

JANUARY – JUNE 2019 • ISSUE 40

COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

FREE

WALKS & EVENTS GUIDE INSIDE!

**Exploring all
the Cotswolds
has to offer**

Park Life

Patterns in Nature

Blooms, Bugs, and Beasties

Cotswolds events 2019

Birds of a Feather



Support the Cotswolds AONB!

Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow! Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk





— LONGBOROUGH —
— FESTIVAL OPERA —

2019 FESTIVAL

JUNE – AUGUST

WAGNER
DAS RHEINGOLD
5, 7, 9, 11 June

DONIZETTI
ANNA BOLENA
22, 25, 27, 29 June, 1 July

MOZART
DON GIOVANNI
11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 July

CAVALLI
LA CALISTO
29, 31 July, 2, 3 August

“ GLYNDEBOURNE AND COVENT
GARDEN NOW HAVE INCREASINGLY
SERIOUS COMPETITION ” Telegraph

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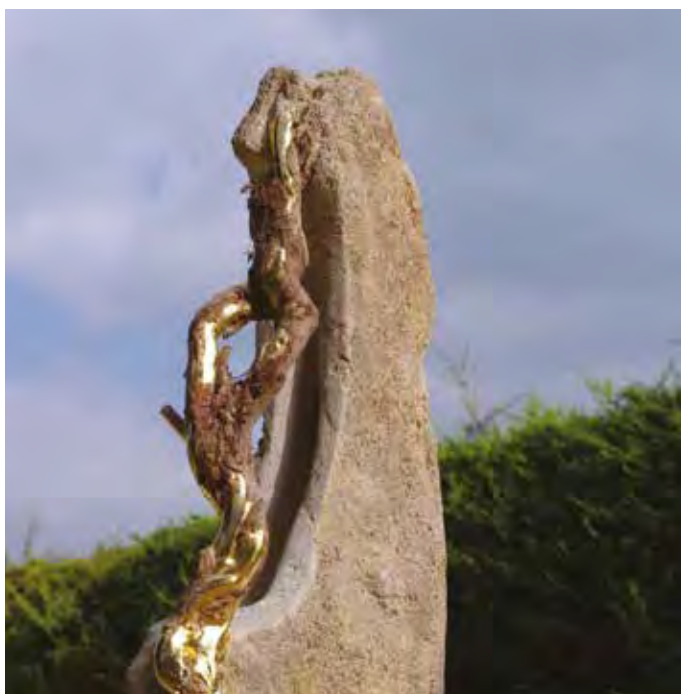
CARING FOR THE COTSWOLDS



Give back to the Cotswolds AONB!

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty attracts millions of visitors every year. Help look after this beautiful region by joining Caring for the Cotswolds and inviting your customers to give a little back!

For more info: cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/caring



Cotswold Sculptors Association

A group of fine artists who live in the
Cotswolds and surrounding counties

New exhibition coming in 2019!

More info: cotswoldsculptorsassociation.com



MAKE IT A COTSWOLDS DOUBLE

*Visitors to the Cotswolds can now enjoy sampling
our range of artisan spirits in two places;*

Our shop at the distillery in Stourton, or our new location
on the High Street in picturesque Bourton-on-the-Water.
Both are packed full of character and, best of all, packed
full with our award-winning spirits.

So if you're looking for something really special then
why not visit our areas of *outstanding natural spirits*.



COTSWOLDSDISTILLERY.COM



Welcome

The first half of the year sees the landscape across the Cotswolds AONB blossom from the stark beauty of winter into the full bloom of spring and early summer. There's so much to observe and enjoy as we journey from January to June... among many things, we've been finding out about birdsong,

wildlife spotting, the agricultural and cultural history of this wonderful region, how to get children enthusiastic about being outside, and the different events and activities going on across the area.

Alana Hopkins, Editor

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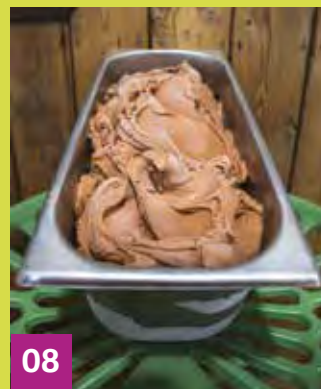
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THE COTSWOLD'S BLEAT

Why name a breed of sheep – and a magazine – ‘Cotswold Lion’? Siân Ellis investigates.

“The Cotswold Lion is a great emblem for our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it has huge historical significance for the landscape,” says award-winning Cotswold Lion breeder Steve Parkes.

But why the nickname ‘Lion’ for what is more properly called the Cotswold sheep? Steve points to the breed’s long, thick, curly wool: “It’s what we call a lustre fleece; it’s got sheen, shine and a crimp.” As to the sheep’s shaggy forelock: it was traditionally left after shearing to enable potential buyers to feel the quality of the wool.

Steve elaborates further on the Lion nickname by telling how, in days gone by, a young lad in the Cotswolds, his imagination fired by tales of lions with great manes in Africa, saw a Cotswold sheep with its fleece billowing in the wind and ran home shouting, “I’ve seen a lion!” As befits an old breed, the Cotswold Lion’s story is a colourful mix of fact and legend! Some even romantically claim the very name ‘Cotswolds’ derives from the old words for ‘sheep shelters’ (cots) in ‘rolling hills’ (wolds).

The Romans probably introduced

the forerunner of the Cotswold sheep, which thrived on the local thin-soiled limestone slopes. In the medieval heydays of wool, some 500,000 Cotswold Lions grazed the hills and merchants reaped immense riches from trade and exports in the Golden Fleece. To this day the legacy of their wealth lives on in handsome merchants’ houses and stunning ‘wool churches’. Mill buildings around Stroud and weavers’ cottages in the likes of Bradford-on-Avon recall a once-flourishing cloth trade.

Following changes in cloth manufacture during the Industrial

Revolution, demand for longwool breeds like the Cotswold plummeted and flocks dwindled. The Cotswold is still categorised by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust as ‘at risk’, however thanks to people like Steve and the Cotswold Sheep Society numbers are rising again.

“We are back up to about 1,500 registered females,” says Steve, who keeps around 50 Cotswold Lions near his Stow-on-the-Wold home. The lustrous fleece is in demand among handspinners, he says. “It can make an extremely fine thread, almost like silk. A Dutch lady also comes over to buy my fleeces for felting.”

Keen to ensure the Lion continues to bleat, Steve raises awareness of the breed by giving slide show talks. He also hires out rams to other flocks. “The Cotswold Lion has such historical significance and it’s important to keep the gene pool, you never know what breed qualities will be needed in future.” **SE**

For further information:

Steve Parkes, tel. 07776 143643

Cotswold Sheep Society

cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk

**“In the medieval
heydays of wool, some
500,000
Cotswold Lions
grazed the hills...”**



Nick Turner



Nick Turner



Nick Turner

Nick Turner



**“It can make an
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thread, almost
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NEWS BULLETIN



Top stories from the Cotswolds Conservation Board

Cotswolds LEADER

The Cotswolds LEADER Programme has supported 32 projects with a total grant value of £1 million! Collectively this investment has created just over 45 jobs across the Cotswolds.

The Programme has performed particularly well in its support of rural businesses, farming, and forestry.



Conservation News

The Cotswolds Conservation Board has been awarded a grant of over £200,000 from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for a 3 year project, Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands, to conserve, restore and create wildflower-rich limestone grasslands across the Cotswolds.

£35k

Caring for the Cotswolds

Caring for the Cotswolds has so far raised over £35k in funds contributed by visitors and businesses across the region. Recent projects supported with grants from the fund include orchard planting and training by Avon Wildlife Trust, a Gloucestershire charcoal making business, and nature reserve conservation in Oxfordshire, among others.



Earth Hour 2019

Remember to take part in the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring millions of people to take action for our planet and nature. 30 March 2019, 8.30pm. earthhour.org

Ash Dieback

Ash Dieback is expected to affect at least 90% of the Cotswolds ash trees over the next 5-10 years. Work continues to explore options for mitigating the devastating effects of the disease across the landscape.



Niel Curwen MBE

Friends and former colleagues were sad to learn that the Cotswolds Conservation Board's first chairman, Niel Curwen, died in September 2018. Niel spent over 40 years devotedly contributing to the effective management, conservation and enjoyment of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). He was Chairman of the AONB Joint Advisory Committee, the AONB Partnership and then, from 2004-2010, the first Chairman of the Cotswolds Conservation Board. He was awarded an MBE in the 2009 New Year's honours.

Niel farmed in the Cotswolds from 1957, retiring in 1996. In addition to farming and the Cotswolds AONB he was a governor of Hartpury College from 1979; a life member of the National Trust, serving 9 years as a member of the Severn Regional Committee and 20 years as Chairman of the Management Committee for Minchinhampton Common; a life member of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust with 25 years as a trustee and director; and in 1975 a founding member of the Gloucestershire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG).

For more news from the Cotswolds Conservation Board visit cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

1000 YEARS Of History

In conversation with...

Sudeley Castle and Gardens, home to Lady Elizabeth Ashcombe, is just outside Winchcombe, and sits against a backdrop of beautiful Cotswold hills. With royal connections going back a thousand years, the castle is rich in history. Queen Katherine Parr, King Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Queen Elizabeth I, Richard III, and King Charles I have all featured in Sudeley's story...

Image courtesy of Sudeley Castle and Gardens



Image courtesy of Sudeley Castle and Gardens



Image courtesy of Sudeley Castle and Gardens



In the 1800s, Sudeley was rescued from dereliction by the wealthy Worcester glove-makers, John and William Dent, who began an ambitious restoration project – continued their nephew, John Coucher Dent, and his wife Emma Brocklehurst.

Here, Lady Ashcombe shares some of her favourites from the castle's extensive collections.

Satin Stumpwork Box

This box is decorated with silk thread and gilt metal, and has seven secret drawers. It was made during the reign of Charles II, around 1660. Stumpwork is a style of embroidery in which the stitching is raised from the surface to form a 3D effect.

Rare Breed Birds

Sudeley has the largest public collection of rare-breed pheasants in the world. It is home to 16 rare pheasant species, including the dazzling golden pheasant and the bold and beautiful Lady Amhersts pheasant, as well as two male peacocks who roam freely around the grounds.

Image courtesy of Sudeley Castle and Gardens



Image courtesy of Sudeley Castle and Gardens



Image courtesy of Sudeley Castle and Gardens



Bombards

Also known as 'blackjacks', these oxhide ale jugs were used by the encamped Royalist and Roundhead armies during the English Civil War. These examples belonged to Charles I and Oliver Cromwell.

An Allegory of the Tudor Succession

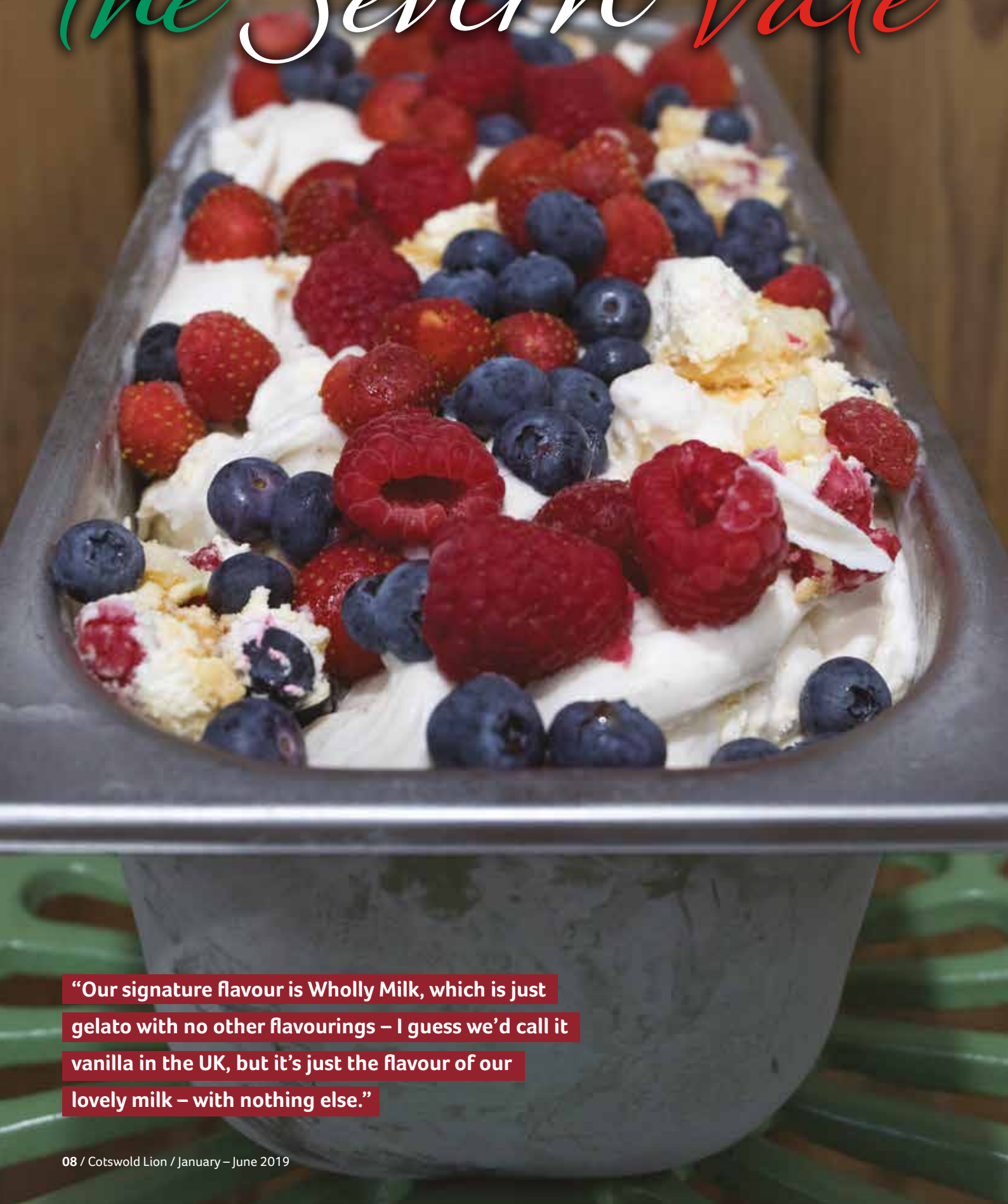
This painting, by Lucas de Heere, was commissioned by Elizabeth I in 1572. The famous painting is a political and religious proclamation and shows Henry VII passing the sword of justice to Edward VI, with Elizabeth I on the right, and Mary I and her husband Philip of Spain to the left. The painting contains lots of symbolism relating to the Church of England and Catholicism.

Textile Collection

Emma Dent's dressing room is a treasure trove of intricate, colourful, and delicate fabrics from around the world. She collected needlework of all traditions and brought back many treasures from her travels. The display of this extensive collection rotates to show as many items as possible.

More info and opening times:
sudeleycastle.co.uk

A little taste of Italy in the Severn Vale



“Our signature flavour is Wholly Milk, which is just gelato with no other flavourings – I guess we’d call it vanilla in the UK, but it’s just the flavour of our lovely milk – with nothing else.”



As Wholly Cow Gelato approach their first birthday this summer, Alana Hopkins talks to the team and finds out what makes this Italian-style treat such a hit.

The Hobbs family have been farming and producing milk on the Elmore Estate for nearly 50 years.

The newest additions to their product range are a delicious gelato and butter. As Jenni Hobbs explains, “the Severn vale is, and always has been, perfect for grazing. Our cows – which now include Brown Swiss, Holstein Friesian, British Friesian, Norwegian Red and Fleckvieh – love to graze here. We milk a big happy family of about 200 of these lovely ladies”. The family farms approximately 350 acres, and the cows are out grazing from as early as the weather allows. Last year, the cows were outside from the end of March until November. Jenni and husband Jerry firmly believe that outdoor cows are happier, and produce healthier milk.

The farm has long been supplying another local, family-run business – Cotteswold Dairy in Tewkesbury with free range milk – but in 2018, the Hobbs family branched out into something a little different...

Jenni and her 20 year old daughter Emily dreamt of making quality products from their free range (Pasture Promise) milk for years. Emily describes how she had the gelato idea when her parents looked for ways of diversifying and adding value to the milk from the dairy herd.

After successfully applying for a Cotswold LEADER grant to help realise this dream, Emily and Jenni had everything they needed – with their savings, the grant, and their team in

place, they converted an old calf byre into a processing room. James Webb, Cotswolds LEADER Programme Manager says: “I’m really pleased that the Cotswolds LEADER Programme could support the farm business to diversify and grow. Moreover, this is a fantastic initiative that is putting quality produce from the Severn Vale on the map.”

Emily invested time into training and experimenting to find the perfect gelato recipe and flavour combinations. To make their ‘fior de latte’ gelato, she uses over 70% of their whole milk (unhomogenised). This is pasteurised with free range double cream, on site in their own machines, before sugar is added. The result is an intensely flavoured gelato, served at a slightly higher temperature to give it a perfectly soft, more-ish consistency.

The inventive flavours Emily creates are making Wholly Cow a hit with customers. Inspired by the changing seasons on the farm, Emily makes small batches so she can change the flavours regularly. Summer 2018 choices included quince and prosecco, pear and ginger, strawberry shortcake, spiced plum (with plums from the family’s own garden), hazelnut, and more.

It’s paying off: since Wholly Cow opened its shop, it’s been a triumph. Emily says, “Our signature flavour is Wholly Milk, which is just gelato with no other flavourings – I guess we’d call it vanilla in the UK, but it’s just the flavour of our lovely milk – with nothing else. It’s the flavour that represents what

Mum and I always wanted to achieve – an amazing product that’s made from start to finish right here on the farm. We’re proud of that quality!”

Wholly Cow has seasonal opening times: follow them on Facebook for up to date info @whollycowgelato

Gelato is £2.50 for one scoop, or £3.50 for two. Tubs are £5 for 500ml/£9 for 940ml to take away. Visit Hobbs Dairy at Barhouse Farm, Elmore, GL2 3NT to taste it for yourself. **AH**

Passionate about local produce, Jenni Hobbs gives us her top three tips for finding and supporting the best locally produced food and drink:

- **Get to know your area** – there are great producers on your doorstep, find out which farmers will sell direct from the farm, or supply local shops.
- **Teach your family** about real food. Where is it from? How is it produced? Is it local? Is it free range? Information is everything.
- **Get out of your supermarket comfort zone!** We all need supermarkets to a degree, but *fresh food* is different: it should always be local. Look on sites like bigbarn.co.uk or happerley.co.uk to find your local producers.

Park Life

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, which as well as protecting our iconic landscapes, opened up the countryside and allowed many more people to connect with nature. Siân Ellis finds out more.



The Act, which gave birth to our wonderful network of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), was described at the time as a “recreational gift to Britain’s returning Second World War service men and women”. It set out to recognise, conserve and enhance access to landscapes deemed to be “of national importance and quality”.

The Cotswolds has a special if little known link to the Act. Because our famous native son, author Laurie Lee, had a few years earlier travelled the land to research a Ministry of Information film to promote the idea of National Parks. All the more reason for the Cotswolds (designated an AONB in 1966) to celebrate the 70th anniversary and the family of inspiring landscapes to which it belongs!

Today there are 13 National Parks and 38 AONBs in England and Wales, their landscapes as varied as the mountainous Lake District and beach-edged Pembrokeshire Coast. The

Cotswolds, of course, has its own special place in people’s hearts, often being described as the quintessential English rural landscape.

The key to the Cotswolds’ character is its underlying Jurassic limestone geology, from which springs its unrivalled, harmonious fusion of landscape scenery, built heritage and history. Walking the 102-mile (164km) Cotswold Way along the dramatic limestone escarpment from Bath to Chipping Campden; clearing your mind ‘away from it all’ on the high wolds where big skies stretch forever; treasuring the tranquillity of a secluded river valley: all these precious experiences come courtesy of the wild elemental magic of time fashioning nature’s gift of the limestone beneath your feet through millennia.

Add to this the Cotswolds’ great ‘wool’ churches, merchants’ houses and weavers’ cottages built on the medieval wealth of the Golden Fleece of sheep grazing the thin-soiled limestone slopes;



distinctive dry-stone walls threading around fields; towns and villages that are a kaleidoscope of gold-to-creamy-grey local limestone: everything sits so harmoniously within the Cotswolds landscape.

Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, an independent review panel, led by Julian Glover, looking into our designated landscapes will report later this year on the scope for expanding AONBs and National Parks. At 790sq miles (2,038sq km), the Cotswolds AONB is larger than any current National Park in England except for the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales, and attracts the third largest number of day visits. Many people feel the time is right to seek National Park status and the extra benefits this could bring.

The Cotswolds already meets the criteria for National Park designation in terms of great natural beauty and high value open-air recreation – the area boasts over 3,000 miles (4,830km) of public rights of way, as well as fabulous opportunities for more adventurous pursuits like hot air ballooning and gliding. A more holistic, integrated area-wide approach to issues from landscape management to advisory services could also be achieved.

UK National Parks describe themselves as

‘Britain’s breathing spaces’ and 70 years after their

creation, we need breathing spaces more than ever.



Turning back the clock to 1949, the legislation that enabled National Parks and AONBs to be created was described at the time as “the most exciting Act of the post-war Parliament”. Yet it had taken a century of public pressure and campaigning to achieve, with Romantic poets like Wordsworth celebrating the ‘untamed’ countryside and a failed freedom to roam parliamentary bill (1884) all part of the back story.

Following steadily mounting public

demands, a Government inquiry in 1931 recommended the creation of a ‘national park authority’ to identify suitable areas to designate. Subsequent inaction led to the mass trespass on Kinder Scout in the Peak District in 1932, while leisure activity groups (the Ramblers Association to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England) joined together to lobby for protection of “the grand open country” and public access to its “glorious freedom”. And so the

landmark National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act came to be.

UK National Parks describe themselves today as ‘Britain’s breathing spaces’ and 70 years after their creation was enabled, we need breathing spaces more than ever. The Cotswolds, with its internationally important flower-rich grasslands and ancient broadleaved woodlands, its rare fauna, rich landscape heritage and away-from-it-all hills, is just such a place. **SE**

Should the Cotswolds become a National Park?

*Please let us know your views, email nationalpark@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk
To find out more about the UK’s National Parks, visit nationalparks.gov.uk
For more information on the Glover Review, search on gov.uk for
‘Landscapes review: National Parks and AONBs’*

PATTERNS IN NATURE

Stevie Edge-McKee, Education Programme Manager at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, offers some inspiring ideas for getting children outside and exploring the Cotswolds AONB this year.

Getting children out for a walk can sometimes be a challenge, and in the colder months, even more so! But if you have something to spur them on and to keep them on the move, they love being outside.

Children really take to exploring outdoors when they have a mission, something to look for, and this half of the year is perfect for searching for patterns in nature.

How to get started...

Let your child set the direction of travel next time you're in an open green space. Let their curiosity define which path you take, no matter how wild. You might end up in places you haven't been before and you usually find that this means they enjoy exploring.

Take a small ball of wool with you when you next head out for a walk. Wool and natural objects can be used to make a number of fun toys. Gather



Image Courtesy of Stevie Edge-McKee

up sticks as you walk. With one stick, cut a length of wool and tie it to the end to make a fishing rod, or magic wand. Put two sticks together in a cross shape and wrap a length of wool around them to create a stick figure. Or simply use the wool to tie around a stick, adding in pieces of nature, like leaves, under the wool as you walk. Tell a story about your stick when you get home, recalling the nature you saw as you walked.

Once you start to look closely at form you will start to see just how many patterns there are in the natural world and how easily they can be used to inspire children to look beyond the obvious. This can open up conversations about the natural world and you might not know all the answers, but you don't need to! A love of nature is important if children are going to grow into adults who care about wildlife and wild places, and who understand that being outside is important for their wellbeing.

Have a look at the many leaves that are either on our trees, on low hanging branches, or which have dropped to the ground. Each leaf will have its own pattern and intricate network of veins. See if you can play a game of snap to find leaves that are similar.

Look at the trunk of each tree as you walk around. Each trunk will have different marks and shapes, and each tree will have different textures to touch. Take a crayon and some paper outside with you and do some bark rubbings of your favourite tree trunk.

Look out for birds flying in formation overhead or, if you are close to a pond or stream, look for tadpoles; or mayfly, damselfly, dragonfly or stonefly nymphs.

Look for paths in the grass or hedges, or for holes in the ground and discuss what mammal is likely to have made them, you might easily miss the scratch marks of a badger looking for food unless you take a close look at where you are walking.



Image Courtesy of Stevie Edge-McKee



Nick Turner

🍃 Use twigs to mark patterns in the ground or scratch away letters in the leaves.

🍃 Forage for natural items and place in a circular shape on the ground to make a simple or complex mandala, this is an activity that children with many interests can enjoy, as it involves collecting, lining up and categorising, and making creative patterns. Document your natural art

work on a smart phone and share with family and friends, and enjoy messing it up at the end to ensure you leave the space as it was before you arrived.

🍃 Ask your children to name a flower. It doesn't have to be the correct name. Naming a flower can help children to remember the plant and start to notice it in different locations.

🍃 Look for symmetry in seed heads, for rings inside fallen branches, and on or in fungi.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has an exciting and diverse education and events programme, for more information please contact education@gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk or visit wildlifetrusts.org

CHILDREN REALLY TAKE TO EXPLORING OUTDOORS WHEN THEY HAVE A MISSION, SOMETHING TO LOOK FOR, AND THIS HALF OF YEAR IS PERFECT FOR SEARCHING FOR PATTERNS IN NATURE.

100 YEARS

OF FOOD, FRIENDSHIP AND CAMPAIGNING

2019 marks the centenary of the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes. Originally formed to revitalise rural communities and to encourage women to produce more food during WWI, the WI is the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. With just under 5,000 members, GFWI is thriving and has an exciting programme of celebratory events planned for 2019. Jan Turner, Chairman of GFWI, remembers one of the WI's original aims here with two delicious recipes sent in by fellow members – using local ingredients of course! More info: thewi.org.uk



Apple Chutney

1 litre White vinegar
500g Cooking apples peeled, cored and chopped
250g Onions peeled and sliced
250g Soft dark brown sugar
250g Raisins
100g Ground ginger
50g Dry mustard powder
100g Salt
10g Cayenne pepper
4 Cloves of garlic peeled & crushed

Put all the ingredients into a large saucepan and cook gently until hot and well blended then increase the heat and boil until thick and ready to set. Bottle in sterilized jars with non-corrosive lids, or cover with paper. Store for at least four weeks before using.

Gabrielle Falkiner, Ebrington



Gooseberry and Redcurrant Jam

750g Under-ripe gooseberries, topped and tailed
750g Redcurrants, stalks removed, fresh or frozen
625ml Water
1.5kg Caster sugar

Place the fruit in a large, heavy saucepan. Add the water, simmer on medium heat, mashing and stirring from time to time, 30 minutes or until softened. Reduce heat to low, add the sugar, stirring until dissolved completely. Bring to the boil and boil for 20 minutes. Test jam for set; if not, boil for 5 minutes more. Pour the jam into sterilized jars and secure with lids immediately.

Rosemary Bishton, Gotherington, Woolstone and Oxenton

BLOOMS, BUGS, AND BEASTIES

Bee orchid

Fallow deer

Peacock butterfly

Ox-eye daisy

Primrose

Parasol mushroom

Adonis blue

Roman snail

The Cotswolds AONB is a vibrant haven for nature and wildlife. See how many of these bugs, birds, blooms and beasties you can spot next time you're out and about exploring the region.

Green woodpecker

Robin

Bluebell

Betony

Cockchafer

Slow worm

THE COTSWOLDS

JANUARY TO JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

From exhibitions, gardens, and festivals to cross country night runs and cheese chasing, here are some Cotswolds highlights for the first half of 2019.*

JANUARY



1 1066: A Medieval Mosaic

Until 1 February

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

A re-recreation of the Bayeux Tapestry, handcrafted from 3 million pieces of spring steel. The mosaic, by Michael A. Linton, is 64 metres long, weighs 350kg, and took 33 years to complete.

FEBRUARY



2 Lambing at Cotswold Farm Park

From early February

cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

Learn all about lambing – from how a farmer plans their lambing season, to the after-care of the cute newborns – and maybe even try bottle feeding lambs in the animal barn.



3 Colesbourne Snowdrops

February – March

colesbournegardens.org.uk

One of England's greatest collections of snowdrops – enjoy a springtime stroll around the grounds and see how many varieties you can count up.

MARCH



4 Painswick Rococo Garden

March – April

rococogarden.org.uk/WhatsOn

Enjoy spring and early summer flowers in all their glory, including crocus, narcissus, hyacinth, iris, allium, primula, and many more.

APRIL



5 Chipping Norton Literary Festival

25 – 28 April

chiplitfest.com

An amazing, surprising, inspiring, thought-provoking, and fun literary festival for children and adults alike!

MAY



6 100 Mile Run Ultramarathon

10 – 13 May

100milerun.com/cotswold-way-challenge

Run 100 miles over four days along the beautiful Cotswold Way Trail, staying each night in the runners villages.



7 The Bath Festival

17 May – 2 June

bathfestivals.org.uk

With the community at its heart, The Bath Festival brings the streets of the city to life by celebrating with music and literature.





8 Wincombe Cotswolds Walking Festival

17 – 19 May

wincombewelcomeswalkers.com

A full weekend of varied walking in the beautiful landscape around Wincombe.



9 Lechlade Music Festival

24 – 26 May

lechladefestival.co.uk

Join in the fun at this multi award-winning, family-friendly festival in the market town of Lechlade, alongside the River Thames.



10 Lechlade Annual Vintage Rally & Country Show

25 – 27 May

lechladecollectorsclub.co.uk

Classic cars, motor cycles, commercial vehicles, tractors, collections, miniature steam, craft, music and morris dancing.



11 Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling

27 May

This world-famous event sees brave contestants racing and tumbling down a steep hill in a desperate effort to catch the coveted dairy prize – a weighty 8lb Double Gloucester.



12 Tetbury Woolsack Races

27 May

tetburywoolsack.co.uk

Strength and fitness are tested as competitors race to carry sacks of wool up and down a hill that reaches a gradient of 1 in 4. Plus a street fair, street entertainers, local stalls, and amusement rides.



13 Robert Dover's Cotswold Olimpick Games

31 May

olimpickgames.co.uk

A unique continuation of early rural sporting events, including shin kicking, relay races, and static jumping – with music, food, and attractions for spectators. A Cotswolds tradition not to be missed!

JUNE



14 The Burford Festival

6 – 16 June

burfordfestival.org

The 10th biennial Burford Festival – celebrating this ancient market town and all it has to offer.



15 Trek the Night Endurance Hike

9 June

action.org.uk/trek-night-cotswold-way

Trek the Night is a gruelling 40 mile midnight hike that will push you to your limits. Armed with map, torch, hiking shoes and determination, get ready to do battle!



16 Corsham Walking Festival

June 2019

corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk

Join in with this annual summer celebration of walking, local heritage and the countryside.



Don't forget that many venues across the Cotswolds AONB offer **Easter activities** and events, including Birdland, Sudeley Castle, Court Barn, and many more! Get online to search for activities near you.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

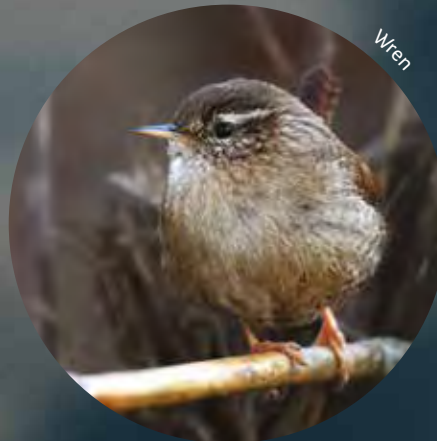
With so many different habitats across the Cotswolds AONB, birdsong often chimes out across the region. Siân Ellis joins wildlife detective, Ed Drewitt, on a dawn walk to experience spring birdsong at its best.

"Dawn is an excellent time for birds to be singing, before it's light enough for them to go foraging; the air is quite cool and clear, and sound can travel well," says Ed Drewitt.

"Birdsong is mixed in with our ideas of springtime, longer days and sunshine," Ed adds. "That's why I think it can also connect with people's wellbeing and make them feel good."

Among his many activities, Ed, a naturalist and birder, leads spring dawn chorus walks, including in and around the Cotswolds. He has been fascinated by birds "since at least seven years old" and his enthusiasm is infectious as he explains (with lively impressions of "flutey" blackbirds or "chiffchaff" warblers) the difference between bird calls and birdsong; the former often a sign to other birds of danger, "usually a very short sound, perhaps a whistle, a clicking, or a squeak from the likes of robins and wrens, or a clacking from a magpie".

Dawn chorus birdsong, on the other hand, is "this wonderful repeated repertoire of notes which is sending out a clear message about territory, or about attracting a mate. As you get into March,



Wren

many robins, blackbirds, song thrushes and other resident birds will have females receptive to mating or already on eggs and the males will be telling other males: keep out, this is my patch. In the UK it's mainly the males that sing in the dawn chorus.

"Then in April, migrant birds start appearing and joining in; chiffchaffs, blackcaps, redstarts. For them, singing is about attracting a mate."

All sorts of people come on Ed's dawn chorus walks, which can begin any time between 4.30am and 6am (dawn choruses are generally heard from the end of March through May).

"I get people together when it's still dark and there's no singing, so that they can hear the incremental changes that take place, from nothingness to a robin, then a mistlethrush and a blackbird, which are the first birds to sing in woodland.

"Then perhaps 20 minutes into the dawn chorus you start hearing things like great tit, blue tit, maybe a nuthatch, and they are followed by chiffchaffs and blackcaps. Until everything is singing at once – the peak lasts for about 20 minutes to half an hour.

"On dawn chorus walks we walk short distances, because we're stopping and listening, moving into different bird territories, hearing the variety of song. Often people aren't very good at listening and it's about opening up their ears to hear the different layers of sound."

Diverse habitat in the Cotswolds means a variety of birdsong experiences are on our doorsteps, Ed says.

"Typically in woodlands you hear blackbirds, robins, song thrush, wrens, nuthatch, while agricultural, arable land can be good for yellowhammers and their 'little bit of bread and no cheese' song, or corn buntings with their singing like jangly keys. Reedbeds around the Cotswold Water Park on the edge of the Cotswolds are good for birds like cuckoos and, from mid April, reed warbler and sedge warbler, which have lots of 'churrs' and whistles.

"People always go away from a dawn chorus walk feeling amazed that while they are normally tucked up in bed asleep there is all this sound going on. When they hear birds later in the day, it gives them pause to stop and listen more closely." **SE**



Nuthatch



Blue Tit

Activities and information

Dawn chorus walks and other birding activities with Ed Drewitt, eddrawitt.co.uk

Bird Identification courses from Cotswolds Rural Skills include indoor and outdoor sessions with tips on plumage, songs, calls and more, cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk, email ruralskills@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

BirdFacts from the British Trust for Ornithology includes audio links to help you identify birdsong and calls, bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts

RSPB, find local activities at www.rspb.org.uk/groups

Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society records and studies wildlife including birds, glosnats.org; North Cotswold Ornithological Society has merged with GNS to become its bird wing

Go birding

Great places to go birdwatching around the Cotswolds include:

Cleeve Common, where skylarks can be heard at most times of year, cleevecommon.org.uk

Sherborne Park Estate, for woodland and farmland birds, as well as waterfowl and maybe a glimpse of a kingfisher around the water meadows, nationaltrust.org.uk

Foxholes nature reserve, Burford, for woodland birds like nuthatch and treecreeper, bbwt.org.uk

On the edge of the Cotswolds: **Broadway Gravel Pit**, for everything from chiffchaffs to waterfowl and robins according to season, worcswildlifetrust.co.uk

Cotswold Water Park, for wintering water birds to spring warblers and summer breeding waders, waterpark.org



“PEOPLE ALWAYS GO AWAY FROM A
DAWN CHORUS WALK FEELING AMAZED...”



Planting trees at Bruern.

A bright future after 50 golden years

Through 2018 and into 2019, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens are celebrating their Golden Anniversary. We caught up with Head Warden, John Shaw, to talk about their highlights so far.



The Queen's Award

"The Queen's Award is an MBE for volunteering groups, so we were absolutely thrilled to receive it last year. Plus we took the opportunity to gather together and catch up at our 50th celebration with a wonderful,

sociable day sharing successes, stories, and experiences. Our celebrations included planning a set of projects to leave our mark on the Cotswolds.

Educating younger generations

"Our focus on schools brought children from Rose Hill Primary, Oxford out of the city to a Cotswolds farm and the Rollright Stones. Many had never visited the countryside, and it was immensely rewarding to see them connecting the

dots between the food they eat, and where it comes from. Their overawed reaction to seeing the Rollright Stones was priceless!"

Work parties

"We work all year round to improve peoples' experience in the Cotswolds, and recently our work parties have cleared Brackenbury Fort of scrub; created a new mobility scooter route near Winchcombe, and planned another

on Leckhampton Hill; planted a new wood at Bruern and further trees near Bath; while Walk Leaders launched a Cross Cotswolds Pathway walk, added to our collection of self-guided walks, and continue to offer over 300 guided walks a year."

What next...?

"Throughout our 50 years, we've constantly welcomed new volunteers. Anyone who would enjoy a couple of half days a month outdoors should think about joining us, and we're especially interested in recruiting more women and young people. The Cotswolds is for everyone, and we love to see this represented in our family of volunteers!"

For information about joining, email Rebecca.jones@cotswoldaonb.org.uk or see cotswoldaonb.org.uk/looking-after/volunteering



One of the first Warden work parties, 1968.

Images: courtesy of the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens.

On your bike...

"Electric bikes are new to me. An afternoon cycling around the quiet lanes surrounding Bibury and Coln Rogers sounded idyllic. Better yet if the bikes can pretty much power themselves up the steep hills! Peter from Cotswolds Bike Tours introduced my group to the bikes with minimal fuss – they're very easy to get to grips with, and after a quick zip up and down the lane at our meeting point to get used to them, we were off. We couldn't



have asked for a better afternoon – the bikes don't do everything for you, but they provide fantastic assistance when needed (if you feel tired, or there's a hill to climb). The route we explored took us through several pretty little villages, including the famously scenic Bibury, and we took in plenty of gorgeous views on the way. By teatime, I was converted. I can't wait to get another group of friends together for our next two-wheeled zoom around the Cotswolds.

Taking a different view...

Tune in

I'd heard so much about this country house opera venue, and so, on a warm evening in June, I eagerly went along to see *La Traviata*. What a setting – the view that opens out as you enter the grounds is breathtaking. The backdrop for the opera house features expansive skies, dry stone walls, and rolling hills; and a dreamy peacefulness drapes across the whole venue. Longborough was started by Lizzie and Martin Graham in 1991, with the idea of opera in a smaller space – but still with the immersive sound of an orchestra. In 2018, their daughter Polly joined as artistic director, making it a truly family affair. Longborough is friendly, informal, accessible, intimate – on the evening I attended, Lizzie was personally greeting all the guests as they arrived. *La Traviata* was set in the 20th century rather than its original historical context, and it was gripping from start to finish. As I'd expected, the performances were unforgettable: in turn both electrifying and deeply moving. And, the interval is as much of an event as the performance – the audience have plenty of options for their dinner: their own picnic, a picnic delivery, a buffet supper, or a restaurant meal. I took my own food, found a little spot on the grass and enjoyed one of the most relaxed evenings of the summer...the excitement of the performance



contrasting with the gentle hubbub of people chatting about the first half of the opera, the occasional popping of champagne corks, and the sun beginning to set behind me. Blissful.

Longborough Festival Opera's 2019 season begins on 5 June with Wagner's *Das Rheingold*. Information and tickets at lfo.org.uk

The Cotswolds is known for its huge variety of excellent walking routes. Alana Hopkins has been trying out some alternative ways to explore this beautiful region.

Saddle up

Everything about Bourton Vale Equestrian Centre is welcoming – from the friendly booking process, to the old double decker bus now used as a tack room, to the mounting block made from a stack of tractor tyres, and of course – the horses. I was paired up with Jude; I was told she is a mature horse... very dependable and obedient. She lived up to her reputation – the hack was at a leisurely pace,



and took us along a bridleway to Lower Slaughter – a popular Cotswolds village. We clopped along the road contentedly, through a ford, up the hill and past Slaughter Manor House (where the views open out across the countryside from the top of the hill), and then back down into the village.

A quick stop in the river (just for fun), and then we made our way home to the stables. The team at the equestrian centre can provide horses for riders at every level of experience, and they offer hacks all year round. The day I went was clear and bright, and was an unexpectedly meditative afternoon – my guide, Lucy, was just as happy to stroll along in contented quiet, as she was to chat away about the local area." **AH**

Cotswolds Guided Walks

January – June 2019

Walking in the fresh air is a great way to discover the outstanding scenery of the Cotswolds AONB – England's walking and exploring capital. Our programme of free guided walks runs all year, and there's no need to book – just turn up! Please do check the website before you set off to see any late changes.

The walks featured in these pages are mostly led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, those led by the Ramblers feature the Ramblers logo.



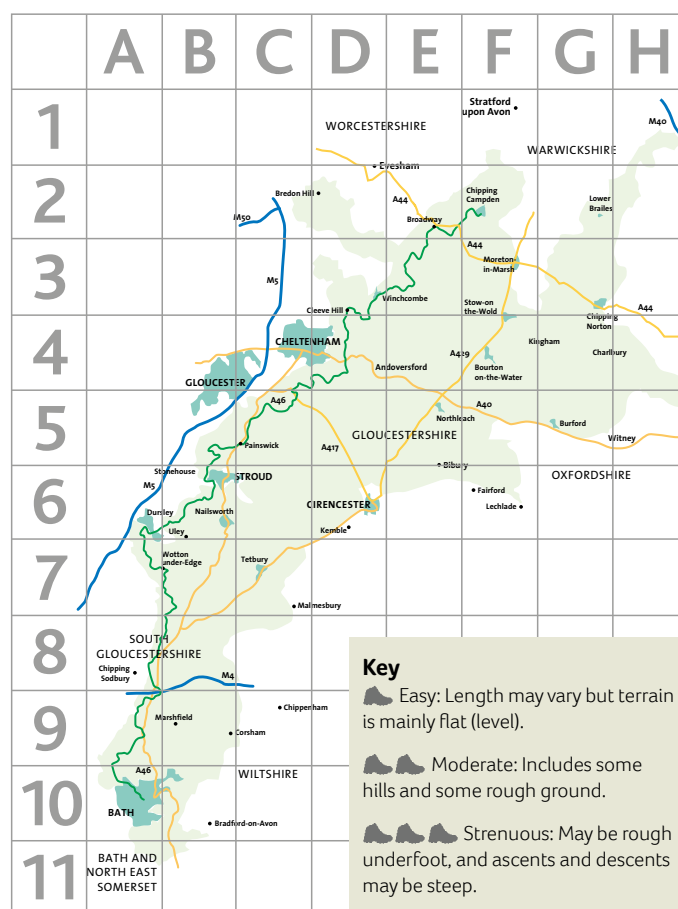
Nick Turner

Long distance Cotswolds routes

Want to make the 102 mile long Cotswold Way easier? Join a group of Cotswold Voluntary Wardens to walk 10 miles a month, starting in May every year. To walk South to North, contact Linda on 01242 604155 or waywalks@gmail.com. To walk North to South, contact John on 0117 9374561 or woodlandsbarn@btinternet.com. The Wardens also walk the Diamond Way in sections. Join them every month on a Wednesday from April to September – contact Linda on the details above for more information.

Tailor-made Cotswolds Walking

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens love walking! They will happily consider requests for bespoke, tailor-made routes for groups who want to really explore the Cotswolds, but acceptance depends on availability of leaders. For more information, or to make an enquiry, visit cotswolds.aonb.org.uk



Tips:

- Wear appropriate clothes and footwear for the weather and terrain.
- Sorry – only assistance dogs are allowed on walks.
- Walk leaders will take all reasonable care and precautions, but each walker is ultimately responsible for their own safety, and for determining their capability to complete a walk.
- Unless otherwise stated, walks are free – but voluntary donations to the Countryside Fund which supports our work party activities are always welcome on Cotswold Voluntary Warden walks.
- Always remember the Countryside Code!

Get social

Facebook [facebook.com/groups/cotswoldwardens](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cotswoldwardens) – share your photos with us!

Information, other walking groups, and festivals

- Cotswolds.aonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring
- Ramblers.org.uk
- Parkrun.org.uk
- wincombewelcomeswalkers.com
- dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk
- thewi.org.uk
- nationaltrust.org.uk



January

Tuesday 1 January 10:00am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square B9.

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould & Dave Wright

Tuesday 1 January 10:00am

Walks around Southstoke

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A New Year's Day walk in the valley below Southstoke along parts of the disused Somerset Coal Canal. Coffee stop only. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Cross Keys pub, Southstoke Road, Combe Down, Bath. ST 748 619. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Wednesday 2 January 10:00am

Return of a New Year Favourite!

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A bracing morning walk on upland commons to celebrate the new year. Fairly flat terrain and no stiles. Glorious views of surrounding valleys and beyond (weather permitting). Refreshments available locally after the walk, if required. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: Opposite the Amberley Inn, Amberley. (Please do not use Inn car park). SO 850 013. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Thursday 3 January 10:30am

Blissful New Year

2 hours 3.5 miles

An easy walk starting in Chipping Norton and exploring the countryside beyond taking in the iconic Bliss Mill which once brought prosperity to the town. Pavements, grassy fields, woodland and an ancient track provide our route with possible muddy sections after rain. Many lunch options afterwards.

Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall OX7 5AB. SP 313 270. Map square: G3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

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Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow!
Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Sunday 13 January 10:00am

Rivers, fords and leaky stone pipes

3 hours • 5 miles

This winter walk takes us through the tranquil village of Guiting Power before passing streams, fords, woods and a clapper bridge in Kineton. An ideal winter walk.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall car park (donation). SP 094 246. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Sheila & Robert Talbot

Tuesday 15 January 10:00am

Back in Time at the Hill Fort

3 hours • 4.5 miles

A shortish walk through woodland to open ground at higher level leading to the Tyndale Monument. The section through Westridge Woods and past Brackenbury Ditches offers superb views from the Cotswold Edge. Lunch available in Wotton after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Wotton Under Edge, at the top of the hill on the Old London Road, leading from Wotton to the B4058. Parking on the roadside at the top or further along by the scout camp. ST 754 943. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Helen Furmidge

Wednesday 16 January 10:00am

Winter views from the scarp in a figure of eight: No 1

1.5 hours • 2.5 miles

A 2.5 miles circuit up to Ring Hill with fine views over the Vale of Gloucester. Followed by an optional further 3.5 miles through the woods to visit the Long Barrow at Randwick. A few climbs in both sections of the walk.

Starting point: Cripplegate (Shortwood National Trust car park (pay and display or NT membership). SO 832 086. Map square: B5.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Graham Saunders & Dave Gladstone

Friday 18 January 9:30am

Winter Skyline

3 hours • 6 miles

A really nice winter walk. Enjoy beautiful views of the City of Bath from the Bath Skyline and Bathampton Down before returning through tranquil Bushey wood and Rainbow wood. Possibly muddy. Not suitable for pushchairs. Refreshments and lunch available at the Combe Grove Hotel after the walk.

Starting point: Combe Grove Golf driving range car park. ST 771 626. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Philippe Apchin & Fred Dugan

Thursday 24 January 10:00am

You Won't Believe Your Eyes!

3.5 hours • 7 miles

Explore the local delights of both the Monarch's Way and the Cotswold Way through the villages of Tresham and Alderley, before returning to the spectacular estate of Newark Park. Bring a snack to eat en route. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Newark Park National Trust car park. Newark is signed from the junction between the A4135 and the B4058 approximately 2 miles east of Dursley. Please note that a parking charge will apply for non members of the National Trust. ST 781 931. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

Sunday 27 January 10:00am

Lansdown 'almost level' Circular

5.5 hours • 10 miles

Keeping to the Contour [apart from a slight dip], the walk gives all round views into the valleys around Bath. Almost stile free [3 vertical stone slabs which can be sat on and slid over!] Please bring a picnic lunch. Drink stop at pub only. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Lansdown Park and Ride [Away from the entrance]. ST 732 681. Map square: A10.

Leaders: John Walker & Bob Ford

Sunday 27 January 9:30am

All the W's Walking, Woodstock and Wootton

5 hours • 11.5 miles

A circular walk exploring parts of Blenheim Park and the surrounding area. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Combe Village Green. SP 413 159. Map square: H4.

Leaders: Martin & Lucy Squires

Wednesday 30 January 10:00am

To Heaven and Back

2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk of two halves. First is a climb from Stroud over fields to reach the Heavens then along the ridge up the Frome valley. At Brimscombe descend to return along the towpath of the Thames and Severn canal. Witness the work done by the volunteers of the Canal Trust and how much more there is to do.

Starting point: Meet outside Stroud Waitrose. Car Parking in multi-story car park. P&D, £1.80 for 3 hours. SO 854 048. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

February

Sunday 3 February 9:00am

Southam, Postlip & Cleeve Hill peaks

5 hours • 9 miles

From Southam (B4) up to the Huddlestons and on to the highest point on Cleeve Hill for coffee. Next without losing too much height, a woody walk to Postlip. Return via Cleeve Hill topograph, back to Southam using ancient Bridleroads Bring Picnic.

Starting point: Brunswick Square car park Gloucester (GL1 1JZ) for car share. Map references SO 830 181, OL45. Map Square: B2.

Leaders: Bernard G – Gloucester Ramblers Group

Monday 4 February 10:00am

What a View

1.5 hours • 2.5 miles

This walk is in conjunction with the National Trust. At this time of year the house will be closed but the car park will be open for people joining the walk. As the title implies there are fine views to be had in this northernmost tip of the Cotswolds. Paths are generally good but stout footwear is recommended.

Starting point: Upton House car park OX15 6HT. SP 371 455. Map square: H2. Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Tuesday 5 February 10:00am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Sid Gould, Russell Harding & Robert Herbert

Thursday 7 February 10:00am

On the Edge

2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

An undulating walk from Hook Norton, which is just outside the Cotswolds AONB. With good tracks, quiet lanes and grassy paths this is an ideal walk in an area not so well known. Optional lunch at Hook Norton Brewery café at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Hook Norton Brewery OX15 5NY. SP 348 344. Map square: H3. Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday 7 February 9:30am Hidden Ways on the Southern Border of the AONB

 3 hours • 5 miles

Explore a hidden valley from Midford to Hinton Charterhouse, then continue through fields to the little hamlet of Pipehouse and down a little used bridleway back to Midford. May be muddy, wet and steep at times. Not suitable for pushchairs. Lunch available at the pub afterwards.

Starting point: Hope and Anchor pub car park. ST 761 607. Map square: A10.
Leaders: Philippe Apchin & Barry Cox

Friday 8 February 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'Happy As Larry'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30, taking us mainly along footpaths through fields in attractive countryside. There are no major climbs and we should see new-born lambs at Frocester's magnificent 13th century tithe barn.

Starting point: Community shop, Coaley. Coaley lies 3 miles north west of Dursley. Follow (twisty) Box Lane from the A4135, passing Cam & Dursley railway station en route. SO 770 017. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown
& Jocelyn Dawson-Wood

Sunday 10 February 10:00am Snowdrops at Newark

 3.5 hours • 5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00, if required. The walk starts at 10:30, offering a rare opportunity to see snowdrops in a delightful parkland setting and on our journey to Ozleworth Bottom and Alderley. We return along the Cotswold Way. Refreshments available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Newark Park National Trust car park. Newark is signed from the junction between the A4135 and the B4058 approximately 2 miles east of Dursley. Please note that a parking charge will apply for non members of the National Trust. ST 781 931.

Map square: B7.
Leaders: David Harrowin & Richard Coles

Tuesday 12 February 10:30am Marshfield Town and Country

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways South to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths. (No stiles) Please bring a drink and/or snack. Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a teashop. Families Welcome. Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield. ST 781 737. Map square: B9.

Leaders: David Colbourne & Bob Ford

Wednesday 13 February 10:00am Winter views from the scarp in a figure of eight: No 2

 1.5 hours • 2.5 miles

2.5 mile walk onto the Hill Fort and through the woods, followed by an optional 3 miles to Shurdington Hill returning via the Cotswold Way. Fine views off the scarp to Cheltenham, Gloucester and the Malverns. A few short climbs.

Starting point: Crickley Hill Country Park. Entrance off minor road to Leckhampton. Free parking in the Coach Park by kind permission of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Please use their on site café after the walk. SO 931 164. Map square: C4.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Graham Saunders & Dave Gladstone

Monday 18 February 10:00am Exploring Winchcombe 'Ways' 2

 3 hours • 6 miles

We continue our exploration of some long distance paths that go through Winchcombe. Today we shall explore the start of the Wardens Way, St Kenelm's and Winchcombe Ways. The paths often follow ancient routes and there should be spectacular views.

Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane car park behind the Library – £1 all day. SP 024 286. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Friday 22 February 10:00am The ABC of South Cotswold Walks

 5 hours • 8 miles

A stroll to Beverston Castle and then along the Macmillan Way past Chavenage House and on to Avening for lunch. Return through Avening Park and via Ledgemore pond and wood. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chavenage Green 0.5 miles north west of Chavenage House. Chavenage House is signposted from the A46, 2.5 miles south of Nailsworth. ST 865 956. Map square: C7.

Leaders: Mick Thorpe & Richard Coles

Saturday 23 February 10:00am You say Miserden, I say Misarden

 4 hours • 8 miles

Start in picturesque Miserden Village, the walk will visit Sudgrove, Duntisbourne Abbots and Winstone before returning through Misarden Park to the village. Bring a snack! Lunch is available afterwards at the Carpenters Arms or the Garden Café at the estate nursery.

Starting point: Miserden C of E Primary School car park. SO 934 089. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue & Steven Pascoe

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Saturday 23 February 10:00am All Around the Crown

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

We leave Enstone to go past Heythrop Park and on to the pretty hamlet of Lidstone. A short climb takes us onto the Oxfordshire Way with good views before descending back to the Crown and the opportunity for lunch.

Starting point: The Crown Inn, Enstone OX7 4NN. SP 378 250. Map square: H3.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Sunday 24 February 10:00am A Rainbow in the Sky

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk around Combe Down and Rainbow Wood taking in part of the Bath Skyline Walk. Please bring a drink and/or snack. Not suitable for push chairs.

Starting point: Beechwood Road, Combe Down, Bath. ST 758 621. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sun 24th February 10:00am Whittington to Wontley Farm Loop

 5 hours • 9 miles

A walk through the landscape of ancient Britons and the Romans passing through the Cotswold Villages of Sevenhampton and Brockhampton before reaching the 3,000 year old byway at Wontley Farm Bring Picnic Starting point: Park layby on left of A40 heading up past Dowdeswell Reservoir (GL54 4HF). SP 010 206. OL45. Map Square D4.

Leaders: Members of local Ramblers Group

Tuesday 26 February 10:00am A short circuit around Bourton

 2.5 hours • 5 Miles

A short circuit in the countryside around Bourton-on-the-Water, passing through Wick Rissington and skirting Little Rissington.

Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial in the village centre. SP 167 207. Map square: F4.

Leaders: Alan Thomas & David Russell

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Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Wednesday 27 February 10:00am

A Commons Walk with a Fort, a Bear and Ice Cream

 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk mostly on the Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons, with footpaths down to and back up from a stretch of the Thames and Severn Canal towpath (ice cream at the top!). Much of the walk is exposed to the weather so warm clothing advised. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Upper car park on Rodborough Common, in preference to the car park below Rodborough Fort which has a height limit barrier. If no space in the upper use the lower car park and walk to the upper. SO 852 035. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Chris Gill & Eric Brown

Wednesday 27 February 10:00am

Friends, Romans and... Walkers

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A relatively easy winter walk along good tracks and paths from the Roman Villa to Yanworth Mill, returning through Chedworth Woods. Starting point: Chedworth Roman Villa. Signposted on brown signs from A429. SP 055 134. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

March

Tuesday 5 March 10:00am

Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Dave Wright, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Wednesday 6 March 10:00am

Leighterton Loop to Westonbirt

 5.5 hours • 9 miles

A circular ramble on field tracks, lanes and footpaths, including a section of public footpath through Westonbirt Arboretum. Mostly flat but some gentle hills – total height gain 160m. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: St Andrew's Church Leighterton. Please park considerably in the village. ST 824 911. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Jocelyn Dawson-Wood & David Harrowin

Thursday 7 March 9:30am

Along and above the Canal

 4 hours • 7 miles

Starting nicely along the canal we might spot a kingfisher, then we ascend steeply to Bathampton wood. We follow the Bath Skyline before descending Brassknocker Hill back to the canal basin. Possibly muddy, very steep at times. Refreshments and lunch available at the Angelfish Cafe there afterwards.

Starting point: Brassknocker Basin car park. ST 783 622. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Phillipe Apchin & Tim Sheppard

Sunday 10 March 10:00am

Castle Combe to Slaughterford Circular

 4.5 Hours • 9 miles

We cross the Golf Course to Nettleton Mill, then along the Broadmead Brook before climbing to Truckle Hill and North Wraxall. After crossing the A420 we descend Colerne Down to Slaughterford and return via Ford and a wild flower meadow. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Castle Combe car park. ST 846 777. Map square: B9.

Leaders: John Walker & Barry Cox

Sunday 10 March 10:00am

Beyond Warmington, down to the Cherwell

 5 hours • 12 miles

A circular walk exploring the countryside to the north of Banbury on the fringes of the Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Warmington by The Green. SP 413 476. Map square: H1.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Wednesday 13 March 10:00am

Bounds, Bishop, Trees or Bull?

 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk through Needlehole and Hilcot, with some lane walking and steepish climbs.

Starting point: Kilkenny Viewpoint car park. Off minor road by A436. SP 003 186. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Pippa Burgon & John Shaw



Thursday 14 March 10:00am

Bourton-on-the-Water Rissingtons Circuit

 4 hours • 8 miles

A circuit from Bourton-on-the-Water via lakes, Little Rissington, Great Rissington and some road walking to then cross fields back to Bourton. Countryside/scenery. Bring a drink and packed lunch.

Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial in the village centre. SP 167 207. Map square: F4.

Leaders: Alan Thomas & David Russell

Thursday 14 March 10:00am

The Rake and the Highwayman

 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk through Dean and Chadlington including part of the route dedicated to highwayman Claude Duval. Lunches available afterwards in Charlbury pubs or the Deli and Café.

Starting point: Spelsbury OX7 3LG. Please park tidily near the church. SP 349 215. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Saturday 16 March 10:00am

Old Sodbury to Hawkesbury Upton Circular

 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Walking North on the Cotswold Way, we cross the Hill Fort, and continue to Horton, thence to Hawkesbury Common. Turning East we climb to Hawkesbury Upton and join the Cotswold Way back to Horton. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Old Sodbury Church. ST 756 818. Map square: B8.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Fred Dugan

Tuesday 19 March 10:00am

Coffee Morning Walk No. 2, 'Bottoming Out'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30am and takes us through attractive countryside, including Hay Bottom and Ozeleworth Bottom, with much historical interest (mottes, mansions and ancient history). Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn car park, Kingcote, by arrangement. ST 813 959. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Mick Thorpe

Thursday 21 March 10:00am

War and Shipwreck

 5 hours • 10 miles

On this circular walk, we'll discover an unusual war memorial, the link between Broadway and the sinking of the Titanic and hear about another shipwreck at Stanway House. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Stanton village car park. SP 067 344. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

Thursday 21 March 10:00am

Two settlements Separated by Centuries

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A short walk travelling through time, a village largely created in the twentieth Century and a settlement inhabited 2,500 years ago. Linked by a pleasant walking route across fields and along quiet tracks. Lunches available at the Greedy Goose after the walk. Possible mud after rain.

Starting point: The Greedy Goose GL56 0SP. SP 270 289. Map square: G3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday 21 March 10:00am

Cranham and Cooper's Hill

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk through the beechwoods around Cranham to Cooper's Hill including the Roman Villa returning via Ladlecombe.

Starting point: Cranham Common near Cranham School. SO 894 126. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Helen Watkinson & Dave Gladstone

Sunday 24 March 10:00am

Crossing County Boarders

 5.5 hours • 10 miles

A circular walk visiting Monkton Combe, Midford, Pipehouse, Iford, Upper Westwood and Freshford, returning along the Kennet and Avon Canal. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Dundas Marina car park. ST 784 626. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sunday 24 March 10:00am

Stones and Ditches

 4 hours • 8 miles

A walk along the Oxfordshire Way to Stonesfield with views over the Evenlode and then joining Shakespeare's Way as we go through the grounds of Ditchley Park with a glimpse of the house and past Grimm's Ditch. Return to Charlbury where a lunch can be enjoyed at The Bell.

Starting point: The Bell Inn Charlbury OX7 3PP. SP 357 194. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Merry

Tuesday 26 March 10:00am Why Willersey?

 3 hours • 5 miles

Another in our series of shorter walks exploring villages and their surroundings in relation to their geology, geography and history. Some steep climbs and rough paths. Starting point: Willersey village hall car park. SP 105 395. Map square: E2. Leaders: Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth

Wednesday 27 March 10:00am Calling Radio Winstone

 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk of contrasts. Through the beautiful Miserden Estate, a circuit of Winstone and a brief introduction to what was once one of the most important radio stations in the UK. Starting point: Miserden village centre. There is a car park at Miserden school nearby. SO 937 089. Map square: C5. Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

Thursday 28 March 10:00am Unfinished Business

 4 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk through the delightful NT estate of Woodchester Park and a chance to see the Grade 1 listed Mansion, returning along the Cotswold Way from Selsley Common. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO 794 014. Map square: B6. Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furrmidge

Sunday 31 March 10:00am Can you remember where we went?*

 4.5 hours • 7 miles

A repeat of the first walk by the Wardens? We pass the Pound, the Windmill site and Pillow Mounds to go past Little Sodbury Manor/Old Church to the Hillfort. Then the Cotswold Way to the lunch stop in the leader's garden. Then the Frome Valley walkway back to the start. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Tourist information Centre, Chipping Sodbury. ST 727 822. Map square: A8. Leaders: Richard Wilson & John Walker

* This walk celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.



April

Tuesday 2 April 10:00am Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs. Starting point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9. Leaders: Robert Herbert, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Thursday 4 April 10:00am Highwaymen, Horses and Hills

 5.5 hours • 11 miles

This walk, although near busy towns and villages, feels surprisingly remote. We use a number of long-distance paths to arrive at Icomb and then north to Mangersbury, cross the Fosseway and return to Bourton. It's a hilly walk with much to see along the way. Bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial. SP 167 207. Map square: F4. Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Friday 5 April 10:00am From Coaley to the Peak and Back

 4 hours • 7 miles

A walk to Silver Street and around the lower slopes of the Cotswold edge leading up to Coaley Peak viewpoint where we will have a lunch break. Then we will return to Coaley via the Cotswold Way and Far Green. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Coaley Village Hall rear car park. The village hall is next to the church. SO 772 017. Map square: A6. Leaders: Mick Thorpe & Nigel Meredith

Saturday 6 April 9:30am Dear, Delightful Stanton

 5 hours • 9 miles

Such was the description given by John Wesley who visited and walked the area as a young man. But what brought him here? Our walk provides an insight as well as fine views. Bring packed lunch & drinks. Starting point: Broadway, High St., The War Memorial. SP 095 375. Map square: E2. Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

Saturday 6 April 10:00am Over Charmy Down to Ramscombe Bottom

 4.5 hours • 9 miles

Leaving Marshfield going South we ascend to Charmy Down Airfield, then descend via Ramscombe Bottom to St Catherine's Valley joining the Limestone Link heading North via Oakfield lane and climbing steeply to Ashwicke. Then mostly flat to Marshfield. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Layby on the South of the A420 just West of Marshfield. ST 772 737. Map square: B9. Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Barry Cox

Saturday 6 April 10:00am From Source to Shipston: Following the River Stour Part 1

 5 hours • 10 miles

The first of three walks that trace the River Stour from its source to Shipston. Part 1 visits the source near Swalcliffe and follows the infant river to Temple Mill and Traitors Ford, returning to Sibford via the ancient Ditchedge Lane. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Holy Trinity Church, Main Street, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RN. SP 356 378. Map square: G2. Leaders: Janet Moore & Margaret Burden

Sunday 7 April 10:00am The Kennett and Avon Canal's influence on the Southern edge of the Cotswolds

 4.5 hours • 8 miles

This circular walk explores the historic relationship of the Kennett and Avon canal with the town of Bradford on Avon and the hamlets of Avoncliff, Conkwell, Murhill and Turleigh. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but families welcome. Starting point: Bradford on Avon War Memorial. ST 825 608. Map square: B10. Leaders: Glyn & Gail Williams

Wednesday 10 April 10:00am Granny's Pumps – North

 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk through Brimpsfield and Cowley Wood with some lane walking and steepish climbs. Starting point: Gloucester Beeches car park on A417 Northbound only, past Highwayman Inn (park at the far end). If approaching from the north; take the exit for Winstone, turn left under A417, and left again to rejoin the A417 (North) signposted Gloucester. SO 958 120. Map square: D5. Leaders: Graham Saunders, Pippa Burgon & John Shaw

Thursday 11 April 10:00am A Barrow, Bury, Manor and Mound

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

The walk starts along the Cotswold Way and returns via the village of Nympsfield. It offers fine views from Uley Bury, and takes in Uley church and Owlpen Manor. Parts exposed to the weather and possibly muddy surfaces. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required. Starting point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO 794 014. Map square: B6. Leaders: Chris Gill & Derrick Hildersley

Friday 12 April 10:00am Friday Foray – Potlickers and Haymakers

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Through Barnsley Park to Winsou and Ablington. Mainly field paths and tracks, one steepish hill but lots of stiles. Lunch available at the pub or the Barnsley House Hotel, on return. Starting point: Barnsley, The Village Pub. Parking at pub for those visiting the pub after the walk. Otherwise, limited parking in the village. SP 076 051. Map square: D6. Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Sue Proctor & Steven Pascoe

Saturday 13 April 10:00am Ilmington Circular Walk

 5 hours • 9.5 miles

A walk of interesting countryside passing two large country houses, Foxcote, and Hidcote with its renowned gardens. Views as far as Coventry from the highest point in Warwickshire. A long uphill section at the start then reasonably level going. Bring packed lunch or eat at the Ebrington Arms. Starting point: Ilmington Playing Fields car park. SP 205 417. Map square: F2. Leaders: Bryan Clifford & Maureen Shears

Monday 15 April 10:00am Tunnel House, Hailey Wood and Rodmarton

 3 hours • 5 miles

A comfortable walk to Tarlton brings us to the Monarch's Way with some Roman interest, before reaching Rodmarton. We return via an ancient trackway to the Bathurst Estate's Hailey Wood, with reference to the Sapperton Canal Tunnel. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required. Starting point: The Tunnel House Inn, Tarlton Road, Coates, nr Cirencester. GL7 6PW. SO 965 006. Map square: D6. Leaders: Brian Mundy & Richard Coles



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Tuesday 16 April 10:00am Springwatch Revisited

3.5 hours • 7 miles

On this walk we visit sites featured in the BBC TV programme Springwatch. We visit Sherbourne Brook and cross the Windrush valley to follow the River Windrush, climbing up to the charming village of Great Rissington. Our return leg provides views over the North Cotswolds. Bring drinks and snacks.

Starting point: Water Meadows car park (NT) near Northfield Barn, Sherbourne. SP 175 154. Map square: F5.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Saturday 20 April 10:00am Three Churches and a River

3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

A walk with views over the Evenlode Valley to Shorthampton Church with its fine wall paintings. Onwards to Spelsbury Church with memorials to the Lee family. Return via Coldron Mill and Dean Grove to Charlbury with a 12th Century church.

Starting point: Spendlove car park Charlbury. SP 358 196. Map square: H4.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Wednesday 24 April 10:00am There may be bluebells

3 hours • 5 miles

A walk with one steep descent and one steep ascent. Good views over the Severn and, weather permitting, bluebells in Standish Woods.

Starting point: Shortwood car park (small fee payable, free to NT members). Off the Edge to Whiteshill road. Edge is on the A4173. SO 832 086. Map square: B5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 25 April 10:00am Severn Views From Hillesley

3 hours • 5 miles

The walk offers splendid views of the Severn Vale, weather permitting. We use part of the Cotswold Way and the Monarch's Way, taking in the Somerset Monument, Splatts Wood, the attractive Kilcott Valley and the village of Aderley. Lunch available at the inn or in Wotton after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Fleece Inn, Hillesley. Hillesley lies 2.5 miles south of Wotton Under Edge. Parking at the inn or in nearby car park adjacent to the sports field. ST 772 897. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Chris Gill

Friday 26 April 10:30am Dyrham: Park and Countryside [Battlefield]

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park [National Trust] through nearby farm land and along part of the Cotswold Way passing points of interest along the way. Parking charges but free with NT membership card. Not suitable for pushchairs but fine for families.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham. ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Fred Dugan

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Saturday 27 April 10:00am If you feel old you should see these paths and churches

6 hours • 11 miles

From Hangman's Stone through Hampnett, Stowell Grove to Chedworth wood, return via Yanworth. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Hangman's Stone layby. South of the A40 between Northleach and Shipton. SP 088 151.

Map square: E5.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue, John Shaw & Alistair McKenzie

Sunday 28 April 10:00am On the Edge

4 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk along part of the Fosse Way (Roman Road) visiting Dunkerton, Combe Hay and Southstoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but families welcome.

Starting point: Odd Down Park & Ride. ST 733 617. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Sunday 28 April 10:00am Skip over to Shipston

4.5 hours • 11 miles

A circular walk to Shipston. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Layby, Upper Brailes OX15 5AT. SP 305 393. Map square: G2.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday 30 April 10:00am Winchcombe Woods and Wolds

6 hours • 10 miles

A lovely walk to welcome the first signs of spring to the Cotswolds. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane Car Park behind the Library – £1 all day. SP 023 284. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

May

Thursday 2 May 10:00am Of Mice and Women

5.5 hours • 9.5 miles

An energetic circular walk among the northern hills of the Cotswolds. We will learn about the creators of the lovely gardens of Kiftsgate en route to Ilmington, with its fine Norman church, home to eleven hidden mices! Lunch available in Ilmington at the community cafe or bring your own.

Starting point: Hidcote Manor car park (by kind permission of the National Trust). SP 176 430. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Sunday 5 May 10:00am Around Dunkirk and Egypt

5 hours • 7 miles

The walk descends from Amberley into the Nailsworth Valley, then climbs toward the ridge to the west of Nailsworth. We descend into Nailsworth for a lunch stop in the town. The afternoon leg takes us into the Avening Valley, with a finish via the village of Box. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Old Lodge Inn, Minchinhampton Common. SO 852 008. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Tuesday 7 May 10:00am Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Sid Gould, Russell Harding & Dave Wright

Tuesday 7 May 10:00am Bluebells in Foxholes

3 hours • 6 miles

Starting from Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where hopefully we will see carpets of bluebells. We return through woodlands and field paths. Shipton has lunch opportunities at the end of the walk.

Starting point: New Beaconsfield Hall Shipton under Wychwood. SP 278 181. Map square: G4.

Leader: Gerry Simper

Wednesday 8 May 10:00am Open skies around Fossebridge

 3 hours • 6 miles

A good stretching walk with open views to leave you ready for lunch. Hayloft Café is at the Far Peak climbing centre off the Salt Way south of Northleach. Lunch opportunities at the Café or in Northleach or at the Fossebridge Inn.

Starting point: The Hayloft Café south of Northleach. SP 097 132. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Pippa Burgon & Graham Saunders

Wednesday 8 May 10:00am Bluebells in Bloom (hopefully!)

 2 hours • 4 miles

A circumnavigation around pretty Cotswold outliers, Alderton and Dumbleton hills. A spectacular display of bluebells in the Spring. Due to the fickle nature of the English weather, we cannot of course guarantee to see them. Total ascent 552 ft.

Starting point: Dairy Lane, Dumbleton, Gloucestershire, WR11 7TP – please park considerably. SP 017 359. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Linda & Martin Blackwell

Thursday 9 May 10:00am In the Footsteps of Parson Cornwall

 3 hours • 5 miles

The Reverend Alan Cornwall came from London to take up the parishes of Newington Bagpath and Owlpen in 1827. The walk recounts some of his experiences and visits places of historic and social interest during his ministry, which lasted over 40 years. Bring a snack to eat en route.

Starting point: Hunter's Hall Inn car park, Kingscote, by arrangement. ST 814 960. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

Friday 10 May 10:00am Friday Foray: Prestbury Hill Reserve and south Cleeve Common

 3 hours • 5 miles

Covering south Cleeve Common with glorious views the walk includes Prestbury Hill reserve owned by Butterfly Conservation. We will be joined by Jennifer Gilbert from the Back from the Brink project. Maybe an early Duke of Burgundy, weather permitting? Lunch at Craven Arms at Brockhampton.

Starting point: Wardens Wood car park (West Down). Turn off A40 for Whittington. Turn right at village then turn first left then along road for 2 miles. SP 010 236. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Helen Watkinson & Sue Proctor

Friday 10 May 10:00am Stinchcombe Hill and Village

 4 hours • 6 miles

A walk around Stinchcombe Hill to enjoy the views from Drakestone Point and Hollow Combe, and then on to the pretty village of Stinchcombe to see the former home of Evelyn Waugh and visit the church. The return to the start involves a long climb. Bring a packed lunch. Good walking boots required.

Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill public car park, Dursley. Follow signs to Stinchcombe Hill and Golf Club. Continue past the golf club car park to the public car park. ST 744 984. Map square: A6.

Leaders: Mick Thorpe & Jocelyn Dawson-Wood

Friday 10 May 10:00am Views and Blues

 4 hours • 7.5 miles

The walk is mainly on fields and tracks in Warwickshire's rolling countryside, with far reaching views and hopefully bluebells in Whichford Woods. We visit Cherington, Stourton, Sutton under Brailes and end at the quirky Straw Kitchen café at Whichford Pottery. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Whichford Village Green CV36 5PE. SP 315 346. Map square: G3.

Leaders: Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

Saturday 11 May 10:00am A Tite Circle

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A Circular walk from The Tite Inn going through Dean and Spelsbury. The return route is via Dean Grove and along part of the Oxfordshire Way. Lunch available at The Tite Inn after the walk.

Starting point: Tite Inn Chadlington OX7 3NY. SP 324 224. Map square: H5.

Leader: Tony Merry

Sunday 12 May 10:00am A visit to Lower Woods Nature Reserve

 5 hours • 9 miles

The walk will cross flat ground to enter this quite extensive Nature Reserve. It could be Muddy! Please bring a Picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but families welcome.

Starting point: Outside Horton School. ST 762 842. Map square: A8.

Leaders: Richard & Pauline Wilson

Tuesday 14 May 10:00am Tale of Two Commons

 2.5 hours • 4 miles

A chance to see two commons at their finest, clothed in an abundance of cowslips and hopefully the first of the orchids. Learn the history of a toy fort and the birth of wind turbines. Stile free but not suitable for buggies. Ice cream stop included! Lunch available at the inn after the walk.

Starting point: Amberley Inn, Amberley. Not the Inn car park please. SO 850 013. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Helen Furmidge

Tuesday 14 May 11:00am Spring out of Stanton

 3.5 hours • 7 miles

Spring in the Cotswolds means wild flowers, burgeoning woods and lovely stone architecture – and we have them all on this walk. Bring a packed lunch. NOTE THE LATER START.

Starting point: Stanton village car park, next to cricket ground. SP 067 344.

Map square: E3.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Thursday 16 May 10:00am Walking the Ways

 5 hours • 10 miles

This circular walk from Bourton-on-the-Water takes the Windrush Way west through sheltered valleys and pleasant woodland to the village of Naunton. The return on the Wardens Way provides great views from the hills and the Slaughter villages. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial. SP 167 207. Map square: F4.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Thursday 16 May 10:00am Upton Inn Circular

 3 hours • 5 miles

From Upton Cheney to Beach before ascending Hanging Hill, following the Cotswold Way to Piple Wood. Then descending to North Stoke and back to Upton Cheney for lunch at the Upton Inn. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Upton Inn car park. ST 692 698. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Fred Dugan

Saturday 18 May 10:30am Dyrham: Park and Countryside

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park [National Trust] through nearby farm land and along part of the Cotswold Way passing historic points of interest along the way. Parking charges but free with NT membership card. Not suitable for pushchairs but fine for families.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham. ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Bob Ford

Sunday 19 May 10:00am The Grand Old Duke of York

 6 hours • 10 miles

A walk from Odd Down to Southstoke, along the valley to Wellow, up and down the hills around Wellow to Combe Hay and back to the Park and Ride. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for Pushchairs. Families welcome.

Starting point: Odd Down Park & Ride. ST 733 617. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Monday 20 May 10:00am Tiltups to Earl Godwin's Longtree Bottom

 3 hours • 5 miles

From Tiltups End we follow a trackway to Chavenage Green then a gentle decline through Longtree bottom opening out to Ledgemore trackway. We pass through pasture (sheep) and farm land to Barton End Stables. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

Starting point: The Tippups Inn, Tilpups End, Nailsworth, GL6 0QE. On the A46 2 miles south of Nailsworth. ST 845 971. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Chris Gill

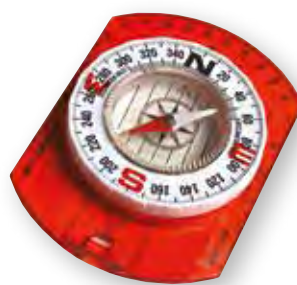
Wednesday 22 May 10:00am Inside the Edge

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk around Spoonbed Valley, starting out on the Cotswold Way before turning to follow the valley past Back Edge and the farmsteads of the valley. Return along the Cotswold Way over Painswick Beacon.

Starting point: Painswick church opposite The Falcon. Car parking in Stamages Lane car park; P&D. SO 865 096. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin



Friday 24 May 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk
No. 3, 'In Henry's
Footsteps'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30am and takes us via the Cotswold Way to Coaley Peak and returns via Leonard Stanley. The walk includes a view voted among the top ten in England.

Starting point: Cafe at King's Head Pub, King's Stanley. SO 811 035.
 Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & David Harrowin

Tuesday 28 May 10:00am
Marshfield –
Town and Valleys

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking valley footpaths SW to the St Catherine valley and returning through the fields (some stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a teashop – families welcome.

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield. ST 781737. Map square: B9.

Leaders: David Colbourne & Rob Morley

Thursday 30 May 10:00am
The Graveyard Slot

 6 hours • 11 miles

A visit to local churchyards at Mickleton, Ebrington and Chipping Campden to find interesting and sometimes quirky features. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Mickleton Church. Park along church lane or use the small church car park (voluntary donation). SP 162 435. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

Thursday 30 May 10:00am
Across Slad Valley
to Swift's Hill

 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk across Slad Valley to Swift's Hill via Steanbridge. The route includes sunken lanes, ancient woods and a climb up Swift's Hill for splendid views across the valley.

Starting point: Bulls Cross on B4070 north of Slad. SO 878 088.
 Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Helen Watkinson & Dave Gladstone



June

Saturday 1 June 10:00am
From Source to
Shipston: Following
the River Stour Part 2

 5 hours • 10 miles

The second of three walks that trace the River Stour from its source to Shipston on Stour. Part 2 travels to Whichford via Weston Park and Whichford Wood. Back to Cherington following the river from Whichford Mill. Please bring a packed lunch; there will be a lunchtime pub stop for drinks only.

Starting point: Cherington Arms car park, Cherington CV36 5HS. SP 290 364.
 Map square: G2.

Leaders: Janet Moore & Margaret Burden

Tuesday 4 June 10:00am
Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Dave Wright, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Wednesday 5 June 10:00am
Newark to Wortley
and Tresham

 3 hours • 6 miles

From Newark Park we follow the Cotswold Way to a superb viewpoint across the Severn Vale. On reaching Wortley we abandon the CW and continue through the pleasant village of Alderley and on to Tresham. We cross Ozleworth Bottom and climb back to Newark. Lunch available locally after the walk.

Starting point: Newark Park National Trust car park. Newark is signed from the junction between the A4135 and the B4058 approximately 2 miles east of Dursley. Please note that a parking charge will apply for non members of the National Trust. ST 780 931.
 Map square: B6.

Leaders: Jocelyn Dawson-Wood & Derrick Hildersley

Wednesday 5 June 10:00am
The Dark Satanic
Blanket Mills Walk

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A figure of eight walk taking in the history of the mills and the land along the River Windrush between Witney and Minster Lovell. The walk will finish at Witney's blanket Hall with the opportunity to visit the free museum and enjoy lunch at the café.

Starting point: Ground floor of Marriot's multi storey car park, near the lifts M&S exit. SP 355 100. Map square: G5.

Leaders: Linda Shelley & Angela Dean

Wednesday 5 June 10:00am
Ambling through
the woods around
Cranham

 3 hours • 4.5 miles

An energetic ramble with a number of climbs and descents through woodland to the south of Cranham and onto Sheepscombe Common, hopefully with a sprinkling of orchids and the odd butterfly. Lunch options at Black Horse in Cranham or at the nearby Royal William on A46.

Starting point: Roadside near Cranham School. Find Cranham off the A46 between Brockworth & Painswick. SO 894 125. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Pippa Burgon & Graham Saunders

Sunday 9 June 10:00am
The Blooming Hills and
Valleys of Southstoke

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A Spring/Summer walk from Odd Down to Southstoke, and down into the valley to Combe Hay and back up to the plateau taking in some of the beautiful flower meadows (The orchids should be out) Please bring a drink/snack. Not suitable for pushchairs. Families welcome.

Starting point: Odd Down Park and Ride. ST 733 617. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Monday 10 June 10:00am
Historic House
and Battlefield

 5 hours • 8.5 miles

After an initial steep ascent we enjoy farmland, woods and an introduction to the charming National Trust property of Upton House. Return with huge vistas and a historic battlefield. Charge of £6.50 + 5% booking fee to include a soup lunch [NT café] book by calling 0344 249 1895.

Starting point: Near the Peacock Inn Upper Tysoe CV35 0SE. SP 340 442.
 Map square: H1.

Leader: Angie Dean

Tuesday 11 June 10:00am
Little Yellow Job –
But What?

 2 hours • 3 miles

The walk covers open grassland, woodland and a meadow, offering an extensive variety of wildflowers. An ideal walk for the wildflower enthusiast, with adequate time for identification. Flower books and visual aids will be an asset. Suitable for families but not buggies. Lunch available locally.

Starting point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO 794 014. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Helen Furmidge

Wednesday 12 June 11:00am
Adlestrop Present
and Past

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

This walk takes us through lovely countryside around Adlestrop, visiting picturesque paths and historic sights. The walk ends around 2:00pm with a short talk in the Village Hall by Ralph Price remembering village life from his childhood onwards (30 mins). Tea & cake on offer. Bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Adlestrop Village Hall (in the village) – contribution requested. SP 241 272. Map square: G3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Thursday 13 June 10:00am
Butterflora

 3 hours • 4 miles

Four miles of wandering (with a few short steep hills and rough ground) through some well known butterfly reserves and the surrounding countryside. We look down, rather than up, and see (if the seasons permit!) some of the great variety of wildflowers there.

Starting point: Car park next to Cleeve Common radio masts. Reached from Cheltenham via Harp Hill and Aggs Hill. Please share cars if possible. SO 994 248.
 Map square: D4.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 14 10:00am
Friday Foray:
Ancient Routes over
Ancient Roots

 3 hours • 5 miles

Walking through ancient woodland starting at Withington, passing close to several Roman Villas, a disused airfield and the River Coln. Lunch and drinks available at the pub after the walk. Parking at the Mill Inn by kind permission of the landlady.

Starting point: The Mill Inn, Withington, GL54 4BE. SP 033 153. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Sue Proctor, Helen Watkinson & Steven Pascoe

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Sunday 16 June 10:00am Wildflowers – Natural and Commercial

 4 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk taking in Hanging Hill, along part of the Cotswold Way and passing the Emorsgate Seeds wildflower beds. Extensive views. Please bring a Picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Langridge Village Hall. ST 725 690. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Richard & Pauline Wilson

Monday 17 June 10:00am Paths Around Westonbirt

 3 hours • 5 miles

A gentle walk through open country and woodland, passing a number of beautiful country houses. The walk takes us on rural lanes towards Tetbury from Westonbirt Arboretum. Lunch available at the hotel after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Parking at the Hare & Hounds Hotel, Westonbirt, by arrangement. The hotel lies on the A433 Bath to Tetbury Road. ST 863 903. Map square: C7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Eric Brown

Tuesday 18 June 10:00am Scenic Countryside around Bourton

 5.5 hours • 11 miles

Gorgeous countryside, lovely villages, and good exercise! A circular walk from Bourton-on-the-Water via Cold Aston, Farmington and Clapton. Some steep slopes, stiles and good country mud! Bring a flask for a drink at Cold Aston, packed lunch between Farmington and Clapton.

Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial. SP 167 207. Map square: F4.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Wednesday 19 June 10:00am Radio Birdlip Receiving

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Another walk of contrasts, from the bustle of the A417, possibly a last chance to see Stockwell, enjoy the tranquility of Cowley Wood and hear about Radio Birdlip.

Starting point: Barrow Wake viewpoint. SO 931 153. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

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Saturday 22 June 10:00am Up Down and Around Charlton Kings; there should be orchids

 6 hours • 11.5 miles

A figure of 8 walk gives a choice of a morning, afternoon or all day walk. Both parts of the walk involve long climbs out of the village onto the hills for excellent views and air. Many lunch opportunities in the village. B Bus route from Cheltenham. Afternoon leg will start approx 1:45pm.

Starting point: St Mary's Church Charlton Kings, opposite the Royal. SO 965 205. Map square: D4.

Leaders: John Shaw, Jenny Shaw & Alistair McKenzie

Sunday 23 June 10:00am Up to a Down

 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Bathampton along the Kennet and Avon canal and up to the Downs. We walk along some of the Skyline paths and the old quarries before dropping down via the old tram-way to the canal and back to Bathampton. Please bring a drink/snack. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: The George pub car park. Bathampton (away from the pub). ST 776 665. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sunday 23 June 10:00am Pub Games and Wedding Vows

 4 hours • 8 miles

A walk exploring some of the ancient lanes and tracks of Nailsworth up through woods to the outskirts of Kingscote and returning to Nailsworth. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Nailsworth town centre. In front of the town clock. ST 850 996. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

Tuesday 25 June 10:00am A remote and beautiful valley

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk passing through some of the North Cotswolds' most remote and beautiful countryside. The walk first runs through woods above the Hinchwick valley, descends briefly into an adjoining valley and then returns along the bottom of the dry Hinchwick valley itself.

Starting point: Hinchwick Hamlet. Please park tidily on the grass verge. SP 145 301. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Wednesday 26 June 10:00am Chastleton and the Four Shires

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Chastleton House is a National Trust property tucked away in a quiet corner of rural West Oxfordshire. Both the house and the surrounding countryside have changed little over the last three centuries so join this circular walk and explore something of the wider setting of the house.

Starting Point: Chastleton House National Trust property. SP 247 291. Map square: G3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Wednesday 26 June 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 4, 'Hills Around Uley'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30am, ascending first to the iron age hill fort at Uley Bury, then takes in the magnificent ridge of Cam Long Down, and the peaks of Cam Peak and Downham Hill before returning to Uley. Refreshments available at the cafe or local pub after the walk.

Starting point: Prema Cafe, Uley. Signposted off the High Street, opposite the village shop. Please park considerably in the village. ST 786 981. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Friday 28 June 10:00am Flower Foray around Cleeve Common

 3 hours • 4 miles

A fabulous flower foray! We hope to showcase the wonderful range of wildflowers that grow on Cleeve Common, a mecca for botanists. Wear sturdy footwear for scrambling over rougher areas.

Starting point: Cleeve Hill Quarry car park – turn off B4632 at the summit, signposted to the Golf Club, up a narrow track over cattle grid left and right into car park. SO 989 272. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt



Published by

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Established in 2004, the Board is the only organisation to look after the Cotswolds AONB. The two key purposes of the Board are to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB
- increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB

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Front cover image:
Fallow deer, Simon Smith



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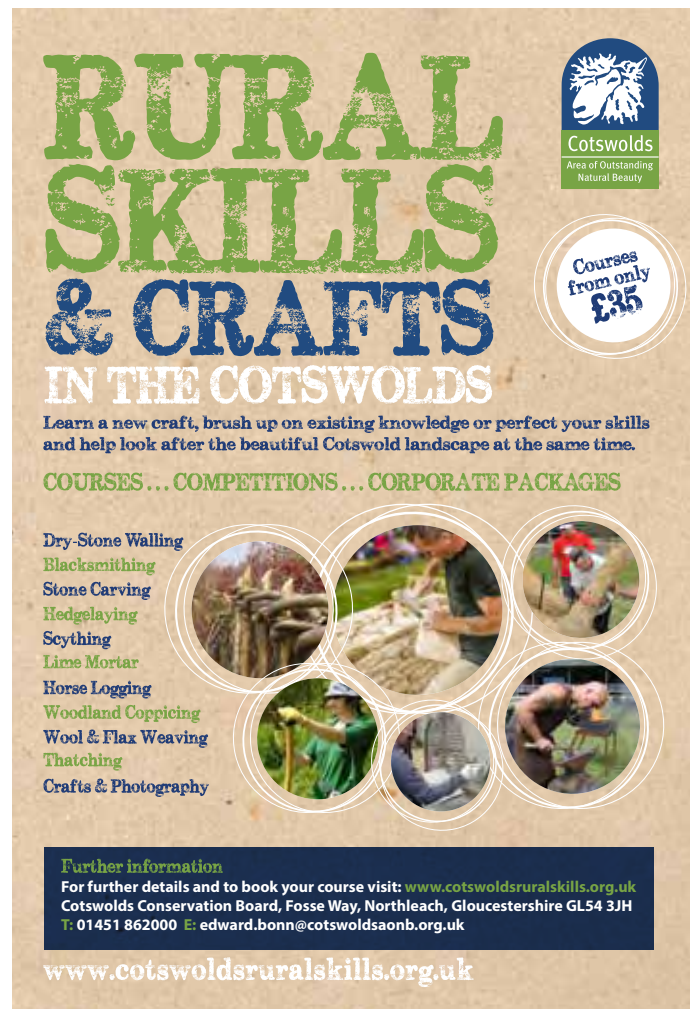
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