

Corsham Area Walking Groups



Descriptions and Contact Information

Corsham Wanderers

Pete Smith, 01249 713364, pds11ok@talktalk.net

Email newsletter from Pete, and details published in the *Corsham & Box Matters* bi-monthly magazine.

The monthly walks are normally on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The rambles are usually 10 miles, with shorter 5 mile walks every quarter (March, June, September & December) which are followed by an optional pub lunch. The walks are led by experienced walkers. There is no charge for our walks, unless transport is arranged.

The Corsham Wanderers, which started in 2008, are a very friendly group of walkers, of varying ages, and we welcome everyone. Beside the monthly rambles, we also organise an annual holiday and in the last 7 years have visited the Lake District. Walking day trips to Dorset, Devon, and South Wales have also been arranged over the years.

We have a festive Christmas walk and lunch which is always a well-supported occasion, with 30 walkers present in December 2014. The Wanderers invariably end their walks in a pub for a well-earned drink and a chat!

St. Bartholomew's Walking Group

Colin Craddock, 01249 713371, colincraddock@gmail.com, www.corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk

Details by email circulation from Colin, website, and Church News sheet at St Bartholomew, Corsham.

We walk in the areas around Corsham, Lacock, Box, Biddestone, Castle Combe and at times a little further afield.

On the longer walks walkers carry a picnic and sometimes stop at a pub to top up liquid levels at the end of the walk. On shorter walks, finishing at lunchtime, we often call at a pub for an optional lunch. There is no charge for our walks.

The group was set up in 2011 to provide a monthly weekday walk, of a moderate to challenging level, for regular walkers and those new to the activity. The walks are guided by an experienced walker and all routes are pre-walked. Although the group was established at St Bartholomew's church in Corsham everyone is welcome - "This church, any church, no church"!

Chippenham Ramblers

Roger Barnes, 01249 654944. rogerbarnes@lineone.net, www.ramblers-wilts.org.uk

New programme issued every 4 months: sent to members and Tourist Information Centres and also on Wiltshire and national Ramblers websites, <http://corsham.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/events>, and in the local newspaper. Or contact Roger for a copy (printed or email).

After three free walks people are expected to join Ramblers. Currently (2014) £33 annual (£3 monthly); £20 Annual concessionary (£2 monthly). You can walk with any Ramblers' group, anywhere in Britain.

People with special needs must be accompanied by someone responsible for their direct care (who needn't be a Ramblers member). Walking for Health (below) is run by the Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support. Your local Ramblers Group can provide bridging walks.

The roots of the Ramblers Association's local groups go back to the local rambling groups and walking clubs which sprung up in the late 19th century. Today there are nearly 500 Ramblers groups found across Britain. Our groups organise walks throughout the year for Ramblers members. Groups also campaign locally to promote walking and protect and expand the places we walk and many groups also carry out practical footpath maintenance.

West Wilts Ramblers

Peter Mundy, Chairman, 01225 762795 westwiltsramblers@gmail.com, www.ramblers-wilts.org.uk

We walk every Sunday and Wednesday. Wednesdays tend to be shorter walks that meet the needs of retired members. Walk details from website, Walk Finder page on national Ramblers website, and members receive a www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk

programme which we also distribute through parish magazines and Tourist Information Offices. There is no charge for the walks; however people who walk regularly will be encouraged to join.

West Wilts Ramblers is a group of The Ramblers Association which campaigns for access to and protection of the Countryside, promoting and encourage Walking. We are an active group which is dependent on the initiative and resourcefulness of its members. We have a Footpath Working Party that works under the instruction of Wiltshire Council Rights of Way team installing kissing gates, footbridges, path clearance and maintenance

Bradford on Avon Walkers are Welcome

Richard Craft, Chair, 01225 866601, walkboa@gmail.com, www.walkbradfordonavon.org

Monthly e-newsletter with walk details; sign up on website or by email. There is no charge to join or for walks, except at the annual Walking Festival that we also organise the first weekend in September.

“Encouraging people to walk in and around the delightful Bradford on Avon area.” It's very friendly and sociable and anyone is welcome to join us, wherever they live; all our walks are free and we aim to stop en route at a cafe, or on return to BoA. We like people to take an active role in managing the group if they are so inclined. We hope to see you at one of our walks in the future and at our annual Festival. Twitter: [@walkboa](https://twitter.com/walkboa), [@BOAwalkfest](https://twitter.com/BOAwalkfest)

Boxlea Women's Institute Walking Group

Julia Tyte, Walk organiser, home: 01225 744479, Julia.tyte@talktalk.net

Walks are announced at WI meetings and there a reminder email is available. This is an all-female group, and people who are not WI members are welcome as guests (phone Julia). There is no charge for the walks.

The local areas we walk in include Box, Ditteridge, Kingsdown, Wadswick and Neston, Colerne, Bathford, Monkton Farleigh, Marshfield, Monton Combe, Holt, Lacock, Castle Combe and Ford areas. We walk several times a year on Canal Towpaths e.g. Bradford on Avon out to Freshford, or into Bath from Batheaston, Devizes to Seend etc. Occasional special event walks for Charity or similar.

We enjoy walking and exploring our local countryside, and are all reasonably fit and active. We walk and talk and enjoy discovering new routes and paths. We include a refreshment stop at the end or half way round so we can all relax and enjoy the treat of being waited on at a pub or café, for cake or even lunch. Walkers are mostly the fit retired, so would be late 50s – 70s or thereabouts. Usually between 7 and 12 of us on any monthly walk.

Get Wiltshire Walking

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/getwiltshirewalking

Rosie Golding, 07917 599964 or rosie.golding@wiltshire.gov.uk

The table below shows walks in Corsham. Walks are led by trained walk leaders in other Wiltshire towns too, and the regular short walks always start at the same time and place and are planned to be mainly flat. They are part of England's national Walking for Health initiative, managed by The Ramblers Association and Macmillan Cancer Support, supporting you to get active and stay active. New walkers have to fill out a short outdoor health questionnaire and an emergency contact card. There is no charge for the walks.

Free, fun and friendly – explore your local area. Join the free weekly walking groups in Wiltshire led by fully trained walk leaders. The walks usually last around an hour and finish with a coffee and a chat.

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk, info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Details from above and in the *Cotswold Lion* newspaper twice yearly from local libraries etc.

The table below shows regular local walks on the first Tuesday of the month from the Fox & Hounds PH in Colerne and on the third Tuesday Selwyn Hall in Box. The routes change each month. A wide range of other and longer walks are arranged in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Cotswold Voluntary Warden leaders have undergone compulsory training in walks leadership, first aid and health and safety and often other training such as map and compass and parish warden training for those wardens who patrol particular areas on a regular basis and specialised training for work parties. A pre-walk always takes place prior to the public walk.

There is no charge for the walks, and donations for our Countryside Fund are invited. These are used by the Cotswold Voluntary Warden Service for projects of benefit to the locality that would not otherwise take place.

Recent local examples include a contribution to the boundary wall and associated works at Frank's Field in Colerne and the Box Rock Circus created by Elizabeth Devon and sited in the recreation ground at Box.

Long Distance Walking Association

www.ldwa.org.uk/wiltshire,

Lesley Bellis, Walks Secretary, 01225 810202, lesley.bellis842@btinternet.com

The Wiltshire branch of the Long Distance Walkers Association is one of over 40 local groups situated around the country. It's a very friendly group that is very encouraging, and welcomes walkers who want to extend their walking. In addition to the group walks, the LDWA organise a number of challenge walks of between 20 and 100 miles which must be completed within a defined time limit.

We generally walk throughout the year on the first Sunday and third Thursday of each month. Walks start at various locations in Wiltshire with regular visits to Gloucestershire and Somerset. We recommend that if you would like to come along for the first time you contact the Walks Secretary or the Walk Leader and they can make sure you are suitably briefed about the start location and terrain / distance that will be covered.

As with other clubs, please come along as a guest to see if the club is for you before you join. Joining the Wiltshire LDWA also means you can join any other LDWA across the country.

Corsham Area Walking Groups – Key Facts

This information has been gathered by Corsham for Walking and is of local walking groups that we know about and who all welcome new walkers. Corsham is a *Walkers are Welcome* town and Corsham for Walking also organises an annual Walking Festival in the Corsham area. To find out about these, and to receive updates to this list of local groups, use the link on our website www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk to subscribe to our occasional email newsletter. The latest version of this list will always be available on our website. Corsham for Walking do not accept responsibility for the information on these pages which has been supplied by the groups and compiled by us in good faith.

Here are some points all groups make. If you are not sure what clothing and stout footwear you need, or whether you are fit enough, ask. Walkers are responsible for their own and their children's personal safety and for their ability to complete the walk. Walks may be in hilly areas, except *Get Wiltshire Walking*. Bring water and snacks with you. For longer walks (over 5 miles) people usually need a packed lunch. This table shows the usual pattern of walks, and some groups do extra or special walks at times.

Group	When	Distance	Start Point	Children	Dogs
Corsham Wanderers	Sundays, monthly mid-month, 10 a.m.	5 miles and 10 miles	Mainly Corsham Area	If fit enough for the walk, and accompanied if under 16	No
Saint Bartholomew's Walking Group	Fridays, monthly (usually 2 nd Friday) 10 a.m.	5 to 8 miles	Corsham Area	If accompanied by a responsible adult	No
Chippenham Ramblers	Alternate Sundays, usually 10 a.m.	2 to 12 miles	Within an hour of Chippenham, car share from Bath Road Car Park, Chippenham	Children under 14 to be accompanied by a responsible adult; children age 15-17 need written parental consent if unaccompanied.	At leader's discretion if walk suitable
West Wilts Ramblers	Every Sunday and Wednesday, usually 10 a.m.	4 to 15 miles	West Wilts and surrounds	Children welcome, as Chippenham Ramblers above.	At leader's discretion if walk suitable
Bradford on Avon Walkers are Welcome	2 nd Sunday 9 a.m. final Tuesday 10 a.m. Annual Festival	5 to 7 miles (3 hours)	Bradford on Avon TIC, Westbury Gdns, by Town Bridge	If accompanied by a responsible adult	Assistance Dogs only
Boxlea Women's Institute Walking Group	Last Friday of month 10 a.m.	Typically 5 miles	Local, or car share from Selwyn Hall	At leader's discretion	By arrangement
Get Wiltshire Walking	9:30 a.m. every Wednesday	60 to 90 minutes mainly flat	Corsham Town Hall	If accompanied by a responsible adult	No
Cotswold Voluntary Wardens	First and Third Tuesdays, usually 10 a.m.	3 hours (5 miles)	Colerne and Box areas and wider Cotswolds	If accompanied by a responsible adult.	Assistance dogs, if walk suitable
Wiltshire branch of the Long Distance Walkers Association	Throughout the year, generally on the first Sunday and the third Thursday of every month	Sunday walks 18 to 20 + miles. Thursday walks 12 to 16 miles	Various points in Wiltshire. We regularly venture into Gloucestershire and Somerset	If accompanied by a responsible adult	Depends on the leader and details are included in the walking list