



Cotswold Lion

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The newspaper of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Magnificent Meadows

Campaign to save meadows highlights the importance of Cotswold limestone grasslands

Wildflower-rich grasslands and meadows alive with colour are among the iconic summer sights of the British countryside, no more so than in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The AONB contains over 50% of the UK's total Jurassic unimproved limestone grassland, much of it clustered along the western scarp, and many rare and declining plant species thrive in these 'nutrient poor' conditions: including orchids, pasqueflowers and Cotswold pennycress. The distinctive grassland also supports nationally rare butterflies like the chalkhill blue and Duke of Burgundy.

Yet our wildflower meadows and grasslands are rapidly vanishing. Once, every parish in the UK could boast them; today only 2% of the meadows that existed in the 1930s remain. In the Cotswolds, 40% of land was covered in Jurassic limestone grassland in the 1930s, but this has shrunk to less than 1.5% (7,413 acres): dramatically reduced but a vitally significant wildlife and landscape feature.

Reasons for the decline are many. Wildflower grasslands were largely created by human activity and have

developed since early farmers cleared forested areas to provide grazing for their livestock. Changes in land use and farming practice, 'enrichment' by artificial fertilisers, over- or under-grazing: all have contributed to the countrywide loss of nearly 7.5 million acres of traditional meadows.

To counter this decline, plans for a national natural heritage project, Saving Our Magnificent Meadows, have been launched to protect, conserve and restore wildflower meadows across the UK, including a focus on the Cotswolds' flower-rich limestone grasslands.

Spearheaded by a unique partnership of the Cotswolds Conservation Board with ten other conservation organisations, led by Plantlife, the project received £145,900 Heritage Lottery development funding in the autumn. Aiming to raise awareness of the importance of our wildflower meadows and grasslands among the general public, landowners and land managers, the project has carried out an online survey and will submit its detailed campaign proposals to the Heritage Lottery Fund this summer.

"Wildflower meadows and unimproved grassland are so

important for their species diversity," says Vikki Fenner, Plantlife's Development Manager for the project. "Thousands of species, whether brown hares or short-haired bumblebees, depend on them for their survival. If you lose the meadow and grassland,

you lose the species. Grassland can also act as a carbon sink and meadows as water sumps.

"These landscapes have been part of a very traditional way of farming and have great historical associations too. They have inspired some of

our most important authors and artists: it could be said they are just as important to our heritage as the works of Shakespeare."

Continued on page 2



Nick Turner

Limestone grassland at Uley Bury on the Cotswolds scarp.

Around the Cotswolds

Castle Combe Cycling Festival

Lots of family fun is promised as Castle Combe Circuit welcomes the Castle Combe Cycling Festival for a second year on 2nd June. Visitors will be able to cycle the historic 1.85 mile race circuit on the Circuit Lap Challenge and there will be plenty of 'have-a-go' activities. Savage Skills, the UK's leading freestyle mountain bike stunt team, will provide jaw-dropping shows, and 'The Wheels for All' initiative encourages anyone with disabilities to enjoy riding using adapted cycles.
www.castlecombecyclingfestival.co.uk

National Nature Reserve BioBlitz

Join in a race against the clock to find as many species of wildlife as possible in Buckholt Wood and on Cranham Common, part of the Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods National Nature Reserve. A BioBlitz is an exciting event where naturalists, students, schoolchildren and members of the public come together to explore and record local wildlife. The Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods NNR BioBlitz will start on Friday, 5th July at 10am and finish on Saturday, 6th July at 2pm. Refreshments will be available from Cranham Scout Centre.
www.cotswoldnnrbioblitz.weebly.com

Charging stations encourage green travel

Two charging points for electric cars have been installed in the guests' parking area at Broadway Manor Cottages, Broadway. The sockets were provided free by Zero Carbon World, and installation cost £190.

"We have a Green Tourism Gold Award and we are always looking at building on our green credentials," says owner Debbie Williamson. "We hope this will help to extend the network of charging stations and encourage more sustainable travel."

Zero Carbon World is a not-for-profit UK charity that aims to implement carbon reduction projects. By summer, free charging stations will have been provided to 500 locations across the UK, making carbon friendly travel by electric vehicle easier.

www.broadwaymanor.co.uk or www.zerocarbonworld.org

PlantTracker app launched

A new app has been launched to help track down problematic, invasive, non-native plant species that displace native species and detrimentally affect the ecology of many vulnerable habitats. The Environment Agency, the Nature Locator team at the University of Bristol and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology have joined forces to ask the public to use the app to help build a comprehensive picture of where the problem plants are located across the UK. Available free from the iTunes App Store and Android Market, the PlantTracker app shows how to identify each species and enables you to submit geo-located photos whenever you find one.
www.planttracker.naturelocator.org

POOSH to sustainable building

ThePOOSH.org is a community based hospitality site focused on connecting people who want to learn about and participate in sustainable self-build and low impact structures. You can sign up, make a profile and get in touch with other members to exchange ideas, knowledge and skills.
www.thepoosh.org

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Around the Cotswolds some 400 flower-rich grassland sites remain and much work has already been done to conserve them: for their ecological importance – typically grassland sites can contain over 100 species of wild flowers and grasses, and over 25 species of butterflies – and as places for sense-enlivening recreation.

The Cotswold escarpment, where slopes are steep, soil is thin and little attempt was made in the past to cultivate land, is the ideal place to begin exploring. **Cleeve Common**, voted among the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds, has been managed by a Board of Conservators since 1890, and now much of it is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, overseen by Natural England. Grasses range from short turf of fescues and bents to taller tor grass, upright brome and meadow oat-grass.

For centuries the common has been an important resource for local people to graze their animals and at times has suffered from over-grazing, but more recently under-grazing has been the concern.

"The grass when ungrazed becomes thatch grass and then turns to scrub, which shades out the rare flowers," says Senior Ranger David Stevenson. While sheep are good for grazing over a wide area and shorter grass, cattle are good for tackling steep banks and coarse vegetation. Pure Galloway cattle, which live out all year, have been used to target-graze specific areas. "When they have eaten down as far as we want, we move them on," David explains.

Grazing by native cattle combined with scrub management has encouraged many wild flowers to return to the common or increase in number, says Conservation Officer Chantal Brown: there is now a strong but fragile population of purple milk vetch, which is locally very rare, and there are strong populations of orchids, plus rare frog, musk, bee and wasp orchids. There are good records for diverse flora from field wood-rush to autumn gentian, and *Galeopsis* has been recorded over the last two years. Find out more on a summer walk organised by David or a colleague; if you're lucky you'll also hear skylarks and see meadow pipits, finches and a variety of butterflies.

On **Rodborough Common** you can follow a 2.75-mile Butterfly Walk from the National Trust car park. The steep grassland slopes attract over 30 types of butterfly, including rare species like the Duke of Burgundy and Adonis blue, which can be seen here in summer feeding and laying eggs on the wild flowers. Colonies of Duke of Burgundy may be spotted along the lower slopes, where the butterflies usually fly from the third week in April until late May. The best colony of Adonis blue is at Swellshill Bank.

Again, managed grazing has



Mark Connelly

The grasslands at Cranham Common feature a rich limestone flora including butterfly orchid, primrose and yellow rattle.

been key to making conditions right for butterflies, with shorter grass benefiting Adonis blues, while the Duke of Burgundy doesn't want turf too short, says Head Ranger David Armstrong. "Duke of Burgundy caterpillars feed on the cowslips and the cowslips need to have big enough leaves. If you graze too short, you only get very small cowslip leaves."

In the past National Trust Belted Galloway cattle have helped to do the job; from this spring it is being carried out by the commoners' cattle, which also graze neighbouring **Minchinhampton Common**.

Further sites to explore include the grasslands of the **Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve**, near the villages of Sheepscombe and Cranham. Spring cowslips give way to early summer orchids, with hay rattle, knapweed, harebell and wild thyme appearing later in the year, all accompanied by abundant insects and butterflies.

Or enjoy the wild flowers and butterflies of **Selsley Common** on a 4-mile Toots to Teashop ramble created by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. The common has everything from bird's foot trefoil to bellflower, small blue to brown argos butterflies, plus day flying moths like six spot burnet.

On the eastern side of the Cotswolds AONB, you will find Britain's largest pasqueflower population in part of **Barnsley Warren SSSI** near Cirencester. An estimated 20,000-plus purple-petalled plants grow here, of which a varying proportion flowers each year – from late April into early May. Spring is also the time for cowslips, early purple orchid and hairy violet.

To the north, the acidic habitat of **Radway Meadows** in Warwickshire is noted for bright green adder's tongue fern, a good indicator of ancient meadows that appears between June and August. Also keep an eye out for common spotted orchids, quaking grass and devil's-bit scabious.

To the south, spoil heaps in the remains of Bath stone quarries at **Brown's Folly** have been covered by downland flora ranging from wild thyme and harebell to nine species of orchid, including the rare fly orchid.

Whether you explore to the north, south east or west, there are precious grasslands to cherish across the Cotswolds. Save Our Magnificent Meadows aims to inspire people to keep it that way.

For more information on *Saving our Magnificent Meadows*, visit: [Cotswolds Conservation Board](http://CotswoldsConservationBoard.org.uk) www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk and [Plantlife](http://Plantlife.org.uk) www.plantlife.org.uk

Great grassland days out

Join one of our 'wildflower walks' this summer and find out more about these beautiful places. See pages 11 to 19 for further details.

Other great grassland sites to visit

Brown's Folly www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Cleeve Common www.cleevecommon.org.uk

Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve www.naturalengland.org.uk

Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Pasqueflower (Barnsley Warren SSSI) www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Radway Meadows www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Roaming with the Romans

What the Romans did for us? Travel the highways and visit the villas that put the Cotswolds on the map

It's easy to 'roam with the Romans' through the Cotswolds, along major modern roads that still follow the remarkably straight lines taken by Roman engineers nearly 2,000 years ago.

"Without doubt, the lasting legacy of Rome is roads like the Fosse Way, which clearly define the landscape of the modern Cotswolds," agrees Neil Holbrook, Chief Executive of Cotswold Archaeology. "Initially the roads were probably built for military movement, but commerce followed shortly thereafter. Before the Romans arrived there were just trackways and informal routes.

"Also, the Romans established Cirencester as a town and in many ways it owes its origin and raison d'être to the fact that it's at the junction of Roman roads."



The Great Bath at Bath.

The **Fosse Way** (now the A433 and A429) intersects Cirencester on its route from Exeter to Lincoln and runs the whole length of the Cotswolds between Bath and Moreton-in-Marsh; the **Ermin Way** runs northwest (A417) to Gloucester and south (A419) towards Silchester and London; **Akeman Street** heads east (B4425) towards present day Oxfordshire. Follow each (maybe catch the Fosse Link bus) and you're exploring in Roman steps.

Cirencester (Corinium), on the edge of the Cotswolds, was the second largest city in Roman Britain and capital of the late Roman province of Britannia Prima; **Gloucester** (Glevum) was a Colonia built on the site of an earlier legionary fortress; and **Bath** (Aqua Sulis) grew up around

the naturally hot Sacred Spring as "very much a religious leisure town," Neil says. "The baths there were one of the great architectural complexes of the Roman Empire."

The Romans arrived in the Cotswolds shortly after the invasion of AD 43, drawn as people are now, Neil thinks, by the attractive landscape. "It had lots of upland valleys which would have been very suitable for hunting and it was agriculturally fertile, making it an attractive base to build your country house."

He also believes that the local Dobunni tribe, rather than oppose the invaders, established a more collaborative relationship. Certainly, the Cotswolds became very important to Roman Britain with towns, temples and other building developing across the region (though much can no longer be seen). The social, economic and administrative hub of Cirencester thrived, creating new opportunities for work and advancement.

A visit to the **Corinium Museum** in Cirencester, home to one of the largest collections of Romano-British antiquities in the country, provides a rich picture of local life during the four centuries that the Romans were here. By AD 75, the Corinium fort had been dismantled and over the next 50 years the town was laid out in traditional Roman style, including a basilica, theatre and amphitheatre whose earthwork remains may still be viewed to the west of the town.

Cotswold limestone was quarried in considerable quantities and stonemasons set up in Corinium. The oolitic limestone proved an excellent medium for sculpture and carvings by Romano-British sculptors working in the Cotswolds are noted for stylistic mannerisms like depicting eyes as prominent and almond shaped, hair as luxuriant, and clothes heavily pleated and folded.

"The Cotswolds has probably one of the densest concentrations of Roman villas in the country and probably one of the densest concentrations of fine mosaics," Neil says. "If you travelled across Britain and came to the Cotswolds in about AD 300, you would have been struck by the rural wealth of the villas, of Cirencester as a town, and the luxurious landscape.



Chedworth Roman Villa.

The National Trust

"There seems to have been a school of mosaicists whose patterns – particular types of geometric design and subjects like Orpheus in the Underworld – had a strong concentration in the Cotswolds".

Before the arrival of the Romans, people lived in small farms, probably with timber round houses, or some lived in hill forts. The majority continued to live in modest circumstances and the concept of the villa was a Roman import. Often the home farm of extensive mixed farming estates, such dwellings could develop into hugely elaborate affairs that screamed wealth and status. Many were lived in by native Britons, or Romano-Britons, who had made good in the Roman system.

At **Chedworth Roman Villa**, Yanworth, one of the largest Romano-British villas in the country, you can admire some of the home-comfort inventions brought to the Cotswolds by the Romans, such as flushing latrines, bathhouses and underfloor heating. Today's state-of-the-art suspended walkway allows close-up inspection of the superb mosaics.

First occupied in the 2nd century, the villa was extended and reached its heyday in the 4th century. Maybe imagine the well-to-do inhabitants dining on Roman snails – another thing the Romans brought to the Cotswolds and, though now an endangered species, still to be found on Leckhampton Hill and Cooper's Hill.

To the west and just 400 metres off the Cotswold Way, the remains of **Great Witcombe Roman Villa** on the slopes of Birdlip Hill evoke a luxury, two-winged construction dating from AD 250, with a bathhouse complex and what is thought to have been the later shrine of a water spirit.

To the east, in Oxfordshire, the remains of **North Leigh Roman Villa** include a notable, nearly complete red and brown patterned mosaic tile floor. The villa was developed from the 1st or 2nd century and grew ever more elaborate, with added wings that later enclosed a courtyard – a so-called courtyard villa. At one stage it boasted four bath suites, 16 mosaic floors and 11 rooms with underfloor heating.

The textbook date for Rome's withdrawal from Britain is given as AD 410, but economic decline had set in before that. With money – and skills – no longer available to service the great villas, they eventually fell into disrepair and the Roman splendour of the Cotswolds ebbed away. But another golden era, in the Middle Ages, would bring widespread prosperity again.



North Leigh Roman Villa.



Corinium Museum

A fine gold Solidus of the Emperor Honorius (AD 383-423) found at Cirencester.

Time travelling

Chedworth Roman Villa,
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Corinium Museum,
www.coriniummuseum.cotswold.gov.uk
Great Witcombe Roman Villa and North Leigh Roman Villa, www.english-heritage.org.uk
The Roman Baths, Bath,
www.romanbaths.co.uk

Enjoying the Cotswolds' Natural Health Service

Get outdoors and boost your physical and mental well-being

Seven years ago this spring, John Walker stepped out for the first time on a ramble organised by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens – the volunteer arm of the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

"It was quite strenuous, from Wotton-under-Edge across to Leighterton," he says. "But it was so nice being outside and meeting people, and there was plenty of time to talk. I started going to more and more walks."

John admits to having had to pluck up courage to join in. Just a few months earlier, in October 2005, his wife had died. She had suffered from dementia for at least eight years, being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2003. He was her full-time carer for all but the last ten weeks of her life, an all-absorbing role that had seen him lose touch with other people and interests.

"How did you pick up your life again?" he recalls thinking. Joining organised walks, which he read about in the *Cotswold Lion*, proved an important early step on the way to re-engaging in outside activities.

These days, John is a Cotswold Voluntary Warden himself, leads walks and goes on work parties in the Avon Valley in the southern part of the Cotswolds, tackling anything from installing kissing gates to coppicing. A sponsored Memory Walk for the Alzheimer's Society that he organised from Castle Combe generated £1,400 (plus gift aid) last September, with similar amounts being raised in previous years.

John enjoys the fresh air as a parish warden for Dyrham and Hinton, too, and helped to organise the installation of a Jubilee Stone in Dyrham last year. Combining parish and warden roles, he helped to plant 250 saplings for Jubilee Wood. Cutting grass in his local churchyard also gets him outdoors:

"I used to walk my wife down there and in spring it was an absolute picture of crocuses, snowdrops and daffodils up the terraced hillside. But brambles were taking over, so when she died I said I would help out once a week."

Walking and volunteering provide valuable camaraderie as well as exercise. The scar of his bereavement will always remain, but John says, "There are some beautiful things out there that you can do, and you feel that you are a use to society."

The benefits of the natural environment to health have long been recognised, and the Cotswolds is packed with opportunity, walking, cycling and running.

"If you can push your heart rate above 100 for half an hour, five or seven days a week, it is very beneficial to cardiovascular health," says Dr John Disney of the Cotswold Medical Practice. "You don't have to be out [exercising] for hours on end."



John Walker with the Jubilee Stone installed at Dyrham.

Being outdoors is also very good for mental well-being, he says: "I think most people in this country suffer from a degree of Seasonal Affective Disorder when the days are very short. The more you can get out and about, the more you can mitigate that."

Simply taking a regular walk can help to keep body weight in check, and reduce the risk of all sorts of illnesses like heart disease and osteoporosis.

Meanwhile research by Mind (the mental health charity), the Countryside Recreation Network and other national organisations shows that 'green exercise' – rambling, jogging or environmental conservation work – can lift mood among people with mental health problems and immunise against future stresses.

Whatever your age, it's easy to enjoy the Cotswolds' thrilling landscapes and 'Natural Health Service'. The Escape to the Cotswolds website features many activities, including cycling, pony trekking and downloadable walks that range from easy to challenging.

How about a 4.5-mile wander through gently undulating South Warwickshire countryside (with one steep climb!) around Cherington; or a family ramble at Crickley Hill with superb views from the escarpment – one of 15 Walks on Wheels that are also suitable for users of wheelchairs, power scooters and children's buggies.

John Walker highlights Miles Without Stiles routes, which he wishes he had known about when his wife was alive:

"I used to walk quite a bit in the country with my wife. Then as Alzheimer's progressed she forgot how to take steps, so if there was a stile we would have to turn back. For anybody else in that position, it is very handy to know there are walks you can enjoy that don't involve stiles."

See our feature on page 7 for cycling ideas

around the Cotswolds, and for walking in a sociable group check out the walks led by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens in our listings from page 11. Escape to the Cotswolds provides information on Walking for Health groups around the Cotswolds too.

Based on the latest scientific evidence, the new economics foundation 'think-and-do tank' says that giving – for example volunteering your time – is one of the 'Five Ways to Well-being' in everyday life, alongside connecting with people, being active and curious, and continuing to

learn: why not try a rural skills course organised by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Volunteering opportunities in the AONB often combine all five ways to well-being! Look for local activities on the websites of national organisations like the National Trust and The Conservation Volunteers.

Other opportunities include Stroud Valleys Project, which undertakes practical conservation work around the district. Its Green Team, open to all, is designed to help people with mental health problems get better and acquire new skills. Planting wild flowers, creating bog gardens and making bird boxes are just some activities.

Wildlife Trusts throughout the Cotswolds welcome volunteers – whether clearing vegetation or scrub at Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Broadway Gravel Pit or keeping an eye on sheep grazing at Avon Wildlife Trust's Brown's Folly site.

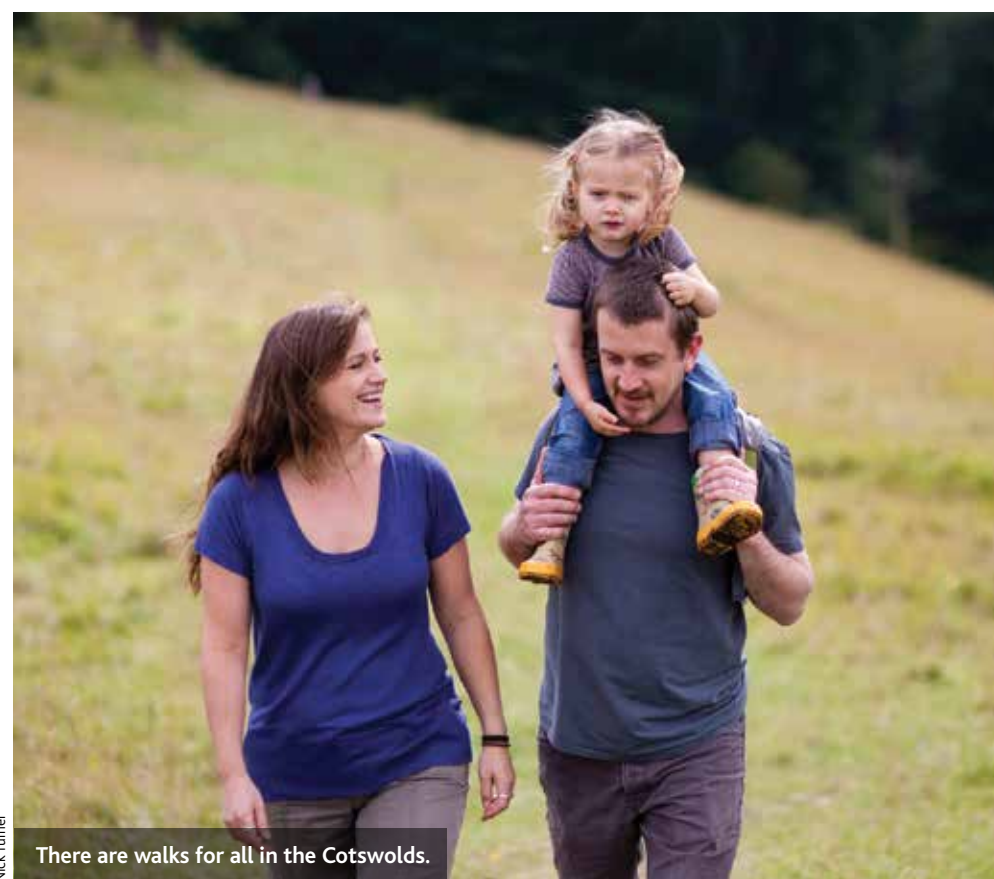
"It's all about doing a bit of work and meeting new people whilst doing something for nature," says Avon Wildlife Trust Reserves Officer Joe McSorley.

In return, nature will do something for you.

Activities for all

For walking, cycling and riding activities in the Cotswolds, see www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk

For rural skills courses and organisations offering volunteering opportunities, see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



There are walks for all in the Cotswolds.

Nick Turner

Places that inspire

Where to go to re-charge, to unwind, relax and stir the senses? We asked our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and here are ten of their top recommendations

Explore the open spaces of Dyrham Park, ideal for walking and families. See fallow deer, birdlife and badger setts, and find the perfect picnic spot. There are superb views across the Severn Valley and the Cotswold Way runs nearby, with walks to Hinton hill fort strip lynchets and Dyrham Wood.

Enjoy ancient peace amid The Rollright Stones where the King's Men, King Stone and Whispering Knights evoke mysterious tales of witches, horses and summer solstice. Time stands still here, giving a precious moment to reflect on a different age when man and nature understood each other.

Birdsong and magical sunsets at Cherington Hill in South Warwickshire gladden the soul. As you climb the hill, the breeze freshens, spirits soar and the spirit of the Cotswolds unfolds. Look north to Tredington, Stratford and Edgehill, west to Broadway and Foxcote, and south to the Rollrights.

Leckhampton Hill is great for exercise whether you're up for a challenge or a gentle jaunt. Admire



Nick Turner

The Devil's Chimney.

vistas from the trig point, just above the Devil's Chimney, or stride along the escarpment. Reach it via a stiff climb from the car park at Daisy Bank, or a flat walk from the Iron Age Fort car park.

Blow away cares in an instant on Little Solsbury Hill. It's so close to Bath yet high enough to get away from it all. Savour tremendous panoramas, especially south-west to Bath and south to the River Avon with the White Horse and Salisbury Plain in

the distance.

The special vibe of Selsley Common is just right for the open-air yoga and tai chi groups that meet there. It's an invigorating, breezy place that is also friendly with people walking their dogs. There's a sense of history from the Toots, and a sense of industry from the canal and communities.

Reap the rewards of a climb at Sheepscombe. The scene as you emerge from Lords and Ladies Wood, to the side of Sheepscombe cricket pitch, is a real treat: revealing Sheepscombe and Painswick with hills and valleys in front of them. It makes the hard climb well worth it.

Go 'wild' on Bredon Hill, one of the most important wildlife sites in England. A range of habitats includes limestone grass, scrub and ancient woodland, where birds and butterflies thrive. A E Housman immortalised the hill in *A Shropshire Lad* and the summit offers outstanding vistas.

Make curiosity your compass through the Windrush Valley, where walks lead past ancient



Nick Turner

River Windrush.

burial mounds, Norman churches and manors. Swinbrook, across the water meadows, fascinates with its historic church and Mitford Sisters connections. A workout for the imagination and legs alike.

Catch the trill of a skylark on the Bath Skyline Walk in late spring, a wonderfully uplifting sound. Six miles of footpaths lead to hidden

valleys rich in limestone flowers and tranquil beech woodlands. Spot butterflies, and relish spectacular sweeping views over Bath and out towards the Blackdown Hills.

Do you have a favourite inspirational place in the Cotswolds? Share them with us at info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or via [twitter@cotswoldsaonb](https://twitter.com/cotswoldsaonb)!

A New LEAF

Farm welcomes visitors to learn about sustainable food production

Overbury Farms, on the slopes of Bredon Hill in Worcestershire, has become a LEAF demonstration farm, showcasing best sustainable practices to visiting community groups, conservation organisations, local schools, WI and other farmers.

The aim is to highlight how successful commercial farming may be combined with the highest standards of agriculture and environmental care, says Jake Freestone, manager of the 1,538ha arable and sheep farm:

"Being a LEAF demonstration farm is about explaining how we make decisions and how that integrates into the environment in which we grow food, how the whole farm fits together.

"It's also about social responsibility: taking people around the farm to communicate positive stories about British agriculture, encouraging them to think about where their food comes from and support British farmers because we are looking after the environment."

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) was set up in 1991 to help farmers to flourish as food producers and stewards of the countryside, while providing consumers with nutritious food. The charity promotes integrated farm management, combining

sound traditional methods with the best modern technology: including minimal use of pesticides, efficient soil management, enhancement of wildlife habitats, maintenance of landscapes and rural communities, and a commitment to animal welfare.

There are circa 1,700 LEAF farms across the UK and 2,500 globally. Food produced to such standards carries the LEAF Marque logo.

Overbury Farms, which has been in the same family for more than 250 years, joined LEAF in 2003, becoming a demonstration farm in October 2012 – one of more than 40 across the UK that host visits throughout the year. Alongside integrating sheep into arable rotations, rainwater harvesting from lambing shed roofs and use of solar panels to conserve resources and save money, Jake explains how they adopt "a targeted, precise approach" to farming.

"For example, we use GPS-guided tractors that tell the fertiliser spreader to vary how much fertiliser to put on the soil depending what is already there so we are using resources more efficiently," he says. "We also use GPS technology to vary the seed rate across the field." Precision farming techniques can establish crops faster, cheaper and keep soil

in better structure and health.

Conservation projects on the farm range from skylark plots to planting pollen and nectar mixes, and a community orchard has been set up "to encourage people to get out and enjoy the countryside."

Overbury Farms also hosts a popular Lambing Live Open Day – this year 14th April – featuring the opportunity to see lambs being born, displays and fun activities for children.

Looking to the future, Jake says, "By 2050 there will be a world population of 9 billion people and we have to produce more food while conserving resources, all against a backdrop of variations in climate. Using LEAF integrated farm management techniques helps in facing the challenges ahead."

Visits to Overbury Farms must be booked in advance, see www.overburyfarms.co.uk Other LEAF demonstration farms in the Cotswolds that can be visited are Kemerton Conservation Trust in South Worcestershire near Tewkesbury and Broadwell Manor Farm, near Lechlade.

Open Farm Sunday, 9th June

Since 2006 nearly a million members of the public have visited a LEAF farm through its annual Open Farm Sunday: providing opportunities to learn about food production, enjoy nature trails, see milking or sheep shearing. To find a Cotswold farm to visit this 9th June, go to www.farmsunday.org

For more information about LEAF, see www.leafuk.org



From left to right: Jake Freestone, Penelope Bossom, Mark Tufnell and Caroline Drummond, LEAF Chief Executive.

On the Arts & Crafts trail

In the 19th century the Cotswolds became a hub of artistic creativity and the tradition continues to this day

"We take it for granted now that the Cotswolds are one of England's beauty spots," says Kirsty Hartsiotis. "But in the 19th century the region wasn't so well known, and the designers and makers who moved here were impressed and inspired by the land and townscapes, and the way of life of the people who lived in the countryside."

Kirsty, Curator: Decorative Art & Designated Collection at **Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum**, cares for the nationally important collection on the Arts & Crafts Movement in Britain. Following exciting redevelopment, the museum is re-opening in mid 2013 and launching a new app featuring a tour of the newly redisplayed Arts & Crafts Movement gallery plus key places in the Cotswolds associated with the Movement.

The Arts & Crafts spanned the 1880s to about 1940 and was a reaction against the perceived devaluation of craftsmanship through industrialisation as well as the growing dehumanisation of work in society; a rebellion against contemporary fashion for over-elaborate design in favour of simpler, plainer forms that were fit for purpose. Honest respect of materials and the use of nature as the source of pattern combined with a social and moral conviction that art and craft could change people's lives.

The many guilds and workshops that set up often looked to (and romanticised) the rural way of life as a remaining preserve of an older, simpler heritage: hence the influx of designers and makers to the Cotswolds in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. As well as being beautiful, the area had good rail links to London and customers, and following



Haircomb by Fred Partridge, about 1901-6.

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum

agricultural decline housing was cheap – affordable even to designers starting out in business.

"William Morris was one of the first to explore the region, renting Kelmscott Manor in Oxfordshire, and holidaying at Broadway Tower," Kirsty says. "He drew attention to the fine parish churches and architecture of the region through the work of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)."

After a visit to **Broadway Tower**, where an exhibition features examples of work by William Morris and links with Edward Burne-Jones and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, drop into **Broadway** itself. The biennial summer arts festival (next one, 2014) celebrates the Arts & Crafts Movement and The Broadway Colony of artists and writers who were attracted here – composers like Ralph Vaughan Williams shared the Arts & Crafts love of the countryside and folk traditions.

Broadway is also home to the **Gordon Russell Design Museum** (see page 8), contemporary artists (Jeremy Houghton, Pink Harrison) and galleries selling top-class work. The outpost of Oxford's **Ashmolean Museum** opens in Tudor House (second Bank Holiday in May) and features period furniture and objects from the 17th to 20th centuries, linking to the story of Tudor House and the local area.

A short hop north from Broadway, **Chipping Campden** is another hotbed of Arts & Crafts heritage, and **Court Barn** museum provides a good introduction to the talented designers and craftspeople that have worked in and around the market town.

William Morris devotee C R Ashbee relocated his Guild of Handicraft from London's grimy East End to Chipping Campden in 1902: "the proper place for the Arts and Crafts is in the country," he wrote. Inspired by the medieval notion of a tightly knit group of craftsmen working for the greater good, the Guild brought skills ranging from metal and woodwork to jewellery, and encouraged wholesome communal activities.

Although most of the craftsmen drifted away within a few years due to lack of capital, **Hart Gold & Silversmiths** continues as a last working remnant of the Guild, "in the same workshop, using the same tools, techniques and traditions that have always been used," says William Hart, great-grandson of original Guild member, silversmith George Hart.

Visitors are welcome to watch William, his father David, cousin Julian and Derek Elliott at work, in the 'open shop' tradition of the Guild.

Since 2005, the **Gallery at The Guild** cooperative of artists, sculptors and other craftspeople has shared the Old Silk Mill building on Sheep Street with Hart's, recreating Ashbee's dream of artists and artisans working together. Ceramicist Emma Clegg is one, drawn from London by the beauty of the Cotswolds, as so many before her.

"My work is inspired by nature and indigenous flowers in the hedgerows," Emma says. "My whole career has stemmed from the cooperative, which is a fantastic platform to exhibit work. The Old Silk Mill has a lovely energy to it and visitors from all around the world come to Chipping Campden."

For events and information on the work of other local talents, check out **Creative Campden** which promotes the town as a centre of creative excellence (www.creativecampden.co.uk).

To the south, **Winchcombe**



William Hart, fourth generation silversmith.

Paul Felix

Pottery is one of the longest running craft potteries in the country, making fine, practical domestic wares.

Painswick boasts several Arts & Crafts buildings and has been home to the **Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen**, which this summer moves to The Guild at 51, in the extended Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum complex. The Guild celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2013 and its Painswick Summer Show (15th – 18th August) includes a retrospective of famous members.

Numerous current Guild members offer workshops and courses – Liz Lippiatt, for instance, runs professional textile printing workshops in her well-equipped studio at **Stroud Valleys Artspace**. The latter is an artist-led project for the promotion of contemporary arts, providing studio space for professional artists.

Continue on to **Sapperton** to view buildings designed by Arts & Crafts architects Ernest Gimson, Ernest and Sidney Barnsley, and Norman Jewson.

Gimson and the Barnsley brothers moved to Gloucestershire in 1893 and developed carpentry skills that blended the traditions of urban cabinetmaking with country joinery. The building and furnishing of **Rodmarton Manor**, Cirencester, by Ernest Barnsley and fellow Cotswold craftsmen led C R Ashbee to declare, "The English Arts and Crafts Movement at its best is here."

It's a comment that could apply right across the Cotswolds.

For further information on Cheltenham Museum & Art Gallery, its Arts & Crafts collection, new app, and touring Cotswold Arts & Crafts related locations, see www.artsandcraftsmuseum.org.uk



Artist's impression of the new galleries at Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum.

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum

Wheel fun

Cycling is fun, sociable, keeps you fit – and it's a great way to explore the Cotswolds

Last summer's victories from Team GB at London 2012 and Sir Bradley Wiggins in both the Olympics and the Tour de France have inspired increasing numbers of us to get on our bikes, says British Cycling, the national governing body for the sport. A cool 161,000 more people began pushing pedals in just six months, with over 1.9 million now cycling at least once a week.

Participation among visitors and residents around the Cotswolds is certainly on the up, says Andrew Hutchings, owner of Cotswold Cycles, Moreton-in-Marsh. Even before 'the Olympic effect', group rides from Andrew's shop in 2011 had become so popular that the North Cotswold Cycling Club was re-formed. Already with a membership of 130, the club caters for all types of cycling enthusiasts.

"The great thing about cycling is that people can choose how they want to interact with it, whether they go fast and push themselves or just enjoy riding for fun," Andrew says. "It's a great way to clear the head, feel good and get fit.

"The Cotswolds is a beautiful area in which to cycle," he continues. "There are quiet country lanes, attractive scenery and varied terrain with something new around every corner. From Moreton-in-Marsh you can go north and over flat, undulating terrain, or go west to Weston Subedge and Broadway and hit some very big hills."

The Cotswolds' lanes are a key attraction to cyclists, says Iain Bailey, who launched Cotswold Cycling Breaks from The Ormond Hotel, Tetbury, in 2012 after years spent exploring and mapping the area. "They were originally designed for sheep droving and they are now mostly traffic free, which is ideal.

"Cycling offers clean, sustainable tourism and people can see a lot within a short time," Iain adds. "The descent into the Slad Valley and a stop at The Woolpack pub is always popular!"

You can download cycling routes to suit all abilities – novices, families, or adrenaline junkies – from the Escape to the Cotswolds website, as well as information on bike hire and holidays. Routes from Kingham Station, West Oxfordshire, include a medium-challenge, 19-mile Ancient Stones & Old Manors circuit taking in Chastleton House and the Rollright Stones. Rides from Kemble Station, near Cirencester, include an easy, 16-mile pedal featuring 'wonder of the canal age' Sapperton Tunnel.

The Kennet and Avon Canal towpath from Bradford on Avon to Bath provides a gentle, scenic stretch, or tackle 15-mile, off-road tracks to Warwickshire's Brailles Hill and Ascott. The Cotswolds has an exceptionally high density of byways and bridleways based on good tracks, making it one of the best places in the country for off-road riding. Good news if you don't want to start your career as an off-road cyclist by riding up a mountain

Andrew Hutchings recommends anyone taking up cycling to join one of the Cotswolds' many local groups or clubs, which adds social enjoyment to keeping fit – and boosts motivation.

"Many new cyclists later up their challenge by taking part in sportives, where you are timed around a route. But the main tip is just to get out and have fun," he says.

On your bike

Download a variety of Cotswold cycle routes at www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

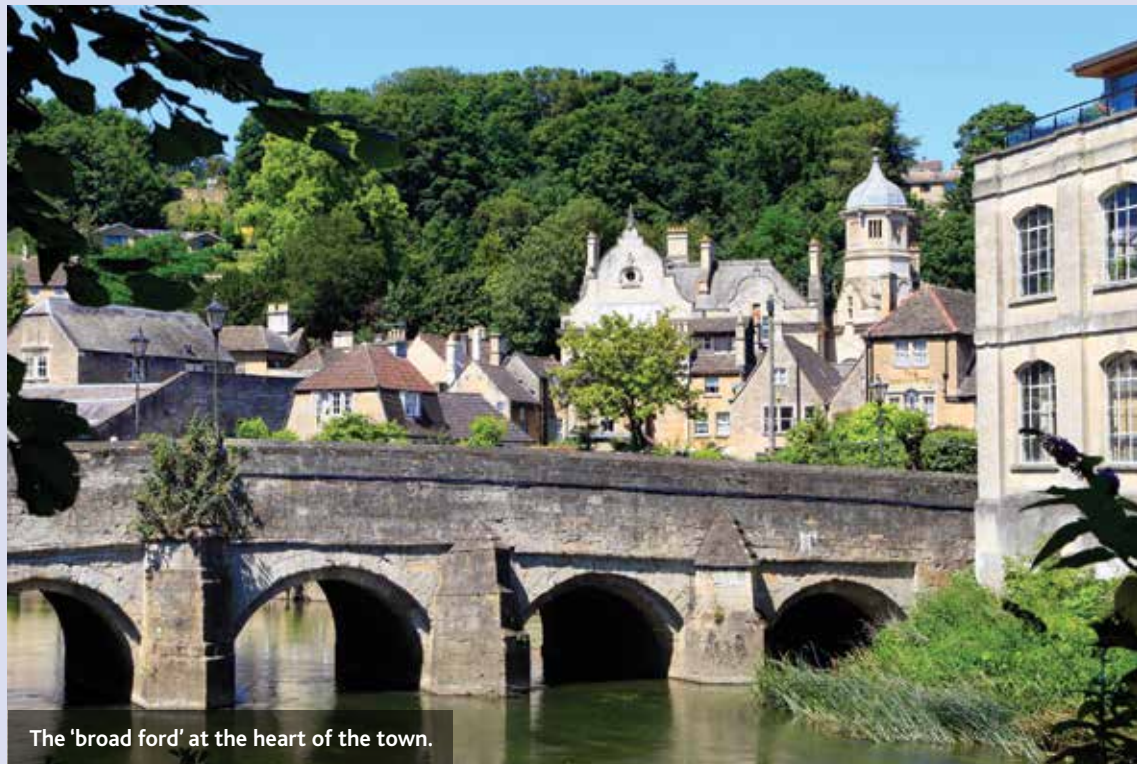
Sportive calendars, including Cotswold events, may be found at www.cyclingweekly.co.uk and www.britishcycling.org.uk

Cycling highlights in the Cotswolds include Castle Combe Cycling Festival 2nd June, www.castlecombecyclingfestival.co.uk and Bike Blenheim Palace – A Festival of Cycling 17th–18th August, www.blenheimpalace.com

Bradford on Avon

Spotlight

The golden stone streets of Bradford on Avon rise in seemingly organic, tightly wedged steps up the hillside above the river: a beguiling outpost of the Cotswolds on the western edge of Wiltshire



The 'broad ford' at the heart of the town.

There has been settlement here from the Iron Age, and later legacies include (recently discovered) remains of a Romano-British villa and a rare Saxon church; the town's name probably derives from Anglo-Saxon 'Bradforda', or broad ford. Today's streetscapes were mostly shaped by a flourishing textile industry, which peaked in the 18th century, later to be replaced by rubber manufacture. Now the renowned Moulton Bicycle Company flies the flag for quality manufacture and former woollen mills and weavers' cottages provide handsome homes.

See and do Bradford on Avon Museum, Bridge Street, has displays ranging from Roman heritage to the fascinating recreation of a Victorian chemist's shop that once served the town. Follow the town trail (leaflets 20p, Tourist Information Centre) around a remarkable span of architecture: from tall, narrow St Laurence's Saxon church, to the 14th-century tithe barn with cathedral-like timber cruck roof, and the quirky 17th-century toll house turned lock-up on the bridge. Views from Tory, the highest of four rows of picturesque weavers' cottages, and St Mary Tory Chapel are superb.

Eat and shop Homemade cakes or cream teas served by staff in period dress? Enjoy Mr Salvat's 17th-Century Coffee Room or the Victorian atmosphere of The Bridge Tea Rooms (double winner of the UK's Top Tea Place). There's a modern menu with Mediterranean influences at The Three Gables; traditional British at The Swan; Boatman's Breakfasts at the canalside Lock Inn Café; fine dining and live music at The Fat Fowl Restaurant. Independent shops abound, including Orton Jewellery whose goldsmiths work on the premises in Market Street; Ex Libris books along the Shambles; and the Tithe Barn Workshops, home to artists, craft workers and restorers.

Walking and exploring In January 2011 Bradford on Avon became Wiltshire's first Walkers are Welcome town and there are also numerous cycle/walking

trails – the Kennet & Avon Canal towpath is popular: saunter eight miles to Bath, past Dundas and Avoncliff aqueducts. Or hire a trip boat from the wharf (Easter–end October).

Make a date The Festival of Secret Gardens features local gardens not normally open to the public (last Sun, Apr, May, Jun, Jul). Stretch your imagination at the annual Arts Festival to be held in conjunction with Noye's Fludde (8th–15th Jul); stretch your legs at the Festival of Walking (6th–8th Sept).

Fancy that! Bradford on Avon has produced a surprising number of influential people, not least Alex Moulton (1920–2012), engineer, designer and creator of the iconic Moulton bicycle. General Henry Shrapnel (1761–1842), commemorated in Holy Trinity Church, invented the exploding shell and gave a new word to the English language. Bradford resident Ed McKeever, sprint kayaker gold medallist in the London Olympics, has a footbridge renamed after him.

Visiting essentials Buses to Bradford on Avon include First Service 264/265 (Warminster–Bath) and Faresaver 96, 72, X96, 98, 14 (Trowbridge–Corsham). Direct trains from Bath Spa. The Tourist Information Centre, Westbury Gardens, opens daily 10am–5pm (4pm Sun and Nov–Mar). Further information: www.bradfordonavon.co.uk



Nick Turner



VisitWiltshire/Chris Lock

Great Cotswoldians: Gordon Russell (1892–1980)

Gordon Russell was “one of those peculiarly English geniuses who are not given the full recognition they deserve,” according to Sir Terence Conran, founder of Habitat and patron of the Gordon Russell Design Museum in Broadway

Set in Russell’s original workshop, the museum opens eyes to a design pioneer whose accomplishments spanned furniture designer, maker, calligrapher, entrepreneur, educator and champion of “decent furniture for ordinary people.” His and his company’s output over 60 years was astonishingly wide ranging, from domestic furniture to desks, contract interiors and metalwork, and it embraced a stylistic development from Arts & Crafts influences to machine production, 1930s streamline Modernism, Utility Furniture and 1980s luxury Post Modernism.

Gordon Russell moved from London to Broadway in 1904 when he was 12 and his father bought The Lygon Arms. From that moment, the Cotswolds exerted a major influence on his vision, says Richard Paice, Chair of the Trustees of the museum:

“He was surrounded by the Arts & Crafts Movement, he was at school in Chipping Campden when Ashbee’s Guild of Handicraft was there, he saw all the dry stone wallers and other craftsmen at work. His first job was in his father’s workshop restoring antiques [for The

Lygon Arms] and so he was getting his hands onto materials from a very early age.”

Russell served in WW1 and was awarded the Military Cross. He returned to pursue furniture making fired by the conviction “that my generation which had destroyed so much lovely work had a constructive duty to hand on to those coming after us, good things of our own creation.”

While he remained true to the quality standards of the Arts & Crafts Movement (he built a fine Arts & Crafts house, Kingcombe, where he lived with his family), Russell saw the potential of machines.

“It was all about capturing the hand craft, but using the machine to reduce the cost of making whatever he was producing, to make it more accessible to the wider public,” Richard says.

As Russell managed this transition into the 1930s, his brother Dick steered company designs, introducing the clean lines of Modernism. Their affordable unit furniture became very popular, with their mass-produced Murphy radio cabinets now acclaimed as design

icons – as are the simple, stacking English oak chairs, designed by Dick for Coventry Cathedral in 1960.

At its height, the company employed more than 200 craftsmen at Broadway and also had a London factory and showrooms.

Russell promoted his ideas on honest, modern-style furniture as a member of the Utility Furniture Advisory Committee during WW2 and used his later public roles – including Director of the Council for Industrial Design, later renamed the Design Council – to champion good design in industry and his belief in its impact on people’s quality of life. His efforts garnered many awards, including a knighthood in 1955.

Gordon Russell’s name may not be as famous today as it should, but his legacy – the connections he made between hand and machine, craft and design, and his influence on designers like Terence Conran – is alive and kicking.

Further information:
Gordon Russell Design Museum, Broadway,
www.gordonrussellmuseum.org



‘Energy smart’ farmers lead the way

Farming is one of the sectors of the economy most vulnerable to the weather and the effects of climate change



Nick Turner

In the Cotswolds, projected impacts of climate change mean farmers will potentially face more frequent droughts and flooding events, soil erosion, reduction in crop yields, increased levels of pest and disease, and significantly higher business costs including grid energy, fuel and water.

In light of this, many are looking to implement suitable and appropriate renewable energy schemes: to reduce their carbon footprint and business costs, and help mitigate the impact of climate change, as well as becoming much more self-reliant and resilient to the challenges ahead.

At Great Larkhill Farm, Long Newnton, owner Julian Hasler has made a variety of energy efficiency improvements, including the installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system and a woodchip boiler supplying the farmhouse and cottages.

Highlights of the development include hemcrete insulation (hemp and lime), energy efficient K glass, low energy lighting, biomass heating and hot water, and a 5kW peak solar PV system. Rainwater harvesting and a grey water sewage treatment reed bed also feature.

“The woodchip biomass boiler is helping us to reduce our carbon footprint and energy costs significantly, and we are very happy with the installation of the ‘Froling - Turbomatic’ 140kW system which is performing very well,” Julian reports.

“We are also delighted with our new Solar PV array which is attached to the boiler house, and the improvements are reducing our grid electricity requirements by over 40%, for the two premises connected. The government’s feed-in-tariff and renewable heat incentive has certainly helped to improve the financial viability of the development, and the installations complement our other resource management activities very well.”

Daylesford Organic, Kingham, who have been farming organically for over 25 years, have also recently completed a programme of micro-renewable energy investment. Measures include the installation of a 250kW Solar PV system and a biomass boiler, which is helping the business to become highly self-sufficient by reducing the need for grid energy.

James Lloyd, Cotswolds

Conservation Board Climate Change Adviser, says both farm business projects clearly demonstrate positive ways forward in mitigating, and adapting to, climate change. He welcomes other rural businesses to access the Board’s free specialist advice service to help them reduce their carbon footprint and costs, particularly this year whilst feed-in-tariff and renewable heat incentive is still available.

During the last year, the ‘energy smart’ advice service has supported 70 businesses and community based organisations, and completed 14 carbon audits and funding applications. Over 100 solar photovoltaic and other renewable energy schemes have been consented, and help has also been provided to more than 26 small projects focused on energy efficiency, flood prevention, and the effective management of soil structure, nutrients, and water resources.

Grants of between £2,000 and £10,000 are now also available for climate change mitigation and adaptation capital works demonstration projects within the Cotswolds AONB, James says. See page 10 for further details.

Ride Round England

The Cotswolds are well known among horse riders as a great place for hacking. Certainly Cheltenham-based William Reddaway and his horse Strider have found local terrain to be ideal training for an ambitious adventure that begins from Farncombe Estate, near Broadway, on 11th May.

The pair will embark on a six-month, 2,500-mile trek to the four corners of England, visiting 30 cathedrals and abbeys en route, in a bid to raise £250,000 for charities.

William, a keen horseman who also loves travel, had long wished to undertake "a seriously long journey" on horseback. But he had to wait until he retired 18 months ago to tackle the planning.

He and Strider have been training on Cleeve Common and in Cheltenham, in preparation for the rural and urban challenges ahead. Strider, 16.2hh and of unknown breeding but with some Shire/Clydesdale characteristics, has good temperament and stamina, William says.

"For quite a big horse he is very neat on difficult ground. On Cleeve Common there are some really steep, narrow tracks and he picks his way really sensibly. Having Cleeve Common to work on is brilliant: you've got hills, you've got flat, and you can get down into the town very quickly."

Funds raised by the Ride Round England will go to two charities that William supports, the Family Holiday Association and the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre. At least 20 Gloucestershire families will benefit from the former, and William is additionally helping the Cotswold Riding for the Disabled Association to raise £5,000 for their activities.



William and Strider in training.

After William and Strider depart Farncombe Estate, where William worked for 28 years prior to retirement, they follow a mix of on- and off-road routes: details may be found on the project's website.

The aim is to average 25 miles a day, riding five days a week and resting on two days.

William and Strider will stay with friends and contacts – with good grazing for Strider. Stops at cathedrals – the historic focal points of cities – will draw attention to the trek. William has even learned to play a pocket trumpet to ensure people know they are in town.

Despite many challenges ahead, William is

really excited. "It will be very emotional riding the last leg back to the Farncombe Estate in November. I imagine Strider and I will both be fantastically fit, going well, and rather tired."

For more information and to donate, see www.rideroundengland.org

Cotswold Champions: Janice Gardiner

Janice Gardiner is Living Landscape Project Manager at Avon Wildlife Trust and leads its Wildflower Grasslands Project to protect, restore and reconnect wildflower meadows and limestone grasslands. Since 2008 project staff and volunteers have visited 162 farms and carried out wildflower surveys on more than 2,000 hectares of land. Work is targeted in areas known to contain outstanding grasslands, including the Avon Cotswolds north and south of Bath.

Janice worked for London Wildlife Trust and as Ecology Officer for Wandsworth Borough Council "before managing to escape



the city" and join Avon Wildlife Trust five years ago. As part of her biology degree she studied conservation, ecology and botany.

How did you first become interested in nature?

As a small child I lived in rural Scotland and have memories of eating wild strawberries from the hedgerows. As a teenager living by Morecambe Bay, I was captivated by the sparkling silver of flocks of knots taking off and landing again as they moved along the shoreline. Those connections have stayed with me.

Why is Avon's Wildflower Grasslands Project important?

Nationally we've lost more than 97% of our wildflower meadows since the 1930s. I find this such a shocking figure and we've got a lot of work to do to save the remaining meadows and then try to redress the balance so that they aren't such a rare habitat any more.

What has given you most pleasure and satisfaction in your work?

Going into a field and discovering lots of wild flowers like salad burnet, kidney vetch and fairy flax, particularly when you're not expecting it. Being able to put ideas into practice is also really satisfying, for example Avon Wildlife Trust set up a Grassland Restoration Team of volunteers and for over a year now they have been helping landowners restoring wildflower grasslands.

Any disappointments?

Even though so many wildflower meadows have been lost it's still difficult to fund the protection and restoration of grassland. I spend more and more of my time fundraising, when really I want to be working with people on actual restoration. As a charity we

rely on membership subscriptions, donations and grants to carry out this work.

What is the most important lesson you have learned?

That by working together we can achieve much more. We work very closely with the Cotswolds Conservation Board, who bring together lots of organisations, so we can share experience and knowledge. It helps us all and results in more creative ideas to save the remaining meadows and their wildlife.

What hopes and ambitions for the future?

By working with partners and developing relationships with landowners we can create a living landscape. This means we can work towards connecting together grassland, woodlands and hedgerows, with agricultural land. This will allow wildlife to move easily through the landscape and people to enjoy a countryside alive with wild flowers and butterflies.

What do you most enjoy about working in the Cotswolds?

Working in the south of the Cotswolds I can be on the motorway one minute and then very quickly I'm on a small lane in the heart of the countryside. It's like going back to my childhood.

Find more about Avon Wildlife Trust's Wildflower Grasslands Project at www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/livinglandscape/intro.htm

Do you know a 'Cotswold champion'? We are looking for nominations – whether a conservationist, volunteer, artist or someone else who adds richness to Cotswold life. Send your suggestions to info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or via twitter @cotswoldsaonb and we will feature a selection in future issues.



Launch of Cotswold Way Bath Marker

Where exactly does the 102-mile Cotswold Way begin and end?

In October, a new work of public art was unveiled to resolve the question: a large limestone disc set into the pavement outside the west doors of Bath Abbey, hand carved by local artist Iain Cotton and featuring place names from along the trail.

The marker for England's newest National Trail is the culmination of four years' effort, involving the Cotswolds Conservation Board, Bath Abbey and Bath & North East Somerset Council.

Fundraising is now ongoing for a sister marker for the northern end of the Cotswold Way at Chipping Campden.

Cotswold Way diverts to Star College

Walkers, students and local businesses are set to benefit from a diversion of the Cotswold Way National Trail, thanks to funding received from Natural England.

The diversion, which will take place in the vicinity of the National Star College at Ullenwood, will allow a much safer route for trail users, avoiding a busy stretch of road at Leckhampton Hill. It will also provide a welcome boost for the Star College, which the present route bypasses. With the diversion in place, many of the Trail's 350,000 users will have easy access to the café and proposed campsite.

Students at the college, one of the country's foremost training and rehabilitation centres for disabled young people, will now have a dedicated link between the college and the Crickley Hill Country Park, allowing them to access the many benefits of this SSSI through the use of mobility scooters pledged to the college by Countryside Mobility South West.

Box Rock Circus

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have helped to install a magical new feature in Box village which reveals the dynamic nature of the Earth and how to interpret the ancient stories told by rocks.

Box Rock Circus, a 7-metre diameter circle of rocks, fossils and minerals, features two climbing blocks on either side of an obelisk for teaching basic rock identification. Large blocks of lava, sandstones and tropical limestone highlight the story of Britain's movement through time, and there's a 160-million-year-old fossil rubbing block made from local Jurassic limestone. Markers show when plants and animals first appeared and dinosaur footprints run through the circle!

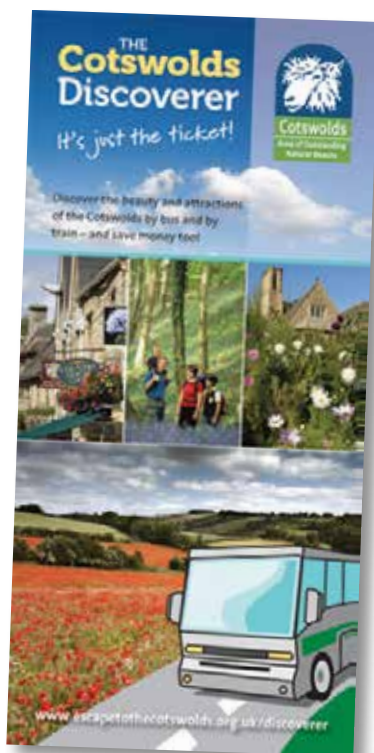
Elizabeth Devon, originator of the project, particularly thanked the wardens for their help with installation and a contribution towards the cost of a colourful interpretation board.

Find out more about the project at www.boxrockcircus.org.uk

Cotswolds Discoverer

Following a successful trial period during 2012, the Cotswolds Discoverer bus/rail ticket is now available through all UK rail stations and participating bus companies. From just £10 a day, you can enjoy unlimited travel throughout the Cotswolds by bus and by train.

For further details, go to www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverer



Sustainable Development Fund projects

Bisley Environment & Sustainability Trust (BEST)

receives funding for seed saving training

Sustainable Development Funding of £1,100 has been awarded to provide training on seed saving techniques to preserve local heritage fruit and vegetable varieties as part of the BEST Learning project. The training will be delivered by Garden Organic and the Heritage Seed Library. Sessions will take place at the Bisley Allotment and/or the Old Nursery site.



Lesley Greene

Outdoor classroom for Northleach School

A project to reclaim an area of scrubland on the perimeter of Northleach School and convert it into an interactive outdoor classroom area has opened. The school, which received a £5,000 grant award from the Sustainable Development Fund earlier this year, has renovated the site to include a vegetable patch, wildlife area, outdoor learning area and performance amphitheatre. Students can now learn about sustainable living through activities such as growing their own vegetables and being able to observe wildlife in the garden.

For further details on the Sustainable Development Fund, go to: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/sdf

Subscribe to the Cotswold Lion

Would you like to receive your copy of the *Cotswold Lion* direct to your door? Now, from just £5, we will post your copy to you, twice a year. Visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/cotswoldlion for further details.

Cotswolds AONB Climate Change Project Demonstration Funding

Expressions of interest are currently being sought on a competitive basis for exemplar climate change mitigation and adaptation capital works projects within the Cotswolds AONB which could potentially benefit from a small grant of between £2,000 and £10,000.

Our objective is to increase awareness of climate change issues and investment opportunities for small businesses and other community based organisations within the Cotswolds AONB, through the implementation of a variety of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other resource management activities, which help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the adverse impacts of climate change.

If you would like further information about this funding opportunity please call James Lloyd, Climate Change Adviser, Cotswolds Conservation Board. Tel: 01451 862033; Email: james.lloyd@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Woodland & farming advice

Are you a farmer or woodland owner in the Cotswolds AONB and want extra money for managing your land?

Agri-environment and woodland grant schemes are set to under-go changes at the end of 2013 so there is no better time than now to secure grant funding.

A range of grants are available for farmers and can entitle you to anything from £30 per hectare to £700 per hectare each year for delivering effective environmental management across your holding. Similarly, a variety of woodland grants are available which offer financial support for woodland creation, site improvements, capital works, re-planting felled sites and developing a management plan for your woodland.

If you would like free advice or want to know if your holding is eligible for either agri-environment or woodland grants then please contact Stephen Westmore (Farm and Woodland Adviser) on 01451 862038 or stephen.westmore@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Cotswolds AONB Management Plan

Following an extensive consultation process, the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2013-18 will be published at the end of April 2013, subject to adoption by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

The plan sets out a comprehensive series of policies and actions to help guide public bodies, landowners, businesses and individuals on how they can play their part in looking after the Cotswold landscape and encouraging others to appreciate and enjoy its natural beauty. The plan will also direct the work of the Board over the next five years.

For further details, go to: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Business survey

A new piece of research commissioned recently by the Board to assess the value of the Cotswolds AONB to the local economy has revealed that the total value of economic activity within the AONB is worth around £2 billion and that many businesses significantly benefit from being located within the Cotswolds.

The research findings provide a valuable insight into economic activity within the AONB and the associated impacts of the Cotswolds location, which help to build a better picture of the important relationship between a healthy rural economy and healthy, high quality and accessible natural environment.

Walks & Events Guide

Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Spring/Summer Walks & Events Programme, which offers numerous opportunities to explore and enjoy one of the most treasured landscapes in England. The majority of the walks listed here are researched and led by our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and are ideal for those wanting to enjoy a couple of hours or even a whole day walking in the countryside. We recommend you always wear appropriate footwear as some walks may be muddy in places. Sorry, but only assistance dogs are allowed on the walks. Unless otherwise stated, all guided walks are free of charge, however donations are collected at the end which go towards helping to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds countryside. Further details of these walks and other events taking place throughout the Cotswolds AONB can be found at www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk. Please always check the website for any changes to walks during bad weather.

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 inns on route. For further information and to reserve places please contact Mary Hamilton on 01451 820160 or email: m.hamilton@tesco.net

Guided tours of Chipping Campden

Regular walks: Join the Cotswold Wardens for a guided walk along Chipping Campden's 'most beautiful village street now left in the island.' Hear how the ancient town has developed, the importance of wool through to the Guild of Handicrafts. Walks begin at the market hall at 2.30pm on Tuesdays and 10am on Thursdays, from 4 June until 26 September. Suggested donation £3.

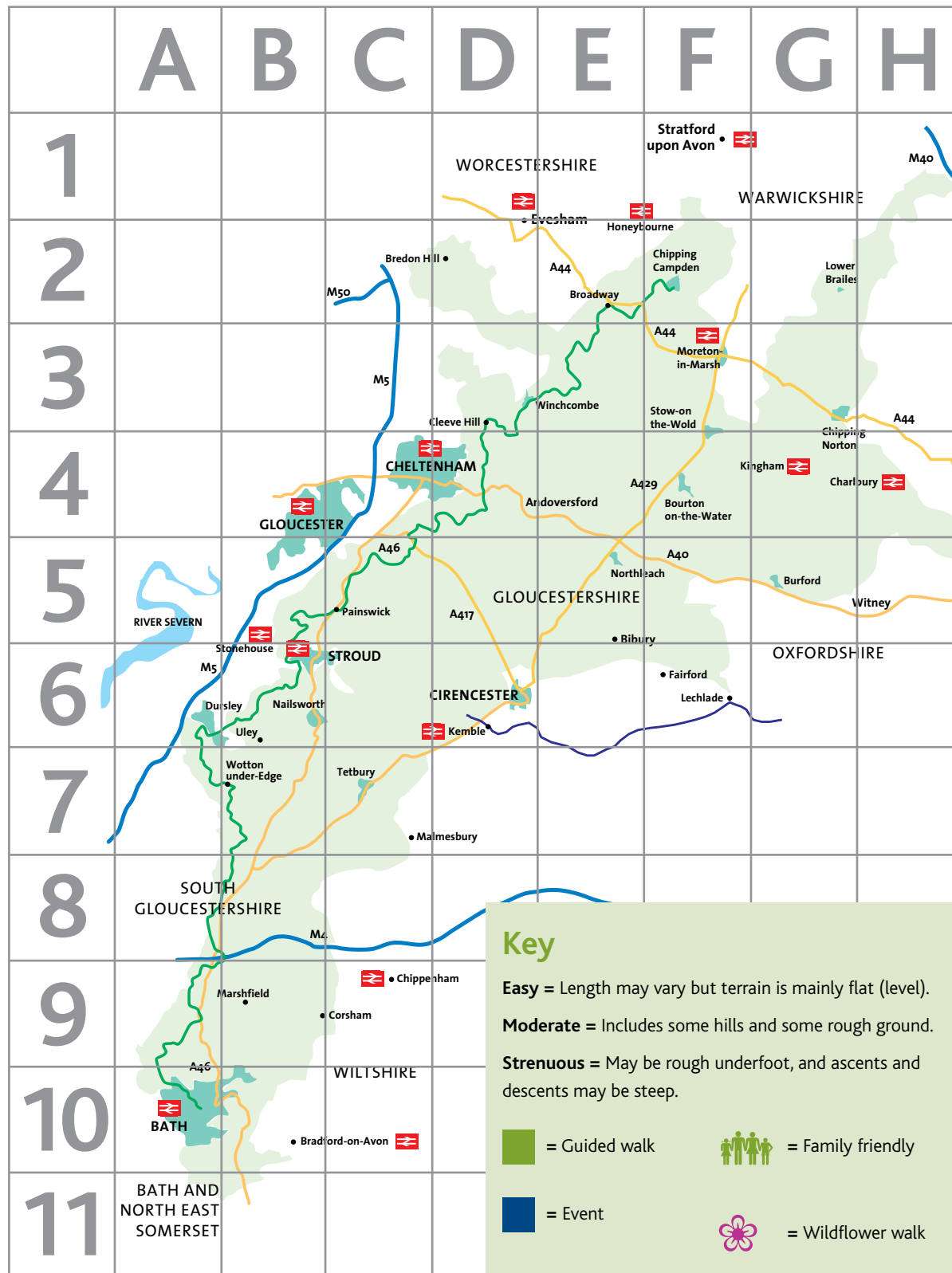
Tailor made: The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens offer a town walk with an audio visual show followed by tea or supper for organised parties in Chipping Campden. For further details contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131 or email: ann.colcomb@btinternet.com

Walk the Diamond Way

Join a group led by the Voluntary Wardens walking 8/10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Wednesday of every month from April to September. For further information and to reserve a place contact Allan Allcock on 0787 638 7029.

Looking after the countryside

Ash dieback is one of a growing number of potentially damaging diseases affecting our landscape. So, when visiting the countryside, please help to reduce the spread and impact of these diseases by ensuring that no plant material is removed and that all footwear and outdoor equipment are regularly cleaned.



APRIL

Monday • 1 April • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Tuesday • 2 April • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for Pushchairs.
Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9
Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Tuesday • 2 April

Ladies That Lunch – Flower Arranging with Leanne King

Learn to make your own beautiful displays with florist Leanne. Includes a two course lunch and a glass of wine on arrival £19.50 per person.
Venue: The King's Hotel, Chipping Campden
Tel: 01386 840256

Wednesday • 3 April • 10:00

Three Villages

Easy • 2.5 hours • 3 miles
A gentle walk to explore the three classic Cotswold villages of Quenington, Coln St Andrews, and Hatherop and their three different churches. Pub lunch available.
Starting point: Quenington village green. Please park considerately SO144042 • Map square F6
Leaders: T Wilson, P Burgon & J Shaw

Saturday • 6 April • 10:00

Manor Houses in the North Cotswolds 3

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles
Continuing a series. This walk includes those manor houses on the South and West of Bredon Hill. Includes an ascent of the hill and a rewarding view. Pub lunch available in Bredon Village or bring packed lunch etc.
Starting point: Beckford - outside Church SO976358 • Map square D2
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sun • 7 April - Mon • 8 April

Poetic Retreat

A two-day relaxing break in Cheltenham, including poetry-writing course, spa facilities, champagne reception and dinner with a guest of honour in poetry.
Venue: Greenway Hotel & Spa, Cheltenham
Tel: 01242 862352

Thursday • 11 April

Chef Masterclass

Ever wondered what it is like to cook in a professional gourmet kitchen? Well now you can experience it for yourself with The Greenway's new Chef Masterclass. Learn how to cook fine dining dishes with this in-depth morning masterclass in the Kitchen, with The Greenway's Head Chef, Robin Dudley.
Venue: Greenway Hotel & Spa, Cheltenham
Tel: 01242 862352

Saturday • 13 April • 09:30

Getting to the Heart of It

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles
Walking the local paths around the old market town of Stow, encompassing several small villages of interest. Please park considerately in the village and bring a packed lunch etc.
Starting point: Longborough – outside the school, near the bus stop. SP179296 • Map square F3
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday • 13 April • 10:00

Marshfield and St. Catherines Valley

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7 miles
We descend into the St Catherines valley and pick up the Limestone Link, which follows St Catherines Brook until we climb under Dick Nick and Mottcombe Woods to Oakford Lane before returning via Ashwicke. Please bring a picnic lunch.
Starting point: Lay-By off the A420, West of Marshfield • ST772738 • Map square B9
Leaders: Reg Bleadon & John Wells

Available
to hire

**Painswick
Pedals**
Powered pedal hire

Enjoy the Cotswolds Hills With Powered Pedals

If you haven't tried an electric assist bike then you are in for a real treat. Both seasoned riders and those who hardly ever take to the saddle will find that powered pedals make light work of the Cotswolds slopes.



You will find us at :

Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick GL6 6TH
Please call 01452 813204
To check availability and make a booking
Email: info@rococogarden.org.uk

www.painswickpedals.co.uk

Friday • 19 April • 10.00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 1

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
Meet at 10am for coffee at the Newark Park National Trust Car Park. Walk starts at 10:30am down to the beautiful village of Ozleworth and along the picturesque valley of Marlees Bottom before climbing up towards Ashcroft House and returning to Newark Park.

Starting point: Newark Park National Trust Car Park, by arrangement.
ST783931 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Saturday • 20 April • 10.00

20th Anniversary Walk

Strenuous • 6.8 hours • 12.5 miles
Join Lucy and Martin to celebrate 20 years of leading walks with the Cotswold Wardens – friends old and new very welcome! The walk takes in the estate village of Cornwell and the Rollright Stones. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall
SP313270 • Map square G3

Leaders: Lucy and Martin Squires

Sunday • 21 April • 10.00

Two Railways, a canal, and wild flowers

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles
We descend to a pedestrian/stream culvert under the Titfield Thunderbolt railway line before following that and the remains of the Somerset Coal Canal down to Midford and Tucking Mill. The path crosses wild flower meadows at Combe Hay and at Tucking Mill we will be given access to the Wessex Water wild flower meadow. We go through the newly opened Combe Down tunnel [1 mile] and drop down to Lyncombe Vale before climbing back to return via the Wansdyke. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Odd Down Park and Ride, Bath
ST733617 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & John Walker

Sunday • 21 April

Jazz Brunch

Enjoy a lazy brunch to the soothing sounds of jazz – the perfect way to round off your weekend. Jazz from 12.00pm until 3.00pm. Brunch is served from 12.00pm until 4.00pm.

Venue: Arden Hotel, Stratford upon Avon

Tel: 01789 298682

Tuesday • 23 April • 10.00

Evenlode Valley 4: Milton, Ascott and Chilson

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8.5 miles
Starting in the hamlet of Chilson it follows the Oxfordshire Way to the villages of Ascott under Wychwood and Shipton under Wychwood. before taking alternative footpaths back down the valley. Paths can be muddy after wet weather. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Chilson • SP318194
Map square G4

Leader: Anne Martis

Wednesday • 24 April • 10.00

Northern Environs of Blockley

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
A morning exploring footpaths to the north and west of this delightful village.

Starting point: Blockley Village Green
SP164350 • Map square F2

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Thursday • 25 April • 09:30

From Marlees Brook to Ozleworth Bottom

Easy • 3 hours • 6 miles
Please park considerably in road opposite Hunters' Hall Inn. Across fields to Marlees Brook and Ozleworth Bottom and return. Pub lunch available at the Inn after the walk if required.

Starting point: Road opposite Hunters' Hall Inn, Kingscote • ST 815 961 • Map square B7

Leaders: Ken Leach & Les Jones

Friday • 26 April • 10:00

Friday Foray - Fostons Ash

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.3 miles
A circular walk taking in the villages of Caudle Green and Brimsfield before returning via Climperwell Wood. Pub lunches available.

Starting point: Fostons Ash Inn on B4070 between Birdlip and The Camp
SO914114 • Map square C/D5

Leaders: C Dickinson, K Buckle & G Ricketts

Friday • 26 April • 09:30

Pilgrims in the Cotswolds

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles
Up the Cotswold escarpment to the historical hamlet of Farmcote with impressive views.

We follow in the footsteps of Pilgrims from Hailes Abbey to local medieval churches with an opportunity to visit chapels at Farmcote and Hailes.

Starting point: Hailes Abbey – small parking area adjacent to Chapel on left
SP051301 • Map square E3

Leaders: Graham Luck & John Smith

Saturday • 27 April • 10:00

A Roundabout Way to Painswick

Strenuous • 7 hours • 11 miles
Round the edge of the scarp and through woods to Harescombe, Hudinknoll, and Painswick, then back through Pitchcombe and Ruscombe. Pub or packed lunch.

Starting point: Cripplegate NT Car Park on road from Edge to Haresfield Beacon
SO832086 • Map square B5

Leaders: J Heathcott, K Buckle & M Dunning

Sunday • 28 April • 10:00

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park
ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Tuesday • 30 April • 10:00

Over the Hill to Owlpen

Strenuous • 4 hours • 5.5 miles
A ramble through woods and fields and down the Cotswold edge to Owlpen with its historic manor house. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Horsley Village Hall
ST838979 • Map square B6

Leaders: Norman Kay & Brian Mundy

MAY

Wednesday • 1 May • 10:00

Industrial Archaeology and Arts and Crafts

Moderate • 2.25 hours • 3.25 miles
Please park considerably around the village or use the Cotswold Green bus 54a from Cirencester. To the Thames and Severn Canal then through Siccaridge Woods and across Daneway Banks. Return via Daneway House with its Arts and Crafts connections. Not suitable for push chairs. Pub lunches available.

Starting point: Sapperton Church
SO948033 • Map square D6

Leaders: P Burgon, J Shaw & T Wilson

Wednesday • 1 May • 10:00

Woods, Wolds & Warblers

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
A spring walk through woods and over the hills looking and listening for warblers and other birds. The route is through Spoonley and West Wood before descending via Breakheart Plantation. Please bring a packed lunch etc.

Starting point: Winchcombe - Back Lane
Car Park • SP024284 • Map square E3

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Thursday • 2 May • 10:00

Will there be Orchids?

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4 miles
A leisurely walk around two wildflower rich commons. Match your identification skills with the Wardens. Suitable for families, but not pushchairs or buggies. Lunch available at the Inn after the walk if required.

Starting point: Amberley Inn, Amberley.
SO850013 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Harrowin & Lorraine Blench

Friday • 3 May • 10:00

Monarchs and Martyrs

Easy • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
This walk reminds us of the very different lifestyles experienced in the Wychwood Forest. Hopefully the bluebells will be out. Enjoy a packed lunch at the end of the walk or lunch options in nearby villages.

Starting point: Ascott-under-Wychwood
Church • SP301 86 • Map square G4

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Tuesday • 7 May • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for Pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox and Hounds Colerne
ST818711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee,
Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Tuesday • 7 May

Ladies that Lunch – Aromatherapy

Includes a 2 course lunch and glass of wine on arrival. £19.50 per person

Venue: The King's Hotel, Chipping Campden
Tel: 01386 840256

Wednesday • 8 May • 10:00

To an Alpine Church

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
Beginning with a climb to the top, across Selsley Common to Selsley with its remarkable church. The walk then returns through North and South Woodchester.

Starting point: Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation Car Park, St Mary's Hill,
Inchbrook SO842011 • Map square B6

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper



Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses 2013

Spring/Summer Programme

Ever wondered how a dry-stone wall is constructed? Or looked at a thatched roof and pondered how it's done? The Cotswolds Conservation Board is offering a range of traditional rural skills courses this spring & summer. No experience is necessary for most courses and all tools and equipment are provided.



Dry-stone walling (Beginners) - £99

Lansdown, 13-14 April
Naunton, 27-28 April
Tetbury, 11-12 May
Painswick, 24-25 June
Long Compton, 15-16 June
Cotswold Farm Park, 13-14 July
Tetbury, 10-11 August
Leckhampton Hill, 24-25 August
Naunton, 14-15 September
Blenheim, 28-29 September
Long Compton, 12-13 October
Lansdown, 26-27 October

Dry-stone walling (Improvers) - £119

Painswick, 1-2 June
Blenheim Palace, 24-25 August

Lime Mortar Building Repairs (Beginners) - £99

Ebworth Centre, 15-16 June
Ebworth Centre, 21-22 September

Blacksmithing (Taster) - £99

Northleach, 11th May
Northleach, 27th July
Tetbury, 13th October

Cotswold Tile Roofing - £99

Naunton, 8th & 9th June
Naunton, 7th & 8th September

Thatching (Taster) - £99

Northleach, 7th June TBC
Northleach, 14th September TBC

Map & Compass - £10

Northleach, 21st April

Corporate team building activities now available!

Make a REAL difference on your next team building day! The Cotswolds Conservation Board can provide bespoke rural skills based activities for corporate clients looking for something that little bit different. Repair a historic dry-stone wall, help improve a protected habitat for local wildlife or try your hand at the age-old craft of hedgelaying, are some of the activities that will ensure you and your colleagues leave knowing that they have made a significant contribution to the Cotswolds landscape as well as enjoyed a great team day out.

Gift Vouchers

Gift vouchers are available.

Competitions

Dry Stone Walling: National Trust Sherborne Estate, 6 October
Hedgelaying: Moreton-in-Marsh (TBC), 16 November

For further details and to book online visit

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Tel: 01451 862000

Thursday • 9 May • 10:00



Green Oases within the City

Easy • 3.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Circular walk from Royal Victoria Park, taking in three other parks within the city, with views of two others. Suitable for pushchairs if you can cope with steps.

Starting point: Royal Avenue Bath, in front of Bandstand • ST744652 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Friday • 10 May • 10:00

Over the Cotswold Edge 3

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

Another chance to see part of the north western edge of the Cotswold Hills. From Snowhill to the edge, then the Cotswold Way down to Stanton, through Buckland and on to Broadway. Return uphill through beautiful woodlands. Please bring packed lunch etc.

Starting point: Snowhill public Car Park SP097340 • Map square E2

Leaders: Allan Allcock, Andy Briars & Julie Downing

Saturday • 11 May • 09:30

Seeking the Source

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles

Covering a variety of footpaths, bridleways and lanes, reaching an easterly point at Temple Guiting. We shall find the source of one of our famous Cotswold rivers as well as other interesting features en route. Bring a packed lunch etc.

Starting point: Didbrook - outside church SP055314 • Map square E3

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Tuesday • 14 May • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 2

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10.00am for coffee at Hunters' Hall Inn, Kingscote; walk starts at 10:30am. Circular walk through fields and woods with good views of rolling Gloucestershire countryside. Lunch available at the Inn after the walk if required.

Starting point: Hunters' Hall Inn, Kingscote ST813960 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Les Jones

Tuesday • 14 May • 10:00

Scenic Woods and Hills Above The Stour

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Highlights of this walk include tremendous views over the Stour Valley, the pretty Warwickshire villages of Cherington, Sutton-under Brailes and Whichford. Also the Whichford Woods bluebells (hopefully!). The walk does include a couple of climbs. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Long Compton Church SP287330 • Map square G3

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Wednesday • 15 May • 10:00

Heritage Trail No. 1, from Tetbury

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

We walk through the historic town of Tetbury (a wool town) then by way of varied track and grazing land to a Sheep town (Shipton Moyne). We return by an alternative route for a closer look at Tetbury's inspiring church.

Starting point: Old Railyard Free Car Park, Gumstool Hill, Tetbury ST892932 • Map square C7

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Lorraine Blench

Thursday • 16 May • 10:00

Winchcombe Way Circular Walk 2

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles

Second in series designed to introduce you to the Winchcombe Way. This walk takes you over Nottingham Hill to Gretton and back with glorious views in every direction. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Cleeve Hill Quarry Car Park SO 989 271 • Map square D4

Leaders: North District Voluntary Wardens

Friday • 17 May • 10:00

Cotswold Way: Lansdown to Dyrham

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

We depart promptly at 10.00 for bus transport to the Lansdown Park & Ride. We follow a new path under the Beckford Tower to the Race Course which we cross to pick up the Cotswold Way at Prospect stile. The CW is then followed via the Battlefield, the Swainswick valley, Cold Ashton, and Dyrham Wood, back to Dyrham. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Booking essential on 0117 937 1335.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Saturday • 18 – Friday • 31 May

Davidia Delights

Batsford is home to what's widely regarded as one of the biggest, oldest and best Davidia Tree's in the country and should be at its very best during this time. Marvel at thousands of white handkerchief-like bracts as the tree takes centre stage in the arboretum during May and pick up your own specimen from the Plant Centre to take home with you.

Venue: Batsford Arboretum
Tel: 01386 701441

Sunday • 19 May

Jazz Brunch

Enjoy a lazy brunch to the soothing sounds of jazz – the perfect way to round off your weekend. Jazz from 12.00pm until 3.00pm. Brunch is served from 12.00pm until 4.00pm.

Venue: Arden Hotel, Stratford upon Avon
Tel: 01789 298682





Home to one of the largest private tree collections in the country, Batsford Arboretum offers visitors year round interest; lush, flowering bulbs in spring as well as magnolias, Japanese flowering cherries and our famous handkerchief tree; insect-rich wildflower areas in the height of summer and nature's fireworks display of reds, golds and yellows in autumn.

Wander along delicate watercourses as they trickle their way down the hillside and discover beautiful, orient-inspired statues and a Japanese Rest House in the grounds – the perfect place to relax and admire breath-taking views across the Evenlode Valley.

Gold award winner in the 2013 Cotswolds Tourism Large Visitor Attraction category, the visitor centre is home to the Garden Terrace Café serving local, freshly-baked food and cakes including a deck area overlooking the Plant Centre. There are also well-stocked garden and gift shops and wonderful selection of quality plants for all seasons.

Don't miss the Applestore for unique, shabby chic interior ideas and the Cotswolds Falconry Centre for an up close and personal experience of more than sixty varieties of birds of prey.

Events at Batsford Arboretum

We've bats, birds and blossom events and so much more this spring and summer at Batsford including special events with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Book early for our outdoor theatre in the Arboretum on July 11th – an all male production of 'As You Like It' by The Lord Chamberlain's Men. Visit our website at www.batsarb.co.uk for more information or have a look at the event pages.

Batsford Arboretum, Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9AB

Tel: 01386 701441

Email: arboretum@batsfordfoundation.co.uk

www.batsarb.co.uk

Find us on [Facebook.com/Batsford Arboretum](https://www.facebook.com/BatsfordArboretum) or follow us on [Twitter.com/BatsfordA](https://twitter.com/BatsfordA)

Tuesday • 21 May • 10:00



Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of different morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box out into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. please bring drinks and snack for mid walk break. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs and tea rooms.

Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box - Off the A4. ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 21 May • 10:00



Deer Park and Secret Forest

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles

This popular walk is partly off Rights of Way through the ancient Forest of Wychwood. It returns through Cornbury Park, with its herds of Fallow and Sika deer. By kind permission of Lord Rotherwick. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Charlbury Spendlove Car Park. SP358196 • Map square H4

Leader: Tony Graeme

Wednesday • 22 May • 10:00

Round About The Ampneys

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk through two very attractive Cotswold villages, Ampney Crucis and Barnsley following tracks and paths through farmland. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Crown (pub) at Crucis SP067018 • Map square E5

Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & J Foulkes

Thursday • 23 May • 8-10pm

The Big Batsford Bat Walk

Intrigued by bats and keen to learn more about where and how they live? Come along to the Big Batsford Bat Walk in the Arboretum and discover everything you ever wanted to know about these shy little creatures with our Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust expert. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children, with half the money going to support the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's work. Booking essential.

Venue: Batsford Arboretum

Tel: 01386 701441

Saturday • 25 May • 10:00



Lineover and Ravensgate

Easy • 3 hours • 4 miles

A slow walk to enjoy the spring flowers, the trees, and the views in ancient Lineover Wood and on Ravensgate Common. The walk does have one climb but there will be plenty of time to stop and see things.

Starting point: Lineover Wood. On track from A40 1 mile east of Charlton Kings and just east of Koloshi restaurant.

SO986196 • Map square D4

Leaders: J Heathcott, J Woodland & M Dunning

Saturday • 25 May • 10:00



Marshfield: Town and Country

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4.25 miles

We walk along the High Street of this small medieval town to the Almhouses, then take bridleways and lanes south to Ashwicke and return through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). It is Marshfield Open Gardens weekend, so why not visit them afterwards?

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield ST781737 • Map square B9

Leaders: David Colbourne & John Dougal

Sunday • 26 May • 10:30



Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Sunday • 26 May • 10:00



Four Fords (or is it five?)

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A walk from Bradford on Avon to Westwood, Hungerford Castle, Ifford, Freshford and along the Kennett and Avon Canal. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Station Car Park, Bradford on Avon • ST824607 • Map square B10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Monday • 27 May • 10:00



Little Solsbury Hill and Chilcombe Bottom Nature Reserve

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 3.5 miles

From the slip road, up to the summit for views over Bath, then down through a "Wild Wood" to Northend, Chilcombe Bottom Nature Reserve and back to the start. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Slip road from Swainswick, East of A46, 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at the A46/A420 junction. ST762683 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & Peter Barlow

Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival 17-19 May

Now in its 4th year the Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival takes you on journeys of discovery through beautiful Cotswold landscapes. From 14 mile treks to leisurely strolls looking at birds and wild flowers, from a talk in the beautiful setting of Sudeley Castle to cream teas at Stanway.

There are a variety of walks for all abilities and evening social events where we make you feel welcome. If you fancy trying Nordic Walking or brushing up on your map reading skills we have it all. Learn about game keeping, rare sheep and farming; Sudeley Castle's involvement in the Civil War and how GWR keep the steam trains running. Take the opportunity to walk the Wardens' Way or stretches of the Gloucestershire Way.

We strive to encourage the next generation to discover the countryside. Building on the success of last year we are working again with the Cotswolds AONB Voluntary Wardens Education team in organising a fun packed day for a local primary school where kids can learn and discover interesting things.

For further information pick up a leaflet or visit: www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/festival
Book early to avoid disappointment.

Wed • 29 May • 10am-12pm & 2-4pm

Kids Gardening – Get the gardening bug!

The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will encourage your children to enjoy gardening with our special event. Explore the bugs and creepy crawlies who call our arboretum home and then learn how to encourage more insects to the garden by sowing wildlife friendly seeds. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets cost £10 with half the money going to support the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's work. Booking is essential as places are limited. **Venue:** Batsford Arboretum
Tel: 01386 701441

Wednesday • 29 May • 10:00

Happy Endings

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Up, down and around parts of Horsley taking in some of the fascinating history of the parish. **Starting point:** Shortwood AFC Car Park, Shortwood, 1 mile SW of Nailsworth ST836992 • Map square B6
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & David Collings

Wednesday • 29 May • 10:00

Short Walk to Devils Chimney

Easy • 1 hour • 1.75 miles

A short walk taking in a nature reserve, an Iron Age fort, and the well known Devil's Chimney. Do not use the quarry car park on Leckhampton Hill as we start from the upper car park off Hartley Lane. No stiles but not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Upper Car Park off Hartley Lane, Leckhampton Hill SO 950 179 • Map square D4
Leaders: J Shaw

Wednesday • 29 May • 10:00

Villages South West of Burford

Moderate • 5 hours • 9.5 miles

From Burford passing through the villages of Holwell & Westwell in the morning. After a lunch stop at the Fox at Great Barrington we return to Burford in the afternoon.

Starting point: Burford Car Park SP254123 • Map square G5
Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Friday • 31 May • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk round Postlip Hill, Breakheart Plantation, and the Wash Pool. One long steep climb but no stiles. Lunches available at the golf clubhouse.

Starting point: Quarry Car Park Cleeve Hill SO989271 • Map square D3
Leaders: K Buckle, C Dickinson & G Ricketts

JUNE

Saturday • 1 June • 10:00

Family Walk and Farm Visit

Easy • 5 hours • 3 miles

The day is designed with families in mind and includes children's activities. An easy walk to the Fawdry's at Village Farm in Salford who will take us on a tractor and trailer tour of their farm. Bring a packed lunch to eat at the farm. Hot and cold drinks and home made cakes will be available. Numbers are limited. Please telephone 01993 831810 to secure a place.

Starting point: New Street Playground, Chipping Norton • SP310271 • Map square G3
Leaders: Rosemary Wilson

Sat • 1 June – Sun • 9th June

Nailsworth Walking Festival

Enjoy a varied menu of themed walks and activities in and around the Nailsworth area, organised by the Nailsworth Health Partnership – including events suitable for families and children.

www.nailsworthhealthpartnership.org

Tuesday • 4 June • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9
Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Tuesday • 4 June

Ladies That Lunch – Champagne Tasting

Bound to be popular so book early!

Champagne tasting with Upton Wines. Includes 2 course lunch and Champagne to taste. £19.50 per person

Venue: The King's Hotel, Chipping Campden
Tel: 01386 840256

Wednesday • 5 June • 10:00

A Stroll in the Park

Moderate • 3 hours • 4.75 miles

A pleasant walk through woods and meadows but with some steep ascents and descents. Parking in the pub Car Park for patrons (pub lunches available) or around the village. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Carpenters Arms Miserden SO937088 • Map square C/D5

Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgon & T Wilson

Wednesday • 5 June • 10:00

Three Ways From Chadlington

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 9 miles

A summer walk that takes in parts of the Wychwood, Hundley and Oxfordshire Ways in the Evenlode Valley. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chadlington Memorial Hall Car Park • SP329219 • Map square G4

Leader: Patricia Gilbert

Thursday • 6 June • 10:00

Winchcombe Way Circular Walk 3

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

Third in series designed to introduce you to the Winchcombe Way. Three of the most picturesque villages in the Cotswolds feature: Snowhill, Stanton and Stanway – a Cotswolds classic. Pub Lunch available.

Starting point: Snowhill - public Car Park on village outskirts • SP097340 • Map square E3
Leaders: North District Voluntary Wardens

Saturday • 8 June • 10:00

Horton and Hawkesbury Upton

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7 miles

Across country following the Little Avon River to Hawkesbury Common, Hawkesbury Church and then climbing to Hawkesbury Upton. Return via the Cotswold Way and Horton church. May be muddy in places. Not suitable for pushchairs. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Horton Community Centre ST758844 • Map square A8

Leaders: Reg Bleadon & Keith Rawlings

Saturday • 8 June • 10:00

The Norman Knight to Whispering Knights

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

From Whichford the walk climbs over Whichford Hill to reach Great Rollright then to Little Rollright calling in at the mystical Rollright Stones. The return is via Long Compton and Whichford Woods. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Whichford Village Green SP315346 • Map square G3

Leader: Janet Dellar

Sunday • 9 June • 10:00

Two Commons and a Toy Train

Strenuous • 4.5 hours • 7 miles

The walk leaves Selsley Common to descend into the Nailsworth Valley and on to Rodborough. We cross the Common to Amberley for lunch and return via Woodchester and Dingle Wood. Bring a packed lunch. Pub stop, drink only.

Starting point: Selsley Common Main Car Park with notice 'No Parking Beyond This Limit' SO828026 • Map square C6

Leaders: David Harrowin & David Collings

Sunday • 9 June

Summer Croquet and Afternoon Tea

Enjoy the summer and bring the family for the afternoon to enjoy the grounds at The Greenway Hotel & Spa. Chef's Special Afternoon Tea and Croquet £24.50 per person
Venue: Greenway Hotel & Spa, Cheltenham
Tel: 01242 862352

Wednesday • 12 June • 10:00

Walking in the Footsteps of Dinosaurs

Moderate • 6 hours • 10.5 miles

Fine views and a look at a disused quarry with fossilised dinosaur footprints. We will be looking for early summer butterflies en-route, especially on the return to Adam's Farm. Please bring a packed lunch etc.

Starting point: Cotswold Farm Park SP114266 • Map square E4

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Wednesday • 12 June • 18:00

Renewable Energy Seminar

A free practical demonstration event in the Cotswolds AONB, featuring the latest renewable energy investment opportunities (including a tour of solar PV and biomass installations), plus a Q&A session with local experts.

Venue: Withington Estate, Gloucestershire GL54 4BG

Tel: James Lloyd, Cotswolds Conservation Board, 01451 862033

Thursday • 13 June • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 3

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at the King's Head Inn, King's Stanley. Walk starts at 10:30am to Pen Hill via the Cotswold Way and then down to Selsley before returning to the start. Good views over the Severn Vale and Selsley Common. Lunch available at the Inn after the walk if required.

Starting point: King's Head Inn, King's Stanley SO812035 • Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & John Graham



COTSWOLD CYCLES

OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF BIKES, CLOTHING, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES FROM LEADING BRANDS. WE STOCK ROAD, MOUNTAIN AND HYBRID BIKES AND HAVE A GOOD RANGE OF CHILDREN'S BIKES IN STOCK.

We are situated on the edge of the lovely Cotswold town of Moreton-in-Marsh and there is free parking right outside the shop.

- All brands bike servicing and repair by CYTECH qualified mechanics In our well equipped workshop
- Professional bike fitting, including motion capture, in our dedicated bike fit studio
- Demo road bikes available in a range of sizes
- Weekly rides from the shop-checkout our website for free route details
- Friendly welcome and great service. The coffee is always on so why not call in and see us



Cotswold Cycles, Unit 3, Cotswold Link, Cotswold Business Village, Moreton in Marsh Gloucestershire, GL56 OJU
Contact: andrew@cotswoldcycles.co.uk
Telephone: 01608 650933
www.cotswoldcycles.co.uk

Saturday • 15 June • 09:30

Eye Over the Windrush

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles

A scenic walk covering the areas north and south of the Windrush and one of the Dikler's tributaries, the River Eye. Please bring packed lunch etc.

Starting point: Notgrove Community Hall Car Park (donation required) SP108203 • Map square E4
Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

Sunday • 16 June • 10:00

Cotswold Way: Dyrham to Old Sodbury

Strenuous • 6 hours • 11 miles

The walk proceeds via Tormarton & Dodington Park to Coombe's end and Old Sodbury where we will visit the Church before lunch at the Dog Inn. We may eat our picnic lunches in the garden if we purchase drinks and a menu will be available at the start of the walk so that we can phone in orders so that meals will be available as soon as we arrive [Cost: around £6] if you prefer. After lunch we will return almost on the level past Dodington, under the M4 to Hinton, Talbot Farm & Dyrham village.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Sunday • 16 June

Summer Croquet and Afternoon Tea

Enjoy the summer and bring the family for the afternoon to enjoy the grounds at The Greenway Hotel & Spa. Chef's Special Afternoon Tea and Croquet £24.50 per person.
Venue: Greenway Hotel & Spa, Cheltenham
Tel: 01242 862352

Sunday • 16 June

Father's Day Lunch

Relax in the luxurious surroundings of the Greenway Hotel with a delicious 3 course lunch with coffee and a special gift for all Dads at £29.50 per person.

Venue: Greenway Hotel & Spa, Cheltenham
Tel: 01242 862352

Sunday • 16 June

Father's Day

Why not treat yourself to a sumptuous meal in the Garden Terrace Café at Batsford and soak up the sunshine on our al fresco deck? There's free entry for Dads to the arboretum and a whole host of fabulous plants in the Garden Centre – the perfect gift for green-fingered Dads!

Venue: Batsford Arboretum
Tel: 01386 701441

Sunday • 16 June

Jazz Brunch

Enjoy a lazy brunch to the soothing sounds of jazz – the perfect way to round off your weekend. Jazz from 12.00pm until 3.00pm
Brunch is served from 12.00pm until 4.00pm
Venue: Greenway Hotel & Spa, Cheltenham
Tel: 01242 862352

THE KINGS HOTEL

Cotswold Walking Break

Honeyed Cotswold stone, cosy boutique rooms, excellent hospitality and an award-winning breakfast...music to the ears of anyone who discovers The Kings Hotel on their visit to Chipping Campden.

Two night break

Three courses in Restaurant included on one night

Full English breakfast

Cream Tea on one afternoon

Packed lunch to take away on both mornings

Complimentary upgrade

£159.00 per person

Based on two people sharing a Queen double room. Upgrade subject to availability at the time of booking.

The Square, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6AW

t:01386 840 256 e:info@kingscampden.co.uk w:www.kingscampden.co.uk



Tuesday • 18 June • 10:00



Monks, Manors, Mulberry & Macmillan

Moderate • 6 hours • 9 miles

This is a longer walk of the monthly rambles from Box. It features the Wiltshire plateau south of Box and visits Kingsdown, Monkton Farleigh and South Wraxall. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Extensive views, weather permitting.
Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Wednesday • 19 June • 10:00

Cotswold Legacies – Arts & Crafts in the Landscape

Moderate • 6 hours • 9 miles

Starting from King's Stanley village towards Selsley and a visit to its church – a copy of an alpine namesake and with arts and crafts stained glass. Then to Woodchester and the site of the famous villa and later The Mansion in Woodchester park. Returning via the Cotswold Way on the escarpment. Pub lunch available.
Starting point: King's Stanley Village Free Car Park • SO813034 • Map square B6
Leaders: David Owen & Steve Knight

Thursday • 20 June • 10:00



The Flowers and Wildlife of the Glyme Valley

Easy • 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A circular walk led by an expert naturalist with a feast of wildlife habitats including rich limestone grassland, (hopefully seeing a rare plant) ancient hedgerows as well as Over Norton parkland with its veteran trees and orchids.
Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall SP313270 • Map square G3
Leader: Craig Blackwell

Friday • 21 June • 18:00



Up to a Down

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

We follow part of the Kennett and Avon canal and climb up to Bathampton Down to enjoy the views over the valleys. Various Orchids may be seen at Hampton Rocks, a "Dry Arch", and "Seven Caves". Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: The George Inn, Bathampton (Park near railway line) ST776665 • Map square B10
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Friday • 21 – Sunday • 23 June

Cotswold Walking Weekend

Takes place at Three Ways House Hotel, home to the famous Pudding Club.
Venue: Greenway Hotel & Spa, Cheltenham
For details call: 01386 438429

Saturday • 22 June • 10:00

Canals, Woods, and Commons

Strenuous • 7 hours • 11 miles

Around Rodborough, Randwick, Selsey, Stanley, and Stroud. Pub or packed lunch.
Starting point: Stratford Park Leisure Centre (at the top of the Car Park) SO844056 • Map square B6
Leaders: J Heathcott, K Buckle & M Dunning

Monday • 24 June • 14:00



Summer Ice Cream Walk No. 1

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

An afternoon walk from Minchinhampton to Besbury Common, later crossing Minchinhampton Common with its abundant wild flowers, archaeological features and spectacular views. Before returning via the attractive village of Box there will be a stop for ice cream.
Starting point: Alongside Minchinhampton Church (on edge of Common) SO872009 • Map square B6
Leaders: Alan Bulley & Brian Mundy

Tuesday • 25 June • 10:00

Classic Quartet

Strenuous • 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A relatively short but demanding walk involving four ascents to spectacular and historic viewpoints overlooking the Ewelme Valley, Dursley and the Severn Vale. Enjoy the finest ridge walk in the Cotswolds AONB and visit the magnificent iron age hill fort at Uley Bury. Approximately 350m of ascent/descent.
Starting point: Cam Peak Free Car Park, between Ashmead Green and Dursley. Please check location on OS map. ST767994 • Map square A6
Leaders: John Hammill & Steve Knight

Wednesday • 26 June • 10:00

Wednesday Wander around Bibury

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A mainly flat walk from Arlington Mill, through Ablington, and passing Dead Man's Acre Copse to the Salt Way and back to Bibury. Lunch available in Bibury.
Starting point: Opposite Arlingham Mill near Bibury Trout Farm • SP113068 • Map square E5
Leaders: J Foulkes, M Williams & R Hales

Thursday • 27 June • 14:00



Flowers of the Limestone Grassland

Moderate • 3 hours • Up to 4 miles

We will walk over the agriculturally unimproved grassland of Cleeve Common looking for typical limestone grassland flowers and some Cotswold specialities. Good footwear (it may be steep and rough in places) and suitable refreshments please.
Starting point: Cleeve Hill Quarry Car Park SO989271 • Map square D4
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday • 28 June • 10:00

Friday Foray round Elkstone

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Quiet country lanes and farmland around Elkstone.
Starting point: Highwayman Inn on A417 SO965107 • Map square D5
Leaders: Ricketts, C Dickinson & K Buckle

Saturday • 29 June • 10:00



Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Sunday • 30 June • 10:00

Summer in the Evenlode Valley

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12.5 miles

This long walk explores some of the delights of the lovely Evenlode Valley. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Charlbury Church Entrance SP355194 • Map square H4
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

JULY

Tuesday • 2 July • 10:00

A Remote and Beautiful Valley

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Passing through some of the North Cotswolds' most remote and beautiful countryside. First we go through woods above the Hinchwick valley, then descend briefly into an adjoining valley and return along the bottom of Hinchwick valley itself.
Starting point: Hinchwick, by Hinchwick Manor (park with care on grass verge) SP145300 • Map square F3
Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams



Tuesday • 2 July • 10:00



Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne

ST 818 711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Wednesday • 3 July • 10:00

A Hike to Far End and Back

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

Over Saltridge Hill to Sheepscombe and back via the Ebworth Plantations, Overtown, and Cranham Woods. Pub lunch available. Several steep climbs and descents.

Starting point: Cranham Village by the school

(park considerately)

SO894126 • Map square C5

Leaders: T Wilson, P Burgon & J Shaw

Saturday • 5 – Saturday • 6 July

Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods National Nature Reserve BioBlitz

Join us in a race against the clock to find as many species of wildlife as possible in Buckholt Wood and on Cranham Common, part of the Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods National Nature Reserve. A BioBlitz is an exciting event where naturalists, students, school children and members of the public come together to explore and record local wildlife. The Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods NNR BioBlitz will start on Friday, 5th July at 10am and will come to a close on Saturday, 6th July at 2pm. Refreshments will be available from Cranham Scout Centre.

Further information:

www.cotswoldnnrbioblitz.weebly.com

Friday • 5 – Sunday • 7 July

Cotswold Walking Weekend

Takes place at Three Ways House Hotel, home to the famous Pudding Club.

For details call: 01386 438429

Saturday • 6 July • 10:00

A Sample of Stroud Jewels – Canals, Farmers' Market and Mills

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

Starting from King's Stanley village along the Cotswold Way towards Stroud to view the progress of restoration of the Stroudwater canal calling in to sample the atmosphere of the Farmers market. Later viewing the town's location from Rodborough Common and passing some of the valley's old mills. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: King's Stanley village Free

Car Park. SO813034 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Owen & Brian Chilvers

Thursday • 11 July

'As You Like It' – outdoor Shakespeare in the arboretum

School matinee at 1pm. Evening performance at 7pm. Enjoy an all-male production of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' in the magical setting of Batsford Arboretum. The Lord Chamberlain's Men make their first visit to Batsford with the Bard's romantic comedy set, appropriately enough, in a forest! Seating isn't provided so please bring your own picnic chairs or rugs and umbrella's for shelter or shade! Cost £16 for adults and £10 for children, students and concessions and are non-refundable.

Venue: Batsford Arboretum

Tel: 01386 701441

Friday • 12 July • 10:00

Heritage Trail No. 2, via Leighterton

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

We follow part of the Monarch's Way, passing Down Farm Plantation and earthworks to the small thriving village of Leighterton. We return via polo horse country and the Macmillan Way to our starting hostelry, with refreshments available at Jack Hare's Bar, if required.

Starting point: Hare and Hounds Hotel Car

Park, on A433 at Westonbirt, by arrangement.

ST863905 • Map square C7

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Steve Knight

Saturday • 13 July • 10:00

Figure of 8 Around Oakridge

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 6 and 4.5 miles

A figure of 8 from Oakridge with 6 miles before lunch then 4.5 miles. Pub lunch or picnic.

Starting point: Roadside parking by Oakridge

Recreation Ground

SO917037 • Map square C6

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Saturday • 13 July • 10:00

Leigh Delamere! Village, not the M4 Services!

Strenuous • 6 hours • 11 miles

We start by crossing the golf course [with permission] to the Nature Reserve, before picking up the footpath to Gatcombe Mill. Then along the Fosse way, before turning East to Grittleton and Leigh Delamere where we will obtain the key to the church (Historic Churches Trust). Return is via Sevington, Yatton Keynell Nature Reserve, Long Dean and Castle Combe. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Castle Combe Car Park

ST845773 • Map square B9

Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Friday • 13 – Sunday • 15 July

Cotswold Walking Weekend

Takes place at Three Ways House Hotel, home to the famous Pudding Club.

For details call: 01386 438429

Monday • 15 July • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 4

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at The Weighbridge Inn, between Nailsworth and Avening. Walk starts at 10:30am through woods to the pretty village of Avening with its royal connections and returns to the start via Avening Park and Shipton's Grave Lane, site of the local gallows.

Starting point: Weighbridge Inn, Nailsworth

ST862993 • Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & Staszek Jarmuz

Tuesday • 16 July • 10:00



Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of different morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box out into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. please bring drinks and snack for mid walk break. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs and tea rooms. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park,

Box – Off the A4.

ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Wednesday • 17 July • 18:00

Mills and Meadows – Evening Walk

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles

This walk is never far from the River Windrush and the once busy water mills along its course are a reminder of the importance of renewable energy over the centuries. For a meal at The Fox Inn afterwards please book independently (mention the warden's walk) Telephone 01451 844385.

Starting point: The Fox Inn Barrington

SP204131 • Map square F5

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday • 18 July • 10:00

Up to the Downs

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 7 miles

Crossing rolling hills to the panoramic Ilmington Downs. Dropping down into the village, home of a Nobel prize winner, and noting the church with its Robert Thomson 'mice'. We return to Ebrington along drove roads.

Starting point: Ebrington Village Hall

(£1 per car) • SP184403 • Map square F2

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Friday • 19 July • 10:30



Butterflies and their Habitat on Stinchcombe Hill – Summer Species

Easy • 2.5 hours • 3 miles

A walk around Stinchcombe Hill with Chris Wiltshire, the Gloucestershire County Butterfly Recorder. Learn about the summer butterfly species, such as Chalk Hill Blue and Dark Green Fritillary, which inhabit this unique landscape and witness examples, weather and climate change permitting. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill public

Car Park (not golf club Car Park).

ST744983 • Map square A6

Leaders: John Hammill & Ian Cooke

Saturday • 20 July • 10:00

Manor Houses in the North Cotswolds 4

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles

Continuing the series, including sites of ruined and existing manor houses from Chipping Campden to Broadway. Magnificent views from the north edge of the Cotswolds as well as many tales. Lunch available in Broadway.

Starting point: Dover's Hill, National Trust

Car Park • SP136395 • Map square F2

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Tuesday • 23 July • 10:00

Scenic Views and Pretty Ironstone Villages

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

An area steeped in history - the wooded scarp face of the Civil War battlefield of Edge Hill, great long distance views and pretty ironstone villages make the drive to the north of the Cotswold AONB worthwhile. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Middle Tysoe Church

SP341442 • Map square H2

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Wednesday • 24 July • 10:00

Sudgrove and the Frome Valley

Strenuous • 3 hours • 6.25 miles

A walk through woods and fields to Edgeworth and the River Frome then back along the riverside. A slightly longer walk with some climbs.

Starting point: Carpenters Arms Miserden

SO938089 • Map square C5

Leaders: R Hales, M Williams & J Foulkes

Friday • 26 July • 10:00



Friday Foray at Chedworth

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk along the Monarch's and Macmillan Ways to Bleakmoor before returning to Chedworth. Pub lunches available. 6 stiles and 1 steep climb.

Starting point: Seven Tuns Inn Chedworth

SP052120 • Map square E5

Leaders: C Dickinson, K Buckle & G Ricketts

Saturday • 27 July • 10:00

Amble from Ampney

Moderate • 7 hours • 12 miles

Across flat open countryside visiting Bibury and Barnsley. Pub or packed lunch.

Starting point: Side road off A417 400yds east of Crown of Crucis Inn

SP072018 • Map square E7

Leaders: J Heathcott, J Woodland & K Buckle

Saturday • 27 July • 10:30



Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park

ST74875 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Sunday • 28 July • 10:00



Battle to the Races

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.5 miles

From Lansdown to Charlcombe and Woolley overlooking the Tadwick Valley, then up to the Battlefield and Bath Racecourse. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Granville Road, Lansdown

ST743678 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Tuesday • 30 July • 18:00



Evening Along The Windrush

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles

An evening walk along the valley of the River Windrush between Asthall and Widford. Starting and finishing at the Maytime Inn.

Evening meals are available.

Starting point: Maytime Inn, Asthall

SP288114 • Map square G5

Leader: Tony Graeme



Jo Ward



Wednesday • 31 July • 10:00

Wool, Paper and Golf Balls!

Moderate • 6 hours • 9 miles

Up to Cleeve Hill via Postlip Mill, descending to Woodmancote for a pub lunch before returning to Winchcombe in the afternoon via Langley Hill.

Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane Car Park • SP024284 • Map square E3

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

AUGUST

Thursday 1 Aug – Sunday 15 Sep

Art in the Garden

Over 70 pieces of work ranging from bronze, stone and plastics through to textiles and new mediums. For the first time this new medium includes video and sound work. A series of workshops will also be run by New Brewery Arts in Cirencester ranging from drop-in taster days to masterclasses for those who wish to develop their artistic skills. Normal admission applies. Adults £6.50; Over 60s £5.50; Children £3.00.

Venue: Painswick Rococo Garden

www.artinthegarden.org.uk

Friday • 2 August • 14:00

Summer Ice Cream Walk No. 2

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

An afternoon walk with some steep climbs passing through parts of three National Trust commons (Minchinhampton, Rodborough and Bownham) with outstanding views over two of the Five Valleys. We shall be stopping at Winstone's for ice cream. Suitable for active children.

Starting point: Alongside Minchinhampton Church (on edge of Common) SO872009 • Map square B6

Leaders: Alan Bulley & Lorraine Blench

Saturday • 3 August • 10:00

Thames to Severn

Moderate • 6 hours • 9 miles

Coates to Tarlton, Frampton Mansell, Saperton and Cirencester Park visiting both portals of the Sapperton Tunnel. Pub or packed lunch.

Starting point: Coates Village Hall, park considerably around the village SO978008 • Map square D6

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Tuesday • 6 August • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds.

Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Wednesday • 7 August • 10:00

Little Compton Loops – am and pm Walks

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

Two walks or one. This figure of 8 walk includes a morning walk visiting Chastleton Iron Age Fort and House (NT) with great views over the Evenlode Valley. After lunch (pub food available) starting at 1.30pm the northern loop heads up around the hills above Long Compton.

Starting point: Little Compton Church SP261302 • Map square G3

Leaders: Kevin Myhill

Wednesday • 7 August • 10:00

Reflections on Trees; a poetic walk

Moderate • 2.25 hours • 3.75 miles

Look at woodland in a new way: we will have several stops where we will read poems on the subject of the trees. One steady climb and not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Cripplegate NT Car Park SO832086 • Map square B5

Leaders: P Burgon, J Shaw & T Wilson

Thursday • 8 August • 10:00

Woodchester Park and the Cotswold Way

Moderate • 5 hours • 10.5 miles

A moderate walk passing through Woodchester Park and past its historic mansion. The walk passes three lakes in the park and has one steep ascent back to the car park. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Selsley Common Main Car Park with notice, 'No Parking Beyond This Limit' SO828026 • Map square B6

Leaders: Ken Leach & Les Jones

Friday • 9 August • 10:00

Slaughter Idyll to 'Fore' sight

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

An idyllic meander along the Macmillan Way and alongside the River Windrush, then up and down to Naunton where a pub lunch at the Black Horse is optional. An equally rewarding return to Lower Slaughter then awaits.

Starting point: Lower Slaughter, St Mary's Church • SP166225 • Map square F4

Leaders: Julie Downing, Allan Allcock & Andy Briars

Saturday • 10 August • 10:00

The Ancient Forest of Wychwood

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

A woodland walk through Cornbury Park to Finstock returning via Holly Grove and Saint John's Wood. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Leafield Village Green SP316153 • Map square H4

Leader: Janet Dellar

Sunday • 11 August • 10:00

Mills and Ewelme

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk to Uley along the Cotswold Way, returning through Owlpen and Nymphsfield. Pub snack available if required.

Starting point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site SO794014 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Hooper

Wednesday • 14 August • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 5

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10 am for coffee at the Crown Inn, Uley. Walk starts at 10:30 am via the Iron Age fort of Uley Bury and the fine ridge walk of Cam Long Down before returning to Uley along the river. Lunch available at inn on completion of walk if required.

Starting point: Crown Inn, Uley ST792985 • Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & Ian Cooke

Wednesday • 14 August • 10:00

Four Gems and a Diamond

Moderate • 4 hours • 8 miles

A Diamond shaped walk that takes us through four gems of Cotswold villages. Starting at Notgrove, we pass through Cold Aston to Turkdean, turn north west to Hazleton, then return. We explore two village churches with their Norman features.

Starting point: Notgrove Community Hall Car Park (donation required) SP108203 • Map square E4

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Thursday • 15 August • 10:00

Winchcombe Way Circular Way 4

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles

Fourth in series designed to introduce you to the Winchcombe Way. The source of the River Windrush (Cutsdean), a major horse racing centre (Ford) and a lost medieval village (Pinnock) all feature. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Ford, the Plough Inn (Car Park at rear NOT across the road) SP089294 • Map square E3

Leaders: North Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Saturday • 17 August • 10:00

Marshfield:Town and Country

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4.25 miles

We walk along the High Street of this small medieval town to the Almshouses, then take bridleways and lanes south to Ashwicke and return through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). The walk will end in time to enjoy the Marshfield Village Day procession and show.

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield ST781737 • Map square B9

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Sunday • 18 August • 10:00

Barnstomer!

Moderate • 7 hours • 9 miles

'Starting from King's Stanley village towards Frocester and a visit to the largest Medieval Tithe barn in the county. Over country then to Coaley past the site of a Roman villa and a climb to Coaley Peak via the pre turnpike road. Views of the Severn vale and beyond from the route of the Cotswold Way which guides the return. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: King's Stanley Village Free Car Park • SO813034 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Owen & John Hammill

Tuesday • 20 August • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of different morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box out into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drinks and snack for mid walk break. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs and tea rooms. Unsuitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 20 August • 10:00

Burford and the Windrush

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 8.5 miles

Over undulating country to Asthall (pub lunch available) then returning along the Windrush Valley via Swinbrook and Widford Chapel. Includes some short stretches on country roads.

Starting point: Burford Main Car Park SP255124 • Map square G5

Leader: Tony Graeme

Wednesday • 21 August • 10:00

The Valley of the Infant Frome

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.75 miles

A walk well away from the hustle and bustle; we will follow the infant Frome almost to its source passing through Brimpsfield, Caudle Green, and Syde. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Highwayman Inn, Elkstone off A17 • SO966108 • Map square D5

Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & J Foulkes

COTSWOLD WALKING WEEKENDS



Cotswold Walking Weekends at Three Ways House are unique and fun, starting off with a meeting of the sweetest club in the world – **The Pudding Club** – where you will be invited to Dig In! The walks over the weekend are led by Cotswold Wardens through beautiful scenery, rates start at £240 per person, sharing a double room, and include two nights dinner, bed and breakfast, packed lunches, guides and VAT @ 20%.

Come and join us for one of these popular weekends.

Well behaved dogs welcome. Call 01386 438429

June 21-23, July 5-7, September 13-15, October 18-20, November 8-10 2013



HOME OF
THE PUDDING CLUB
EST. 1985

Three Ways House Hotel
Mickleton, Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire GL55 6SB
www.threewayshousehotel.com

Thursday • 22 August • 10:00

Castlett Wood, Kineton & Barton

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

From Guiting Power, following the Castlett Brook through Castlett Wood before passing through the hamlet of Kineton. Simply lovely!

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park (donation required) SP095246 • Map square E3

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Saturday • 24 August • 10:00

History in the Landscape

Strenuous • 7 hours • 11 miles

Our history back to the Stone Age can be seen on this walk through Severnhampton, Charlton Abbots, and Belas Knap. Packed lunch needed.

Starting point: Station Rd Andoversford SP023198 • Map square D4

Leaders: J Heathcott, K Buckle & M Dunning

Saturday • 24 August • 10:00

Old Sodbury, Badminton and Tormarton Circular

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

A steep climb towards the A46, then to Lyegrove Farm and the Badminton estate, before turning south to Acton Turville and Tormarton. Time then to visit the church and the local hostelry before returning via Doddington Park. Please bring a packed lunch, or sandwiches from the hostelry maybe? Please park considerably near the church. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Old Sodbury Church ST755817 • Map square A8

Leaders: Reg Bleadon & Sandy Higgins

Monday • 26 August • 10:00

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST7487757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Wednesday • 28 August • 10:00

Horrors and Harmony

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

We follow some of the paths one of the great 20th century English composers would have used and learn how this little corner of Glos. influenced his works. Easy walk across fields and tracks with just a little incline. Lunch facilities in Bourton.

Starting point: The War Memorial, Bourton on the Water • SP167207 • Map square F4

Leaders: Rosemary Wilson

Friday • 30 August • 10:00

Friday Foray around Andoversford

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk through Foxcote, Upper Dowdswell, and Sandwell Park.

Starting point: Station Rd Andoversford SP023198 • Map square D4

Leaders: G Ricketts & C Dickinson



SEPTEMBER

Tuesday • 3 September • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9
Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Wednesday • 4 Sept • 10:00

Woodlands, Meadowlands, and Some History

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles

A comfortable walk through the countryside around Bibury, seeing an old mill, a butterfly meadow and Akerman St. Lunches available in Bibury. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Bibury riverside, park alongside the river or by the church SP115069 • Map square E5
Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgon & T Wilson

Friday • 6 September • 10:00

Gems Around Broadway

Easy • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A delightful circuit taking in a bit of Broadway trivia, a 'brush' with security and the gems of Saintbury and Willersey. All at a leisurely pace.

Starting point: Broadway War Memorial, Broadway Village Green SP095375 • Map square E2
Leaders: North District Voluntary Wardens

Wednesday • 11 September • 10:00

The Portmeirion Connection

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

This walk explores fine undulating Cotswold scenery from Oxfordshire's highest town. It includes the estate village of Cornwell and a lunch stop in Churchill where a pub snack is available.

Chipping Norton New Street Car Park SP312270 • Map square G3
Leader: Kevin Myhill

Thursday • 12 September • 10:00

Winchcombe Way Circular Walk 5

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

Fifth in series designed to introduce you to the Winchcombe Way. This takes you from Winchcombe via Sudeley Castle to Waterhatch and Deadmanbury Gate, returning via Farmcote. Another Cotswolds classic with fabulous views. Please bring packed lunch etc.

Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane Car Park • SP024284 • Map square E3
Leaders: North District Voluntary Wardens

Friday 13 – Sunday 15 September

Cotswold Walking Weekend

Takes place at Three Way House Hotel, home to the famous Pudding Club. For details call: 01386 438429

Monday • 16 September • 10:00

Heritage Trail No. 3, from Rodmarton

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Following part of Monarch's Way we walk towards the village of Rodmarton, then onto the famous Tunnel House Inn near Coates. We then follow the rail track through woods returning via the Macmillan way.

Starting point: Parking outside Rodmarton Church. ST943981 • Map square C7
Leaders: Brian Mundy & Norman Kay

Tuesday • 17 Sept • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of different morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box out into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drinks and snack for mid walk break. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs and tea rooms. Unsuitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4. ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Wednesday • 18 September • 10:00

Medieval Villages of the Coln Valley

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

From the source of the River Coln, through the villages of Sevenhampton, Syreford and Whittington. The return route should provide glorious views over the Coln Valley. Pub lunch available at end.

Starting point: Brockhampton, Craven Arms Car Park (with prior permission) SP036222 • Map square E4
Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Wednesday • 18 September • 10:00

Wednesday Wander

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

An undulating walk along the Diamond Way and Gloucestershire Way via Turkdean, Salperton Park, and Hazleton. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Garniche at Puesdown (was Puesdown Inn) SP076171 • Map square D4
Leaders: J Foulkes, M Williams & R Hales

Friday • 20 September • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 6

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at the Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge. Walk starts at 10:30am to North Nibley on the Cotswold Way via the Tyndale monument and returns to start via Elmcote. Lunch available in Wotton on completion of the walk if required.

Starting point: Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge • ST757934 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Lorraine Blench

Saturday • 21 September • 10:00

Birdlip to the Butchers and Back

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 10 miles

An autumn walk through some of the finest beech woods to be seen, by the kind permission of the National Trust. Pub lunch or picnic.

Starting point: By Birdlip School on old (now disused) A417 SO929142 • Map square C5
Leaders: T Currier, S Clark & J Stuart

Saturday • 21 Sept • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



Nick Turner

Sunday • 22 Sept • 10:00

Castle Combe Memory Walk

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Previous memories of Dr Dolittle are now joined with memories of War Horse! After descending into the village, we follow the By-Brook to Long Dean before heading for Yatton Keynell Nature Reserve. A gentle climb to Kents Bottom Farm and the Water Tower, before returning on the level along the Palladian Way. Less hilly than previous Memory walks! Not suitable for Pushchairs. A number of pubs nearby for lunch afterwards.

Starting point: Castle Combe Car Park ST845773 • Map square B9
Leaders: John Walker & John Dougal

Sunday • 22 September • 10:00

Quarrymen and Aristocrats

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12.5 miles

Enjoy exploring the local history of the Oxfordshire countryside as we head for Stonesfield and Blenheim. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Charlbury Church Entrance SP355194 • Map square H4
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday • 24 September • 10:00

Evenlode Valley 5 – Charlbury and Wychwood

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

The fifth in a series of circular walks going down the Evenlode Valley. The walk heads west from Charlbury on the Oxfordshire Way then passes through the ancient woodland of the Wychwood Forest on the return. Pub lunch available. Some paths can be muddy after wet weather.

Starting point: Spendlove Car Park, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4
Leader: Anne Martis

Thursday • 26 September • 10:00

Cotswold Villages & Escarpment Views

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 10 miles

From Stanton passing through the villages of Laverton and Buckland & on to Snowhill via the Cotswold Way for a pub lunch. Return to Stanton in the afternoon, after visiting Stanway.

Starting point: Stanton Village Hall Car Park SP067344 • Map square E3
Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Friday • 27 September • 10:00

Friday Foray

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A gently undulating route through Ullenwood, Coberley, and Hartley Bottom. Not suitable for pushchairs. Hartley Lane Car Park.

Starting point: Leckhampton Hill SO951179 • Map square D4
Leaders: K Buckle, G Ricketts & C Dickinson

Sat • 28 Sept • 10:00 & 14:00

Horton Walking Festival – Figure of Eight route

Moderate • 3/2.5 hours • 5 or 9 miles

Two walks 10am & 2pm: Please choose one or both! The morning walk takes in Hawkesbury Common and Church before climbing to Hawkesbury Upton village, and then returning along the Cotswold Way and by Horton Church. The afternoon walk will take us south on the Cotswold Way to Little Sodbury where we access the Roman Camp and find ourselves going in the opposite direction on the CW! Lunch and afternoon tea will be available in the Village Hall if you do not wish to bring your own food.

Starting point: Horton Community Centre ST 758 844 • Map square A8
Leaders: John Walker & Reg Bleardon

Sunday • 29 September • 10:00

A walk around the valleys of St. Catherines

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles

A walk around the valley to the West of Marshfield. Please bring a packed lunch. Some steep hills. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Lay-Byoff the A420, West of Marshfield • ST772738 • Map square B9
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Sponsorship & Advertising

If you are interested in sponsoring or advertising in the *Cotswold Lion*, and require a rate card and technical specification, please contact:

Nicola Greaves
nicola.greaves@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk
01451 862000



Friends' plans for the Old Prison pave the way to exciting developments



Northleach Town Crier at last year's Old Prison open day.

dry stone wall and other artefacts that provide for a real 'hands on' experience.

Plans include enhancing interpretation of the centre and the Lloyd-Baker Collection of Rural Life featuring historic farm wagons, carts and workshop equipment. There are also aims to create a showcase of local produce, crafts and rural pursuits, and to provide a hub for training and demonstrating traditional rural skills.

A variety of exciting events and fundraising activities will take place throughout 2013.

For further news and to find out how to support the Friends, visit www.friendsofthecotswolds.org

Negotiations by the Friends of the Cotswolds to purchase the Old Prison, Northleach, have been proceeding well, "and then the real hard work to create a truly vibrant community, visitor and educational centre begins," says Chairman Simon Randall.

The Friends have been busy fundraising since last June, when they emerged as preferred bidder to take over the Grade II* listed building from Cotswold District Council. A total of £750,000 is needed to realise plans for the site.

Following purchase of the Old Prison, fundraising will continue in order to invest in the fabric of the building, which was originally one of four houses of correction constructed in Gloucestershire in the 1790s, and the Lloyd-Baker Collection of Rural Life on display.

The Friends will work with the Cotswolds Conservation Board, the tenants of the Old Prison, to breathe fresh life into the site and develop the existing Escape to the Cotswolds discovery centre at the heart of the AONB. Escape to the Cotswolds, open from April to October, tells the story of the Cotswolds and features a range of fossils,

ESCAPE TO THE COTSWOLDS!
DISCOVERY CENTRE

Discover more about **the Cotswolds**
Beautiful landscapes... fascinating history...
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OPEN: 11am to 4pm, Wednesdays to Saturdays plus Bank Holiday Mondays, April to October.
Admission free (donations welcome).

The Old Prison, Fosse Way, Northleach
Gloucestershire GL54 3JH
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk • Tel: 01451 862000

Making a donation

Gift Aid declaration

Name of charity: Friends of the Cotswolds
(Reg No. 1115119)

giftaid it

Details of donor

Title: _____

Name: _____

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I want the Friends of the Cotswolds to treat

- The enclosed donation of £ _____ as a Gift Aid donation as I am a UK tax payer and authorise the Friends to reclaim tax currently at 25p in the £.
- All donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please send this coupon along with your payment to: Friends of the Cotswolds, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH.

Wonder Walks of the Cotswolds

Following last year's popular campaign to determine the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds, as featured in the last issue of the *Cotswold Lion*, a series of 'Wonder Walks' are being developed by our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens to help people explore and enjoy these beautiful places for themselves

In this issue, we feature one of the new walks centred on Cleeve Hill – the highest point in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a place well-deserving of the accolade of 'Wonder' of the Cotswolds.

Walk highlights

'Lofty airs of Cleeve Common' is a 4-mile walk that should take around 2.5hrs, starting at the Cleeve Common Quarry car park. As well as fabulous 360° views across to the Malverns and into Wales, the walk takes in some fascinating features of this Site of Special Scientific Interest, making it well worth the walk to the top:

Highest tree in the Cotswolds

Of those few trees that adorn the skyline, 'single beech' is the highest tree in the Cotswolds at

317m (1,040ft). The Common includes the highest point of the Cotswold Hills at 330m (1,083ft) above sea level.

Limestone grassland

Most of Cleeve Common consists of 'unimproved limestone grassland' found on shallow, free-



draining and alkaline soils. This grassland has not been treated with fertiliser or herbicides and is an important wildlife habitat. In spring and summer, lime-loving flowers are widespread, including bright yellow bird's foot trefoil, burnet saxifrage, small scabious vetch and harebells. Bee, spotted, pyramid and the rarer musk orchid can also be seen.

Source of the River Isbourne

One of only two rivers in the world, allegedly, which flow north. The other is the Nile, approximately 4,000 miles long, whilst the Isbourne is a mere 13 miles. The source is a

spring along the valley floor then the river flows through Winchcombe to Evesham where it joins the Avon.

The washpool

Built in 1897, a deep keyhole-shaped trough with stone sides for dipping sheep. Up until the 1930s temporary pens were built to contain hundreds of sheep, gathered for dipping. They were herded a few at a time into the round well and, once thoroughly soaked, allowed to scramble out up the narrow ramp. The washpool was fed with water from the pond immediately above it, formed by damming the stream.

To download the walk description and map of this and other Wonder Walks of the Cotswolds, please go to www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/walking