COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

FREE

WALKS & EVENTS GUIDE INSIDE!

The changing futures of the Cotswolds

50 TENOLO LA PARTICIO DE SANOLO LA PARTICIO

Future Food
National Landscapes
Butterfly Blues
Capturing the Cotswolds
Flower Power

Support the Cotswolds AONB!

Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow! **Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk**









MAKE IT A COTSWOLDS DOUBLE

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

Our shop at the distillery in Stourton, or our new location on the High Street in picturesque Bourton-on-the-Water. Both are packed full of character and, best of all, packed full with our award-winning spirits.

So if you're looking for something really special then why not visit our areas of outstanding natural spirits.







Explore The Cotswolds

...with Best Cotswold Tours. Visit beautiful, quintessentially English countryside, and gain insights into everyday Cotswold life. Each tour is tailored to your own requirements and is at your speed.

For further information, contact Mark: bookmark@bestcotswoldtours.co.uk 07557 550893 • www.bestcotswoldtours.co.uk







Melcome

This issue of the Cotswold Lion looks hopefully to the future. From the future of farming and food production with FarmED on page 4, positive suggestions for our beautiful national landscapes on page 7, the wonderful metamorphosis of caterpillars into moths and butterflies on page 8, to the valiant efforts in the Stroud Valleys to protect against future floodwaters. There's a lot of hard work happening

right across the Cotswolds AONB in business as well as conservation, and a growing number of projects where the two meet in the middle – take a look at page 14 to learn about how Cotswolds Distillery are not only thriving as a craft distillery, but are also introducing nature walks and wildflowers to their site.

Alana Hopkins, Editor

Inside

04/The Future of Good Food

06/News Bulletin

07/Landscapes with Ambition

08/Butterfly Blues

10/Capturing the Cotswolds

12/Flower Power

14/Bottling the Spirit of the Cotswolds

16/January to June Highlights

18/Walking Back to Happiness

20/In Conversation with... **Rosemary McCloskey**

22/Cotswolds Guided Walks





lan Wilkinson of FarmED.

The Future of GOOd



Food

"It's a world-wide problem, but there are local solutions – and it's these which hold the key." Ian Wilkinson talks to Siân Ellis about the work FarmED are doing to give a voice to the many small farms across communities in the Cotswolds.

The worldwide problem, of course, is: how do we produce food sustainably to feed growing human populations without ruining the earth's ecosystems and exhausting natural resources? FarmED, founded by Ian and his wife Celene at 107-acre Honeydale Farm, Shipton-under-Wychwood, is a new centre for Farming and Food Education that focuses on the crucial link between good food and good farming. It officially opens this spring but it is already abuzz with activities: an exciting place which, as General Manager Jonty Brunyee says, "dares to be different, to be enterprising and innovative."

FarmED provides a space for everyone, from farmers and rural entrepreneurs, to scientists, politicians, students and schoolchildren to share knowledge, learn and debate "how to grow good food – good for us and good for the planet." Visitors can explore the surrounding farm to see

on-the-ground ideas in action: crop rotations, trial plots including herbal leys, arable plots and wildlife mixtures, natural flood management, woodland and wildlife habitats, wildflower meadows, livestock, an orchard, apiary, and kitchen garden run by the Kitchen Garden People.

Diverse, regenerative farming

It is the sort of diverse, seasonal, mixed farming that lan knew as an agricultural apprentice in the 1980s before systems became more and more intensive and specialised. With 35 years' experience helping farmers as a seed merchant – he is MD of Cotswold Seeds at Moreton-in-Marsh – he believes we should once again be "increasing diversity in order to have self-sufficient farms which have a really healthy, functioning ecosystem."

Jonty agrees. He grew up in a farming family and has 25 years' experience in the sustainable farming and environmental sector (including as an award-winning organic farmer and senior academic at the Royal Agricultural University). Farming systems need to move beyond the merely sustainable to the regenerative, he says.

lan and Celene acquired Honeydale Farm at auction in 2013, to create a working demonstration farm showcasing examples of regenerative farming – all beginning with the soil. "Healthy soil leads to healthy food, and of course healthy food leads to healthy people," Ian says. He has changed arable cropping on the farm from monoculture (barley) to an eightyear rotation including heritage wheat, oats and barley, and at the heart of the rotation is four years of fertility-building, soil-improving, drought-resistant herbal ley.



The artist's impression of the FarmED learning complex, opening spring 2020.

"We now have a thriving ecosystem with healthy insects, healthy farmland birds, healthy water, healthy sheep," Ian says. Another "massive effect" of diverse farming has been: "We spent less because we became self-sufficient." A win-win.

Accelerating change

A Cotswold LEADER grant helped towards the construction of the FarmED education centre, and other buildings include a FarmEAT food hub enabling visitors to tuck into Honeydale Farm and other local produce – completing the good farming/good food story link. There's also a lecture space and a demonstration area.

"We will have lots of dirty, smelly hands-on fun for children, farm walks, and courses," Jonty says. "On the formal side I'm really interested in organising a FarmED study programme open particularly to people who want to get into food and farming, perhaps studying part-time. People can also hire a room for activities and we can show them around the farm and feed them."

Farm visit highlights include learning about trial plots, currently comparing different types of herbal leys by looking at carbon capture, forage production, and species content. Or tour the traditional orchard, planted four years ago and containing 150 different, mainly Oxfordshire varieties of apples, pears, plums, and cherries, which will be processed on-farm to make food and drinks. lan and Jonty are keen to promote local rural employment based around plant growing and processing, and



Jonty Brunyee, General Manager.

there is already a kitchen garden micro-business on the farm.

lan says he has never been more optimistic about the groundswell of feeling, from farmers to consumers, that we need change, and at FarmED "We want to support these people and accelerate that change, creating this space where people can be innovative." You will certainly be inspired by FarmED's dynamic case for rich, diverse, regenerative farming, sustainable food production, and systems that celebrate small farmers, local supply chains and rural enterprise.

If you'd like to hear about FarmED's official launch, or visit for a farm walk, study tour, or conference, get in touch at farm-ed.co.uk or follow @RealFarmED

NEWS BULLETIN





Top stories from the Cotswolds Conservation Board

New Chief Executive!

Introducing our new Chief Executive, Andy Parsons. Andy joined the team in late 2019, and brings a wealth of experience to the role. Andy is looking forward to helping the Board make a difference to people and communities across the Cotswolds AONB.



Ash dieback

We're working on our project with the Cotswolds and Vale Ash Dieback Forum to plant tree species to replace dying ash trees. We still need your help — to identify ash trees in the landscape before they die, to identify sites for new tree planting, and to raise money to buy saplings and protective equipment for them. More info at: cotswoldsaonb.org. uk/looking-after/ash-tree-dieback/



A417 Missing Link

A six week public consultation period for improvements to the A417 Missing Link concluded on 8 November 2019. The Board expressed concern over the scale of the project, and its impact on the landscape. It also made recommendations for further improvements to plans.



LEADER Update

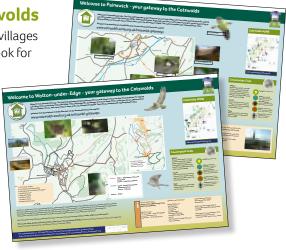
The Cotswolds LEADER Programme, now complete, supported 56 projects with a total grant value of £1.7 million, creating 80 jobs across the Cotswolds.

One of the many supported projects, Bledington Community Shop and Café, opened its doors on 16 November. The community-owned enterprise, which is run by a team of volunteers, received a grant of £39,026 towards the construction of the new shop and café. Robin McCulloch, Committee Chair says: "Open 7 days a week and providing a place to meet with friends and colleagues, it will become the heart of our community in one of the loveliest villages in the Cotswolds."



We are promoting 10 towns and villages as Gateways to the Cotswolds. Look for our new interpretation boards in Charlbury, Cirencester, Dursley, Hawkesbury Upton, Marshfield,

Painswick, Stroud, Tetbury,
Winchcombe and Wotton under
Edge. These will give you quick
guides, and links to walking and
cycling routes nearby to get you
out and exploring the beautiful
Cotswolds countryside.



National Grid update

National Grid are taking two Cotswold LEI project proposals to Ofgem. Project values are: £240k to restore grassland scarp sites near Cheltenham and £280k walling on Nottingham Hill near Winchcombe. Watch this space...

ELMS Testing

The Board bid to run a test to help design the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). We have successfully been chosen as one of three providers for the tests in the Cotswolds. Watch this space for more info!



For more news from the Cotswolds Conservation Board visit cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

"We want our national landscapes to work together with big ambitions so they are happier, healthier, greener, more beautiful and open to everyone." With these words, last autumn's Landscapes Review into England's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) lays down a gauntlet of dynamic recommendations to make sure our countryside is protected for the future as a positive force for the nation's wellbeing. Words by Siân Ellis.

"There can be few national purposes which, at so modest a cost, offer so large a prospect of health-giving happiness for the people."

John Dower, in the report (1945) that led to the establishment of our National Parks and AONBs.

Commissioned by the government in May 2018 and led by Julian Glover, the review acknowledges lots of great achievements in Parks and AONBs but says we can do so much more. "We need to reignite the fire and vision which brought this system [of designated landscapes] into being in 1949."

There are currently ten National Parks and 34 AONBs in England covering nearly a quarter of the country, and these should be brought together in one family of national landscapes, the review says: working collaboratively to become more than the sum of their parts, and served by a shared National Landscapes Service. National Trails – like the Cotswold Way – should be included too.

Faced with challenges from climate change to pollution, we need to get on a renewed, proactive mission to recover and enhance nature. There are recommendations for improved funding, making National Parks and AONBs a priority in the new Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS).

We also need to encourage everyone, from all backgrounds, to access our national landscapes and benefit from the physical and mental wellbeing of connecting with nature. Engaging young people is crucial and there is an inspiring proposal for: "a night under the stars in a national landscape for every child." With Dark Sky Discovery Sites like the Rollright Stones and great spots for stargazing,

the Cotswolds can offer a real treat.

Alongside ideas for new forests and new city parks, the review urges consideration for the Cotswolds to become a National Park: its natural beauty is world famous, its landscapes and villages are among the emblems of England, visitors come from around the globe, and it contributes hugely to the national economy. National Park designation would bring many benefits, not least a holistic approach to management and conservation.

Exciting times ahead!

For the full Landscapes Review, visit gov.uk online and search for 'Julian Glover' or 'Landscapes Review'

BUTTERFLY BLUES

Amongst the Cotswold's mosaic of meadows on Jurassic limestone and sheltered woodlands, live some incredible butterflies. What better way to banish your blues than by searching for, well, blues?

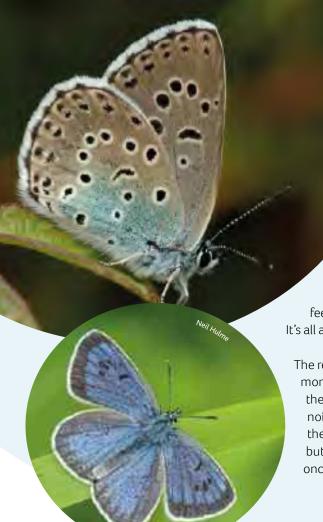
Get your boots on and take a stroll to see what winged gems you can spot! Butterfly Conservation's Matt Brierley reveals his three favourite butterflies on the wing between January and June...

Beautiful Brimstones - the original butterfly

It's not just us that are tempted out of hiding on sunny days in winter or early spring. Brimstone butterflies overwinter as an adult butterfly – often hiding in ivy. When the sun shines they can't resist a fly around and can easily be seen from as early as February!

Brimstone butterflies are a stunning yellowish green, named after the old-fashioned word for sulphur, which is also bright yellow. When resting, these butterflies are super hard to spot: the underside of the Brimstone's wings look just like a leaf! You can't miss them when they fly though – the topside of their wings is tantalisingly vibrant and iridescent in the males.

Some people say Brimstones are responsible for the word "butterfly". Seeing a bright Brimstone would be a sign to the farmers of old that spring had arrived and the cows could come out of the barns to start making butter. A true 'butter fly'... and the right colour too!



Large Blue Butterfly – back from the brink

Visit Daneway Banks to see Large
Blues in May or June. The Cotswolds
is now one of the most important
places in the world for this very rare
butterfly. It became extinct in the
UK in 1979 because scientists hadn't
worked out its very strange lifestyle.
Their caterpillars are TINY and pink and
look like woodlice with sunburn!

Your chances of seeing one are slim because these are no ordinary caterpillars, after about one week of eating plants they drop off the wild thyme or marjoram they are feeding on. Then they start squeaking and give out a smell. It's all a plan to fool an ant!

The red ant carries them into their nest where they spend months eating 200 of the ant's babies! Once fat enough, they become a chrysalis underground, still making noises to fool the ants. One bright May day they emerge from the ants' nest as a butterfly, pumping up their wings once safely outside!



The Bathurst Estate is working wonders to look after one of the loveliest of our butterflies. They overwinter as caterpillars and love to munch on dog-violets. These grow in forest clearings and are being specially planted by the estate. Graceful and masterly, the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary is as much part of spring in our woods as bluebell carpets and the cuckoo's call.

This is one of the earliest fritillaries to emerge and can be found from April in woodland clearings or rough hillsides with bracken. It flies close to the ground, stopping regularly to feed on spring flowers such as Bugle. They are on the wing from late April through to June with a second generation in July. If you really want to attract them, don't wash your trousers. They'll come to investigate your natural salts! You probably won't attract many people though...

Matt Brierley runs Butterfly Conservation's
Butterfly Effect project, visiting schools
to explain all about the secret life of butterflies
and moths. Contact mbrierley@butterflyconservation.org for school visits and information
about their Duke of Edinburgh scheme.



Capturing the Cotswolds

Sarah Howard is a professional landscape photographer based in the Cotswolds. Just as her second book 'Photographing the Cotswolds' is published by Fotovue, she shares her top tips for achieving epic landscape photography.



Get to know your camera!

Digital camera menus can be quite complicated, and you may only need a fraction of what's available to you. Get to know your way around your camera and its functions, so you can get the best from what's there.

🚺 Light

Good lighting brings an image to life. Get up early to catch the sunrise; when the light is soft and magical. The golden hour, in the late afternoon and early evening, can also provide flattering and atmospheric lighting. Remember that in the middle of the day the light is harsher, contrast is high, shadows are dark, and your camera may struggle to meter effectively.



Composition

Composition is everything. Guidelines such as 'the rule of thirds' can be really useful, however, rules are also there to be broken, so don't be afraid to play! Try occasionally placing your main subject in the centre of the frame. Or, include some foreground interest to help achieve a more balanced composition, as well as to add depth and draw the viewer into the scene. Lead in lines, such as a path, wall, or river can also be used to achieve the same effect.

Try a tripod

Tripods minimise camera shake and allow for long exposures. They also help with composition. By slowing down, and allowing yourself time to evaluate your image before you press the shutter, you can take more care with your photography.

Research and plan

The best images are usually those that have been researched. You may want to scope a location on different days and at different times to get the image you want. Apps which can assist in planning all types of outdoor photography, by calculating the angle of sun for locations all year round, are really useful.

Texperiment!

Nothing ventured, nothing gained! It's easy to get used to a way of doing things, or to always photograph the same type of scenery or subject matter. Try varying your technique or exploring new places and photographing new subjects. Maybe try out low light photography, or using monochrome. Whatever you do, occasionally taking yourself out of your comfort zone will open up new creative opportunities and keep your photography fresh.

Tell a story...

Take time to step back from your camera and look at what's in front of you. Think about what you want to capture – is it the calm and tranquillity of the scene before you, the solitude of a lonely tree, or the drama of a stormy day? Think about how you feel about the subject matter, and how you can capture that in the image. Think of your picture as a way of taking the viewer on a journey into the world as you see it.

Learn from others

Other people's images can be a great source of inspiration and also help in the planning stages. Use them to get different ideas on composition. Look at the lighting and what makes them work, or maybe not work. By looking at and evaluating other people's work as well as your own, you can start to gain more understanding of why an image is successful or not.

Finally... persevere and enjoy!

As the great landscape photographer, Ansel Adams said; "Landscape photography is the supreme test of the photographer – and often the supreme disappointment". Whilst it can occasionally be frustrating, landscape photography is also hugely enjoyable, great fun, and rewarding. So, in the pursuit of an image, don't miss out on the journey. Like many things in life, half the fun is getting there.

Get involved

Sarah offers one to one and group photography tuition and workshops in the Cotswolds, and throughout the UK. sarahhowardphotography.com, imageseen.co.uk



FLOWER POWER

Self-confessed 'flower graffiti rebel', Sarah Horne, talks to Alana Hopkins about her work, her inspiration, and how she's getting involved with the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

"To many of us, there's a real magic surrounding flowers. They're not going to change the world, just like that", Sarah says as she clicks her fingers, "but actually they do have the power to change a flower lover's world..."

Sitting at her bright turquoise dining table, this is how Sarah introduces her lifelong passion for flowers. She began floristry in her teens, as a Saturday job for pocket money. At 16, she left school, and with her mum, started a floristry business from scratch. Her flowers and her life have been entwined ever since. She describes her floral fascination as being at once practical and emotional, "I love the abundance of flowers — not just how they can be physically abundant, although this appeals of course, but also how they are so heavily laden with meaning, emotion, the ability



Sarah's floristry shop.

to create and evoke memories. They're a powerful method of communication, but also transient – they don't last forever, they fade and wilt and drop."

After years spent studying flowers, Sarah is an expert in everything floral – from flower arranging to the language of flowers. "I'm mostly self-taught", she explains, "I'm not a fan of formal education – to me it seems to take too long, and I like getting things done quickly!", so all her knowledge has been picked up on the job, from her own research, or by attending short courses with leading figures in floral design. And it works for her – she is now the proud owner of three Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medals for professional floristry, an award winning shop, and a growing giftware business.

"Flowers have been the vehicle for my creativity for over 39 years" she says, "they're like my paint palette, if you like – and they've taken me on a fantastic journey." A journey which has often taken her out of her comfort zone. This has led to some surprising discoveries – the biggest of which is that she is a natural illustrator. Having been asked to present sketches for a grand pavilion design at Chelsea, Sarah initially stalled – having failed o-level art, she thought she couldn't draw – but there was no escaping the requirement for design visuals. So, she put pen to paper. "It surprised me more than anyone that, after spending time experimenting with different media, ink pens are what suit me best" she says, "it's an unforgiving medium: every line counts. Drawing in this way is precise, considered; and it requires pin point accuracy - but I love it."



A selection of jugs from the Sarah Horne Botanicals range.



Sarah with her dog Bandit.

Her drawings led to a range of gifts, homewares, and prints featuring her work, which she now retails across the UK. And her floristry has led to work as a demonstrator, a flower school, and a TedEX talk.

Sarah's latest venture? Supporting the restoration of wildflower grasslands in one of her favourite areas of the country – the Cotswolds. "I've been looking for a partnership of this kind for a while, but until now nothing felt like the right fit" Sarah explains. "When the Cotswolds Conservation Board told me about their

Glorious Cotswold Grasslands project, it resonated immediately. Much of my work is with cut flowers, which have been grown to be perfect, but only for a short time. To me, they are luxury. But the work to restore wildflower grasslands is like the flip side of that – helping the habitat to heal long term, so that living meadows of flowers can flourish again, and so wildlife can return. There's such beauty in the concepts of the project – the hope is create the largest area of restored wildflower grassland in the country; and the whole thing is about creating an

abundance of life – plants, animals, and insects. I'm excited to be their artist in residence and to produce a whole new body of work inspired by the project."

Sarah's floristry, gifts, and the new range of products featuring her Glorious Cotswold Grasslands-inspired drawings are available online at sarahhornebotanicals.com. Donations from the sale of her Grasslands homewares will be going back into the project.



BOTTLING THE SPIRIT OF THE COTSWAY

Five years ago, Dan Szor, founder of the Cotswolds Distillery, moved to the Cotswolds after a long career working in London. A native New Yorker, he sought to leave the corporate world behind and spend more time in the countryside with his family.

He talks to us about how that decision has changed everything...

"It occurred to me when we moved that I could combine my love of whisky with my love for the Cotswolds, and a new business idea", he says.

Having found a derelict site near his house, he set about building a distillery, and a team to run it. The doors of the Cotswolds Distillery opened in July 2014. Located just outside the pretty village of Stourton, the distillery now welcomes over 30,000 visitors each year, offering them the chance to get up close and personal with the range of 'Outstanding Natural Spirits'.

Dan's heart was won over by the Cotswolds early on, and the decision to be based here is no accident. He is proud of the distillery's beautiful location within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – he named the distillery and its range of gins after the area, and he even became a member of the Cotswolds Conservation Board. The ambition to reflect the natural beauty of the Cotswolds and support the local community runs through everything at the distillery. Dan explains, "we partner with other local producers as much as possible and use local ingredients when crafting our spirits. One of the nine key botanicals that goes into our Cotswolds

Dry Gin is local lavender from nearby Snowshill, and we use 100% locally-grown barley to make our single malt whiskies – each bottle will state the farm it originated from on the label. Our local farmer, Rob, even uses the malted barley left over from whisky production to feed his cattle!"

"I'd like visitors to connect with the area while they are here too, and to help support it and its conservation. We joined the Caring for the Cotswolds scheme run by the Board, and backed by local tourism businesses. As part of the scheme, we invite visitors to donate just £1 on each purchase." The money raised through donations will go towards community projects including wildlife habitat restoration and conservation of historic sites.

Dan describes how restorative he finds walking in the countryside with his family and their dog Whisky (!) at the weekend – so he has worked with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens to create a new series of circular walks starting at the distillery. Earlier this year Dan opened a long-awaited visitor centre which now includes a homely tasting room, an exhibition area, a fully stocked shop, and a brand-new café – which is fast becoming a community hub in the area, and











THE COTSWOLDS JANUARY TO JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

From exhibitions, gardens, and festivals to cross country night runs and cheese chasing, here are some Cotswolds highlights for the first half of 2020.*

JANUARY



Gloucestershire Wildlife **Trust Illustrated Talks**

January - April

gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/

Join experts from the Wildlife Trusts for talks about wildlife, farming, plant life and more.

FEBRUARY



Lambing at **Cotswold Farm Park**

From early February

cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

Learn all about lambing - from how a farmer plans their lambing season, to the after-care of the cute newborns - and maybe even try bottle feeding lambs in the animal barn.



3 Colesbourne Snowdrops

February – March

colesbournegardens.org.uk

One of England's greatest collections of snowdrops - enjoy a springtime stroll around the grounds and see how many varieties you can count up.

MARCH



4 Painswick Rococo Garden

March – April

rococogarden.org.uk/WhatsOn

Enjoy spring and early summer flowers in all their glory, including crocus, narcissus, hyacinth, iris, allium, primula, and many more.

APRIL



23 – 26 April

chiplitfest.com

An amazing, surprising, inspiring, thought-provoking, and fun literary festival for children and adults alike!



May - September

giffordscircus.com

green circus rolls across the Cotswolds every summer.

Sculpture at **Kingham Lodge**

8 - 17 May

sculptureatkinghamlodge.com

A free exhibition of over 400 sculptures, set in 5 acres of beautiful grounds. Part of Oxfordshire Artweeks.



Chipping Norton Literary Festival

Chipping Campden Music Festival

Badmintor

9 - 23 May

12 • Tetbury

campdenmusicfestival.co.uk Widely regarded as one of the UK's leading music festivals. This year, artists include Paul Lewis, Steven

Isserlis, The Jerusalem Quartet among many others.



15 - 24 May

bathfestivals.org.uk

With the community at its heart, The Bath Festival brings the streets of the city to life by celebrating with music and literature.





6 Giffords Circus

The charming and ever popular village

9





To Faring

10 Winchcombe Cotswolds **Walking Festival**

15 – 17 May

winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com A full weekend of varied walking in the beautiful landscape around Winchcombe.



11 Lechlade Music Festival

22 - 24 May

lechladefestival.co.uk Join in the fun at this multi awardwinning, family-friendly festival in the market town of Lechlade, alongside the River Thames.



12 Tetbury Woolsack Races

tetburywoolsack.co.uk Strength and fitness are tested as competitors race to carry sacks of

wool up and down a hill that reaches a gradient of 1 in 4. Plus a street fair, street entertainers, local stalls, and amusement rides.



13 Cooper's Hill **Cheese Rolling**

25 May

Cooper's Hill, Gloucestershire

This world-famous event sees brave contestants racing and tumbling down a steep hill in a desperate effort to catch the coveted dairy prize a weighty 8lb Double Gloucester.



14 Lechlade Annual Vintage **Rally & Country Show**

23 – 25 May

lechladecollectorsclub.co.uk

Classic cars, motor cycles, commercial vehicles, tractors, collections, miniature steam, craft, music and morris dancing.



Robert Dover's Cotswold Olimpick Games

29 May

olimpickgames.co.uk

Experience the 408th year of this unique continuation of early rural sporting events, including shin kicking, relay races, and static jumping - with music, food, and attractions for spectators. A Cotswolds tradition not to be missed!



17 Corsham Walking Festival

corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk Join in with this annual summer celebration of walking, local heritage

and the countryside.



World Cider Day Celebrations

June 2020

dunkertonscider.co.uk Celebrate World Cider Day in style at Dunkertons Cidery. Fun for all

the family.



19 Cotswold Way Challenge

27 – 28 June

cotswoldwaychallenge.com Walk, jog, or run along the stunning Cotswold Way route from Bath to

Cheltenham!



JUNE



16 Broadway Arts Festival

5 – 14 June

broadwayartsfestival.com

A wide ranging programme of arts for all ages in Broadway, an inspiring centre for the arts since the late 19th century.



And don't forget to search online for fun family events run at venues across the AONB, including at Batsford Arboretum, Cirencester Museum, Cotswolds Distillery, National Trust and English Heritage venues, Museum in the Park, and many more!



Katie Jarvis joins a group of walkers from Gloucester as they explore the Cotswold countryside on foot.

The leafy lane we're taking through Stanway meanders past the estate's beautiful baroque gatehouse, while music played by an unseen organist drifts from ancient St Peter's Church next door. A little further, two pure white

swans are shaded from a late summer sun by the spreading branches of a giant Wellingtonia. Then we take a wilder path, up through

fields, towards the 16th century quintessence of neighbouring Stanton.

These are sights to gladden any heart. But for the 15 women here today – on a rather special Cotswold Warden guided walk – there is extra significance. They drink in the fresh air as if with unquenchable thirst.

Sajeda puts their thoughts into words. "To think I've missed this in my 50 years of life!" she says, feelingly. "For so long, I never ventured out into the countryside."

These rural idylls are a bare 25 miles – as the crow flies – from their homes in inner-city Gloucester. Yet for many of these women, the Cotswold Hills have felt as distant as the moon. Family commitments, cultural restrictions, money, community attitudes: all sorts

never seen the city so, for them, that's a big thing."

"And they've brought that mentality to England," Juwairiyia adds.

But no more. Walking in the Cotswold countryside has given them a new sense of self. "When I come here, I feel content; really peaceful; rejuvenated."

The reactions come thick and fast. Gasps at the quaintness of thatched roofs. "A stream running in front of a house! I've never seen that before."

"Life begins at 50 for us!" It was Cotswold Voluntary Warden Margaret Reid who approached Gloucester's

Friendship Café – a thriving community charity where these women meet – with the idea of a walk. "We've been working for a long time to encourage everyone to enjoy the Cotswolds countryside, and the wonderful benefits of walking. So I thought it would be interesting to speak with the women at the Friendship

of obstacles stood in their path.

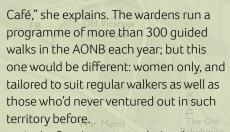
- said, 'I haven't laughed this much in years'.

"It gives me so much pleasure to see the smiling faces.

On the last walk, one of the ladies – who's here again today

Most of the 15 can trace family origins back to Gujarat, on India's western coast, where the countryside is something to escape from, not glorify. "In India, it's a matter of honour to leave your village and go to a city, such as Mumbai," Sajeda says. "People have

"There's no way I'd miss one of these walks!"



Aysha Randera, women's development worker at the Friendship Café, responded to Margaret's suggestion with characteristic enthusiasm and energy. "I thought: What a wonderful idea!" They did their first Cotswold Warden guided walk together a year ago - and the outings are becoming a regular addition to the calendar.

Aysha discovered first-hand the benefits of walking many years ago. As a young girl, she moved to London for an arranged marriage that didn't work. Before the age of 20, she was divorced, a single parent, and back in Gloucester:

Meeting a Belgian women's walking group.





The group from the Friendship Café.

"Because it felt safe". Realising there were many women in similar situations, who didn't have the ability to stand up for themselves, Aysha moved into community work. "Five years ago, volunteering for the Friendship Café and with the help of other volunteers we set up a walk and talk club," she says. "It gave women a safe place to share their worries, difficulties, and also ask for advice in a safe environment. It has since sadly folded through the lack of volunteer walk-leaders, but we still aim to walk together at least once a month."

Indeed, the women I speak to generously share some difficult stories. One speaks of an unhappy marriage she finally found the courage to leave seven months ago. For 19 years, she was barely allowed out of the house. "Through everything, the only thing I used to dream of was having the freedom to walk. And do you know what?" she says, tears gathering. "Today, I'm walking those paths. It makes me feel happy."

There's plenty of laughter, too – from the 20-somethings who form part of the group, through to those in their 60s. In Stanton, they're stopped by a group of Belgian women, visiting on a walking holiday, whose attention is caught by their Indian dress.

"You're not from round here?" the Belgians venture.

Hilarity breaks out. "We are - you're not!" the Gloucester women tease. The joke is shared by both groups - as are hugs and photos.

What they're also sharing is a love of the Cotswold countryside, and of the power of walking. "There's no way I'd miss one of these walks!" is a common theme.

Avsha well understands. She's had several illnesses and, at one time, was almost bedridden. "I'll really struggle for the next couple of days but walking keeps me well in my head and in my body.

"It gives me so much pleasure to see the smiling faces. On the last walk, one of the ladies - who's here again today - said, 'I haven't laughed this much in years'. To me, that one comment made it worthwhile."

More information

- See pages 22 30 for more Cotswold Warden Guided Walks
- · thefriendshipcafe.com
- · cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visitingand-exploring/walking/

"Walking keeps me well in my head and wood my body."

In conversation with.

Rosemary McCloskey

Rosemary McCloskey is Project Officer for the Stroud Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems (RSuDS) initiative. Set up in 2014 in response to local campaigns triggered by extensive flooding in the Stroud Valleys (2007), the innovative six-year partnership project uses Natural Flood Management techniques to reduce flood risk throughout the River Frome catchment and its tributaries. Rosemary explains this important work to Siân Ellis.



Rosemary McCloskey.

"My background was originally in marine science and then I specialised in fisheries and aquaculture. I have a passion for the environment, and enjoy learning and sharing that knowledge with communities.

My job is very much a community-facing role. I walk and talk with landowners to understand how water is working on their land, the issues and opportunities, and we come up with suitable solutions. There are lots of partners in the project, so working well together is so important.



A group of contractors takes a break.

We've got more than 400 natural flood management interventions now. There is approximately 21% of the Frome catchment draining through these features

We reduce flood risk by improving natural habitat, and restoring and mimicking natural drainage processes – slowing flow during heavy rain events, improving connectivity between rivers and flood plain, creating opportunities for water to soak away, or temporarily storing water.



Previous flooding on Slad Road.

'Leaky dams' put into streams are a popular technique. Made of natural woody debris, they mimic a fallen tree and slow down the flow of floodwaters.

Biodiversity benefits as well. Fish and invertebrates like woody debris in streams for shelter and food. Water quality improves as sediment is reduced. It's about creating solutions that make sense in relation to the landscape; all these techniques can become part of standard land management practice.

What I most enjoy about my job is that the project has such a strong community partnership, successfully delivering practical solutions. You can tell people love and care about their local environment."









Leaky dams helping to slow water flow.

"My job is very much a community-facing role. I walk and talk with landowners to understand how water is working on their land, the issues and opportunities, and we come up with suitable solutions."

Find out more about Stroud Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems by visiting stroud.gov.uk and searching 'RSuDS'

Cotswolds Guided Wal

January - June 2020

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

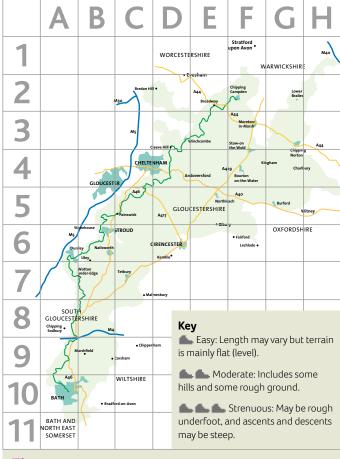
Chipping Camden Town Walk - Tuesdays 2:00pm and Thursdays 10:00am from 26th May until end of September.

4 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



- 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 share your photos with us!

Information, other walking groups, and festivals

- cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring
- ramblers.org.uk
- parkrun.org.uk
- winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com
- durslevwalkfest.btck.co.uk
- thewi.org.uk
- nationaltrust.org.uk





wottonwalkingfestival.com

anuary

Wednesday 1 January 10:00am A Rainbow in the Sky



_____ 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk around Combe Down and Rainbow Wood taking in part of the Bath Skyline Walk. Please bring a drink and/or snack. Not suitable for push chairs

Starting Point: Beechwood Road, Combe Down, Bath. ST 758 621. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Thursday 2 January 10:00am **Around** Minchinhampton Commons



A bracing morning walk on upland commons to celebrate the new year. Fairly flat terrain and no stiles. Glorious views of surrounding valleys and beyond (weather permitting). Refreshments available locally after the walk, if required. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting Point: Opposite the Amberley Inn, Amberley. (Please do not use Inn car park). SO 850 013. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Thursday 2 January 10:00am **Blenheim Estate:** of Kings, Queens and Heroes



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

Tuesday 7 January 10:00am **Guiting Power to** Kineton



▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A moderate walk through Cotswold woods, fields and villages. Food and drink available in local pub/tea room afterwards.

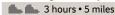
Starting Point: Guiting Power Village Hall, car park (donation). SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

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

Support the Cotswolds AONB

Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Tuesday 7 January 10:00am **Tuesday Tramp**



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

Starting Point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9. Leaders: Sid Gould, Dave Wright & Robert Herbert

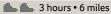
Thursday 9 January 11:00am **Distillery Trio**

1.5 hours • 2.5 miles

A leisurely walk on field paths and quiet lanes criss-crossing the three villages which straddle the Stour Valley. Enjoy this charming corner of Warwickshire in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Coffee before and lunch after available at The Cotswolds Distillery. Starting Point: Cotswolds Distillery, Stourton CV36 5HG. SP 295 367. Map square: G2.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Sunday 12 January 10:00am A Nice Winter Walk

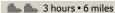


We leave the valley and ascend the scarp slope, passing historic sites along the way, to enjoy airy views from the Salt Way. We then head towards Hailes before returning to Winchcombe in time for lunch.

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

Leaders: Sheila & Rob Talbot

Wednesday 15 January 10:00am Five Mile six-miler 2



A walk through some hidden valleys near Woodmancote and Duntisbourne Abbots. Steepish uphills and descents and some road walking. Starting Point: Park on the old road that is parallel to and east of A417 dual carriage way, near Duntisbourne Abbots. On the no through road that once led to the Five Mile House (GL7 7JR). SO 977 092. Map square: D5.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, John Shaw, Brad Blake & John Spinks

Saturday 18 January 10:00am **Over Charmy Down to** Ramscombe Bottom

4.5 hours • 9 miles

Leaving Marshfield going South we ascend to Charmy Down Airfield, then descend via Ramscombe Bottom to St Catherine's Valley joining the Limestone Link heading North via Oakfield lane and climbing steeply to Ashwicke. Then mostly flat to Marshfield. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Layby on the south of the A420 just West of Marshfield. ST 772 737. Map square: B9.

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Monday 20 January 9:30am A Polar Expedition

5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

A walk through some of the more remote parts of the North Cotswolds, visiting the monument which gives this walk its name and returning through Longborough and past Sezincote House. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Blockley, Community Shop. SP 164 349. Map square: F3. Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

Monday 20 January 10:00am Stonesfield and Over the Wall

a 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

A Stonesfield circular walk that goes into the Blenheim Estate via a gate and out over a wall! Our return to Stonesfield includes views over the Evenlode river valley and a stop at the old village lock up. Please bring a snack for a morning stop.

Starting Point: Stonesfield Village Hall OX29 8HA. SP 394 175. Map square: H4. Leaders: Linda Shelley & Angie Dean

Tuesday 21 January 10:00am **BBB Bimbling around** Birdlip and Brimpsfield



▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

A pleasant walk from Birdlip to Brimpsfield Castle then back via Hazel Hanger Wood. Pub in Birdlip and Golden Hind at Nettleton Bottom. Starting Point: By Birdlip School on

the old Birdlip to Cirencester road. SO 928 142. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Ray Goold, Brian Chilvers & John Milroy

> For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Wednesday 22 January 10:00am A Car Crash. A Gardener and a Battle

4 3 hours • 5 miles

The village of Radway has links to the Battle of Edge Hill, Sanderson Miller and probably the first female car fatality. Expect one steep ascent, great views, woodland and fields. Please bring a snack.

Starting Point: Radway Church CV35 OUE. SP 370 480. Map square: H1. Leaders: Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

Thursday 23 January 10:00am Weaving Around Cam

2 hours • 3.5 miles

A short, easy walk visiting some of the places of historic interest around Cam. Ideal for anyone who has not walked with the Wardens before or who is not confident to tackle a longer, more strenuous walk. Start and finish at the cafe, where refreshments can be taken.

Starting Point: Froffy Coffee (Previously Berry Blue) Cafe, Lower Cam. (Park in Tesco). SO 749 003. Map square: A6.

Leaders: Helen Furmidge & Niael Meredith

Sunday 26 January 9:30am **A Shutford Circuit**

5.5 hours • 12 miles

A walk to Epwell, Balscote and Broughton. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Sibford Gower, near the Primary School OX15 5RW. SP 353 378. Map square: G2.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Wednesday 29 January 10:00am Walk the Whiteway

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 6 miles

Join us again on one of our regular visits to the idyllic Miserden Estate but today with a detour to Whiteway to learn a little about this mysterious village.

Starting Point: Miserden Village centre there is a car park by Miserden School. SO 937 089. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

February

Monday 3 February 10:00am **Upton Inn Circular**

▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Starting Point: Upton Inn car park. ST 692 698. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & David Whitnell

Tuesday 4 February 10:00am **Cotswolds Olimpicks**

▲ 3 hours • 6.5 miles

A lovely picturesque walk with one big down and up. Meeting at the site of the Dover's Olimpicks, we walk to Broadway and back. Food and drink available in Chipping Campden.

Starting Point: Dover's Hill NT Pay & Display car park, GL55 6UW. SP136 395. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Ray Goold, John Milroy & Brian Chilvers

Tuesday 4 February 10:00am **Tuesday Tramp**

a hours • 5 miles

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

Starting Point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9. Leaders: Sid Gould, Dave Wright & Robert Herbert

Sunday 9 February 10:00am **Snowdrops at Newark**

▲ 3.5 hours • 5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00, if required. The walk starts at 10:30, offering a rare opportunity to see snowdrops in a delightful parkland setting and on our journey to Ozleworth Bottom and Alderley. We return along the Cotswold Way. Refreshments available locally after the walk, if required.

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 781 931. Map square: B7.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Richard Coles

Wednesday 12 February 10:00am Stunning Stroud

▲ A 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: Museum in the Park entrance, Stratford Park, Stroud. SO 845 056. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Harley Green, John Shaw, Graham Saunders & Brad Blake

> For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at

cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Friday 14 February 10:00am **Coffee Morning Walk** No. 1, New Born Lambs in an Ancient Tithe

▲ 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30am, taking us mainly along footpaths through fields in attractive countryside via Field Farm to Frocester, where we should see new-born lambs at the magnificent 13th century tithe barn. No major climbs. Lunch available locally after the walk.

Starting Point: Community shop, Coaley, on north side of main road through village. Coaley lies 3 miles north west of Dursley. Follow (twisty) Box Lane from the A4135, passing Cam & Dursley railway station en route. SO 772 016. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Mick Thorpe

Saturday 15 February 9:30am Chedworth Explorer



6.5 hours • 12 miles

An energetic walk along generally good tracks taking in the villages of Chedworth, Rendcombe, Woodmancote and North Cerney. Bring a packed lunch. Please note 9:30am start. Please park in the overflow car park at Chedworth villa. Starting Point: Chedworth Roman Villa overflow car park, GL54 3LJ. SP 055 134. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Harley Green & Alistair McKenzie

Sunday 16 February 10:30am A Countryside View of the City



♣ ♣ 3 hours • 4.5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Tuesday 18 February 10:00am An Abbey, a Pope, Birds, and a Beacon



▲ 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk through the woods and over the common to Painswick Beacon passing the Abbey, the Bird Park, Pope's Wood, and Kite's Hill. Food available at the Abbey Refectory or at the Carvery in Brockworth. Starting Point: Prinknash Abbey car park off the A46 south of Brockworth. SO 880 137. Map square: C5.

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

Batsfá ARBORETUM & GARDEN CENTRE

Enjoy gentle walks through our magical tree garden, fabulous food and a wonderful selection of gifts and gardening goodies and plants. A perfect day out for all the family - dog friendly too!



Visit www.batsarb.co.uk for details on our forthcoming events

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







@BatsfordA

Tuesday 18 February 10:00am Ancient Paths, a Roman Road and a WW2 Airfield

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk along ancient tracks incorporating parts of the Roman Akeman Street and a wartime airfield. Parts may be muddy after a prolonged wet spell. Pub lunch available at the Bird in Hand after the walk.

Starting Point: The Bird in Hand. Whiteoak Green, on the B4022 between Witney and Chalbury OX29 9XP. SP 344 141. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Tuesday 18 February 10:30am Marshfield, Town and Country

L 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

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

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

Leaders: David Colbourne & Tim Sheppard

Thursday 20 February 10:00am 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 lot of history. Starting Point: Adelstrop Village Hall GL56 0UN. SP 241 272. Map square: G3. Leader: Anne Martis

Friday 21 February 10:00am A Peak in Virgin's Wood

____ 5.5 hours • 8.5 miles

A tough walk around Uley to Bencombe and back over the Bury and along the Cotswold Way. Three good climbs. Bring a packed lunch. Starting Point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO 794 014. Map square: B6. Leaders: Mick Thorpe & Chris Wykes

Support the **Cotswolds AONB**

Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Sunday 23 February 10:00am **Box Heritage Trail**

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk from Box following the By Brook to Drewett's mill before going up to Box Common to view Hazelbury Manor and the Hidden Quarry entrances of Box Woods. Please bring food for a picnic lunch on Box Common. Stunning views down the By Brook valley to Bathford. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting Point: Selwyn Hall car park, Box. ST 823 685. Map square: B10. Leaders: Barry Cox & Carolyn Plows

Wednesday 26 February 10:00am **Guiting Power, stream** and woodland trail

half 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A varied late winter walk, mainly on firm paths from Guiting Power. On the way we pass the site of a deserted medieval village. We follow a tributary of the River Windrush through Castlett and Guiting Woods. Shop/ café and pubs in Guiting Power. Starting Point: Guiting Power Village Hall, car park (donation). SP 095 246. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Mary & Barry Roberts

Wednesday 26 February 10:00am In the steps of **Laurie Lee**

2.5 hours • 5 miles

From Bulls Cross we walk through Steanbridge and Elcombe to Swift's Hill before returning via the outskirts of Slad. A typical Cotswolds walk. Starting Point: Lay-by at Bulls Cross on the B4070 Birdlip to Stroud Road. SO 878 088. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 27 February 9:30am Countryside around Stow on the Wold

4.5 hours • 8 miles

Countryside from Stow to the Swells, Donnington, Longborough, Broadwell and back to Stow. Bring a snack or packed lunch.

Starting Point: Stow on the Wold, Stocks on village green. SP 192 258. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Alan Thomas & David Russell

Friday 28 February 10:00am **Bath's Civil Engineering Heritage Trail**

▲ 3 hours • 4.5 miles

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

Starting Point: Green Park Station Fover, Green Park Road, Bath. ST 746 648. Map square: A10.

Leaders: David Le Lohe, Rob Morley & Bob Ford

March

Tuesday 3 March 10:00am Stanton, Stanway and the Cotswold **Escarpment**

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

From Stanton there is a 650 ft climb to the escarpment, along part of the Cotswold Way, and then down to Stanway. Views across the Vale and possibly steam trains.

Starting Point: Stanton village car park, next to cricket ground. SP 067 343. Map square: E3.

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

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

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

Starting Point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9. Leaders: Sid Gould, Dave Wright & Robert Herbert

Friday 6 March 10:00am Saltway, Quarries and Woodland

___ 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

As well as interesting countryside to enjoy, this walk also explores the picturesque town of Charlbury. Very reasonable lunches can be bought after the walk at The Old Shed Café at Banbury Hill Farm.

Starting Point: Banbury Hill Farm OX7 3JH. SP 364 209. Map square: G4. Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Sunday 8 March 10:00am A Wander Around Whichford

5 hours • 10.5 miles

A circuit exploring undulating routes around Whichford and Brailes. Please bring a packed lunch. Please park considerately in the village. Starting Point: Whichford Village Green CV36 5PE. SP 312 346. Map square: G2. Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires



Wednesday 11 March 10:00am Romans, Monarchs & Fliers

2.5 hours • 5 miles

An off-road walk through fields & woodland, passing the famous Roman Villa. Includes a stretch of Monarch's Way, and passes through the village of Chedworth. Lunch options: Bamfurlong Farm Shop, Mill at Withington, Seven Tuns in Chedworth, Fossebridge Inn.

Starting Point: Chedworth Airfield. Turning to Compton Abdale between Withington & Chedworth, SP 038 131. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Harley Green, John Spinks & Bradley Blake

Thursday 12 March 10:00am Heading for the Opera, a Stow walk

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 6 miles

This bracing winter walk along very minor roads, paths and tracks takes us past Broadwell onto the hills near Stow. We pass the historic battle site en route to the location of the Longborough Opera (but we never quite get there) and return along well worn tracks to Stow. Bring drinks. Starting Point: Stow on the Wold, Stocks on village green. SP 192 258. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Saturday 14 March 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

Tuesday 17 March 10:00am Spring along the Cotswold and **Gloucestershire Ways**

▲ ▲ 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A walk to Lineover Wood, Pinchley Wood, and Hilcot Wood with two moderate climbs. Pub grub at the Seven Springs.

Starting Point: Seven Springs pub car park just off A436 by the A 435 junction. SO 967 169. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Brian Chilvers, John Milroy & Ray Goold

Tuesday 17 March 10:00am Spring on the Borders

▲ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk exploring the eastern border of the Cotswolds AONB and part of Ditchley Park, wartime retreat of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Starting Point: Ditchley Park Gate OX7 4EZ. SP 379 207. Map square: H4. Leader: Tony Graeme

Tuesday 17 March 10:00am Gatcombe in One

____ 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A stroll through Avening and into open country before dropping down passing the Iron and Longfords Mills. We skirt around the Gatcombe estate and you may find a few stray dimpled balls on our way back. Bring a drink and a snack for the mid walk break. Lunch available locally after the walk. Starting Point: Avening Village by the Queen Matilda Tavern (junction of 3 roads from Tetbury, Minchinhampton and Nailsworth). Please park considerately on road nearby. ST 885 979. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Chris Gill & Derrick Hildersley

Thursday 19 March 10:00am **Cleeve Common** and Postlip

▲ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk around Cleeve Common, taking in the community of Postlip. We follow a stretch of the Cotswold Way and hopefully finish with some splendid views over to the Malverns and beyond. May be muddy in places. 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: Mark Howard, Steven Pascoe & Brad Blake

Friday 20 March 10:00am **Under the Bear**

▲ ▲ 4 hours • 6.5 miles

This walk circles part of the Nailsworth Valley, taking in two good climbs, and visiting South Woodchester, Rooksmoor and Woodchester before crossing Selsley Common for some fine views to finish. Bring a packed

Starting Point: Selsley Common main car park. Marked on the OS Explorer Map 168 at OS Ref: SO 828 026. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Mick Thorpe & Brian Mundy

Sunday 22 March 10:00am Up to a Down

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Bathampton along the Kennet and Avon canal and up to the Downs. We walk along some of the Skyline paths and the old quarries before dropping down via the old tram-way to the canal and back to Bathampton. Please bring a drink/ snack. Not suitable for pushchairs. Starting Point: The George pub car park. Bathampton (away from the pub). ST 776 665. Map square: A10. Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Wednesday 25 March 10:00am **Wool and Water**



▲ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk around Painswick following the Wash Brook before ascending to Sheephouse. Descending to the village via Ticklestone Lane and some prominent mills before returning to the start point.

Starting Point: Walkers car park, Golf Course Road. SO 867 105. Map square: C5.

Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

Wednesday 25 March 10:00am **A Classic Cotswold** Ramble

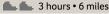
4 hours • 8 miles

This springtime walk has it all: quintessential Cotswold village, lovely woods and open views. The route uses lesser known paths and includes two climbs. Please bring suitable refreshments.

Starting Point: Snowshill public car park or if a NT member bring your card and use Snowshill Manor car park. SP 097 340. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Wednesday 25 March 10:00am Combe into the Park



Leave Combe by the Wychwood Way into the grounds of Blenheim Park to follow public rights of way offering fine views of the lake and palace. Return walk follows the Roman Akeman Street route. Lunch available at The Cock Inn at the end of the walk. Starting Point: Cock Inn Combe

OX29 8NT. SP 411 159. Map square: H4. Leader: Tony Merry

> For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Thursday 26 March 10:00am Vines and Bread

▲ 5 hours • 6 miles

The walk takes the Stroudwater Canal towpath eastwards to Ryeford where it joins the Cotswold Way northwards. It diverts via Randwick and Whiteshill to Stratford Park on the edge of Stroud. The walk rejoins the canal towpath and the Cotswold Way back to the start. Picnic lunch please. Starting Point: Lower Mills Bridgend Stonehouse. Just off A419 approx 1.5 miles from M5 junction 13 towards Stroud. Turn into Downton Road at traffic lights. SO 805 048. Map square: B6. Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Friday 27 March 10:00am **Cotswold Walls**



▲ ≤ 5 hours • 8.5 miles

A Circular walk taking in North Stoke, Pipley Wood, Hanging Hill, Upton Cheney and Bitton. See what a difference walls rebuilt be the Wardens make to the landscape! Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting Point: Swineford Picnic area [Sign posted on A431]. ST 691692. Map square: A9.

Leaders: Gwyneth Littlejohn & Glyn Williams

Friday 27 March 10:00am Ways around Kineton

▲ ▲ 3.5 hours • 6 miles

An ascent through Guiting Wood and the Farmcote Estate, taking in parts of the Wardens, Winchcombe, Diamond and Donnington Ways. A moderate walk with some uphill sections, some road walking but quiet and pretty, including a couple of fords across the River Windrush. Please bring drink. Starting Point: Public car park (south of Guiting Wood), Critchford Lane. Temple Guiting GL54 5UZ. SP 084 258.

Leaders: Mike Klaiber, Gerry Nye & Ann Nye

Map square: E3.

Thursday 2 April 10:00am **Selsley Common: Toots to Teashop**

2.5 hours • 4 miles

Enjoy panoramic views from the highest point on the common at the topograph alongside the Toots long barrow. Then walk through classic scarp woodland on marked paths before returning via the common to the start point.

Starting Point: Selsley Common main car park. Marked on the OS Explorer Map 168 at OS Ref: SO 828 026. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Helen Furmidge & Nigel Meredith

Friday 3 April 12:00am Friday Foray: A Walk on the Edgeworth Doing

♣ ♣ 3 hours • 6 miles

To Edgeworth via Battlescombe, returning via Waterlane. Lunch available at the Stirrup Cup after the walk.

Starting Point: Outside The Stirrup Cup Inn on the Cheltenham Road. Please park sensitively in the village. SO 905 061. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Sue Proctor & Steven Pascoe

Saturday 4 April 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, Harley Green & Tim Suarue

Monday 6 April 10:30am What a view

2 hours • 2.5 miles

A guided walk for all of the family. This gentle route in the countryside surrounding the National Trust property of Upton House and Gardens has lots of variety and stunning views so be sure to bring your camera. Starting Point: Upton House car park OX15 6HT. SP 371 455. Map square: H2. Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Tuesday 7 April 10:00am Reasons to be Thankful

L 2 hours • 5 miles

A comfortable short walk along the Warden's Way, Heart of England Way and the Windrush Way. Plenty of watering holes in Bourton.

Starting Point: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial. SP167 206. Map square: F4.

Leaders: Ray Goold, John Milroy &

Tuesday 7 April 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 midmorning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting Point: Fox and Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9. Leaders: Sid Gould, Dave Wright &

Robert Herbert

Wednesday 8 April 10:00am Spritely spring ramble

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A pleasant walk through meadows, woodland and beautiful villages. Starting Point: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney on A435. Park in the pub overflow car park if using after the walk, or else neatly in the village. SP 020 079. Map square: D6.

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

Wednesday 8 April 10:00am **Burford and the** Other Side

5.5 hours • 10 miles

A circular walk from Burford which includes the pretty, and seldom visited, villages of Westwell and Holwell. Please bring a mid-morning snack and a packed lunch. Starting Point: Burford Main car park

OX18 4SB. SP 253 122. Map square: G5. Leaders: Linda Shelley & Angie Dean

Saturday 11 April 10:00am Marshfield. Town and Valleys

____ 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk along the High Street 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 stay to take the family on the village scarecrow trail and/or visit an NGS Garden (tea and cakes available). Starting Point: Market Place, Marshfield.

ST 781737. Map square: B9.

Leaders: David Colbourne & Bob Ford

Wednesday 15 April 10:00am **Coffee Morning Walk** No. 2, Woods and Fields **Around Kingscote**

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The attractive walk through pleasant vallevs and woodland starts at 10:30am. It first visits Kingscote village, then passes through Kingscote Wood to Horsley. We return via Hartley Bridge and Hazlecote Farm. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

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: Eric Brown & Richard Coles



Sunday 19 April 10:00am Two valleys walk

♣ 4 hours • 7.5 miles

A circular walk from Bradford on Avon which passes through the beautiful Frome and Avon Valleys, and alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal. The walk passes by Westwood, Iford Manor, Freshford and the Avoncliff aqueduct. Please bring a Packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Starting Point: War Memorial, Westbury House Gardens, Bradford on Avon BA15 1DE. ST 825 608. Map square: B10. Leaders: Glyn Williams & Gail Needham

Monday 20 April 10:00am Tetbury to Shipton Moyne

▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

From the Station site we head south through the Estcourt Park estate with its stud farm to the friendly village of Shipton Moyne. We rest at the noteworthy St. John the Baptist church, and then return through Duchy land and green lanes to Tetbury town for some well deserved refreshment, if desired. Starting Point: Tetbury free railway yard car park, Cirencester Road GL8 8EY. ST 893 932. Map square: C7. Leaders: Brian Mundy & David Harrowin

Tuesday 21 April 10:00am CCC: Colesbourne, Coberley, and Cockleford

3.5 hours • 6 miles

A walk up the hill to Norbury Hill Fort then on to Upper Coberley and Tontit Bottom then back along the Churn. Food and drink at the Colesbourne

Starting Point: The Colesbourne Inn car park. On the A435 north of Cirencester. SP 001 133. Map square: D5.

Leaders: John Milroy, Ray Goold & Brian Chilvers

Tuesday 21 April 10:00am Woods and Wolds

6. 5.5 hours • 10.5 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. Please bring a packed lunch/snacks. Starting Point: Blockley, Community Shop. SP 164 349. Map square: F3. Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Wednesday 22 April 10:00am **Bisley Blue**

♣ ♣ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk which alternates between grassland and woods and which starts along the Wysis Way to the Scrubs. The route then goes through Catswood to Swift Hill and on to the upper reach of the Toadsmoor Valley. Climate permitting there should be bluebells in the woods on our return to Bisley.

Starting Point: Recreation ground, Van der Breen Street, Bisley. SO 907 061. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

Saturday 25 April 10:00am Glyme Valley and Heythrop Park

5.5 hours • 11 miles

A pleasant springtime walk along the Glyme Valley to Lidstone and on to Heythrop Park via Church Enstone. Return to Chipping Norton via Broadstone Manor and Chalford Park. Pub stop at lunchtime but please bring a packed lunch. Starting Point: Chipping Norton, New Street car park OX7 5LJ. SP 312 272. Map square: G3.

Leaders: Janet Moore & Margaret Burden

Saturday 25 April 10:00am Brideshead, the Bible and Harry Potter's Ancestors

4 hours • 8 miles

Explore the edge of the Cotswolds Hills near Dursley and Wotton Under Edge. Spectacular views, lovely woodland walking and some fascinating history! Packed lunch needed.

Starting Point: Stinchcombe Hill public car park, Dursley. (not the Golf Club car park). ST 744 984. Map square: A6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

Sunday 26 April 10:00am On the Edge

4 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk along part of the Fosse Way (Roman Road) visiting Dunkerton, Combe Hay and Southstoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but families welcome. Starting Point: Odd Down Park and Ride. ST 733 617. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Monday 27 April 10:00am Ilmington, On the Edge

3.5 hours • 6 miles

Ilmington is the far northern outpost of the Cotswolds, with wide views all round and lots of interesting features. Please bring suitable refreshments. Starting Point: Ilmington Playing Fields car park, on the outskirts of the village along the Mickleton Road. SP 209 440.

Leaders: Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth

Map square: F2.

Tuesday 28 April 10:00am **Early Birds**

4 hours • 7 miles

A circular walk from Temple Guiting to Guiting Power. Fairly level walking, three short hills and one stile. Likely to be muddy. We hope to see a range of common farmland birds and early summer visitors.

Starting Point: St Mary's, Temple Guiting GL54 5RS. Park at Village Hall. SP 089 277. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Ali Clifton Barnard & David Russell

Thursday 30 April 10:00am Bluebells in Bloom (hopefully!)

____ 2 hours • 4 miles

A circumnavigation around pretty Cotswold outliers, Alderton and Dumbleton hills. A spectacular display of bluebells in the Spring. Due the fickle nature of the English weather, we cannot of course guarantee to see them. Total ascent 552 ft.

Starting Point: Dairy Lane, Dumbleton, Gloucestershire WR11 7TP, please park considerately. SP 017 359.

Map square: D3.

Leaders: Linda & Martin Blackwell

May

Saturday 2 May 10:30am Siston Court Circular

♣ ♣ 6 hours • 9.5 miles

Strenuous because of length. No hills! Dyrham was modeled on Siston so the walk will get as close as we can and then return on the old turnpike that went between them. Please bring a picnic lunch. Parking charge applies for non members of the National

Starting Point: Visitor reception, Dyrham Park. ST 748 757. Map square: A9. Leaders: John Walker & Carolyn Plows

Sunday 3 May 10:00am Along the Edge

6 5 hours • 10.5 miles

Stunning views and the site of a famous battle. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Middle Tysoe. Please park considerately on roadsides in the village. SP 341 442. Map square: H1.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday 5 May 10:00am Trust the Two Rivers

3.5 hours • 7 miles

Starting from the Sherborne estate along the Sabrina Way (repairs allowing) then to Great Rissington following the River Dikler eventually to the Windrush.

Starting Point: Northfield Barn NT car park, north of Sherborne or alongside road/barns. SP176 154. Map square: F5. Leaders: John Milroy, Ray Goold & Brian Chilvers

Tuesday 5 May 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 midmorning 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: Sid Gould, Dave Wright & Robert Herbert

Wednesday 6 May 10:00am Haresfield to the Beacon via Edge Common

____ 3.5 hours • 6 miles

A walk following parts of the Bruce Friendship trail and the Cotswold Way. Taking in views from Edge common and Haresfield Beacon. Lunch option: Edgemoor Inn.

Starting Point: Shortwood National Trust Car Park, near Standish Woods GL6 6PP, Pay (NT members free) and Display. SO 832 086. Map square: B5.

Leaders: Brad Blake, Graham Saunders, Harley Green & John Spinks

Thursday 7 May 10:00am **Bluebells in Foxholes**

▲ 3 hours • 6 miles

Starting from Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes nature Reserve where hopefully we will see carpets of bluebells. We return through woodland and field paths. Village has lunch options at the end of the walk.

Starting Point: New Beaconsfield Hall Shipton under Wychwood. SP 278 181. Map square: G4.

Leader: Gerry Simper

Thursday 7 May 10:00am Exploring Winchcombe's Ways 3

♣ ♣ 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

We continue our exploration of some long distance footpaths through Winchcombe. We walk to the north and west along the Gloucestershire, Winchcombe, Cotswolds Ways and an old drovers' road. The route is undulating with two steep climbs. Views in all directions. Please bring packed lunch.

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

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

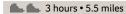
Support the Cotswolds AONB

Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow! Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Friday 8 May- 10:00am Friday Foray: Ancient

Friday Foray: Ancient Routes over Ancient Roots



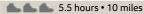
A walk from Withington by the side of the River Coln and through Withington Woods, could be very muddy in the woods following heavy rain. Lunch after the walk at The Mill Inn Withington.

Starting Point: The Mill Inn Withington. Parking at the pub by kind permission of the landlady. SP 033 153.

Map square: D4.

Leaders: Sue Proctor, Helen Wilkinson & Steven Pascoe

Saturday 9 May 10:00am Old Sodbury, Hawkesbury Upton Circular



Walking North on the Cotswold Way, we cross the Hill Fort, and continue to Horton, thence to Hawkesbury Common. Turning East we climb to Hawkesbury Upton and join the Cotswold Way back to Horton. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting Point: Old Sodbury Church. ST 756 818. Map square: B8.

Monday 11 May 10:00am Rural North Wiltshire

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Paul Clarke

■ 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

From the Church we take a somewhat northerly route to Willesley village then, continuing along country lanes, we pass Pinkney Court. We cross the B4040 leading us by Park Farm and though Pinkney Park before our route returns us to Sherston and a well earned lunch/refreshment as required.

Starting Point: Adjacent to the Church of Holy Cross in Sherston High Street/Church Street. ST 854 860.
Map square: B7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Chris Gill.

Tuesday 12 May 10:00am Tour of Guiting Wood

4.5 hours • 8 miles

A Cotswold wood in springtime, a botanist's delight! Bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Meet Guiting Power village green. Park at Village Hall (donation) or considerately in village. SP 094 247. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Tuesday 12 May 10:00am Tale of Two Commons

2.5 hours • 4 miles

A chance to see two commons at their finest, clothed in an abundance of cowslips and hopefully the first of the orchids. Learn the history of a toy fort and the birth of wind turbines. Stile free but not suitable for buggies. Ice cream stop included! Lunch available at the inn after the walk. Starting Point: Amberley Inn, Amberley. Not the Inn car park please. SO 850 013. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Helen Furmidge

Wednesday 13 May 6:30pm A Leckhampton Evening

___ 2 hours • 4 miles

A brief circuit of Leckhampton Hill with some details of its history. Includes a short section of the Cotswold Way. Start time set especially for people who are otherwise engaged during the day! Starting Point: Brownstone Quarry, Hartley Lane, Leckhampton Hill. (At the TOP of the hill, NOT halfway up!). SO 951 179. Map square: D4. Leader: Tony Duffin

Thursday 14 May 9:30am
Three Rivers, Four
villages around

Bourton on the Water
4.5 hours • 8.5 miles

Starting at Bourton on the Water, we visit the picturesque villages of Little Rissington, Wyck Rissington, Lower Slaughter and Upper Slaughter. The route takes us along or across the three principal rivers of the area. Please bring a snack or a packed

Starting Point: Bourton-on-the-Water, war memorial. SP 167 207.

Map square: F4.

Leaders: Alan Thomas & David Russell

Thursday 14 May 10:00am Cirencester Park

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A stroll through Cirencester Park looking at varied woodland habitats including that managed for the Pearl Bordered Fritillary (and maybe the butterfly itself, weather permitting). Includes Ten Rides, Alfred Hall and Oakley and Overley Woods.

Starting Point: Sapperton church. Park around the village. SO 948 033. Map square: D6.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Mark Howard & Lynne Kelly

Saturday 16 May 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 P&R bus back to the start. Bring bus pass if applicable. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting Point: Odd Down Park & Ride.

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

Leaders: Rob Morley & Paul Clarke

Sunday 17 May 10:00am In Praise of Sir Stanley

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 4 miles

Join us in celebrating the 90th anniversary of the bequest by Sir Stanley Tubbs of 185 acres of land on Stinchcombe Hill. The full walk starts with a stiff climb from the start onto the Hill. Alternatively, join the walk at 10:30 at the Golf Clubhouse for a 2.5 mile flat circuit of the Hill.

Starting Point: Car park opposite The Old Spot Inn, Hill Road, Dursley. ST 754 981. Map square: A6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith, Helen Furmidge & John Hammill

Tuesday 19 May 10:00am In the Emperor's footsteps

h 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A gentle walk along the River Coln to Coln St Aldwyn and back via Coneygar Cottages. Pubs and cafes in Bibury.

Starting Point: By the bridge to Arlington Row, Bibury. Please park considerately around the village. SP 115 066. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Ray Goold, John Milroy & Brian Chilvers

Tuesday 19 May 10:00am Spring in the Wychwood Forest

5 hours • 8.5 miles

A circular walk through parts of the Wychwood Forest away from the public rights of way, with kind permission, and returning across Cornbury Deer Park. Mostly level or undulating ground but one short steep section. Possibility of mud if there has been heavy rain. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Charlbury, Spendlove car park OX7 3PQ. SP 358 196.

Map square: H4. Leader: Tony Graeme



Wednesday 20 May 10:00am THE Brimpsfield Tour!

♣ ♣ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A brief tour of Brimpsfield taking us back to the 12th century to visit the remains of the castles, the church and the Park.

Starting Point: old A417, east of Birdlip village, beyond school. SO 931 142. Map square: C3.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

Thursday 21 May 10:00am A Day of Wine and Roses

▲ ♦ 5 hours • 8 miles

On this walk we will learn about a world famous rose and a visit to a community vineyard. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Mickleton church.
Park along church lane or use the small church car park (voluntary donation).
SP 162 435. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

Friday 22 May 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 drinks/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: D3/4.

Leaders: Gerry Nye, Ann Nye & Mike Klaiber

Tuesday 26 May 10:00am Marshfield, Town and Valleys

4.5 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.

Leader: David Colbourne

For full details on walks, visit the Walking and Exploring pages at

cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Saturday 30 May 10:00am Moreton Musings From the Nineteent

from the Nineteenth Century

5.5 hours • 11.5 miles

The 19th Century proved a fascinating period in and around Moreton in Marsh. Find out some of the historical details in this undulating walk, to include Sezincote House, Bourton on the Hill, Blockley village and the Mitford family at Batsford. Bring packed lunch.

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: Ian Macpherson & Vivienne McGhee

Sunday 31 May 10:00am The Bath Skyline

5.5 a 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

June

Tuesday 2 June 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 midmorning Munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: Sid Gould, Dave Wright & Robert Herbert

Tuesday 2 June 10:00am Two Woods

_____ 2.5 hours • 6 miles

An up and down walk with lovely views over Charlton Kings and Cheltenham. Following the Cotswold Way for a time and part of the Cheltenham Circular. Good food and drinks in Charlton Kings, both pubs and cafes.

Starting Point: Beeches Playing Field car park, Sappercombe Lane Charlton Kings GL53 8LY. SO 967 200. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Ray Goold, John Milroy & Brian Chilvers

Wednesday 3 June 10:00am Eastleach and the River Leach

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk from the twin villages of Eastleach along the River Leach. Lunch is available at The Victoria Inn after the walk.

Starting Point: The Victoria Inn, Eastleach. Park at the pub if eating/ drinking there after the walk, else park considerately along the main street. SP 198 052. Map square: F6.

Leaders: John Spinks, Graham Saunders, Harley Green & Brad Blake

Wednesday 3 June 10:00am **Glimpse of the Glyme**

3.5 hours • 7 miles

A walk from the village of Church Enstone along the Glyme Valley to Kiddington Hall. Varied views of the river and the parkland. Lunch available at The Crown after the walk though you may like to carry a small snack as well.

Starting Point: The Crown Inn Church Enstone OX7 4NN. SP 378 250. Map square: H3.

Leader: Tony Merry

Friday 5 June 10:00am St Catherine's Brook

5 hours • 9 miles

A circular walk from Swainswick layby going over Little Solsbury Hill before dropping down to Chilcombe Bottom. Next we visit Charmy Down and descend to walk along St Catherine's Brook. Please bring a packed lunch. Starting Point: Slip road for Upper Swainswick on the East side of the A46. ST 762 683. Map square: A10. Leaders: Gwyneth Littlejohn & Bob Ford

Sunday 7 June 10:00am Down and Around

5 hours • 7 miles

The walk takes paths across open country towards Westonbirt Arboretum then taking the Macmillan way northwards through it. Continuing northwards the walk uses local paths back to the start via Leighterton & Bowldown. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting Point: Layby on the A46 near Leighterton, 5 miles south of Nailsworth. At sign to 'Leighterton 1'. ST 811 906. Map square: B7.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Support the Cotswolds AONB

Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow!

Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Monday 8 June 10:00am A Roman Villa and a River Valley

▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

From Stonesfield we walk to North Leigh Roman Villa where we stop to explore the villa site and visit the Mosaic Room which will be especially opened for us. Our return is via East End and includes a gentle meander along the River Evenlode and across the river valley. Please being a snack. Starting Point: Stonesfield Village Hall OX29 8HA. SP 394 175. Map square: H4. Leaders: Linda Shelley & Angie Dean

Tuesday 9 June 10:00am Haymaking and Merrymaking

▲ 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Dancing on the village green in nearby Bledington was a regular activity 100 years ago and the name still lives on in Morris Dancing circles. Grassland for hay would have been raked by hand in a bygone age but the flowering orchids should hopefully still be abundant.

Starting Point: Pebbly Hill Nursery, Bledington OX7 6XJ. SP 267 182. Map square: F4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Tuesday 9 June 10:00am **Butterflora**

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

Through the Prestbury Hill butterfly reserve and over Cleeve Common to see what we can see! Definitely wild flowers galore and hopefully, weather permitting, butterflies too. Bring suitable refreshments.

Starting Point: Wardens Wood car park on Cleeve Common approach via narrow lane from Brockhampton. SP 010 236. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Wednesday 10 June 10:00am Woo Hoo! What a View!

▲ ▲ 5 hours • 8.5 miles

The route is more about the walk and less about the talk. Expect undulating and varied terrain, a far reaching view and a couple of villages. Bring lunch and a snack. Parking is at Long Compton village hall £1 donation.

Starting Point: Long Compton Village Hall CV36 5JJ. SP 288 330. Map square: G3.

Leaders: Angie Dean & Linda Shelley

Friday 12 June 10:00am Friday Foray: Miserden & Rough Bank

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

The walk includes Wishanger,
The Camp as well as Rough Bank,
unimproved limestone grassland
belonging to Butterfly Conservation.
Lunch available at the Carpenters
Arms at the end of the walk.

Starting Point: Miserden School car park. Park here or responsibly in the village. SO 934 089. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Helen Watkinson & Mark Howard

Friday 12 June 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 & Carolyn Plows

Saturday 13 June 10:00am A Hawkesbury Hike

▲ ▲ ♦ 6.5 hours • 12 miles

A strenuous walk to Kingswood via Tresham, returning via Hillesley and the Hawkesbury monument. Bring a packed lunch.

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

Leaders: Mick Thorpe & Chris Wykes

Tuesday 16 June 10:00am Up and Down the Painswick Valley

3.5 hours • 6 miles

A long steady climb up the Painswick Valley to Whiteshill and Scottsquar Hill the back down the other side past Wick Street. Café in the Leisure Centre and pub by the entrance.

Starting Point: Stroud Leisure Centre car park. Please park and meet at the top of the car park. SO 844 057. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Brian Chilvers, John Milroy & Ray Goold



Wednesday 17 June 10:00am Winchcombe to Belas Knap

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 6 miles

Easy paths and lanes meander past Sudeley Castle and along the valley of Beesmoor Brook, then up into woods and combes with spectacular views until we reach Belas Knap. The return to Winchcombe is gentle downhill.

Starting Point: Car park in Back Street behind the library in Winchcombe. SP 024 283. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 18 June 10:00am Highwaymen – Horses and Hills

5.5 hours • 11 miles

This walk, although near busy towns and villages, feels surprisingly remote. We use a number of long distance paths to arrive at Icomb and then north to Maugersbury, cross the Fosse Way and return to Bourton. It's a hilly walk with much to see along the way. Bring a packed lunch.

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

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Thursday 18 June 10:00am Three Farms and Two Woods

▲ ▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk dropping into High Wood, working west towards
Nympsfield and returning along the spring line via Tinkley Farm. Mostly on footpaths with only a short stretch of road. Please bring a snack for a halfway stop.

Starting Point: Nortonwood, Forest Green. Take Spring Hill, west from the main roundabout in Nailsworth at the clock tower. Turn right from Spring Hill/ Nympsfield Road at the last turning into Nortonwood, opposite Forest Green Rovers' football ground. SO 838 002. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Trish Iliadou & David Owen

Friday 19 June 10:00am Church, Castle and Folly

■ ■ 3.5 hours • 6 miles

An ascent of Bredon Hill through fields and woods, taking in a little of its history, with great views all around on a clear day. Some steep paths both up and down. Please bring a drink/ snack

Starting Point: Opposite Queen Elizabeth Inn, Main Street, Elmley Castle WR10 3HS. SO 983 411. Map square: D2. Leaders: Gerry Nye, Ann Nye & Mike Klaiber

Friday 19 June 6:00pm A Summer Evening Stroll

1.5 hours • 3.5 miles

Enjoy a summer evening stroll in the beautiful countryside near Kingscote. An easy walk, families welcome but not suitable for pushchairs. Enjoy refreshment and a drink 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 west of the A46 at the Calcot cross roads. ST 814 960. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

Saturday 20 June 10:00am Exploring Weston Park

6 hours • 12 miles

The entire walk will take place within the current or historic grounds of the Weston Park estate. Through Whichford Woods over Margetts Hill by Cherington Mill and Weston Mill past the site of Weston Manor House and on to Little Wolford and Long Compton. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting Point: Whichford Village Green CV36 5PE. SP 316 346. Map square: H3. Leaders: Janet Moore & Margaret Burden

Sunday 21 June 10:00am The Blooming Hills and Valleys of Southstoke

3.5 hours • 6 miles

A walk around the valleys and hills of Southstoke, through wild flower meadows, where orchids should be in flower. A drink stop only. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting Point: Odd Down Park and Ride car park. ST 733617. Map square: A10. Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Monday 22 June 10:00am Tetbury and Dynamic Long Newnton

▲ 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Our route follows Herd Lane to Preston Park before working our way to Newnton Hill. We follow lanes and the Monarch's Way, passing through Long Newnton village and by Long Newnton House, Holy Trinity Church and finally Tetbury Hospital, before returning to station yard, where lunch can be taken.

Starting Point: Tetbury free railway yard car park, Cirencester Road GL8 8EY. ST 893 933. Map square: C7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Chris Gill

Support the Cotswolds AONB

Every donation helps us look after the Cotswolds today, and tomorrow!

Cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Wednesday 24 June 10:00am Folklore Galore

▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

The Rollright Stones is where unlikely stories deep in local folklore abound. The unspoilt countryside is mostly farmland scattered with occasional farm buildings. June 24th is Midsummers Day, perfect for enjoying this lovely walk.

Starting Point: Salford, carefully near the Village Hall. SP 288 279. Map square: G3. Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday 25 June 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 3, Quiet Flows the Ewelme

Meet for coffee at 10:00am. The walk starts at 10:30am along the Ewelme to Owlpen, then takes us north through an unnamed valley to Nympsfield. After drinking in the view from Coaley Peak we return via Cockadilley and Toney Wood. Light lunches available at the cafe after the walk

Starting Point: Prema Arts Centre cafe. Take side street signed opposite the village shop. Please park considerately. ST 792 983. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Derrick Hildersley

Saturday 27 June 10:00am Biddestone and Slaughterford Loop

▲ 3 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk from Biddestone to Slaughterford returning to the start via the By-Brook valley viewing old water mills along the way. Please bring a packed lunch, pub drinks at Ford. Not suitable for push chairs. Toilets at start, during and end of walk. Starting Point: Biddestone Green. ST 863 735. Map square: B9.

Saturday 27 June 10:00am Don't Panic, Don't Panic! The Stop Line

Leaders: Barry Cox & Paul Clarke

Green Defence 5 hours • 9.5 miles

As well as visiting some picturesque villages, why not see how Britain prepared for a possible invasion during WWII. Packed lunch needed.
Starting Point: Rodmarton village green.
Please park considerately in the village.
ST 943 980. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

Tuesday 30 June 9:30am Windrush Wander

5 hours • 10 miles

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

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

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas



Published by

Cotswolds Conservation Board, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH. 01451 862000

e: info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

/CotswoldsAONB

▼ aCotswoldsAONB

aonbcotswolds

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

Words and visuals by

Editor

Alana Hopkins alana.hopkins@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk 01451 862003

Writers

Matt Brierley, Natasha Cheney, Siân Ellis, Alana Hopkins, Katie Jarvis.

Photography

As credited.

Illustration

Andrew Graham.

Walks

With thanks to our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

Design & Production

Neil Morgan Design.

Advertising

Thank you to all of our advertisers.
The income from our advertising
goes towards production costs, which
enables us to continue to provide a
free magazine.

If you are interested in sponsoring or advertising in the Cotswold Lion, and require a rate card and technical specification, please contact: cotswoldlion@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk 01451 862003

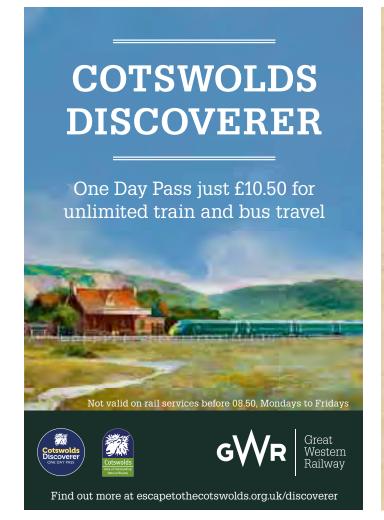


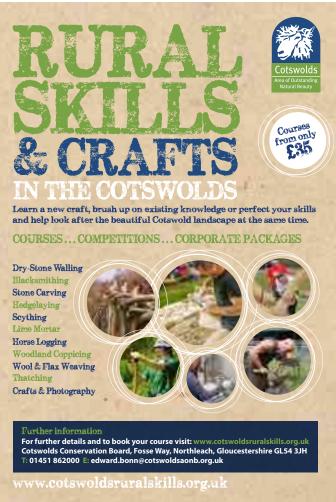
When you have finished with this magazine please pass it on or recycle it.

Front cover image: Brimstone butterfly photographed by Matt Berry.









Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire



OPENING SPRING 2020

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.

