

JULY – DECEMBER 2018 • ISSUE 39

# COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

**FREE**

WALKS & EVENTS GUIDE INSIDE!

**Hare, There,  
Everywhere...**

**Starry,  
starry night**

**The Cotswolds –  
A National Park?**

**All-action Cotswolds**

**Cotswolds  
events 2018**

**Tradition and  
wonder in the  
Cotswolds**





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# Welcome

Hopefully by summer, we'll have all optimistically put our waterproofs and thermals to the back of the wardrobe, and instead dug out the picnic blankets and shorts...

With expectations of sunshine and warm weather, we've filled the July to December issue of the Cotswold Lion with a wealth of things to keep you out and about, and making the most of Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. From lively music festivals, to wild days racing bikes across off road tracks, to hunting down hares, or trying out traditional crafts: you won't be short of inspiration for different ways to explore and discover the region.

The fun doesn't hibernate in the autumn and winter, either! Spooky goings-on in October, followed by glorious outdoor illuminations, Christmas markets, marathons, and duck races will all guarantee a whole year of entertainment, education, and amusement across the AONB. And with a bit of luck, some winter sunshine too!

However the Cotswolds charms you – whether you live here, or are visiting – we hope you find the next six months inspiring and energising.

**Alana Hopkins, Editor**

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## Top stories from the Cotswolds Conservation Board

### Business is booming thanks to LEADER programme

The Cotswolds LEADER programme of rural grants has so far supported 24 projects, approving funding worth £656,862, with a large variety of projects in the pipeline. The aim is for all funding to be fully allocated by March 2019 when the programme draws to a close.

#### Recent highlights have included:

The Farm Camp, Bradford-on-Avon received a £16,074 grant towards a new roundhouse activity space and a facilities structure. Tim Bowles, Director says: "The funding will help us upgrade our facilities to a much higher quality to attract different markets and fill the gaps in our season. The roundhouse build is already gaining attention from yoga enthusiasts and we look forward to having an inspiring activity space in the camp that will shelter guests from the British climate, when needed. The new facility block comprising a new kitchen and long-drop compost loos and showers will improve our staff and guest experiences."



Cotswold Farmers have also benefited from the grant scheme, which supports new technology on farms to improve productivity. The grants have been diverse, and include a robotic milking system, slurry management machinery, and livestock handling equipment.

*For more information on Cotswolds LEADER programme visit [cotswoldsleader.org.uk](http://cotswoldsleader.org.uk)*



### Cotswolds AONB Volunteer Wardens expand education and schools programme

In summer 2018, our Volunteer Wardens were given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Work – celebrating their dedication to this beautiful region. They are also working with an education theme for their 50th anniversary, and reaching the next generation to care for the Cotswolds. The Wardens have been working in education for over 10 years, but this year the Cotswolds Conservation Board has funded a free activities folder with more fantastic opportunities than ever for schools to access the Cotswolds. In addition, the Board is working with an artist to go into 10 schools or groups to produce artwork based on the pupils' experiences of the Cotswolds.

*Find out more: [cotswoldsaoib.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaoib.org.uk) / [Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaoib.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaoib.org.uk)*

### Caring for the Cotswolds

Caring for the Cotswolds is a simple way to engage visitors in actively supporting conservation in the Cotswolds. This scheme encourages tourism businesses to invite visitors to voluntarily donate a small amount of money via their bills or fees. These donations help raise essential funds to support a range of environmental and landscape projects across the region, delivered by the many committed and enthusiastic organisations that work hard to keep the Cotswolds special. So far, almost 20 business have helped raise just over £21.5k – which has funded 12 fantastic projects.

*Find out more at [cotswoldsaoib.org.uk/looking-after](http://cotswoldsaoib.org.uk/looking-after)*

For more news from the Cotswolds Conservation Board visit [cotswoldsaoib.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaoib.org.uk)



# The Cotswolds – A National Park?

World-famous as the embodiment of quintessential English countryside, the Cotswolds has been an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) since 1966, to be conserved and enhanced for future generations to enjoy. Siân Ellis asks: does it now merit designation as a National Park?

That's the burning question following the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, which announced a review that could include adding to the 15 existing National Parks.

At 790sq miles (2,038sq km), the Cotswolds is larger than any current National Park except for the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales. Located within reach of many urban centres, it also receives more visits than many National Parks.

## Great natural beauty

So how does the Cotswolds measure up to National Park criteria, firstly that it can claim "great natural beauty"?

Wander the breathtaking escarpment, high wolds with their big skies or wildflower-rich grasslands; browse Cotswold stone streetscapes built by the wealth of the medieval wool trade: nowhere else do landscape, built heritage, and history weave together in such organic harmony, all sprung from the limestone beneath your feet.

Cotswold artist and tutor Alexandra Woods comments: "As an artist, whose work is strongly influenced by the Cotswolds, [I think] the award of National Park status would give even greater recognition to this remarkable countryside, thereby maintaining its unique visual appeal and encouraging sympathetic management of the landscape for future generations."

## Open-air recreation

A second key question is: does the Cotswolds meet the National Park criterion of "high value for open-air recreation"?

Walkers, cyclists and horse riders are spoilt for choice thanks to more than 3,000 miles (4,830km) of public rights of way, while those who prefer bird's eye views can find launch sites and airy ridges aplenty for hot air ballooning and gliding.

"The long-distance Cotswold Way from Chipping Campden to Bath is a great asset," says Jill Coombe, co-owner of Three Ways House Hotel, Mickleton, while Andrew Hutchings, owner of Cotswold Cycles, Moreton-in-Marsh, says, "As recent visits from the Tour of Britain prove, the Cotswolds is up there when it comes to 'must visit' cycling locations in the British Isles. With amazing breadth and depth of terrain, any cyclist can find a route that suits – be it a honeypot pootle around golden limestone villages, or tackling hilly escarpments."

Size, location, beauty and recreational opportunity: all make the case for National Park status.

## Change is constant

"That the Cotswolds is special I have no doubt at all... farming and land management has shaped how our landscape looks over centuries. But there are inevitably more pressures facing the Cotswolds, and change is constant." Henry Robinson, Cotswold farmer and non-executive board member of Natural England. The Cotswolds... watch this space! **SE**

## Should the Cotswolds become a National Park?

Please let us know your views,  
email [nationalpark@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:nationalpark@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

**Next issue:** Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, which gave birth to AONBs, National Parks and National Trails, we look further at what National Park designation means.



# Stare, There,



## Have you spotted any yet? Cotswolds Hare Trail Director, Florence Beetlestone, tells us more about this year's trail.

Those hares are out and about this summer – all across the Cotswolds. You may spot the more obvious ones in the centres of towns, but what about those hiding quietly in the corners of villages? Some of these hares are really tricky, changing their size from five feet tall, to smaller than nine inches in height. You might find them singly, or in a drove. Wherever you roam across the Cotswolds you will never be far from a hare.

The fantastically decorated hare sculptures are part of the Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail, and are helping to raise awareness of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and keeping this beautiful area special. With the theme of “Living Landscapes of the Cotswolds” you’ll find a wonderful range of images depicted on the hares. Now in its fifth year, this award-winning trail has gone

from strength to strength. It promotes public art and community involvement, supports tourism, and promotes businesses – large and small – in the Cotswolds region. The trail relies on the generous support of its Business Sponsors, who all delight in having their business enhanced through this unique marketing opportunity. From May to September their businesses are highly visible, out there with the hares on the trail.

There’s even a hare challenge to join in with: record all 130 hares, springers, and leverets in the trail passport, take a selfie, and you’ll be able to enter the prize draw to win your very own five foot blank hare to paint.

Following this fun, free, family friendly trail is a great way to enjoy and explore





# Everywhere...



the Cotswolds area, but what you might not know is that this year the trail is helping the Cotswolds AONB. The hares will be sold via an online auction starting on the 21st September. Any net profits from the auction will be donated to two Cotswolds AONB projects – Caring for the Cotswolds and Glorious Grasslands. As you can imagine, the hares are particularly keen that their natural habitats get your support! **FB**

*Find out more –*  
[cotswoldsharetrail.org.uk](http://cotswoldsharetrail.org.uk)

## Mad March Hare

Back in the spring, Cotswolds Distillery enthusiastically created an exclusive (and delicious) cocktail for the Hare Trail showcase event. Hop into the swing of the trail by trying out the recipe at home! Shake the ingredients, serve over ice, and garnish with mint or lime zest. Great fun to serve from a teapot into cups and saucers...

- 45ml Cotswolds Hedge Row Gin
- 15ml Cotswolds Apple Spirit/ Cotswolvados
- 30ml Cranberry Juice
- 50ml Pressed Apple Juice
- 3x dashes of Tea pot Bitters





# ALL-ACTION COTSWOLDS

The Cotswolds is a peaceful and tranquil haven, right? Not necessarily! From mountain biking to axe throwing, Damian Hall finds out how to get the adrenaline pumping, or at least have a day of adventure in the AONB.

The collection of steep, stout hills in the Cotswolds makes it a mountain biking Valhalla. However, though bombing downhill is a blast, the problem is, you have to go up before you go down, right? Not always. At Flyup's 417 Bike Park ([flyupdownhill.co.uk](http://flyupdownhill.co.uk)), just outside Cheltenham, they offer an uplift service. So rather than spend all that time puffing and panting up a torturous hill, you can catch a lift to the top and get right on with the good stuff. All the sweet bits, without the sweaty bits. Flyup cater for all abilities, offer bike hire, coaching, indoor and outdoor jumps, a double slalom and the UK's 1st Velosolutions Pump Track.

If you prefer to stay on foot for your exercise, the 102-mile Cotswold Way National Trail ([nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way)) is a stunning option for exploring the region's most dramatic scenery. It hugs the limestone escarpment all the way from Chipping Campden to Bath, offering huge views across the vales and River Severn to the moody mountains of Wales, plus numerous hill forts, and friendly villages for lunch stops in cafes and pubs. Directions for excellent circular day walks are available on the National Trail website. There are many walking trails and horse trekking routes criss-crossing the entire AONB ([cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)), and Dursley Walking Festival runs from the 4th – 7th October this

year ([dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk](http://dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk)).

For people feeling a little – okay, a lot – more adventurous, you might consider trying to run the Cotswold Way (you could also run it over four days; [100milerun.com](http://100milerun.com)), as part of Cotswold Running's ([cotswoldrunning.co.uk](http://cotswoldrunning.co.uk)) Cotswold Way Century race in September. Most people might find the group's shorter trail races a little more appealing however, including the Naunton Nearly 19, the Winchcombe Cross, and the Broadway Marathon and Half Marathon. They're friendly, well organised races that help you get fit as you see some of the Cotswold's most picturesque places, all while knocking back a few guilt-free jelly babies.

For full body exercise with a difference, perhaps visit Nailsworth's popular School of Larks ([schooloflarks.co.uk](http://schooloflarks.co.uk)). They offer classes, workshops, training, and even parties, in circus skills. With all ages catered for, their expertise includes static trapeze, aerial silks, hoop, rope, unicycle, juggling (diabolo, scarves, devilsticks, poi) balancing, hula hooping, yoga and floor partner acrobatics (acrobalance). Sounds pleasingly dizzying.

Want to try out traditional skills but with your feet planted firmly on terra firma? Maybe archery would hit bullseye for you? Or the always-





Image courtesy of Cotswold Running.



useful skill of axe throwing? Off Limits (offlimits.co.uk) at Farncombe Estate near Broadway, offers axe throwing, archery, even crossbow archery lessons, as well as 'ultimate terrain experiences' (which involve buggy rides) and the hilarious-looking segway safaris.

If, alternatively, you want to play at being Spider-Man, Far Peak (wildrockclimbing.co.uk) climbing centre, near Northleach, offers indoor climbing and bouldering for the ages of four upwards and all abilities, as well as outdoor climbing on a 15-metre tower. Far Peak can provide training, cater for parties and organise outdoor trips to various locations in the rock-climbing heartlands of the Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean.

For something a bit more combative, family-run Cotswold Paintballing (cotswoldpaintballing.com) have 300 acres of beautiful Cotswold woodlands, near Bourton-on-the-Hill, which you're invited to run around in pretending you're some kind of action hero.

"We offer a fantastic day out for all types of parties," they say, "or just to simply de-stress by spraying some friends with countless paintballs. Who wouldn't want to splat some paint on their friend?" Exactly.

Perhaps the ultimate, or at least the most famous, Cotswolds adventure takes place at Cooper's Hill, near Brockworth. The world-renowned, madcap cheese rolling (cheese-rolling.co.uk) occurs every spring bank holiday, where several hundred people cartwheel down an extremely steep hill in hot pursuit of a big round local cheese. Even if you prefer your bones to remain intact, it's still quite a spectacle to witness. A Cotswolds classic.

### And, these guys are only just over the AONB border!

To get a bit of history with your micro-adventure, consider exploring Gloucester's historic docks from sea level while sampling the world's fastest growing watersport: Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP). "It's fun and easy to pick up" insist the good folk at SUP Gloucester (supgloucester.co.uk), "most people are standing up within minutes of hopping on". It's suited to all ages and they provide all the equipment, including wetsuits if required. The company take clients up close to historical Tall Ships, down the canal, along the beautiful River Severn, and can organise bespoke adventures, too.

One of the last things you might expect to find in the Cotswolds is husky sled dog adventures. But they're here.

Just outside Tewkesbury, Arctic Quest (arcticquest.co.uk) offers the rare experience. "It's not a 'sit on, look at the scenery' type of ride" they promise. Rather "you will get fully involved with the pack, learn all about these incredible athletes, with plenty of 'hands on' time with the team. We will train you to take charge of the racing rig with huskies as your lead." Arctic Quest are the only company in the UK offering the chance to run the dogs this way. They have fast and steady dogs to suit all levels of rider. After your ride stay overnight in a traditional Sami Tipi or Herder's Hut, reliving your day around the campfire. **DH**



Image courtesy of Arctic Quest. Roz Greening Photography.

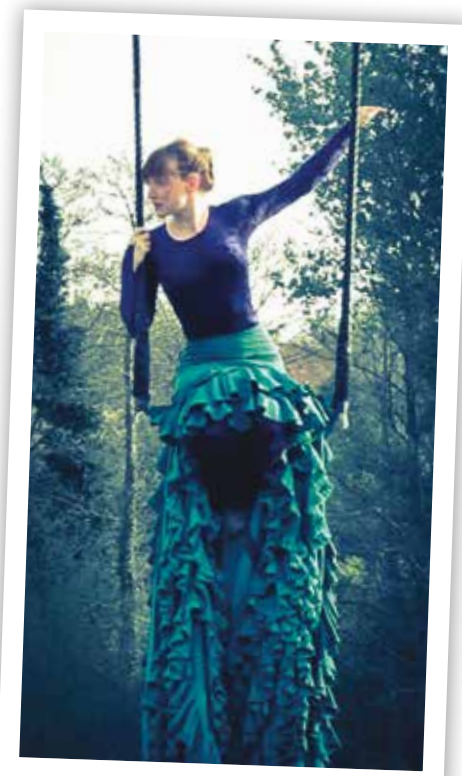


Image courtesy of School of Larks

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE COTSWOLDS



Image courtesy of The Barn Theatre

Acrobats, jugglers and a troupe of dachshunds will bring magic to village greens across the Cotswolds this summer, Monteverdi will reverberate around our glorious rolling hills, and a Rajasthani Brass Band will provide a liberal dash of Bollywood colour to Chipping Norton. And that's not all – performing arts are flourishing in the Cotswolds AONB: Andrea Mynard shares some vibrant highlights on offer this year.

At the start of summer, the newly painted Giffords Circus wagons start to roll, touring the Cotswolds and making us all want to run away with them. Who wouldn't be enchanted by their unique wonderland of rousing live music, elaborate costumes, physical comedy, awe-inspiring acrobatics, and festoon-lit magic? The 2018 show, *My Beautiful Circus*, celebrates 250 years of circus, and features plenty of crowd-pleasing favourites, including equestrian performers, Tweedy the Clown, the actress and singer Nancy Trotter Landry, and Diana Vediashkina and her troupe of dachshunds. As Tessa Carnegie from Giffords comments:

“The Cotswolds is a hive of creative activity, crammed with raw talent from artists, performers, singers, comedians, musicians, chefs. We love being able to work with local individuals and keeping the buzz within the stunning Five Valleys.”

Later in the year, another popular family event in the Cotswolds is the much-loved pantomime at The Theatre in Chipping Norton. Key to its annual programming, the panto is famously

well-reviewed – and attracts audiences from far and wide. The Theatre has a loyal following and an entertainment offering which blends the traditional and innovative. The 2018 programme of visiting performances illustrates this perfectly - there's something for everyone, from *Paper Moon* (an interactive theatre experience in which

babies, toddlers and parents explore a crinkly, scrunchy paper world and take a journey across a paper sea together), to a spectacularly bejewelled visit from the talented Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band: be warned, the uplifting music, nomadic snake-charmers and talented musicians will encourage dancing!

Also at The Theatre, *The Road Behind*, *The Road Ahead*, in September, will explore the history of suffrage and what it means to us today. Thought-provoking live performances will



Image courtesy of Longbrough Festival Opera



Image courtesy of Rajasthan Heritage Brass Band



partner a photographic exhibition, sound-art, and music, with contributions from a broad range of contemporary Cotswold women including teenagers, retirees, children, working mums, and students.

Equally inspiring in its interaction with the Cotswold community is Longborough Festival Opera. During the summer months, LFO offers country house opera that encourages and showcases new talent, in a 500-seat auditorium designed especially to create an intimate and emotional operatic atmosphere. All in a spectacular Cotswolds setting that invites leisurely pre-performance picnicking and champagne sipping. What makes LFO special though, is that this privately funded opera company is also working hard to make opera more widely accessible – through school workshops, work experience programmes, young artist programmes, and reduced price tickets for younger audiences.

Meanwhile, over in Cirencester, young people are also invited to get involved with and enjoy performances at the recently opened Barn Theatre. Having enjoyed enthusiastic 4-star reviews for their re-imagining of *The Secret Garden*, the theatre's programme rolls on towards December with a schools edition of *Les Miserables*, and *Aladdin Jr*, an amateur production by The Barn Academy (performers aged 7-13 who



Image courtesy of Gifford Circus

took part in the Barn Academy Summer Project). *Aladdin Jr* will feature all the songs from the classic award-winning film, including 'Friend Like Me', 'A Whole New World' and 'Arabian Nights'. Barn Theatre is already attracting talent to the Cotswolds. Artistic Director Iwan Lewis says of moving to the Cotswolds and Cirencester that he "has been welcomed with open arms. The sense of community

and pride in this area is incredible. The people are passionate about their town and passionate about its history and culture. It has been the perfect environment to build a new theatre". Innovative and exciting, the Barn Theatre is on the site of what was once a WWII Nissen Hut community and youth theatre. The 200-seat space has ambitious plans to bring a touch of the West End to the Cotswolds, while offering high quality educational and outreach programmes.

The time is now for getting out and enjoying the rich cultural landscape of the Cotswolds AONB! **AM**



Image courtesy of Longborough Festival Opera

### Further details

[giffordscircus.com](http://giffordscircus.com)  
[chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com)  
[lfo.org.uk](http://lfo.org.uk)  
[barntheatre.org.uk](http://barntheatre.org.uk)



# CLOSE TO THE HEDGE

**“Hedgelaying is one of those skills that, when you see it, you are just wowed by it,” Claire Maymon says. “Environmentally, you know it is right: you can see by the re-growth of the laid hedge and you can see by the birds and animals that take to the hedge.”**

Broadway-based Claire has been practising the craft for seven years. “I learnt from an amazing hedgelayer called John Savings whom I met at a country fair in Cirencester Park,” she says.

“One of the first hedges I laid, about six years ago for a local farmer, was a monster hedge with scrubby old elm,” she recalls. “The farmer was thrilled and I go past that hedge as often as I can to look at it!” More recently Claire has worked for the National Trust on hedges at Snowhill Manor.

Hedges have been part of our scenery since the Bronze Age, however the majority today derive from the Enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Modern concerns over loss of hedgerows are largely caused by changed farming practices, labour costs and lack of skills.

Yet the National Hedgelaying Society (NHLS), for which Claire is media officer, reports recently increasing numbers of professional hedgelayers: around 120 on its nationwide register (some 13 in the Cotswolds); numbers that can be doubled to include non-members, and multiplied further by many volunteers. Incidentally, another Cotswold resident and competent hedgelayer (also taught by John Savings) is patron of the NHLS – HRH Prince Charles.

“You get wet, hot, and exhausted hedgelaying but



Image courtesy of Claire Maymon



there is a decent living to be made, there is enough demand,” Claire says, “Many hedgelayers do hedging in winter and in summer they do dry stone walling. When birds start nesting you need to leave hedges well alone.”

Claire, who combines hedgelaying with her day job in the family business (selling and stringing pearls), believes people have woken up to the merits of well-laid hedges, “not just as stock-proof boundaries but also as wildlife corridors. Laid hedges are very dense and very secure for small birds to find safety, nest and breed. Hedges help to protect against soil erosion by wind and rain too.”

Unmanaged, a hedge will become a gappy line of trees. Laying, promoting re-growth from ground level, involves bending cut stems over at an angle and securing them with stakes, sometimes adding binders along the top, Claire explains.

**“Many hedgelayers do hedging in winter and in summer they do dry stone walling. When birds start nesting you need to leave hedges well alone.”**

“A well-laid hedge is okay, with just a little trimming, for 20 years and there are many regional styles. In the Cotswolds you mainly have Midland style, traditionally called a bullock hedge: there’s a clean face on the front of the hedge where the re-growth happens, and spiky brush on the back facing the livestock, making it difficult for them to put their heads over and eat the re-growth. There is also a binding on top, so that bullocks can’t lift or crash through the hedge.

“A sharp billhook, slasher and Yorkshire (billhook) are vital pieces of kit, and some people use axes and chainsaws,” Claire continues. “Different plants have different densities, some go down as smooth as silk but old thorn is like hitting concrete – there’s a lot of thorn in the Cotswolds.



“It is a rare day when I’m hedgelaying not to see a mouse, stoat or weasel. They say a robin is an old hedgelayer coming back to check your work, so if you have a little robin hopping about, you can take that as a good sign!

“No matter how wound-up I feel, if I go out and work on a hedge, it re-sets everything. Other people involved in hedgelaying have said they find it really therapeutic too; you become completely focused on what you are doing.”

Claire recently helped run a two-day course in hedgelaying with the Cotswolds Rural Skills team, for Year 10 pupils at Burford School, who laid over 300 metres of hedge. “It was great and they had such fun,” she says, adding that more activities like this are needed to inspire younger people to take up hedgelaying.

“It’s a fantastic craft and I think we do have the chance to get people engaged in it. I feel very positive about the future.” **SE**

### **Find out more**

Interested in learning hedgelaying? Cotswolds Rural Skills courses teach the Midland and Somerset styles of hedgelaying. And don’t miss the annual hedgelaying championship in November. Check dates at [cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk](http://cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk) See also the National Hedgelaying Society website for information on hedgelayers, events and grants available for training, [hedgelaying.org.uk](http://hedgelaying.org.uk)

# CRAFTS ALIVE

## A celebration of new and traditional craftsmanship in the Cotswolds – Alana Hopkins uncovers what this new festival is all about.

Liz Lippiatt is dressed for work...in bright yellow rubber gloves and a striped pinny. Her clothes carry the marks left by the colourful dyes she uses in her work as a textile designer. Liz is famous for her luxurious fabrics used in fashion and interiors. From her studio in Stroud, she designs, dyes, and screen prints fabrics which are vivid explosions of colour, or subtle celebrations of the rural inspiration found in the surrounding Cotswolds landscape.

This year, Liz is devoting her time to another big project. A new festival, Crafts Alive, hosted at the unique Rodmarton Manor. Crafts Alive will feature work by members of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen, a charitable membership organisation founded in 1933, and dedicated to promoting contemporary designer-makers. The organisation developed out of the vibrant Arts and Crafts Movement in the Cotswolds at the turn of the 20th century.

Historically, artists and craftsmen including William Morris, Charles Robert Ashbee, Ernest Gimson, and the brothers Ernest and Sidney Barnsley were all drawn to the Cotswolds by its rich craft traditions and by the charming landscape. Today, those qualities are kept going by the wealth of craftspeople still settling and working in the area.

Mary Greensted, Chair of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen, describes how “the Guild’s members are all professional makers, and at Crafts Alive, they will be showing work from across their many disciplines including ceramics, glass, woodwork, textiles and jewellery, leatherwork, and furniture making. We’ve chosen Rodmarton Manor as the venue because it was built and developed by Ernest Barnsley

for the Biddulph family – and is one of the last country houses to be built and furnished entirely in the Arts and Crafts Movement style, with everything done by hand by local craftsmen using local materials. Crafts Alive will centre around Rodmarton’s original vision – promoting fine craftsmanship, encouraging participation, and bringing together communities.”

Leading UK craft organisation, the Crafts Council, describe on their website how the strength of craft lies in its use of traditional and contemporary techniques, ideas and materials to make extraordinary new work. They believe that “the future of craft lies in nurturing talent” – and that it’s important to

**“the Guild’s members are all professional makers, and at Crafts Alive, they will be showing work from across their many disciplines including ceramics, glass, woodwork, textiles and jewellery, leatherwork, and furniture making.”**

provide access to craft for children and young people throughout their education.

In this way, Crafts Alive promises to be an exciting exploration of these values – many of the designer-makers who belong to The Guild are using traditional craft techniques, some of which may not have changed since the Arts and Crafts Movement and before. How they are using those techniques though is often surprising. Innovation and imagination are central to much of the work produced. Take the domestic pottery from Winchcombe pottery – still produced in the same way it has been for years, but fully safe for use in today’s microwaves and dishwashers. Or, the jewellery of Moira Buckley – who uses many traditional techniques, but infuses

her work with intriguing and sometimes challenging narratives.

Liz Lippiatt has been involved in planning Crafts Alive from the beginning, saying she “couldn’t wait to start exploring all the different ways the wealth of creativity in the area could be showcased and, just as importantly, finding imaginative ways of encouraging visitors to join in and to be amazed at the skills we nurture today”. The festival will be as much about education and participation as it will be an exhibition. The Guild has over 70 members, and well over half of them will be involved in offering a full programme of events and activities to allow visitors to enjoy everything Rodmarton Manor and

the current creative movement in the Cotswolds have to offer. There are planned daily craft demonstrations; three full days of craft workshops for adults and weekend workshops for children; puppet shows, tours, trails, and treasure hunts around the house

and grounds; talks by expert designer-makers; physical theatre performances inspired by the ‘spirit of Rodmarton’; and ‘Rodmarton Re-imagined’ – a unique reinterpretation of the manors bedrooms at the as they are redecorated using new work by contemporary makers.

This week-long celebration of the creative spirit of the Cotswolds is one of the largest and most diverse crafts events in the region for a long time, and, as Liz says, it is “a great moment for the Guild and for Rodmarton Manor to involve visitors in their shared Arts and Crafts story. With fresh ideas and new ways of showing contemporary craft work, we are expecting to appeal to wide audiences attracted by the beautiful gardens and many of the imaginative events we are offering”. **AH**





**Further interest**

- [guildcrafts.org.uk](http://guildcrafts.org.uk)
- [rodmarton-manor.co.uk](http://rodmarton-manor.co.uk)
- [sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor](http://sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor)
- [courtbarn.org.uk](http://courtbarn.org.uk)
- [broadwaymuseum.org.uk](http://broadwaymuseum.org.uk)
- [newbreweryarts.org.uk](http://newbreweryarts.org.uk)
- [museuminthepark.org.uk](http://museuminthepark.org.uk)
- [thewilson.org.uk](http://thewilson.org.uk)
- [prema.org.uk](http://prema.org.uk)
- [rmt.org](http://rmt.org)







### 11 2000 Trees Festival, Withington

12 – 14 July

[twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk](http://twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk)

The award-winning 2000trees festival is a 3 day extravaganza set in the beautiful Cotswold Hills.



### 15 Bursary Award 'pop up' exhibition

14 – 22 July

[courtbarbarn.org.uk](http://courtbarbarn.org.uk)

The Court Barn Bursary is awarded to students from Chipping Campden School who wish to pursue a career in craft and design.



### 19 Cotswolds Beer Festival, Postlip, Winchcombe

20 – 22 July

[postlip.camra.org.uk](http://postlip.camra.org.uk)

A relaxed family summer beer festival, with music, camping, and of course – plenty of beer to go around!



### 24 Moreton-in-Marsh Show

1 September

[moretonshow.co.uk](http://moretonshow.co.uk)

Promising 'the countryside in a day', this is one of the country's biggest one day agricultural shows.



### 16 Autumn Photography Workshops, Batsford Arboretum

24 October – 1 November

[alanranger.com/batsford](http://alanranger.com/batsford)

Learn how to capture the glorious autumn colours with acclaimed photographer, Alan Ranger. Beginners and experienced photographers welcome.



### 20 The Big Festival, Kingham

24 – 26 August

[thebigfestival.com](http://thebigfestival.com)

Alongside all the delicious food and drink you'd expect from Alex James and his crew, this year's musical treats will include Basement Jaxx and Paloma Faith.



### 25 Birdland Half Term Shriek Week, Bourton-on-the-Water

21 – 29 October

[birdland.co.uk](http://birdland.co.uk)

Discover myths and legends associated with the spookiest birds!



### 12 Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail Exhibition, The King's Head, Cirencester

16 – 21 September

### 13 Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail Online Auction

From 21 September

[cotswoldsharetrail.org.uk](http://cotswoldsharetrail.org.uk)

See all the beautiful hares, springers, and leverets together in the final exhibition of this year's Hare Trail – and then bid for your favourites online!



### 17 Northleach Steamshow

8 & 9 September

[northleachsteamshow.co.uk](http://northleachsteamshow.co.uk)

A traditional country steam show with steam engine demos, food stalls, music, and more.



### 21 Farming Demonstrations

February – November

[cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk](http://cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk)

Observe and learn about lambing, kidding, milking, and shearing at Adam Henson's farm park. Don't miss the special Pregnant Ewe Scanning event on 15 December!



### 26 Broadway Marathon & Half Marathon

18 November

[cotswoldrunning.co.uk](http://cotswoldrunning.co.uk)

Starting and finishing in scenic Broadway village, the route takes runners through picturesque villages, woodlands, and hills.



### 14 Crafts Alive, Rodmarton Manor, nr Cirencester

5 – 9 September

[guildcrafts.org.uk](http://guildcrafts.org.uk)

This new festival of craft, brought to Rodmarton Manor by The Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen, is an exciting opportunity to see and buy outstanding craftwork in a heritage Arts and Crafts Movement setting.



### 18 Cirencester Phoenix Festival

25 & 26 August

[phoenix-festival.co.uk](http://phoenix-festival.co.uk)

Two main stages, and over 40 acts, Phoenix is in its sixth year and still run by youth volunteers working with industry experts. A musical celebration of community – and everyone's welcome.



### 22 Spectacle of Light, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe

8 – 30 December

[sudeleycastle.co.uk](http://sudeleycastle.co.uk)

Stroll around a starlit Sudeley Castle and explore the stunning illuminated grounds, with its majestic trees and romantic ruins.



### 27 Countryfile Live, Bleinheim Palace

2 – 5 August

[countryfilelive.com](http://countryfilelive.com)

Explore family fun, food and drink, amazing birds and beasts, shopping, and maybe even bump into the stars of the show!



### 23 Bibury Duck Races

26 December

[biburyvillage.uk/duckrace](http://biburyvillage.uk/duckrace)

Brave the Boxing Day elements and watch thousands of ducks in a charity race down the River Coln!



### 28 Wilderness Festival, Cornbury Park

2 – 5 August

[wildernessfestival.com](http://wildernessfestival.com)

Music, art, literature, wellness, feasting, peace and love... boutique festival Wilderness has it all!

# STARRY, STARRY NIGHT

Siân Ellis discovers more about enjoying – and safeguarding – our Dark Skies.

The night sky has been called nature's grandest free show and as you stand amid the Neolithic and Bronze Age Rollright Stones on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border, gazing up at planets and twinkling constellations, you certainly feel a thrilling sense of awe.

"It's surreal to think that the people who set up the Rollright Stones thousands of years ago were looking on the same star patterns that we are looking on today," says Robin Smitten, The Rollright Trust's astronomer in residence and chairman of Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group (CNAAG) who have their main observing base at the Stones.

The Rollright Stones have Dark Sky Discovery Site status – part of a network of accessible places from which you can get great views of stars – and Robin encourages visitors to "count just how many stars you can see in the big 'square' of the constellation of Pegasus, the winged horse: a gauge of the quality of your night sky."

Stargazing is fun, can be done with the naked eye, and need not require costly equipment – a pair of 10 x 50 binoculars is a decent start point, Robin says. There are good observing sites around the Cotswolds (including Cleeve Hill and Aunt Phoebe's Recreation Ground, Long Compton – another Dark Sky Discovery Site) with apps and online star maps readily available to help you orient yourself. Astronomical groups from Bath to CNAAG also welcome visitors to join them.

While crisp, dark autumn and winter nights are best for stargazing, summer has its highlights too, Robin says. You can spot Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus, and on 27th July this year there's a total lunar eclipse, when the moon passes through the centre of the Earth's shadow. The Perseids meteor shower, peaking around 12th – 13th August, also promises to be "a real cracker".

Aside from further meteor showers, autumn is a wonderful time to enjoy the arc of the Milky Way with its millions upon millions of stars, and the winter moon is a never-ending fascination as it slips through its phases.


"You can see so much detail of craters and damage to the moon's surface which, having no atmosphere to protect it as the Earth does, has been bashed and smashed through 4.5 billion years by debris that flies around in our solar system," Robin says.

## Protecting our Dark Skies

Stargazing is undoubtedly magical but increasingly we are losing our dark skies to light pollution from urban centres, poorly aimed streetlights, sports stadium floodlights and the like. Research repeatedly shows how light pollution adversely affects human health, disrupting sleep and melatonin production, also interrupting the hard-wired natural rhythms of wildlife.

Organisations like the Commission for Dark Skies and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) with its Night Blight website are working hard to draw attention to the problem; offering solutions ranging from better designed lighting to switch-offs (also saving money and reducing carbon footprint).





In the Cotswolds where ‘tranquillity’ and ‘dark sky areas’ are identified as special qualities of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, there is growing support for the idea of the heart of the Cotswolds becoming a Dark Sky Park, benefiting the environment and ‘away-from-it-all’ tourism.

Many efforts are being made to protect our dark skies too. George Lambrick, chairman and a trustee of The Rollright Trust, has been working with CPRE Oxon, West Oxfordshire District Council and the Cotswolds Conservation Board to ensure West Oxfordshire Local Plan includes dark skies safeguards.

“We need more proactive policies, with some degree of proper monitoring, to reduce existing light pollution as well as control pollution from new developments,” George says.

Meanwhile the Starlit Skies Alliance has brought together residents, wildlife, and stargazing groups to encourage best practice and improvement in artificial lighting in Bath and its surrounding areas.

“Bath Astronomers have begun a series of Looking Up events for the local community, to build awareness of the wonders of the night sky,” says the Alliance’s Tom Harper MBE. “We’ve also made an online film that includes five basic key points people can follow, from good design to sensible management of external lighting. Light pollution can be so easily fixed if people stop and think.”

No doubt William Herschel, who discovered the planet Uranus as he peered into the dark night sky from his house in Bath in 1781, would approve. **SE**

#### **For further information:**

Dark Sky Discovery,  
[darkskydiscovery.org.uk](http://darkskydiscovery.org.uk)

The Commission for Dark Skies,  
[britastro.org/dark-skies](http://britastro.org/dark-skies)

CPRE Night Blight,  
[nightblight.cpre.org.uk](http://nightblight.cpre.org.uk)

Starlit Skies,  
[starlitskies.org.uk](http://starlitskies.org.uk)

Bath Astronomers,  
[bathastronomers.co.uk](http://bathastronomers.co.uk)

CNAAG, [cnaag.com](http://cnaag.com)

Cotswold Astronomical Society,  
[cotswoldas.org.uk](http://cotswoldas.org.uk)

Wiltshire Astronomical Society,  
[wasnet.org.uk](http://wasnet.org.uk)

Photograph: Ben Hirst

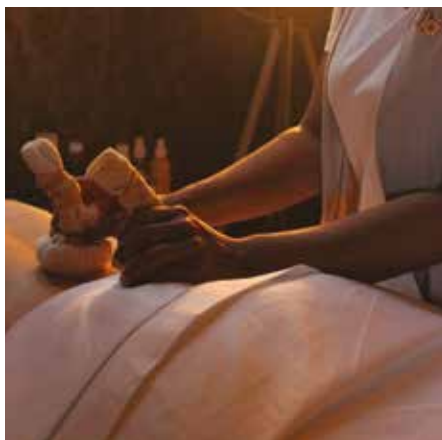
**“It’s surreal to think that the people who set up the Rollright Stones thousands of years ago were looking on the same star patterns that we are looking on today.”**



# Turn Up, Tune In, Chill Out

New spas are popping up all over the Cotswolds. Denise Leicester, founder of ila spa Cotswolds, talks to Alana Hopkins about her mission to change the way we think about relaxation, self-care, and rejuvenation.





"I'd like this place to be a disruptor, to shake up the spa industry!" says Denise Leicester of the newest development of her ila brand, "we're creating an intimate, personalised experience here – the opposite to the feeling of being on a 'treatment conveyor belt' that you can get at lots of other spas."

As I step out of the car at ila spa Cotswolds, newly opened near Charlbury, there is a sweet perfume of jasmine and orange blossom on the breeze – coming from the production barn where all ila's products are hand blended – and before I even step foot in a treatment room, I'm beginning to feel calmer.

Denise founded ila in 2005. A trained nurse, aromatherapist, and yoga teacher, her vision was to create a range of highly potent products, which channelled the raw remedial power of nature, using plants, flowers, and herbs – proving that results-driven products and spa treatments can go hand-in-hand with high standards of natural and ethical integrity. ila is 'redefining beauty' – offering products and treatments which nurture the skin and the soul – supporting the old adage that beauty is more than skin deep.

Fast forward to 2018, and ila spas can be found all around the world. The range now offers over 40 different products, and a new line, Ilapothecary, aimed at a younger market, launched late last year. The opening of the



Cotswolds day spa feels like a natural progression. Denise, who has lived in the area for many years, says, "I love the Cotswolds, so it makes sense for us to open up our headquarters and include a day spa. Nature, and being in nature as we are here, is very restorative. One of the things I love the most about the Cotswolds is experiencing the seasonal shifts here – you can really feel how the seasons change the landscape – and our visitors will be able to benefit from that too."

Denise, who is the beating heart of ila, created all the product recipes and formulations, and developed all the massage treatments herself. She is passionate about the integrity and intentions of ila – all her products are organic, with ingredients sourced ethically and sustainably from the Amazon, Bhutan, Morocco, India, Tibet, and more locally. Honey, flower essences, and dried flower ingredients have all been sourced on ila's doorstep in the Cotswolds. The water at ila is drawn from the spring on site – which Denise points out makes it a spa in the "truest sense".

The spa's location has inspired everything here – from the colours on the walls, to the ingredients, to the way the peace and tranquillity of the surrounding fields and meadows is brought into the barns and offices. Denise and her team are creating a retreat – where people can genuinely



step back and recharge. Denise talks of how the holistic treatments help people to "associate rather than disconnect with themselves" – something she is hoping to encourage in the future with product making and culinary workshops. She hopes by learning how products are made, visitors will become more aware of the importance of organic, natural skin care and nutrition.

By the time I leave ila, I have experienced a signature Kundalini Back Experience, which features ila Kundalini oil blend, herbal poultices using Himalayan salt, crushed marigold, and crushed lavender; a unique sound healing session (delivered by Denise who sings and uses a crystal singing bowl); a foot treatment using more of the Himalayan salt; and I've tried Kombucha for the first time. As I climb back in the car, I'm feeling lighter, relaxed, contented.

It's been a fascinating and very positive visit to ila – and quite unlike any spa I've been to before. **AH**

For local ila spa treatments and products in and around the Cotswolds:

ila-spa.com  
ellenboroughpark.com  
nichefaceandbody.co.uk  
lygonarmshotel.co.uk



# Cotswolds Guided Walks

July – December 2018

Discover the beautiful Cotswolds AONB with our free walks guide. Just turn up, no need to book!

Walking in the fresh air is a great way for you, your family and friends to explore the outstanding scenery of the Cotswolds – England’s walking and exploring capital.

Walks in this guide are led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and various Ramblers groups in and around the Cotswolds AONB (Ramblers walks are indicated with the logo right).

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.

Walk leaders will take all reasonable care and precautions but each walker is ultimately responsible for their own safety, and for determining their capability to complete the chosen walk. Unless otherwise stated, all walks are free of charge however donations to the Countryside Fund are very welcome on Cotswold Voluntary Warden walks.

## Discover more on Facebook!

Share your photos when out on a guided walk and find other walks by following [www.facebook.com/groups/cotswoldwardens](http://www.facebook.com/groups/cotswoldwardens)

## Want to find out more about the walks?

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens: [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)  
Look out for this symbol for anniversary warden walks!



Ramblers: [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1				WORCESTERSHIRE			Stratford upon Avon*	
2					Evesham		WARWICKSHIRE	
3				Bredon Hill	A44	Chipping Campden		Lower Brails
4				Winchcombe		A44		
5				Cleeve Hill		Moreton-in-Marsh		
6				Cheltenham		Stow-on-the-Wold		
7				Andoversford		Bourton on the Water		
8				Stow-on-the-Wold		Northleach		
9				Stroud		Burford		
10				Cirencester		Fairford		
11				Stanhurst		Lechlade		

**Key**

- Easy: Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level).
- Moderate: Includes some hills and some rough ground.
- Strenuous: May be rough underfoot, and ascents and descents may be steep.

## Walk the Cotswold Way

Join a group led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens walking 10 miles each month commencing May every year. To travel by coach from Winchcombe and walk from S to N, contact Linda on 01242 604155 or [waywalks@gmail.com](mailto:waywalks@gmail.com). Alternatively to travel by coach from near Bath and walk from N to S, contact John on 0117 9374561 or [woodlandsbarn@btinternet.com](mailto:woodlandsbarn@btinternet.com)

## Visiting the Countryside

Chalara dieback of ash trees has now been confirmed in the Cotswolds. It is one of a growing number of potentially damaging diseases affecting our landscape. So, when visiting the countryside, please 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.

## Walk the Cross Cotswolds Pathway

This 86 mile trail from Banbury to Bath passes through little known villages tucked away in quiet countryside. It is less strenuous than the Cotswold Way but not without its challenges. The walk was introduced as one of the Warden’s 50th Anniversary activities and has proved to be very popular. Coach pick up/drop off to be finalised but most likely Bourton on the Water.

In 2019 we are offering this walk again. It works out at roughly 10 miles in nine sections. For further details please contact Rosemary Wilson 01993 831810 [ros.wilson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ros.wilson@hotmail.co.uk)

## Tailor-Made Walks in the Cotswolds

As well as the guided walks programme, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens will consider requests from groups for tailor-made walks within the Cotswolds AONB, subject to the availability of walk leaders. For further walks information, or to make an enquiry visit [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)




## Walk The Diamond Way

Join a group led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens walking 8/10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Wednesday of every month from April to September. For further information and to reserve places contact Linda on 01242 604155 or [waywalks@gmail.com](mailto:waywalks@gmail.com)

# July

**Tuesday 3 July 10am**

## Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

**Wednesday 4 July 10am**

## There maybe orchids

 3 hours • 6 miles


A walk through woodlands of Haresfield, Pitchcombe and Stockend linked by views of the Painswick valley, Malvern hills and the river Severn. If we are lucky there will be the added pleasure of orchids. This is a re-arranged walk for the one cancelled in February due to snow.

Starting point: Cripplegate NT car park (Pay & Display or NT membership). SO 832 084. Map square: B5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams, & Tony Duffin

**Thursday 5 July 10am**

## Castlett Wood, Kineton, a brook and a river

 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles


A circular walk from Guiting Power which follows the Castlett brook through Castlett Wood before passing through the hamlet of Kineton. The walk briefly runs alongside the river Windrush before returning to Guiting Power.

Starting point: Guiting Power village hall car park (donations). SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

**Saturday 7 July 10am**

## National Meadows Day walk

 3 hours • 5 miles


We cross Open Access Hinton Hill with good Calcareous grassland, descend to Dyrham village, and then up Sands Hill via the Jubilee wood extended by the Wardens to enter White field in Dyrham Park (Wild flower meadow rich in Orchids). Down through trees to the house and back on the Cotswold Way.

Starting point: Wide Grass verge on Hinton Hill. ST 748 765. Map square: A9.

Leaders: Richard & Pauline Wilson

**Sunday 8 July 10am**

## History of Hornton and Surrounding Area

 5 hours • 11.5 miles


A walk exploring the history of this area famous for its ironstone. This walk was scheduled in March but cancelled due to snow.

Starting point: Shutford Parish Church OX15 6PG. SP 385 401. Map square: H3.

Leaders: Martin & Lucy Squires

**Friday 13 July 10am**

## Friday Foray – North Cerney circular via Perrott's Brook and Bagendon

 3 hours • 5 miles


A walk alongside the Churn towards Cirencester, returning via the village of Bagendon. Lunch available at the Bathurst Arms – book before the walk starts. The menu is available at <http://www.bathurstarms.co.uk/menus/Lunch-Menu-2018.pdf>.

Starting point: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney, GL7 7BZ. Parking is available but car sharing would be helpful to minimise the spaces needed. SP 019 079. Map square: D6.

Leaders: Brian Chapman, Sue Proctor & Helen Watkinson

**Friday 13 July 10:30am**

## Dyrham Park and Countryside [Battlefield]

 2.5 hours • 5 miles


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

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. Parking charge applies for non members of the National Trust. ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Bob Ford

**Friday 13 July 10am**

## Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'Round and About Selsley'

 3.5 hours • 5 miles


Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30, heading south to Woodchester, before taking in Boundary Court (NT), Dingle Wood and Selsley Common. Food available at the pub after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Bell Inn, Selsley. There is roadside parking near the inn; please park considerately. SO 835 039. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Jocelyn Dawson-Wood

**Saturday 14 July 10am**

## Fossebridge figure of 8 – two walks in one

 7 hours • 10.5 miles


A morning walk of 3 hours starting at Fossebridge Inn. Visiting Coln St Dennis, Saltway Barn, Oxpens Farm & Stowell Mill. Approx 13.45 we depart for a four mile more hilly walk around Chedworth. Snack lunch break at the Inn, or bring picnic. Please pre-order before walk. Menu on website.

Starting point: Fossebridge Inn GL54 3JS. Parking by permission. SP 079 111. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Alistair McKenzie & Tim Sugrue

**Tuesday 17 July 10am**

## Kingscote Woods and Valley Towards Horsley

 3 hours • 5 miles


An easy walk along the valley from Kingscote towards local woods. We contour around towards Horsley and return via Kingscote Wood and Binley Farm, taking in woodland and valley views. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Hunters hall Inn car park, Kingscote, by arrangement. ST 814 960. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Richard Coles

**Wednesday 18 July 10am**

## A country walk linking Bibury and Coln St Aldwyns

 3 hours • 6 miles


A longer but easy walk between the pretty villages of Coln St Aldwyns and Bibury through meadows and along the riverside.

Starting point: Crossroads in Coln St Aldwyns. Please park considerately in the village. SP 145 052. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Graham Saunders & Pippa Burgon

**Thursday 19 July 9:30am**

## Literary Connections

 6 hours • 11 miles


The third of an occasional series of walks focusing on the literary figures who have visited the Cotswolds. This walk will take in Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh, and Sezincote House. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Blockley Community Shop and Cafe. SP 164 349. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

**Sunday 22 July 10am**

## From a Down to a Combe across to a Stoke

 5 hours • 8.5 miles


A circular walk from Combe Down to Monkton Combe and Limpley Stoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Parking by permission of Wessex Water. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Wessex Water car park, Claverton Down Road, Bath. ST 778 630. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

**Monday 23 July 10am**

## A Local French Connection

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


Find out about Minchinhampton's historic links with Caen in France. From the town we walk through Gatcombe Woods to Longfords Mill before heading to Box village. We pass old stone caves below box before a final steep climb back onto the Common. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Minchinhampton Common car park to the rear of Minchinhampton church. (Off Bell Lane). SO 873 008. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Chris Gill & Brian Mundy

**Tuesday 24 July 4:30pm**

## Rollright Stones

 3 hours • 5 miles


An evening walk to the three ancient sites which make up the Rollright Stones. Stories abound but which ones are true? A classic walk in rolling countryside to be enjoyed in the cooler part of the day. The intention is to arrive back in Salford with time for an evening meal.

Starting point: Salford, carefully near the Village Hall. SP 288 279. Map square: G3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

**Thursday 26 July 10am**

## Tortoise, grasshopper, and who knows what else

 5 hours • 9.5 miles

Tortoise, grasshopper – and who knows what you will meet on this walk. It takes us through a number of woods, plantations, lanes and small paths around Guiting Power. Slopes and undulating terrain rather than hills. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village car park (donation). Can be busy but also on street parking within village. SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

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£25 a year to receive this magazine & special offers  
[cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/join](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/join)



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Friday 27 July 10am

## Lower Holy Brook Valley and Strawberry Banks

3 hours • 5 miles

After crossing the River Frome the walk explores two valleys either side of Oakridge, lower Holy Brook valley and after passing through Oakridge, Strawberry Banks and the ancient woodland of Three Groves Wood. Lunch available at The Crown after the walk.

Starting point: The Crown Frampton Mansell – use pub car park if having a drink/food there afterwards. SO 923 026. Map square: D6.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Phil Cluley & Tony Hester

Monday 30 July 10am

## Royal Flour and Thoroughbreds

4.5 hours • 8 miles

A flat walk from the historic wool town of Tetbury along part of the Monarch's Way through Long Newton and then returning via the scenic Estcourt Park. The walk has a few high stiles. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Tetbury free railway yard car park, Cirencester Road. ST 894 933. Map square: C7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

# August

Wednesday 1 August 10am

## Villages around Bisley

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A gentle walk over undulating country and down country lanes taking in some of the villages around Bisley. There are two short steep ascents.

Starting point: Bisley Cricket Club car park, Van der Breen Street (by permission of Bisley Parish Council). SO 905 060. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Friday 3 August 10am

## A Packhorse Round

4.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Following the Midford and Cam Brooks gives a delightful mix of valley and suburban paths centring on the most southerly Cotswold Combes. Please bring a packed lunch which will be near a 17th century inn newly re-opened as a community pub, "The Packhorse, South Stoke".

Starting point: Monkton Combe car park, opposite Church. (other parking on street or in the Wheelright Arms pub car park on asking permission). ST 377 162. Map square: A10.

Leaders: David le Lohe & Rob Morley

Saturday 4 August 9:30am

## Changing Tracks

5.5 hours • 10 miles

As we wander through the sometimes remote rural Cotswold landscape, we consider why an east-west railway was deemed necessary in Victorian England. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting point: Cold Aston village near pub, park with consideration in village. SP129 197. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Tuesday 7 August 10am

## Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Sid Gould, Russell Harding & Dave Wright

Wednesday 8 August 10am

## Kingscote to Lasborough

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. This Wardens' 50th anniversary walk starts at 10:30, descending to attractive Hay Bottom, before climbing up to Newington Bagpath church and its adjacent Norman motte. We visit Lasborough church on our return route.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn car park, Kingscote, by arrangement. Hunters Hall is on the A4135 approximately 2 miles west of the A46 from the Calcot cross roads. ST 814 960. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

Friday 10 August 10am

## Friday Foray – a Golden Opportunity for a High i-Spy Score

3 hours • 5.5 miles

Circular walk in the Golden Valley, including canal towpath and both Siccaridge Wood and Daneway Banks nature reserves. A couple of steep but short climbs. Lunch available at The Crown at end of walk.

Starting point: The Crown, Frampton Mansell. Parking at the pub by kind permission of the landlord. SO 923 027. Map square: D6.

Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Sue Proctor & Brian Chapman

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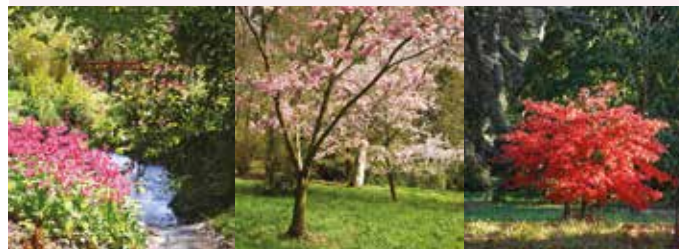
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Saturday 11 August 9:30am

## Charity Begins at Home

6 hours • 12 miles

A lengthy walk over downs, through the valleys and woods with a focus on a latter-day philanthropist. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Hawling, outside Methodist Church, or on gravel outside farm. SP 067 231. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Sunday 12 August 10am

## Browne's Folly, River Avon, Dundas Aqueduct and the K&A Canal

5 hours • 9 miles

This walk goes from Bathford, with steep ascents/descents in parts to/from Browne's Folly with far reaching views to Bath. Down to the River Avon and the Dundas Aqueduct and lunch [Please bring picnic]. An easy return via the Kennet and Avon Canal, with a chance to see Claverton Pumping Station.

Starting point: Beside the road opposite the Crown Inn, Bathford Hill, Bathford. ST 788 669. Map square: B10.

Leaders: Barry Cox & Fred Dugan

Sunday 12 August 2:30pm

## Long Day, Short Day, Moreday and Muffitie

1.5 hours • 2 miles

A Sunday afternoon stroll around the village of Stonesfield. Once a centre for production of the characteristic Cotswold roofing slates. Suitable for families but some short, steep and uneven sections difficult for buggies and wheelchairs.

Starting point: Stonesfield, near the Church OX29 HQY. SP 393 171. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Tuesday 14 August 10am

## One Hill, Three Views

2 hours • 2.5 miles


A Cotswold Wardens celebration walk around Stinchcombe Hill. Experience three amazing landscapes and hear the tales of Stancombe Park and William Tyndale. Learn about conservation work to preserve the landscape and habitat of the Hill. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill car park. (Not the Golf Club car park). ST 744 983. Map square: B7.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Mike Brinkworth

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### Wednesday 15 August 10am High summer walk to a nature reserve


 4.5 hours • 6 miles

Remote walk through pretty countryside to Rough Bank nature reserve. One hour guided tour of the reserve led by Jennifer Gilbert, butterfly conservationist. Refreshments at the reserve with donations to Butterfly Conservation. Bring your own drinks.

Starting point: Miserden, outside the school. Small car park adjacent, or park considerably in the village. SO 935 089. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Graham Saunders & John Shaw

### Thursday 16 August 10am Candle in the Window


 4 hours • 7 miles

Explore sites of anarchy and Civil War near Tetbury, including Chavenage House and Beverston Castle. Note: Option to cover the first half of the walk, then return to the start along a short stretch of quiet road. Full distance walkers please bring lunch, which will be taken close to the start point.

Starting point: Chavenage Green 0.5 miles north west of Chavenage House. Chavenage House is signposted from the A46, 2.5 miles south of Nailsworth. ST 865 957. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge


### Friday 17 August 10am Coffee Morning Walk No. 2, 'Hills and Woods'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30, mainly through woods and fields in the attractive countryside around Uley and Owlpen, taking in South Lodge and Hobbs Hole Wood. Lunch available at the café and in the Crown Inn after the walk, if required. Starting point: Prema cafe Uley. Uley lies 2 miles. East of Dursley. The café is situated down a signposted street opposite the village shop. Please park considerably. ST 789 983. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Mick Thorpe

### Saturday 18 August 10am Marshfield – Town and Country


 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways South to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (No stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs and a teashop – and stay to enjoy Marshfield Village Day procession (2pm) and Show.

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield. ST 781 737. Map square: B9.

Leaders: David Colbourne & Paul Clarke

### Saturday 18 August 10am On the Brink of the Dillay

 6.5 hours • 10.5 miles


From Bisley to Rough Banks and the upper Dillay valley via Througham, back via Snows Farm. Bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: The Rec, Van Der Breen St, Bisley, Stroud GL6 7BN. SO 906 060.

Map square: C6.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue, Alistair McKenzie & Steven Pascoe

### Sunday 19 August 10am The Bath Skyline


 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

A circular Walk on National Trust land South of Bath at Claverton Down, with fine views overlooking the city and passing old quarry workings at "ampton rocks". Coffee stop only. Thanks to Wessex Water for permission to park. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Wessex Water car park, Claverton Down, Bath. ST 778 630. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

### Monday 20 August 10am Alan's Amble. Valleys, Hills and Ice Cream

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A hills and valleys walk taking in the village of Hyde, St Mary's Mill and the Stroudwater canal. At Ham Lock we ascend to Winston's ice cream shop for well deserved refreshment. We return to the start via lane and common.

Starting point: Minchinhampton Common car park to the rear of Minchinhampton church. (Off Bell Lane). SO 871 009. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Eric Brown

### Thursday 23 August 1pm Tea and Pots

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

An afternoon walk through woodland and fields in the Warwickshire part of the Cotswolds AONB. This lesser known area never fails to delight those who experience it for the first time. We arrive back at the pottery just in time for a cup of tea at the quirky café there.

Starting point: Whichford Pottery. Map square: H3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

### Saturday 25 August 10am Catch a Flight Home?


 3.5 hours • 6.8 miles

A section of Cotswold Way, together with reasonable field paths and gradual gradients via Shab Hill, South Hill, National Star College, Crickley Hill Country Park, Air Balloon pub. Bring a snack for coffee time.

Starting point: Barrow Wake car park (GL3 4UH) L163/E179. SO 931 153. Map square D5.

Leader: Andrew – South Cotswold Ramblers

### Sunday 26 August 10am Over the Hill


 5 hours • 8 miles

The walk loosely follows the Cotswold Way Loop through Stanley Woods onto Selsley Common, before descending to restored parts of the Stroudwater Canal. We return via the canal towpath. Detours along the way take in Woodchester, Dudbridge and the vineyards at Doverow. Picnic lunch stop at Selsley.

Starting point: King's Stanley free car park. SO 812 036. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou


### Wednesday 29 10am R U Kidding[ton]?

 3.5 hours • 7 miles

A walk from the village of Church Enstone along the Glyme Valley to reach the grounds of Kiddington Hall. This was the first landscape project completed by Capability Brown in 1760. A pre-ordered lunch can be enjoyed at The Crown after the walk. Starting point: Enstone The Crown Inn OX7 4NN. SP 378 250. Map square: H3.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

### Wednesday 29 August 10am The Warden's Hill Climb


 3 hours • 6 miles

A novel route following the Winchcombe Way down to Gotherington station, pass Prescott Hill Climb course and then back up to the Common.

Starting point: Cleeve Hill Golf Club Quarry car park. SO 989 271. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Mike Williams & Royden Hales

### Friday 31 August 10am Ruscombe Valley, Pitchcombe Wood & Edge Common

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Down The Throat, to Ruscombe Farm and up to Whiteshill then back through Pitchcombe Wood and Edge Common. Good views over Ruscombe and Painswick valleys.


Starting point: Shortwood (Cripplegate) NT car park (Pay & Display or NT membership). SO 832 084.

Map square: B5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Janet Duffin & Graham Saunders

## September

### Saturday 1 September 10am Cleeve Common Rocks


 3 hours • 4 miles

OK, fantastic plants, great history and archeology, but the stuff that makes it all happen on Cleeve is the geology underneath. Join with us and Alice Kennedy of Gloucestershire Geological Trust and discover all on a walk around the common. Bring suitable refreshment.

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

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

### Tuesday 4 September 10am Tuesday Tramp


 3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Sid Gould, Robert Herbert & Russell Harding

### Wednesday 5 September 10am Views Above Hillesley

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

This attractive walk with fine views uses parts of the Cotswold Way and the Monarch's Way. We pass the Somerset Monument before descending to the secluded Kiltott Valley and the village of Alderley. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

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

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Chris Gill





### Thursday 6 September 10am A Peep into the Past

3 hours • 6.5 miles

An exploration of the lovely countryside and villages of Stanton and Stanway, with a look at some of the history associated with them. The route takes us up and down the scarp, giving spectacular views of the Malverns.

Starting point: Stanton Village car park, next to cricket ground. SP 067 344. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

### Friday 7 September 9:30am The Birds of the Cotswolds

2.5 hours • 4 miles

Leisurely walk along the cycle path from Midford to Tucking Mill with regular stops to watch birds and wildlife. Relaxed and highly informative. Beginners welcome. Bring binoculars. Suitable for pushchairs. Lunch available at the pub after the walk.

Starting point: Hope and Anchor pub, Midford. ST 761 607. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Philippe Apchin & Tim Sheppard

### Saturday 8 September 10am Andoversford 7, 5 or 12

6.5 hours • 12 miles

Two walks in one day. Do one or both. 7 miles before and 5 after lunch. Doing both? Then, pre-order lunch with pub at start of walk (lunch at approx. 13:15) or picnic lunch. Part 1: Sevenhampton Soundborough Shipton. Part 2: (start approx. 14:00) Horse land.

Starting point: Royal Oak, Gloucester Road, Andoversford (if using pub you may use the car park – else use Station Road). SP 024 196. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Alistair McKenzie & Steven Pascoe

### Saturday 8 September 10:30am Dyrham: Park and Countryside [Battlefield]

2.5 hours • 5 miles

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

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. Parking charge applies for non members of the National Trust. ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Bob Ford

### Sunday 9 September 10am History of Chadlington and Surrounding Area

5.5 hours • 12 miles

A walk exploring the history of Chadlington and the surrounding area. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chadlington Village Hall OX7 3NX. SP 330 219. Map square: G4.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

### Sunday 9 September 10am Two Valleys from Bradford on Avon

4.5 hours • 8 miles

A gentle climb through Barton Country Park to Westwood, on to Iford and through woods beside the River Frome to Freshford. Return along the Avon to Avoncliff and the Crossed Guns Pub, then along the Canal back to the start. Please bring a picnic lunch – pub drinks and toilets at Freshford.

Starting point: Station car park, Bradford on Avon [Far end]. ST 824 607. Map square: B10.

Leaders: Barry Cox & Dave Wright

### Tuesday 11 September 10am Coffee Morning Walk No. 3, 'Woods and Vales'

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30, taking us through varied countryside with splendid views. Included on the route are Conygre Wood, Hartley Bridge, Tilputs End and Upper Hazlecote Farm. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

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

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

### Wednesday 12 September 10am WWW Withington West Walk

3 hours • 6 miles

Starting at the Mill, up and round to the west of Withington with views and woods. If you plan to have lunch at the pub consider pre-booking and/or ordering at the start of the walk. Phone: 01242 890204.

Starting point: Far end of the car park at the Mill Inn, Withington. GL54 4BE. SP 032 153. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Dave Gladstone & Steven Pascoe

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### Thursday 13 September 9:30am Countryside and Villages around Bourton-on-the-Water

6 hours • 11 miles

This circular walk goes cross-country to the villages of Clapton-on-the-Hill, Farmington and Cold Aston starting from the scenic village of Bourton-on-the-Water. The walk returns to Bourton along the Windrush river.

Starting point: War Memorial, Bourton-on-the-Water. SP 170 211. Map square: F4.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

### Thursday 13 Sept 10am Five Houses, Three Valleys

5 hours • 8.5 miles

Join us on a walk which showcases the best of the southern Cotswolds. It features scenic landscapes, secluded valleys, varied architecture, industrial archaeology and fascinating personal histories. Please bring a picnic lunch, pub stop for drinks only.

Starting point: Newark Park National Trust car park. Please note that a parking charge will apply for non members of the National Trust. ST 781 931. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

### Friday 14 September 10am East of Bath Circular – Hope and Homes Charity walk

4.5 hours • 7.5 miles

The walk takes in the Nature Reserves at Bannerdown, Chilcombe Bottom, and the NT Little Solsbury Hill before dropping down to cross the Kennett and Avon Canal at Bathampton. Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments together afterwards at the Community shop.

Starting point: Bathford Community Shop and cafe, corner of Bathford Hill and Church Street. ST 791 669. Map square: A10.

Leaders: David Le Lohe & Rob Morley



### Friday 14 September 10am Friday Foray – Meandering along by the River Leach

3.5 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk from Eastleach to Southrop following the course of the River Leach. Visiting the 12th century Church at Southrop and returning via Hammersmith Bottom. Lunch is available after the walk at the Victoria Inn.

Starting point: The Victoria Inn, Eastleach or park considerately in the village. GL7 3NQ. SP 198 052. Map square: G5.

Leaders: Sue Proctor, Brian Chapman & Helen Watkinson

### Sunday 16 September 10am Weaving Around Uley

5 hours • 7.5 miles

The walk follows the edge of the Cotswold Escarpment to the iron age hill fort of Uley Bury and down to Uley for lunch. Our return is a grassy ascent via Nympsfield. Please bring a picnic lunch, pub stop for drinks only.

Starting point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO794014. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Mick Thorpe.

### Thursday 20 September 10am Horrors and Harmony

3 hours • 5 miles

We follow some of the paths one of the great English composers of the 20th Century would have used and hear how this little corner of Gloucestershire influenced his works. An easy walk across fields and along tracks with a little incline.

Starting point: War Memorial Bourton on the Water. SP 167 207. Map square: F4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

### Saturday 22 September 10am Lansdown, Views and Valleys

5.5 hours • 10 miles

We start with spectacular views from Lansdown, descend to Weston village and then back to the Lansdown ridge along the Cotswold Way, before descending to the delightful Swainswick Valley. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Lansdown Park and Ride. ST 732 681. Map square: A10.

Leaders: John Bartram & Keith Rawlings



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**Saturday 22 September 11am**  
**Unfinished Business**

4 hours • 7.5 miles

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

**Monday 24 September 10am**  
**Chavenage, The Hermits Cave and Beverston**

3 hours • 5 miles

A relaxed walk across farm and grazing land, passing Chavenage House with history of a civil war romance. We investigate a hermit's cave before passing Beverston Castle and church on our return route.  
**Starting point:** Chavenage Green, 0.5 miles north west of Chavenage House. Chavenage House is signposted from the A46, 2.5 miles south of Nailsworth. ST 865 957. Map square: B6.  
**Leaders:** Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley



**Tuesday 25 September 10am**  
**Visit the Woodpeckers**

4 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk through part of the Cornbury Estate with fine views over the Evenlode Valley then through ancient woodland to arrive at the reasonably priced Plough in Finstock for optional pub lunch. Return by a different route. Finstock means "place of the Woodpeckers" so eyes and ears need to be alert!  
**Starting point:** Charlbury Spendlove Centre OX7 3PQ. SP 358 196.  
**Map square:** H4.  
**Leaders:** Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

**Wednesday 26 September 10am**  
**In the Foxcote Valley**

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A rural walk over hills with fine views in all directions. It starts near the interestingly named St Paul's Epistle goes to Shill Hill and the Foxcote valley.  
**Starting point:** Kilkenny picnic area. The picnic area is on the A436. SP 004 186.  
**Map square:** D4.  
**Leaders:** Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

**Thursday 27 September 10am**  
**Templars and Tudors**

4 hours • 8 miles

A pleasant circular walk featuring the Templar church at Temple Guiting, the deserted medieval village of Pinnock and the Beckbury Monument. Please bring a packed lunch.  
**Starting point:** Temple Guiting Village Hall. SP 090 279. Map square: E3.  
**Leaders:** Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

**Friday 28 September 10am**  
**Whittington Syreford and Sevenhampton**

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A pleasant stroll along the River Coln by Syreford Mill and Whittington Court returning via Sevenhampton Church to Brockhampton.  
**Starting point:** The Craven Arms, Brockhampton (use pub car park if having drink/food there afterwards). SP 036 223. Map square: D4.  
**Leaders:** Phil Cluley, Janet Duffin & Steven Pascoe

**Sunday 30 September 10am**  
**Walking the Lines**

4.5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk from Wellow to Combe Hay using the disused Camerton to Limpley Stoke line and the Somerset and Dorset line. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but fine for families.  
**Starting point:** Wellow Old Station free car park. ST 735 581. Map square: A10.  
**Leaders:** Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

**October**

**Monday 1 Oct 10:30am**  
**Leisurely Paced Walk With Wide Views From Tresham**

2.5 hours • 4 miles

From the ridge take in amazing views westwards towards the Severn, before descending to Alderley, and then on an easy route towards Ozleworth, with a short climb taken gently back up to Tresham.  
**Starting point:** Tresham village, long layby. On left if coming from A46, or on right if coming from Wotton-under-Edge. (GL12 7RW) L162/E167. ST 793 912. Map square B7.  
**Leaders:** Mike and Heather – South Cotswold Ramblers

**Tuesday 2 October 10am**  
**Tuesday Tramp**

3 hours • 5 miles

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

**Saturday 6 October 10am**  
**Gorilla in the (Cotswolds) Mist (Dursley Walking Festival)**

4 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk through the delightful Cotswolds village of Uley and its environs including Uley Bury and Owlpen. Some steep climbs. Please bring a packed lunch.  
**Starting point:** Cam Peak car park. The car park is located on the road between Upper Cam and Ashmead Green, one mile north east of Dursley. ST 767 993. Map square: B6.  
**Leaders:** Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

**Sunday 7 October 10am**  
**The Lantern Way Through Ashen Plains (Dursley Walking Festival)**

3 hours • 6 miles

The walk ascends steeply through woodland to Breakheart Quarry and on to Ashen Plains plantation. We return via Twinberrow Woods, the Dursley Sculpture Trail and Castle Stream Farm fields. May be muddy in places. Several ascents/descents. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.  
**Starting point:** Dursley Market House (Town Hall), opposite the parish church. Parking available opposite the Old Spot Inn. ST 756 981. Map square: A6.  
**Leaders:** David Harrowin & David Ashbee

**Sunday 7 October 11am**  
**Landscape and History of the Slaughters**

2.5 hours • 5 miles


One of the first walks organised by the wardens, we walk the WIndrush, Macmillan and Heart of England Ways into the two most photographed villages in the Cotswolds. We pass Upper Slaughter's famous Manor House and the Mill at Lower Slaughter, and see how the rivers have shaped the North Cotswolds.  
**Starting point:** Bourton-on-the-Water War Memorial. SP 167 207. Map square: F4.  
**Leaders:** David Russell & Alan Thomas





**Monday 8 October 10am**

## Snowhill (the rest of it)

 3 hours • 6 miles


We know all about the Manor, but there is an interesting parish and countryside around it, from Bronze and Iron Age remains to (relatively) modern quarrying. Some steep ascents/descents. Bring suitable refreshment.

Starting point: Snowhill village car park. SP 096 340. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

**Tuesday 9 October 10am**

## Courting Hetty Pegler

 3 hours • 6 miles


From the viewpoint we visit Hetty Pegler's Tump off the Cotswold Way then head down to Frocester passing its large medieval barn and nearby Court before returning up to Coaley Peak. Lunch available after the walk in nearby Uley or Frocester. Or bring a picnic and enjoy the views from Coaley Peak.

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

Leaders: Chris Gill & Derrick Hildersley

**Wednesday 10 October 9:30am**

## In the footsteps of William Smith

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Follow the footsteps of William Smith, the father of English Geology, through Monkton Combe, Midford and Combe Down. Steep and possibly muddy. Not suitable for pushchairs. Refreshments and lunch available at Combe Grove Hotel after the walk.


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

Map square: A10.

Leaders: Philippe Apchin & Tim Sheppard

**Wednesday 10 October 10am**

## Granny's Pumps South

 3 hours • 6 miles

Through Elkstone and back under the A417 to Winstone Wood. On to Ostrich wood and thence to Granny's Pumps.


Starting point: Far end of the lay-by at Gloucester Beeches on the A417 Northbound (only). SO 958 120.

Map square: D5.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Pippa Burgon & Dave Gladstone.

**Thursday 11 October 10am**

## Autumn in the Forest of Wychwood

 5 hours • 8.5 miles

There is only one Public Footpath across the Wychwood Forest but we have permission to leave this Right of Way for a circular walk through normally inaccessible parts. Mostly level or undulating ground with one short steep section. Return across Cornbury Deer Park. Please bring a packed lunch.


Starting point: Charlbury Spendlove Centre OX7 3PQ. SP 358 196.

Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

**Sunday 14 October 10am**

## Holford's Vision

 5.5 hours • 9 miles

The walk takes us through Westonbirt Arboretum to the village of Leighterton for lunch. We return along the Monarch's Way to Didmarton and the source of the Sherston Avon. We follow the river back. Please bring a picnic lunch, pub stop for drinks only.


Starting point: Sherston High Street. ST 853 858. Map square: B8.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Jocelyn Dawson-Wood

**Sunday 14 October 10am**

## Can you remember where we went?

50

 4.5 hours • 7 miles


A repeat of the first walk by the Wardens? We pass the Pound, the Windmill site and Pillow Mounds to go past Little Sodbury Manor/Old Church to the Hillfort. Then the Cotswold way to lunch stop in the leaders garden. Then the Frome Valley walkway back to the start. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: War Memorial/Tourist Information Centre, Chipping Sodbury. ST 727 822. Map square: A8.

Leaders: Richard Wilson & John Walker

**Wednesday 17 October 10am**

## Hyde and Seek

 4.5 hours • 7 miles

We descend from Minchinhampton to Chalford Bottom, then follow the River Frome before ascending the south side of the Golden Valley, returning to Minchinhampton via Hyde. A chance to see river bank flora and fauna. Bring a light lunch snack or call in at a popular coffee/lunch stop in Chalford.

Starting point: Minchinhampton Common car park to the rear of Minchinhampton Church. (Off Bell Lane). SO 872 009. Map square: C6.


Leaders: Trish Iliadou & David Owen



Nick Turner

**Thursday 18 October 10am**

## Exploring Winchcombe's 'Ways'

 5 hours • 9 miles

The fact that seven long-distance footpaths touch Winchcombe is a testament to the fine walking country that surrounds the town. Today we shall explore the upper reaches of the Isbourne Way, and parts of the Cotswold, Winchcombe and Holtz ways. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay and display £1). SP 024 286. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

**Friday 19 October 10am**

## A Sally in the Woods featuring John Rennie

 5 hours • 9.5 miles

We start with ridge walking through Browne's Folly SSSI, then across to Winsley and down into the Avon valley at Freshford, returning via the canal and river to "Sally in the Woods". Optional pub/cafe stop available at Winsley and Dundas. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Browne's Folly SSSI Nature Reserve car park at Monkton Farleigh. ST 380 166. Map square: B10.

Leaders: David Le Lohe & Rob Morley

**Saturday 20 October 10am**

## The Alternative Three Hills Walk

 5 hours • 10 miles


The popular Brailes Three Hills Walk takes place in early May using a route that is normally inaccessible to the public. This alternative route still visits Castle Hill, Brailes Hill and Mine Hill but using public rights of way. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Roadside parking near the school OX15 5AP. SP 309 394. Map square: G2.

Leaders: Janet Deller & Maureen Shears

**Saturday 20 October 10am**

## Burford and Two Churches

 3 hours • 5 miles

The walk takes us through medieval Burford, out into the surrounding countryside and along the River Windrush. A largely easy walk with some short inclines. After the walk there are many places in Burford to enjoy a well-earned lunch. Park at the free public car park, not far from the church.

Starting point: Burford Parish Church OX18 4RZ. SP 253 123. Map square: G5.

Leader: Mandy Warwick

**Sunday 21 October 10:30am**

## A Countryside View of the City

 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 minutes from Bus/Railway station. Not suitable for pushchairs – Steps!

Starting point: Pulteney Bridge, Bath (Opposite Victoria Art Gallery). ST 752 649. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

**Wednesday 24 October 10am**

## Coffee Morning Walk No. 4, 'Support Your Local Shop'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for Coffee at 10:00. The walk start at 10:30, taking us to historic Chavenage House via Barton Lane, Longlength Lane and Chavenage Green. We return via Ledgemore Lane and Hay Lane. Snack lunches available at the shop and more substantial fare at the nearby pub after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Village Shop, Horsley. Shop signposted from main road in village. ST 839 980. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy



### Wednesday 24 October 10am Autumn leaves

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk to Overtown and through Lord's Wood around Sheepscombe, taking in the meadows above the village, returning through Workmans Wood. The walk is along footpaths and forestry clearance trails and includes two significant gradients. Starting point: National Trust car park at Ebworth Centre (by courtesy of NT). SO 900 113. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Tony Duffin & Mike Williams

### Friday 26 October 10am Paradise and the Thames Path

3 hours • 6 miles

A gentle walk with no hills along the Thames Path by Lechlade taking in Paradise Farm, Lechlade, Ha'penny Bridge, and St Johns Lock. Many choices for pubs for lunch or a drink. Starting point: Lechlade High St. SP 215 001. Map square: F6.

Leaders: Tony Hester, Phil Cluley & Steven Pascoe

### Saturday 27 October 10am Historic Mills of the By-Brook Valley

4 hours • 7 miles

A circular walk from Castle Combe (Voted one of the most picturesque villages in the UK) to Slaughterford returning via the By-Brook valley. We go along the flood meadows past Ford, viewing the old water mills along the way. Toilets at start, during and end of walk. Please bring Picnic lunch. Starting point: Upper Castle Combe car park. ST 846 777. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Barry Cox & Keith Rawlings

### Sunday 28 October 9:15am National Coppice Day

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

From Ford we walk to Weavern Farm to enter Colerne wood where Wardens have coppiced areas over many years. A small demonstration may be possible, weather permitting, and you will see deer fencing around the most recent work. Please bring drinks. Return via Thickwood. Pub lunch available afterwards.

Starting point: White Hart Inn, Ford on the A420. ST 840 748. Map square: B9.  
Leaders: David Colbourne & John Walker



### Tuesday 30 October 10:30am Marshfield – Town and Country

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways South to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (No stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop.

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield. ST 781 737. Map square: B9.

Leaders: David Colbourne & Bob Ford

## November

### Thursday 1 November 10am Wool, Stone and the Great Fire of London

3 hours • 5 miles

The walk starts from the ancient wool town of Northleach with its many 15th and 16th century buildings. We cross rolling farmland, lakes and streams to the village of Farmington, famed for its local stone. We return to Northleach where lunch is available at pubs and cafes.

Starting point: Northleach Market Square. SP 113 146. Map square: E5.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

### Thursday 1 November 10am Valleys Around Tresham

3.5 hours • 6 miles

Take in the wonderful views from Tresham before descending from the escarpment to Ozleworth and Wortley. The walk continues via the Cotswold Way to Hillesley, followed by a stiff ascent back to Tresham. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Parking on the roadside in Tresham village; please park considerably. Tresham is approximately one mile west of the A46, 7 miles south of Nailsworth and 7 miles north of M4 J18. ST 793 912. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Chris Gill

### Tuesday 6 November 10am Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Sid Gould, Russell Harding & Robert Herbert

### Wednesday 7 November 10am Up to the autumn colours

3.5 hours • 7 miles

Up over Doverow Hill to admire the autumn colours on the top in Standish Woods. Return via the Cotswold Way and a vineyard. First half of the walk is a steady climb. Refreshments available in Stonehouse.

Starting point: Stonehouse High Street Pay and Display car park (GL10 2NG) (£1.80 needed for the car park). SO 807 054. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Graham Saunders & John Shaw

### Thursday 8 November 10am Battles and Brewing in Stow

3 hours • 6 miles

The walk will take us via Broadwell to the monument to the Battle of Stow where we will hear about the historic event. The return is through varied countryside to Stow where we explore Stow's brewing past. Walk is in collaboration with the Stow Civic Society.

Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold village green, old stocks. SP192 258. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

### Saturday 10 November 10am Hazelbury Manor and Hidden Quarries

4 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk from Box to Hazelbury Manor and Box Common with wonderful views over the By-Brook valley. View Box Hill quarry entrance, GWR railway, and By-Brook. Picnic lunch stop on Box Common. Toilets at start and end of walk. Box pubs for post walk social. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall car park, box off the A4. ST 824 686. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Barry Cox & David Le Lohe

### Thursday 15 Nov 10am The Saltway and Ditchley Park

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk exploring the eastern border of the Cotswolds AONB and part of Ditchley Park; wartime retreat of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Lunch opportunities in Charlbury afterwards. Reach start point from Charlbury via B4437 and Ditchley Road signed off near the primary school.

Starting point: Ditchley Park Gate OX7 4EZ. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

### Friday 16 November 10am Bath's Civil Engineering Heritage Trail

3 hours • 4.5 miles

Bath is known for its Georgian architecture but this urban walk tours some of the sites of its fascinating civil engineering and industrial heritage that "underpins" its existence. Bring a drink/munchie; cafe lunch together afterwards if you wish.

Starting point: Green Park Station Foyer, Green Park Road, Bath. ST 375 165. Map square: A10.

Leaders: David Le Lohe & Rob Morley

### Saturday 17 November 9:30am History of Hook Norton and the Surrounding Area

5.5 hours • 12 miles

A walk exploring the history of this area famous for its ironstone.

Starting point: Rollright Crossroads OX7 5RH. SP 295 308. Map square: G3.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

### Tuesday 20 November 9:30am South Stoke Explorer

3 hours • 6.5 miles

Explore the paths in and around the charming parish of South Stoke, far from the busy city. Steep at times and possibly muddy but with wonderful views throughout. Lunch available at the pub after the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Cross Keys pub, Southstoke Road, Combe Down, Bath. ST 748 618. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Philippe Apchin & Tim Sheppard

### Tuesday 20 November 10am Enjoy views, ancient monuments and Warden's Wood

2.5 hours • 4 miles

This gentle stroll along the D'Arcy Dalton Way through the Sarsden Estate has good views across the Evenlode Valley. We visit ancient monuments and a new woodland planted by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens. Admire a large walled garden on our return. Lunch options at several nearby pubs afterwards.

Starting point: Sarsden Cross OX7 6PW. SP 291 233. Map square: G3.

Leader: Gerald Simper


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## Wednesday 21 November 10am From Leckhampton Hill to Hartley Bottom


 3 hours • 6 miles

An undulating walk mainly to the south of Leckhampton Hill, visiting the village of Coberley before returning for a brief stroll along the top of Charlton Kings Common. Brownstone Quarry car park is on the left after the new house when coming along Hartley Lane from Leckhampton Road.

Starting point: Brownstone Quarry car park, Hartley Lane, Leckhampton Hill. SO 951 179. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

## Sunday 25 November 10am Water and Woods


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk along the Kennet and Avon Canal and up to the village of Winsley. Walking on Autumn leaves maybe! With the late Spring it may be a late Autumn? Coffee stop only.

Starting point: Dundas Marina car park. ST 783 622. Map square: B10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

## Wednesday 28 November 10am Stones and Ditches


 4 hours • 8 miles

A walk along the Oxfordshire Way with views over the Evenlode then joining Shakespeare's Way with views of the house at Ditchley Park. A return via Grim's Ditch to Charlbury where reasonable lunches can be pre-ordered at The Bell.

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

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

## Friday 30 November 10am Miserden to Duntisbourne and Winstone

 3 hours • 6 miles

Walking from Miserden through Duntisbourne Abbots and Winstone, exploring the villages and countryside with secluded valleys returning through Miserden Estate. Two moderate climbs. Car parking around Miserden village.


Starting point: Carpenters Arms Miserden. SO 937 088. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Phil Cluley, Tony Hester & Steven Pascoe

# December

Tuesday 4 December 10am

## A Winter's Walk Along to Tyndale

 3 hours • 5 miles


A walk along mainly woodland paths in Westridge Wood, passing the iron age fort at Brackenbury Ditches and on to the famed Tyndale Monument. The walk offers wide views over the Severn Vale and beyond. Lunch available in Wotton after the walk, if required.

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

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Brian Mundy

Tuesday 4 December 10am

## Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles


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

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

Leaders: Sid Gould, Russell Harding & Dave Wright

Wednesday 5 December 10am

## Winter views over Dowdeswell and Foxcote

 3 hours • 5 miles


A winter stroll via Foxcote & Pegglesworth with lots of open views mainly on tracks and quiet roads. Can be muddy. Lunch opportunities at Kilkeny Inn 01242 820341 and Royal Oak Andoversford 01242 820335.

Starting point: Kilkeny picnic site off A436 south of Andoversford. SP 004 186. Map square: D4.

Leaders: John Shaw, Graham Saunders & Pippa Burgon

Sunday 9 December 10am

## Doynton to Hanging Hill

 4.5 hours • 8.5 miles


A steepening climb up Toghill before crossing Freezing Hill Lane and dropping down to the Cotswold Way below Hamswell House. We follow the Cotswold Way to Hanging Hill before dropping down to Wick and return along the River Boyd. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for Pushchairs.

Starting point: Doynton Church. ST 720 741. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Bartram & Philippe Apchin

Tuesday 11 December 10am

## Burford Town Walk

 1.5 hours • 1 mile

This gentle town walk is intended to be a general guide to this very interesting Cotswold town. Specialist tours are available from the Friends of the Tolsey Museum 01993 823188. Afterwards there are opportunities to enjoy a cup of coffee or even do some Christmas shopping!

Starting point: Burford Visitor Information Centre. SP 252 123. Map square: G5.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Wednesday 12 December 10am

## All Hands to the Plough

 3 hours • 6.5 miles


From Finstock to historic Wilcote Manor and on to the Evenlode passing a holy well. Return via Stonesfield and the Oxfordshire Way. A reasonably priced lunch can be pre-ordered at the Plough and enjoyed after the walk.

Starting point: The Plough Inn Finstock OX7 3BY. SP 3611 161. Map square: H5.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Saturday 22 December 10am

## A Roman, A Bishop and A Saint

 5 hours • 10 miles


A figure of eight walk from Leafield to Ramsden and Finstock using ancient tracks and byways. A gentle pre-Christmas walk to de-stress before the holiday. Possible pub stop but please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Leafield Green OX29 9NP. SP 316 152. Map square: G4.

Leaders: Janet Deller & Margaret Burden

Friday 28 December 10am

## Bibury through Ablington

 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk through Bibury, Arlington and Ablington following for a while the river Coln, then across country back down to the Swan Hotel. Lunch is available at the Hotel or pubs in the locality.

Starting point: The Swan Hotel Bibury. SP 116 067. Map square: E5.


Leaders: Tony Hester, Phil Cluley & Steven Pascoe



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

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB
- increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB, ensuring that these complement the conservation and enhancement of the area

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