



1949-2009

AONB and National Parks  
Diamonds in the Landscape



THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE COTSWOLDS AONB

# The Cotswold **LION**



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FREE AND RECYCLABLE

# Pupils enjoy the great outdoors

*Wardens and pupils join up to celebrate the best of the Cotswolds*

**SCHOOLCHILDREN** have been learning about what makes the Cotswolds "a special place" through a series of outdoor education projects run by voluntary wardens.

The pupils from nine schools within the AONB have been involved in a range of activities allowing them to experience and appreciate their local environment.

The projects ranged from map reading in Bibury to fossil hunting on Crickley Hill to discovering how Iron Age man made the Cotswolds his home more than 2,000 years ago.

Other events have included guided walks and a wildflower day.

The pilot scheme is led by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens – the voluntary arm of the Cotswolds Conservation Board – who have worked in partnership with the Gloucestershire Geology Trust, Gloucestershire County Council, the National Trust and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

Volunteer Co-ordinator Becky Jones said: "All the schools involved were asked to choose what activities they wanted to take part in which is why we came up with such a diverse range.

"The aim has been to give the young pupils the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities in their local environment and discover what there is to do right on their doorstep. It helps them understand what a special place the Cotswolds is."

Former teacher and Voluntary Warden Gerry Simper has been working with teaching staff from various schools to compile the activities, which were run through the early summertime. He said: "The idea for this project was developed following a series of walks we did with schools a few years ago which were very successful.

*Continued on page two*



**JUMPING FOR JOY...**  
Youngsters from Ilmington School, near Shipston-on-Stour in Warwickshire, enjoy fun outdoor sessions run by Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens.



Bumper crops at allotments

Page 3



Enjoy our many rivers

Pages 6 & 7



Hundreds of walks and events

Pages 5 & 8-11



## Courses keeping skills alive

RATTLES, rakes, rolling pins and gate hurdles are just some of the many items that can be made on the new green woodworking course offered by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

The new weekend courses offer an ideal opportunity for either complete beginners wishing to become familiar with the basic tools and techniques of green woodwork, or those looking to brush up their skills.

Starting with a freshly felled tree, trainees will learn about the traditional skill of coppicing and then be shown how to cleave the wood with axes and wedges, and shape it further with drawknives before turning it on the pole-lathe. They will also learn about choosing and maintaining tools.

Participants can expect to leave with one of a variety of turned items such as candlesticks, spoons, tool-handles, baby-rattles, rounders bat or a project of their choice.

Pole lathing/coppice courses and hurdle making courses take place at Sherborne on 10 & 11 October and 24 & 25 October.

● For details of courses please call the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000 or go to: [www.cotswolds.aonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswolds.aonb.org.uk)

## Schools in big link-up with our wardens

From page one

"We hope it will lead on to more work with schools to encourage the next generation to value and understand more about their environment."

Rachel Stratford a teacher at Wychwood Primary School, whose pupils took part in the project, said: "Spending time in the local environment is a great learning experience for young people, providing an opportunity to interact and connect with their local area."

She added: "The Cotswolds is a very diverse area and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment to the project by the wardens in taking pupils out of the classroom and into nature."

There are a total of 350 voluntary wardens in the Cotswolds AONB who carry out practical conservation and access work, lead guided walks, give talks and presentations and provide a general link with their local community. Last year they devoted over 41,000 hours to the role.



Dry stone waller John Hepworth works to preserve traditional Cotswold skills.

## Former mechanic paves way for new career in drystone walling

JOHN Hepworth has built strong foundations for the future after training in the ancient practice of dry stone walling with the Cotswolds Conservation Board (CCB).

The 42-year-old started maintaining the traditional boundaries – which have been present since the Iron Age – after becoming unsatisfied with his job as a mechanic.

And since arranging his first rocks on a beginners course in 2006, John has managed to launch his own successful

business and cemented his future in the trade by landing a role as a CCB instructor. "Dry stone walling had always interested me as a hobby and a few of my acquaintances worked as such and the idea appealed to my artistic nature," John said.

John completed the CCB beginners course in May 2006, followed by the intermediate course and a Dry Stone Walling Association qualification (DSWA). He registered as self-employed in April 2008 – working on

some of Cotswolds finest estates. And after helping on CCB courses he was offered an instructor's position.

John added: "My only regret is that I should have started my career in dry stone walling earlier, and I would like to give my thanks to the wallers who gave me a chance to prove myself, plus the fantastic standards set down by the CCB and DSWA."

● More details about the courses are available on the AONB's website: [www.cotswolds.aonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswolds.aonb.org.uk)

# AONB celebrates diamond anniversary of natural jewels

THE Cotswolds is joining other Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks around the UK and Europe for a double celebration this year.

2009 marks the centenary of the first designated national parks in Europe. A series of nine parks were set up in Sweden in 1909; there are now more than 370 National Parks across the continent.

This year also sees the designation of Sweden's first Marine National Park in September. In the UK, December 2009 marks the Diamond Anniversary of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949, which was passed after overwhelming public pressure to stave off the growing threat of industrialisation.

These areas were designated to conserve and enhance natural beauty and create recreational opportunities for the public.

The 1949 Act established how the countryside could be protected and enjoyed by future generations as well as paving the way for the creation of today's 14 National Parks, 49 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 294 National Nature Reserves and 2,900 miles of National Trails.

The first protected landscape, The Peak District National Park, was designated in 1951.

The first AONB was Gower in 1958 and the Cotswolds was designated an AONB in 1966, with an expansion in 1990 and now covers 790 square miles.



Most recently, in March 2009, the South Downs was designated as the 15th National Park in the UK.

These protected areas contain the country's finest landscapes and countryside, and are considered outstanding for their flora, fauna, historical or cultural associations.

Since 2000, AONBs have

enjoyed the same level of protection for their landscapes as National Parks.

The 60th Anniversary provides the opportunity to celebrate these protected landscapes and recognise them as "Diamonds in the Landscape".

As well as giving us the opportunity to look back at what has been achieved over the last 60

years it also gives us the chance to look to the future and find ways to protect these landscapes for future generations.

To celebrate the anniversary a series of spectacular walks and events have been planned up and down the country throughout the summer and autumn and up to the actual date of the anniversary – December 16.

● For more details log on to [www.aonb.org.uk](http://www.aonb.org.uk) or [www.diamondsinthelandscape.org.uk](http://www.diamondsinthelandscape.org.uk)





Christine Wright picks fresh produce from her country garden plot.



Copse Green farm sellers Helen Jones and Margaret Beames with mouthwatering produce from their stall.

# Allotments grow a healthy following

**MORE and more people are opting for a healthier lifestyle by digging in and growing their own fruit and vegetables at their local allotments – both as a way of keeping fit and being more self-sufficient in the wake of the current economic climate.**

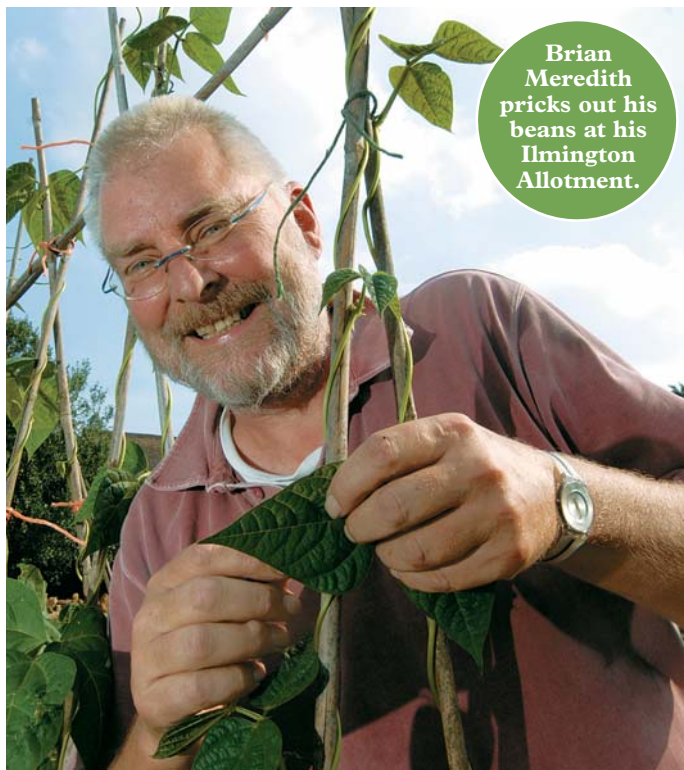
The many benefits of having an allotment are now being recognised by people of all ages who are looking to stay in shape, eat healthy fresh produce all year round – and save their pennies.

Christine Wright has been an allotment holder for the last 18 years and runs two plots in the beautiful Cotswolds village of Ilmington, Warwickshire. She said: “My allotments are only about 50 yards from my front door so they’re very convenient.

“I have a lot of fruit bushes – raspberries, gooseberries, blackcurrants – because they’re nice and easy to grow and I make a lot of jam which I sell for the local old folks’ club.

“One of my allotments is largely given over to soft fruit and on the other I grow all the staple items like runner beans, potatoes, courgettes, peas and tomatoes.

“Most of the cropping is done in the summer but I am growing things like leeks,



Brian Meredith pricks out his beans at his Ilmington Allotment.

cabbages and Jerusalem artichokes all year round.

“I really do get a lot of produce from them and because we’re all growing different things you can swap with other allotment users or take stuff down to the village hall and sell it,” she added.

Christine also believes people should not be put off getting an allotment by over-

complicated books and magazines.

“I read an article recently that gave a whole list of things it said people needed to buy before getting an allotment,” she said.

“I grew up in a city and had no gardening training at all before getting mine. I would say all you really need is a spade, a packet of mixed seeds

from a supermarket and a bit of elbow grease.

“It’s very pleasurable, keeps you fit and is a lot cheaper than going down to the local fitness centre. You don’t see any enthusiastic allotment holders who are obese.”

Fellow Ilmington resident and former nursery manager Brian Meredith, who is now studying archaeology, has had allotments for nearly 40 years – and even managed to feed himself through university as a young student with his very first plot.

He said: “Everything is just so much better than you can get in the greengrocers – fresh new potatoes, sugar peas that are fantastic and the sweetest sweetcorn you will ever eat.

“At the moment I also have broad beans, beetroot and carrots that have a completely different taste and texture.

“Other things I’ve grown include plums, apples, figs and lots of wonderful cut flowers that are relatively easy to produce, with varieties you don’t often find in the shops.

“There’s a real sense of achievement – that element of eating what you’ve grown is something you can’t buy,” he added.

## Markets boost area’s economy

WHETHER it’s a peppery pork pie with an ample helping of chutney, a wedge of mouthwatering cheese served with freshly baked bread or a tippie of chilled white wine that tastes like nectar on a hot summer’s day – there’s no better way to sample and buy your favourite local food and drink than at a farmers’ market.

More than 30 towns and villages throughout the Cotswolds hold the traditional-style selling markets that prove as popular with local people as they do with tourists that flock to them.

On offer is a cornucopia of authentic, fresh local produce, which not only gets the taste buds tingling but also provides a welcome boost to the economy.

Farmers, growers or producers are usually there in person to sell their fare.

And there’s a real authentic feel to the food and drink being sold with all products – whether they have been grown, reared, caught, brewed, pickled, baked, smoked or processed – produced by the stallholder.

Many of the products are specialist with some being sold at local outlets by mail order or via a website.

So if you find a sweet or savoury you just can’t live with out, chances are the producer lives on the doorstep or you can arrange delivery over the internet.

Most farmers’ markets are held monthly visiting the larger towns on their tour of the Cotswolds and some of the summer agricultural shows also have a farmers’ market or food hall where these goods are available.

The National Farmers’ Retail & Markets Association (FARMA) independently assesses and certifies farmers’ markets round the country to make sure they’re the ‘real deal’ so shoppers can be confident they are buying the freshest, most local produce possible, supporting the local community and economy, and helping the environment by reducing food-miles.

● So if all that talk about quality food and drink has whet your appetite check out [www.thecotswoldgateway.co.uk/farm-markets.htm](http://www.thecotswoldgateway.co.uk/farm-markets.htm) for more information about the markets and a timetable of when and where they take place.

## Dovecotes in the spotlight

THE Friends of the Cotswolds charity has awarded its first grant of £500 to the British Dovecote Society.

The Cotswolds AONB has the largest concentration of dovecotes anywhere in the UK and they are an important feature of our landscape.

The grant will go towards a survey of all dovecotes in the AONB to record them and help raise public awareness to encourage their preservation.

Indeed the first Friends’ building grant is to help preserve one of the best known dovecotes in the AONB.

The Friends of the Cotswolds is a fundraising and grant-making charity which aims to promote, enhance and conserve the Cotswolds AONB.

For further information about the Friends, call 01451 862035 or visit [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

## Sculpture trail draws the crowds

SCORES of visitors enjoyed an open day at a colourful sculpture trail in Dursley, which has been put together by the local community.

The Dursley Sculpture and Play Trail in Twinberrow Woods put on a series of woodland events including demonstrations and activities on July 5.

There was a short opening event followed by

an opportunity to walk the trail or enjoy the attractions. Children were also able to follow a young storyteller.

The development of the trail has only been possible due to support from volunteers including the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens who have put enormous effort into clearance work and path upgrading.

The sculptures were made by local groups of all ages and abilities from school age to retirement as well as those who struggle with disability.

Vale Vision Development Trust also worked alongside Dursley Town Council to make the project happen and local businesses offered their financial support for the purchase of materials.



**Blooming great idea to mark area's beauty with a flower**

# Readers asked to name a symbol for the Cotswolds



## New study to show effects of climate change

A STUDY which assesses the likely impact of climate change and globalisation on the Cotswolds landscape, has been commissioned by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, and an action plan based on the final report is being developed.

Farming and forestry account for 96% of land use in the Cotswolds, and have been the principal influences on the development of the AONB's special qualities. The Future of Farming & Forestry Study has identified a number of scenarios for change in the main rural land uses and activities in the AONB over the next 20 years.

While climate change and globalisation are inevitable, the report sets out eight specific recommendations which would help conserve the local landscape and businesses for future generations.

Harnessing local knowledge, increasing skills, developing new planning policies, diversifying businesses and working in partnership with local communities are just some of the key areas that the Board and other organisations will have to consider if we are to continue to enjoy the AONB's special qualities in future years.

● Further details about the study are available by calling the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000.

## £7,300 grant pays for hi-tech tree research

WESTONBIRT Arboretum has received just over £7,300 of funding from the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Sustainable Development Fund to create a new trees and climate change education programme, called "Forests for the Future".

This funding, which has allowed for the purchase of hi-tech microscopes, will help show how trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, as well as allow children to get up close and personal with some of the insect pests that will become more common as our climate changes.

The funding will also pay for a new educational DVD "The World is Hot Enough" which looks at how trees and woodlands can help us to fight climate change, and also at how our forests might change in future.

The education programme, which includes other activities such as a carbon calculator, will be delivered to schools from around the area over the coming year.

WHILE the red rose has been the proud emblem of Lancashire since the Middle Ages, the concept of each English county adopting a flower as its symbol didn't take root until as recently as 2002.

Conservation charity Plantlife launched a campaign asking members of the public to nominate and vote for a wild flower emblem for their county – giving each one a unique badge that could also serve as a useful promotional tool for reaching visitors.

But where does that leave an area as diverse as the Cotswolds?

Despite being home to some of the most beautiful displays of wild-growing floral finery, the Cotswolds has no one flower it can hold up as its own symbol, reaching as it does, across six different counties.

As one of our most popular visitor destinations, the Cotswolds has no shortage of attractions to shout about – including probably the finest examples there are of rural England and its rolling countryside hills and wildflower meadows.

But what about us picking a flower that captures the very essence of the region as a whole; one that could grow to serve as an overall emblem symbolising the Cotswolds vast wild flower heritage?

The region lies mainly within the ceremonial counties of Gloucestershire (which has adopted the wild daffodil) and Oxfordshire (snake's-head fritillary), but also extends to parts of Wiltshire (burnt orchid), Somerset (Cheddar pink), Worcestershire (cowslip) and Warwickshire (honeysuckle).

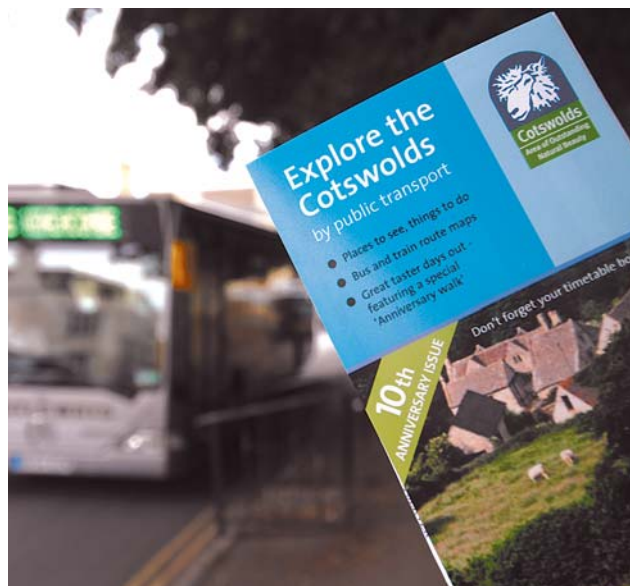
● We want readers to send in their suggestions for the single wild flower that perfectly symbolises the Cotswolds in its own right.

Email your nomination and the reason for it to [info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)



Cotswold Voluntary Warden Jean Booth checks out some of the wild flowers growing in the Cotswolds ANOB.

## Guide is best way to plan a trip



THE easiest way to enjoy as much of the Cotswolds as possible without taking your car along for the trip is to grab a ticket to ride on one of the many local buses or trains.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the publication *Explore The Cotswolds By Public Transport* – a guide for visitors and walkers.

As well as containing useful information about attractions, sights of historic interest, and things to see and do, the guide is accompanied by a set of 4 detailed timetables for the North, South and Central Cotswolds areas along with the Cotswold Way.

In fact it's the perfect starting point for those visiting the Cotswolds for the first time.

The guide takes the stress out of travelling between widespread towns and villages with full details of how easy and comfortable it is to get from A to B by public transport.

And for those who prefer to choose one location as their main base, there's also a series of recommended 'taster days out' which will suit walkers, cyclists and nature enthusiasts.

● Available in all tourist information centres across the Cotswolds, the 10th anniversary edition of *Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport*, published by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, can be downloaded direct from [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

Or for further details call the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000.



The Lion throws the spotlight on two innovative schemes which will boost the profile of the Cotswold Way National Trail, either for those looking to enjoy a short walk in the countryside, or who are embarking on a trek along its 102-mile length.



National Trail Officer James Blockley pictured overlooking some of the best scenery in the country on a short walk in the Cotswolds.

## Full circle walks a popular addition

A SERIES of short circular walks has been developed to promote the Cotswold Way and to give people the opportunity to experience its stunning landscape and varied features in bite size, manageable chunks.

The routes, most between four and six miles, each take in a section of the 102-mile walking route.

The circular walks are spread out geographically to include major features of the Way, which runs from Chipping Campden to Bath Abbey, and are easily accessible by car or public transport.

So far nine walks have been designed and collated on the National Trail website – [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk) – and are downloadable in pdf format.

The aim is to cover the whole of the Cotswold Way adding more walks with time, with a total of 26 walks set to be in place by the end of 2010.

Details of the walks will also be found at tourist information centres and in publications such as *Cotswold Life* magazine.



James Blockley leads voluntary wardens and others on the inaugural circular walk – which takes in the stunning scenery around Stanton.

Each walk will be signposted by a special Cotswold Way Circular Walk way-mark disc, which has been produced specifically for the project.

National Trail Officer James Blockley said: "Research has shown that many potential visitors perceive the Cotswold Way as just a long distance route and is not suitable for short walks in the countryside.

"Furthermore, people often disregard the Cotswold Way due to it being a linear route – meaning short walks can't start and finish in the same location.

"The short circular walks have been developed in order to

counteract this perception and to promote the Cotswold Way as ideal for short trips."

As well as being short in length all the walks have been developed to a specific criteria.

These include being way-marked for their whole length, having a short cut option, following the Cotswold Way for at least 33 per cent of its length, being accessible by public transport, and including a car park and refreshment stops.

Non-Cotswold Way sections of the route must be as close to National Trail standard as possible.

As well as the series of circular walks the Cotswold Way also intersects an extensive number of other long distance routes that criss-cross the AONB. These help to create alternative walks of varying length that unlock the unique nature and heritage of the Cotswolds.

Some of the trails include the Gloucestershire Way at Winchcombe and Crickley Hill, the Wysis Way at Painswick, the Heart of England Way, Diamond Way and Monarch's Way at Chipping Campden and Limestone Link at Cold Ashton.

For more details about the routes log onto the website [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold)

Why not try this six mile walk, with a shorter two-and-a-half mile alternative, round two of the most picturesque villages in the Cotswolds?



## Hike takes in best of British landscape

### Stanton, Snowhill and the Edge

**Distance:** 6 miles  
(Shorter route 2½ miles).

**Duration:** 3½ – 4½ hrs  
(Shorter: 1½ – 2½ hrs).

**Difficulty:** Moderate, some steep sections and stiles.

**Public transport:** No. 606 bus from Cheltenham and a short walk (See Cotswold Way public transport leaflet, or call Traveline on 0871 200 2233).

**OS reference:** Start/Finish at SP071342: Explorer sheet OL45. Postcode WR12 7NE.

**Refreshments:** Excellent pub (with ample parking) at Stanton. Further pub at Snowhill and café at Snowhill Manor.

National Trust, until you reach the gate at the end.

Continue down across the next field towards the kissing gate at the far left corner, turning right along the road and left at the T junction. Take another left turn and continue down into Snowhill.

Pass through the delightful village between the pub and the church, past the carpark and entrance to Snowhill Manor.

**4** At the next access road on your left, cross over a stile and down through the field past a line of magnificent oak trees.

Head through the next field and pass through the kissing gate at the far side, turning left to follow the fenceline downhill. Go through the gate at the bottom and veer left up through the woods, turning right just before the next gate.

Continue up along the edge of the woods with the fence on your left, watching for muddy patches after wet weather, and cross over the stile at the top. Walk steeply left up the narrow field towards the line of trees until you reach an old iron kissing gate.

Turn right and follow the farm track for half a mile until you reach a field gate between the two woodlands.

**5** After pausing for a few minutes to catch your breath, cross over the stile on your left and follow the footpath down across a field to the track at the bottom.

Turn left to rejoin the Cotswold Way and continue up the trail for about a mile, past a house and old quarries on your left, until you reach the waymarker post at the top next to where you left the Cotswold Way nearly four miles earlier.

Turn right along the track down towards a field gate, and continue downhill along the steep-sided path. Be careful to watch your footing along this track, but also not to miss the awe-inspiring views over Stanton and across the Severn Vale into Wales that open up below you – once tasted, this slice of Cotswolds will never be forgotten. Passing through the last gate at the bottom of the track, you emerge next to the Mount Inn.

Continue down to the left of the pub towards the start point, or take the chance to rest tired feet at a warm and welcoming Cotswold Inn – the perfect end to a perfect walk.

**1** Start at the Cotswold Way signpost towards the top of the village, just down from the Mount Inn (where parking is available, should you wish to rest a while at the end of your walk).

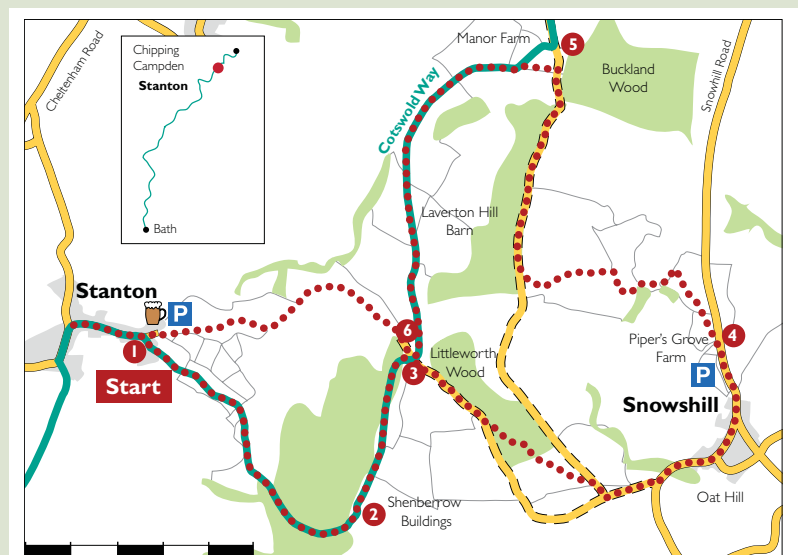
Look for the old lamppost on the triangle of grass and follow the Cotswold Way up the road to the right, past the thatched cottage.

Just before the water station, the Cotswold Way leaves the track to follow a footpath down to the right and through two gates. After you pass the small pond on your right, watch your footing and climb steeply up the track beneath tall beech trees until you reach the way-marker posts at the top.

**2** Continue on through the kissing gate to the left of the house, and follow the track across the field for half a mile until you reach a cattle grid at the end.

**3** At this point you leave the Cotswold Way for a while and head towards Snowhill. (For the shorter route, skip forward to point 6 and turn left to take the track downhill back towards Stanton, ignoring the Cotswold Way signpost).

Watching for traffic, walk along the road until you reach the entrance to Littleworth Wood on your left. Take the track through this peaceful little woodland, owned and managed by the



A map showing the route of the picturesque six mile walk.

## Online hall of fame marks end-to-end achievements

WALKERS who complete the 102-mile Cotswold Way will now have their achievements recognised in an online Hall of Fame.

Potential End-to-Enders – as people who complete the walk are affectionately referred to – will be given a completion card to be stamped at the start and end of the trail as well as at a number of locations along the way including tourist information centres, bed and breakfasts and even pubs!

Once submitted they will be offered a brass pin badge or embroidered patch, which includes the words "I've Walked the Cotswold Way". End-to-Enders will also be invited to upload a photo and a brief synopsis of their journey onto a web page dedicated to the Cotswold Way.

The page which is available through the National Trail website [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk) will also act as an additional source of information for prospective walkers.



## Residents back area for quality of life

RESIDENTS in the Cotswolds AONB are among the most satisfied in the country with their quality of life, according to the first-ever Government survey on the subject.

Half a million people were interviewed across England for the "place survey" – which quizzed people about their local area and local services.

And virtually every individual locality in the AONB scored above the 79.7 per cent average.

More than 88 per cent of people in the Cotswolds said they were contented with their lot.

Among the local success stories, a whopping 90.2 per cent of people in West Oxfordshire said the stunning rural area – where the main activities are farming and associated trades – was an ideal place to live.

West Midlands beauty spots, Wychavon and Stratford, got an enthusiastic response – with more than 88 per cent of people saying they were happy.

And the South West as a whole came top of all the English regions – with 85 per cent saying they were satisfied.

The results from the survey are being used by the Government to measure local government performance.

## Rural skills competition

THE Cotswolds Conservation Board, supported by the Dry Stone Walling Association, is holding its annual dry stone walling competition at Slade Farm, Bourton-on-the-Hill on Sunday 4 October.

The Board will also be holding its annual hedgelaying competition on Saturday 21 November.

For more information, please contact the Board on 01451 862000 or visit [www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk)

## Park tickets winner

IN the last edition of *Cotswold Lion* we offered the chance to win a family ticket to the Cotswold Farm Park.

The winner was 9 year old Elena Jones from Stonehouse.

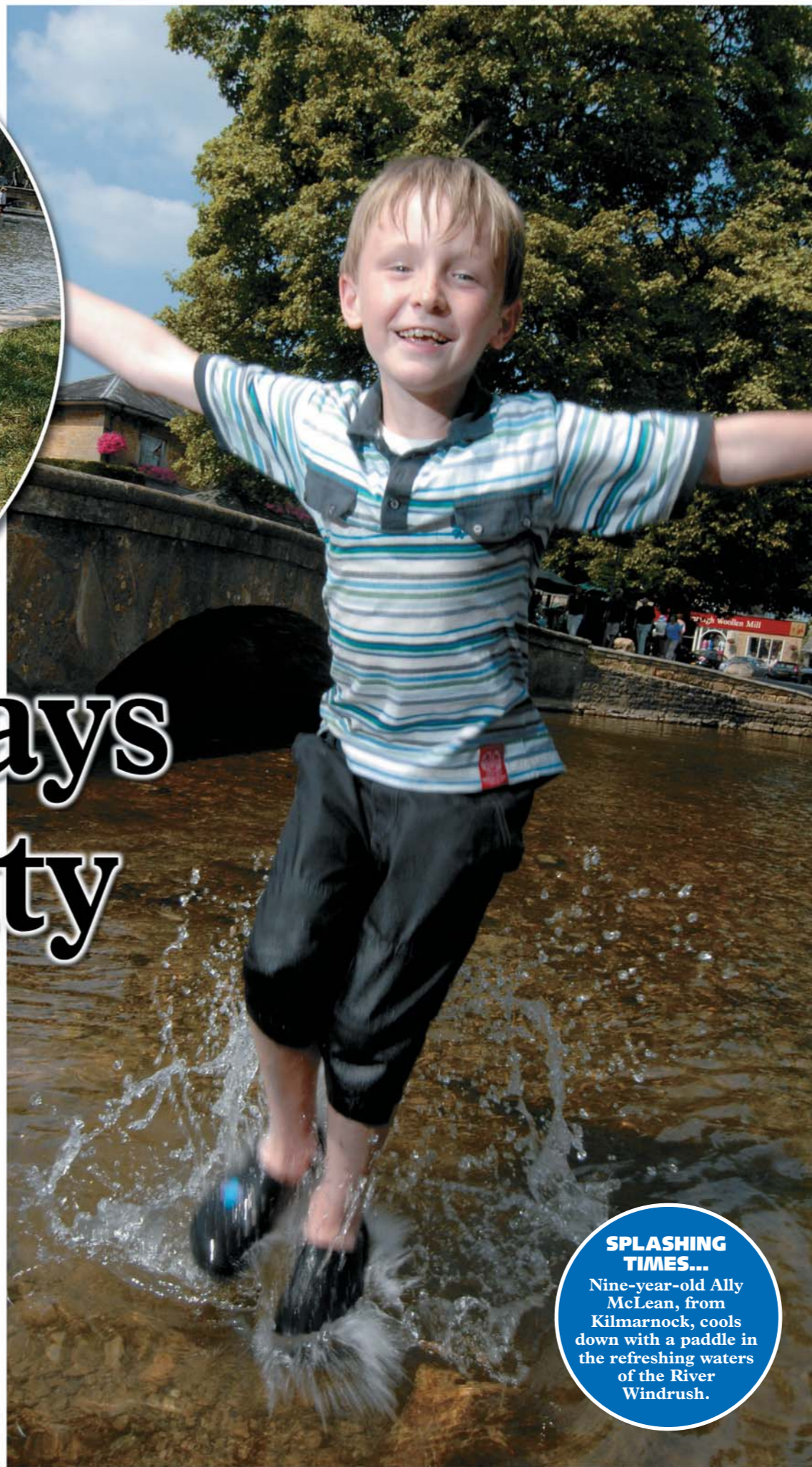
# Rivers and canals in the Cotswolds offer a myriad of attractions... the *Cotswold Lion* reports...



**SAVING WILDLIFE...** moves are under way to protect the endangered water vole on Cotswolds rivers.



Right, Swedish tourists Anna Bonto Wikström and Birgitta Wirkstöm sit by the River Windrush in Bourton-on-the-Water.



**SPLASHING TIMES...** Nine-year-old Ally McLean, from Kilmarnock, cools down with a paddle in the refreshing waters of the River Windrush.

# Network of waterways unrivalled for beauty

**THERE are few parts of the British Isles that can rival the Cotswolds for unspoilt, natural beauty.**

With its dramatic escarpment to the west and gentle rolling wolds to the east, scattered with ancient woodlands and picture postcard towns and villages, the Cotswolds is one of the country's most enchanting landscapes.

A less well known but equally attractive aspect of the Cotswolds countryside is its network of rivers which have had a major effect in shaping the landscape.

These rivers have heavily influenced the economic evolution of the area and are important nature conservation resources.

They also provide enjoyment and endless leisure opportunities for the many people who live in and visit the area.

Almost all villages and hamlets throughout the AONB have a source of running water in the form of a river, stream or brook. Indeed, the very positioning of the habitation in the first place was often dictated by the need for flowing water, for cattle or irrigation, to

drive machinery or as part of an industrial process.

It is the proximity to fast flowing rivers and streams that provided the power for the mills of the Stroud Valleys, enabling them to prosper in the textile industry.

Many mill buildings still remain, protected by 'listed' status, but converted to new uses such as Egypt Mill in Nailsworth.

The Cotswold rivers fall into two major catchments, the **Severn** and the **Thames**. In the North the **Stour**, **Badsey Brook** and the **Isbourne** flow into the Warwickshire **Avon**,

joining the **Severn** near Tewkesbury.

At Stroud, the **Frome** and its headwaters flow into the **Severn** at Purton, via the **Gloucester Sharpness Canal**, whilst the Bristol **Avon**, with its important headwaters, such as the **By Brook**, joins the **Severn** at Avonmouth.

While there are many rivers in the Cotswolds to explore, the majority of them, including the **Evenlode**, **Windrush** and **Coln**, flow south-east to form the head-waters of the **Thames**, the official source of which is Thames Head, about one mile north of Kemble, also the start of the Thames Path National Trail.

The River **Evenlode** rises near Moreton in Marsh in the Cotswold Hills and flows south-east passing near Stow-on-the-Wold, Bladon and Eynsham. Its valley provides the route of the southern part of the Cotswold Railway Line.

The river passes through many villages and towns in Oxfordshire including Ascott-under-Wychwood, Chadlington and Charlbury before joining the **Thames** north-west of Oxford.

Largely privately owned, the **Evenlode** provides many leisure opportunities including fishing and wildlife watching, and has recently benefited from major restoration work by the Environment Agency to help it recover from the effects of excessive dredging.

Its clear waters support brown trout, grayling and bullheads, and through the

flows for some 30 miles from the AONB, north-east of Taddington, through Bourton-on-the-Water and Witney before joining the **Thames** at Newbridge.

Popular with anglers, the Windrush is home to some very large roach, dace, perch and chub, with some chub and roach weighing in at over 6lb and 2lb respectively.

Bourton-on-the-water, known as the 'Venice of the Cotswolds' features the River **Windrush** gently flowing through its centre.

Every August Bank Holiday, the famous Bourton Water Games takes place – a football match played in the river itself by two teams from the village.

Further down the **Windrush**, sits the village of Great Barrington, whose freestone quarry furnished stone for Christopher Wren's restoration of Westminster Abbey.

The River **Coln** is marveled for its beauty and tranquility as it meanders its way through the Cotswold Hills in Gloucestershire before joining the **Thames** at Lechlade.

Its clear waters support brown trout, grayling and bullheads, and through the

Coln Valley are some of the most picturesque villages in the Cotswolds – Coln St Dennis, Calcot, Coln Rogers and Coln St Andrews, where the church windows commemorate the 19th century reformer John Keble and his father.

From here there is a very pretty walk along the river to the picturesque village of Bibury where the popular Bibury Trout Farm offers visitors the chance to feed the fish and catch their own at the beginners' fishery.

In the southern part of the

AONB, making its way towards the Severn estuary, is the **Bristol Avon**.

Steeped in history and heritage, this is a fascinating river and once the great highway of the area, stimulating trade and industry.

The river corridor has a complex geology and offers a rich and varied environment for wildlife. With two sources of the **Bristol Avon** – the Sherston branch in Didmarton and the Tetbury branch at Wor Well – meeting at Malmesbury, the Avon follows a somewhat

circular path towards the City of Bath.

From here the River **Avon** Trail allows walkers to explore the riverside, linking up in part to the Cotswold Way National Trail as well as allowing shorter walks to Kelston Round Hill and Little Down Iron Age Hillfort, plus the charming villages of North Stoke and Kelston.

The Trail also provides an ideal way for cyclists and walkers to visit the AONB direct from Bristol and North Somerset.

## Lorry ban zone a 'balancing act'

A TARGET area of the Cotswolds which was turned into a lorry management zone is helping to stop rat-running and ease congestion.

The scheme – which Gloucestershire County Council brought into effect in April 2009 – makes it a criminal offence for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes in weight to use many small rural roads except for loading and unloading.

The idea is to protect the environment of the AONB – improving the quality of life for local communities and visitors without making it difficult for local haulage companies who need to make essential deliveries.

And although there are not yet any official figures on the success of the zone local haulage companies appear to be adhering to the restrictions.

However, local firms like that owned by Roger Cullimore of Moreton C. Cullimore & Son Limited based in Stroud say that meeting the needs of companies like his and relieving congestion is a fine balance.

"Everything we buy – from building materials, sand, gravel and ready mixed concrete is

brought in by lorry so it's important there is a great deal of dialogue about this," said Mr Cullimore.

"There are advantages in terms of the environment and congestion. However, it's important that the restrictions don't damage local firms in and outside the haulage industry unnecessarily."

Mr Cullimore added his firm would benefit if the seven-and-a-half tonne restriction currently in place was increased to allow up to 32 tonnes.

He also said that more maintenance work should be carried out on main routes to ensure the scheme is a success.

Gloucestershire County Council has committed to making road improvements on main arteries and relieving congestion in blackspots like A419 near Stroud in the zone.

Cotswolds Conservation Board planning officer Malcolm Watt said: "We want to limit congestion and damage to the AONB. However, we need to take account of local industry. If the initiative proves successful we will encourage Gloucestershire County Council to consider extending the zone."



The management zone is helping protect the Cotswolds environment by keeping lorries out of some of its most attractive villages.

## Town welcomes walkers

WINCHCOMBE has become the first town in the Cotswolds to gain Walkers are Welcome status, under a national scheme to strengthen the town's reputation as a place for visitors to enjoy the outdoors and bring benefits to the local economy.

A steering group comprising of local businesses, Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens, rambblers and councillors has been working hard for 6 months to gain the recognition it deserves as a first class walker's destination.

The group had to meet six criteria including evidence that walkers are well provided for and that local people support the idea of attracting more walkers.

The group were overwhelmed by the support they received, when they asked the townsfolk for 250 signatures of support, they achieved over 500 in a matter of weeks!

Visit Winchcombe's new website, which is aimed especially at visitors – [www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com](http://www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com)

The aim of the new website is to provide visitors with all the information they need to plan their visit to the town, from where to park and where to walk, to where to eat and sleep.

## New website a big hit

THE Cotswolds AONB new-look website is attracting more visitors than ever before.

The new site – found at [www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk) went live in January offering a comprehensive guide to the area.

So far more than 50,000 visitors have logged on to the site since January.

The website features an interactive map as well as a full programme of walks and events

taking place throughout the AONB. Other sections include getting out and about, visiting the Cotswolds, volunteering, rural skills courses, plus news and information on the Sustainable Development Fund.

You can now keep up to date with the Cotswolds AONB via Twitter. Log on to [www.twitter.com/cotswoldsaoonb](http://www.twitter.com/cotswoldsaoonb) to receive news and updates direct from the Cotswolds Conservation Board.



# The AONB

# WALKS & EVENTS Guide

PLEASE: always remember to wear appropriate footwear because some walks may be steep and muddy in places. Dogs are not allowed on walks, except guide dogs for the blind and hearing dogs for the deaf. Visit [www.cotswoldsanob.org.uk/guidedwalks](http://www.cotswoldsanob.org.uk/guidedwalks) for all the latest information regarding walks and events in the Cotswolds ANOB.

**Four Circular Walks on the Cotswold Way – Avon Valley Area**  
Avon Valley Wardens will be leading four circular walks involving the Cotswold Way between Bath Abbey and Hawkesbury Upton during the Autumn/Winter programme. The walks are designed with a southward walk on pleasant and interesting paths before lunch, then walking northward in the afternoon on the Cotswold Way. Completion of all four walks will mean that an entire section of the Cotswold Way will have been completed. Please see the programme for further details.

**Chipping Campden Town Walks**  
The Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens offer a town walk, an audio visual show followed by either a tea or a supper as appropriate, in Chipping Campden for organised parties. Contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131.

**Walk the Cotswold Way**  
Join a group led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens walking 10 miles of the Cotswold Way on the first Wednesday of each month. Walks commence in May of each year. Travel by coach from Winchcombe to the start point. Lunches will be at pleasant inns en route. For further information and to reserve places please contact Bob Cox on 01242 820192. An early booking is advised.

## October 2009

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 • 10.00

**A Way with Words - Where Shakespeare meets the Cotswolds**  
From Chipping Campden we walk to Mickleton via Ebrington and a return over Dover's Hill. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Chipping Campden, the Market Hall.  
**Leaders:** Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood.  
**6 hours • 10.5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure 45/151392 **F2**

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 • 14.00

**National Trust: Ebworth Woods**  
Tree Talk: A stroll around Ebworth Woods with the Property Manager. Booking essential on 01452 814213. Suitable for groups, children welcome accompanied by an adult. Wear stout walking shoes and suitable clothing for the weather. Adults £2, child £1. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Meet at the Ebworth Centre, off B4070 near Cranham, opposite Fostons Ash pub.

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 6 • 10.00

**The Tuesday Tramp**  
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne parish. Lunch at Fox available. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne.  
**Leader:** Russell Harding.  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7 • 10.15

**Along the Edge of the Hills**  
A walk along the base of the scarp with fine views of Standish Woods and Vinegar Hill, returning down the Cotswold Way. The route includes many stiles and one long steep climb. Refreshments available after the walk in Stonehouse. Walk accessible by train from Cheltenham, Gloucester or Kemble. Parking available in Stonehouse Pay Display Car Park close to the starting point. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stonehouse Rail Station, Upper Queens Road.  
**Leaders:** Pippa Burgon, Tony Wilson & Rosemary Woodham.  
**2.75 hours • 4.5 miles**  
OS: 179/808053 **B5**



GUIDED WALKS LED BY COTSWOLD VOLUNTARY WARDENS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. All guided walks are free of charge unless otherwise stated. Donations welcome.

### FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 • 10.00

**A Ten Mile Tramp on Terrific Terrain**  
A walk along the Cotswold escarpment starting at Newark Park, down into Ozleworth Bottom, passing Whitehall Farm and the derelict pumping station. Meeting up with the Cotswold Way, staying with the Cotswold Way, up Wortley Hill, down Black Quarries Hill into Coombe, out of Coombe on Tyley Bottom up to Sawcombe Farm and back via Ozleworth to Newark Park. Bring a picnic lunch. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Newark Park car park.  
**Leaders:** Ken Leach & Les Jones.  
**6 hours • 10.5 miles**  
OS: 162/783932 **B7**

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 11 • 10.00

**Walk on the Wild Side**  
Our walk today takes us far from the madding crowd by skimming past the villages of Childswickham, Laverton and Buckland before a return to Broadway. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Broadway War Memorial.  
**Leaders:** Pat & Roger Cook.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/094375 **E2**

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 11 • 10.00

**I Spy Strange's**  
This circular walk starts from Wotton-under-Edge and proceeds via the Cotswold Way alongside the Tyley Brook, where archaeological remains of former woollen mills (including Strange's Mill) will be sought. After lunch at Uley (where there are more former mills) the return to Wotton is through woodland near Waterley Bottom. An incentive for an early finish is that teas should be available in Wotton Town Hall to those who stay the course. Pub lunch available. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Wotton-under-Edge, Chipping car park.  
**Leaders:** Alan Bulley & Dave Harrowin.  
**6.5 hours • 11.5 miles**  
OS: 162/756932 **A7**

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 13 • 10.00

**A Real Gem**  
Walk from Icomb to Wyck Rissington on the Diamond Way and return on the Oxfordshire Way. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Icomb Parish Church gates (please park with care).  
**Leaders:** Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan.  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/214226 **F4**

### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 • 10.00

**Two Rivers & Two Valleys**  
Walk along the superb valley of the River Windrush to Naunton for lunch. Return through the more wooded valley of the River Eye. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Lower Slaughter, St Mary's Church. Please park with care.  
**Leaders:** Ann Harris & Peggy Lutter.  
**6 hours • 9 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/165225 **F4**

### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 • 10.00

**What's in the Wychwoods?**  
Starting from Shipton-under-Wychwood this walk passes through the other Wychwood villages of Milton and Ascott where we will have a pub lunch. We shall discover there is more to the Wychwoods than at first appears and some amazing history and charm of these unique villages will be revealed. Contact 07762019373 for further details. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Village hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood.  
**Leader:** Gerald Simper.  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45/278181 **G3**

**Walk the Diamond Way**  
Join a group led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens walking some 10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The walks commence in April each year, starting and ending at Moreton-in-Marsh and continue for six consecutive months. A bus will meet walkers at the appropriate venue to transport them to the start point for a walk back to the cars. For further information and to reserve places please contact John Medlyn on 01386 438060. An early booking is advised.

**Tailor Made**  
As well as the guided walks listed in this newspaper, Cotswold Voluntary Wardens can provide tailor made outings for groups of all abilities. Contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01451 862008.

**Map and Compass Course**  
Learn the skills needed to find your way across the Cotswolds - Monday 12 October. For further details and to book a place on the course, telephone Rebecca Jones on 01451 862008.

**Eight Days Walking on the Cotswold Way**  
Avon Valley Wardens will be leading an eight day walk of the Cotswold Way National Trail from Bath Abbey to Chipping Campden during the week of 17th - 24th April 2010. For further information and to reserve a place contact David Whitnell on email at: david.whitnell@btinternet.com or mobile number 07952 684847 after 1st December 2009.

### THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 • 10.00

**Woodland Delights of the Evenlode Valley**  
Exploring footpaths in the Evenlode Valley taking in Foxholes Nature Reserve and a millennium wood. The route includes Milton and Shipton-under-Wychwood where a picnic lunch can be had on The Green or if preferred a pub lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fifield Church - turn off Burford - Stow Road at Merry-mouth Inn.  
**Leaders:** Kevin Myhill & Rosemary Wilson.  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OL: 45/239187 **G4**

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 • 10.00

**A Pair of Cockerells**  
One name, two houses in the North Cotswolds. A walk passing Bourton Downs, Hinchwick Manor, Longborough, Sezincote. History, views and autumn colour. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Bourton-on-the-Hill. On the west side of the village (park with care).  
**Leaders:** Michael Gittins & John Marshall.  
**5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45/325175 **F3**

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 • 10.30

**Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Seed Gathering at Siccaridge Wood, nr Cirencester**  
Come and explore this fantastic woodland. Make a collection of fruits and seeds from the meadow and wood. How many different kinds can you find? Look for signs that tell you which animals have been eating the seeds. Make a seed treasure wheel and an autumn nature palette as a souvenir of your visit. Free, but book on 01452 383333 10.30 - 12noon. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Directions sent on booking. SO: 93503530

**EASY:** length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level) **MODERATE:** includes some hills and some rough ground **STRENUOUS:** may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep

● Denotes shorter walks

● Denotes events of interest other than walks



## SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 • 11.00

## National Trust: Snowhill Manor Apple Days

Celebrate all things apple-related; displays of many varieties, old and new, plus a juicing machine in action. Taste apples, juices and delicious home-cooked apple recipes in our restaurant. Meet the team of local apple experts. Buy apples, juice and cider. Apple activities for children. Normal admission charges apply. Booking not needed - 17th and 18th October. **Easy**

**Mobility information:** Contact in advance. Parking: Designated parking in main car park. House and garden along undulating path. 2 wheelchairs. Transfer available.

**Building:** Steps to entrance. Ground floor has steps, very limited turning space. Stairs to other floors. Floors uneven. Visitor centre accessible.

**WCs:** by visitor reception area.

**Grounds:** Limited access, undulating paths, some steep slopes, uneven surfaces, access to terraces via steps.

**Shop:** Level entrance.

**Refreshments:** Level entrance. Snowhill Manor and Garden, Snowhill, nr Broadway, Gloucestershire WR12 7JU. Telephone: 01386 852410.

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 18 • 10.00

## Valleys in Autumn

Route via Avening/Nailsworth valleys, Longford's Mill, Minchinhampton Common and Dunkirk Mills. Varied terrain and glorious valley scenery (weather permitting). Opportunity for lunch at local inns at the end of the walk.

**Moderate**

**Starting point:** Nailsworth long stay car park in Old Market (opposite bus station).

**Leaders:** Graham Bateman & Alan Hooper.

**3 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 162/849996

B6

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 20 • 10.00

## All the Best Bits

The walks leaders will show you their favourite bits of path (some well known, others less so) joined together to make an energetic but delightful day out. Come along and see if you agree with their choices. Please bring a picnic lunch.

**Strenuous**

**Starting point:** Stanton village car park.

**Leaders:** Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth.

**6 hours • 10 miles**

OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/068343

E2

## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21 • 10.00

## Royalty &amp; Politician

A short, gentle walk from Chedworth Villa through Chedworth Woods and Chedworth village then back along the Monarch's and Macmillan Ways by the River Coln. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Chedworth Roman Villa car park.

**Leaders:** Brian Chilvers, Mike Williams & Royden Hales.

**2.25 hours • 4 miles**

OL: 45/053136

E5

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 22 • 10.00

## Walking from Blockley No.1

A series appreciating the delightful walks from picturesque Blockley. The first goes to Snowhill via Upton Wold and Seven Wells. Return passing Snowhill Hill, Bourton Downs and along the Diamond Way. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Blockley village green, bus shelter.

**Leaders:** Keith Sisson and Paul Adams.

**5.5 hours • 9 miles**

OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/164350

F2

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 22 • 10.00

## Sky - Walking Above Bath

Through Rainbow Woods to Claverton by Dogs' Home and Campus, Golf Course and Sham Castle, Small Combe and Widcombe. Please bring a packed lunch. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Shaft Road, Bath.

**Leaders:** Bob Platt & Nigel Locke.

**3.5 hours • 6 miles**

OS: 155/7660 6270

A10

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 23 • 11.00

## National Trust: Lodge Park &amp; Sherborne Estate

Hallowe'en Trail: Visit the haunted lodge, complete the spooky trail and claim your prize! Booking not needed. Dates: 23, 24, 30, 31 October & 1 November from 11am - 4pm. All tickets £1.50. Lodge Park and Sherborne Estate, Lodge Park, Aldsworth, nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 3PP. Telephone: 01451 844130.

**Easy**

**Mobility information:** Contact in advance.

**Parking:** Designated parking in main car park. House and garden along undulating path. 2 wheelchairs. Transfer available.

**Building:** Steps to entrance. Ground floor has steps, very limited turning space. Stairs to other floors. Floors uneven. Visitor centre accessible.

**WCs:** by visitor reception area.

**Grounds:** Limited access, undulating paths, some steep slopes, uneven surfaces, access to terraces via steps.

**Shop:** Level entrance.

**Refreshments:** Level entrance.

Snowhill Manor and Garden, Snowhill, nr Broadway, Gloucestershire WR12 7JU. Telephone: 01386 852410.

**2.5 hours • 4.25 miles**

OS: 172/781737

B9

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 • 11.00

## National Trust: Snowhill Manor

Hallowe'en Trail: Find out all about hallowe'en as you explore the garden and find the hidden faces. Booking not needed. All tickets £1. Dates: 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 October & 1 November 11am - 5.30pm.

**Easy**

**Mobility information:** Contact in advance.

**Parking:** Designated parking in main car park. House and garden along undulating path. 2 wheelchairs. Transfer available.

**Building:** Steps to entrance. Ground floor has steps, very limited turning space. Stairs to other floors. Floors uneven. Visitor centre accessible.

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**Shop:** Level entrance.

**Refreshments:** Level entrance.

Snowhill Manor and Garden, Snowhill, nr Broadway, Gloucestershire WR12 7JU. Telephone: 01386 852410.

**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**

OS: 162/882978

B7

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 24 • 10.00

## Across Wooded Valleys

A longer autumn ramble visiting the wooded valley of the river Frome and the Holy Brook, exploring the villages of Winstone, Whiteway, Wishanger, Miserden, Edgeworth and Duntisbourne Abbots. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Strenuous**

**Starting point:** Turning to Duntisbourne Abbots and services off A417. Parking between services and Five Mile House Inn.

**Leaders:** John Heathcott, John Woodland & David Burwell.

**7 hours • 12 miles**

OS: 179/977091

D5

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 24 • 10.00

## Battles New and Old

A walk over hill tops and valley bottoms to Marshfield via St Catherine's Valley. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Moderate**

**Starting point:** Layby at the top of Gloucester Road, just north of Swainswick village, accessible via A46 Swainswick by-pass, signed Swainswick "local".

**Leader:** David Whittell.

**6 hours • 10 miles**

Explorer: 155/761155

A9

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 24 • 10.00

## Rolling Hills and the Rollrights

A circular walk starting at Salford and taking in the Rollright Stones and Little Rollright.

**Moderate**

**Starting point:** Salford village.

**Leader:** Margaret Burden.

**4.5 hours • 7 miles**

Explorer: 191/289279

G3

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 • 10.00

## The Railway Children

A walk along the Cotswold Way to North Nibley returning via Charfield with the opportunity of seeing the escarpment from an alternative aspect. Luncheon pub stop, drink only, with optional Town Hall tea at end of walk.

**Moderate**

**Starting point:** Chipping car park, Wotton-under-Edge.

**Leaders:** David Harrowin & Les Jones.

**6 hours • 10 miles**

OS: 162/756931

A7

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 • 10.00

## Gloucestershire County Council

## Half Term Iron Age Family Fun Morning

Relive the IRON AGE and storm the ramparts at Crickley Hill Country Park. Experience at first hand how our ancestors lived over 2500 years ago! The activities include a tour of the nationally important hill-fort, with the opportunity to try your hand at pot making, wattle and daubing and corn grinding! Places are strictly limited, so BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL on 01452 863170. Suitable for families, children 4 - 11 years with parents.

No dogs allowed except guide dogs, hearing dogs for the deaf.

**Starting point:** Crickley Hill Country Park, meet outside visitor centre. Sign posted off the B4070 four miles south of Cheltenham.

**Leaders:** Gloucestershire County Council countryside sites warden, Julian Bendle.

OS: 163/930163

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 • 10.30

## HALF TERM WALK:

## Marshfield - Town &amp; Country

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). Lunch choice of 3 pubs or a teashop. Suitable for families.

**Easy**

**Starting point:** Market Place, Marshfield.

**Leader:** David Colbourne.

**2.5 hours • 4.25 miles**

OS: 172/781737

B9

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 • 11.00

## National Trust: Snowhill Manor

Hallowe'en Trail: Find out all about hallowe'en as you explore the garden and find the hidden faces. Booking not needed. All tickets £1. Dates: 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 October & 1 November 11am - 5.30pm.

**Easy**

**Mobility information:** Contact in advance.

**Parking:** Designated parking in main car park. House and garden along undulating path. 2 wheelchairs. Transfer available.

**Building:** Steps to entrance. Ground floor has steps, very limited turning space. Stairs to other floors. Floors uneven. Visitor centre accessible.

**WCs:** by visitor reception area.

**Grounds:** Limited access, undulating paths, some steep slopes, uneven surfaces, access to terraces via steps.

**Shop:** Level entrance.

**Refreshments:** Level entrance.

Snowhill Manor and Garden, Snowhill, nr Broadway, Gloucestershire WR12 7JU. Telephone: 01386 852410.

**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**

OS: 162/882978

## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28 • 11.00

## National Trust: Newark Park

Fun Bat Hunt and Halloween Grotto: Hunt the bats hidden around the house and visit the witch's grotto. Normal admission charges apply. 28, 29 October & 31 October, 1 November 11am - 4pm. For further information telephone: 01453 842644. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Newark Park car park.

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 30 • 9.30

## Hills &amp; Mills

An undulating walk of woodland and meadows visiting the wool town of Nailsworth and passing water mills and fine houses. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Kingscote, side road opposite Hunters' Hall pub.

**Leaders:** Les Jones & Ken Leach.

**4.5 hours • 8.5 miles**

OS: 162/815961

B7

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 30 • 10.15

## Step Into The Cotswolds

From Milton-under-Wychwood to Fifield and Tangle Hall. This route follows a route improved through the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Step Into The Cotswolds project. Packed lunch required. Public transport: Bus X8 from Kingham Station. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Quart Pot, Milton-under-Wychwood (park nearby in High Street).

**Leader:** Dave Scott.

**4.5 hours • 6 miles**

OS: 164/263183

G4

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 • 10.00

## National Trust: Hidcote Manor Garden

Pumpkin Trail: A day filled with ghostly capers. A special spooky pumpkin trail and Halloween menu will run throughout the day. As an extra special treat children who come dressed in Halloween costume get in free! Normal admission charges apply. Contact Lisa Edinborough 01386 438333 for further information. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Hidcote Gardens car park.

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 • 10.00

## The Cotswold Way - between Bath &amp; Hawkesbury Upton: Walk 1 - Bath Abbey to Brockham

Walk 1 in a series of four, circular walks in the Avon Valley wardens' area. Walking into Bath using field paths, Royal Victoria Park and other historic sites in Bath. After lunch we will walk out of Bath to Brockham End on the top of Lansdown, entirely on the Cotswold Way. Some steep ascents but excellent views. Please bring a packed lunch, or buy a light lunch in central Bath. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Lansdown Park & Ride by telephone box.

**Leaders:** Avon Valley Wardens.

**6.5 hours • 11.5 miles**

Explorer: 155/732683

A10

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1 • 13.30

## Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust:

## Big Draw at Frith Wood near Stroud

Explore this magnificent beech wood and then create a colourful carpet on the woodland floor, fantastic faces in the trees, woodland hangings and weavings - or whatever you like! 1.30 pm - 4pm. Free but please book on 01452 383333. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Frith Wood, near Stroud - directions sent on booking.

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 • 10.00

## The Tuesday Tramp

Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch at Fox available. Bring a mid walk munchie. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne.

**Leader:** Russell Harding.

**3 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 156/818711

B9

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 • 14.00

## Cotswolds in Colour

Walk through the village along the Cotswold Way to Shenberrow Hill and then down to Stanway and return. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Stanton village car park.

**Leaders:** Gerry Burgess & David Jelfs.

**3 hours • 6 miles**

OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/068344

E2

## WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4 • 10.00

## West of Avening

A loop passing Church Farm, Brandhouse Farm and Longman's Barn Farm. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Avening Social Club car park, Woodstock Lane, Avening.

**Leaders:** Mike Brinkworth & Peter Russell.

**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**

OS: 162/794013

B6

## WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4 • 10.00

## Home of the Cotswold Craftsmen

A walk from Sapperton village to explore some Arts and Crafts locations, going to Pinbury Park and returning via Gloucester Beeches and Daneway House. This walk includes 2 moderate climbs with a possible pub lunch afterwards. Walk accessible by public transport, Cotswold Green bus number 54 from Cirencester. Please park sensibly in the village. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Entrance to Sapperton Church.

**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham & Geoffrey Ricketts.

**2.75 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 179/948033

C6

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8 • 10.00

## A Stroll in the Royal Wychwood

Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, William the Conqueror introduced the very un-English concept that all land ultimately belonged to The Crown. Royal Forests, where the King had the right to use areas of private land for hunting, were first recorded in 1086 in the Domesday Book and Wychwood was one of twenty five entries; We will walk through what remains of this medieval institution and discuss how it's been used over the past 1000 years and its prospects for the future. Optional pub lunch. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Spendlove car park, behind co-op, Enstone Road, Charlbury.

**Leader:** Anne Martis.

**5 hours • 8.5 miles**

Explorer: 180/357195

H4

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8 • 10.00

## The Name Game Walk 5:

## Pontlarge, Prescott, Postlip

Guess where these odd names come from while you enjoy an airy walk over Langley and Nottingham Hills before lunch on Cleve Cloud (why cloud?). Then briefly along a new section of the Cotswold Way and back down to Winchcombe. Pub lunch available. **Strenuous**

**Starting point:** Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display).

**Leaders:** Rob Talbot & Stephen Wright.



**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24 • 10.00**

**Town and Country**  
A walk around Tetbury and on footpaths into the contrasting surrounding countryside. Lunchtime cafes and pubs available. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Tetbury Old Station free car park.  
**Leaders:** Ted Thornton & David Harrowin.  
**2.5 hours • 4 miles**  
OS: 173/893933 **C7**

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 • 10.00**

**A House, A Manor and the Surrounding Woods**  
We walk past the unique Sezincote House then through Longborough to Hinchwick Manor. On the return we pass through Bourton Woods. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Bourton-on-the-Hill. Please park with care on the road behind the church.  
**Leaders:** Ann Harris & Peggy Lutter.  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/175324 **F3**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 • 9.30**

**Glorious Gloucestershire**  
A gentle walk via Sipton Oliffe and Hampen to an outstanding view of the Coln Valley. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Andoversford, near the cattle market in Station Road.  
**Leaders:** Colin Boulton & Philip Coates.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OL: 45/023198 **D4**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 • 17.00**

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum**  
Enchanted Christmas 2009: Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening from 28th November to 20th December. Take a walk through the famous Enchanted Wood and see the National Arboretum lit up at night. See Father Christmas plus lots of other festive excitement - carols from local choirs and bands, roast chestnuts and mulled wine plus a gift shop selling some fantastic gifts and decorations. Last entry to car park 7.15 pm for last entry to the trail 7.30 pm. Telephone: 01666 880220. Normal admission charges apply.  
**www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirtEasyWestonbirtArboretum**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29 • 10.00**

**The Cotswold Way between Bath & Hawkesbury Upton - Walk 2: Brockham End to Dyrham**  
Walk 2 in a series of four circular walks in the Avon Valley wardens' area. From Dyrham village, walking south to Brockham End using the MacMillan Way, skirting a major quarry and some lesser known paths to enable us to walk back to Dyrham after a picnic lunch. Again, in the afternoon we will be walking entirely on the Cotswold Way - some steep ascents and descents, but excellent views weather permitting. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Dyrham village on small triangular green on junction of Sands Hill & Doynham Lane. Please park carefully in village.  
**Leaders:** Avon Valley Wardens.  
**6 hours • 11 miles**  
Explorer: 155/739756 **A9**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29 • 10.00**

**Fireflies and Mini-Beasts**  
A woodland walk to Uley along the Dursley Sculpture Trail, returning over Uley Bury and Cam Long Down. Pub snack available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Long stay car park Dursley - access from Long Street opposite Market Hall.  
**Leaders:** David Harrowin & Ian Cooke.  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OS: 162/757982 **A6**

## December

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 1 • 10.00**

**The Tuesday Tramp**  
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne parish. Lunch at Fox available. Bring mid walk munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne.  
**Leader:** Russell Harding.  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 • 10.00**

**Exploring the Duntisbournes**  
A fairly easy walk to the secluded villages of Duntisbourne Abbots and Leer, returning via Winstone. Several stiles on route. Optional pub lunch on return. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** The old A417 near the Texaco services. Park on the road near the Five Mile Inn (not in the pub car park).  
**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham & Pippa Burgon.  
**2.75 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 179/977091 **D5**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2 • 10.00**

**The Windrush Valley and Handley Plain**  
Starting at the Maytime Inn at Asthall our route takes us along the Windrush Valley across the water meadows to Swinbrook and the site of the deserted village of Widford. From here we climb up to Handley Plain where we have views of the Lambourne Downs and the Ridgeway. Contact 07762019373 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** The Maytime Inn, Asthall.  
**Leader:** Gerald Simper.  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 163/288114 **G5**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 • 10.00**

**Cotswold Way Circular Walk 2 - Broadway and the Tower**  
A series of walks based on new circular routes devised to take advantage of the Cotswold Way National Trail. This one strolls through the picturesque village of Broadway and then climbs up to the intriguing Broadway Tower. Super views at the top. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Broadway, the War Memorial.  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt.  
**2 hours • 4 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/096375 **E2**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 6 • 10.00**

**A Way With Words - A E Houseman and Bredon Hill**  
A walk over Bredon Hill to Elmley Castle, returning through the north-western villages. There is one very steep climb. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Great Comberton, outside the parish church (please park with care).  
**Leaders:** Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood.  
**5 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Explorer: 190/954421 **D2**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 6 • 10.00**

**Avening Amble**  
The walk climbs steadily out of Nailsworth with panoramic views over the town before continuing along a remote valley to Avening. The return leg gives us views of Gatcombe Park. Suitable for families, but not buggies. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Opposite Nailsworth Bus Station, Old Market.  
**Leaders:** Alan Bulley & Peter Russell.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS: 162/849996 **B6**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9 • 10.00**

**East of Blockley Circular**  
Blockley - east up to the ridge and down to circle around Batsford Park and back to Blockley on the Monarch's and Heart of England Ways. Pub lunch available at end of walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Blockley village green.  
**Leaders:** Ann Harris & Peggy Lutter.  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/164350 **F2**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9 • 10.30**

**Westside Story**  
A circular walk around Stinchcombe Hill promising three different spectacular views. Pub lunch after walk if required. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Public car park on Stinchcombe Hill - not golf club car park.  
**Leaders:** David Harrowin & Vicky Blitz.  
**1.5 hours • 2.5 miles**  
OS: 162/744983 **A6**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 12 • 10.00**

**Both Ends of the Tunnel**  
A walk to explore both ends of the Sapperton Tunnel on the Thames and Severn Canal. The walk will include Cirencester Park, Coates, Hailey Wood and Sapperton. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cross roads, south of Sapperton on grass verge.  
**Leaders:** Sue Clark, Jill Stuart & Ted Currier.  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OS: 168/949028 **D6**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 12 • 11.00**

**National Trust: Lodge Park & Sherborne Estate**  
Christmas at Lodge Park: Father Christmas and mulled wine! Christmas Trail for the little ones, with a gift from Father Christmas himself at the end. Normal admission charges apply.; 12th and 13th December 11am - 4pm. Lodge Park and Sherborne Estate. Lodge Park, Aldsworth, nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 3PP. Telephone: 01451 844130. **Easy**  
**Mobility information:**  
**Parking:** Separate parking, 50 yards. Drop-off point.  
**Building:** 2 steps to entrance, ramp available. Audio visual/video.  
**WCs:** at Lodge Park, Refreshments - Accessible picnic tables.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 13 • 10.00**

**Dyrham to Doynton - over the top!**  
From Dyrham, southwards on the Cotswold Way to Cold Ashton. Down into the Swainswick valley to Lower Hamswell before a steep climb back to the Freezinghill summit for views over the Severn Valley before descending Tog Hill to Doynton and the maze of paths back to Dyrham. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Dyrham village.  
**Leaders:** John Walker & John Bartram.  
**5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS: 155/739756 **A9**

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 • 10.00**

**Rattling Giant's Bones**  
A walk through the pleasant village of Luckington to see an ancient site and onward through the tributaries of the Avon. Pub stop at Luckington. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Sherston High Street.  
**Leaders:** Ted Thornton & John Hammill.  
**5.5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS: 173/853858 **B8**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16 • 10.00**

**A Wool Town and a Village**  
A short walk in the Leach Valley with visits to two Wool churches - one large town centre, one village. The walk features field paths with delightful views and one moderately steep climb. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Northleach car park at the Old Prison at crossroads west of town.  
**Leaders:** Brian Chilvers, Mike Williams & Royden Hales.  
**2 hours • 4 miles**  
OL: 45/109149 **E5**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 17 • 10.00**

**Through Wood, Pinetum, Brake and Copse**  
Circular walk from Castle Combe to North Wraxall, West Kingston, Nettleton. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Castle Combe car park.  
**Leaders:** Nigel Locke & Bob Platt.  
**4 hours • 6.5 miles**  
OS: 156/846777 **B9**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 17 • 10.00**

**A Swell View of Stow**  
Walk to Upper and Lower Swell and on the return pass through Donnington and Broadwell. Pub lunch available after the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stow-on-the-Wold Tesco car park.  
**Leaders:** Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/191262 **F3**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 20 • 10.30**

**Around Kingscote**  
A circular walk from Hunters' Hall Hotel. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Hunters' Hall Hotel car park.  
**Leaders:** Eric Brown & Staszek Jarmuz.  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 162/814960 **B7**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 28 • 10.30**

**A Post-Christmas Treat**  
An opportunity to shed some of those Christmas calories on a walk in the Brimpsfield area. Suitable for families, but it may be muddy in places. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Birdlip "no through road" east of village, beyond the school.  
**Leaders:** Colin Boulton & Philip Coates.  
**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**  
OS: 179/931142 **C5**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 28 • 10.00**

**Around Minchinhampton Commons**  
Bracing morning walk on upland commons to prepare for the new year. Fairly flat terrain and very few stiles. Glorious views of surrounding valleys and beyond (weather permitting). Refreshments available at local inns after the walk. Suitable for families - but not buggies. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Opposite Amberley Inn, Amberley (please do not use inn car park).  
**Leaders:** Graham Bateman & Peter Russell.  
**3 hours • 10 miles**  
OS: 162/850013 **B6**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 • 10.00**

**The Name Game Walk 6: Slimmers' Special**  
Yan, Ched and Listercombe Bottom. A word-play wander in the woods while whittling away one's winter weightfulness. At the top of the hill there's even an optional detour for a pub stop. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Woodland car park near Chedworth Roman Villa (signs on the Fosse Way SW of Northleach).  
**Leaders:** Stephen Wright & Ian Chalmers.  
**2 hours • 4 miles**  
OL: 45/055134

## January 2010

**FRIDAY JANUARY 1 • 10.00**

**Climb to Cleeve and Circle Nottingham**  
A walk around some of the highest parts of the Cotswolds with outstanding views featuring Cleeve Hill, Nottingham Hill and Prescott village. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Southam - lay by on B4632 Cheltenham to Winchcombe road, 100 yards north of turning to Woodmancote.  
**Leaders:** John Heathcott, John Woodland & David Burwell.  
**3 hours • 5.5 miles**  
OS: 179/974260 **D3**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 1 • 10.00**

**Hills and Valleys**  
Morning walk so no lunch stop - just coffee and munchies. Walk through the valleys of Combe Hay and Upper Midford. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cross Keys public house, Southstoke Road, Combe Down.  
**Leaders:** Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS: 172/748619

**SUNDAY JANUARY 3 • 10.00**

**The Rollright Stones**  
A wander through the country around Little Rollright and the Rollright Stones. Please bring a packed lunch. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** In front of Manor House, Little Compton.  
**Leader:** Anne Martis.  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OL: 45/261301 **G3**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 5 • 10.00**

**The Tuesday Tramp**  
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch at Fox available. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne.  
**Leader:** Russell Harding.  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6 • 10.00**

**Winter Views from on High**  
An annual Post Christmas Blow from Seven Springs along the Cotswold Way escarpment on Leckhampton Hill, with a visit to the Devil's Chimney. Walk includes several moderate climbs. Optional pub lunch on return. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Seven Springs pub car park near junction of the A436 and A435 (by prior arrangement - please use rear of car park).  
**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham & Pippa Burgon.  
**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**  
OS: 179/968171 **D5**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 9 • 10.00**

**A Way with Words: Walls and Tiles**  
In celebration of two poems which discuss the building materials and techniques used in the region for centuries. One poem, Cotswold Tiles lists all the tiles on Cotswold cottage roofs. The other by Dymock poet Robert Frost analyses the links between the craftsmanship of dry stone walling and human relationships. The walk includes Brimpsfield, Birdlip, Barrow Wake, Shab Hill and Watercombe. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Gloucester Beeches lay-by, western side of A417 Birdlip to Cirencester Road  
**Leaders:** Sue Clark, Jill Stuart & Ted Currier.  
**5.25 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS: 179/958122 **D5**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 10 • 10.00**

**Alternative Power**  
To Nympsfield. Up one side of the valley and back down the other. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Long stay car park (opposite bus station in Old Market, Nailsworth).  
**Leaders:** Mike Brinkworth & Graham Bateman.  
**6 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS: 162/849996 **B6**

**THURSDAY JANUARY 14 • 10.00**

**Up and Over to Ilmington**  
A walk from Hidcote Manor towards Ilmington, returning by Foxcote House and Hidcote Boyce. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Hidcote Gardens car park (by kind permission of the National Trust).  
**Leaders:** Malcolm Duncan & Bob Fisher.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure 45/176430 **E2**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 15 • 9.30**

**Ancient and Modern**  
A walk to North Nibley and the Tyndale Monument passing the Iron Age Hillfort of Brackenberry Ditches and returning via the strip lynchets and Holywell along the Cotswold Way to Wotton-under-Edge. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Royal Oak pub car park, Wotton-under-Edge.  
**Leaders:** Ken Leach, Les Jones.  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 162/755933 **A7**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 15 • 10.30**

**Wintertime in Cotswold Villages**  
Climb out of Broadway walking past the Group 4 Complex to Saintbury and on to Willersey and return. Pub lunch available. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Broadway, the Leamington Road car park.  
**Leaders:** Gerry Burgess & David Jelfs.  
**4 hours • 5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/101375 **E2**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 17 • 10.00**

**A Winter Walk to Belas Knap - fingers crossed for snow**  
Make a brisk start to the year with a stiff climb along to Cotswold Way to Belas Knap. Continue along a new section of the Way through Breakheart Plantation dropping down to Winchcombe. Pub lunch after the walk. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display).  
**Leaders:** Sheila & Robert Talbot.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/023284 **D3**

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 • 10.00**

**The Spoonbed Tything**  
A pleasant walk around Spoonbed Valley and over Painswick Beacon with views down to Stroud and across the Severn Valley. An easy walk with two short but steep ascents. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Walker's car park, Painswick.  
**Leaders:** Royden Hales, Brian Chilvers & Mike Williams.  
**2 hours • 4 miles**  
OS: 179/867105 **C5**

**THURSDAY JANUARY 21 • 10.30**

**Pavements and Paths of Chipping Norton**  
A chance to look at some of the many interesting buildings that show how the highest town in Oxfordshire has developed over the centuries. We leave the town to explore paths in the surrounding countryside - some of which could be muddy or slippery at this time of year. Please wear appropriate footwear. The finish is in the town centre which has plenty of choice for lunch venues. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** New Street car park, Chipping Norton.  
**Leaders:** Rosemary Wilson & Kevin Myhill.  
**1.5 hours • 3 miles**  
OS: 164/312271 **G3**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 23 • 10.00**

**Cotswold Way Circular Walk 3 - Stanton, Snowhill and the Edge**  
A series of walks based on new circular routes devised to take advantage of the Cotswold Way National Trail. This is a lovely walk between two picturesque villages, over hills and down valleys. Superb views. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stanton village car park.  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/068343 **E2**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 24 • 10.00**

**A Barrow Full of Romans**  
A walk around the west of Castle Coombe, crossing the Fosse Way. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Castle Coombe public car park.  
**Leaders:** Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando.  
**6 hours • 10 miles**  
Explorer: 156/846777 **B9**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 24 • 10.00**

**In Charles 2nds Footsteps**  
Monarch's Way through Kilcott Valley, Oldbury on the Hill, Leighterton. Lunch and return via Tresham. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fleece Inn, Hillesley. Car parking available at sports ground.  
**Leaders:** Eric Brown & Ian Cooke.  
**6 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS: 172/769897 **A7**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 30 • 10.00**

**Hidden and Secret Valleys**  
A delightful, but reasonably demanding walk, exploring the sources of the River Frome, Holy Brook. Could be very muddy in places. Pub lunch available at Miserden or bring a picnic. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Birdlip "no through road" east of village, beyond the school.  
**Leaders:** Colin Boulton & Philip Coates.  
**6 hours • 10 miles**  
OS: 179/931142 **C5**



**SUNDAY JANUARY 31 • 10.00**

**Sea the View from Windmill Hill**  
A walk to the summit of Windmill Hill giving superb views above the village of Tysoe in South Warwickshire. The walk visits the villages of Brailes, Tysoe, Epwell, Winderton and passes the private country house of Compton Wynnyates. Packed lunch required. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Lay by, Upper Brailes.  
**Leaders:** Lucy & Martin Squires.  
**5 hours • 10 miles**  
OS: 151/304394

G2

**February**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2 • 10.00**

**The Tuesday Tramp**  
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch at Fox available. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne.  
**Leader:** Russell Harding.  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156/818711

B9

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 • 10.00**

**Scenic Churn Valley**  
A walk up the valley to Rendcomb returning via Woodmancote. Includes two church visits with fine medieval glass and carvings. Public transport available from Cirencester or Cheltenham, Stagecoach Bus number 151. Optional pub lunch on return. Parking by prior arrangement for those having lunch, or park considerately in the village. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Bathurst Arms, North Cerney.  
**Leaders:** Pippa Burgon, Tony Wilson & Rosemary Woodham.  
**2.57 hours • 5 miles**  
OL: 45/019079

D5

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6 • 10.00**

**Cotswold Way Circular Walk 4 - Winchcombe & Belas Knap**  
A series of walks based on new circular routes devised to take advantage of the Cotswold Way National Trail. This scenic walk goes from unspoilt Winchcombe to Belas Knap. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display).  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt.  
**2.5 hours • 5.5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/023284

D3

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7 • 10.00**

**A Walk Through the Slaughters**  
A pleasant amble through the Slaughters and back down the Windrush Valley. Optional pub lunch after the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** By the War Memorial, Bourton-on-the-Water.  
**Leader:** Anne Martis  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OL: 45/167206

F4

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9 • 10.00**

**Leighterton Figure of Eight**  
A figure of eight walk from Leighterton on the Cotswold plateau through Tresham and Boxwell Court in the morning and Westonbirt in the afternoon. Pub lunch available at Leighterton. Walk either or both halves. 10.00 am: 2.5 hours and 4.5 miles. 14.00pm: 2.5 hours and 4.5 miles. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Royal Oak pub, Leighterton.  
**Leaders:** Ted Thornton & Ian Cooke.  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS: 162/824912

B7

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11 • 10.00**

**A Short Walk for a Short Winter Morning**  
Ramsden is a pretty village in the ancient Wychwood Forest. The walk follows tracks used over the centuries by Ancient Britons, the Romans, the Normans and generations of country folk seeking the healing properties of the Lady Well. There is also an intriguing story involving gentry, a bell and a pool. Optional lunch at the end of the walk at The Royal Oak. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Ramsden, please park thoughtfully near the War Memorial.  
**Leaders:** Rosemary Wilson & Kevin Myhill.  
**2.25 hours • 4.2 miles**  
OS: 164/356152

H4

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13 • 10.00**

**A Way with Words; Jenny Joseph, author of Warning and Persephone and other verse**  
In celebration of the nation's favourite post war poem and one of Gloucestershire's most successful poets we will be walking to the poet's home town of Minchinhampton. The walk includes Hyde, Minchinhampton, Longfords and Box. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Lay by at top of Cowcombe Hill on A419, Stroud to Cirencester Road.  
**Leaders:** Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier.  
**5.25 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS: 168/910019

C6

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 • 10.00**

**Thor's Stone and Rochester's Tomb**  
From Charlbury through villages of Taston, Spelsbury and Dean returning via Greenhill Copse and the Oxfordshire Way. Pub lunch available in Charlbury after walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Spendlove car park, Charlbury.  
**Leader:** Tony Graeme.  
**3.5 hours • 6.5 miles**  
Explorer: 191/358196

H4

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16 • 10.30**

**HALF TERM WALK: Marshfield - Town & Country**  
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). Lunch choice of 3 pubs or a teashop. Suitable for families. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Market Place, Marshfield.  
**Leader:** David Colbourne.  
**2.5 hours • 4.25 miles**  
OS: 172/781737

H2

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17 • 10.00**

**A Walk Around Misarden Park**  
A walk with some superb forest views with brooks and bridges, winding paths and forest tracks (includes two steep climbs). Optional pub lunch. Parking available in village - please park sensibly. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Carpenters Arms, Miserden.  
**Leaders:** Mike Williams, Brian Chilvers & Royden Hales.  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 179/937088

C5

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18 • 10.00**

**Walking from Blockley No. 3**  
A series appreciating the delightful walks from picturesque Blockley. This, the third, leads us to Bran Barn and the lost village of Upper Ditchford before going on to Aston Magna and Moreton-in-Marsh. On the return we travel along the Heart of England, the Monarch's passing Batsford. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Blockley village green bus shelter.  
**Leaders:** Keith Sisson & Paul Adams.  
**5.5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/164350

F2

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 • 10.00**

**Wiltshire Circular**  
A walk to Colerne via Thickwood and Ashwicke. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Marshfield Market Place.  
**Leader:** David Whitnell.  
**10 miles • 6 hours**  
OS: 155/781737

A9

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 • 10.00**

**A Way With Words - What said Master Dumbleton**  
Find out about the reference to Dumbleton in Shakespeare's Henry 4th Part 2 during a walk around Beckford, Alderton, The Washbournes and Aston-under-Hill. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Dumbleton. The village hall in Dairy Lane (please park considerately).  
**Leaders:** Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood.  
**5.5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/018359

E2

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 • 10.00**

**Of Rogues and Revels**  
Explore the southern part of the Wychwood Forest and learn about some of its colourful characters on this morning walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Burford car park.  
**Leader:** Dave Scott.  
**4 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 164/254124

G5

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21 • 10.00**

**Wot No Nave!**  
A walk in the Severn Vale to Frocester via Coaley, returning through Leonard Stanley. Pub snack available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Coaley Peak picnic site.  
**Leaders:** David Harrowin & Mike Brinkworth.  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OS: 162/794013

B6

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 • 10.00**

**A Circuit around Chipping Norton**  
We walk from Chipping Norton along the Saltway to Salford and onwards to Cornwell and then back through pasture land to Chipping Norton. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** New Street car park, Chipping Norton.  
**Leader:** Margaret Burden.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
Explorer: 191/313270

G3

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 • 10.00**

**The Name Game Walk 7: Stourhead Revisited**  
Mr Sibb, the traitor, and a phantom ford at the source of the Warwickshire Stour (which is in Oxfordshire). Names to conjure with, certainly hills and possibly mud - a walk to relish on the eastern fringe of the Cotswolds AONB. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Traitor's Ford on a minor road between Brailes and Hook Norton. Leaving Brailes on B4035 towards Banbury, take a sneaky right turn (no sign) 200 metres after the first 50mph sign. After one mile fork left signed Ascott and keep going to the ford. From Whichford or Great Rollright take the high road to a crossroads at the top of Whichford Hill and follow the sign downhill for Traitor's Ford. Please park tidily on the road on either side of the ford.  
**Leaders:** Sandy Briscoe & Stephen Wright.  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OS: 191/337364

H2

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 • 10.00**

**The Cotswold Way between Bath and Hawkesbury Upton: Walk 3 - Dyrham to Old Sodbury**  
Walk 3 in a series of four circular walks in the Avon Valley wardens area. From the church at Old Sodbury, making our way to Combe End and then on less well known paths to enable us to walk under the M4 on our way to Dyrham. Our lunch stop will be a picnic in Dyrham and then we will set off to walk on the Cotswold Way to Old Sodbury. Some steep ascents, but good views, weather permitting. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Old Sodbury Church/school. Please park carefully and do not obstruct church access.  
**Leaders:** Avon Valley Wardens.  
**6.5 hours • 11.5 miles**  
Explorer: 155/757817

A8

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 • 10.00**

**Peaks and Troughs**  
Start at car park - Peaked Down, Long Down, Uley Bury, Coaley Peak. Frocester - lunch. Return to Cam Peak car park. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cam Peak car park.  
**Leaders:** Eric Brown & Tony Boxall.  
**6 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS: 162/767994

B6

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28 • 10.00**

**A Rissington Ramble**  
A walk passing through the villages of Bledington, Nether Westcote, Wyck Rissington, Icomb giving superb views across the Cotswolds countryside. Packed lunch required. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Bledington village green.  
**Leaders:** Lucy & Martin Squires.  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
OL: 45/243227

G4

**March**

**TUESDAY MARCH 2 • 10.00**

**The Tuesday Tramp**  
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch at Fox available. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne.  
**Leader:** Russell Harding.  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156/818711

B9

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 3 • 10.00**

**A High Mast and Three Rivers**  
Stow-on-the-Wold - Icomb - Bourton-on-the-Water, Lower Slaughter, Lower Swell, Stow. Bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stow-on-the-Wold Tesco car park.  
**Leaders:** Ann Harris & Peggy Lutter.  
**6 hours • 10 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45/192262

F3

**FRIDAY MARCH 5 • 9.30**

**2 Ways and 3 Villages**  
A walk with several easy climbs taking in three villages, fine houses and parts of two long distance paths. Picnic lunch please. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Grass verge east of Tresham village centre.  
**Leaders:** Les Jones & Ken Leach.  
**5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS: 162/793912

B7

**SUNDAY MARCH 7 • 9.30**

**Over the Hills to Hailes**  
Start with a stiff climb up Dunns Hill to the Salt Way then traverse around the Farmcote Valley, passing a 14th century manor house, before dropping down to Hailes Abbey. Return along the Cotswold Way. Pub lunch available after the walk but do carry refreshments. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display).  
**Leaders:** Robert & Sheila Talbot.  
**4 hours • 7 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/023284

D3

**TUESDAY MARCH 9 • 10.00**

**A Walk Around 'The Cottages'**  
Footpaths & towpath around Coates. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Coates village hall car park.  
**Leaders:** Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper.  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 163/978008

D6

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 10 • 10.00**

**Roman Cotswolds**  
A walk from a Roman country house to a Roman highway. Starting from the Chedworth Roman Villa the walk will follow sections of the Monarch's Way passing Chedworth village to Fossebridge, then returning via Stowell Park and Stowell and Yanworth Mills. Refreshments available at Chedworth, Fossebridge or Northleach after the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Chedworth Roman Villa car park.  
**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham & Pippa Burgon.  
**3 hours • 5.5 miles**  
OL: 45/055134

E5

**THURSDAY MARCH 11 • 10.00**

**Circa Chippy**  
The walk following footpaths and bridleways almost completes a full circle of Chipping Norton exploring the countryside and hills around the Oxfordshire town. We return to Chipping Norton to conclude the walk where there is an option of a pub lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Chipping Norton Leisure Centre car park, Burford Road.  
**Leaders:** Kevin Myhill & Rosemary Wilson.  
**2 hours • 5.5 miles**  
OS: 191/314265

G3

**SATURDAY MARCH 13 • 10.00**

**Leigh Delamere again!**  
Across the golf course to Nettleton Mill - along the Fosse Way before turning east through Grittleton to Leigh Delamere and its unusual church. After lunch - Sevington, West Yatton Down Nature Reserve, Long Dean and back to Castle Combe. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Castle Combe car park.  
**Leaders:** John Walker & John Dougal.  
**6 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS: 156/845778

B9

**SATURDAY MARCH 13 • 10.00**

**Cotswold Way Walk 5 - Cleeve Hill Common Ring**  
A series of walks based on new circular routes devised to take advantage of the Cotswold Way National Trail. This walk goes over hilltops, across streams and through woodlands in an area of the Cotswolds unimproved limestone grassland. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cleeve Hill Quarry car park - behind the golf club.  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt.  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS: Explorer 179/989272

D3

**THURSDAY MARCH 18 • 10.00**

**Walking from Blockley No. 4**  
A series appreciating the delightful walks from picturesque Blockley. This walk, the last of the series, uses the Diamond Way to Hinchwick Manor and Longborough. After lunch we cross to the Heart of England Way to return via Sezincote, Bourton-on-the-Hill. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Blockley village green bus shelter.  
**Leaders:** Keith Sisson & Paul Adams.  
**6 hours • 10.5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/164350

F2

**THURSDAY MARCH 18 • 10.00**

**Pipehouse, Tucking Mill and Waterhouse**  
Circular walk from Hinton Charterhouse, via Midford and Monkton Combe. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Rose & Crown Inn, Hinton Charterhouse.  
**Leaders:** Nigel Locke & Bob Platt.  
**6 miles • 3.5 hours**  
OS: 172/772583

F5

**SATURDAY MARCH 20 • 10.00**

**Follow the Coln Valley to Fairford**  
A river walk from Bibury to Fairford and back visiting Coln St Aldwyns, Hatherop and Quenington. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. Parking alongside river. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Bibury - footbridge by Arlington Row.  
**Leaders:** John Heathcote, John Woodland & David Burwell.  
**7 hours • 12 miles**  
OL: 45/116067

F5

**SUNDAY MARCH 21 • 10.00**

**Valleys and Views**  
Little Solsbury Hill to Bannerdown, Shockerwick hamlet to Chilcombe Bottom with 2 stiff climbs. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Slip road for Swainswick east of A46 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout on A46.  
**Leaders:** Gill Sheppard, Chris Harvey & John Walker  
**6 hours • 10.25 miles**  
OS: 155/762683

A10

**SUNDAY MARCH 21 • 10.00**

**Along the Southern Cotswold Way**  
Scenic walk along sections of the Cotswold Way near Stroud. Route includes the escarpment, King's Stanley, Stroudwater Canal and Selsley Common. Views of the Severn Valley, Forest of Dean and beyond (weather permitting). Please bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drinks only. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Coaley Peak car park, near viewpoint.  
**Leaders:** Graham Bateman & Mike Brinkworth.  
**6 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS: 162/794013

B6

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 24 • 10.00**

**Barrow, Brimpsfield and Birdlip**  
Starting from Barrow Wake, a walk along a section of the Cotswold Way with extensive views of the Severn Vale before rising to the top of the escarpment and crossing to Brimpsfield village, returning via Birdlip. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Barrow Wake viewpoint. 1 mile north of Birdlip off B4070.  
**Leaders:** Royden Hales, Brian Chilvers, Mike Williams.  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 179/931153

C5

**THURSDAY MARCH 25 • 10.00**

**The villages to the south of Burford**  
A circular walk passing through the villages of Holwell, Westwell. Lunch at the Fox at Great Barrington and return. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Burford car park.  
**Leaders:** Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan.  
**5 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/254125

G5

**FRIDAY MARCH 26 • 10.00**

**Three Quintessential Cotswold Villages**  
Walk to Laverton before a steep climb up to the Cotswold Way and down to Snowhill for lunch. Return up and over to Stanton. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stanton village car park.  
**Leaders:** Gerry Burgess & David Jeffs.  
**4 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/068344

E3

**SUNDAY MARCH 28 • 10.00**

**The Cotswold Way between Bath & Hawkesbury Upton - Walk 4: Old Sodbury to Hawkesbury Upton**  
The fourth and final walk along the Cotswold Way in the Avon Valley wardens area. Walking south from Hawkesbury Upton to ancient villages and churches, manor, medieval fishponds and sites of ancient deer parks. Picnic lunch or light lunch at Dog Inn Old Sodbury. Then our final section of the Cotswold Way in this area. passing through hill forts and a modern folly. Excellent views, weather permitting. Picnic lunch or light pub lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Pond at Hawkesbury Upton.  
**Leaders:** Avon Valley Wardens.  
**6 hours • 10.5 miles**  
Explorer: 176/775875

A7

**SUNDAY MARCH 28 • 10.00**

**A Way with Words...lies it all peace beyond The Western Fold**  
What did A T Quiller-Couch have to say about Eckington, Bredon Hill and the Avon Valley. A walk over Bredon Hill to Kemerton, Westmancote and Bredon's Norton. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Eckington, outside the parish church (please park with care).  
**Leaders:** Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood.  
**5.5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS Explorer: 190/922415

E2

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 31 • 10.00**

**Monarchs, Moreton and More**  
Follow King Charles' supposed escape route whilst taking in some great views, famous and magnificent houses and lots of local history. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Moreton-in-Marsh - by the War Memorial.  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt.  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS Outdoor Leisure: 45/204326

F3



# Cotswold Grants



INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

A number of grants are available to help farmers, landowners, organisations and local communities make environmental improvements. These are administered by various organisations, all working to enhance the landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the Cotswolds. Listed on this page are just some of the grants available. For further information please contact the relevant organisation.

## Sustainable Development Fund

A grant scheme administered by the Cotswolds Conservation Board supporting projects that bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the Cotswolds AONB.

Open to individuals, community, voluntary and partnership groups, the private sector, public bodies and local authorities and charities.

Applications can be made for grants ranging from several hundred pounds up to £25,000. The fund can provide up to 75% of the total project costs. In exceptional circumstances 100% may be provided for voluntary bodies.

**If you think you have a suitable project, the Conservation Board would like to hear from you; call 01451 862035 for details.**

More information is available on our website at: [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

## Useful fundraising websites

### General fundraising

- [www.grantsnet.co.uk](http://www.grantsnet.co.uk)  
Easy access to information on grants available to businesses and charities, with the ability to search grant schemes by area, project type or keywords
- [www.access-funds.co.uk](http://www.access-funds.co.uk)  
Regularly updated news about sources of funding
- [www.fundraising.co.uk](http://www.fundraising.co.uk)  
UK charity and non profit making fundraisers
- [www.ruralnet.org.uk](http://www.ruralnet.org.uk)  
Details of rural funding sources

### Charitable trusts

- [www.acf.org.uk](http://www.acf.org.uk)  
Trusts and foundations
- [www.funderfinder.org.uk](http://www.funderfinder.org.uk)  
Information about the Fundfinder software and links to websites of trusts
- [www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk)  
Information on the Directory of Social Change, a guide to trust funding

### Company giving

- [www.cafonline.org](http://www.cafonline.org)  
Charities Aid Foundation supports corporate community involvement

### Government funding

- [www.governmentfunding.org.uk](http://www.governmentfunding.org.uk)  
Provides information on grants awarded by government departments

### European funding

- [www.dti.gov.uk/regional/european-structural-funds/index.html](http://www.dti.gov.uk/regional/european-structural-funds/index.html)  
Information from the Department of Trade and Industry on European funding
- [www.esf.gov.uk](http://www.esf.gov.uk)  
European Social Fund site

### Other useful websites

- [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)  
Charity Commission publications and charity register
- [www.grantfinder.co.uk](http://www.grantfinder.co.uk)  
Subscribing to Grantfinder, a leading commercial sourcing organisation, enables you to search its database
- [www.J4bgrants.co.uk](http://www.J4bgrants.co.uk)  
Registering on the website enables you to search for relevant grants and make use of other services

## Gloucestershire Environmental Trust

The Gloucestershire Environmental Trust provides grants from funds generated by the Landfill Communities Fund for the benefit of Gloucestershire, its people and its environment.

Applications have to fit the Landfill Communities Fund objectives and must be approved and registered with ENTRUST [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk)

..... 01452 739006  
[www.glos-environment-trust.co.uk](http://www.glos-environment-trust.co.uk)

## Grant finder services

### Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

Conservation land management grants

- Avon FWAG ..... 0117 959 8522
- Gloucestershire FWAG ..... 01452 627487
- Oxfordshire FWAG ..... 01993 886565
- Warwickshire FWAG ..... 01926 318280
- Wiltshire FWAG ..... 0117 959 8522
- Worcestershire FWAG ..... 01905 362955

### Business Link

Business orientated advice and diversification opportunities for South West

- Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bath ..... 0845 600 9966  
Email: [enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk)  
Website: [www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest)
- Wiltshire ..... 0845 600 9966  
Email: [enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk)  
Website: [www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest)
- Warwickshire ..... 0845 113 1234  
Email: [info@businesslinkwm.co.uk](mailto:info@businesslinkwm.co.uk)  
Website: [www.businesslinkwm.co.uk](http://www.businesslinkwm.co.uk)
- Hereford and Worcestershire ..... 0845 113 1234  
Email: [info@businesslinkwm.co.uk](mailto:info@businesslinkwm.co.uk)  
Website: [www.businesslinkwm.co.uk](http://www.businesslinkwm.co.uk)
- Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire ..... 0845 600 9006  
Email: [info@businesslinksolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@businesslinksolutions.co.uk)  
Website: [www.businesslinksolutions.co.uk](http://www.businesslinksolutions.co.uk)

### Rural Community Councils (RCCs)

RCCs provide help in putting together Rural Community Council grant applications, especially to the Community Fund. They also administer many grants on behalf of other organisations:

- County council grant fund for village halls
- Village shop/hall improvement grants
- Rural Initiative Fund grants on behalf of Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society
- Allocating funds from Landfill Tax Credits for improvements to village halls
- Gloucestershire Rural Community Council ..... 01452 528491  
Website: [www.grcc.org.uk](http://www.grcc.org.uk)
- Community Action – Avon area/ South Gloucestershire ..... 01275 393837  
Website: [www.community-action.org.uk](http://www.community-action.org.uk)
- Community First Wilts and Bath ..... 01380 722475  
Website: [www.communityfirst.org.uk](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk)
- Oxfordshire Rural Community Council ..... 01865 883488  
Website: [www.oxonrcc.org.uk](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk)
- Warwickshire Rural Community Council ..... 02476 303232  
Website: [www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk)
- Community First Hereford and Worcester ..... 01684 312730/01432 267820  
Website: [www.comfirst.org.uk](http://www.comfirst.org.uk)
- Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) ..... 01285 653477  
Website: [www.acre.org.uk](http://www.acre.org.uk)



## The England Woodland Grant Scheme

The Cotswolds AONB is one of five Ancient Woodland Priority Areas established in the South West by the Forestry Commission to benefit from the England Woodland Grant Scheme which provides landowners with help in meeting the costs of managing existing woodlands and creating new ones. Cotswold farmers and landowners can therefore benefit from enhanced grants.

The Forestry Commission is eager to talk to landowners who may be interested in using the grant scheme to bring their woodlands into management or to create new ones.

To find out more visit the Forestry Commission's website [www.forestry.gov.uk/england-swe](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-swe) or phone James Fry, the woodland officer for Gloucestershire, on 01594 810983.

### Forestry Commission England Woodland Grants Scheme (EWGS)

The England Woodland Grants Scheme (EWGS) is the Forestry Commission's suite of grants designed to develop the co-ordinated delivery of public benefits from England's woodlands. The scheme is now open to applications for payment year 2009-2010. Closing dates for all regional grants can be found on the Regional Prospectuses page. See [www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs)

The aims of EWGS are to:  
– sustain and increase the public benefits given by existing woodlands, and  
– help create new woodlands to deliver additional public benefit.

For more information contact the Forestry Commission in your area:

- Oxfordshire ..... 01296 696543
- Wiltshire ..... 01672 511767
- Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset ..... 01594 810983
- Warwickshire and Worcestershire ..... 01905 532200  
Website: [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

## England Rural Development Programme (ERDP)

This is a seven year programme (2007-2013) which is worth £3.9 billion overall and is jointly funded by the EU and national government. Part of the Common Agricultural Policy, it aims to support and promote the sustainable farming, forestry and food sectors, and also bring wider benefits for the economy, the environment and rural communities.

The new EU Regulations divide the aims of the programme into three main areas, called Axes:

### ERDP Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sector.

For further information on Axis 1 contact your local RDA:

- South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) ..... 01483 484200
- South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) ..... 0845 6009966
- West Midlands Regional Development Agency ..... 0121 3803500

### ERDP Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside (80% of the total budget – mostly to be invested in national schemes such as Environmental Stewardship and The England Woodland Grants Scheme).

For Axis 2 contact:

- Natural England Entry Level Stewardship ..... 0845 602 4098
- Organic Entry Level Stewardship ..... 0845 602 4093
- Higher Level Stewardship ..... 0845 602 4098

(Farmland Birds Project as part of HLS – contact the Natural England Help line in Bristol on 0300 0601118)

### ERDP Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and promoting diversification of the rural economy – including Local Action for Rural Communities.

For Axis 3 contact your local RDA (see above) or see website:

[www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/pdf/guidh.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/pdf/guidh.pdf)

## Rural Enterprise Gateway (REG)

The REG in the South West offers a package of support to farming and other rural businesses, as well as providing information and advice.

Contact Graham Thompson on 01285 889873

[Graham.Thompson@rac.ac.uk](mailto:Graham.Thompson@rac.ac.uk)

## Cotswolds Conservation Board

### [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

Cotswolds Conservation Board  
Fosse Way,  
Northleach,  
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e-mail: [info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

### The Cotswolds Conservation Board looks after the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Board works:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB;
- to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB.

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