

Cotswold Lion

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The newspaper of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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More than 'Jam and Jerusalem'

Celebrating 100 years of the Women's Institute

Originating in Canada in 1897, the Women's Institute (WI) movement began in Britain in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage countrywomen to grow and preserve more food during the First World War. It is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK, with over 212,000 members in some 6,600 WIs.

"Fun, friendship and education are the three things that have always run through the WI," says Anne Turner, Gloucestershire Federation Chairman, as groups across the Cotswolds prepare to celebrate the movement's centenary in 2015. "We do make jams, we do sing *Jerusalem*, but we do all sorts of other things too. Women from all walks of life and all ages join, including as associates like the Duchess of Cornwall with Tetbury Evening WI."

The WI's 'Jam and Jerusalem' image sprang from its efforts during the World Wars, bottling, pickling and making jams and preserves to use every last ounce of produce from gardens and smallholdings. *Jerusalem*, first sung at the Institute's 1924 Annual General Meeting, became

a rousing anthem to mark the WI's links with the wider women's movement (which also used it) and its commitment to improving rural life.

Public perceptions of the Institute have since moved on, not least thanks to the fundraising antics, based on a true story, of box office hit *Calendar Girls*.

"Campaigns are one of our great strengths, debating and raising awareness," Anne continues. Giving voice to rural and national concerns, in 1954 the WI led the formation of Keep Britain Tidy, for example. Current initiatives include SOS for Honeybees, The Great Food Debate on food security, and encouraging people to talk about organ donation.

WIs around the Cotswolds enjoy diverse activities, reflecting the varied make-up of groups.

Winchcombe WI, celebrating its 95th anniversary in 2014, is among the region's longest established groups and many of its 30 members are aged 80 and above. "We're quite a traditional group, we have a speaker to monthly afternoon meetings, and tea and homemade cakes are terribly important here!" says Vice President

Adeline Rucklidge.

A flower of the month competition, when members bring in a flower from their gardens, raises money for Associated Country Women of the World, and money is also raised for local charities – this year, Winchcombe Day Care Centre

– through a coffee morning and monthly charity table. Members enjoy regular lunches, supporting local eateries, and trips to the theatre.

By contrast, Horsley-based All or Muffin WI began as recently as January 2014, its punning name a reflection that "we wanted to

get really involved in things rather than follow the traditional set up of monthly speakers," says President Maisie McArthur.

With some 40 members, ranging from "young professionals, right up

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WI activities are diverse, including clay pigeon shooting

Around the Cotswolds

Active travel

The new, free Cirencester Active Travel Map encourages everyone to walk and cycle more in and around the town – good for health, pockets and the environment. Showing roads graded according to how easy they are to cycle and places of interest for excursions, the guide is available from various outlets or download it from www.cirencester.gov.uk.

Tasty stop

The country's newest service area on the M5, Gloucester services (northbound between J11a and J12), continues its commitment to local food, farming and community with over 130 foodie suppliers within 30 miles. Cerney Cheese, Jonathan Crump's Double Gloucester and Hobbs House bread are among goodies you will find at the farm shop, butcher's counter and café.

On your bike

The recently opened Hanborough to Honeybourne section of the Cotswold Line Cycle Route through the AONB is already proving popular for family, leisure and everyday cycle trips. Designed by Charlbury Cycling Group (supported by Sustrans), the 35-mile section is part of the Cotswold Line that will connect Oxford and Worcester. At the opening Prime Minister David Cameron hailed Sustrans' National Cycle Network as "a national treasure." www.cotswoldcycling.com.

New walking guide

Looking for an inspiring ramble? *Walking in the Cotswolds*, the latest illustrated guide from local outdoor journalist Damian Hill, features 30 circular hill and valley trails of 3–6 hours' duration, including 14 that take in parts of the Cotswold Way. Explore stone circles, long barrows, ancient woodlands and epic views en route (Cicerone, RRP £12.95).



WI members on a walking weekend on Exmoor

to retired ladies", the group holds monthly evening meetings. Life drawing, natural beauty, bread making and 'speed crafting' to try different crafts, as well as a Land Girls themed social have been among activities.

"We put ideas of what we would like to learn in a suggestion box and people are sourced who can teach us the skills," Maisie says. "The basic principle of the WI is all about learning. We have a glass of wine at our meetings and it's a nice, friendly atmosphere. Women never need to stop learning; it's why the WI tradition carries on – a lot of our members had grandmothers in the WI back in the 1940s."

The accent is on "informing and education, having fun, making friends and sharing new experiences" at Chedworth WI, says Secretary Emma Isaac: though the 'make do and mend' of fashioning cushion covers from dusters of its early days – it was founded in 1927 – have been replaced by classes for crafts like silver jewellery or Scottish dancing, and

outings to theatre and exhibitions.

Members – currently 50 – feel it's also important to give back to their community and are regularly involved in fundraising projects for the village.

To celebrate 100 years of the WI, a centenary baton relay is being passed around every federation in England and Wales, including Somerset, Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire in March 2015. Much more is in the pipeline, including local

WI choirs taking part in a national 'Singing for Joy' competition and a Gloucestershire Federation Archive Exhibition.

"There really is something for everybody at the WI," Anne Turner says.

To find a WI group near you, visit www.thewi.org.uk. Anne Turner recommends people visit two or three groups to see which most suits their interests.



Bourton-on-the-Water WI celebrating the Jubilee

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Bramble jelly

Why not forage for blackberries on your next walk and try this recipe for tasty bramble jelly from Heather Miller, Markets Adviser, Country Markets in Gloucestershire. Originating from the first WI markets over 90 years ago, Country Markets now operates independently as a co-operative social enterprise, selling homemade goods and local produce (www.country-markets.co.uk).

Ingredients

- 1kg wild blackberries, washed.
- 2 large cooking apples, chopped (including peel and core).
- 100g white granulated sugar for each 100ml of juice.

Method

- Put the berries, apples and 500ml of water in a preserving pan. Simmer until the fruit has released its juice and pour into a jelly bag. Leave to drip overnight. (Do NOT squeeze the bag or the jelly will be cloudy.)
- Measure the juice and the correct amount of sugar into the cleaned preserving pan. Cook over a medium heat, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved.

- Increase the heat and cook at a full rolling boil for 3 minutes, then test for a set.
- Once the jelly has reached setting point, pour into hot, sterilised jars, seal and label.



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Building a beautiful Cotswolds

Calls grow for sensitive building development in the AONB

Concerns have been raised that demand for new housing will harm the beauty and character of the Cotswolds AONB where development is permitted that is out of scale and design with existing towns and villages.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board says increasing numbers of planning applications for major development have been granted despite vigorous objections, and that in the absence of Local Plans to control where development can and cannot take place, the AONB is vulnerable to “planning by appeal”.

“The Cotswolds is a place where people live and work, and much of the wealth of the area is based on the attractive landscape, particularly tourism which is valued at more than £1 billion to the economy,” the Board’s Planning Officer Malcolm Watt says. “You have to balance housing need with conserving the landscape for which the Cotswolds is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the first place.”

The National Planning Policy Framework, introduced in 2012, sets out Government’s planning policies for England and the Board welcomes the simplification of planning guidance it brings. But while authorities are still working to put in place their Local Plans to define housing need, there’s risk of unsuitable development. To date, only two of 11 housing planning authorities, South Gloucestershire and Bath and NE Somerset, have an up-to-date plan allocating sites for housing.

“Some appeal decisions appear to give precedence to major housing development even where harm to the protected landscape is acknowledged,” Mr Watt says. Several Cotswold towns and villages could now face new housing being built to a “pattern book” design alien to their character.

“The Board feels the best way forward would be to have sustainable, small-scale development



Recent housing development in Bourton-on-the-Water

of 10–30 houses with bespoke designs on the edge of villages, although this does have cost implications for builders which can affect the viability of a site, particularly where there is provision for affordable housing included. But it can happen. There have been sympathetic examples of development at Northleach, Bourton-on-the-Water and Sapperton in the past.”

Andrew Whitaker, Planning Director of the Home Builders Federation, urges local authorities and local people to retain control over the type and size of sites put forward for development by making clear what they want via the planning process:

“If you don’t have a plan, there is presumption in favour of sustainable development and you are open to people

promoting sites of all sizes.

“Similarly, it is up to local authorities and local communities to actually write down what they believe their local vernacular is, in a plan or supplementary document like a design statement. Neighbourhood plans are another way forward for local communities to write down what it is that they want development to achieve.

“Builders still use standard house types, because they know they meet all the stringent building regulations, but things like type of materials and how you put them together can reflect the local vernacular.”

Patrick Conroy, Strategic Planning Policy and Specialist Advice Manager, South Gloucestershire Council, agrees that it is imperative to have up-to-date Local Plans/Core Strategies. Overall, South Gloucestershire has to deliver 28,355 new homes in the period 2006 to 2017. While much of the building will be focused on urban sites outside of the AONB, the council is working with all 46 parishes to identify development that they consider is needed for their communities.

“At the moment we have a number of parishes either in or close to the AONB which have indicated a desire to have small-scale housing to meet local needs,” Mr Conroy says. These include Doynton, Dyrham and Hinton, Horton, Marshfield, Wick and Abson. Considerations are being taken forward by the council’s Draft Policies, Sites and Places Development Plan Document.

Malcolm Watt from the Conservation Board concludes: “We urge all local authorities to complete their Local Plans and local people to engage in making their views clear, to ensure housing needs are met in a way that is sustainable, supports the communities and economies of the Cotswolds, and is sympathetic to the scenic beauty of the AONB.”

On location

Star scenes around the Cotswolds

Where else but beautifully preserved Georgian Bath would filmmakers choose to shoot Jane Austen’s *Persuasion* (BBC 1994, ITV 2006)? You can imagine the author, resident in the city 1801–1806, whispering with approval, “that’s a wrap!”

More surprising is to spot ‘Paris’ scenes around iconic Pulteney Bridge and Russell Crowe’s character Inspector Javert jumping into ‘the Seine’ (River Avon) in *Les Misérables* (Universal Pictures, 2013). But the World Heritage City is nothing if not versatile when providing settings for big screen movies and TV, with *The Duchess* (2008) and episodes of *Casualty* among its many credits.

The abundance of historic houses and unspoilt countryside, towns and villages around the Cotswolds is a movie-maker’s dream, and star appearances certainly boost film fan tourism too.

Elizabethan **Chavenage House** near Tetbury is a regular scene stealer, including in *Lark Rise to Candleford* (BBC, 2008). Most recently it transformed into *Poldark* family home Trenwith for a BBC 1 series (airing 2015) following the 18th-century

fortunes of charismatic Ross Poldark. Spot Chavenage again as the stage for an intriguing dinner party in BBC 2’s upcoming period drama series *Wolf Hall*, adapted from Hilary Mantel’s Booker prize-winning novels about Thomas Cromwell.

You can follow a stellar cast and the poignant reflections of an English butler in *The Remains of the Day* (1993) to **Badminton House** and **Dyrham Park**. See where Joey is bought and sold at the horse fair in WWI drama *War Horse* (2010), in **Castle Combe**. Discover the pub – **The Swan Inn, Swinbrook** – where Lady Sybil and Branson stayed while they planned their elopement in *Downton Abbey*, plus farming scenes from the series at **Cogges** Victorian farm museum, Oxfordshire.

Local skills were in the spotlight when *Monty Don’s Real Craft* (Channel 4, 2014) visited renowned **Whichford Pottery**, Warwickshire. And Stroud-based **Snow Business** is world leader in providing artificial snow and winter effects, whether for carol singing in *Bridget Jones’s Diary* (2001) – filmed around **Snowhill** in June! – or for the icy chase at the **Little Rissington** disused airbase in Bond thriller *Die Another Day* (2002).



Charles Poldark, played by Warren Clarke

Download movie maps:

Bath, <http://visitbath.co.uk/things-to-do/activities/on-location-film-trail>

Cotswolds, www.cotswolds.com/inspire-me/the-cotswolds-on-tv

Oxfordshire’s *Downton Abbey*, www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/plan-your-visit/towns-and-villages/downton-abbey-film-locations

Landscape legacies

Farming changes in the 18th and 19th centuries transformed the appearance of the Cotswold landscape



Hedge field landscape in the Cotswolds

William Cobbett, on his *Rural Rides* through the Cotswolds in the 1820s, was unimpressed by the 'stony' countryside around Cirencester, "apparently formerly a down or common, but now divided into large fields by stone walls. Anything so ugly I had never seen before."

Elsewhere, he lamented, "how melancholy is the sight of these decayed and still decaying villages in the dells of the Cotswold, where the building materials, being *stone*, the ruins do not *totally disappear* for ages!"

How times change. Before the century was out, William Morris was renting **Kelmscott Manor** in Oxfordshire (www.kelmscottmanor.org.uk) and holidaying at **Broadway Tower**, Worcestershire (www.broadwaytower.co.uk), drawn like his fellow Arts & Crafts advocates by Cotswold rural scenes and the vernacular architecture of towns and villages largely bypassed by the Industrial Revolution (1740–1850).

Today, the dry stone walls that criss-cross the AONB are cherished as one of its distinctive features.

Every view tells a story and in the Cotswolds, where today 85% of the landscape is farmed, chapters from the Agrarian Revolution and Enclosures of the 18th century are writ large, overlaying pre-existing medieval open field, strip cultivation systems.

The move to enclosure of field and downland with wall, fence and hedgerow had already been under way for some time before the Georgian era – the panoramic 18th-century Dixon paintings in **The Wilson (Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum, www.thewilson.org.uk)** provide a fascinating insight. But multiple Enclosure Acts accelerated the process from the 1730s.

Consolidation of farmland into larger, single holdings encouraged investment and made possible more effective management: including the implementation of new techniques, crops and machinery like Jethro Tull's wheeled seed drill and horse-drawn hoe, steam-powered ploughs and the like (though their use was often opposed by the labourers they would replace).

Escape to the Cotswolds visitor centre, in the Old Prison, Northleach, gives an overview of farming in the AONB and you'll find horse hoes and seed drills aplenty in the **Rural Life Collection** (www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/oldprison). Or visit **Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park**, Guiting Power, to admire

period farm breeds (www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk). The Agrarian Revolution saw great advances in scientific stockbreeding and it's thought the Cotswold Lion sheep we know today derived from crossing the local longwool with the Leicester breed (www.cotswoldsheepsociety.co.uk).

As dry stone walls, hedgerows and fences proliferated – generally, walls on higher, thinner soils and ridge tops of the scarp, hedges on deeper soils – so shelter belts, woodlands, avenues and roads also appeared, with farmsteads built amid the patchwork. Aerial photographs and Ordnance Survey Maps reveal some field boundaries nevertheless follow pre-enclosure patterns, with curious dog-legs echoing furlongs, for example at **Bould** in Oxfordshire.

While wealthy landowners stood to gain from enclosure, some locals, whose forebears had enjoyed a range of rights to work the land under the old subsistence strip farm system, lost out. It's little wonder rough grazing rights were so fiercely defended – records of 'common land' at Cleeve date back to 1150, for example – and continue to be exercised to this day: maintaining



Rural Life Collection, Northleach

what for the rest of us are places of recreation and havens of wonderful limestone flora and fauna, at **Minchinhampton, Rodborough, Cleeve and Selsley Commons**.

Canals, the busy highways of the Industrial Revolution, are another work-into-play legacy. Travelling by waterway today may offer an experience of life in the slow lane but during the 18th century it promised cutting-edge efficiency: a horse pulling at best a ton of goods by road could haul up to 30 tons on a waterborne barge.

The Cotswold Canals – the **Stroudwater Navigation**, completed 1779, and the **Thames & Severn Canal**, 1789 – together linked the River Severn at Framilode to the Thames near Lechlade, enabling goods (mainly coal) to be transported between the two great rivers (www.cotswoldcanals.com). The rapid growth of Stroud, served by canal and, from 1845, the Great Western Railway, is captured in paintings in the **Museum in the Park** (www.museuminthepark.org.uk).

Meanwhile, in the southern Cotswolds the **Kennet & Avon Canal**, completed 1810, boasted its busiest wharf at Bradford on Avon, handling coal from the Somerset coalfields as well as other bulky goods like local cheeses (www.katrust.org.uk).

Increased rail transport and maintenance issues put paid to the canals as economically competitive industrial enterprises, but now there's great towpath walking and cycling to explore their history and architectural features thanks to ongoing restoration and enhancements.

And while the Cotswolds is still served by a pared-down modern rail network, who can resist a nostalgic steam along the restored track of the **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway** (www.gwsr.com)? At **Tetbury** the former rail track is now a pleasant ramble.



Cotswold Lion

The story of the **Stroud Valleys mills** in the 18th/19th centuries was told in the spring/summer 2014 issue of the **Cotswold Lion** (www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/cotswoldlion). The growth and popularity of **Georgian Bath** (www.visitbath.co.uk) and **Regency Cheltenham** (www.visitcheltenham.com) with their elegant spa society on the edges of the Cotswolds made a strikingly refined counterpoint to both mills and agriculture at the region's heart.

Sample the contemporary high life, too, in the parks and estates built or extended in the naturalistic landscape fashions of the times. The Cotswolds is remarkable for its density of historic parks and designed landscapes: from **Prior Park Landscape Garden**, Bath (www.nationaltrust.org.uk) to **Cirencester Park** (www.cirencesterpark.co.uk) and **Blenheim Palace** (www.blenheimpalace.com). **Painswick Rococo Garden**, famed for its winter snowdrop displays, is also an unrivalled step back to the days of flamboyant pleasure grounds (www.rococogarden.org.uk).

Whatever grumpy William Cobbett recorded in his *Rural Rides*, landscape changes of the 18th and 19th centuries gave us many of the distinctive features for which the Cotswolds is renowned.

Nature watch

Autumn and winter days out reveal busy dramas of colour and survival



Hibernating dormouse

There can be a primeval temptation, at the first tingle of autumn and winter, to close the doors and hunker down. Resist! The hibernation season for some creatures it may be, but for much of nature it's a surprisingly active and colourful time – and exhilarating to be out and about.

Autumn evenings are an invitation to look for bats at **Brown's Folly Nature Reserve**, Bathford, as they busy themselves mating and feeding up ready to sleep through winter (www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk). Best place to spot them is about 20 metres from the main cave entrance around dusk: pipistrelles emerge earliest in the evening and there are 12 other species to watch for. Daytime is a blast for I-spy with the kids around the woods too: collecting nibbled nuts and conkers, finding lacy leaf skeletons or frosty cobwebs on a winter morning.

Senses sharpen, contrasts deepen and it's all change as days shorten. Walks around **Sherborne Park Estate**, through farmland, parkland, woodland, village and river valleys, provide diverse habitat for a range of wildlife shows (www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

"In autumn and winter, migrating waterfowl start to arrive onto the Broadwater such as wigeon, teal, pochard, tufted duck and black headed gull along with residents such as mute swan, coot, mallard and little grebe," says Sherborne Park Estate Ranger Mike Robinson.

"Farmland birds start to form flocks during the winter so you will be able to watch skylarks, linnets and corn buntings feeding in areas where wild bird seed mix has been sown by

farmers in Higher Level Stewardship schemes, particularly around the Lodge Park area. These areas then attract predators such as sparrow hawks and peregrines that predate the large flocks."

As larch and beech turn to gold, the rutting season for fallow deer also gets under way, echoing through Commons and Picardy woodland within the Windrush Valley, Mike says. The drive for survival is played out with urgency along the hedgerows, where voles, mice and birds plunder autumn fruits of hawthorn, elder and sloe to fatten themselves against the oncoming winter.

Wildlife can also take its pick of red haws and rosehips at **Radway Meadows** nature reserve beneath the wooded scarp of Edge Hill, while the raking autumn-winter light and shadow make this a good time to appreciate the earthen corrugations of medieval ridge-and-furrow in the lower meadows and imagine those who once toiled here (www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk).

There's work to be done at many reserves around the AONB now as well, including **Foxholes**, near Burford (www.bbowl.org.uk). "The reserve thrives on low intervention but we carry out some tree felling over autumn/winter when we don't have to worry about nesting birds, to allow light onto the woodland floor ready for ground flora to burst through in the spring," says Mark Bradfield, Community Wildlife Officer, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust.

Autumn colours in the woods are the big draw at Foxholes, he continues. "But the site is also good for looking for tracks and signs of deer, fox, badgers and smaller

mammals that make the reserve home." Take your wellies and check out a world of secret activity revealed by mud!

More than 200 species of fungi have been recorded at Foxholes and, generally, fungi are perhaps the most intriguing of all autumn sights, appearing as if by magic and wreathed in damp earth smells. They are certainly an outstanding feature of **Buckholt Wood** (Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods NNR, www.naturalengland.org.uk), says Robert Wolstenholme, Natural England's Senior Reserves Manager, Gloucestershire:

"Over 780 species have been recorded according to the season, including Scarlet Caterpillar Club, an extraordinary fungus that parasitizes and kills moth pupae, the very unusual white form of the Scarlet

Elfcup, The Old Man of the Woods, autumn's Amethyst Deceiver and Satan's Bolete.

"Dead wood is one of the most important habitats in a wood for fungi and it's useful to remind people not to take it away," he adds.

You can learn much more about fungi at organised forays at venues around the AONB, and there are some wonderful celebrations of trees, including the Autumn Colour Spectacular (4 Oct–19 Nov) at **Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre** near Moreton-in-Marsh

(www.batsarb.co.uk). Nothing raises the spirits quite like the sight of maples and cherries ranging from flame red to yellow, and liquidamber trees glowing from deep purple to pale gold.

Autumn and winter also provide the most glorious theatre at **Westonbirt, The National Arboretum**, with fiery Japanese maples, winter-flowering hazel dangling yellow catkins, spidery yellow flowers of witch hazels – and much more (www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt).



Robert Wolstenholme

Amethyst Deceiver

Caring for wildlife

There are many simple ways in which to help wildlife survive through autumn and winter, by providing food, water and shelter.

"Make winter homes for wildlife in your garden using everyday things such as a cluster of bamboo sticks for solitary bees. Put small wooden boxes and some leaves near a log pile for hedgehogs to hibernate in," says Lucy Tomkinson, a Developing Green Talent trainee with the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust. Bird tips include:

- As well as putting out bird mixtures and soaked bread, unsalted peanuts provide a source of fat for tits and greenfinches; apples are popular with thrushes, blackbirds and starlings; mealworms are popular with robins
- Provide bird water in a shallow dish with sloping sides and a slip-free bottom; melt ice with hot water only
- Grow fruit-rich native trees, shrubs and hedges to provide shelter and food, including crab apple, holly, hawthorn, spindle

For more ideas, see *Gardening for Wildlife*, www.bbowl.org.uk/wildlife/gardening-wildlife



Gillian Day

A feast for blue tits

Tetbury

Tetbury is famed for its handsome merchants' houses and architecture recalling its prosperity as a wool market 300 and more years ago. Its name is synonymous with antiques shops and the royal association of nearby Highgrove. But there are also surprises in this southern Cotswold hilltop town, where recorded history reaches back to 'Tette's monastery' in a charter of AD 681.

See and do The soaring spire of Gothic Revival St Marys' Church dominates the skyline and you'll find a comprehensive introduction to Tetbury's history in the Heritage Centre here: from King Ethelred's charter to the town's Feoffees, from wool to wars and modern life.

Pick up a town walk from the Tourist Information Centre, Church Street, to explore points of historic interest, the pillared market house (1655) where markets still take place (Weds/Sat) and cobbled Chipping Steps where locals sought work at Mop Fairs. Tetbury Police Museum & Courtroom, featuring original cells and a scary collection of handcuffs/restraints, is a quirky 'must'.

Shop and eat With the broadest choice of antiques outside of London, Tetbury is unquestionably collectors' heaven, whether you're after porcelain, silver, objets d'art, furniture, rare books or exotic Asian artefacts. Independent boutiques brim with exclusive fashions and the Highgrove Shop (Long Street) tempts with home and garden gifts inspired by Prince Charles's gardens.

Local – including Duchy – produce features high on menus around town with tearooms and cafés aplenty; seasonal British at The Ormond; pub classics and specials in The Snooty Fox; twists on traditional favourites at The Close Hotel. There's Hobbs House

Bakery for delicious breads, Jesse Smith butcher and the House of Cheese (By Appointment to HRH The Prince of Wales) for tasty morsels from the farm.

Make a date Celebrate artisanal, Cotswold goodies at Tetbury Food & Drink Festival (17–21 Sept), while the superb Tetbury Music Festival (2–5 Oct) opens this year with an all-Bach concert.

Fancy that! Gumstool Hill is famous today for Spring Bank Holiday Woolsack Races, but its name recalls an earlier form of torture: gumstool was the local name for the ducking stool at the bottom of the hill, where scolds and fraudulent traders got their watery come-uppance.

Walking and exploring The TIC stocks a range of short walking routes into surrounding countryside, or ramble 10 miles/16.3km to Westonbirt, The National Arboretum and back, returning via the Monarch's Way (www.walkingbritain.co.uk, walk 1337). Autumn colour and winter flowering trees make the arboretum a timely treat (3 miles by road if driving).

Historic Chavenage House, on the outskirts of Tetbury, opens Aug Bank Hol Mon, and Thurs and Sun, 2–5pm, to 28 Sept; re-opens 6 May 2015, then Thurs/Sun from 3 May (www.chavenage.com). For garden tours of Highgrove see www.highgrovegardens.com.

Visiting essentials www.visittetbury.co.uk

Rob Rees MBE Cotswold Champion

The Cotswold Chef™ is known as an ambassador for modern British cuisine and local Cotswold ingredients, with over 25 years' experience of food and cooking at top tables around the globe. Through The Wiggly Worm charity, he also champions food – its preparation and sharing – as a practical way to improve the health and wellbeing of the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Star Bistro at Ullenwood, staffed by students with learning and physical disabilities, was recently rated among the top three restaurants in the Cotswolds by TripAdvisor.



Where does your interest in food come from?

It is something passed down in my Essex roots and family. My mother always used to cook good wholesome food and made it a priority to put fuel and energy and nourishment in our tummies. My Nan was also a fantastic cook teaching me all the basics required. I was very lucky at a young age to travel to amazing parts of the world and was inspired by global tastes and flavours alongside chefs with the tallest chefs' hats in the world.

What's the best cooking tip you've ever been given?

It has to be about health and wellbeing. I haven't used salt in my cooking for over 15 years. You can't just take it away, you have to be able to understand how to reduce it and bring in new herbs, spices and flavourings in a way that adds value to the food.

Your worst and best moments?

I've had some bad days as a young chef in some very hard kitchens – busy service, hardcore chefs, crazy hours! On the plus side are travels I've had representing The Cotswolds and our amazing food and drink industry – to cook in cities like Sydney, Tokyo, Singapore, New York, Delhi and be able to speak about and share the lifestyle, environment and culture of our location is an honour.

What's so amazing about the Cotswolds?

This place rocks. The variety of food and drink businesses and their innovation is truly huge. We have an awesome element of distinctiveness and rare-breed quality that deserves

real celebration and offers chefs the chance to do this in pure simplicity of production. As an old strapline for our tourism industry used to say, this really is England at its best.

Why set up The Wiggly Worm?

It can change lives and it can save lives – we have seen that at The Wiggly Worm. Through employment in the industry you can develop and enhance skills that are generic for every industry whilst seeing daily return on your efforts. I also know via my work with Let's Get Cooking (www.letsgetcooking.org.uk) that if you have been shown how to cook and gain the skills, 60% of people are likely to eat better and 90% are more likely to cook something using good ingredients from scratch.

What next?

I am a bit maverick and have the business plan outlined in my head. For now though I have festival season to come for demos, a street food truck to establish and will be in Japan promoting Gloucester and The Cotswolds for the Rugby World Cup in September, with a trip to Melbourne to share my experiences of non medical interventions and the power of food with public health leaders there.

Aside from cooking, what do you enjoy?

Actually all I do is work.

Rob Rees CIC

(www.thecotswoldchef.com) and partner charity The Wiggly Worm (www.thewigglyworm.org.uk) operate as social enterprise businesses. Star Bistro opens for coffee, lunch, afternoon teas Mon–Fri, 11am–4pm, bookings 01242 535984.



St Marys' Church, Tetbury

Local flavours

Quality food and drink are key ingredients to what gives the Cotswolds its sense of place

There is a Middle English aphorism that says, 'Winter all eats/That summer begets', and while life today is a lot easier as regards keeping larders stocked, autumn foodie and harvest festivals remain great times for celebration. We are also pampered in the Cotswolds with a wealth of all-year tasty produce, hardly surprising given that farming is so intrinsic to the character of the AONB (see page 4).

Support for farmers' markets and quality, artisan food and drink continues to grow, fuelled by consumer interest in 'buying local', lower food miles, sustainability, and traceability from farm to fork. Food produced in rhythm with the seasons and deliciously distinctive fare help to

create a genuinely authentic sense of place.

The launch of the Cotswolds Choice brand (page 8) and top chefs like Rob Rees (facing page) are part of the story too, as are superb farm shops, many with cafés, like Daylesford Organic, near Kingham, just a few steps from the organic farm, market garden, dairy and creamery. Its venison – one of just a few organic herds in the country – is at its best from September to February for a treat.

Meanwhile, at Hayles Fruit Farm, on the outskirts of Winchcombe, production of single variety apple juices and cider is in full swing from October to January, and the whole range is available in the farm shop alongside other home-grown and locally sourced goods.



And who can resist Cotswold cheeses, from Simon Weaver's Organic Cotswold Brie and goats' milk cheeses from Cerney Cheese, to artisan offerings from Alex James and Woefulthane Organic Dairy's Single Gloucester, a cheese with Protected Designation of Origin status.

With Cask Ale Week (25 Sept–5 Oct) and the festive season on the calendar, it's a timely moment to raise a toast to the Cotswolds' fantastic breweries too (see *Cotswold Lion*, Spring/Summer 2014).

Water from the limestone aquifer that underlies the AONB is a key ingredient of the award-winning real ales at family-owned Hook Norton Brewery, drawn from deep wells beneath the handsome Victorian tower. The 'Hooky way' of brewing is all about environmentally friendly practice and combining the best of handcrafted heritage with a modern approach, as you can discover on a fascinating brewery tour – and by sampling the likes of Hooky golden bitter or winter seasonals like Twelve Days and Double Stout.

Foodie festivals

Pig Face Day at Avening, 14 Sept, is an unusual tradition commemorating the commissioning of the church by Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror. Come in medieval costume for celebrations in the church, a medieval feast and hog roast – and the curious story behind 'pig face' (tel: 01453 836390 email: clickmitchell@aol.com).

Tetbury Food and Drink Festival, 17–21 Sept, showcases the best of local, seasonal produce, culminating in the Market on the Sunday. Events from Call my Quaff wine tasting to demonstrations by top local chefs (www.tetburyfooddrinkfestival.com).

Harvest Festival at Cogges former Victorian farm museum, Witney, 4 Oct, features music, food from the walled garden, crafts and kids' activities. Come back on 25 Oct for cider making, apple pressing and tasting on Apple Day (www.cogges.org.uk).

Apple Days at venues around the Cotswolds are alive with apple bobbing, juice and cider sampling, and all sorts of fruity fun.

Including: Chastleton House, near Moreton-in-Marsh, 4 Oct (www.nationaltrust.org.uk); Chadlington, 18 Oct (www.chadlington.com); Museum in the Park, Stroud, 26 Oct (www.museuminthepark.org.uk).

Cotswold Christmas Food and Drink Festival at Gatcombe Park, 28–30 Nov, promises to get tastebuds dancing. See top chefs put their own twists on Christmas classics, indulge in cheese, wine and chocolate tastings, and find ingredients and gifts (www.gatcombefoodanddrink.co.uk).



Win a hamper!

Enter our prize draw and you could win an Artisan Kitchen hamper full of goodies.

Chef and passionate foodie Sarah Churchill set up The Artisan Kitchen in 2011, creating award-winning, handcrafted preserves – homemade in small batches in a big copper pot, using the best natural ingredients.

"We at The Artisan Kitchen are passionate about pickles; we cheer about chutneys, are mad about marmalade and go silly over spreads. Jams are sticky and sweet, the perfect treat, and when life hands us lemons, well, we make luxurious lemon curd!"

To win The Artisan Kitchen Preserve Hamper, filled with six seasonal preserves (including luscious raspberry and chocolate jam), recipe card and wooden spoon, simply email your name and address to info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk by 31 January 2015. The lucky winner, drawn from the hat, will be notified in February 2015 and will be featured in the next issue.

To see the whole range of Artisan Kitchen preserves, visit www.theartisankitchen.co.uk

Farmers' markets

Great places to chat to producers and pick up fresh, local fare. Including:

- **Bath**
(every Sat, Green Park)
- **Bourton-on-the-Water**
(4th Sun of month, Countrywide Stores)
- **Bradford on Avon**
(3rd Thurs of month, Westbury Gardens; last Sun of month, Lamb Yard)
- **Charlbury**
(2nd Sat quarterly: Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec, The Playing Close)
- **Cheltenham**
(2nd & last Fri of month, the Promenade)
- **Chipping Norton**
(3rd Sat of month, Market Square)
- **Cirencester**
(2nd/4th Sat of month, Market Place)
- **Dursley**
(2nd Sat of month, Town Hall)
- **Nailsworth**
(4th Sat of month, Mortimer Gardens)
- **Stow-on-the-Wold**
(2nd Thurs of month, Market Square)
- **Stroud**
(every Sat, Cornhill Market Place & surrounding streets)
- **Winchcombe**
(3rd Sat of month, town centre)
- **Woodstock**
(1st Sat of month, in front of Town Hall)
- **Wotton-under-Edge**
(1st Sat of month, Town Hall)





The new grassland team at the Cotswolds – Katherine Holmes (left) and Eleanor Reast (right)

New wildflower grassland team

Local efforts to Save Our Magnificent Meadows have been boosted by the arrival of a dedicated grassland team at the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Conservation Officer Eleanor Reast and Community Engagement Officer Katherine Holmes bring a wealth of wildlife and conservation experience from around the country. Together, they are spearheading work to recruit and train grassland volunteers and champions, organise events, open days, guided walks for the public, and species surveys.

It's all part of the national £3 million Heritage Lottery funded Save Our Magnificent Meadows project and the target in the Cotswolds is to restore up to 1,125ha of flower-rich limestone grasslands along the scarp and river valleys over three years.

Countrywide, just 2% of wildflower meadows remain of those that existed in the 1930s. Save Our Magnificent Meadows, a partnership of conservation organisations including the Cotswolds Conservation Board and led by Plantlife, aims to redress the decline. The AONB contains more than 50% of the UK's total Jurassic unimproved limestone grassland.

For more information, contact Eleanor Reast, tel: 01451 862036; email: Eleanor.reast@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Energy saving in traditional Cotswold buildings

A new guide from the Cotswolds Conservation Board highlights how to save energy in traditionally constructed Cotswold buildings.

"Many people are concerned about what they can and cannot do," said Malcolm Watt, the Board's Planning Officer. "This guide pulls together different advice on energy efficiency and generation measures, and is a signpost to sources of more detailed information."

Often built with solid walls, large rooms, badly fitting windows/doors and old boilers, traditional Cotswold houses typically use large amounts of energy. Measures to reduce consumption range from simply hanging heavy curtains to insulating roofs, walls and floors.

Download the guide from www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Winchcombe benefits from Visitor Giving

Walkers in Winchcombe no longer face a muddy stomp and steep drop in gradient crossing Abbey Fields thanks to a grant award from the Cotswolds Visitor Giving Scheme.

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome group created the 42-mile Winchcombe Way in 2011 and have now completed the 'missing' 30-metre section with a re-profiled all-weather hard surface, creating a much improved route to the town centre.

The Cotswolds Visitor Giving Scheme raises funds for diverse landscape and environmental projects through voluntary donations collected from visitors via tourism businesses (www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visitorgiving).

Journey in words

An art installation is to be unveiled in autumn/winter 2014, marking the beginning/end of the Cotswold Way in Chipping Campden.

The 'Journey in Words' circular limestone disk, created by artist Iain Cotton, is incised with the names of places and historic sites along the 102-mile National Trail, as well as an evocative quotation from T.S. Eliot who was inspired while staying in the town.

Set in paving in front of the 17th-century Market Hall, the disk complements the marker unveiled in 2012 at the southern end of the National Trail in Bath, and is the result of joint efforts by the National Trust, Cotswolds Conservation Board and Chipping Campden Area Partnership.



Cotswolds Visitor Giving

Visitor Giving in the Cotswolds

Make a difference and show your support for one of England's finest landscapes.

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visitorgiving

Burning ambitions

Look out for Cotswolds Choice charcoal and training courses following the arrival of the Conservation Board's new kiln and first ever charcoal burn at Ullenwood.

"We burned a mix of mainly hazel and silver birch coppice, producing around 150kg of charcoal in 12 hours," said the Board's Rural Skills Officer David Molloy. "It's all part of managing woodland sustainably and making some income from it by selling a local product."

"We are producing mostly barbecue charcoal, with smaller charcoal suitable for woodburner stoves or working into gardens for growing vegetables – it's high in nutrients," he added. "We are trying to use everything we take out of the kiln."

The charcoal goes on sale under the Cotswolds Choice brand, at the Old Prison, Northleach, and other local outlets.

One-day charcoal burning training courses are also taking place, open to woodland owners and anyone with an interest.

For more details, visit www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk.



David Molloy (right) with voluntary wardens and the new charcoal kiln

Cotswolds Choice

A new 'environmental quality' brand has been launched to promote landscape-friendly local produce.

The Cotswolds Choice brand will recognize the high standards of environmental and landscape management for which farmers and landowners in the AONB are renowned, helping consumers to choose and support foods and products that are so much a part of what makes the area special.

With funding from Stroud District

Council's Food Grants 2014, the Cotswolds Choice scheme is being piloted in the Stroud area and will be rolled out across the whole of the AONB in 2015.

Stephen Aiano, who is leading the project on behalf of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, commented: "Cotswolds Choice will be a very collaborative project, proactively bringing together the interests of producers, consumers and retailers."

For more information on Cotswolds Choice, contact Stephen Aiano, email: info@rural.support; tel: 07798 645666.



Rowland Blackwell of Baron End Farm (left) discusses the new Cotswolds Choice scheme with Stephen Aiano

Walks & Events Guide

Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Autumn/Winter 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 the Cotswold Way in 10 mile stages each month starting in May. In 2015/16 we will be running two walks.

On the first Wednesday of each month the Way will be walked from south to north and a group will travel by coach from Winchcombe to each start point, stopping for lunches at pleasant inns en route. For further information on this walk and to reserve places contact Mary Hamilton on 01451 820160 or email: m.hamilton@tesco.net

Alternatively on the first Saturday of each month the Way will be walked from north to south and a group will travel by coach from the Bath area to each start point. For this option walkers should bring their own packed lunches for a picnic at an attractive spot en route. For further information and to reserve places please contact John Bartram on 0117 9374561 or email: woodlandsbarn@btinternet.com

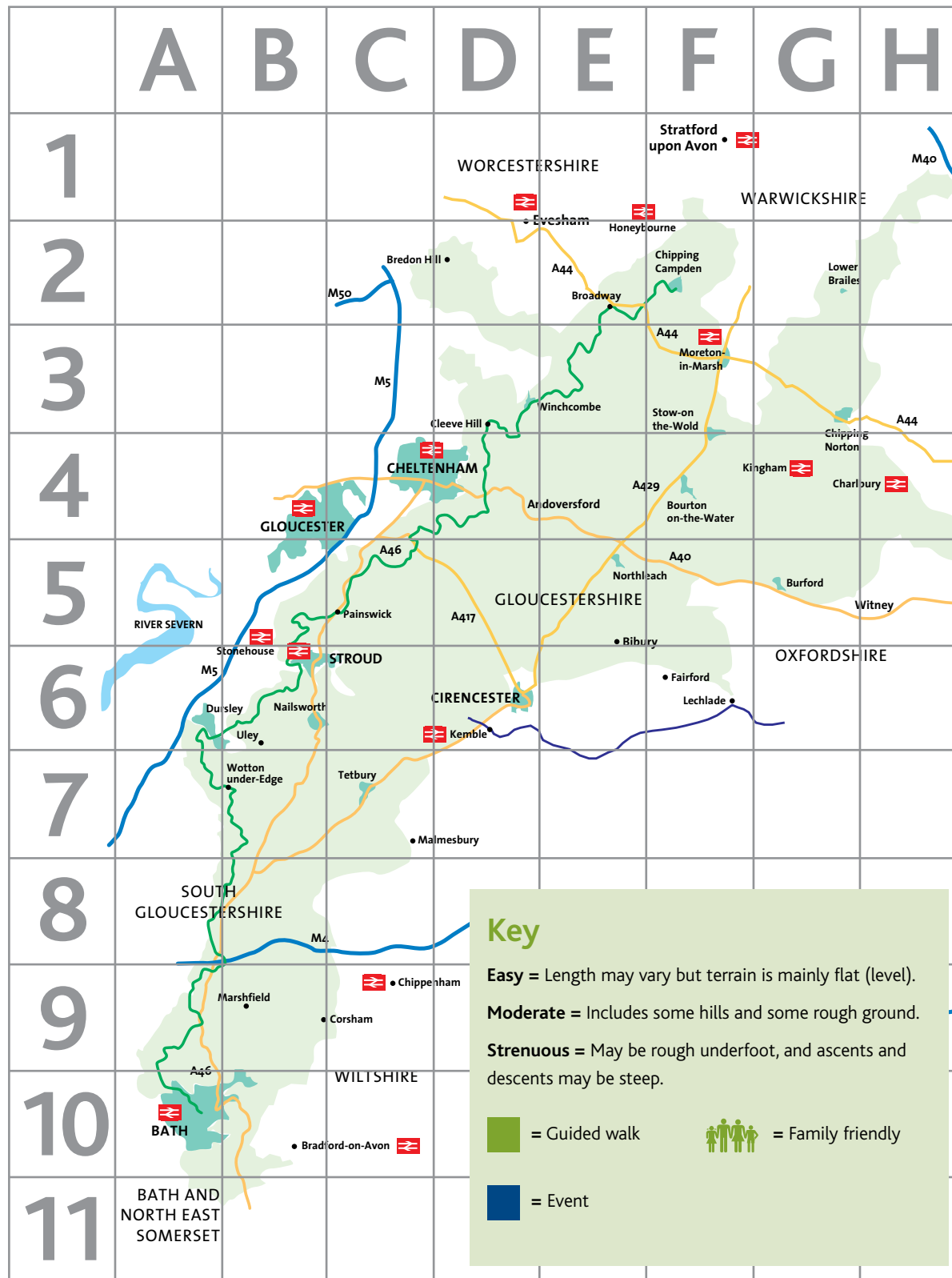
For both early booking is advised!

Guided tours of Chipping Campden

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

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. Contact Allan Allcock on 0787 638 7029.



Saturday 4 October

Apple Day

Chastleton House

Saturday 4 October

Harvest Festival

Cogges Manor, Witney

Saturday 4 Oct - Wednesday 19 Nov

Autumn Colour Spectacular

Batsford Arboretum

Monday 6 October 10:00

Heritage Trail 3, Tetbury to Westonbirt

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk from Tetbury passing Highgrove House and Westonbirt School, the former home of the Holford family. We return to Tetbury via a bridleway, passing Doughton Manor. Refreshments available after the walk in the town, if required.

Starting point: Tetbury Tourist Information Office. Suggested free parking at the Old Railway Station Yard Car Park. ST890930 • Map square C7

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Steve Knight

Tuesday 7 October 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

Wednesday 8 October 10:00

Mysterious Minster

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

The ruins of Minster Lovell Hall are located in a beautiful rural setting beside the River Windrush. The walk in parts is close to the river and can be muddy, there will be time to explore the ruins. Pub lunch available at end of walk.

Starting point: The White Hart Inn on the B4047 Witney to Burford Road • SP316109 Map square G5

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Wednesday 8 October 10:00

Ups & Downs of the Churn Valley

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

Attractive villages of North Cerney, Rendcomb, and Woodmancote, linked by riversides, meadows and woodland. Possible mud at first then mainly quiet roads. Some steeper climbs and descents but no stiles. Served by Stagecoach 51 Cheltenham/Cirencester. Pub lunches can be ordered before the start.

Starting point: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney SP018079 • Map square D5

Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgess & G Saunders

Thursday 2 October 10:00

Chipping Campden Town Walk

Easy • 1.5 hours • 1.5 miles

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 influence brought by The Guild of Handicrafts. Suggested donation £3.00.

Starting point: Chipping Campden Market Hall SP151391 • map square F2

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Saturday 4 October 10:00

From Court to Park! (National Trust Walking Festival)

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

Bus transport [£2] departs promptly at 10 to road above Horton Court. The Court [not normally open] will be visited before we return along the Cotswold Way. Please bring a picnic lunch. Booking essential on 01225 892374.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Richard Jones

Looking after the countryside

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

OCTOBER

Wednesday 1 October

Illustrated talk 'Autumn Glory at Batsford Arboretum'

The Old Prison, Northleach

Thursday 2 – Sunday 5 October

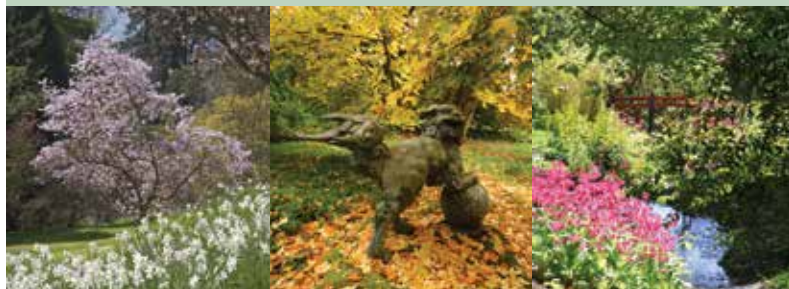
Tetbury Music Festival

St Mary's Church, Tetbury

Batsford

ARBORETUM & GARDEN CENTRE

For gentle walks through our magical tree garden; everything you need for the garden and allotment including gorgeous plants and gardening sundries; fabulous gifts and freshly-baked lunches and teas, Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre is an inspirational day out – all year round.



Visit www.batsarb.co.uk for information about our calendar of special events and key horticultural highlights in the Arboretum.

Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre
Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9AB.
01386 701441 arboretum@batsfordfoundation.co.uk
www.batsarb.co.uk



Monday 13 October 09:30

Northern Highlights

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
An exploration of the most northerly Cotswold footpaths. We learn about Hidcote from the General Manager and pass close to another stunning garden at Kiftsgate. Anticipate views in all directions. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Hidcote Manor Car Park (kind permission of National Trust) • SP177430 Map square F2
Leaders: Sheila Wasley, Margaret Reid & Maureen Shears

Tuesday 14 October 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 1: 'Westonbirt in Autumn'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles
Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30 and passes through part of the Arboretum, returning via the Monarch's Way. Lunch available after the walk, if required.
Starting point: Royal Oak Inn, Leighterton ST823912 • Map square C7
Leaders: Eric Brown, Brian Mundy & Trish Iliadou

Thursday 16 October

Illustrated talk 'Managing Woodlands for Wildlife'

The Old Prison, Northleach

Saturday 18 October 10:00

Final Manor Houses of North Cotswolds Walk

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 11 miles
Last in series takes us from Northleach, through Turkdean, Hazleton and Notgrove to Cold Aston and returns through Farmington. Moderate but with several sharp climbs. Pub lunch available in Cold Aston or bring your own.
Starting point: Northleach, Westwood Centre Car Park (donations welcomed), Bassett Road, SP116144 • Map square E5
Leaders: Vivienne McGehee & Sue Greenwood

Sunday 19 October 10:00

Four Fords (or is it Five?)

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
A circular walk from Bradford on Avon to Westwood, Hungerford Castle, Iford, Freshford and along the Kennet and Avon canal. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Station Car Park, Bradford on Avon • ST824607 • Map square B10
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Sunday 19 October 10:30

A Lodge and Two Follies (National Trust Walking Festival)

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
A woodland walk descending to the Ozleworth Valley and the villages of Wortley and Alderley, returning along the Cotswold Way. Pub lunch available locally after the walk if required.
Starting point: Newark Park National Trust Car Park, by arrangement. Follow signs to Newark Park from the A4135 or B4058. • ST782931 Map square B7
Leaders: David Harrowin & Hilary Paveley



Tuesday 21 October 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs and cafes.
Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – off the A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Tuesday 21 October 10:00

Isbourne Way 1 (Isbourne Source to Winchcombe)

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles
First in a series of five circular walks which will incorporate the whole of the new Isbourne Way, from the source of the Isbourne River to its confluence with the Avon near Evesham. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Winchcombe, Back Lane Car Park (Pay & Display) • SP024285 Map square D3
Leaders: Paul Clark, John Smith & Alan Wicks

Thursday 23 October 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). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop afterwards.
Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield ST781737 • Map square B9
Leaders: David Colbourne & Keith Weller

Thursday 23 October 10:00

The Battle of Edgehill

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles
On 22 August 1642, Charles I raised his standard in Nottingham and the English Civil War began. The Battle of Edgehill on 23rd October 1642 was the first major encounter and both sides claimed victory. The walk goes over part of the battlefield. Late pub lunch available at end.
Starting point: Ratley Village Hall Car Park SP383474 • Map square H2
Leader: Anne Martis

Thursday 23 October 10:00

History on the Hillside

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles
Around Willersey and Saintbury looking at some of the less well known heritage and what it can tell us about the history of life on the scarp. Pub lunch available or bring your own.
Starting point: Fish Hill Picnic Site (off A44 above Broadway) • SP120369 • Map square E2
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatrat

Saturday 25 October 10:00

In Ivor Gurney's footsteps

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
Crickley Hill & Shurdington Hill. From the Somme to the Cotswolds
Starting point: Crickley Hill Country Park, by the visitor centre • SO928163 Map square C5
Leaders: J Heathcott, J Woodland & K Buckle

Saturday 25 October 10:00

If you go down to the woods today...

Moderate • 3.5 hours 6 miles
Walk past Charlbury station and towards Shorthampton before taking field paths into the ancient Wychwood Forest and the Cornbury Estate. Once back on Charlbury you can eat your own sandwiches in the Rose and Crown if you buy a drink.
Starting point: Spendlove Car Park, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4
Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Saturday 25 October 09:30

Crossing the Boundaries

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles
We visit one village green in Oxfordshire, one in Gloucestershire, one in Warwickshire and another that was in Worcestershire before 1931! Thankfully the footpaths are unchanged. Please bring packed lunch.
Starting point: Evenlode Village Green. Please park considerably in village • SP224291 Map square F3
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Sunday 26 October 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside (National Trust walking Festival)

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: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Sunday 26 October 10:00

What Happened to Binley?

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
A walk to Horsley through Owlpen and Kingscote Woods, returning via Nympsfield. Bring a picnic lunch; pub stop for drink only.
Starting point: Uley village green. Please park considerably in the village • ST792987 Map square B6
Leaders: David Harrowin & David Collings

Tuesday 28 October

Half Term Iron Age Family Fun Morning

Booking essential: Tel: 01452 863170 or email: julian.bendle@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Crickley Hill Country Park

Tuesday 28 October

Northleach Circle of Crafters

The Old Prison, Northleach

Wednesday 29 October 10:00

Friends, Romans, Countrymen

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
From Little Whitcombe to the Roman Villa, then following the Cotswold Way through Whitcombe Wood. Return via Whitcombe Park and the reservoirs to Droy's Court.
Starting point: Twelve Bells, Little Whitcombe SO905157 • Map square C5
Leaders: M Williams & R Hales

Thursday 30 October

Rock & Fossil Roadshow – Half Term Family Session

The Old Prison, Northleach

Friday 10 October

Spinners & Weavers Monthly Meeting

The Old Prison, Northleach

Friday 10 – Sunday 12 October

Dursley Walking Festival

Dursley

Saturday 11 October 10:30

Newark Park Time Travel Walk (National Trust Walking Festival)

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
Join us on a delightful walk from Newark Park, taking in Cornwall and London Bridge – all in a morning! Pub lunch available locally after the walk if required.
Starting point: Newark Park National Trust Car Park, by arrangement. Follow signs to Newark Park from the A4135 or B4058. ST782931 • Map square B7
Leaders: John Hammill & Ian Cooke

Saturday 11 – Tuesday 14 October

Blenheim International Horse Trials

Blenheim Palace

Sunday 12 October 10:00

Leading Lights (Dursley Walking Festival)

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
Join us on the first section of the proposed new Lantern Way along the lower slopes of Stinchcombe Hill, and via field paths to Upper Cam and Upthorpe. We return to Dursley via Ashmead Green and the new Littlecombe development. Several stiles and possibly muddy stretches, with some ascents/descents.
Starting point: Dursley Town Hall. Free long stay car parking signed from Long Street or opposite the Old Spot Inn. ST757982 Map square A6
Leaders: David Harrowin & David Ashbee

Sunday 12 October 10:00

Bath Outer Circuit walk Stage 1, Cold Ashton to Browne's Folly

Strenuous • 6 hours • 11 miles
The first stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the setting of the city in the landscape. A bus (£4 per person) will take you to Cold Ashton for the start of the walk. Booking essential – Phone John Walker (01454 778525) after September 28th.
Starting point: Bathford – Junction of High Street and Dover's Lane • ST792669 Map square B10
Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Sunday 12 October

Fungi Foray

Batsford Arboretum



Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses 2014-2015

Autumn/Winter Programme



Why not learn a new skill this autumn and winter with one of the Cotswolds Conservation Board's rural skills courses? Our courses are designed to offer a practical, hands on experience of these historic Cotswold crafts, so whether you have a project in mind or just a passing interest, our courses will show you how it's done. Courses are available at a variety of locations across the Cotswolds, no experience is necessary and all tools and equipment are provided.

Dry-stone walling (Beginners) - £99

Sherborne, 13-14 September
Tetbury, 27-28 September
Blenheim, 11-12 October
Broadway, 20-21 October

Dry-stone walling (Improvers) - £119

Tetbury, 8-9 September
Blenheim Palace, 25-26 October

Hedgelaying (Beginners) - £109

Chipping Norton, 11-12 October
Westonbirt, 27-28 October
Luckington, 8-9 November
Huntsmans, 22-23 November
Coaley, 2-3 December
Luckingtonm, 10-11 January
Huntsmans, 24-25 January
Westonbirt, 3-4 February
Chipping Norton, 21-22 February

Blacksmithing (Taster) - £99

Tetbury, 7 December
Tetbury, 1 February
Tetbury, 15 March

Cotswold Tile Roofing - £99

Huntsmans Quarry, 22-23 November
Huntsmans Quarry, 7-8 March

Lime Mortar Building Repairs (Improvers) - £119

Ebworth Centre, 20-21 September

Charcoal Making - £59

Ullenwood, 18 September
Halloween Special, Northleach, 1 November

Lantra accredited courses:

Brushcutting
Chainsaw
Now available

Cotswold Dry Stone Walling Academy

Looking to develop your walling skills further? The Cotswolds Dry Stone Walling Academy offers industry-recognised qualifications in this traditional rural skill.

Gift Vouchers

Looking for that special birthday/Christmas present? Our popular rural skills gift vouchers are valid for 12 months and can be redeemed against a course of the holder's choice (equal to the value of the course fee and subject to availability). Vouchers can be purchased online via our rural skills website.

Competitions

Dry Stone Walling Competition:
Saturday 20 September
Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park

Hedgelaying Competition:

Saturday 15 November
Waverton Stud, Bourton-on-the-Water

Corporate team building activities available

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Friday 31 October 10:00



The Shockerwick Valley

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8.5 miles

From Bathford the walk proceeds along the Bybrook to Shockerwick and Middlehill before climbing via Ditteridge to Colerne. Return via part of the Fosse way. Please bring a picnic lunch. Pub drinks available at Colerne. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Opposite the Crown, Bathford Hill Bathford • ST787669 • Map square B10
Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday 31 October 10:00



By the banks of the Coln

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 6 miles

A gentle walk from Bibury along the riverside to Coln St Aldwyn and back via Coneygar Woods. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Bibury Church. (Park considerably on the roadside by the river) SP117065 • Map square E5
Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & G Ricketts

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 4 November 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

Wednesday 5 November 10:00

Chedworth & Chedworth Woods

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk through Chedworth village and Chedworth Woods, passing the Roman Villa and returning to the farm shop and café. Includes some minor roads, some rough ground, and one very steep climb.

Starting point: Chedworth Farm Shop; Denfurlong Farm GL54 4NQ • SP066105 Map square E5
Leaders: G Saunders, J Shaw & P Burgon

Thursday 6 November 10:00

Donnington Circuits 1

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

An opportunity to enjoy sections of the Donnington Way and sample some Donnington pubs that it links. From Little Compton to Cornwell and back via Chastleton, with the bonus of passing three manor houses. Pub lunch available at end.

Starting point: Little Compton, Red Lion. Please park considerably in the village. SP257302 • Map square G3
Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Saturday 8 November 10:00

To the Head of the Painswick Valley

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk from Painswick to Cranham via Painswick Stream and Popes Wood
Starting point: Walkers Car Park Painswick SO867104 • Map square C5
Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Saturday 8 November 09:30

Lost & Isolated Places

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Join us on a journey around some of our lost and isolated places in the Cotswolds as we consider the advantages and disadvantages of both. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Whittington Village Green, opposite the telephone box. Please park considerably in village • SP014209 Map square D4
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday 8 Nov – Sunday 14 Dec

Christmas at Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace

Sunday 9 November 10:00

Bath Outer Circuit walk –

Stage 2 Browne's Folly to Odd Down Park and Ride

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

The second stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the setting of the city in the landscape. A bus (£4 per person) will take you to Brown's Folly for the start of the walk. Booking essential – Phone John Bartram (0117 9374561) after October 26th.

Starting point: Odd Down Park & Ride ST733615 • Map square A10
Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Tuesday 11 November 10:00



Two Walks from Brailes

Moderate • 3&2 hours • 5.5&3.5 miles

Two circular walks from Brailes. The morning route takes in Brailes Hill and Sutton under Brailes while the afternoon goes to Winderton returning via Castle Hill. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: The George Hotel, Lower Brailes • SP314392 • Map square G2
Leader: Tony Graeme



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Enjoy a rare glimpse into life in this ancient country manor house and garden nestled in the beautiful Evenlode valley. Dust, cobwebs and rambling roses, add to a feel of 'romantic neglect'.

01608 674981
nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton
National Trust

Tuesday 11 November 10:00

Kinton and Guiting Wood from Adam's Farm
Moderate • 4.5 hours • 9 miles
Starting from the Farm Park we visit Kinton and its fords, then go on to Guiting Wood. Return via Guiting Power and Barton. Please bring packed lunch. Refreshments should be available from the Farm Park at the end of the walk.
Starting point: Cotswold Farm Park, overflow Car Park • SP114266 • Map square E3
Leaders: Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Wednesday 12 Nov 10:00

Discover the Evenlode Valley
Easy • 5 hours • 8 miles
We walk along the south side of the valley from Charlbury to Ascott via the very interesting Shorthampton church and return on the north side of the valley via Dean Grove and Common. Pub lunch available at The Swan, Ascott.
Starting point: Spendlove Car Park, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4
Leader: Gerald Simper

Thursday 13 November 10:00

Dumbleton Hill Figure of Eight
Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
The route takes us up around the hill in a figure of eight allowing us to take in the countryside in all directions from surprising angles and viewpoints.
Starting point: Dumbleton, Village Cricket Ground, Dairy Lane • SP017359
Map square D3
Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Thursday 13 November 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 2: 'A Walk Through Ancient Woodland'
Moderate • 4 hours • 5.5 miles
Meet at 10:00 for coffee. This attractive walk starts at 10:30, and passes through ancient woodland and a nature reserve in the vicinity of Hawkesbury Upton. Lunch available at the pub after the walk, if required.
Starting point: Beaufort Arms pub, Hawkesbury Upton • ST777869
Map square B8
Leaders: Eric Brown & Ian Cooke

Tuesday 18 November 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk
Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.
Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box - off the A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould



Tuesday 18 November 10:00

Sherborne Stroll, Windrush Wander
Moderate • 4.5 hours • 9 miles
Towards the easy side of moderate, this 'squashed' figure of eight takes in the delights of the Sherborne and Windrush areas as we criss-cross woods, rivers and water meadows. Those preferring a shorter walk may opt for a lunch time finish. Bring your own lunch etc.
Starting point: Sherborne Park Estate, Northfield Barn NT Car Park • SP176154
Map square F5
Leaders: Julie Downing & Maureen Shears

Wednesday 19 November 10:00

Beneath the Hill Fort
Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4 miles
A loop around the west of Uley.
Starting point: Recreation Ground Car Park, Shadwell, Uley • ST784977 • Map square B6
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Derrick Hildersley

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 November

Living Crafts for Christmas
Blenheim Palace

Saturday 22 November 10:00

Burford in the Ice Age
Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 11 miles
Step back in time with a walk focussed on the geological history of the area.
Starting point: Burford Main Car Park [Free] SP253122 • Map square G5
Leaders: Martin & Lucy Squires

Sunday 23 November 10:00

A Willow Wander
Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
A circular walk to Hinton Charterhouse taking in Hankley Wood, Twinhoe Wood, Clive wood and Baggridge Farm. Coffee stop only. Not suitable for pushchairs. Pub lunch available in Willow if required.
Starting point: Willow Old Station free Car Park • ST735581 • Map square A10
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings & Pauline Vincent

Tuesday 25 November 10:00

One Hill, Three Views
Easy • 2 hours • 3 miles
A flat walk without stiles around Stinchcombe Hill with fine views of the Severn Vale, North Nibley and Cam Long Down. Suitable for families but not buggies or push chairs. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.
Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill public Car Park (Not the Golf Club Car Park) ST744983 • Map square A6
Leaders: David Harrowin & John Hammill

Wednesday 26 November 10:00

A Winter Blow
Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
Walk passing the Birdlip Radio Station and Cuckoopen Barn Farm to join the Gloucestershire Way along Coldwell Bottom continuing towards Stockwell and back.
Starting point: Barrow Wake Car Park SO931153 • Map square C5
Leaders: M Williams & R Hales

Friday 28 November 10:00

A Farleigh Round
Easy • 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles
Through Brown's Folly SSSI onto the Palladian way, then across to South Wraxall returning via the ride to Monkton Farleigh. Optional pub stop at the Muddy Duck/Kings Arms bar in Monkton Farleigh. To be flexible please bring a picnic lunch.
Starting point: Brown's Folly SSSI Nature Reserve Car Park at Monkton Farleigh ST797664 • Map square B10
Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday 28 November 10:00

Highwaymen, Hollywood & Hazleton
Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
A walk through Hazleton and the grounds of Salperton Park then back through typical Cotswold countryside.
Starting point: Puesdown Inn (Now the Garniche at Puesdown) On the A40 between Northleach & Andoversford • SP076171
Map square E4
Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & G Ricketts

Saturday 29 November 10:00

Cotswold Round Up
Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
A walk across open, gently rolling Cotswold country through several small villages to a site near the source of the River Thames returning via the Monarch's and Macmillan Way. Picnic lunch with pub stop.
Starting point: Cherington Village centre, near Tetbury Glos. Cherington is approx. 3 miles north of Tetbury and 1 mile east of Avening. Please park considerably near the village hall. ST903987 • Map square C6
Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadu

Saturday 29 Nov – Wednesday 24 Dec

Santa Specials
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

Saturday 29 November

Night of a Thousand Candles
Woodstock

Sunday 30 November 10:00

Lansdown Views and Valleys
Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles
We start with spectacular views from Lansdown, descend to Weston Village and then back to the Lansdown ridge again before descending to the delightful Swainswick Valley. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Lansdown Park and Ride ST732681 • Map square A9
Leaders: John Bartram & Sid Gould

DECEMBER
Throughout December

Santa Cruises
Cotswolds Canals Trust

Throughout December

Christmas events
There is a wonderful range of Christmas events taking place throughout the Cotswolds many pretty towns and villages.

Tuesday 2 December 10:00

Mary & Michael, A Tale of Two Churches
Easy • 3 hours • 6.5 miles
Straightforward route between St Mary's Temple Guiting and St Michael's Guiting Power plus some time in each church. Fairly level walking with three short hills and one stile. Likely to be muddy. Accessible loo at St Mary's.
Starting point: St. Mary's Church, Temple Guiting. Park at nearby village hall. SP089277 • Map square E3
Leaders: Ali Clifton-Barnard & Maureen Shears

Tuesday 2 December 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

Friday 5 December

Christmas Evening
Bourton-on-the-Water

Sunday 7 December 09:30

Escape the Christmas Shopping!
Strenuous • 3.5 hours • 6 miles
From Winchcombe we head south, climbing 800ft for refreshments in the woods, then back down in time for lunch. The steep sections will take your mind off the uphill struggle of Christmas shopping! Bring and share Christmas nibbles.
Starting point: Winchcombe, Back Lane Car Park (pay & display) • SP024285
Map square D3
Leaders: Sheila & Rob Talbot

Tuesday 9 December 10:00

Donnington Circuits 2
Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
An opportunity to enjoy sections of the Donnington Way and sample some Donnington pubs that it links. From Willersey to Dovers Hill via Saintbury and back. Pub lunch available at end.
Starting point: Willersey, New Inn. Please park considerably in village • SP106395
Map square E2
Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Wednesday 10 December 10:00

A Downland Circuit
Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles
A lovely walk into remote downland north and west of Bibury. No major hills but a few stiles.
Starting point: Bibury Church: use roadside parking along the river • SP118065
Map square E5
Leaders: P Burgon, G Saunders & J Shaw

Thursday 11 December 10:00

Burford Town Walk
Easy • 1.25 hours 1 mile
This gentle town walk is intended to be a general guide to this very interesting medieval Cotswold town. Specialist tours are available from the Friends of the Tolsey Museum 01993 823188. Numbers are limited so please book a place by telephoning the Visitor Information Centre 01993 823558
Starting point: Visitor Information Centre, Burford. Free Car Parking in large Car Park signed off the High Street
Map square G5
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 12 December 09:30

Back to Back to Bourton 4
Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles
Leaving Bourton over the Iron Age Fort and the lakes, we go to Little and Great Rissington Churches ambling over the Windrush and water meadows. Two sad tales are told. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, Cooperative/Countrywide Car Park, Station Road • SP170211 • Map square F4
Leaders: Andy Briars & Allan Allcock

Sunday 14 December 10:00 

Along to Tadwick, then over to Ramscombe Bottom

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

Across the valley to Woolley then following the contour round to Tadwick before a steep climb to Charmy Down and a descent on restored paths to Ramscombe and Chilcombe Bottoms. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Slip road for Swainswick, East of A46, 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at A46/A420 junction • ST762683
Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Sunday 14 December

The Cotswold Table

Kingham

Monday 15 December 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 3: 'Take off from Giuseppe's'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee. The walk starts at 10:30, taking the Cotswold Way to Coaley Peak, passes through Woodchester Park and returns via Bown Hill to the start. Meals available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Giuseppe's Gourmet at the Bristol & Gloucester Gliding Club half way between Uley and Selsey • SO806019

Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & John Graham

Tuesday 16 December 10:00 

Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

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

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Saturday 20 December 10:00

Salt and Slates

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Walk past Charlbury quarry to Dustfield then along the Saltway to Stonesfield. Take Stonesfield Lane to follow the route of the Oxfordshire Way back to Charlbury. Once back in Charlbury you can eat your own sandwiches in the Rose and Crown if you buy a drink.

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

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Sunday 21 December 10:00

A Stone Age Winter Solstice

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A delightful route out of Winchcombe up to the Neolithic long barrow at Belas Knap. Fabulous views await.

Starting point: Winchcombe, Back Lane Car Park (Pay & Display) • SP024285
Map square D3

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Smith & Alan Wicks

Friday 26 December

Bibury Duck Races

Bibury

Friday 26 December

Boxing Day at Batsford Arboretum

Batsford Arboretum

Monday 29 December 10:00 

Around Minchinhampton Commons

Easy • 3 hours • 5 miles

A bracing morning walk on upland commons. Fairly flat terrain and very few stiles. Glorious views of surrounding valleys and beyond (weather permitting). Refreshments available at local inns after the walk. Suitable for families but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: Opposite Amberley Inn, Amberley (please do not use inn Car Park) SO850013 • Map square B6

Leaders: Graham Bateman & Mike Brinkworth

JANUARY

Thursday 1 January 10:00 

Hills and Valleys around Combe Hay!

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A New Year's Day walk to Upper Midford, Combe Hay village and walking part of the disused Somersetshire Coal Canal. Coffee stop only. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Cross Keys Pub, South Stoke Road, Combe Down • ST748619
Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Thursday 1 January 10:00

Explore the Chelt Valley

Strenuous • 3 hours • 6 miles

Old ways into Cheltenham visiting Dowdeswell Wood, Lineover Wood, and Ravensgate Hill.

Starting point: Copt Elm Rd Charlton Kings. South of the A40 at 6 Ways traffic lights SO965210 • Map square D4

Leaders: J Heathcott, M Dunning & J Woodland

Tuesday 6 January 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

Wednesday 7 January 10:30 

Short in Distance – High in Interest

Easy • 2 hours • 3.5 miles

Churchill is an attractive village tucked away in the far west of Oxfordshire and was home to two famous people who have left their mark in different ways. The walk is mostly on tracks and quiet lanes with some field walking. Pub lunch available at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Churchill, please park tidily near the church • OL282241 • Map square G4
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Sunday 11 January 10:00



Blow Away the Cobwebs

Strenuous • 3 hours • 6 miles


Along the scarp to Stanway before climbing up through the shelter of Lidcombe Wood onto the Cotswold Hills and contrasting views of the wolds. The return passes through Littleworth Wood and some coppicing before descending into Stanton.

Starting point: Stanton, Village Hall Car Park SP067344 • Map square E3

Leader: Rob & Sheila Talbot



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www.cotswolds.com/the-great-cotswold-outdoors

Thursday 15 January 10:00

Along the Cotswold Way from Snowhill

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A delightful winter route along some hard surfaces with anticipation of fine distant views.

Starting point: Snowhill Village Car Park (not National Trust) • SP097340
Map square E2

Leader: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Friday 16 January 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 4: 'Up Downham'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee. The walk starts at 10:30 and takes in Hydegate, Downham Hill, Shadwell and Rook Wood. Lunch available in the Prema café or local pub after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Prema Café Uley – Signposted from High St. Please park courteously in side streets or High Street • ST790983
Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown, Derrick Hilderley & David Ashbee

Friday 16 January 9.30

Parks and Paintings

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 6 miles

Explore Blenheim Park and medieval wall paintings at Coombe.

Starting point: Opposite The Marlborough Arms, Woodstock. Public transport Stagecoach S3 from Oxford • SP446167 • Map square H4
Leader: Dave Scott

Saturday 17 January 10:00 

Over Charmy Down to Ramscombe Bottom

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Along different paths repaired by the Wardens into St Catherine's valley before a steep climb to Charmy Down airfield. Then down Ramscombe Bottom and along the Limestone Link before a steep climb to Ashwicke. Please bring picnic lunch.

Starting point: Lay-by off the A420, west of Marshfield • ST772738 • Map square B9
Leaders: John Walker & Keith Rawlings

Tuesday 20 January 10:00 

Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

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

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Wednesday 21 January 10:00 

The Leckhampton Loop

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

The walk goes along the Cotswold Way around Charlton Kings Common, taking in the iconic Devil's Chimney and then on to the village of Coberly.

Starting point: Hungry Horse pub Car Park SO967170 • Map square D4
Leaders: R Hales & M Williams

Wednesday 21 January 10:00

Through Gilbert's Estate

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk leading around Newington and Lasborough, and back via the deserted Church of St Barnabas. Pub meals available following the walk, if required.

Starting point: Hunter's Hall Inn Car Park, Kingscote, by arrangement • ST814960
Map square B7
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper

Tuesday 27 January 10:00

Donnington Circuits 3

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6.75 miles

An opportunity to enjoy sections of the Donnington Way and sample some Donnington pubs that it links. From Ganborough to Sezincote and Bourton-on-the-Hill, returning via Hinchwick. Pub lunch available at end.

Starting point: Ganborough, Coach and Horses Inn. Please park considerately in adjacent area. SP172291 • Map square F3
Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Friday 30 January 10:00 

A Macmillan Way and Palladian Way plateau walk

Easy • 4.5 hours • 8.5 miles

Largely on National Trails this circular walk is on high ground from Kingsdown via the Wraxhalls, Cumberwell Park, Little Ashley and Monkton Farleigh. Please bring a picnic lunch. Drinks/snacks available at King's Arms in Monkton Farleigh. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Blue Vein Layby (off Longsplatt), Kingsdown • ST828672
Map square B10

Leaders: David Le Lohé & David Colbourne

Friday 30 January 10:00

A Walk in the Woods

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5 miles

A walk through the woods of Misarden Park taking in Caudle Green and Miserden. Some steep ascents.

Starting point: Highwayman Inn. Off the A417 about 4 miles south of the 'Air Balloon'. Access via slip roads signed for Winstone • SO966107
Map square D5

Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & G Ricketts

Friday 30 January 09:30

Bledington and Beyond

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

A chance to see East Gloucestershire and West Oxfordshire. From Bledington to Kingham and Churchill then take the D'Arcy Dalton and Oxfordshire Ways and pass through Bruern Abbey. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bledington Church • SP245225
Map square G4
Leaders: Allan Allcock, Andy Briars & Julie Downing

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1 February 10:00

The Chipping Norton Set

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 11.5 miles

Walk past the homes of some of the rich and famous.

Starting point: Churchill, near the church. SP282242 • Map square G3
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday 3 February 10:00

The Countryside West of Moreton

Easy • 4.5 hours • 9 miles

Walking north first we visit the Batsford estate then turn south to go through Bourton-on-the-Hill and Longborough, returning via the Monarch's Way. Please bring packed lunch. Refreshments available in garden centre at the end.

Starting point: Fosseyway Garden Centre Car Park, Moreton-in-Marsh. Please park furthest away from shop entrance • SP202315
Map square F3

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Tuesday 3 February 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

Wednesday 4 February 10:00

Winter views over Dowdeswell & Foxcote

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5 miles

A winter stroll with lots of open views, mainly on tracks and quiet roads. Can be muddy. Lunch opportunity at the Kilkenny Inn and the Royal Oak Andoversford.

Starting point: Kilkenny picnic site • SP004186
Map square D4

Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgon & G Saunders

Thursday 5 February 10:00

A Toddle around Toddington

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

An gentle winter walk which explores little known paths. We come across some hidden gems in Toddington and find unusual views of the Cotswold scarp.

Starting point: Toddington, The Pheasant Inn Car Park • SP048324 • Map square E3

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Saturday 7 February 10:00

Doynton, Wick, and Environs

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4 miles

From a classic South Cotswold village, via an old quarry, a nature reserve, a golf course and a cricket ground back to our starting point. Coffee stop only. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Doynton Village Hall Car Park ST721740 • Map square A9

Leaders: Sandy Higgins & Keith Rawlings

Tuesday 10 February 10:00

Where Romans [and others] Trod

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk along ancient tracks incorporating parts of the Roman Akeman Street and a wartime airfield. Pub lunch available at end of walk.

Starting point: "Bird in Hand" Whiteoak Green on the B4022 Witney to Charlbury road. SP344139 • Map square H4

Leader: Tony Graeme

Tuesday 10 February 10:00

Isbourne Way 2 (Winchcombe to Toddington)

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8.5 miles

Second in a series of five circular walks which will incorporate the whole of the new Isbourne Way, from the source of the Isbourne River to its confluence with the Avon near Evesham. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Winchcombe, Back Lane Car Park (Pay & Display) • SP024285
Map square D3

Leader: Paul Clark, John Smith & Alan Wicks

Friday 13 February 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 5: 'Another Fine Walk, Stanley!'

Moderate • 4 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10.30, passing through Frocester and Silver Street. We plan to visit the ancient tithe barn at Frocester and hopefully see some new born lambs.

Starting point: King's Head pub, King's Stanley. Free car parking opposite the King's Head by village hall or in council car park. No. 14 bus route from Stroud • SO812035

Map square B6

Leader: Eric Brown & John Graham

Saturday 14 February 10:00

Beside the Ermin Way

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk from Brimpsfield to Caudle Green via Climperwell. Brimpsfield Village Hall Car Park • SO938127 • Map square D5

Leader: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Sunday 15 February 10:00

A Southstoke Ramble

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk into the valleys south of Odd Down, where nature has overtaken the remains of the extensive industry which was once there. Wonderful views! Coffee stop only.

Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings

Sunday 15 February 10:00

Feline Enigma

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 9 miles

A mainly parkland walk from the ancient town of Tetbury, to the villages of Westonbirt and Shipton Moyne, passing the Highgrove Estate.

Bring a picnic lunch, pub stop for drinks only.

Starting point: Old railway yard free Car Park, Tetbury • ST893932 • Map square C7

Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Hooper

Tuesday 17 February 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

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

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Tuesday 17 February 10:00

Donnington Circuits 4

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

An opportunity to enjoy sections of the Donnington Way and sample some Donnington pubs that it links. From Guiting Power to Naunton and Naunton Downs, returning via the River Windrush. Pub lunch available at end.

Starting point: Guiting Power, Farmers Arms. Please park considerately in the village.

SP095248 • Map square E3

Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Wednesday 18 February 10:00

Views over the Vale

Moderate • 2 hours • 4 miles

A walk via Crickley Hill with stunning views of the Severn Vale along the Cotswold Way to Ullenwood. Then following good paths and lanes past Shab Hill and back to Barrow Wake.

Starting point: Barrow Wake Car Park SO931153 • Map square C5

Leaders: M Williams & R Hales



Nick Turner

Thursday 19 February 10:00

The Battle of Stow

Moderate • 4 hours • 7.5 miles

In the spring of 1646, the Royalist army of 300 troops marched from Worcester towards Oxford to meet the King's cavalry. They met outside Stow and the walk retraces the route of the retreating troops. Lunch available at the Coach and Horses at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Coach and Horses pub on the A424 NW of Stow • SP173292
Map square F3

Leader: Anne Martis

Friday 20 February 09:30

Back to Back to Bourton 5

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles

From Bourton over the Fosseyway, alongside the Windrush on minor paths we pick up the Gloucestershire Way to Cold Aston then Farmington and return on the Diamond and Monarch's Ways. Views a plenty. Please bring packed lunch.

Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, Cooperative/Countrywide Car Park, Station Road • SP170211 • Map square F4

Leaders: Andy Briars, Allan Allcock & Julie Downing

Friday 20 February 10:00

Not for the Squeamish

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Join us on a walk which offers a range of landscapes and archaeology including beechwoods, limestone grasslands and the Stroudwater Canal. These features are complemented by a history of hangings, violence and the maltreatment of workers, offset by the generosity and foresight of local benefactors.

Starting point: King's Head pub, King's Stanley. Free Car Parking opposite the King's Head by village hall or in council Car Park. No. 14 bus route from Stroud • SO812035

Map square B6

Leaders: John Graham & Derek Hildersley

Saturday 21 February 10:00

Crossing a Roman Road

Easy • 3 hours • 6 miles

We cross an old Roman road twice on our route near many small settlements, several farms and ancient woodlands. Lunch could be taken at the pub in Finstock after the walk.

Starting point: Finstock School • SP362164
Map square H4

Leader: Gerald Simper

Sunday 22 February 10:00

Bath Outer Circuit walk – Stage 3 Odd Down Park and Ride to Saltford

Strenuous • 6 hours • 11 miles

The third stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the setting of the city in the landscape. A bus (£4 per person) will take you to Odd Down for the start. Booking essential – Phone John Bartram (0117 9374561) after February 8th.

Starting point: The Shallows Car Park, Saltford. ST687672 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Tuesday 24 February 10:00

First Signs of Spring

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Around Snowhill in search of the first signs that nature is waking up from the winter slumber. Pub lunch available after the walk.

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

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 27 February 10:00

A Sally in the Woods featuring John Rennie

Moderate • 5 hours • 9.5 miles

Starting with ridge walking through Brown's Folly SSSI, across to Winsley and down into the Avon valley at Freshford, returning via the canal and riverside to "Sally in the Woods". Please bring a picnic lunch. Pub drinks available if required.

Starting point: Brown's Folly SSSI Nature Reserve Car Park at Monkton Farleigh ST797664 • Map square B10

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Sandy Higgins

Friday 27 February 10:00

Wood, Iron & Air

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk to the old airfield and then through the woods back to the villa along the disused railway.

Starting point: Chedworth Villa Car Park SP056135 • Map square E5

Leaders: G Ricketts, P Cluley & B Chilvers

MARCH

Sunday 1 March 10:00

Chipping Norton's Geological History

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12 miles

Step back in time to explore the geological history of this area.

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

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday 3 March 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

Wednesday 4 March 10:00

Watermeadows and Parkland

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

The route passes Stratton watermeadows in the Churn Valley and returns via Cirencester Park Polo Ground.

Starting point: Cirencester Rugby Football Club. Car parking arranged by special agreement. Entrance 100m up the Whiteway. SP023025 • Map square D6

Leaders: P Burgon, G Saunders & J Shaw

Thursday 5 March 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 brideways and lanes south to Ashwicke and return through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop afterwards.

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

Leaders: David Colbourne & David Le Lohé

Friday 6 March 11:00

The way to Tetbury before the Turnpike

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 6 miles

We pass Cranmore Dairy en route to Barton End Stables. After passing Harley wood we stop for lunch in Nailsworth (packed lunch or local refreshment). We then take the old route to Tetbury climbing and passing through Ledgemore Wood.

Starting point: Chavenage Green, 0.5 miles west of Chavenage House • ST865957 Map square C7

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Steve Knight

Friday 6 - Saturday 21 March

Chipping Norton Music Festival

A traditional music festival with a mix of adjudicated classes for all ages and professional concerts. For details, visit: www.cnmf.org.uk

Saturday 7 March 10:00

A Countryside View of the City

Moderate • 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A circular walk from Bath's Pulteney Bridge via Alexandra Park, Lyncombe Vale and Sydney Gardens. Coffee stop only. Start only 10 mins. from Bus/Railway station. Not suitable for pushchairs [Steps!]

Starting point: Pulteney Bridge, Bath (Opposite Victoria Art Gallery) • ST752649 Map square A10

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Saturday 7 March 10:00

In Between

Moderate • 11 hours • 6.5 miles

From Toddington we climb the Cotswold Edge at Wood Stanway and on to Ford for lunch, returning through Cutsdean. Pub lunch available at Ford.

Starting point: Toddington Church. Please park considerably in village • SP034331 Map square E3

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Tuesday 10 March 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 6: 'Wardens Put the 'Chav' into Chavenage'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee. The walk starts at 10:30, passing through Hartley Bridge and Hay Lane to Chavenage. We return via Ledgemore Bottom, Barton End and Washpool. Snacks and food available locally in the shop or local pub after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Village Shop, Horsley – signposted from the main road through the village • ST837980 • Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & Derrick Hildersley

Wednesday 11 March 10:00

Town, Valley, Village and Vistas

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4 miles

This circular walk in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds starts with a close look at Charlbury before continuing into the countryside on tracks across fields and through woodland where the skyline is always dominated by the ancient Wychwood Forest. Various options available for lunch in Charlbury at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Spendlove Centre in Charlbury SP358198 • Map square H4

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday 12 March 10:00

Upton Inn Circular

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

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

Starting point: Upton Inn Car Park ST692698 • Map square B9

Leader: Sandy Higgins & Keith Weller

Saturday 14 March 10:00

Bisley Broomsticks & Miserden Magic

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A circular walk from Bisley via Dillay, The Camp, Miserden, Sudgrove, and Througham. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic.

Starting point: Bisley Recreation Ground Car Park, off Van Der Breen Street • SO965061 Map square C5

Leader: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Saturday 14 March 09:30

History and Mystery

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

We dip our toes into Warwickshire between Ilmington and Stretton on the Fosse and learn some fascinating facts about former inhabitants. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Ilmington Village Green, War Memorial. Please park considerably in village. SP211433 • Map square F1

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Tuesday 17 March 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

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

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Wednesday 18 March 10:00

A Bird in the Hand

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

The walk goes from the Car Park to the Bird in Hand, descending to Pitcombe Wood and following the contour to Edge Common. The circuit is completed along an undulating section of the Cotswold Way.

Starting point: Shortwood NT Car Park (Also known as Cripplegate) • SO832085 Map square B5

Leaders: R Hales & M Williams

Thursday 19 March 10:00

Valleys and Woods North of Guiting Power

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A pleasant undulating route north of Guiting Power, passing the Windrush River at Kington and returning through Castlett Wood.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Car Park (honesty box) • SP095246 • Map square E3

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Friday 20 March 09:30

Hidden Valley in the Wolds

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

An early spring walk from Hazleton where we will see several hidden valleys including the 'Valley of the Boars'. Quiet countryside and lovely villages. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Hazleton Church. Please park considerably in the village • SP079183 Map square E4

Leaders: Allan Allcock, Andy Briars & Julie Downing

Saturday 21 March 10:00

Over and Out

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

A generally level walk over Cotswold high country farmland taking in some historical features and the higher parts of Ozleworth Bottom and Hazlecote valley. Please bring a picnic lunch; a pub stop may also be possible depending on business issues.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote, by arrangement • ST814960 • Map square B7

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadu

Sunday 22 March 10:00

Bath Outer Circuit Walk Stage 4 Saltford to Cold Ashton

Strenuous • 5 hours • 8 miles

The fourth stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the setting of the city in the landscape. A bus (£4 per person) will take you to Saltford for the start of the walk. Booking essential – Phone John Bartram (0117 9374561) after March 8th.

Starting point: Cold Ashton village Hall ST748726 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker



Visit the Old Prison

Fosseway, Northleach GL54 3JH

Open daily 9.30am to 4.30pm

- Cotswold Lion Café serving breakfast, lunches, afternoon teas, cakes & beverages
- 'Escape to the Cotswolds' visitor centre and exhibition
- Private bookings available for themed tours, talks and events
- See the original prison cells and court room
- Rural Life Collection
- Free entry – donations welcome

For details of monthly events/activities visit:

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/oldprison

or call: 01451 862000



Tuesday 24 March 10:00

Roman Ways, a Deserted Village and a Wedding Mystery

Moderate • 4 hours • 7.5 miles

On ancient paths through Fawler, Wilcote and finstock returning past Cornbury Park. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4

Leader: Tony Graeme

Thursday 26 March 10:00

Later Signs of Spring

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

Around Langley, Nottingham and Cleeve hills in search of signs that spring is well under way. Pub lunch available or bring your own.

Starting point: Winchcombe, Back Lane Car Park (Pay & Display) • SP024284 Map square D3

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 27 March 10:00

Around the Churn and Perrott

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Along the lanes to Bagendon then through fields and a golf course to Baunton before taking the riverside path back to North Cerney. 2 ascents and descents on the way to Baunton.

Starting point: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney SP019079 • Map square D5

Leaders: B Chilvers, G Ricketts & P Cluley

Friday 27 March 09:30

A Short Walk along the Ways

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Delightful route from Blockley to Broad Campden making use of the Diamond, Heart of England and Monarch's Ways which all run through this area.

Starting point: Blockley, outside the Church. Please park considerably in the village. SP165349 • Map square F2

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Sunday 29 March 10:00

Crossing County Borders

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

We walk to Monkton Combe, Midford, Pipehouse, Iford, Upper Westwood, Freshford and Limpley Stoke, returning along the Kennet and Avon Canal. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Dundas Marina Car Park ST784626 • Map square A10

Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando

Tuesday 31 March 10:00

Heythrop Park and Upper Glyme Valley

Easy • 5 hours • 9 miles

Starting at the remnants of a Neolithic burial chamber the walk continues along the Glyme Valley past two medieval villages. The return route is via Church Enstone and through Heythrop Park with its landscaped lakes and majestic, mature trees. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Just off the • SP378237 Map square F3

Leader: Anne Martis



Lower Slaughter, Cotswolds



St Cyr Church, Stonehouse



Painswick, Gloucester



Radcliffe Camera, Oxford

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