

## **Gloucester Cathedral Ramblers' Walk - Saturday 31 January 2026 - Report**

### **Friendship Trail: Haresfield Beacon and Edge - Circular Walk**

Saturday's forecast was a bit bleak, but 16 Ramblers - Andrew, Anne, Geoff, Helen, Jan, Jean, John, Jon, Laurie, Lucy, Michael, Mike, Mike, Philip, Richard and me - turned up promptly at Haresfield Beacon car park kitted out for a rainy day. After the safety briefing, we strolled out to the topograph on the headland to admire the view out over Severn Vale and the Forest of Dean (while shivering in the chill breeze). About turn on the escarpment and down a bit to the shelter of the beech trees in Halliday's and Maitland's Woods. Just the occasional clumps of snowdrops and catkins hinted at Spring. The trees were bare, with the faintest hint of colour from the buds.

The view to the north showed now and again through the gaps in the treeline. Along the way was Cromwell's Stone to commemorate the Siege of Gloucester in 1643. Other walkers were out on the trails with a few carrying packs suggesting they were on the Cotswold Way.

Two of us had walked this Friendship Trail recently so spotted the turn up and over the hill to the Edgemoor Inn. Drinks were ordered then some nice food from 12.00.

The rain had come on, so we expected the afternoon to be a challenge, but no, it cleared away and the winter sun shone through the trees. The last long climb up from Pitchcombe was a trial after the previous ~250m of ups and downs so we divided into two groups to either race or plod up the hill to the flattish edge of Standish Woods and so to the car park. Back in the cars and away home near enough on time. A much-enjoyed day out marked by a few muddy trousers but staying up on the tops of the hills saved us the worst of Cotswold mud.

**Bruce Matheson**

2 February 2026