

Monmouth Rambling and Hillwalking Club

PROGRAMME FOR WALKS SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2023

(compiled by Mike Brewer)

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
3.9.23	RRCP 09:10	9.1			<p>From Llanthony Priory a steep climb up the attractive valley of Cwm Bwchel to a cairn at Bal Bach. Then continue up to the trig point at Bal Mawr. We then follow the ridge line along the Cambrian Way before dropping down the the village of Capel-y-fin.</p> <p>1920 feet of ascent. One prolonged steep ascent at the start.</p> <p>Fuel Cost: £13 (shortest route via Cross Ash)</p>
3.9.23	09:45	4			<p>Rockfield Church, Monnow Valley, Tregate Bridge, Maypole.</p> <p>Mostly field walking, one short steep climb, one plank bridge. 8 stiles</p> <p>Alternative return via road, extra half a mile.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £1.20</p>
10.9.23	09:05	5.5			<p>We take a tarmac lane for approx. 1.25 miles before ascending on to a bridleway leading to the summit of the Black Hill giving view of the Olchen Valley, Monnow valley and across Herefordshire to the Midlands.</p> <p>A prolonged gradual ascent at the beginning of the walk.</p> <p>1 stile</p> <p>Fuel Cost: £12</p>
17.09.23	09:15	8.5			<p>A walk up Backbury Hill to viewpoint, descend through woods and fields to Checkley, on to Broadmoor Common via Sharpnage wood, return through Haugh wood and along Pentaloe Brook.</p> <p>Initial steep ascent towards Backbury Hill, then gradual uphill. The rest of the walk is undulating, nothing too demanding.</p> <p>Approx. 8 stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £13</p>
	09:15	5.5			<p>We walk along a very gradual ascending forestry track with lovely views over the Vale of Ewas to Cwmyoy Church. From there we climb up to the Gaer ridge to the Revenge stone. We continue up to Garn Wen – spectacular views all around, before returning on our path back along the ridge, passing Twyn Y Gaer. Down a steep lane, back to carpark.</p> <p>Fuel Cost: £10 (shortest route via Cross Ash)</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
24.09.23	09:40	9			Climb up to skirt the Kymin via Garth Wood and Beaulieu Wood. Crossing Staunton Road into Highmeadow Wood with views down the Wye Valley. Follow waymarked path up through woodland and down to Biblins Bridge. Take path along River Wye back to Monmouth. Mostly forest tracks and well worn paths. 1 moderate ascent. 1 fallen tree. No stiles.
1.10.23	09:05	9.5			From Longtown castle we ascend to the Hatterall ridge and Offa's Dyke path, panoramic views of Llanthony priory and surrounding area. We then head south along the ridge for just over a mile before descending to Clodock. From here we gradually ascend Mynydd Ferddin before returning to Longtown. One steep ascent to Offa's Dyke path and steep descent from it. One gradual ascent to Mynydd Ferddin. Fuel Cost: £12
1.10.23	09:35	4.75			Easy walk through woodlands and along the river Usk. No stiles. Gentle climb to the start. Lots of free parking in Usk Fuel cost: £9
8.10.23	09:20	7			Follow Monmouthshire and Brecon canal towards Llanover. Long, steady ascent to Goose & Cuckoo pub with some short steep sections. Descent across valleys back to canal. Approx. 25 stiles. Fuel cost: £14.50

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
15.10.23	RRCP 9.10	8.2 or 6.7*			<p>The route climbs northwards to Offa's Dyke path, then north-west along the ridge – excellent views – to the cairn above The Vision farm. Here it zig-zags down past the farm and across the Honddu stream, then uphill past a farm to the open hillside. Continue downstream to Sychtre – good views of Llanthony, it recrosses the stream via Tafolog bridge and follows the track (often muddy!) and quiet road leading back to Llanthony.</p> <p>*if wet, alternative route will avoid boggy stretch.</p> <p>Initial climb to Offa's Dyke 390 m (1280 feet). Secondary climb past Maes y ffin 100 m (330 feet), avoided if alternative route back is used. Fuel cost: £13.20 (shortest route via Cross Ash)</p>
15.10.23	09:35	3.5			<p>Stroll around Cleddon and Catbrook. Hopefully lots of water at Cleddon Falls!</p> <p>Number of stiles not known at present</p> <p>Fuel cost: £4.50</p>
22.10.23	9.15	8.5			<p>From the village we drop down to follow a brook, before climbing up to the ridge of Mynyddoedd Duon to join the Beacons Way. After 2 miles (panoramic views) we turn west down a gradual descent of an impressive valley to reach Blaenau. A pleasant, quiet lane takes us the last few miles back to Llanbedr.</p> <p>One gradual ascent on a good track lasting approximately 1 mile, with a similar descent down a valley between miles 5 and 6.</p> <p>5 stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £14.50</p>
29.10.23	09:20	7			<p>From the church, turn off a quiet country road to ascend through fields, then along a further stretch of lane, followed by a steep ascent through woodland to emerge onto Garway Hill Common. The return route descends on the far side of the hill down to the Monnow, finishing along another quiet road back to the church.</p> <p>At almost 1200 feet, Garway Hill Weather permitting, it affords spectacular 360 degree views over the Bristol Channel, Malverns, Black Mountains and beyond. Fuel cost: £8</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
5.11.23	09:20	8.5			<p>Walking to Bough Spring and Tidenham then along part of Offa's Dyke path to Wintour's Leap and the Devil's Pulpit. The walk includes woodland, heath and open countryside with great views of both the Severn Estuary and the Wye Valley.</p> <p>Approx.1200ft total ascent but nothing too steep.</p> <p>6 stiles</p> <p>Fuel cost: £8.50 (same if Wye Bridge closed)</p>
5.11.23	09:40	4-5			<p>Undulating countryside walk on footpaths and quiet lanes. Views of Skirrid and Bloreng. Gradual uphill at start, ¾ mile, otherwise level. A few stiles.</p> <p>Fuel Cost: £4</p>
12.11.23	09:10	7			<p>Coal and iron mine remains, interesting geology, and attractive woodland. The walk is mostly on forest tracks and old railways</p> <p>Two gentle ascents, one steepish descent.</p> <p>Toilets and café at Dean Heritage Centre.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £9 (£11.50 if Wye Bridge closed)</p>
19.11.23	09:15	7			<p>Starting on the banks of the River Severn, we walk through the back roads of Newnham a gradual ascent inland, (views back to the river), to Dry Wood. Heading south through the woods, the route bends round to Lower Soudley ponds. Following Little Dean Walk on good paths, we emerge at Dean Hill, with panoramic views of the Severn Valley. It's all downhill from here, through pastures and back through Newnham to the start.</p> <p>One gradual ascent through pastures lasting for approximately 1 mile, with a similar descent on the latter stages. 5 stiles.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £10</p>
19.11.23	10:00	5			<p>Vauxhall Fields, to Osbaston and Manson.</p> <p>Pub stop at Royal Oak. Return via Osbaston.</p> <p>Gradual ascent.</p> <p>Fuel cost: N/A</p>

Date	Time RRCP	Walk Length (miles)	Leader(s)	Start	Description and Further Information
26.11.23	09:40	7.1			<p>A ramble through woodland, open fields, Trellech Common and Whitebrook valley. Parsons and Vicars Allotments add to the fun! Plenty of industrial archaeology and views above Bigsweir and Beacon View. A steep descent and a steady climb up through Whitebrook.</p> <p>Fuel cost: £3</p>