

Letter sent by email or post to all Walk Leaders for Severnside Group

4 December 2010

Dear (walk leader by name)

### **SEVERNSIDE RAMBLERS: Changes to the Walks Programme**

The Committee wishes to record their thanks to you and all walk leaders for providing a full programme of interesting and varied walks. Without you the Group would cease to function.

Probably none of us enjoys change but we need to ensure that we make best use of our limited financial resources. Various changes were discussed at the Group's AGM on 21 November 2010 and I am writing on behalf of the new Committee to let you know about those changes that affect you as a walk leader. Unchanged for 2011 is that Joy Harrison will continue as Walks Co-ordinator and Ken Mill as Web Master.

In order to reduce expenditure throughout the Area there will be changes to the frequency with which the Severnside programme and AAN are issued. From February 2011 our programme will cover four months rather than the three months we have known to date. Future programmes will cover:

February / March / April / May  
June / July / August / September  
October / November / December / January

Because of increased printing costs we wish to keep the programme to the current four pages and still include a short newsletter and the adverts which generate income for the Group. Whilst the months between September and April may be manageable there is the possibility that the months of May to August, which include evening walks, could present a challenge fitting everything in the space available. To facilitate the new arrangements we will be making the following changes:

#### **1 Submitting Walks**

- (i) The **walk description** will be limited to two lines. This will not be such an effort as it may seem - most of the walk descriptions in the current programme are two lines. Rather than the Walks Co-ordinator modifying what walk leaders submit the Committee believe it is better for you to ensure that your walk descriptions are as succinct as possible. Please try to limit your description on the 'submit a walk form' to four lines maximum. This should equate to approximately 122 characters including spaces and punctuation, but you are not expected to count. Ken is trying to adapt the form so that the number of characters you can use is restricted but at the moment the system is proving resistant to change in this respect!

(ii) **Contact telephone number:** Some walk leaders give both landline and mobile number. Please provide only the one which is more likely to enable walkers to contact you easily.

(iii) **Grading Walks:** In future programmes all walks will be graded in accordance with the Ramblers definitions found on the Group Walks Finder. The definitions are attached for ease of reference. All our walks are uploaded to the Ramblers' Walk Finder and have to be graded. It seems more appropriate that you grade your walk rather than someone else who has to guess and possibly get it wrong. To assist you, the 'submit a walk form' will be modified to prompt you to include the grade of walk and there will be a drop down list from which to select.

(iv) **Contribution Rate:** This will increase to 10p per mile with effect from the February to May 2011 programme. Joy will amend the donation amount shown against any walks already submitted.

If you have any problems with the new 'submit a walk form' please contact Joy on 01179 334998 or at [walksec@severnside-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:walksec@severnside-ramblers.org.uk) in the first instance or if there is a technical problem please contact Ken on 01179 315108 or at [webmaster@severnside-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@severnside-ramblers.org.uk)

### 3 New Look Programme

Attached is an example of how the new programme will look. Examples were circulated for information at the AGM.

### 4 Programme for February to May 2011

(i) **Please submit an extra walk:** The next programme is for an extra month so if you used to put on one walk per programme please consider putting on an additional walk either in this or a future programme.

(ii) **Sunday Walks: Long and Shorter Walks**

On some Sundays the programme has a long walk and a shorter alternative walk (usually up to 6 miles). If you usually put on longer Sunday walks and see a walk already on the preview programme for the date you wanted, please check the distance of the walk already submitted. If it is a shorter walk there is still place for your walk (and vice versa for those who usually put on shorter walks). The Committee would like there to be a clear distinction between shorter and longer Sunday walks so there is no unnecessary competition between walks on the same day. If you are in any doubt please contact Joy.

(iii) **Evening Walks:** For those of you who put on evening walks, please do not forget to submit them for May by the deadline of 3 January 2011.

The Committee hope you will soon adapt to the changes and will welcome your feedback on the new arrangements – either speak to a Committee member or you can contact me via [information@severnside-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:information@severnside-ramblers.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Jean Aellen  
Severnside Group Secretary

Letter to walk leaders – December 2010

**Attachment: Grading of walks**

**Ramblers' Definitions**

- **Easy Access** Walks for everyone, including people with conventional wheelchairs and pushchairs, using easy access paths. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn. Assistance may be needed to push wheelchairs on some sections.
- **Easy** Walks for anyone who does not have a mobility difficulty or a specific health problem or is seriously unfit. Suitable for pushchairs if they can be lifted over the occasional obstructions. Comfortable shoes or trainers can be worn.
- **Leisurely** Walks for reasonably fit people with at least a little country walking experience. May include unsurfaced rural paths. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are recommended.
- **Moderate** Walks for people with country walking experience and a good level of fitness. May include some steep paths and open country, and may be at a brisk pace. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.
- **Strenuous** Walks for experienced country walkers with an above average fitness level. May include hills and rough country, and may be at a brisk pace. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.
- **Technical** Walks for experiences and very fit walkers with additional technical skills. May require scrambling and use of ropes, ice axes and crampons.

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**Attachment: New Look Programme Example**

**Walks and Social Events Programme**

<b>Date / Grade</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Depart Time</b>	<b>Walk Length / Time</b>	<b>Map</b>	<b>Distance / Suggested Donation</b>	<b>Leader or Contact</b>
Sat 27 Nov M	<b>Avon &amp; Brislington Brook:</b> From Chequers – parks, brooks, Avon & little known lanes	9.30	6.5 miles	E155	24 miles £2.40	David 077639 25810
Sun 19 Dec M – alternative	<b>Haresfield Beacon:</b> Pleasant seasonal walk in picturesque Painswick with views of Severn Vale	9.30	10 miles	E167	50 miles £5.00	Steve 01454 633001
Mon 27 Dec L - FWW	<b>Four Sodburys /Churches:</b> largely flat lovely walk using Monarchs, Cotswold & Frome Valley Paths	10.00	5.5 miles	E167	19 miles £1.90	Joy 01179 334998