil's Pulpit and back across farmland to the car park.</p> <p>Rocky descent from Devils Pulpit and a steep ascent to rejoin Offa's Dyke Path.</p> <p>Number of stiles: 2</p> <p>Fuel cost: £8.50</p>
13/07/25	08:45	6.6	<p>A beautiful walk that gives us stunning panoramic views throughout.</p> <p>We start from the base of Hay Bluff and ascend the summit to walk the ridge down to cross the Gospel Pass and ascend Lord Herefords Knob, leading onto returning to the cars via lower slopes.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £16.80</p>
20/07/25	09:35	7.5	<p>This is a delightful woodland walk on good paths throughout. We follow a level path to Milkwall, before passing through the remains of former iron and steel works, where information boards relate their history. Our route then takes us through woods, bypassing a quarry, to reach the Mary Rose Young pottery, where we'll take a coffee break. (A brief visit to the pottery showroom may be possible - not to be missed!!). From here good tracks take us through forestry to eventually reach the charming village of Little Drybrook, for our lunch stop. Further tracks lead up to Ellwood, then through the Dark Hill inclosure, to pick up our return path to the start.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £4.50</p>
20/07/25	10:00	4.0	<p>Flat walk around Monmouth, past Historic Monnow Bridge and past allotments next to River Monnow, then around meadows on bank of River Wye and back across Chippenham and Vauhall Fields.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £0.00</p>

Date	Time	Length (miles)	Description and Further Information
27/07/25	09:30	8.0	<p>We walk along the Usk Valley to Llanellen, Llansabbath and Llanfihangel</p> <p>Features: sand martin colony, Llanover Church, ruined castle site, oxbow lake and a nature reserve.</p> <p>One small hill of 40 feet, otherwise level. 7 stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £8.50</p>
03/08/25	08:50	9.0	<p>A nine mile circuit that includes the two highest summits in the Black Mountains. Starting from the Forestry car park (named Mynydd Du car park & picnic area on Google Maps) we climb steadily to the ridge at 2000ft and then return down the valley, passing the reservoir, back to the car park.</p> <p>Please note the car park is located six miles up the lane from Forest Coal Pit.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £16.00</p>
03/08/25	09:35	4.5	<p>A walk on quiet lanes and tracks through woodland to the site of the Iron-age Fort in Buckholt Wood.</p> <p>A steady climb of around 650 ft on quiet lanes over the first half then downhill all the way back.</p> <p>Breathtaking views of the Black Mountains along the way as well as the new sculpture trail created by students from Hereford College of Arts.</p> <p>No stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £1.00</p>
10/08/25	09:10	7.8	<p>A walk in the Dore Valley through fields and woods, taking in two special historic churches. From the start we follow the Herefordshire trail south to St Margaret's church, with its 16th C rood screen and great views of the Black mountains. We continue along paths through Park and Lawn woods then across fields to St Faith's church, Bacton, which has two remarkable relics from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. To return we walk about half a mile along a lane to pick up the Herefordshire trail, then the riverside path back to Turnastone. One short steep climb, one gradual climb.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £13.75</p>
17/08/25	09:40	3.5	<p>Walk through fields and wide tracks to a farm then descending through fields and woodland to Kymin road. Short road walk back to start. We divert to nearby camp site for coffee.</p> <p>2 stiles, one short slope/step.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £2.50</p>
17/08/25	09:10	8.0	<p>Walk to Eaton Bishop, Bage Mill, Cannon Bridge and Ruckhall Mill.</p> <p>Features: 14th century church, riverside walk, iron-age hillfort and a former watermill.</p> <p>Total ascent 120 metres/400 feet, one steady climb.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £12.50</p>

Date	Time	Length (miles)	Description and Further Information
31/08/25	09:00	9.0	The walk follows the Severn way alongside the river Severn and we pass through Severn Stoke, Croome park landscape (created by Capability Brown) and Earl's Croome. The walk is mostly flat and undulating. Fuel cost: £22.00