

JULY – DECEMBER 2019 • ISSUE 41

# COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

FREE

**Our Glorious  
Grasslands**

**Going Underground**

**70th Birthday  
Celebrations**

**Cotswolds walks  
and events highlights**

**This neighbourhood  
is wild**

**A is for apple**



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Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow! [Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)





## MAKE IT A COTSWOLDS DOUBLE

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

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# CARING FOR THE COTSWOLDS



## Give back to the Cotswolds AONB!

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

For more info: [cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/caring](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/caring)



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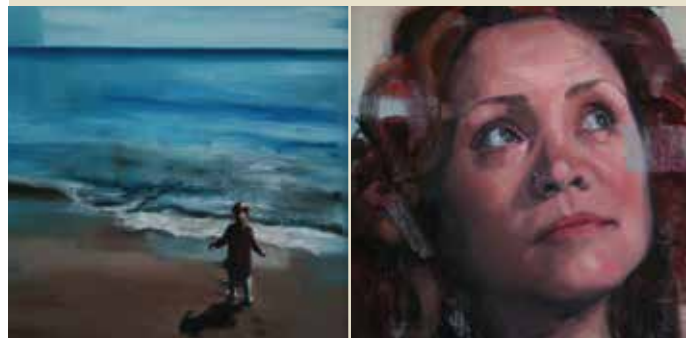
Wotton Farm Shop  
 Bradley Road  
 Wotton-under-Edge  
 Gloucestershire  
 GL12 7DT  
 01453 521546



### FRANCESCA CURRIE R.B.S.A.

Francesca is a full time figurative artist based in the Cotswolds.

To find out more about the artist, future exhibitions and workshops, or discuss a commission, please get in touch at:  
[www.francesca-currie.co.uk](http://www.francesca-currie.co.uk)  
[francescacurrieartist@gmail.com](mailto:francescacurrieartist@gmail.com)  
[@FrancescaCurrieArtist](https://www.instagram.com/FrancescaCurrieArtist)



# Welcome

This issue of Cotswold Lion is a celebration from the ground, or underground, upwards. We've explored caves and tunnels, looked at delicate grasslands and the wildlife they support, championed the epic qualities of our treasured and protected landscapes, and looked skyward to investigate the fate of our ash trees, and honour our precious pollinators. Our regular round up of events highlights from

July to December includes sculpture, music, theatre, and agricultural shows – plenty to get stuck into for the rest of this year. And remember: this issue has details about a couple of new ways you can get involved with what we do – from wildflower preservation volunteering (p6), to photographing our noble ash trees (p14) – don't be shy, get in touch!

**Alana Hopkins, Editor**

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Jonathan Malsey/Gloucester Speleological Society.



SDNPA/Mischa Haller.

Emily Brazier.



Alun Callender.

Front cover image:  
Horseshoe Vetch, Ian Boyd.

## Top stories from the Cotswolds Conservation Board



### Be tick aware

Ticks are on the move, and Lyme Disease is on the increase. Don't let them spoil your fun! Search online for Public Health England's official advice on tick awareness.

### Caring for the Cotswolds

Caring for the Cotswolds continues to welcome new members. In the last two rounds of grant funding, 12 local projects will receive grants totalling almost £17k. More info at: [cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/looking-after](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/looking-after)

## CARING FOR THE COTSWOLDS

### Cotswolds LEADER

The Cotswolds LEADER Programme has now supported 44 projects with a total grant value of £1.4 million! Collectively this investment is expected to create just over 91 jobs across the Cotswolds. The Programme continues to perform particularly well in its support of rural businesses, farming, and forestry.

### New off road mobility vehicle routes

Two new routes, suitable for off road mobility vehicles have been created and opened by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. The routes are in the central and north Cotswolds. We now have 12 of these routes across the region, as work continues to give everybody the opportunity to enjoy exploring the Cotswolds AONB. Find them online in our self guided walks section.



Squashed Robot Films

### Martin Lane to retire

This summer we will be saying goodbye to Martin Lane, Director of the Cotswolds Conservation Board for the last 20 years. Having established the former Cotswolds AONB Partnership and the Cotswolds Conservation Board, Martin will retire at the end of summer 2019; and the Board will recruit a new Chief Executive.

### Walking Festivals

Bathscap Walking Festival is happening between 14 – 22 September, and will feature at least three walks led by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. And if you enjoy that, remember Dursley Walking Festival follows on swiftly, starting on 2 October. Find out more at [bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk](http://bathscapewalkingfestival.co.uk) and [dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk](http://dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk)



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

Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire



# FarmED

FARM & FOOD EDUCATION

## OPENING AUTUMN 2019

FarmED is a new centre based on a highly diverse **107 acre farm in the Cotswolds**. At a time of great change in farming, FarmED will provide a platform for knowledge transfer and information sharing. It will seek to stimulate **debate and discussion, to inspire and inform.**



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# glorious cotswold grasslands



The Cotswolds Conservation Board's new scheme to save wildflower grasslands is up and running – and we are all invited to join in, says Siân Ellis.



Ian Boyd.



Rare Cotswold pennycress, pasque flower, oxeye daisy, common bird's-foot trefoil, cowslip, lady's bedstraw – wildflower names typical of the Cotswolds' limestone grasslands are as fascinating and colourful as the plants themselves. The butterflies that our grasslands support – national rarities like the Chalkhill Blue and orange-flecked Duke of Burgundy – bring summer on their wings; whilst insects, seeds and nesting habitat allow all sorts of mammals, bats, and birds to thrive.

Harvey Sherwood and Anna Field are irreplaceable as they enthuse about the new Glorious Cotswold Grasslands project launched by the Cotswolds Conservation Board in early 2019. Harvey and Anna are spearheading the project over the next three years to establish the largest network of wildflower-rich Jurassic limestone grassland in the country.

Factors like urban development and changes in farming practice and land management mean that much species-rich grassland in England and

Wales has been lost – a staggering 97% since the 1930s. In the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) coverage has shrunk from 40% to just 1.5% – which equates to more than 50% of England and Wales' remaining unimproved Jurassic limestone grassland. These disappearing grasslands are precious though: a typical patch can contain over 100 species of flowering plants.

Recently, the national Save our Magnificent Meadows project was enthusiastically supported in the Cotswolds, with landowners and volunteers joining together to restore grasslands. Glorious Cotswold Grasslands seeks to build on the legacy and, crucially, to establish a self-funding, self-sustaining service to secure the future of grassland and meadow management in the AONB. The scheme has been kick-started by a grant of more than £200,000 from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and with additional support from a private donor, and the Cotswold Hare Trail.

## Get involved!

A key aim is to establish flower-rich corridors across the landscape, as Harvey explains: connecting fragmented and vulnerable grasslands. This summer, seeds are being harvested from wildflower-rich 'donor' sites, to be distributed onto prepared 'receptor' sites. The project has specialist equipment and skills to loan or hire out too.

Roger Budgeon is one landowner who is providing wildflower seed, from his traditionally grazed meadows near Stroud. "It's the future," – he says, "We need the diversity of wildflowers, we need the insects: predators feed from there upwards." Spring through summer, his fields dazzle, with "green-winged orchids being their claim to fame," he says.

After the summer, Harvey explains, "other months will be filled with identifying additional suitable sites, partner engagement, events and training days, educational links, volunteer work parties, and GIS

[geographic information system] analysis, advisory services, and raising awareness for this valuable environmental work.”

Harvey’s experience means he understands the diversity of people and groups who can both contribute to, and benefit from, the success of the project. Advice on offer to farmers for example includes “how flower-rich grasslands benefit animals, farm soils, crop rotations, and the consumer”; equally Harvey hopes to work with local communities and parish councils “to raise awareness and enable

village green space/roadside verge enhancement.”

Meanwhile, Anna is keen to recruit volunteers to help with activities like scrub control, operating the seed harvester, and sorting seed. As a mother of young children, she also looks forward to working with schools: “Inspiring the next generation’s interest in our natural world is one of the most important steps to protecting its future.” Learning packs for schools will feature fun activities and fascinating wildflower information.

Harvey describes “the overwhelmingly positive interest” from people who appreciate “the win-win qualities” of Glorious Cotswold Grasslands: saving and extending our species-rich grasslands, while benefiting sectors ranging from farming to tourism. Anna, impressed by meeting “so many fantastic landowners and managers who care deeply for the landscape and wildlife on their land”, says: “It gives me a lot of hope for the future of the Cotswolds grasslands.”



### How to join in

Landowners, farmers and general Glorious Cotswold Grasslands: email [harvey.sherwood@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:harvey.sherwood@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

Become a Glorious Cotswold Grasslands volunteer and help with practical restoration (July/August) and habitat management (autumn/winter); and order school learning and activity packs: email [anna.field@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:anna.field@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

### Visit Glorious Cotswold Grasslands stalls at:

- Marshfield Show – 17 August
- Wychwood Forest Fair – 1 September

### Workshops from early 2020:

- For landowners and horse owners
- Wildflower identification



# GOING UNDERGROUND

High up in the Cotswold hills – above the village of Whittington, some four miles outside Cheltenham – there’s a strange locked portal that looks not unlike a Hobbit hole. You could easily miss it during a bracing walk up the countryside path running beside it. Yet this unassuming door is an entrance to another world. Katie Jarvis finds out more.

*Photographs shown taken by Jonathan Maisey of Gloucester Speleological Society, during explorations in one of the Cotswolds’ many stone-mines.*

If you’re invited in, as I was (decked out in hard-hat and head-torch), you’ll find yourself in one of the many abandoned stone quarries that pepper the Cotswolds. Here, in the 18th and 19th centuries, workers risked life and limb, swinging picks and axes (illuminated by candles fixed to rock with clay) to extract limestone laid down 160 million years ago, when the Earth belonged to dinosaurs. The stone they retrieved from this particular quarry went into some of Cheltenham’s most-loved landmarks: Cheltenham College, St Paul’s Church in Brunswick Street and Christ Church in Malvern Road.

Cotswold churchyards are peopled with quarrymen who met tragic ends. Even in the early 20th century, death from a rock-fall was considered an Act of God; bereaved families were left to

fend for themselves.

Nor was it just men who endured working below-ground. Down in the Whittington quarry, a Victorian pony’s hoofmarks are still visible in the soft mud.

In Nailsworth, older locals tell of

childhoods lighting fires and roasting potatoes in limestone caves lining the ‘W’, the twisty-turny road up to Minchinhampton. The quarries along Nailsworth’s Pensile Road even contain the tracks where stone-carrying trucks would run.

But these aren’t the only subterranean Cotswold worlds. Stories abound of tunnels used by monks to escape during the Reformation (or, more salaciously, to reach local inns and nunneries); of secret Civil War escape routes; even tunnels under churches that highwaymen used to spirit away their booty.

## Stow-on-the-Wold:

“I honestly don’t know whether the tunnels that are talked about exist or not,” says Simon Clarke, local historian



Jonathan Maisey/Gloucester Speleological Society



and co-owner of Christopher Clarke Antiques. "People swear there's a tunnel from what used to be the Royalist Hotel – now the Porch House – all the way down to Maugersbury Manor."

Simon is somewhat sceptical. "People building houses here have discovered how very hard the bedrock is. Imagine what a major undertaking it would be to tunnel all the way to Maugersbury!"

As a youngster in the early 60s, he and his family lived next door to the Queen's Head, when builders found a tunnel they quickly filled with rubble.

"Wherever there's a rumour, there's usually something behind it," says Simon, who would welcome any new information at [simon.stowcivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:simon.stowcivicsociety@gmail.com)

### Northleach:

An article in Gloucestershire Life, September 1990, recalled the moment back in 1937 when a young woman nearly disappeared down a gaping hole that dramatically opened outside The Guggle, a cottage in West End. Locals who braved the 60-ft depths discovered a strange vaulted room – estimated to be early 15th century – with passages leading off, one towards the church. Sadly, no-one discovered the fabled St Peter & St Paul Church treasure, allegedly rescued from Henry VIII's 'Reforming' vandals and hidden underground.



Jonathan Maisey/Gloucester Speleological Society

Jonathan Maisey, chair of Gloucester Speleological Society ([gloucester-speleo.org](http://gloucester-speleo.org)), is one of the cavers itching to explore further. There are two problems. The first is that shafts such as The Guggle's ended up filled with rubble or concreted in, making further access difficult. "And the other is permission,"

Jon says. "Unless a landowner allows us to dig, we can't do anything, even when we know there's something interesting there."

His suspicion is that these are quarries, dating back to medieval times when you simply dug the stone you needed from the ground nearby.

## In Nailsworth, older locals tell of childhoods lighting fires and roasting potatoes in limestone caves lining the 'W', the twisty-turny road up to Minchinhampton.



### Bath:

You might well imagine the vaults and tunnels around the city's magnificent Roman Baths were built by the ancients themselves. In fact, most date back to the 18th and 19th centuries when vaults were created to level out building-ground on the city's steep slopes. Others were dug by the city's surveyor-architect, Major Charles Davis, to help with his excavation of the Roman Baths. He'd discovered these extraordinary remains by accident, in 1878, when trying to find the source of a water leak.

Next year, the Roman Baths museum ([romanbaths.co.uk](http://romanbaths.co.uk)) will open a new underground schools' learning centre, using some of this arcane network.

# Happy 70th Birthday!

This anniversary year is the perfect time to celebrate and explore our wonderful network of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and National Trails. Siân Ellis explores some highlights.



Hayfield, Peak District National Park.

## Did you know?

It's also "Happy Birthday" to the Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, 100 years old in 2019. Today's worldwide family of 113,000 National Parks and similarly protected areas covers around 6% of the Earth's land surface (source: IUCN/International Union for Conservation of Nature).



Tom Mackie

Thurne Mill at Sunrise, Broads National Park.



SDNPA/Sam Moore

Cuckmere Haven, South Downs National Park.



Nick Turner

Uley Bury, Cotswolds AONB.

Seventy years ago this year, in 1949, the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act revolutionised the way we care for our most beautiful, iconic and sensitive landscapes, also opening up the countryside for more people to enjoy.

It had taken a century of campaigning and public pressure to achieve – see the last issue of the Cotswold Lion (January–June 2019) for the story of Romantic poets’ outpourings, mass trespass on Kinder Scout in the Peak District, conservation groups’ lobbying and heartfelt people power. What an achievement! Giving birth to a network of protected landscapes that today encompasses 13 National Parks and 38 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales (15 and 46 respectively across the UK). Plus: 15 fantastic National Trails, from the Pennine Way chasing along mountaintops, to the Thames Path following England’s greatest river from the Cotswolds to the sea.

In England alone, ten National Parks cover almost 10% of the land, from the majestic Lake District to the rolling South Downs. Add in AONBs, the dramatic Forest of Bowland to rugged coastal scenes of Cornwall, and around a quarter of England is covered by our precious protected landscapes. Just think, more than 66% of people in England live within a half-hour journey of a National Park or AONB: giving access to wildlife-rich, flora-flourishing, fresh-air breathing spaces; to fantastic opportunities for walking, cycling, horse riding, caving, canoeing or simply relaxing; to escape from life’s hurly-burly and connection with sanity-restoring,

blood-pressure reducing Nature. How lucky are we!

The diversity of our National Parks and AONBs as well as their individual distinctive beauty means no end of choices for days out – plenty enough to fill 70 adventures in honour of 70 years. But space being rather limited here, let’s highlight just seven ideas for starters. Why not make this the year that you:

1. Discover the underground beauty, rock formations and rare stones of the **Peak District** on a guided tour of spectacular show caverns. Founded in 1951, the Peak District is our oldest National Park.
2. Stretch your legs on the high fells and mountains overlooking glacial lakes in the **Lake District**, now also a World Heritage Site.
3. Get afloat on the scenic waterways of the **Broads** in East Anglia, created from flooded medieval peat diggings. The smallest in the National Park family, at just 303sq km/117sq miles, the Broads is nevertheless noted for its biodiversity.
4. Safari through the diverse natural habitats of **Gower**, Swansea: dune systems and salt-marshes to dramatic limestone cliffs, inland commons to secluded valleys. Designated in 1956,

it is our oldest AONB, and also a Heritage Coast (1973).

5. Go stargazing in **Northumberland** in Europe’s first designated Dark Sky Park (2013), a magical and peaceful way to spend a crisp winter night.
6. Blow away your cares rambling, mountain biking or horse riding along the panoramic 160km/100-mile **South Downs** Way National Trail. Converting from two AONBs in 2010, the South Downs is our youngest National Park.
7. Finally, right on our doorstep in the **Cotswolds AONB**, enjoy summer’s rare flora and fauna in unrivalled swathes of wildflower-rich Jurassic limestone grassland, autumn’s fiery highlights in internationally important beech woods, winter star-watching from the Rollright Stones Dark Sky Discovery Site. We aren’t biased, but with the kaleidoscopic Cotswold Way National Trail along the thrilling escarpment and countless grey-to-gold natural and human-built Cotswolds limestone attractions within 2,038sq km/790sq miles (larger than all but two of England’s National Parks), we think you’ll find something to celebrate every day of the year!

### Find out more

Inspired to explore more of our wonderful protected landscapes?

Find information at:

National Parks UK: [nationalparks.uk](http://nationalparks.uk)

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: [landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://landscapesforlife.org.uk)

National Trails: [nationaltrail.co.uk](http://nationaltrail.co.uk)

# THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD IS WILD

We often make the mistake of thinking that we need to go somewhere different to enjoy wildlife, that we need to make a special trip or outing. The best lesson we can teach our children is that wildlife is all around us all the time. From our back gardens to the walk to school, the school playground to the local park, the trees and hedges that line the busy roads and the wildflowers that grow on the railway verges, there is always wildlife to be spotted and enjoyed. The more we notice our local wildlife, the more likely we are to understand its importance and the need to take care of it. Sadie Carr Simons, from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust shares some backyard safari ideas.

## Getting children to love local wildlife...

🐞 Do a bug hunt in your garden or backyard – how many different species can you find? You don't need to know what they all are but there is help on the internet if you'd like to find out. Encourage more creepy-crawly visitors by dedicating a patch of your garden just for wildlife; don't forget to include shelter for bugs using logs, stones or dried leaves.

🐦 Count how many birds you see on the way to school, can you name them? What are their calls like? Can you copy them? Over the next few days, see if you can identify any by their song before you spot them.

🐌 Create a scavenger hunt of things that children can try to collect on a walk in the park – one point for a fallen leaf, a pine cone or a feather, two points for an old snail shell and five points for an old bone. Bring it all home and create your very own nature table.

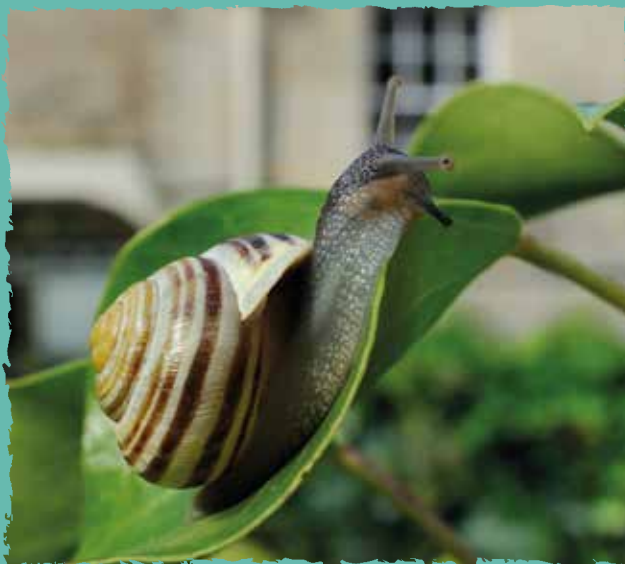
🐌 Look out for wildlife habitats where you live; what can you spot that might be a home for wildlife? Are there trees or hedges, cracks and holes in brickwork? Long grass, weeds or wildflowers? Bird boxes or feeders? Try to guess what creatures might be sharing your street with you.

🌳 Get to know a neighbourhood tree. Explore its bark, its leaves and any wildlife that might be living in it. Take photos of it at different points in the year and watch as the changing seasons bring blossom, leaves, colour and bareness to its branches.

🦇 Have a bat picnic; abandon the table for an evening and take tea outside at dusk. If you can find an open space, ideally near some water, you might be able to see bats swooping down for their own evening meals.

🐿 Be a nosy neighbour; choose a window in the house that overlooks the garden or other greenspace and make a list of the animals you can see through it over the course of the week. You should easily get birds, bees, butterflies, snails and slugs, perhaps squirrels and if you're really lucky a fox or hedgehog! Does this change as the season changes?

🏠 Becoming aware of what's in our own neighbourhood is the first step to helping it. Your family's next move could be boxes for birds, plants for pollinators, holes for hedgehogs and more besides.



Nick Upton 2020/VISION.

*The Wildlife Trusts have an exciting and diverse education and events programme. For more info visit [wildlifetrusts.org.uk](http://wildlifetrusts.org.uk) [worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on](http://worcswildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on) [Twitter.com/WorcsWT](https://twitter.com/WorcsWT) [facebook.com/worcestershirewildlifetrust](https://facebook.com/worcestershirewildlifetrust) [facebook.com/groups/30DaysWild/](https://facebook.com/groups/30DaysWild/)*



**LOOK OUT FOR WILDLIFE HABITATS  
WHERE YOU LIVE; WHAT CAN YOU SPOT  
THAT MIGHT BE A HOME FOR WILDLIFE?**

Neil White.

# FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND

Ash trees across the UK are dying – and fast. Alana Hopkins talks to Mark Connelly, Land Management Officer at the Cotswolds Conservation Board, about what’s being done to remember these beautiful trees, and how their loss is being managed.



Trees are a key visual feature in any rural landscape, including the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Brace for a big change though – we are set to lose one type almost entirely – the ash tree. A destructive fungal disease – ash dieback – has been spreading since 2012, and it will kill most of the ash trees in the UK, including those in the Cotswolds. This is no small thing – ash trees are the third most common tree in the country.

“Ash dieback became evident in the Cotswolds last summer”, explains Mark, Land Management Officer at the Conservation Board, “and there is no cure, so we are very likely to lose over 90% of ash trees in woodland, and around 70% of those outside woods, including big veteran trees and ancient pollards.”

Ash is a dominant tree in the Cotswold landscape, and in some places it can provide the majority of tree cover. And it is not only an important woodland tree, it is also significant in the

wider landscape and can be found lining the roadside, in fields, in hedges, and in parks and gardens.

“Ash trees also provide habitat and food for 111 species of insect and mites, and 29 of those are specific to ash. Bats use ash trees for foraging and hibernation, and rows of trees provide flight lines across the landscape connecting roost and foraging areas. Mature ash trees with holes and hollows provide roost sites for birds, and homes for small mammals.

With all this mind, it’s no exaggeration to say that the loss of ash trees will have a truly devastating impact on the landscape and wildlife of the Cotswolds and surrounding areas”, Mark says.

To try and tackle the impact of the problem, a partnership of organisations and experts from across the Cotswolds, Gloucester, Cheltenham and the Vale of Gloucester have joined forces. Their aim is to offer help for ash dieback in areas *outside* woodland (as owners and managers of woodlands are already



### You can help us remember!

Mark and the partnership want to create a visual memory bank of prominent and notable ash trees in the landscape, before they are lost, by taking photographic portraits of them. Photographs will also help identify where to plant new trees.

They need photographs of ash trees that are significant in the landscape (and which show the trees in the context of their landscape setting). This includes single ash trees, or trees in rows or groups, those found in hedgerows, alongside roads or footpaths, in fields, parkland.

Send your photographs (up to 10mb) to [ashtreepotos@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:ashtreepotos@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk), and remember to say where they are, ideally with a grid reference and short description.

being supported and guided by the Forestry Commission).

The partnership's aim is to work with farmers, land managers, and communities, and plant new trees to succeed the ash and provide an effective response to their disappearance. It will be crucial to maximise the benefits new trees will provide for wildlife, the landscape, and people – so these considerations will guide where trees will be planted. Replacement tree species to be planted include oak, beech, lime, field maple, and hazel – as Mark explains, “these all reflect the character of the area, provide the best benefits, and give us the best hope for the future of the landscape.”

### Sponsor the project

The partnership would love to hear from companies and organisations that would like to sponsor the tree planting programme. For more info, email [mark.connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:mark.connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

### You can help!

The partnership cannot do this work on its own – they need your help with funding, tree planting, and guidance on planting sites. The partnership is starting to raise funds so it can start planting trees this coming winter. You can help enormously by making a donation to the Ash Fund. Any amount will help. Donating £20 would pay for a tree, and plant and protect it; ensuring it will survive and grow in the landscape of the Cotswolds, Vale of Gloucester, or in and around Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. Please contact [mark.connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:mark.connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

# THE COTSWOLDS

## JULY TO DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

From exhibitions, gardens, and festivals to cross country runs and pumpkin picking, here are some Cotswolds highlights for the second half of 2019.\*

### JULY



#### 1 Art Unbound, Painswick Rococo Garden

Until 7 September  
[rococogarden.org.uk](http://rococogarden.org.uk)  
 A new exhibition of contemporary sculpture in the beautiful gardens at Painswick. Includes workshops for adults and children.



#### 2 Forest School for Tots, Batsford Arboretum

Monthly; 2nd Thursday & 4th Friday.  
 Until 22 November  
[batsarb.co.uk](http://batsarb.co.uk)  
 Get their wellies on! Fun activities for pre-schoolers, including bug hunting, making mud pies in the mud kitchen, craft activities, and storytime!



#### 3 Nibley Festival, Dursley

5 & 6 July  
[nibleyfestival.co.uk](http://nibleyfestival.co.uk)  
 Sugarhill Gang, Grandmaster Melle Mel and Scorpio of the Furious Five; Rat Boy; and Cast are among the headliners for this year's hidden gem of a festival – run by volunteers on a not-for-profit basis.



#### 4 2000 Trees Festival, Withington

11 – 13 July  
[twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk](http://twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk)  
 The award-winning 2000trees festival is a 3 day extravaganza set in the beautiful Cotswold Hills.



#### 5 The Cotswold Show, Cirencester Park

13 & 14 July  
[cotswoldshow.co.uk](http://cotswoldshow.co.uk)  
 Some of the best experiences of rural Cotswold life – all on display at Cirencester Park, just outside Cirencester.



#### 6 Cotswolds Beer Festival, Postlip, Winchcombe

19 – 21 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!



#### 7 A Midsummer Night's Dream, Sudeley Castle

Thursday, 25 July  
[sudeleycastle.co.uk](http://sudeleycastle.co.uk)  
 Celebrate the 15th year of The Lord Chamberlain's Men, the UK's premier all male theatre company, with their outdoor performance of Shakespeare's enchanting comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream.

### AUGUST



#### 8 Countryfile Live, Blenheim Palace

1 – 4 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!



#### 9 Wilderness Festival, Cornbury Park

1 – 4 August  
[wildernessfestival.com](http://wildernessfestival.com)  
 Music, art, literature, wellness, feasting, peace and love... boutique festival Wilderness has it all!



#### 10 Festival of British Eventing, Gatcombe Park

2 – 4 August  
[festivalofbritisheventing.com](http://festivalofbritisheventing.com)  
 This is the only event in the equestrian calendar that provides five Championships, a fantastic show of skill and stamina, this is eventing at its best.



#### 11 Wild Food Forage, Thistledown Farm, Nympsfield

Saturday, 17 August  
[thistledown.org.uk](http://thistledown.org.uk)  
 A 2 hour forage around the farm in search of wild edibles with head chef, foraging expert, and vegetarian food aficionado, Jos.





## SEPTEMBER



### 16 Moreton-in-Marsh Show

Saturday, 7 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.



### 17 Northleach Steamshow

7 & 8 September

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

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



### 18 Cotswold Way Century Race

21 & 22 September

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

It's the Cotswold Way, from start to finish – in under 30 hours. Challenging, hilly, beautiful. Entry requirements apply.

## OCTOBER



### 19 Dursley Walking Festival

2 – 6 October

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

A full programme of varied walks in and around the Dursley area.



### 20 National Apple Day, Dunkertons, Dowdeswell

Saturday, 19 October

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

Celebrate apples and autumn with a family-friendly afternoon of fun and festivities at this working artisan cidery.



### 21 Halloween Land, Cotswold Farm Park

19 October – 3 November

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

Spooky fun, including exploring the pumpkin patch and picking pumpkins!

## NOVEMBER



### 22 Bath Christmas Market

28 November – 15 December

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

Bath's famously bustling and vibrant Christmas market runs every year in the city centre.



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

30 November – 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.

## DECEMBER



### 24 Meet Santa! GWSR special journeys

Throughout December

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

Travel in style and chat with Santa and his elves on board an early 1960's diesel rail car!



### 25 Bibury Duck Races

Thursday, 26 December 2019

[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!



### 12 The Big Festival, Kingham

23 – 25 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 Elbow and Jess Glynne.



### 13 Witcombe Cider Festival, Witcombe

23 – 25 August

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

Founded in 2012, on the principles of cider, music, and good times, this festival is thriving. This year's acts include Faithless, Plan B, Dizzee Rascal, and David Rodigan.



### 14 The Phoenix Festival, Cirencester

24 & 25 August

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

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



### 15 Didmarton Bluegrass Festival

30 August – 1 September

[didmarton-bluegrass.co.uk](http://didmarton-bluegrass.co.uk)

One of the UK's premier bluegrass, americana, and old-time music festivals.

*A is for apple,  
B is for...*



Almost 40 years after Susie and Ivor Dunkerton decided to swap the hustle and bustle of city life in London to make their own cider in the Herefordshire countryside, Dunkertons Organic Cider has moved its production plant to the Cotswolds. Alana Hopkins meets the team, and finds out more – particularly about their love-affair with bees...

As Bean Benson, Co-Owner and Director, explains, wildlife and environmental conservation has always been at the heart of everything Dunkertons does. The Dunkertons' devotion to pursuing organic farming practices, quickly earned the company Soil Association certification for their own orchards and farms. Now, they work with many other partner growers who either already have Soil Association certification, or are working towards achieving it.

Dunkertons also has a beekeeper – Richard Fleming. During a gentle stroll among the apple trees, Richard explains more about why everyone at Dunkerton's loves bees – and why we all should too.

“Bees are absolutely essential for our food production – both locally and globally. According to the British Beekeepers Association, in the UK, an estimated 1/3 of the food we eat is pollination dependent – and bees play a major role in that.

And pollination isn't just important for the food we eat – it's essential for other plants, things like clover and field bean – which are eaten by the livestock we rely on for meat, as well as maintaining as much diversity as possible in flowering plants”.



In the peak of summer, Richard looks after around 35 beehives, across four lots of orchards. Each hive can be home to up to 50,000 bees, who produce around half a tonne of honey every year, some of which is sold in the Dunkertons shops in Pembridge and Cheltenham.

Richard and Bean are also keen to point out that bees are just one kind of wonderful pollinator – and that there are many other pollinating invertebrates, including butterflies, flies, moths, and beetles, who keep world turning, and the apples and wildflowers growing. Next time you're out in the countryside, why not see how many you can spot?

Want to help our hard-working pollinators? Follow the Wildlife Trusts' five top tips for how:

- ✿ **Plant for pollinators:** grow more nectar-rich flowers, shrubs and trees to provide for pollinators throughout the year.
- ✿ **Let your garden grow wild:** leaving patches of land to grow wild lets wildflowers grow and makes great nesting and feeding sites.

- ✿ **Put away the pesticide:** these can harm pollinators and many other beneficial invertebrates. Consider alternatives and only use pesticides as a last resort.
- ✿ **Leave the lawnmower:** cut your grass less often, and remove cuttings to let plants flower.
- ✿ **Build a bug hotel** and try to avoid disturbing or destroying nesting or hibernating insects in grass margins, bare soil, hedgerows, trees, dead wood or walls.



#### More information:

On the Dunkertons story: [dunkertonscider.co.uk](http://dunkertonscider.co.uk)  
Search for 'bees and pollinators' at [wildlifetrusts.org](http://wildlifetrusts.org) and [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk)  
On helping restore our local wildflower grasslands: p6

On becoming a beekeeper: [bbka.org.uk](http://bbka.org.uk)

In conversation with...


# Katie Allen

Perrott's Brook-based Katie swapped a career in graphic design to become an award-winning shepherdess and textile designer. Using wool from her rare breed sheep, she produces Loopy Ewes contemporary artisan homewares. Siân Ellis talks to Katie about her work.



Alun Callender





**“It always frustrated me how undervalued wool was.**

It is such an incredible resource, so sustainable: every year there is a whole new fleece. I really wanted to do something with it and that is what started me with Loopy Ewes.

**I have always loved the countryside.**

I went on smallholder courses and my passion for farming just grew. I started with 13 rare breed sheep eight years ago; now I have 60 breeding ewes.



**I keep Castlemilk Moorit and Portland sheep.** Native breeds are traditionally quite hardy. At my last lambing, my third season, I had 40 lambs, a real success.


**My flock conservation grazes** in winter for landowners with wildflower-rich grasslands – rare breeds thrive on such varied grasses. In summer we rent land closer to home. It’s tough. But we couldn’t afford to buy a farm in the Cotswolds and tenancies are rare.

**My biggest hope** is to secure a parcel of long-term grazing.



**My fleeces are turned into chunky yarn** at a woollen mill in Cornwall. There is a real contrast between my Castlemilk Moorits’ natural, chocolate-brown fleece and my Portlands’ lovely cream fleece which also dyes beautifully [using organic methods]. I draw inspiration for colours from the environment around me, like Cotswold stone walls in that bright yellow lichen.

**I knit with a hand-powered knitting machine.** When I run the threads of yarn through my hands, knowing I’ve spent the year caring for the animals that produced it, I feel profoundly connected to my work.”



*Find more info about Katie at [loopyewes.co.uk](http://loopyewes.co.uk). With husband James, Katie also sells rare breed lamb and beef, [heritagegraziers.co.uk](http://heritagegraziers.co.uk)*

# Cotswolds Guided Walks

July – December 2019

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

## Long distance Cotswolds routes

Want to make the 102 mile long Cotswold Way easier? Join a group of Cotswold Voluntary Wardens to walk 10 miles a month, starting in May every year. To walk North to South, contact John on 0117 9374561 or woodlandsbarn@btinternet.com. To walk South to North, contact Linda on 01242 604155 or waywalks@gmail.com. The Wardens also walk the 60 mile Diamond Way in sections. Join them every month on a Wednesday from April to September – contact Linda on the details above for more information.

## New! Multi-stage walks for 2020

### “Delights of the East Cotswolds”

Linear walk through Oxfordshire & Warwickshire Cotswolds in 5 to 8 mile sections. Warmington to Woodstock. Contact ros.wilson@hotmail.co.uk 01993 831810.

### “Heart of the Cotswolds”

Chipping Campden to Bath in 9 ten mile legs. Start from Cold Ashton. Contact ej.walker@talktalk.net 01454 778525.

## Regular Town Walks

**Chipping Campden Town Walk – Tuesdays 2:00pm and Thursdays 10:00am from late May BH until end September.**

90 minutes




Meet at the Market Hall for an historical tour of Chipping Campden, exploring the granting of the charter in the 12th century, growth through the Middle Ages, and the Arts and Crafts Movement.

## Tailor-made Cotswolds Walking

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1					WORCESTERSHIRE		Stratford upon Avon*	
2					Eresham		Chipping Campden	WARWICKSHIRE
3					Bredon Hill*		Lower Brilles	
4					Cleeve Hill		Stowon the-Wald	
5					Cheltenham		Chipping Norton	
6					Stowon the-Wald		Chipping Norton	
7					Stowon the-Wald		Chipping Norton	
8					Stowon the-Wald		Chipping Norton	
9					Stowon the-Wald		Chipping Norton	
10					Stowon the-Wald		Chipping Norton	
11					Stowon the-Wald		Chipping Norton	


**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.



## Tips:

- Wear appropriate clothes and footwear for the weather and terrain.
- Sorry – only assistance dogs are allowed on walks.
- Walk leaders will take all reasonable care and precautions, but each walker is ultimately responsible for their own safety, and for determining their capability to complete a walk.
- Wardens may take photographs during the walk for use in the Board’s publicity materials. If you wish to be excluded please advise the leaders.
- Unless otherwise stated, walks are free – but voluntary donations to the Countryside Fund which supports our work party activities are always welcome on Cotswold Voluntary Warden walks.
- Always remember the Countryside Code!

## Get social

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

## Information, other walking groups, and festivals


- [cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring)
- [ramblers.org.uk](http://ramblers.org.uk) 
- [parkrun.org.uk](http://parkrun.org.uk)
- [winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com](http://winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com)
- [dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk](http://dursleywalkfest.btck.co.uk)
- [thewi.org.uk](http://thewi.org.uk)
- [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk) 



# July

**Tuesday 2 July 10:00am**

## Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles


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

Starting Point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818711. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Russell Harding, Robert Herbert & Sid Guld

**Thursday 4 July 10:00am**

## Let the Train Take the Strain

 6.5 hours • 12 miles


Meet at the ticket office at 10:00am in time to catch 10:15am diesel train to Broadway (single ticket: £7). We will then walk back to Toddington using mainly the Cotswold Way. Two steep ascents. Please bring packed lunch.

Starting Point: Toddington Steam Railway Station. SP 050 323. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

**Friday 5 July 10:00am**

## To Horsley In Search Of The Blue Flash

 4 hours • 7 miles


A stroll via Barton End and then along the Horsley valley in search of kingfishers to Ruskin Mill where we will pause for lunch. In the afternoon we return to Chavenage Green via Longtree Bottom.

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

Leaders: Mick Thorpe & Chris Gill

**Saturday 6 July 10:00am**

## Wild Flower walks for National Meadows Day

 2 hours • 2 miles


There are areas of Uncultivated Limestone grass land on the shoulders of the plateau, which are ideal areas for some rarer wild flowers. Be prepared for rough ground but mostly grassland.

Starting Point: Lansdown Park and Ride, Bath. ST 731 680. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Richard Wilson & Pauline Wilson

**Saturday 6 July 2:00pm**

## Wild Flower walks for National Meadows Day

 2 hours • 2 miles


Park along Box Common. There are areas of Uncultivated Limestone grass land on the Common, which are ideal areas for some rarer wild flowers. Be prepared for rough ground but mostly grassland.

Starting Point: Box Common, Wiltshire. ST 833 692. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Richard Wilson & Pauline Wilson

**Tuesday 9 July 10:00am**

## 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 where the walk briefly runs alongside the River Windrush and then returns to Guiting Power.

Starting Point: Guiting Power Village Hall – car park (donation). SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

**Tuesday 9 July 9:30am**

## Windrush Wander

 4.5 hours • 11 miles


We walk east from Sherborne to cross the Windrush, then north east towards Great Rissington, turning east, then south to Great Barrington, Little Barrington, Windrush and back to Sherborne.

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

Leaders: Alan Thomas & David Russell

**Wednesday 10 July 10:00am**

## Scarp and dip and through the Needlehole – all in a morning

 3 hours • 5 miles


A good stretching walk with fine views from the scarp. Mostly in open country. Chance of orchids and butterflies. Parking in layby or at the pub for patrons. Meet in pub car park.

Starting Point: Seven Springs pub at junction of A435 & A436 on Stagecoach bus route 51. SO 966 169. Map square: D4.

Leaders: John Shaw, Graham Saunders & Harley Green

**Wednesday 10 July 2:00pm**

## Tea and Pots

 2 hours • 3.5 miles


A delightful walk linking two picturesque villages in the south Warwickshire part of the AONB. Expansive views and a section through woodland just complete this short walk with a few ups and downs. Enjoy a cuppa afterwards at The Straw Kitchen.

Starting Point: Whichford Pottery CV36 5PL. SP 314 348. Map square: H3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

**Friday 12 July 10:00am**

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

 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles


Circular walk in the Golden Valley, including canal towpath and Siccridge 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 & Steven Pascoe

**Friday 12 July 10:00am**

## Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'A Monumental Walk'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles


Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30am, taking us to Upper Kilcott via Church Wood and Small Coomb. We return via Lower Kilcott and the Monarch's Way. Lunch available after the walk in the pub, if required.

Starting Point: Beaufort Arms, Hawkesbury Upton. Hawkesbury Upton lies to the W of the A46 just S of its junction with the A433 Tetbury road. ST 777 869. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Helen Furrmidge

**Saturday 13 July 10:00am**

## Two Railways and a Canal

 5.5 hours • 8.5 miles


A linear walk into Bath. We follow the Titfield thunderbolt/Somerset Coal canal down to Tucking Mill then through Combe Down tunnel (1 mile), over Beechen Cliff and Alexandra Park to pick up the Park & Ride bus back to the start. Bring bus pass if applicable. Please bring a picnic lunch.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Rob Morley

**Tuesday 16 July 10:00am**

## No Rush around the Windrush

 2.5 hours • 5 miles


A pleasant walk taking in the Windrush, Naunton (famous for its church and dovecote) and Barton, with food and drink available at the pub after the walk.

Starting Point: Farmer's Arms pub car park Guiting Power. SP 095 247. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Brian Chilvers, Ray Goold & John Milroy

**Thursday 18 July 10:00am**

## Bredon Hill Panorama

 5.5 hours • 9 miles


An energetic walk up and around Bredon Hill, noting the history, flora and fauna of the hill and enjoying 360 degree view of the countryside. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Elmley Castle - small car park plus road parking. SO 984 410. Map square: D2.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

**Sunday 21 July 2:30pm**

## In Search of Old Mont

 2.5 hours • 4 miles


A circular walk through Fulwell and Clevely visiting places associated with "Old Mont" Abbot, Enstone carter and shepherd, made famous by Sheila Stewart's book "Lifting the Latch".

Starting Point: Enstone near the cemetery on the Little Tew Road OX7 4NN. SP 380 252. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

**Tuesday 23 July 10:00am**

## 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

## Support the Cotswolds AONB

Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow!  
[Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)



For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at [cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

**Friday 26 July 10:30am**  
**A Family Walk in Support of the Children in Need Appeal**



2 hours • 2.5 miles

Join us on a family walk in the stunning Woodchester Mansion Park. We will walk down to the mansion past cows and sheep to the lakes and back via the play area. We will look at the wild flowers, trees and animals on the way. Bring a snack. Voluntary Collection for the Children in Need appeal.

**Starting Point:** Woodchester Park National Trust car park; please note charges apply for non members of the Trust. Woodchester Park is brown signed from the B4066 near Coaley Peak picnic site. SO 798 014. Map square: B6.

**Leaders:** Helen Furnidge, Eric Brown & Nigel Meredith.

**Saturday 27 July 10:00am**  
**In the footsteps of Gandhi**

5 hours • 10 miles

Circular walk round the parish of Miserden but to include a visit to Edgeworth. Visas for India not required.

**Starting Point:** Miserden village centre. There are 3 or 4 car parking areas within the village or park neatly on the road. SO 937 089. Map square: C5.

**Leaders:** Harley Green, John Shaw & Alistair McKenzie

**Tuesday 30 July 10:00am**  
**Up and around Nottingham Hill**

3.5 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk exploring Nottingham Hill with lovely views of the Malverns on a clear day. Some steep climbs, rough paths and several stiles. Please bring drink/snack. Refreshments available at the pub after the walk, if required.

**Starting Point:** The Apple Tree Pub, Stockwell Lane, Woodmancote. SO 975 274. Map square: D3.

**Leaders:** Gerry Nye, Ann Nye & Mike Klaiber

**Tuesday 30 July 6:00pm**  
**Adelstrop and Chastleton**

2.5 hours • 4 miles

From the poetic village of Adelstrop to the Iron Age Fort on Chastleton Hill and the Jacobean Manor House in Chastleton village. Great views over the Evenlode Valley to the Cotswold Escarpment and on a good day you can even see Broadway Tower. Lovely short amble with lots of history.

**Starting Point:** Adelstrop Village Hall GL56 0UN. SP 241 272. Map square: G3.  
**Leader:** Anne Martis

**Wednesday 31 July 10:00am**  
**Three Woods around Pegglesworth**

3 hours • 6.5 miles

A fairly level walk (with some minor roads) around remote countryside near Hilcot before returning via Lineover Wood. Includes short sections of the Gloucestershire and Cotswold Ways.

**Starting Point:** Kilkenny Viewpoint, on the A436 between Andoversford and Seven Springs. SP 004 186.  
**Map square:** D4.

**Leaders:** Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

## August

**Thursday 1 August 10:00am**  
**Problems With Halts and Houses**

5 hours • 10.5 miles

Starting in the lovely village of Rodmarton, discover the troubled history of a public house and a local branch line. Explore the rich history of the environs of Rodmarton, Culkerton and Ashley. Packed lunch needed. Possible Cafe/Bar stop for drink only.  
**Starting Point:** Rodmarton church. Please park considerably in the village. ST 942 981. Map square: D6.

**Leaders:** Nigel Meredith & Helen Furnidge

**Monday 5 August 10:00am**  
**The Walk of (H)aitches**

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Starting at the small car park in the middle of Horsley village the walk descends over the Hartley Bridge through Horsley Wood to Hazlecote Farm returning via Kingscote. After the walk lunch can be found at the Hog pub in Horsley or Hunters Hall Inn Kingscote.

**Starting Point:** In Horsley at the small car park on the B4058 opposite the Downend road junction just down from The Hog pub in the centre of the village. Alternative parking nearby in the community shop car park (narrow road off the B4058 past the pub car park) then walk back. ST 839 981. Map square: B6.

**Leaders:** Chris Gill & Derrick Hilderley

**Tuesday 6 August 10:00am**  
**Tuesday Tramp**

3 hours • 5 miles

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

**Starting Point:** Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818711. Map square: B9.  
**Leaders:** Dave Wright, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

**Thursday 8 August 10:00am**  
**Windrush, Wardens Way Circular – Walk 1**

5 hours • 10 miles

This circular walk from Bourton on the Water takes the Wardens Way west through picturesque villages and across the North Cotswold hills to Naunton. The return on the Windrush Way follows the River Windrush and take us through sheltered valleys and pleasant woodland. Bring a packed lunch.

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

**Leaders:** David Russell & Alan Thomas

**Friday 9 August 10:00am**  
**Friday Foray: Holy Brook Valleys**

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk to Sudgrove through the valleys of Holy Brook and its tributaries. Lunch at the Stirrup Cup afterwards.

**Starting Point:** Along Van der Breen Street, Bisley (opposite Stirrup Cup pub). Limited parking here at Sports Pavilion car park (with permission – voluntary donation). Or park on the left on entering the village on the road from Cheltenham. SO 906 061. Map square: C5.

**Leaders:** Steven Pascoe, Helen Watkinson & Sue Proctor

**Sunday 11 August 10:00am**  
**Four Churches Round – Bath**

3.5 hours • 7 miles

This is a circular walk involving steady climbs with magnificent views across the valley to Bathampton and further afield. We visit four interesting churches at Upper Swainswick; Woolley; Langridge; and Charlecombe. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** Lay-by to the east of the A46 on the slip road for Upper Swainswick. ST 761 682. Map square: B9.  
**Leaders:** Barry Cox & Nigel Chapman

**Monday 12 August 10:00am**  
**Battles, Big Skies and Leylines**

2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

An interesting walk that includes sight of a civil war battleground, a commemorative tower, a haunted pub and lovely far reaching views. Bring a snack to enjoy during the walk and why not enjoy the NT café at the end. To book a place call 0344 249 1895.

**Starting Point:** Upton House car park OX15 6HT. SP 371 455. Map square: H1.  
**Leaders:** Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

**Tuesday 13 August 10:00am**  
**Ghosts, Barrows and Harrison Ford**

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A relatively gentle walk, taking in Hazleton and Salperton Park, with a chance to see the church and Jacobean Manor. At the time of planning, the Puesdown is for sale so the walk may be cancelled if new owners are not willing to allow us to park. Watch the AONB website for updates.

**Starting Point:** Puesdown Inn on A40 between Cheltenham and Northleach. SP 075 171. Map square: E4.

**Leaders:** Ray Gould, John Milroy & Brian Chilvers

**Wednesday 14 August 10:00am**  
**Stunning Stroud**

3 hours • 6 miles

From Stroud a ramble along the Painswick valley returning via Pitchcombe and touching on part of the link with the Bruce Trail in Canada. Plenty of watering holes in Stroud at the end of the walk.

**Starting Point:** Stroud lido entrance, Stratford Park car park. SO 845 056.  
**Map square:** B6.

**Leaders:** Harley Green, John Shaw & Graham Saunders

**Thursday 15 August 10:00am**  
**Woodlands in Summer**

3 hours • 6 miles

Looking at the habitats of the wonderful Cotswold scarp at the height of summer two woods of very different characteristics with limestone grassland, magnificent views and a couple of lovely villages thrown in. Bring suitable refreshment.  
**Starting Point:** Stanton village car park, next to cricket ground. SP 067 343.  
**Map square:** E3.

**Leaders:** Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

**Thursday 15 August 10:00am**  
**Sainfoin and High Places**

4 hours • 7 miles

We start on the Cotswold Way, passing through beech woods and limestone meadow, up to Uley Bury via Coaley Peak Viewpoint. Returning via Nymphsfield and Woodchester Park we will be escorted across the 'live' airfield. Lunch available at the cafe after the walk or bring a picnic lunch.  
**Starting Point:** Car park of the Old Flying Club Café, Bristol and Gloucestershire Gliding Club, Nymphsfield on the B4066 between Stroud and Uley. Please park considerably. SO 806 019.  
**Map square:** B6.

**Leaders:** Trish Iliadou & David Owen



# Batsford

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Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre  
Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9AD  
01386 701441 [arboretum@batsfordfoundation.co.uk](mailto:arboretum@batsfordfoundation.co.uk)



### Friday 16 August 10:30am Dyrham: Park and Countryside [Doynnton]

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 may apply – free to NT members. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Bob Ford

### Saturday 17 August 10:00am Down your Daneway. But mostly up

5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

From the Daneway along the canal towards Pinbury Park towards Edgeworth, returning via Oakridge Lynch and Frampton. Bring a picnic lunch and snacks.

Starting Point: Daneway Pub, Sapperton. SO 938 032. Map square: E6.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue, John Shaw & Ray Goold

### Saturday 17 August 10:00am 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 tea shop – 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 & Nigel Chapman



### Saturday 17 August 10:00am From Source to Shipston – Following the River Stour Part 3

4 hours • 8 miles

The final walk that traces the River Stour from its source to Shipston on Stour. We retrace our steps back to Cherington, where we left the river Stour last time, and follow it back to Shipston via Weston Mill, Burmington, Willington and Barcheston. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Bridge car park Mill Street Shipston on Stour CV36 4AW. SP 260 404. Map square: G2.

Leaders: Janet Moore & Margaret Burden

### Sunday 18 August 10:00am The Railway Children

5.5 hours • 9.5 miles

A walk along the Cotswold escarpment to North Nibley and then an attractive descent to Charfield for lunch. We return to Wotton via Kingswood and learn of an unsolved mystery at Churchdown. Please bring a packed lunch, pub stop for drink only.

Starting Point: Chipping car park, Wotton Under Edge. ST 756 931. Map square: C6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Richard Coles

### Sunday 18 August 2:30pm Long Day, Short Day, Moreday and Muffittie

1.5 hours • 2 miles

A Sunday afternoon stroll around the village of Stonesfield, once a centre for the 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, carefully near the Post Office. SP 394 171. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

### Sunday 25 August 10:00am The Castle and Brooks around Castle Combe

4.5 hours • 8.5 miles

We hope to visit the Castle and Nature Reserve which have no public access but with Golf Club permission, before circling via Lugbury Long Barrow, Nettleton, Ford, and Long Dean back to the start. Please bring a picnic lunch.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Barry Cox

### Tuesday 27 August 6:00pm Blenheim Estate: of Kings, Queens and Heroes

2 hours • 4 miles

This short walk around the Blenheim estate looks for traces of its historic past. From Henry II and his mistress, to Princess Elizabeth I, the Dukes of Marlborough and more recently Winston Churchill.

Starting Point: Hensington Road car park Woodstock, OX20 1JF. SP 448 168. Map square: H4.

Leader: Anne Martis

### Wednesday 28 August 10:00am Ancient Hampnett

2.5 hours • 5 miles

Starting through Northleach via the church and then along Helen's Ditch. Joining the Macmillan Way returning through Hampnett with its decorated church to return to Northleach in time for lunch.

Starting Point: Old Prison Northleach. SP 108 148. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

### Thursday 29 August 10:00am Three Hills

6.5 hours • 12 miles

A vigorous walk from Winchcombe, with ascents up Langley Hill, Nottingham Hill and Cleeve Hill. Fantastic views on a clear day to the North and West. Please bring packed lunch, morning and afternoon snacks and plenty of water.

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

Leaders: Linda & Martin Blackwell

### Thursday 29 August 10:00am A Right Roll to Long Compton

4.5 hours • 9.5 miles


Expect hills, arable land, which will hopefully be stubble, when we walk, ancient stones, woodland and views. A cracking circuit. Please bring a snack, a packed lunch and £1 donation for car parking at the village hall.

Starting Point: Great Rollright Village Hall OX7 5SW. SP 322 315. Map square: H2.

Leaders: Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at [cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

## Saturday 31 August 10:00am Up and Down the Cotswold Escarpment

 2.5 hours • 5 miles


We will climb the escarpment passing the village of North Stoke and its delightful church to reach the Cotswold Way. We then descend from Hanging Hill and pass through the settlements of Beach and Upton Cheney to arrive back at Swineford where there is the option of a pub lunch.

Starting Point: Swineford Picnic car park. ST 691 692. Map square: A10.

Leaders: John Bartram & Fred Dugan

## September

### Tuesday 3 September 10:00am Woods, Wolds and a Prophetess

 5.5 hours • 11 miles

This varied walk takes us through three historic villages and across the Wolds which provide lovely views across the North Cotswolds. We walk through woodlands and meadows which should be rich in flora and fauna at the time of our walk. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Batsford Arboretum car park. 1.5 miles west of Moreton in Marsh off the A44. SP 181 334. Map square: F3.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

### Tuesday 3 September 10:00am Tuesday Tramp


 3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Dave Wright, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

### Wednesday 4 September 10:00am Source of the Cotswolds?

 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk around Coates, including the official source of the Thames.

Starting Point: The Tunnel Inn at Coates. (5km West of Cirencester). SO 965 005. Map square: D6.


Leaders: Graham Saunders, Harley Green & John Shaw

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### Thursday 5 September 10:00am Fame and Fortune: exploring beyond Moreton in Marsh


 3 hours • 6 miles

This morning walk offers the chance to view the majestic house of the famous Mitford family, near Bourton-on-the-Hill. Walking towards Longborough, we pass Sezincote and find out about the history of the house and family. We return to Moreton via the hidden duck pond. Bring coffee/snacks.

Starting Point: Moreton in Marsh war memorial. Parking in long term car park next to station and on streets. SP 205 326. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

### Thursday 5 September 10:00am The Woods of Kingscote


 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at Hunters Hall at 10:00am. The walk proceeds through Kingscote village and up through high woodland towards the valley leading down to Horsley. After passing Kingscote Barns we ascend to Binley Farm and back through Kingscote to Hunters Hall. Lunch available at the Inn after the walk.

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

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Brian Mundy

### Friday 6 September 10:00am A Brailes Trio


 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A delightful walk in the Warwickshire area of the Cotswolds AONB with far reaching views across a patchwork of farmland. The route takes us to each of the three villages bearing the name Brailes, we learn something of the history and importance this area once held. Lunch after the walk at The George.

Starting Point: The George, Brailes OX15 5HN. SP 314 392. Map square: G2.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

### Tuesday 10 September 10:00am Two Coombs to Midger


 3 hours • 5 miles

The walk descends two delightful grassy coombs to the Midger Nature Reserve. Our return follows the Kilcote Valley, once featuring many mills, before ascending back along the Monarch's Way. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting Point: Village Hall, Hawkesbury Upton. ST 777 869. Map square: B8.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Jocelyn Dawson-Wood

### Tuesday 10 September 10:00am Windrush, Wardens Way Circular – Walk 2


 4 hours • 6.5 miles

The second in a series of circular walks along the Wardens & Windrush Way. From Naunton, we climb out of the valley to Aylworth and Guiting Power. We pick up the Wardens Way and pass Guiting's Norman church and Naunton's unusual sun dials and impressive dovecote. Bring refreshments.

Starting Point: Naunton - park with care in the village. The Black Horse Pub is the meeting point. SP 118 234. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Sheila & Robert Talbot

### Thursday 12 September 10:00am To Daylesford and Beyond

 4 hours • 8 miles

Two large villages and two hamlets feature in this delightful walk as well as lovely views and landscapes. Enjoy learning a bit about the Daylesford Estate and its connection with the Governor General of India. Please bring a snack and a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Kingham car park by school OX7 6YD. SP 261 241. Map square: G4.

Leaders: Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

### Friday 13 September 10:00am Friday Foray: 6 Sisters and a Loving Brother, a genteel walk from Quenington to Coln St Aldwyns and return


 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk in the Coln Valley, starting at Quenington, visiting the church with its two fine Norman doors. Lunch after the walk at The Keepers Arms. Please note there is no parking at the pub so park considerably around the village. Plenty of parking around the village green.

Starting Point: The Keepers Arms, Quenington (on the left on the road to Quenington Manor). SP 146 042. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Sue Proctor, Helen Wilkinson & Steven Pascoe

### Friday 13 September 10:00am Off to the Woods and a Fishery


 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Starting from Horsley village the walk heads via Barton End down to the Iron Mills then north-west to Dunkirk and Nailsworth returning along the Horsley valley. After the walk lunch can be found at the Hog pub in Horsley, Hunters Hall Inn Kingscote or various eateries in Nailsworth.

Starting Point: In Horsley at the small car park on the B4058 opposite the Downend road junction just down from The Hog pub in the centre of the village. Alternative parking nearby in the community shop car park (narrow road off the B4058 past the pub car park) then walk back. ST 839 981. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Chris Gill & Derrick Hildersley

### Tuesday 17 September 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 2, 'Wallowing In the Miry Brook'


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30, taking us north to Tickmorend, on to farms at Upper and Lower Lutheridge and returns via Wallow Green; all names to conjure with! Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

Starting Point: Horsley Community Shop, Priory Fields, Horsley. Turn off the B4058 Nailsworth road through the village at The Hog pub. ST 838 979. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & David Harrowin

### Tuesday 17 September 10:00am www. Wychwood Wonder Walks

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

The walk introduces some remarkable social history from 3,000BC to the present day. Walkers will learn about the struggles of the poor and the pleasures of the privileged as well as passing through attractive villages and countryside. Lunch available at The Swan after the walk.

Starting Point: Swan Inn Ascott under Wychwood OX7 6AY. SP 300 187. Map square: G4.

Leader: Gerry Simper


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[alana.hopkins@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:alana.hopkins@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)  
for more information.



**Tuesday 17 September 10:00am**

## Environmentally Friendly Farming


 3.5 hours • 6 miles

An undulating walk with one short steep climb on the private tracks, headlands and woods of Guiting Manor Farm where the aim is to farm with the wildlife habitat in mind. See how man and nature benefit whilst enjoying superb views of the Cotswold landscape. Bring a drink/snack. Starting Point: Guiting Manor Farm. Park in field opp. the farm on left hand side as you approach Guiting Power from Winchcombe. SP 088 252. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Gerry Nye, Ann Nye & Mike Klaiber

**Tuesday 17 September 10:00am**

## Royalty and Drug Barons

 2.5 hours • 5 miles


A moderate walk but with one significant climb up Salter's Hill, taking in Sudeley Castle and views of the GWR. Refreshments available at various places in Winchcombe following the walk.

Starting Point: Winchcombe Back Lane car park behind the Library - £1 all day. SP 024 285. Map square: D3.

Leaders: John Milroy, Brian Chilvers & Ray Goold

**Thursday 19 September 10:00am**

## Where there's a Will there's a Way

 5 hours • 9 miles


Please park carefully in the village and meet at the Black Horse. The walk will use some of the long distance paths in the Cotswolds and take in the iconic villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: The Black Horse, Naunton. SP 119 236. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

**Thursday 19 September 10:00am**

## Upper Slad Valleys

 3 hours • 5 miles

Walk to explore three valleys in the upper Slad area, includes Snows Farm nature reserve and some of the Laurie Lee trail.


Starting Point: Bulls Cross on B4070 north of Slad. SO 878 088.

Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Ray Goold & Janet Duffin

**Friday 20 September 10:00am**

## Royal Houses and Majestic Trees

 5 hours • 9.5 miles


Discover the area south of Tetbury with its important residents and famous trees. Bring a packed lunch. Lovely walking through the Escourt Park estate to Shipton Moyne before crossing to Westonbirt Arboretum and returning to Tetbury via Highgrove.

Starting Point: Tetbury free railway yard car park, Cirencester Road GL8 8EY. ST 889 933. Map square: C7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furrmidge

**Wednesday 25 September 10:00am**

## Winchcombe and Langley Hill

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles


A walk over hill pastures with fine views. From Winchcombe we climb Langley Hill to get views of Winchcombe, Stanway Hill, Salter's Hill and Cleeve. On our return we pass through the attractive village of Gretton and its 19th century church.

Starting Point: Car park behind library in Back Lane, Winchcombe (small charge). SP 024 285. Map square: E3

Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

**Thursday 26 September 10:00am**

## Railway, River, Relics and Writers

 3 hours • 6 miles

Starting in the pleasant village of Kington this walk focuses on the River Evenlode which inspired two writers in the early 20th Century. Also there is the opportunity to visit a church which features in Simon Jenkins' book England's 1,000 Best Churches. Lunch options in nearby Chipping Norton.


Starting Point: Kington car park by school OX7 6YD. SP 261 241.

Map square: G4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

**Thursday 26 September 10:00am**

## Wellow, Combe Hay and Twinhoe Circular

 5 hours • 9 miles


From Wellow we climb Eastwards to White Ox Mead and follow the Cam Brook to Combe Hay where we pass the derelict lock flight of the Somerset Coal canal. Then to Twin Stoke and back to Wellow via Twinhoe. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting Point: Wellow old Station free car park. ST 738 581. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Rob Morley

**Saturday 28 September 10:00am**

## From Birdlip to Miserden, with a Nobel winner on the Syde

 5.5 hours • 11 miles


From Birdlip to Brimpsfield, on to Caudle Green and Miserden. We will return via Winstone and Syde. We cross our path at Brimpsfield and return via Climperwell. Bring packed lunch, and enough snacks (lunch plus 2 stops).

Starting Point: Birdlip School. SO 928 142. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue, Alistair McKenzie & Steven Pascoe

**Saturday 5 October 10:00am**

## Three Hills Round – Bath

 4.5 hours • 8.5 miles


This circular walk to the NE of Bath includes ascents to each of the 3 hills: Bannerdown, Holt Down, and Little Solsbury. The views from the tops of these hills are the best in the area, weather permitting. Please bring a packed lunch. There are several pubs at the end of the walk for refreshment.

Starting Point: The George Pub, Bathampton. [BA1 7NB]. ST 779 674. Map square: B10.

Leaders: Barry Cox & Paul Clarke

**Saturday 5 October 2:00pm**

## Local History of Cam Mills and Weaving Workshop for Children. (Dursley Walking Festival)

 2.5 hours • 1.5 miles

A family walk with a local history theme, aimed at primary school children. One adult to accompany a maximum of 3 children please. After a short walk around Lower Cam we are offering a weaving and spinning workshop. Please book on line at Eventbrite, Dursley Walking Festival (Limited places).


Starting Point: Outside Berry Blue café in Cam. Please park in Tesco's car park and register car inside. SO 749 004.

Map square: A6.

Leaders: Helen Furrmidge & Nigel Meredith

**Sunday 6 October 9:00am**

## Dursley Figure of Eight (Dursley Walking Festival)

 9 hours • 15 miles

A new long distance walk to celebrate Dursley's status as a Cotswold Gateway town, comprising two 8 mile loops from the town centre – do either or both. The morning leg goes east, taking in Uley Bury and Cam Long Down. The afternoon walk starts at 2:00pm, heading west to Stinchcombe Hill, Stinchcombe Village and Cam.


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: Mick Thorpe, Helen Furrmidge & Nigel Meredith

# October

**Tuesday 1 October 10:00am**

## Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles


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

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

Leaders: Dave Wright, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

**Thursday 3 October 10:00am**

## Bagpath and Beyond (Dursley Walking Festival)

 5 hours • 9.5 miles


Discover the delights of Bagpath and beyond. Explore the gems of Bagpath, Lasborough and Ozleworth in this journey through scenic valleys and historical buildings. May be muddy in places, depending on weather. Packed lunch needed.

Starting Point: Hunters Hall Inn car park, Kingscote, by arrangement. GL8 8XZ. ST 812 960. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furrmidge

**Thursday 3 October 10:00am**

## From the Iron Age to the Nuclear Age

 4 hours • 7.5 miles

This walk offers stunning views across the Severn valley (weather permitting) and returns via lesser walked footpaths of the Badminton Estate. Along the way we will visit an Iron Age fort, a Roman camp, a Menhir stone, a 17th century stately home and a Nuclear Bunker. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting Point: Cross Hands Hotel, by the traffic lights on the A46. ST 763 811. Map square: A8.


Leaders: Nigel Chapman & John Walker



For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at [cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

### Sunday 6 October 10:00am

## Short-Circuiting The Lantern (Dursley Walking Festival)

 3 hours • 6 miles


A circular walk climbing from Dursley into Twinberrow Woods to access the Lantern Way via a new permissive route. We continue towards Uley, then return along the Cotswold Way. Lunch available in Dursley 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.

**Leader:** David Harrowin

### Tuesday 8 October 9:30am

## Three Rivers, three villages around Bourton on the Water

 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles


Countryside and across three rivers in this circular of the villages, starting at and around Bourton on the Water. Wyck Rissington – Lower Slaughter – Upper Slaughter – and back to Bourton.

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

**Leaders:** Alan Thomas & David Russell

### Wednesday 9 October 10:00am

## Wysit this way?

 3.5 hours • 6 miles


A walk through fields and valleys passing through Cotswold villages whilst stopping to consider some of the stories of local people and places.

**Starting Point:** Windy Ridge, Bisley – from Cheltenham/Birdlip parking is on left as you enter Bisley. From Stroud it is on right 100 yards past the Stirrup Cup. SO 903 064. Map square: C5.

**Leaders:** Harley Green, John Shaw & Graham Saunders

### Thursday 10 October 10:00am

## Windrush, Wardens Way Circular – Walk 3

 4.5 hours • 8 miles


The third in a series of four circular walks encompassing the Windrush and Wardens Way. This walk takes us out on the Windrush Way to the medieval village of Hawling before returning on the Wardens Way through Guiting Wood. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** Guiting Power Village Hall – car park (donation). SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

**Leaders:** Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

### Friday 11 October 10:30am

## Dyrham: Park and Countryside [Battlefield]

 2.5 hours • 5 miles


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

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

**Leaders:** John Walker & Bob Ford

### Saturday 12 October 10:00am

## Along the Evenlode

 6 hours • 12.5 miles


Spend the day walking in the countryside of the Evenlode Valley with its wide vistas and charming villages. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** St Mary's Church Charlbury OX7 3PX. SP 355 195. Map square: G4.

**Leaders:** Martin & Lucy Squires

### Sunday 13 October 10:00am

## Pond Two Pond

 5.5 hours • 9 miles


A circular walk through the villages of Alderton and Lighterton. A rare opportunity to visit two recently restored medieval fish ponds and The Giant's Cave. Pub stop for drink only, so please bring a packed lunch.

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

**Leaders:** David Harrowin & Helen Furnidge

### Tuesday 15 October 10:00am

## Steam around Cleeve's Offspring

 3 hours • 6 miles


A more strenuous walk with two significant ascents which lead to extensive views. Also visiting ancient hill forts and villages. Refreshments available at the pub after the walk.

**Starting Point:** The Shutters Inn pub car park. Just off A436 north of Bishop's Cleeve. SO 958 297. Map square: D3.

**Leaders:** Brian Chilvers, Ray Goold & John Milroy

### Wednesday 16 October 10:00am

## Coffee Walk No. 3, 'Hard Walk to Heaven'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles


Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30am and takes us east across the Stroudwater Canal, via The Heavens to Nether Lypiatt. We return via Brimscombe and the canal. Fine countryside and an interesting walk along the restored canal. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

**Starting Point:** Winston's Ice-cream Parlour. Rodborough Common. Rodborough Common lies to the East of the A46 between Nailsworth and Stroud. Bear Lane is the nearest access point from the A46. Suggest use of Winston's website to locate the start point more easily. SO 855 029. Map square: B6.

**Leaders:** Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

### Wednesday 16 October 10:00am

## Autumn in the Forest of Wychwood

 5 hours • 8.5 miles


There is only one public footpath across the Wychwood Forest but we leave this Right of Way for a circular walk through normally inaccessible parts. Mostly level or undulating ground but one short steep section. May be muddy in places. Please bring a packed lunch.

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

**Leader:** Tony Graeme

### Thursday 17 October 9:30am

## Stanway Water Mill and Tures

 4 hours • 5.5 miles


A varied walk exploring Stanway Estate, looking at how water is used and managed, including a visit to the working flour mill (admission charge £3). Climbing up through woods, we will see a restored ture and how the famous fountain gets its supply of water. Return to Stanton via Shenberrow Hill.

**Starting Point:** Stanton village car park, next to cricket ground. SP 067 344. Map square: E3.

**Leaders:** Mary & Barry Roberts

### Saturday 19 October 10:00am

## Thames, Severn & Churn – not to mention a Green Dragon

 5.5 hours • 11 miles


Start with magnificent scarp-edge views then ramble through fields and villages. Taking in Pegglesworth, Cockleford & Coberley.

**Starting Point:** Seven Springs pub at junction of A435, A436 south of Cheltenham. Park in layby opposite or patrons park at pub. SO 966 169. Map square: D4.

**Leaders:** John Shaw & Alistair MacKenzie

### Monday 21 October 10:00am

## Around the Plough

 3 hours • 6.5 miles


This walk in the ancient Wychwood Forest leaves Finstock passing a holy well on the way towards historic Wilcote Manor. The return route is along the Evenlode via Stonesfield and the Oxfordshire Way. Lunch at The Plough after the walk.

**Starting Point:** The Plough Inn Finstock OX7 3BY. SP 360 161. Map square: H5.

**Leader:** Tony Merry

### Wednesday 23 October 10:00am

## A Circuit of Cleeve Common

 3 hours • 6.5 miles

A walk around the edges of Cleeve Common, visiting an ancient sheep wash, abandoned quarries and the highest point in the Cotswolds. One short challenging, climb then mainly level. Lunch and drinks available afterwards at the Golf Club.

**Starting Point:** Quarry car park, just past the Golf Club; off the B4632 between Cheltenham and Prestbury. SO 989 272. Map square: D3.

**Leaders:** Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

### Saturday 26 October 10:00am

## The Ancient Forest of Wychwood

**Strenuous** 4.5 hours • 9 miles


A pleasant walk, hopefully with Autumn colours, in an area once covered by the ancient forest of Wychwood. Learn about the Forest Charter and its importance to local people of the time. En route we pass villages, parkland and a fine medieval church. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** Spendlove car park Charlbury OX7 3PQ. SP 358 196. Map square: H4.

**Leaders:** Janet Moore & Margaret Burden

### Tuesday 29 October 10:00am

## Where the Windrush rushes

 3 hours • 6 miles

Another in our informal series about how a parish fits into the wider Cotswold environment, perhaps giving some answers about why this lovely place is here and why it has developed the way it has. Bring suitable refreshment.

**Starting Point:** Temple Guiting Village Hall. SP 089 279. Map square: E3.


**Leaders:** Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at [cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)



**Tuesday 29 October 10:00am**

## Marshfield – Town and Valleys

 3 hours • 5 miles


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

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

**Leaders:** David Colbourne & Rob Morley

**Tuesday 29 October 10:00am**

## Two Villages, a Valley and a Hill

 3.5 hours • 5 miles


The walk ascends to the escarpment via Splatts Barn towards the Somerset Monument. Our route through woods and valley brings us to Kilcote and then to Alderley via the Monarch's Way. Field paths bring us back to Hillesley. Lunch available at the Fleece if open, or in nearby Wotton Under Edge.

**Starting Point:** Fleece Inn, Hillesley. Hillesley lies 2.5 miles south of Wotton Under Edge. Parking at the inn or in nearby car park adjacent to the sports field. ST 771 897. Map square: B7.

**Leaders:** Derrick Hildersley & Chris Gill

**Thursday 31 October 10:00am**

## The hills around Ruscombe valley

 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk round one of Stroud's five valleys including Ocker Hill, Zion Hill with Ruscombe Wood and Whiteshill. Great views from various points along the route.

**Starting Point:** At the top end of Stratford Park car park area, Stroud. SO 843 057. Map square: B6.

**Leaders:** Steven Pascoe, Ray Goold & Janet Duffin

# November

**Sunday 3 November 10:00am**

## Cockadilly Tour

 4.5 hours • 6 miles


A picturesque walk around the Cotswold Edge, taking in Coaley Peak and Uley Bury, together with the remote hamlet of Owlpen. Please bring a picnic or take a late lunch in one of the local pubs in Nymphsfield or Uley.

**Starting Point:** Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO 794 015. Map square: B6.

**Leaders:** David Owen & Trish Iliadou

**Tuesday 5 November 10:00am**

## Windrush, Wardens Way Circular – Walk 4

 4.5 hours • 8 miles


The last in a series of four circular walks encompassing the Windrush and Wardens Way. We will leave Winchcome on the Windrush Way and return via the Wardens Way. Hopefully we will get lovely views down the Sudeley valley. Bring a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** Winchcombe Back Lane car park behind the Library – E1 all day. SP 024 285. Map square: D3.

**Leaders:** Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

**Tuesday 5 November 10:00am**

## Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles


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

**Starting Point:** Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818711. Map square: B9.

**Leaders:** Robert Herbert, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

**Wednesday 6 November 10:00am**

## Chedworth Circle

 3 hours • 6 miles


A walk around the Chedworth area. Local establishments you may wish to frequent afterwards: Seven Tuns, Chedworth; Mill at Withington; Fossebridge on A429; Denfurlong Farm Shop.

**Starting Point:** Park on the road that was once the old airfield perimeter 1.5km NW of Chedworth. (Chedworth is about 10km North of Cirencester and 6km West of Northleach). SP 038 131. Map square: E5.

**Leaders:** Graham Saunders, Harley Green & John Shaw

**Thursday 7 November 10:00am**

## Hidcote Hike

 5 hours • 10 miles


An excellent walk, much of the trail being stone tracks. We start at Hidcote, which will be closed, and head for Chipping Campden and Ebrington passing the large mansion style house of Foxcote. End with glorious views over Ilmington and a scenic descent to Hidcote. Bring a snack and a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** Hidcote NT car park. SP 176 428. Map square: K2.

**Leaders:** Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

**Friday 8 November 10:00am**

## 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

**Friday 8 November 10:00am**

## Hills and Churches around Oxenton Hill

 3 hours • 6 miles


A hilly walk passing the churches around Oxenton and Crane Hills. Great views on a clear day. Please bring a drink/snack.

**Starting Point:** Alstone Village. Please park considerably in the village. Meet outside St Margaret's Church. SO 983 325. Map square: D3.

**Leaders:** Gerry Nye, Ann Nye & Mike Klaiber

**Tuesday 12 November 10:00am**

## Power around Guiting

 3 hours • 6 miles


This circular walk starts at the ancient village of Guiting Power. We climb up the Cotswold Hills to get views to the north and west (weather permitting). Dropping down into the river valley, we come to the village of Naunton with its famous dovecote. Bring drinks and a snack.

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

**Leaders:** David Russell & Alan Thomas

**Thursday 14 November 10:00am**

## Around the Monument

 3 hours • 6 miles


Discover the area around Hawkesbury Upton where the famous landmark of the Somerset Monument can be seen, and explore the quiet beauty of the Kilcote valley. Packed lunch needed.

**Starting Point:** Hawkesbury Upton village car park. ST 778 869. Map square: B7.

**Leaders:** Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

**Friday 15 November 10:00am**

## A Wotton Wander

 5 hours • 7.5 miles


Walk via Ozleworth, Tyley Bottom and Coombe to Wotton where we will stop for lunch before returning to Newark Park including a steady climb up Little Tor Hill. Bring a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** Newark Park National Trust car park. Newark is signed from the junction between the A4135 and the B4058 approximately 2 miles east of Dursley. Please note that a parking charge will apply for non members of the National Trust. ST 782 932. Map square: B7.

**Leaders:** Mick Thorpe & Richard Coles

**Saturday 16 November 9:30am**

## Along the Windrush

 6 hours • 12 miles


Enjoy the tireless scenery of the Windrush Valley as the river winds its way towards the Thames. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Starting Point:** Burford Main car park OX18 4SB. SP 253 124. Map square: G5.

**Leaders:** Martin & Lucy Squires

**Saturday 16 November 10:00am**

## A Secret Ditch in the Woods

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk from the centre of Charlbury towards the Ditchley Estate passing through a range of scenery including woodland with fine views of the house once owned by Sir Robert Lee a champion of Queen Elizabeth I. Pub lunch available at The bell at the end of the walk.

**Starting Point:** Charlbury Bell Inn car park OX7 3PP. SP 357 194. Map square: G4.

**Leader:** Tony Merry

**Saturday 16 November 10:00am**

## Marshfield Down to Tadwick Circular

 4.5 hours • 8 miles

We descend into St Catherine's valley before climbing past Monkwood reservoir to cross the A46 above Tadwick. We join the Cotswold Way for a while before diverting to Nimlet, to re-cross the A46 and head South of Cold Ashton back to Marshfield. Please bring a picnic lunch.

**Starting Point:** Lay-by at the West end of Marshfield on the A420. ST 772 737. Map square: B9.

**Leaders:** Keith Rawlings & John Bartram



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**Tuesday 19 November 10:00am**  
**A Three Village Walk**

3 hours • 6.5 miles

A walk with several ascents but no significant climbs. We visit the villages of Cold Aston (also known as Aston Blanc), Turkdean and Notgrove via the Macmillan Way, Diamond Way and Gloucestershire Way. Refreshments available after the walk in The Plough, Cold Aston.

Starting Point: Village Green Cold Aston. Just off A436 between Andoverford and Bourton on the Water or off A429 between Northleach and Bourton on the Water. SP 129 197. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Ray Goold, John Milroy & Brian Chilvers

**Wednesday 20 November 10:00am**  
**Prinknash and Painswick**

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk over the hills around Prinknash Abbey with glorious views over the Severn Vale. It takes in Buckholt Wood and Pope's Wood as well as Painswick Beacon. There is a café serving lunches at Prinknash adjacent to the car park.

Starting Point: Prinknash Abbey car park signposted off the A46 between Brockworth and Cranham. SO 880 137. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

**Thursday 21 November 10:00am**  
**Valleys Near Tresham and Alderley**

4 hours • 6 miles

This walk takes in the wonderful views surrounding Tresham before descending the escarpment to Ozleworth and Wortley. We continue 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 & Mick Thorpe

**Tuesday 26 November 10:00am**  
**One Way Several Ends**

2.5 hours • 5 miles

Chadlington is a typical Cotswold village and this walk looks at how it has evolved. Field paths which are sometimes muddy are used to walk into the wider surrounding countryside. Lunch options in the village afterwards.

Starting Point: Chadlington Village Hall OX7 3NX. SP 30 219, Map square: G4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

# December

**Tuesday 3 December 10:00am**  
**Tuesday Tramp**

3 hours • 5 miles

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

Starting Point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818711. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Robert Herbert, Russell Harding & Sid Gould

**Wednesday 4 December 10:00am**  
**Cotswold Winter Birds**

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

**Wednesday 4 December 10:00am**  
**On the Edge and Beyond the Boundary**

2.5 hours • 5 miles

We walk part of Ditchedge Lane which is a green lane forming part of the Eastern boundary of the Cotswolds AONB. We also discover the Sibfords, largely stone built, and enjoy slopes and views. Car parking at the Wykham Arms for those lunching there, otherwise street parking.

Starting Point: Wykham Arms Sibford Gower OX15 5RX. SP 352 377. Map square: H2.

Leaders: Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

**Wednesday 4 December 10:00am**  
**BBC – Birdlip, Brimpsfield, Climperwell**

3 hours • 5 miles

A walk mostly in open country with some stretches of woodland. Some stretches of muddy ground likely – let's hope for frost.

Starting Point: Old A417 by the school in Birdlip south of Cheltenham. SO 928 142. Map square: C5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Graham Saunders & Harley Green

**Tuesday 10 December 10:00am**  
**The Paths Around Westonbirt**

3 hours • 5 miles

A gentle walk along open country and through woodlands passing a number of beautiful country houses and using rural lanes towards Tetbury from the National Arboretum. Lunch available at the hotel after the walk if required.

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

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Brian Mundy

**Tuesday 17 December 10:00am**  
**A Short walk to Rajasthan**

2 hours • 3.5 miles

A very gentle stroll to Sezincote House and the option to go to the Horse and Groom for pre-Christmas drink and food.

Starting Point: Car park at Horse and Groom pub, Bourton on the Hill. On A44 2 miles west of Moreton in Marsh. SP 173 326. Map square: F3.

Leaders: John Milroy, Brian Chilvers & Ray Goold



Published by

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

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

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Sunday 20 October	Woodcrafts at Combe
Saturday 7 December	Xmas Market

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Opening times are 10.30 am until 4.30pm, last admission is 3.30pm.

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See [www.combemill.org](http://www.combemill.org) for full details or call 01993 358694

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