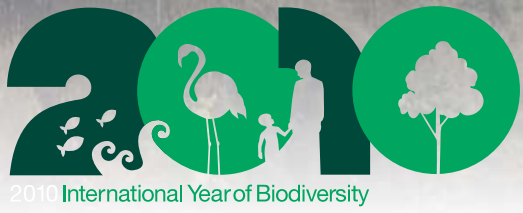


THE Cotswold LION

FREE
INCLUDING
WALKS & EVENTS GUIDE



ISSUE 23 - AUTUMN/WINTER 2010 THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Happy returns to the Cotswold Way

One of the world's most famous walks, the Cotswold Way National Trail, celebrates its 40th birthday this year.

The Cotswold Way, which runs between the market town of Chipping Campden in the north and the City of Bath in the south, was first identified almost 50 years ago by the Gloucestershire Committee of the Ramblers Association with Tony Drake of Cheltenham and the late Cyril Trenfield of South Gloucestershire, two of its main advocates. A memorial to Cyril Trenfield can be found on the Cotswold Way near Dyrham Park. Tony Drake, who is now nearly 90, shares his memories: "It all

started with me taking over as secretary for the Gloucestershire Ramblers Association in 1949. Under new laws, we were tasked with surveying all rights of way and identifying possible routes for long-distance paths so I was in at the deep end. I had various ideas but the one that always stuck out was the Cotswolds Escarpment." The trail was initially sponsored by Gloucestershire County Council who used it as an existing right of way but not as a promoted route. It was in 1968, however, that activities gained momentum with



Gloucestershire County Council preparing its recreational plan for the countryside. The County Council decided to designate a Cotswold Way route, using existing public rights of way, and the new scheme was launched during Footpath Week in May 1970.

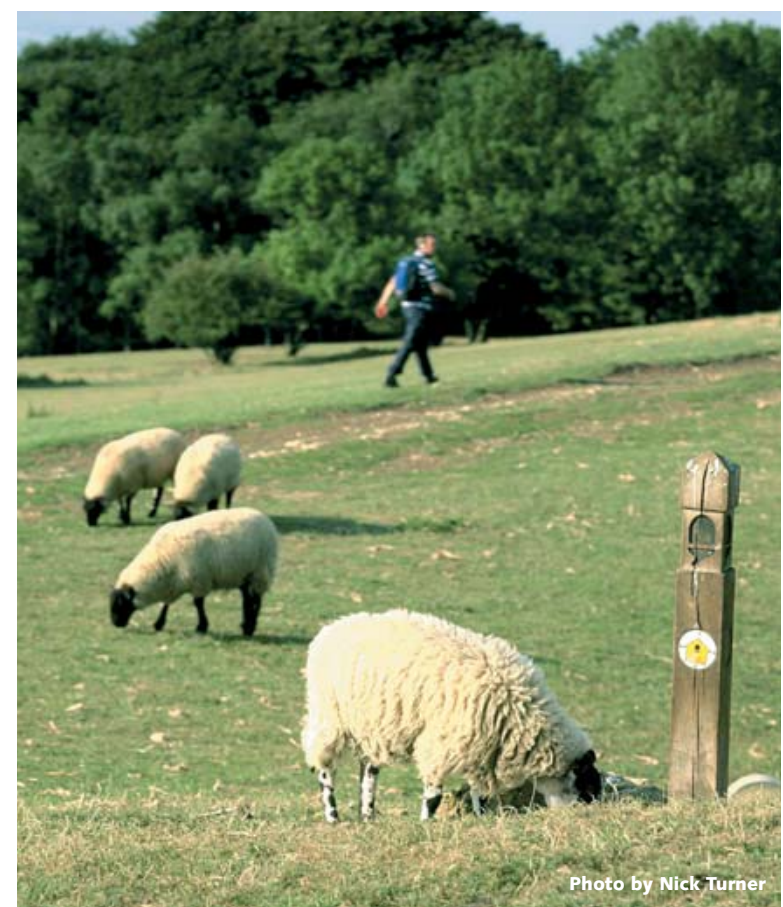
28 years later and following many years of lobbying by the Ramblers Association and others, the government finally approved the development of the Cotswold Way as a National Trail in 1998. After an eight-year programme of access improvement work funded by Natural England, the Cotswold Way was formally launched as a National Trail in May 2007, and in 2008, the co-ordination and promotion of the trail was transferred to the Cotswolds Conservation Board. Today, there are only 15 National Trails in England and Wales.

James Blockley, National Trail Officer, continues: "The Cotswold Way encapsulates so much of the beauty of this region and the variety of its scenery. From Cotswold stone villages and grazing pastures to beech

woodlands, quiet valleys and stunning views over the Severn Vale, the Forest of Dean and Wales, the Cotswold Way really is a jewel in our crown and one that should be treasured. Hundreds of thousands of walkers have already enjoyed its intrinsic beauty and I am sure many thousands more will over the ensuing decades."

Since 2007, a number of improvements have been made to the Cotswold Way and how it can be accessed, such as a set of circular walking routes designed to encourage more people to discover and enjoy the National Trail. The series has been developed to appeal to those who do not want to walk the entire Trail, but who would like to experience some of the highlights. Also, walkers completing the 102 mile trail can have their achievement recognised in a new online Hall of Fame on the Cotswold Way web site, the first entrant being Conradus Jager from Anchorage, Alaska.

So happy birthday to the Cotswold Way National Trail. Here's to many more years of enjoyment!



COTSWOLD WAY IS A LIVING CLASSROOM

Page 2



COTSWOLD CHURCHES FESTIVAL

Page 6



FARMERS MARKETS IN THE AONB

Page 7



Turning the Cotswold Way into a living, breathing classroom

A new and innovative tool to educate children on the huge variety of plants, wildlife and history that make up the Cotswold Way National Trail has been developed. The e-learning tool, with the name Cotswold Way Discovery, is a joint initiative between the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Cotswold Way team and Natural England.



Year 5 Leonard Stanley pupils at Selsley Common with Voluntary Warden Philip Coates

The Cotswold Way is a 102 mile National Trail from Chipping Campden in the North to Bath in the South and is celebrating its 40th birthday this year. It is also a fantastic local wildlife and nature resource. Cotswold Way Discovery will bring this to life through a series of web based resources aimed at teachers designing their curriculum-linked lesson plans and children and parents looking for educational, self-guided activities.

"Educating school children about the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), its history, architecture and its rich fauna and biodiversity is an investment in both the area's

future and the people who will be protecting it for years to come," said James Blockley of the Cotswolds Conservation Board. "That's what Cotswold Way Discovery is all about - turning the Cotswold Way into a living, breathing classroom teeming full of plants, animals and insects and capturing the imagination of children."

Material for children and parents - much of which has been tested and developed by the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Voluntary Wardens - will include an interactive PDF that works like a mini website which can be used to explore the Cotswold Way National Trail during spring,

summer, autumn and winter. The project will provide guides to some of the species of plants and animals that live on the trail and will also include lots of fun learning activities, such as puzzles and colouring sheets which can be downloaded.

Children will be able to learn all the plant and wildlife going on around the Cotswold Way during the seasons, such as how beech woodlands change from spring to summer, the emergence of summer flowers in the grasslands, how the six spot burnet moth fares through the seasons, the arrival of migrating birds in the autumn, and the animals which go into hibernation during winter.

Utilising the voluntary wardens' vast knowledge, the project provides an easy guide to learning about the Cotswold Way and its surroundings as well as helpful information on how to respect the countryside.

Teachers will also be provided with resources aimed specifically at Key Stage 2 - an age where teachers have more scope for cross-curricular learning and lesson planning. Cotswold Way Discovery will also support and complement existing education projects in the Cotswolds, such as the Cotswold Wardens Education Project, which works with schools across the AONB and counts tree planting, bug hunting, mud sculptures, wildflower identification, and fossil hunting among its activities.

During May and June, wardens worked at four primary schools - Kingham, Bledington, Charlbury and Cranham - taking them out into the countryside and educating them on the diversity of wildlife and fauna around them. One field trip included all 80

pupils from one primary school - quite a logistical exercise!

A weekly nature club has also been set up at Colerne Primary School where one of the wardens is a governor and plans are also underway for an Autumn term programme, and the feedback has been very positive... "Every school we have visited has asked us to come back", says Volunteer Coordinator, Becky Jones. "So we must be doing something right!"

Following an initial pilot exercise with a local school and final consultation with potential user groups, Cotswold Way Discovery is due to launch towards the end of the summer. It will be housed on the Cotswold Way website www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold and is completely free for all to use. More and more resources will be added as time goes on, ensuring that schools, parents and children will always find something new and exciting to help them enjoy and understand the countryside along the National Trail.



Two top tourism awards for Broadway Manor Cottages

Broadway Manor Cottages have been awarded two prestigious Worcestershire Welcome Awards at the 2010 Awards Ceremony, winning both the Stunning Self-Catering and Sustainable Tourism Awards.

Over 40 finalists attended the ceremony held at The Orchard Café in Worcestershire Woods Country Park hosted by BBC Hereford & Worcester's Howard Bentham and attended by leading figures in the Heart of England's tourism industry. Broadway Manor Cottages fought off stiff competition in both categories to win the

awards and were awarded commemorative plaques. "We are thrilled and honoured to win the awards," said proprietor Debbie Williamson. "The awards mean so much to us as our guests voted for us and we would like to thank the judges and everyone who voted."

Broadway Manor Cottages, holders of a Silver Green Tourism Business Award, have also been shortlisted for the Heart of England 2010 Excellence in Tourism Awards in two categories: Self-Catering Holiday of the Year and Sustainable Tourism of the Year.



Cotswolds Conservation Board

The Cotswold Lion is published by The Cotswolds Conservation Board, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH
Tel: 01451 862000 · Fax: 01451 862001
e-mail: info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk
website: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



The Cotswolds Conservation Board looks after the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Board works:

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

All rights reserved. Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate. However, the publishers can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

HELPING WILDLIFE ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Work on the establishment of an 80 mile long 'wildlife corridor' on the western edge of the Cotswolds is underway in an initiative designed to help wildlife adapt to climate change.

Due to be developed over the next five years, the corridor will run from Bath to Mickleton along the Cotswolds escarpment, and will be a combination of continuous tracts of habitat and carefully planned habitat 'stepping stones', made up of limestone grassland, scrub and woodland.

corridor is the perfect place to help our wildlife adapt."

"We have already met with potential partners to plan the scheme. There is already a lot of good work going on with farming communities and landowners, with good levels of environmental stewardship, and everyone is keen to come together and make the corridor a reality."

The Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership has accepted the Board's proposal for a priority area based on the Cotswolds scarp and forwarded it to Biodiversity South West for inclusion in the Regional Delivery plan. The Avon Biodiversity Partnership has also proposed the Cotswolds scarp and the area south of Bath.

Matt Hamilton from the Avon Wildlife Trust said: "Avon Wildlife Trust fully supports the Cotswolds Western Corridor Project and are pleased to be involved in planning and delivering a project that will help to conserve habitats and species on such a large scale. By seeking to link areas of good

habitat across a wide area and working collaboratively with other organisations, we hope to achieve the maximum benefit for wildlife as well as helping to mitigate for the effects of climate change."

Bath and North East Somerset Council is one of the AONB's local authority partners for the project. Sue Murtagh told Cotswold Lion the council was delighted to be supporting the initiative. She said: "Officers here are very excited by the opportunity to work with partners to develop this landscape scale wildlife corridor along the western edge of the Cotswolds AONB. The project complements our own aspirations to develop a more coherent corridor from the Mendip Hills to the southern tip of the Cotswolds, a priority which has been identified through our emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy."

A well planned corridor from Bath to Mickleton will connect

habitats so that species can move comfortably into new areas and colonise new sites. It enables life cycles to be completed in different types of habitat and can offer a range of microclimates, protecting against extreme weather conditions.

Simon Smith continued: "The corridor will not be able to do its job in isolation, how it links with the surrounding landscape of the AONB will be critically



important. The headlands around arable fields, the grasslands and scrub on road verges and the grasslands, scrub and woods in

the Cotswolds' beautiful river valleys all have an important role to play in creating a connected landscape through which our wildlife can move. Think of the corridor as the main artery, the valleys as the smaller veins and the headlands and verges as the capillaries. All are needed for good circulation!"

Wildlife won't be the only beneficiaries of this project. For people, there are mental and physical health benefits in being able to get close to nature, and the corridor has the potential to bring such benefits to both local people and visitors. The corridor is close to several population centres, crossed with public rights of way, and the Cotswold Way National Trail runs its length.

"The long term future of the corridor may rely on the ability of people to access, see, understand, participate in and appreciate it," said Simon. "We would also be seeking to develop an understanding of the wider social and economic benefits of the corridor. As it develops, the use of its produce, from meat to woodchip and biomass could be supported to embed the corridor into a local, sustainable, climate adapted economy."

"We firmly believe the corridor can provide a solution to help wildlife adapt to climate change, and that it could become a national model that landowners and the general public can follow."



"There are two ways that conservationists think wildlife can adapt to climate change," said Simon Smith, project development officer with the Cotswolds Conservation

Board. "Species can find new niches, or ecological spaces, within existing sites, following suitable conditions as they shift to a new aspect or altitude, or they move northward following their climate space as it slowly shifts up the face of the planet. With its north-south orientation and large sites with different aspects, this



Photo by Nick Turner

Enjoy off-road cycling in the Cotswolds

One of the Cotswolds greatest secrets is how good the area is for off-road cycling. The network of good tracks designated as byways and bridleways make off-road cycling one of the best ways to discover the area. You can cover a fair bit of ground in a ride and still find the secret places inaccessible to cars. Furthermore, by leaving the car at home and getting on your bike you will also be doing your bit to look after the environment.

Now, thanks to a number of new routes being published by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, off-road cycling is even easier. The new set of six routes take in different areas of the AONB including Brailes Hill in South Warwickshire, Chedworth and Bibury, and range in length and ability. What they all have in common though is a ride through some of the Cotswolds' most beautiful scenery.

The new routes have been devised by cycling enthusiast and member of staff at the Board, Simon Smith. "Very little published

information exists about off-road cycling opportunities in the Cotswolds, and yet it is an exceptional area to explore from the saddle of a mountain bike, with its wealth of green lanes and byways," Simon told Cotswold Lion.

"So I thought I'd spend some of my free time exploring more of the Cotswolds by bike and devising some new circular routes along the way."

Ian Warby, Senior Off-Road Development Officer for CTC, the UK's national cycling organisation, told Cotswold Lion: "It's great to see these off-road

cycle routes coming together in the Cotswolds. They offer a fantastic opportunity to get out and enjoy the stunning Cotswold countryside traffic free by bike."

The new routes have been featured in Cotswold Life magazine and are available to download from the AONB website - www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Now Simon is asking readers of Cotswold Lion to send in their contributions for potential off-road cycling routes. "Send them in to me, and I'll happily try them out. Then, if suitable, they can be published onto our website." Readers can contact him on 01451 862000 or email at simon.smith@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Ancient Woodlands - an integral part of the Cotswolds Landscape



The United Nations has declared 2011 the International Year of Forests with one clear aim - to raise awareness at all levels in strengthening the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

All too often, however, such forests are under threat. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that every year 130,000 km² of the world's forests are lost due to deforestation. Conversion to agricultural land, unsustainable harvesting of timber, unsound land management practices, and the creation of human settlements are the most common reasons for this loss of forested areas.

The Cotswolds AONB is an area rich in woodland with 20,657 hectares of woodland, of which 9,292 hectares is ancient woodland. Yet like many areas of the world, these woodlands face challenges - for example, inadequate or inappropriate

management, excessive grazing by deer and livestock, fragmentation by development and the introduction of invasive and non-native species.

Much of the ancient woodland in the Cotswolds is concentrated in the centre and west of the AONB and it is in this area that the Cotswold Ancient Woodland Project has been established. The project area includes nearly 70% of the ancient woodland sites in the AONB and is a partnership between the Forestry Commission, the Cotswolds Conservation Board, the Woodland Trust and Natural England. The project aims to deliver increased support and

resources to help woodland owners conserve and manage these ancient and native woodlands.

The Cotswolds is just one of five Ancient Woodland Priority Areas (AWPA) in the South West that has been identified by the Forestry Commission. Such areas are exceptionally rich in wildlife and include many rare species and habitats. The AWPAs have been selected not only due to their relatively high concentration of ancient woodland but also for the opportunities this offers to develop habitat corridors along which native woodland species can migrate in response to anticipated changes in climate.

Mark Connelly, Land Management Officer at the Cotswolds Conservation Board continues: "Ancient woodlands are integral to the Cotswolds. Not only are they an important part of the landscape, but are also important for wildlife, some of which have relied on this woodland for many centuries. In this way, they act almost as a reservoir from which wildlife can spread into new woodlands."

"Ancient woodlands are part of our cultural and social heritage... and are areas to be treasured"

The Cotswold Ancient Woodland Project will be working with landowners to help them manage and conserve these crucial habitats. Key elements of the project include increased funding from the Forestry Commission's Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) with grants paid at a higher



rate of 80% of standard costs on work to create, sustain or enhance ancient woodland benefits. This is particularly useful to owners for example, either for funding improved woodland access to facilitate appropriate management, or to contribute towards the costs of restoring areas of coppice or to protect woodland regeneration from grazing or browsing.

For new woodlands created with the aid of a Woodland Creation Grant, £1800 per hectare is payable.

Within the project area this is supplemented by an additional £2000 per hectare where woodlands are created in appropriate locations that are in line with the Cotswolds AONB woodland planting and management guidelines. In addition, landowners can apply for Woodland Regeneration Grants of

£1,760 per hectare when replacing felled non-native plantations with appropriate native species. Other grants are also available through Environmental Stewardship schemes.

Project officer Peter Kelsall of the Forestry Commission concludes: "Ancient woodlands are part of our cultural and social heritage. They contribute so much to the history, sense of place, beauty and biodiversity of the Cotswolds AONB and are areas to be treasured. We hope that by providing advice and financial assistance to landowners, the features that make these woodlands so valuable can be safeguarded. At the same time these woodlands can continue to contribute to the rural economy and through appropriate management be able to better withstand current pressures and future threats such as climate change".

National Grid gives something back to local communities

A number of projects and activities across the Cotswolds have benefited this year from community funding courtesy of National Grid, one of the world's largest utilities.

The funding is part of National Grid's goal of working with the Cotswolds Conservation Board to support projects that conserve and enhance the AONB's natural beauty and character during construction of the 44 km gas pipeline between the villages of Wormington and Sapperton.

National Grid is working with those communities temporarily inconvenienced by the construction of the pipeline and has a limited budget available to support projects in the key areas of education and skills, environment and energy, or community investment.

National Grid Project Manager Mark Beard, said: "A large-scale infrastructure project such as this requires close consultation and

communications with the local communities temporarily affected by pipeline construction. National Grid and our contractors have been working to ensure the project is completed as quickly and safely as possible, to restore the land to its original pre-construction condition and support local communities directly affected by our work."

One such local community event which National Grid supported was the first ever Winchcombe Walking Festival which took place in May this year. Held in glorious sunshine, the festival saw 180 walkers trying out 17 walks, ranging from strenuous full day walks on the Cotswold Way to half-day walks and short, level, health walks - a total of

1,300 miles over the weekend.

Experts also talked to walkers about the rare butterflies and flowers, the archaeology, and the local steam railway. "The festival was fantastic and the feedback from walkers has been amazing," said Sheila Talbot from Natural England. "Walkers used to attending walking festivals organised by local authorities were highly impressed with the professionalism of the event and the outstanding work done by local walkers and volunteers."

As well as sponsoring the festival, National Grid supplied an exhibition and information about the pipeline project.

During the pipeline construction period, there have

been some unexpected finds. Near the village of Brockhampton, National Grid found evidence of a Roman settlement, including a round house, boundary walls and some small artefacts. The site was excavated over several weeks and the archaeology was recorded in agreement with the County Curator.

A number of environmental mitigation projects have also been taking place during the project, including ecological monitoring of badger setts to ensure they were not affected by the construction, the installation of bat boxes in trees surrounding identified bat roosts; and great crested newt and reptile exclusion fencing to ensure that these species did not come

into the construction area.

And although the construction phase is nearing completion, National Grid will be working hard over the coming months to reinstate the land to its original condition. The company will be working closely with wildlife, conservation and farming organisations, heritage and archaeological bodies and statutory authorities to ensure careful reinstatement of the land.

The National Grid Pipeline Project team can be contacted by email: enquiries@sw-rp.co.uk or by calling the project information line on 0800 731 0561. Further information is available at www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Gas/Pipelines/Wormington.



SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STEPS UP

Bee-keeping in Worcestershire, climate change education at the National Arboretum, renewable energy schemes in Gloucestershire and cycling in West Oxfordshire are just some of the recent projects that have received support from the Conservation Board's Sustainable Development Fund. Now, the Board is stepping up its search for more projects to support this year.

The Cotswolds AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is a grants scheme available to local communities, businesses and individuals that have ideas or projects which will improve the Cotswolds both now and in the future. The Fund aims to encourage and support community-based projects that look to provide a clear benefit to the AONB, with a particular focus on the environment, community and local economy.

David Molloy, Rural Skills & Grants Officer at the Board told the Cotswold Lion: "We are always keen to support new ideas which have the backing of the community. The money allows us to encourage new ideas and experimental projects which can really have long-term benefits for the AONB. Through the SDF, I am working with and helping local communities and organisations achieve a more sustainable way of living."

The Sustainable Development Fund was introduced to the Cotswolds around four years ago and has proved extremely popular

with a variety of organisations and projects that have benefited from the grants. Two projects in the last year that received SDF funding are a National Trust green energy project at Ebworth, and an investment in beehives at Evesham.

At Ebworth, SDF funding went towards the installation of a new biomass and solar thermal heating system. The biomass boiler, fuelled by logs harvested from the Trust's estate, will provide heating and hot water for five properties at the centre and will drastically reduce the centre's carbon emissions. An interpretation board has also been installed on the site to inform people about the energy saving systems in operation at Ebworth.

In Evesham, an SDF grant contributed towards the cost of buying six new beehives for the Evesham Beekeepers Association, based at Pershore College. The aim of the project was to provide a suitable site to train new and existing beekeepers in the best practice techniques of beekeeping management.

Martin Blakeman, Branch Secretary of the Evesham Beekeepers Association, said:

"Our Association has enjoyed a significant renaissance with membership expanding from 50 to 100 in the last five years. Most of these new members have no experience of keeping bees and it has been a major task to provide them with adequate training and support from our older members, often working with somewhat old and dilapidated equipment.

"We have also struggled to obtain good stock of new bees with which to get these beekeepers started at modest cost. The management of bees has assumed even more importance in recent years due to the presence of the varroa mite, colony collapse disorder and several other problems affecting domestic bee populations.

"The setting up of a branch apiary with the grants from the Cotswolds SDF and Wychavon District Council has enabled us to overcome many problems and has already proved a great success, and we are indebted to Pershore College for providing us with the apiary site and facilities for small meetings and storage of equipment."

The SDF grant, along with a contribution by the Evesham



Britta Koehler, National Trust Warden at the NT Gloucestershire Ebworth Centre demonstrates the log fuel for their new biomass boiler

Beekeeping Association members, who spent five days clearing the site and erecting the hives, has helped to make this project a great success.

SDF funding is available to organisations including community or voluntary groups and local authorities in the AONB. Individuals and businesses can also qualify for the scheme if their project can demonstrate a clear benefit to the wider community. SDF can fund up to 75% of the costs of a project and, in exceptional cases, 100% may be

given to voluntary bodies. Grants can range from a few hundred pounds to a maximum of £13,000.

Anyone wishing to apply for a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund should contact David on 01451 862002 or david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk. David can also be contacted by anyone who is interested in taking part in one of the Board's rural skills courses. Full details are available from the Board's website at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.

CONSERVATION WORK CONTINUES APACE

Conservation work is continuing apace across the Cotswolds in areas that continue to attract wide varieties of wildlife - all thanks to the dedicated team of 300 volunteers that work as wardens for the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

A substantial wall-building project, for example, is taking place at the Gloucestershire Butterfly Conservation's reserve on Prestbury Hill.

The reserve, which is high on the Cotswold scarp slope and east

Butterflies found there include the Duke of Burgundy, the Brown Argus, the Chalkhill Blue, the Marbled White and many others.

The old wall, which has been in a state of disrepair, divides the reserve from pastureland and runs

known as the Bidcombes, in France Lynch, east of Stroud in the form of a major grasslands clearance.

At just under 12 acres, the area was overgrown with many large mounds of brambles. There are

"I have such happy memories of Bidcombes from growing up nearby. It was such a beautiful and peaceful area and such a magnet for wildlife. When I was lucky enough to be able to purchase the area, I had only one thing in mind - returning Bidcombes to its former state as an area where future generations can enjoy."

The clearance project was supported by the Farming Wildlife

Many patches of primroses and bluebells have been revealed along with wood anemone, wild garlic, cowslips, wild thyme, kidney vetch, the odd spotted orchid, celandines, water cress in the stream, marsh marigold, and meadowsweet in the boggy areas of the stream. Butterflies are also beginning to appear with an orange tip, fritillary and tortoiseshell, having already been spotted.

The stream can now be seen, having been cleared of brambles and debris in the bed and is now running on its original line having previously been blocked off to create two ponds. Below the ponds is an area of woodland where it is intended to site some bird boxes and to the right an open area with a predominance of bracken, most of which has been cleared. There is also a local footpath which continues to Strawberry Banks Nature Reserve, the Wysis Way and Oakridge.

No one is under any illusions, however, that there is still much to do. Dorothy Baker, one of the Cotswold Wardens involved with the project, continues:

"While we have made enormous progress to date, there is no doubt that Bidcombes remains a work in progress. The emergence of the flowers and butterflies again, however, is great testament to the weeks of blood, sweat and tears put into this project from our band of volunteers, with extremely hot bonfires and weather at times."



of Cheltenham, provides stunning views of Cheltenham Racecourse, the Malvern Hills and the Welsh Hills beyond, and has a rich mix of limestone and neutral grassland attractive to butterflies.

The southern half of the reserve, known as the Bill Smyllie Reserve, extends southwards as a narrow valley containing thickets of scrub.

for approximately 130 yards to the corner of the field where the Cotswold Way crosses the common.

After much clearance work and preparation, the old wall is gradually getting back to its former glory.

Substantial conservation work is also taking place in an area

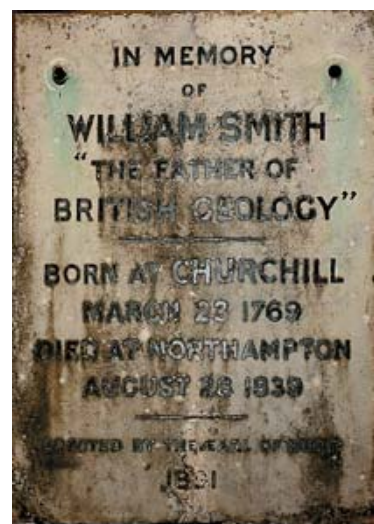
several springs at the top of the site running into a stream, which was hardly visible as it joined the stream at the bottom of the valley. The area was recently purchased by Sue Korda, who was keen to restore it to its former glory having remembered it from growing up in the nearby village of Oakridge. Sue continues:

Advisory Group, a provider of environmental and conservation advice to farmers. After much clearance work and many bonfires, the top half of the site is almost clear of brambles and the grass and flowers are beginning to grow again. Five Dexter cattle have also been involved in the clean-up operation doing a fine job grazing the area.

Local Heritage Centre awarded £50,000 Lottery money

A heritage centre, which overlooks the 'lost' medieval village of Churchill in Oxfordshire, is to receive a £50,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre, which occupies the chancel of the Old Church will receive the grant to update the centre and expand learning and outreach to the local community.



The grant will enable activities, such as conserving the character of the Church and updating its exhibition space, increasing awareness of the Centre's three principal subject areas - Warren Hastings, first Governor General of India (1732-1818); William Smith, father of British geology (1769-1839), (both of whom were born in the village), and local heritage; developing a two year education outreach programme, and engaging the local community.

The updated centre will include interactive touch screens, audio guides, an oral history of the area from villagers, a website and a print on demand publication. The education outreach programme will also include classes and workshops for disability and special needs groups and will

enable volunteers to be trained to offer to schools and institutions illustrated talks on local history.

David Chambers, chairman of the committee of the Old Church said, "With over 50 volunteers helping us, the Heritage Centre is a success story for the local community and we are delighted to have been given the resources to make our centre more attractive and relevant to visitors.

"We also have great hopes for our outreach education programme and for our oral history project which will



strengthen our local heritage archive. This will further involve the people of the village in the Centre and allow the Heritage Centre's exhibitions, stored data and related spin-offs to be more available to the world at large."

The Old Church is Churchill's sole surviving mediaeval building and a symbol of the village's past. In the 1980s it was made redundant and destined for

demolition before a group of local people formed the Old Church Preservation Society to undertake its upkeep. The Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre was opened on 12 May 2001

Warren Hastings was the first Governor-General of India from 1773 to 1785 and was born in Churchill in 1732. The exhibition traces his early life from Churchill through to his death in the nearby hamlet of Daylesford and covers his joining of the East India Company which gave him the opportunity to progress to become

the first Governor General of India through to his subsequent impeachment on his return to England.

William Smith is known as the "Father of English Geology" for collating the geological history of England and Wales into a single record. He was born in Churchill in 1769 the son of a blacksmith and was educated at the local village school.



Plans take shape for Cotswold Churches Festival

Plans are beginning to taking shape for a Cotswold Churches' Festival to be held over two weekends in May 2011.

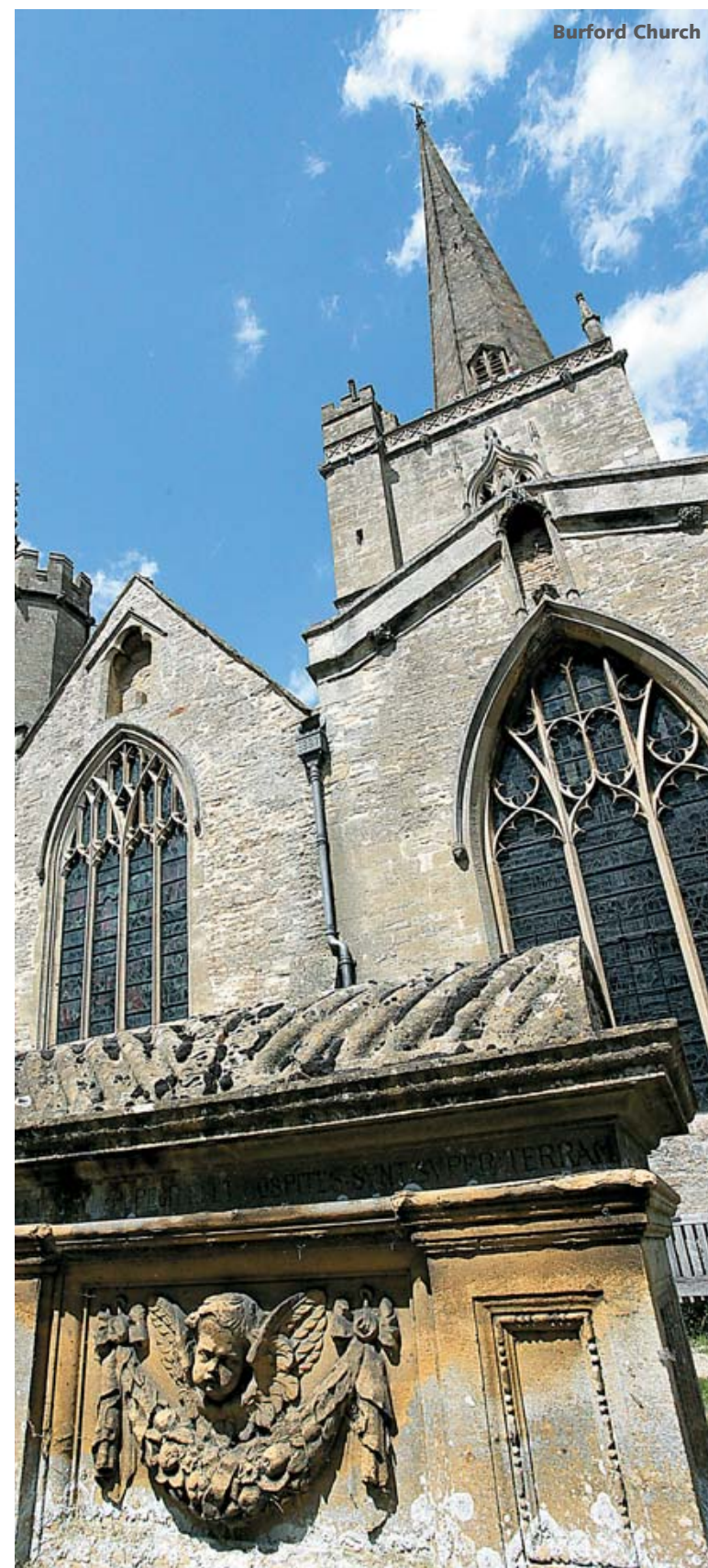
The showcase event, being held on 14/15 May and 21/22 May 2011, is designed to demonstrate the beauty of churches throughout the Cotswolds. Activities during the festival will include flower shows, concerts, poetry readings along with the opportunity to visit many of the churches to enjoy their beauty and the tranquillity of their locations.

"There are over 800 churches in the Cotswolds, and this is an opportunity for them to welcome visitors and reveal their role at the centre of community life," said Jeff West, Chairman of the Cotswolds Conservation Board and Curate at

St Mary's Church, Banbury .

Depending on its success, the festival could become an annual event, perhaps with a Royal focus in 2012 when the Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

Organisers will leave it to local parishes and benefices to decide the content of what they put on locally. As a prelude, an event will be held at Burford Parish Church on Saturday 9th October 2010, focusing on the theme 'Making our Churches more Welcoming to Visitors'. Updates will be provided on how the festival is taking shape and the support it is receiving across the Cotswolds.



Farmers markets in the AONB

Local food and drink is increasing in popularity and there are plenty of opportunities to sample and purchase local produce throughout the Cotswolds AONB. Farmers markets are one way of buying direct from the producer, and the following is a list of the markets taking place on a regular basis.



Stroud Farmers Market

When: Every Saturday **Time:** 9am - 2pm **Where:** Cornhill Market Place and surrounding streets, Stroud

Gloucester Farmers Market

When: Every Friday **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** The Cross and Westgate Street, Gloucester

Moreton in Marsh Market

When: Every Tuesday **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** Town Centre, Moreton in Marsh

Stow on the Wold Farmers Market

When: Second Thursday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** The Square, Stow

Charlbury Farmers Market

When: Saturday 11 September, Saturday 11 December **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** The Playing Close, Charlbury

Witney Farmers Market

When: Third Wednesday of every month **Time:** 8.30am - 1.30pm **Where:** Market Place, Witney

Cheltenham Farmers Market

When: Second and last Friday of each month **Time:** 9am - 3pm **Where:** Long Gardens, Promenade

Woodstock Farmers Market

When: First Saturday of every month **Time:** 8.30am - 1pm **Where:** In front of Town Hall

Tetbury Farmers Market

When: First Friday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** Tetbury Town House

Bath Farmers Market

When: Every Saturday **Time:** 9.30am - 1pm **Where:** Green Park Station, Bath

Bradford on Avon Farmers Market

When: Third Thursday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1.30pm **Where:** Bradford on Avon

Berkeley Farmers Market

When: Third Saturday of every month **Time:** 9am - 12.30pm **Where:** Town Hall, Berkeley

Dursley Farmers Market

When: Second Saturday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** Town Hall, Dursley

Winchcombe Farmers Market

When: Third Saturday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** Town Centre, Winchcombe

Bourton Farmers Market

When: Fourth Sunday of every month **Time:** 9.30am - 1.30pm **Where:** Countrywide Store, Bourton

Wotton Farmers Market

When: First Saturday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** Town Hall, Wotton Under Edge

Nailsworth Farmers Market

When: Fourth Saturday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** Mortimer Gardens, Nailsworth

Stratford-upon-Avon Market

When: First and third Saturday of every month **Time:** 9am - 2pm **Where:** Rother Street

Chipping Norton Farmers Market

When: Third Saturday of every month **Time:** 8.30am - 1.30pm **Where:** Market Square, Chipping Norton

Cirencester Farmers Market

When: Every second and fourth Saturday of every month **Time:** 9am - 1pm **Where:** Market Place, Cirencester

Enjoy the outdoors more!



Ever wondered how a dry-stone wall stays standing up? Ever looked at a traditionally laid hedge and pondered how it's done? If so, why not satisfy your curiosity and try one of the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Rural Skills Courses?

Woodland Copping Course just £35!

NEW for 2010 Lime Mortar Course 17/18 July Only £80!

With day courses available from £35 and weekend courses from £80, why not give it a go and see if you have a hidden talent for one of these historic Cotswold crafts?

Dry-stone Walling		
24/25 July	Lamsdown, Bath	£80
7/8 Aug	Naunton	£80
21/22 Aug	Broadway	£80
28/29 Aug	Crickley Hill, nr Cheltenham	£80
4/5 Sept	Broadway	£80
25/26 Sept	Long Compton	£80
2/3 Oct	Bradford-on-Avon	£80

Green Woodworking		
14/15 Aug	Field Gate Making	Northleach £135
18/19 Sept	Gate Hurdle Making	Northleach £135
2/3 Oct	Wooden Tool Making	Northleach £105

"Well run, informative course" Doug, Warwickshire

Woodland Copping		
14 Nov	Broadway, Worc	£35
12 Dec	Withington, Glos (tbc)	£35
16 Jan	Broadway, Worc	£35

Hedgelaying		
27/28 Nov	Rissington	£80
4/5 Dec	Fosse Cross, Northleach	£80
23/24 Jan	Fosse Cross, Northleach	£80
5/6 Feb	Ebrington (tbc)	£80

For further details on all of our courses, including availability and course bookings, contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board. Tel: 01451 826000 or visit our website. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

New discovery centre for the AONB opens

The Cotswolds Conservation Board has opened a new discovery centre for the Cotswolds AONB.

Housed in the North Gallery, adjacent to the 18th century Old Prison in Northleach and aptly named 'Escape to the Cotswolds', the new centre tells the fascinating story of the Cotswolds - a story based on stone and wool and how people have made a natural landscape even more beautiful over the centuries.

With stunningly designed new interpretive displays, the new centre provides a focus for discovering more about this unique landscape. Visitors to the centre can learn about the geology, history, landscape, wildlife and outdoor recreation, including the Cotswold Way National Trail, as well as the conservation heroes who have

helped to make the Cotswolds the special place that it is today. Younger visitors will also be able to explore the changing landscape through an interactive video game featuring time travelling hero, Quantum Sheep.

The centre, which is next door to Blades café, will be open between April and October, Wednesdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm. Admission is free.

Get involved!

Volunteers are always welcome! Anyone interested in volunteering at the new centre should call the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000 or email: info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Cotswolds to benefit from new conservation funding with launch of dry-stone walling grant scheme

The Cotswolds Conservation Board and National Grid have announced a brand new £300,000 grant scheme available for landowners, farmers and local communities in the Cotswolds AONB.

The new grant scheme is aimed at restoring dry-stone walls along a 5 kilometre corridor centred along the route of the Wormington to Sapperton gas pipeline which has been constructed by National Grid. The funding has been provided for the Board to invest in conserving and enhancing the Cotswolds landscape during and after the construction period.

Farmers, tenant farmers, landowners and local communities located within the corridor are able to apply for grants to assist with the cost of restoring dry-stone walls on their land.

Jeff West, Chairman of the Cotswolds Conservation Board said: "Conserving the landscape

and special qualities of the Cotswolds is our primary aim, and dry-stone walls are an important feature of the AONB. We have developed a good working relationship with National Grid throughout this project and I am delighted that this new funding scheme has been made available."

National Grid Senior Project Manager, Ian Sarson said: "Care for the environment and supporting the communities in which we work is very important to National Grid. We're delighted to be able to help the Cotswolds Conservation Board in the improvement and conservation of these important local features."

Construction of the 44 km,

900mm-diameter pipeline linking National Grid's existing installations at Wormington (near Broadway) and Sapperton (near Cirencester) began in March and is nearing completion, with some reinstatement working continuing after the construction period. The essential pipeline will meet the growing demand for reliable and economic gas supplies in the South West of England by next winter.

Further details of the grant scheme, along with an application pack, are available from the Cotswolds Conservation Board by calling 01451 862000 or by visiting www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.

WALKS & EVENTS Guide

PLEASE always remember to wear appropriate footwear because some walks may be steep and muddy in places. Dogs are not allowed on walks, except guide dogs for the blind and hearing dogs for the deaf. Please always check the website beforehand for latest information including any changes to the walks programme, particularly during inclement weather – www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/guidedwalks

Chipping Campden Town Walks

The Cotswold Voluntary wardens offer a town walk, an audio visual show followed by either a tea or a supper as appropriate, in Chipping Campden for organised parties. Contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131.

Walk the Cotswold Way

Join a group led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens walking 10 miles of the Cotswold Way on the first Wednesday of each month. Walks commence in May of each year. Travel by coach from Winchcombe to the start point. Lunches will be at pleasant inns en route. For further information and to reserve places please contact Bob Cox on 01242 820192. An early booking is advised.

Walk the Diamond Way

Join a group led by the Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens walking some 10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The walks commence in April each year, starting and ending at Moreton-in-Marsh and continue for six consecutive months. A bus will meet walkers at the appropriate venue to transport them to the start point for a walk back to the cars. For further information and to reserve places please contact John Medlyn on 01386 438060. An early booking is advised.

Tailor Made

As well as the guided walks listed in this newspaper, Cotswold Voluntary Wardens can provide tailor made outings for groups of all abilities. Contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01451 862008

THIS COLOUR DENOTES WALKS ARRANGED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

October

FRIDAY OCT 1 • 10.00

Monarch's and Macmillan Way

A walk exploring sections of 2 long-distance footpaths to appreciate the landscape, visiting the historic churches of Hampnett and Yanworth on the way. Some steep sections. **Moderate**
Starting point: Hangman's Stone layby on the old A40 road from Puesdown to Northleach
Leaders: Ken Buckle, Geoff Ricketts, John Foulkes
3 hours • 6 miles
 OL: 45/089 152 **E4**

SATURDAY OCT 2 • 10.00

The Northern Edges

The walk starting at Mickleton lying under the northern most outlier of the Cotswold escarpment visits the villages all lying snugly below the scarp. Fine views and points of interest on the way. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. **Moderate**
Starting point: St Lawrence's Church, Mickleton
Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook
6.5 hours • 11 miles
 Explorer 205/162 435 **1F**

SATURDAY OCT 2 • 10.30

Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd October: Seed Spectacular Join us to discover an incredible variety of tree seeds from around the world on our family trail and through activities and art. Collect and plant your own tree seed to take away. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information **Easy**

MONDAY OCT 4 • 10.00

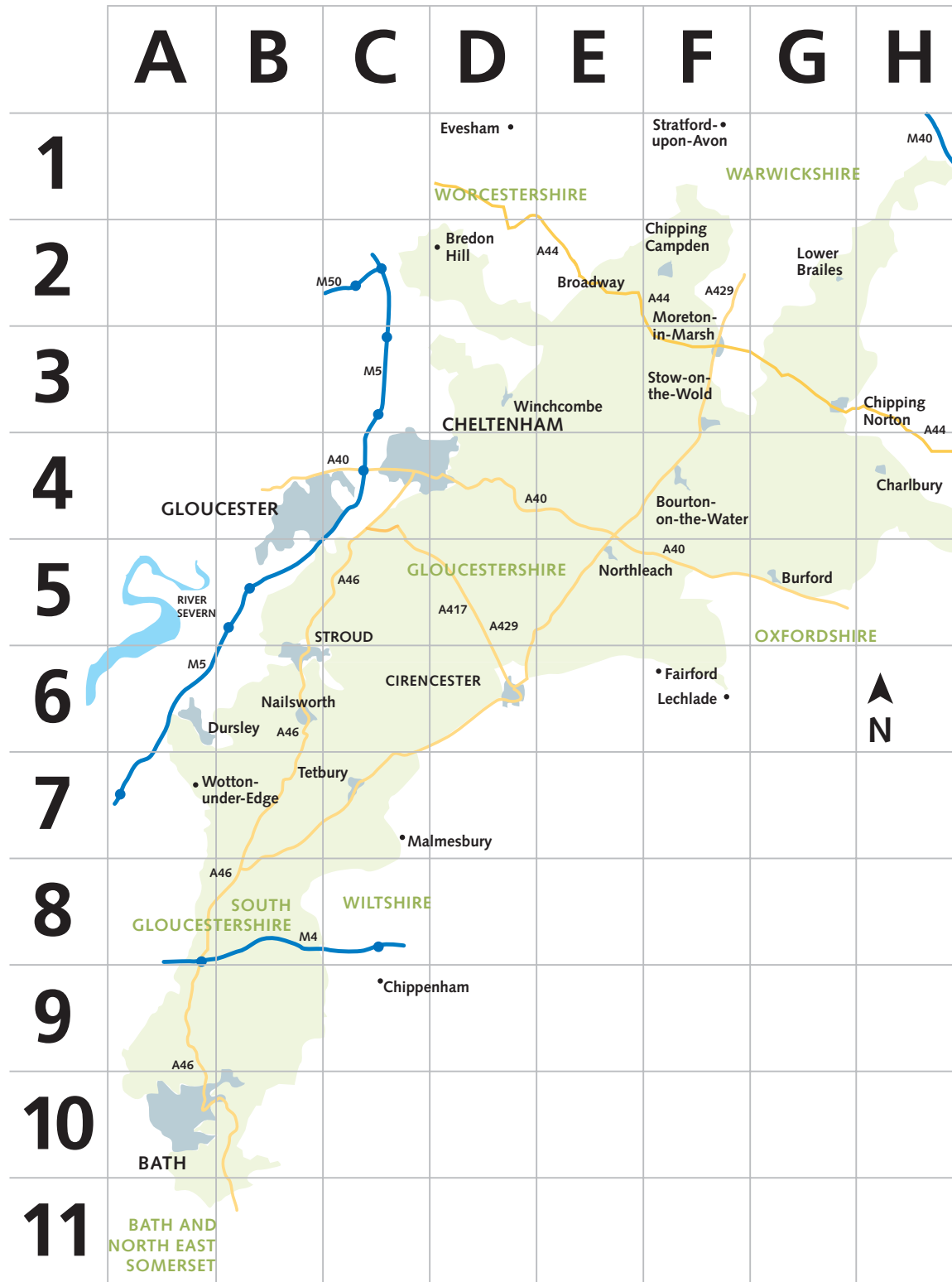
Spelsbury and Watery Lane

We start from the village of Spelsbury and walk through an area of reclaimed land, now part of the Wychwood Project, before passing Dean Grove (an ancient woodland) and then beside the river Evenlode. A pretty lowland walk with a tendency for mud! **Easy**
Starting point: Spelsbury Church
Leader: Margaret Burden
2 hours • 4 miles
 SP: 349215 **H4**

TUESDAY OCT 5 • 9.30

Two Hawkesburys

A morning walk with two short climbs with good scenery. Pub lunch available. **Easy**
Starting point: Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall car park.
Leaders: Les Jones and Ken Leach
2.5 hours • 6 miles
 OS: 172/777 871 **A7**



GUIDED WALKS LED BY COTSWOLD VOLUNTEERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
 All guided walks are free of charge unless otherwise stated, donations welcome.

TUESDAY OCT 5 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp

Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid-morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox & Hounds Car Park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
 OS: 156/818711 **B9**

WEDNESDAY OCT 6 • 10.00

A Trio of Cotswold Villages

A walk through the quiet villages of Syde, Caudle Green and Brimpsfield, returning via Brimpsfield Park. The walk includes visits to two historic churches and two fairly steep climbs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Gloucester Beeches layby on the western side of the A417 Birdlip to Cirencester Road. Entrance from Cirencester end only.
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham
3 hours • 5 miles
 Explorer 179/958 122 **D5**

SATURDAY OCT 9 • 10.00

Stinchcombe, Stancombe and Sculptures

A circular walk from Stinchcombe Hill via Stancombe, North Nibley and Waterley Bottom. En route we circumnavigate the Hill, with magnificent views in all directions, weather permitting, and return via the Dursley Sculpture Trail. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill public car park (not golf club car park)
Leaders: Peter Russell and John Hammill
5 hours • 7.5 miles
 OS: 162/744 983 **A6**

SATURDAY OCT 9 • 10.00

A Trip Back in Time

Legends, superstitions and strange tales in the Windrush Valley. Optional lunch at a coaching inn afterwards. **Easy**
Starting point: Minster Lovell - White Hart Inn on A4047 (old Witney to Burford Road)
Leader: Ann Julian
2 hours • 4 miles
 OS: 180/314 110 **G5**

SATURDAY OCT 9 • 10.00

Bouncing Over Bredon

Ten miles of leg stretching up, over, round and behind Bredon Hill, starting in the lovely village of Overbury. Please bring a packed lunch. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Outside Overbury Village Hall - please park considerably on the road
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt
6 hours • 10 miles
 OS: 45/958 375 **D2**

SUNDAY OCT 10 • 10.00

A Drier Cotswold Way This Time?

Dyrham - Doynton - Wick skirting a large quarry. Then up to Hanging Hill where the Cotswold Way is joined for the return via Cold Ashton and Pennsylvania. Good views from Lansdown (if the weather is kind)! It can't be worse than last time? Please bring a picnic lunch. Park carefully in Dyrham village. **Moderate**
Starting point: Seat on Cotswold Way on grass triangle in Dyrham
Leaders: John Walker and Phil Lawrence
6 hours • 11 miles
 OS: 155/739756 **A9**

Easy Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level).

Moderate Includes some hills and some rough ground.

Strenuous May be rough underfoot, and ascents and descents may be steep.

Great for families

WEDNESDAY OCT 13 • 10.00

Where Weavers quenched their thirst

Footpaths in Kings Stanley parish. **Moderate**
Starting point: Kings Stanley public car park close to Kings Head (not Sports Field Car Park)
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth and John Graham
2.5 hours • 5 miles
 OS: 162/812 035 **B6**

THURSDAY OCT 14 • 9.30

In the Footsteps of Caesar and Churchill

A circular walk passing through the north of Blenheim Park, following the course of Akeman Street via the Roman villa at North Leigh. Returning via Combe (pub lunch stop) and the southern section of Blenheim. **Moderate**
Starting point: Outside County Museum, Park Street, Woodstock (note there is a free long stay car park in Woodstock)
Leaders: Kevin Myhill & Rosemary Wilson
6 hours • 11 miles
 Explorer 180 / 444167 **H4**

THURSDAY OCT 14 • 19.30

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Hunting Owls with a Mouse - the joys of wildlife recording An illustrated talk by Lind Moore, the Development Manager for the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records. £3 incl refreshments. Minchinhampton Church Porch Rooms, Minchinhampton, Stroud, GL6 9BP Tel: 01452 383333 for further information. **Easy**

SATURDAY OCT 16 • 10.00

Forward to the Fosse

The walk starting from picturesque Ilmington across to Stretton-on-Fosse via Compton Scorpion returning through the Foxcote Estate. Fine views and pleasant walking. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. **Moderate**
Starting point: Ilmington, The War Memorial on the Green
Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook
5 hours • 9 miles
 Explorer: 205/211 433 **1F**

WEDNESDAY OCT 20 • 10.00

Along the Frome Valley

A walk along the Frome Valley starting from the picturesque village of Oakridge to Sapperton, returning through Siccardidge Wood. The walk includes a variety of landscapes and some moderate climbs. Pub lunch available in Oakridge. **Moderate**
Starting point: Oakridge Church - park sensibly in the village
Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales
2.75 hours • 5.5 miles
 OS: 179/913 034 **D5**

THURSDAY OCT 21 • 10.00

From the Rollright Stones to the Highest Town in Oxfordshire

Circular walk from Salford, via Little Rollright, to the Rollright Stones. Onwards to Chipping Norton with a chance to see the church and the site of the ancient castle. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Lay-by on the right hand side of A44 east of Salford going towards Chipping Norton
Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan
6 hours • 10 miles
 OS Leisure: 45/292 273 **G3**

SATURDAY OCT 23 • 11.00

National Trust: Snowhill Manor - Apple Days

Celebrate all things apple-related; displays of many varieties, old and new, plus a juicing machine in action. Tasting apples, juices and delicious home cooked apple recipes in our restaurant. Meet the team of local apple experts. Buy apples, juice and cider. Apple activities for children. Normal admission charges apply. Snowhill Manor and Garden Snowhill, near Broadway, Gloucestershire WR12 7JU Telephone: 01386 852410. **Easy**

SATURDAY OCT 23 • 11.00

National Trust: Chedworth Roman Villa ☺
Halloween Trail - follow the trail around the villa to find out spooky facts about Roman beliefs and claim your prize! £1.50/Trail.
Tel: 01242 890256. **Easy**
Starting point: Chedworth Roman Villa

SATURDAY OCT 23 • 11.00

National Trust: Lodge Park & Sherborne Estate ☺
Halloween Trail - can you find a ghost at Lodge Park? Complete the spooky trail and claim your prize! Normal admission charges apply.
Tel: 01451 844130/844257 **Easy**

SATURDAY OCT 23 • 10.00

National Trust: Hidcote Manor Garden ☺
23rd - 24th October, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm:
Apple Pressing Demonstration - celebrate the launch of our very own brand of apple juice; made solely from our orchards and pressed by our friends at Pershore College. Join us for a pressing demonstration and uncover top tips for collecting the perfect apples for juicing. Afterwards sample the fruits of our labour with a taste test. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: Lisa Edinborough on 01386 438333 **Easy**

SUNDAY OCT 24 • 10.00

Four Ascents from Wotton
An energetic walk to Dursley through Waterley Bottom and the sculpture trail, returning along the Cotswold Way. Pub stop - drink only.
Strenuous
Starting point: Chipping car park - Wotton-under-Edge
Leaders: David Harrowin, Alan Hooper
6 hours • 10 miles
Explorer 167/756932 **A7**

SUNDAY OCT 24 • 10.00

On the Edge
A walk along part of the Fosse Way (Roman Road) south of Bath, the village of Combe Hay and then to South Stoke. Bring a packed lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: Cross Keys, South Stoke Road, Combe Down
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings
4 hours • 7 miles
OS: 172/748619 **A10**

MONDAY OCT 25 • 10.30

Last of the Summer Wine ☺
Before the clocks go back, Compo, Foggy and Clegg invite you to join a golden woodland walk through the Stowell estate. A few ups and downs. Please note the gentlemanly start time. Suitable for fit families, but no buggies. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: near to Chedworth Roman Villa
Leaders: Stephen Wright, Ian Chalmers and Colin Boulton
4 hours • 6 miles
OL: 45/056 134 **E5**

MONDAY OCT 25 • 10.30

Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum ☺
Autumnal Highlights - discover why our trees change colour and witness the spectacular Westonbirt autumn first hand. Then have a go at your own tree inspired art. There will be a different art activity each day so why not come more than once! 10.30 - 16.00 Tel: 01666 880220. **Easy**

TUESDAY OCT 26 • 10.30

Marshfield - Town & Country ☺
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 footpath (no stiles). Lunch choice of 3 pubs or a tea shop. Suitable for families. **Easy**
Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield
Leader: David Colbourne
2.5 hours • 4.25 miles
OS: 172/781737 **B9**

TUESDAY OCT 26 • 11.00

National Trust: Chedworth Roman Villa ☺
26th - 29th October, 11am - 4pm. Mosaic making for children - find out how the Romans decorated their houses. Creative drop-in sessions for children. Free or £2 tile to take away. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01242 890256. **Easy**

WEDNESDAY OCT 27 • 10.15

Enjoy the Evenlode Valley from Charlbury to Ascott-under-Wychwood ☺
This is a gentle stile free family walk that starts and finishes at Charlbury Station. We follow the River Evenlode via Shorthampton and Chilton to Ascott learning some of the amazing history of landscape and settlement in the valley. There will be the opportunity to take a pub lunch in Ascott. Please bring suitable footwear and no dogs please. Contact 077620 19373 for further information. **Easy**
Starting point: Charlbury Station
Leader: Gerald Simper
6.5 hours • 9 miles
Explorer 180 / 351195 **H4**

THURSDAY OCT 28 • 10.00

More walks on the Donnington Way - No. 1: Around Guiting Power
The first in a new series of walks based on the Donnington Way and some of its pubs. A figure of eight around Guiting Power & the Farmers Arms. Morning out towards Kinton and Castlet Wood and pm Naunton and Barton. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Guiting Power village hall car park (Trust the Motorist)
Leaders: Keith Sisson & Paul Adams
5 hours • 10 miles
OS Leisure: 45/094 248 **E3**

THURSDAY OCT 28 • 10.00

Plenty of Room on Top ☺
A half term morning walk around Little Solsbury Hill. Returning via Northend and Chilcombe Bottom. Suitable for families, buy not suitable for pushchairs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Slip road to Swainswick, east off A46 Cold Ashton to Bath
Leaders: Gill Sheppard, Moyra Evans
2.5 hours • 4 miles
OS: 155/762683

SATURDAY OCT 30 • 10.00

Woodland Wanderers
An autumn walk through Cotswold Beech woods visiting Great Witcombe, Coopers Hill, Cranham and Ebworth. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Birdlip no through road east of the village beyond the school.
Leaders: John Heathcote, Dave Burwell & John Woodland
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 179/931 142 **C5**

SATURDAY OCT 30 • 10.00

National Trust: Hidcote Manor Gardens ☺
Pumpkin Trail: Halloween memories don't get any better than this! There's something for everyone to uncover in our awesome pumpkin trail. As an extra treat, if you come dressed in costume, you'll get in free! Normal admission charges apply. Tel: Lisa Edinborough on 01386 438333. **Easy**

November

TUESDAY NOV 2 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox & Hounds Car Park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

WEDNESDAY NOV 3 • 10.00

Hawker's Folly
Common views, canal paths and quiet lanes. A walk with no stiles - but one steep climb.
Moderate
Starting point: Public car park on roadside of Rodborough Common
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth and David Collings
2.5 hours • 4 miles
OS: 162/851 035 **B6**

WEDNESDAY NOV 3 • 10.00

Autumn Colours
A scenic walk to Haresfield Beacon and down into the vale, returning through Standish Wood, to admire the autumn colours. Includes a steep descent and one very long steady climb.
Moderate
Starting point: Cripplegate National Trust Car Park, adjacent to Shortwood on minor road to Haresfield Beacon from Edge.
Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham & Tony Wilson
3 hours • 5 miles
Explorer: 179/832 086 **B5**

THURSDAY NOV 4 • 10.00

Winchcombe Wander
A set of four half day walks all different but all starting from the Back Lane car park in Winchcombe. The leaders will decide on the route from their repertoire based on weather and whim. **Moderate**
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane (pay and display car park)
Leaders: Jean Booth and Simon Mallatratt
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 45/023 284 **D3**

THURSDAY NOV 4 • 10.00

Going by the Book
Two famous authors with local connections, Anna Sewall and Jane Austin. We walk through the villages of Abson, Siston and Wick. Bring a sandwich. Not suitable for pushchairs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Village of Doynton near church. Please leave clear access to the Church
Leaders: Gill Sheppard, David Hayes
3.5 hours • 7.5 miles
OS: 155/721741

FRIDAY NOV 5 • 10.00

Ravensgate Hill & Lineover Wood
A walk along the top of the limestone scarp, dropping down to explore the ancient woodland of Lineover Wood. **Moderate**
Starting point: Kilkenny viewpoint
Leaders: Geoff Ricketts, John Foulkes, Ken Buckle
3 hours • 5.5 miles
OL: 45/004 186 **D4**

SATURDAY NOV 6 • 10.00

Another Northern Extremity
Circular walk from Toddington, passing the manor, to Wormington and Dumbleton. The route crosses the River Isbourne and includes an ascent of Dumbleton Hill. Lunch available at Dumbleton Hall. **Moderate**
Starting point: Outside the church in Toddington
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood
5 hours • 9 miles
OS: Leisure 45/035 339 **D2**

SATURDAY NOV 6 • 10.00

A Way with Words: Walls and Tiles
In celebration of two poems which discuss the building materials and techniques used in the region for centuries. One poem; Cotswold tiles lists all the tiles on Cotswold cottage roofs. The other by Dymock poet Robert Frost analyses the links between the craftsmanship of dry stone walling and human relationships. The walk includes Brimpsfield, Birdlip, Barrow Wake, Shab Hill and Watercomb. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Moderate**
Starting point: Gloucester Beeches layby, western side of A417 Birdlip to Cirencester Road
Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier
5.25 hours • 8.5 miles
OS: 179/958 122 **D5**

WEDNESDAY NOV 10 • 10.00

Will we see the Dormouse?
A walk in the Kilcott Valley to the Midger Nature Reserve, returning through Hawkesbury Upton. Pub stop - drink only. **Moderate**
Starting point: Playing Field, Hillesley
Leaders: David Harrowin, David Collings
4.5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 172/769 897 **A7**

THURSDAY NOV 11 • 10.00

Woodland Delights of the Evenlode Valley
Exploring footpaths in the Evenlode Valley taking in Foxholes Nature Reserve and a millennium wood. The route includes Milton and Shipton-under-Wychwood where a packed lunch can be enjoyed on the Green or if preferred, a pub lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Fifield Church - turn off A424 Burford to Stow Road at Merrymouth Inn
Leaders: Kevin Myhill and Rosemary Wilson
5 hours • 8.5 miles
OS Leisure: 45/239 187 **G4**

THURSDAY NOV 11 • 14.00

The Cotswolds in Autumn Colours
Walk through Stanton village along the Cotswold Way to Shenberrow Hill and return through Stanway. Look out for the seasonal tints. **Moderate**
Starting point: Stanton village car park
Leaders: Gerry Burgess and David Jelfs
3 hours • 6 miles
OS Leisure: 45/068 344 **E2**

SUNDAY NOV 14 • 10.00

Woodchester and Amberley
A scenic walk up and down the hills on either side of the Nailsworth Valley. Some steepish ascents and descents. **Moderate**
Starting point: Lay by on A46 at South Woodchester
Leaders: Alan Bulley, David Harrowin
3 hours • 6 miles
Explorer: 168/842 018 **B6**

SUNDAY NOV 14 • 10.00

Beside 2 Brooks (Mostly!)
Castle Combe Golf Course path to Nettleton Mill, then along the Broadmead Brook to West Kington. South to North Wraxall, over the A420 to Colerne Down where we descend to the banks of the By Brook again. Back via Ford and Long Dean keeping to the river (weather permitting!). Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Castle Combe car park
Leaders: John Walker and John Dougal
5.5 hours • 9.8 miles
OS: 156/845773 **B9**

MONDAY NOV 15 • 10.00

An Autumn Work Out
Ridge and furrow, field barns and salt ways all resonate of times past when agriculture was the driving force of the economy. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Next to recreation ground in Long Compton
Leaders: Margaret Burden
3 hours • 5.5 miles
Explorer: 191/289 325 **G3**

WEDNESDAY NOV 17 • 10.00

Spoonbed Tything
A pleasant walk around Spoonbed Valley and over Painswick Beacon with views down to Stroud and across the Severn Valley. A moderate walk with two short but steep ascents. Walk accessible via the No. 46 bus route from Cheltenham or Stroud. **Moderate**
Starting point: Walker's car park, Golf Course Road off B4073 north of Painswick
Leaders: Royden Hales and Mike Williams
2.5 hours • 6 miles
Explorer: 179/868 215 **C5**

THURSDAY NOV 18 • 10.00

More Walks on the Donnington Way - No. 2: Two River Valleys
The second in a new series of walks based on the Donnington Way & some of its pubs. This one takes us from Lower Slaughter to Naunton (the Black Horse) along the Windrush Way with a return via the Wardens Way. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Lower Slaughter, by the church
Leaders: Keith Sisson and Paul Adams
5 hours • 9.5 miles
OS Leisure: 45/165 226 **F4**

SATURDAY NOV 20 • 9.30

Along the Diamond Way
Starting at Long Compton the walk heads south along the border of Oxfordshire with Warwickshire and Gloucestershire with many fine views. The route includes the pretty villages of Little Compton, Chastleton, Adlestrop and Cornwell. Please bring a packed lunch. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Long Compton Church on A3400 Chipping Norton to Stratford road. Please park considerably on roadside in the village.
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires
6 hours • 12 miles
Explorer 191 / 288330 **G3**

SATURDAY NOV 20 • 10.00

National Trust: Hidcote Manor Gardens ☺
Family Fun Cycle Tour: enjoy the great outdoors this autumn. Bring along family and friends and join our Head Gardener, Glyn Jones for a cycle tour of the North Cotswolds. Suitable for group. The route will be about 6 miles over mixed terrain. Tel: Lisa Edinborough on 01386 438333 **Easy**

SUNDAY NOV 21 • 10.00

Country Town Autumn ☺
A short walk in Tetbury and surrounding countryside. Suitable for families but not pushchairs. **Easy**
Starting point: Tetbury Old Station Car Park (free)
Leaders: Ted Thornton and Geoff Heathcote
2 hours • 4 miles
OS: 173/893 933 **C7**

TUESDAY NOV 23 • 17.30

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
Status of Gloucestershire's Water Voles and Other River Mammals John Field is the Water Vole Project Officer for the Trust and also the Gloucestershire Mammals Recorder. He will give a fascinating insight into the world of the threatened water vole in Gloucester. £3 per person. Nailsworth Library, The Mortimer Room, Old Market, Nailsworth GL6 ODU. Tel: 01452 383333. **Easy**

THURSDAY NOV 25 • 10.00

The Evenlode and Glyme
The walk starts in the Evenlode Valley at Chadlington travelling over the hills and down into a beautiful part of the Glyme Valley. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Chadlington Village Hall
Leader: Trish Gilbert
4.5 hours • 9 miles
Explorer: 191/329 219 **G4**

SUNDAY NOV 28 • 10.00

Wotton Circular
Start: Chipping car park Wotton - Newark park via Ozleworth bottom - Cotswold Way to Wortley - return to start. **Moderate**
Starting point: Chipping Car Park, Wotton
Leaders: Eric Brown and Ian Cooke
5.5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 162/757 933 **A7**

SUNDAY NOV 28 • 10.00

Water and Woods
A morning walk along the tow path of the Kennet & Avon Canal up to Winsley, Conkwell and Conkwell Woods. **Moderate**
Starting point: Dundas Marina car park
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 172/784626 **A10**

December

WEDNESDAY DEC 1 • 10.00

A Morning Stroll to Waterhatch
A walk from Brockhampton via Charlton Abbots to Waterhatch. Mainly easy walking but some short steep bits and several stiles en route. **Moderate**
Starting point: Craven Arms car park (by prior arrangement)
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham
3 hours • 5 miles
OL: 45/034 222 **D4**

THURSDAY DEC 2 • 10.00

Up and Over to Ilmington
A walk from Hidcote Manor towards Ilmington and a return by Foxcote House and Hidcote Boyce. **Moderate**
Starting point: Hidcote Manor car park (parking by kind permission of the National Trust)
Leaders: Malcolm Duncan and Bob Fisher
3 hours • 6 miles
OS Leisure: 45/176 430 **F2**

SATURDAY DEC 4 • 19.00

National Trust: Lodge Park & Sherborne Estate
Christmas Concert: Start your Christmas celebrations with music from Christmas Past performed on historical instruments by the Galliarda Music Ensemble - £18 per ticket to include mulled wine and mince pies. Booking essential on 01451 844130. **Easy**

SATURDAY DEC 4 • 9.15

National Trust: Hidcote Manor Garden
Winter Ramble and Festive Treat: Join our Head Gardener, Glyn for a ramble with a difference. Take this one off opportunity to ramble up and over the impressive Meon Hill. An exclusive route with promises to deliver stunning views of the North Cotswolds. On the route back to Hidcote stop off in Mickleton for a festive lunch. Booking essential on 01386 438333. **Easy**

SATURDAY DEC 4 • 10.30

Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum ☺
Discover the reasons behind many of our festive traditions and help Santa find his missing reindeer. Join in our tree celebrations and create your own Christmas crafts to take home. 10.30 - 16.00 Tel: 01666 880220. **Easy**

MONDAY DEC 6 • 10.00

A Sarsden Circle
Starting at the Sarsden Cross, the walk cuts through the Sarsden Estate, along an ancient track and past the Merriscourt gallery. **Moderate**
Starting point: Sarsden Cross
Leader: Margaret Burden
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 191/291 233 **G4**

TUESDAY DEC 7 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox and Hounds Car Park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

THURSDAY DEC 9 • 10.00

A pleasant stroll along two small river valleys
Starting from Kingscote, we head south west to Scrubbett's Farm. We then follow Marlees Brook turning east along Ozleworth Bottom. Going through Lasborough Park, passing Pillow Mounds, a Motte and a disused church. Then into Hay Bottom back to the car. Park in lane opposite Hunters Hall. Pub lunch available at Hunters Hall. **Moderate**
Starting point: Lane opposite Hunters Hall
Leaders: Ken Leach and Les Jones
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 162/814 960 **B7**

THURSDAY DEC 9 • 10.00

Circa Chippy
The walk follows footpaths and bridleways almost completing a full circle of Chipping Norton. The route explores the countryside and hills around the Oxfordshire town. We return to Chipping Norton to conclude the walk where there are plenty of options for lunches. **Easy**
Starting point: Chipping Norton Leisure Centre car park on Burford Road
Leaders: Kevin Myhill and Rosemary Wilson
3 hours • 5.5 miles
Explorer: 191/315 265 **G3**

FRIDAY DEC 10 • 10.00

Winchcombe Wander
A set of four half day walks all different but all starting from the Back Lane car park in Winchcombe. The leaders will decide on the route from their repertoire based on weather and whim. **Moderate**
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay and display)
Leaders: Jean Booth and Simon Mallatratt
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 45/023 284 **D3**

SATURDAY DEC 11 • 10.00

Delightful Dalliance Along the Windrush
A short amble in this picturesque area with an optional lunch at an ancient hostelry afterwards. **Easy**
Starting point: Maytime Inn, Asthall in the Windrush Valley east of Burford
Leader: Ann Julian
2 hours • 4.5 miles
OS: Leisure 45/288 114 **G5**

SATURDAY DEC 11 • 11.00

A Countryside View of a City
A circular walk from Bath's Pulteney Bridge via Alexandra Park, Lyncombe Vale and Sydney Gardens. Suitable for families. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Pulteney Bridge, Bath. Ten minutes walk from Bath bus/rail station
Leader: Nigel Locke
3 hours • 4 miles
OS: 172/752649 **A10**

SATURDAY DEC 11 • 11.00

National Trust: Lodge Park & Sherborne Estate
Christmas at Lodge Park: Christmas cheer, mince pies, mulled wine and special offers at our gift shop. Trail for children with a present from Father Christmas (£2 trail) Normal admission charges apply. Booking not needed. Tel: 01451 844130. **Easy**

WEDNESDAY DEC 15 • 10.00

Winchcombe and Hailes Abbey
A moderate walk along the Gloucestershire Way to Hailes Abbey and then back along Puck Pit Lane to England's tobacco capital. One moderately steep climb at the start of the walk. Pubs and cafes available in Winchcombe after the walk. **Moderate**
Starting point: Long stay car park behind Winchcombe Library: follow signs to Long Stay Parking (a small charge is payable)
Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OL: 45/024 285 **D3**

SATURDAY DEC 18 • 10.00

Badminton: views of a Great Estate
A level walk through the Badminton Estate and Little Badminton to the attractive village of Luckington, returning via the Giant's Cave Long Barrow, using field paths and quiet lanes. Bring a packed lunch. Park carefully in the High Street or at Badminton Jubilee Hall in Hayes Lane. **Easy**
Starting point: East end of Badminton High Street near Estate Gates
Leaders: Phil Lawrence and Gill Sheppard
3.5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 168/804826 **B8**

TUESDAY DEC 21 • 10.30

Christmas Coffee Morning Walk - round and about Kingscote
Suggest morning coffee prior to walk - back in time for lunch if required. Walk starts at 10.30am. Suitable for families. **Easy**
Starting point: Hunters Hall pub car park
Leaders: Eric Brown & Staszek Jarmuz
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 162/814 960 **B7**

TUESDAY DEC 28 • 10.30

A Post-Christmas Treat
An opportunity to stretch your legs (gently) and shed some calories on a walk on Bredon Hill. Suitable for families. **Easy**
Starting point: Overbury Church (please park considerately in village)
Leader: Colin Boulton
2.5 hours • 4 miles
Explorer: 14/957 375 **D2**

January

SATURDAY JAN 1 • 10.00

A Climb Up To Cleeve
A climb to the highest point in the Cotswolds on Cleeve Hill. Walk accessible by public transport from Cheltenham by local buses. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Prestbury War Memorial
Leaders: John Heathcote, Dave Burwell and John Woodland
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 179/972 239 Map square; D4

SATURDAY JAN 1 • 10.00

Hills and Valleys (Downs v Combes)
Start the new year with a morning walk to South Stoke, Combe Hay and Upper Midford (with a short break). **Moderate**
Starting point: Cross Key's South Stoke Road, Combe Down
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 172/748819 **A10**

SUNDAY JAN 2 • 10.00

Around Minchinhampton Commons
Bracing morning walk on upland commons to welcome the New Year. Fairly flat terrain and very few stiles. Glorious views of surrounding valleys and beyond (weather permitting). Refreshments available at local inns after the walk. Suitable for families, but not buggies/pushchairs. **Easy**
Starting point: Opposite Amberley Inn, Amberley. Please do not use Inn car park.
Leaders: Graham Bateman and Peter Russell
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 162/850 013 **B6**

TUESDAY JAN 4 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

WEDNESDAY JAN 5 • 10.00

Winter Views from on High
An annual "Post Xmas Blow" from Seven Springs along the Cotswold Way escarpment on Leckhampton Hill, with a visit to the Devil's Chimney. Walk includes several moderate climbs. Optional pub lunch on return. Walk accessible by hourly bus from Cheltenham and Cirencester - Stagecoach 151. **Moderate**
Starting point: Seven Springs pub car park near junction of the A436 and A435
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon and Rosemary Woodham
2.5 hours • 4.5 miles
OS: 179/968 171 **D5**

THURSDAY JAN 6 • 10.30

Start the New Year with a look at an old church, an old railway and an old mill
The pleasant village of Churchill is tucked away in the far west of Oxfordshire not far from Chipping Norton. The village was home to two famous people who have left their mark in different ways. A lovely interesting walk and weather permitting, far reaching views of the Evenlode Valley. Pub lunch available afterwards at The Chequers, Churchill. **Easy**
Starting point: Please park carefully on the B4450 near the church, Churchill
Leaders: Rosemary Wilson and Kevin Myhill
2 hours • 3.5 miles
OL: 45 / 282241 **G4**

TUESDAY JAN 11 • 10.00

Roundheads and Royalists
A walk through Chavenage and Beverston and nearby valley bottoms. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Chavenage Green
Leaders: Ted Thornton and Alan Bulley
3.5 hours • 6 miles
OS: 162/867 957 **C7**

SUNDAY JAN 16 • 10.00

A Winter Walk to Belas Knap
Start the year with a brisk walk along the Cotswold Way to Belas Knap with great views. We return along a new section through Breakheart Plantation before dropping down into Winchcombe. Pub lunch available after the walk. **Easy**
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display)
Leaders: Sheila Talbot and Robert Talbot
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: Outdoor Leisure 45/023 284 **D3**

THURSDAY JAN 20 • 10.00

Yes I Remember Adlestrop
Circular walk from Adlestrop village hall car park to Chastleton Burrow and onwards to Cornwell, returning via the Daylesford Estate. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Adlestrop village hall car park (trust the motorist)
Leaders: Bob Fisher and Malcolm Duncan
3 hours • 6 miles
OS Leisure: 45/243 272 **F3**

SUNDAY JAN 23 • 10.00

Around the Race Course to see the Prospect!
Swineford - Upton Cheyney to Hanging Hill. Past the civil war monument and descent to Longridge before returning via Lansdown, Prospect Stile and North Stoke. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Swineford Picnic Area Car Park
Leaders: John Walker and Phil Lawrence
5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 155/691692 **A9**

WEDNESDAY JAN 26 • 10.00

Cromwell's Stone
A walk with superb views of the Severn Valley from Shortwood along the Cotswold Way to Stockend returning over Scottsquar Hill and via Bird in Hand. **Moderate**
Starting point: Cripplegate NT car park, Shortwood
Leaders: Royden Hales, John Foulkes
2.5 hours • 5 miles
Explorer: 179/833 086 **C5**

SATURDAY JAN 29 • 10.00

Northleach Figure of 8
10.00am start for morning walk of 4 miles to Farmington - 2.5 hours 2.00pm start for afternoon walk of 3.5 miles to Hampnett - 2 hours. Pub and cafe available or bring a picnic if attending both walks. **Easy**
Starting point: The Old Prison car park Northleach. Please park considerately using the far end of the car park.
Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier
4.5 hours • 7.5 miles
OS: 45/108 149 **E4**

SUNDAY JAN 30 • 10.00

Hills and Vales
Start: Coaley Peak car park - Frocester via Uley Bury, Cam Long Down and Peaked Down. Return to start via Leonard Stanley. Bring packed lunch. May stop at pub for refreshment. **Moderate**
Starting point: Coaley Peak car park
Leaders: Eric Brown and John Hammill
5.5 hours • 9.5 miles
OS: 162/794 014 **B6**

February

TUESDAY FEB 1 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox & Hounds Car Park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

THURSDAY FEB 3 • 10.00

A spel and a cldron in the Wychwood
This circular walk in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds starts by looking at some of the interesting buildings in the small town of Charlbury. It then continues into the countryside along tracks, across fields and through woodland where the skyline is always dominated by the ancient Wychwood Forest. Pub lunch available in Charlbury at the end of the walk. **Easy**
Starting point: The Spendlove Centre in Charlbury
Leaders: Rosemary Wilson
2 hours • 4 miles
Explorer 180 / 358196 **H4**

FRIDAY FEB 4 • 10.00

Thames and Severn Canal
A walk in two stages to explore the landscape and industrial heritage, passing through Oldhills Wood before walking alongside the Thames and Severn Canal to Daneway for lunch, returning via Siccaridge Wood and Frampton Mansell. Optional pub lunch or bring a packed lunch. Some steep sections. **Moderate**
Starting point: Aston Down layby on A419 Stroud-Cirencester Road
Leaders: John Foulkes, Geoff Ricketts, Ken Buckle
5 hours • 7 miles
Explorer: 168/911 019 **C6**

SATURDAY FEB 5 • 9.30

Along the Windrush
Starting at the hill top village of Leafield the route heads down into the Windrush Valley passing through the villages of Crawley, Minster Lovell (with its ancient ruined hall) and Swinbrook before climbing back up to Leafield. Please bring a packed lunch. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Leafield Green - please park considerately on roadside in village
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires
6 hours • 12 miles
Explorer: 180/316 153 **G4**

SATURDAY FEB 5 • 10.00

Avon Valley Hill Top Walk
A circular walk from Newbridge park & ride, Bath via Kelston, the Round Hill and Cotswold Way. Suitable for families. Please bring a packed lunch. Bus service 21 from Bath City Centre to Newbridge. **Moderate**
Starting point: Newbridge park & ride car park, Bath
Leader: Nigel Locke
3.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 155/718658 **A10**

WEDNESDAY FEB 9 • 10.00

Minchinhampton, Amberley and Box
A bracing short winter walk skirting Minchinhampton Common and visiting the attractive villages of Amberley and Box. **Moderate**
Starting point: Roadside leading to common alongside Minchinhampton Churchyard.
Leaders: Alan Bulley, Peter Russell
2.5 hours • 5 miles
Explorer 168/872009 **C6**

WEDNESDAY FEB 9 • 10.00

A Classic English Parkland
A walk through a classic English parkland setting with a chance to admire Barnsley Park. Then across open country before returning to Barnsley Village Pub for an optional pub lunch. Walk accessible by bus from Cirencester - Cotswold Green 860. **Easy**
Starting point: The Village Pub Barnsley, (with prior permission) or park sensibly in the village.
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham
3 hours • 5 miles
OL: 45 / 076052 **E5**

THURSDAY FEB 10 • 10.00

Winchcombe Wander
A set of four half day walks all different but all starting from the Back Lane car park in Winchcombe. The leaders will decide on the route from their repertoire based on weather and whim. **Moderate**
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane (pay and display) car park
Leaders: Jean Booth and Simon Mallatratt
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 45/023 284 **D3**

SATURDAY FEB 12 • 10.00

North Town on the Hill
From Bredons Norton walk up and over Bredon Hill to Ashton-under-Hill and returning via the Long Plantation and the Belt. Enjoy the outstanding views (weather permitting). Pub lunch available in Ashton-under-Hill. **Moderate**
Starting point: Outside church in Bredons Norton. Park considerately in the village.
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee and Sue Greenwood
6 hours • 11 miles
Explorer: 190/931 391 **D2**

SUNDAY FEB 13 • 10.00

A Feline Delicacy
A flat walk along the Sherston Avon to Shipton Moyny returning via Westonbirt and Willesley. Pub stop - drink only. **Moderate**
Starting point: Sherston High Street
Leaders: David Harrowin and John Graham
5.5 hours • 9 miles
OL: 173/853 859 **B8**

THURSDAY FEB 17 • 10.00

More walks on the Donnington Way - No 3. The Rissingtons and The Barringtons
The third in a new series of walks based on the Donnington Way and some to its pubs. A walk from Great Rissington to the Barringtons (The Fox) and return. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Green, Great Rissington
Leaders: Keith Sisson & Paul Adams
5.5 hours • 9 miles
OS: Leisure 45/199 173 **F4**

SATURDAY FEB 19 • 10.30

Half Term Walk - to the River and the Villa
This is a gentle family walk with a difference that starts and finishes on the village green at Combe. We walk down to the River Evenlode and along to the Roman Villa. There will be a specially devised quiz to test your observation skills for all those young people from 7 to 70. Optional pub lunch at The Cock Inn, Combe on our return. Please bring a pencil, suitable footwear and no dogs please. Contact 07762019373 for further information. **Easy**
Starting point: Combe; park prettily in village and meet on the green
Leader: Gerald Simper
2.5 hours • 3.5 miles
OS: 164/412 158 **H5**

SUNDAY FEB 20 • 10.00

A Barrow Full of Romans
A walk around the west of Castle Combe. Crossing the Fosse Way (old Roman Road). Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Castle Combe public car park
Leaders: Dave Jennings, Wilf Dando
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 156/846777 **B9**

TUESDAY FEB 22 • 10.30

Marshfield - Town & Country
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 3 pubs or a teashop. Half term walk suitable for families. **Easy**
Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield
Leader: David Colbourne
2.5 hours • 4.25 miles
OS: 172/781737 **B9**

WEDNESDAY FEB 23 • 10.00

Monarchs and Diamonds
A walk across typical Cotswold sheep grazing country following the Diamond Way from Northleach, one of the richest wool towns, to Farmington. Return along the Monarch's Way. Several short but moderately steep climbs. Pubs and cafes available in Northleach after the walk. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Old Prison, Northleach - park to the right of the entrance barrier
Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OL: 45/109 149 **E5**

THURSDAY 24 FEB • 10.00

The Scenic Oxfordshire Evenlode
The walk explores the beautiful Evenlode Valley east of Charlbury including the slate mining area of Stonesfield. The return passes through Wilcote, Finstock and Cornbury Park. There is the option of a pub snack at Finstock or bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Fiveways junction on Woodstock side of Charlbury.
Leader: Trish Gilbert
5.5 hours • 10 miles
OS: 180 / 360188 **H4**

SATURDAY FEB 26 • 10.00

Tures, springs and dewponds:
What is a ture?
First in a short series of walks over the Stanway estate, with exceptional access to explore off public footpaths. Today the why and how of woodland, grazing and water management. Some steep ups and downs. Suitable for fit families, but no buggies. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Stanway House, park in lane between B4077 and gatehouse
Leaders: Stephen Wright and Richard Keyte
5 hours • 7 miles
OL: 45/061 323 **F3**

March

TUESDAY MAR 1 • 9.30

Westonbirt and Highgrove
Fairly level walk passing interesting estates and picturesque Cotswold villages. Possible pub drink stop only halfway. **Moderate**
Starting point: Tetbury Old Station free car park
Leader: Les Jones
4 hours • 8.5 miles
OS: 173/893 933 **C7**

TUESDAY MAR 1 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Fox & Hounds car park in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
OS: 156/818711 **B9**

THURSDAY MAR 3 • 10.00

Winchcombe Wander
A set of four half day walks all different but all starting from the Back Lane car park in Winchcombe. The leaders will decide on the route from their repertoire based on weather and whim. **Moderate**
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay and display)
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt
3 hours • 6 miles
OS: 45/023 284 **D3**

FRIDAY MAR 4 • 10.00

Withington Village and Woods
Starting from The Mill Inn in Withington village, the walk explores Chedworth and Withington Woods before returning to the village. Lunch available at The Mill if desired. **Moderate**
Starting point: Mill Inn, Withington
Leaders: Ken Buckle, John Foulkes, Geoff Ricketts
3 hours • 5.5 miles
OL: 45/032 154 **D4**

SATURDAY MAR 5 • 10.00

Above and below the scarp
A figure of eight walk from Horton using parts of the Cotswold Way, passing ancient churches, manor houses and hill forts. Bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Horton Village Hall
Leaders: Phil Lawrence & Gill Sheppard
4 hours • 8 miles
OS: 167/758844 **B8**

SUNDAY MAR 6 • 10.00

To Kingscote and Back
Harley Wood, Washpool, Binley, Kingscote, Hazelcote, Hay Lane, Millbottom. Please bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drinks only. **Moderate**
Starting point: Long Stay Car Park (opposite bus station in Old Market, Nailsworth)
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth and Alan Hooper
5 hours • 8 miles
OS: 162/849 996 **B6**

WEDNESDAY MAR 9 • 10.00

Scenic Ridge and Valley
A climb to Norbury Hill Fort with fine views from the top, returning via Upper Coberley and Cockleford. Optional pub lunch on return. Walk accessible by 151 bus from Cheltenham or Cirencester (hourly). **Moderate**
Starting point: The Colesbourne Inn, Colesbourne (parking by prior arrangement)
Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham, Tony Wilson
3.25 hours • 6 miles
OS: 179/999 133 **D5**

THURSDAY 10 MAR • 10.30

Early Spring in the Cotswold Villages
Climb out of Broadway walking past the Group 4 complex to Saintbury and on to Willersey and return. Pub lunch available. **Easy**
Starting point: Broadway - The Leamington road car park
Leaders: Gerry Burgess and David Jelfs
3.5 hours • 5 miles
OS: 45/101 375 **E2**

FRIDAY MAR 11 • 10.00

The Oxon Way besides the Evenlode
A scenic walk from Chadlington to Charlbury in the Evenlode Valley. There are the opportunities for lunch at the end of the walk at either a cafe or pub in Chadlington. **Moderate**
Starting point: Chadlington Village Hall
Leader: Trish Gilbert
3.5 hours • 7 miles
Explorer: 191/329 219 **G4**

SATURDAY MAR 12 • 10.00

Figure of Eight Centred on Kemerton
Two separate but linked walks from Kemerton (Bredon Hill). Come on both or just one if you prefer. Morning walk is harder, afternoon gentler. Bring picnic or pub lunch available. 10.00 am walk - 3 hours 5.5 miles 2.00 pm walk - 2.5 hours 4.5 miles **Moderate**
Starting point: Kemerton War Memorial (near pub)
Leader: Colin Boulton
5.5 hours • 10 miles
Explorer: 14/946 372 **D2**

SUNDAY MAR 13 • 10.00

Box - Monkton Farleigh A Different Circular!
Along paths and through stiles repaired by the work parties! A steady climb from Box to Hazelbury Manor, Down and Up to Washwell, Blue Vein and the Macmillan Way to Mount Pleasant. Along the Avenue to Monkton Farleigh before returning via Kingsdown and the water meadows below Shockerwick. Please bring a packed lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: Selwyn Hall car park, Box
Leader: John Walker & John Dougal
5 hours • 9 miles
OS: 156/824686 **B10**

THURSDAY MAR 17 • 10.00

More walks on the Donnington Way - No. 4 A circuit of Stow-on-the-Wold
The fourth in a new series of walks based on the Donnington Way & some of its pubs. A walk to visit Broadwell, Donnington, The Swells (The Golden Ball) & Mangersbury; passing by the Donnington Brewery and the site of the Battle of Stow. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold, public car park at Tesco
Leaders: Keith Sisson and Paul Adams
5 hours • 8.5 miles
OS Leisure: 45/191 261 **F3**

SATURDAY MAR 19 • 10.00

The Leach Valley Figure of 8
Following the elusive and sometimes disappearing small River Leach. 10.00 am start for morning walk of 4.5 miles to Southrop 2.00 pm start for afternoon walk of 3.5 miles to Sheep Bridge. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic if attending both walks.
Easy
Starting point: Eastleach Village Hall Car Park
Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart & Ted Currier
5.5 hours • 8 miles
OL: 45/200 053 **F5**

SUNDAY MAR 20 • 10.00

Over the Hills to Farmcote and Hailes
Start with a stiff climb up Dunns Hill to the Salt Way then traverse around the Farmcote valley, passing a 14th century manor house, before dropping down to Hailes Abbey. We return along the Cotswold Way to Winchcombe. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display)
Leaders: Robert & Sheila Talbot
4 hours • 7 miles
OS Leisure: 45/023284 **D3**

SUNDAY MAR 20 • 10.00

Crossing county borders
Walking to Monkton Combe, Midford, Pipehouse, Upper Westwood, Freshford, Limpley Stoke and return via Kennet & Avon canal. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Dundas Marina car park
Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 172/784626 **A10**

SUNDAY MAR 20 • 10.00

Around and About Blenheim
This walk features some of the delights of Blenheim Park as well as visiting Marlborough's Woodstock and the villages of Wootton and Combe. Please bring a packed lunch. **Strenuous**
Starting point: Stonesfield Church. Please park considerably on roadside in the village.
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires
5.5 hours • 11 miles
OS Explorer: 180 / 394172 **H4**

TUESDAY MAR 22 • 10.00

Going, going, gone
Creatures extinct and nearly so on this ramble – see dinosaur footprints and rare breeds, as well as the home of Cotswold roofing and a few water mill sites. What more could you want? Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: The Craven Arms car park, Brockhampton (with prior permission)
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt
6 hours • 10 miles
OS: 45/095248 **E4**

WEDNESDAY MAR 23 • 10.00

Cotswold Slate Quarries
A walk through three quiet Cotswold villages leading to the less well known south-east of Cleve Hill. Here are the Stonesfield slate quarries from which roofing tiles were extracted.
Moderate
Starting point: The Craven Arms car park, Brockhampton (with prior permission)
Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams
2.75 hours • 6 miles
OL: 45/035223 **E4**

THURSDAY MAR 24 • 10.00

A Circuit of Batsford
A short circular walk from Blockley to the village of Batsford and returning on part of the Heart of England Way. Pub lunch available at the end of the walk.
Moderate
Starting point: Blockley village green
Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS Leisure: 45/164350 **F2**

FRIDAY MAR 25 • 10.00

A Brailles Trio
This is a delightful walk in the Warwickshire area of the Cotswolds AONB with far reaching views across a patchwork of farmland. The route takes us to each of the three villages bearing the name Brailles and we learn something of the history and importance this area once held whilst also appreciating the changes the 21st century has brought. Pub lunch available after the walk at The George.
Moderate
Starting point: The George, Upper Brailles, almost opposite the church.
Leader: Rosemary Wilson
2.5 hours • 5 miles
OS Explorer: 191 / 304398 **G2**

SATURDAY MAR 26 • 9.30

Tures, springs and dewponds; High Water
Second in a short series of walks exploring the Stanway estate, with exceptional access to sites off public rights of way. Today, the challenge of upland sheep farming, where water is scarce. Plus a surprise. **Easy**
Starting point: Hinchwick, near Condicote, 5 miles NW of Stow on the Wold, between A424 and B4077
Leaders: Stephen Wright and Richard Keyte
3 hours • 6.5 miles
OL: 45/145300 **F3**

SATURDAY MAR 26 • 10.00

Beside the Dunt and the Churn
A walk along two Cotswold rivers into Cirencester visiting Woodmancote, Duntisbourne Rouse, Daglingworth, Stratton and Baunton. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. Walk accessible by 151 bus from Cheltenham or Cirencester (hourly). **Moderate**
Starting point: Meet by Bathurst Arms, North Cerney, park considerably in the village.
Leaders: John Heathcote, Dave Burwell, John Woodland
7 hours • 12 miles
OL: 45/019079 **D5**

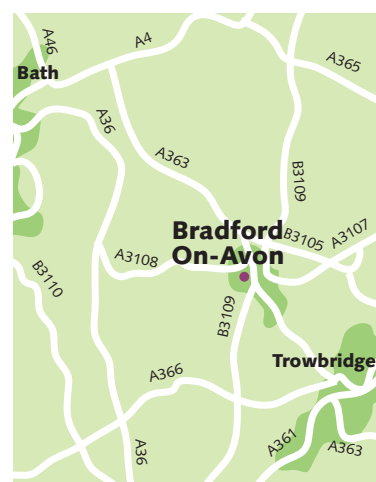
SATURDAY MAR 26 • 10.00

Three Historic Houses
We walk to Lyegrove House, Badminton and Horton Court. Please bring a picnic. Not suitable for pushchairs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Old Sodbury, near school. Please leave clear access to the Church.
Leaders: Gill Sheppard, Phil Lawrence
5.5 hours • 9.5 miles
OS: 155/756818

SUNDAY MAR 27 • 10.00

Alternative Power
To Nympsfield up one side of the valley and back down the other. Pub snack available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Nailsworth long stay car park opposite bus station in Old Market, Nailsworth
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth and Graham Bateman
6 hours • 9.5 miles
OS: 162/849 996 **B6**

Walks on Wheels



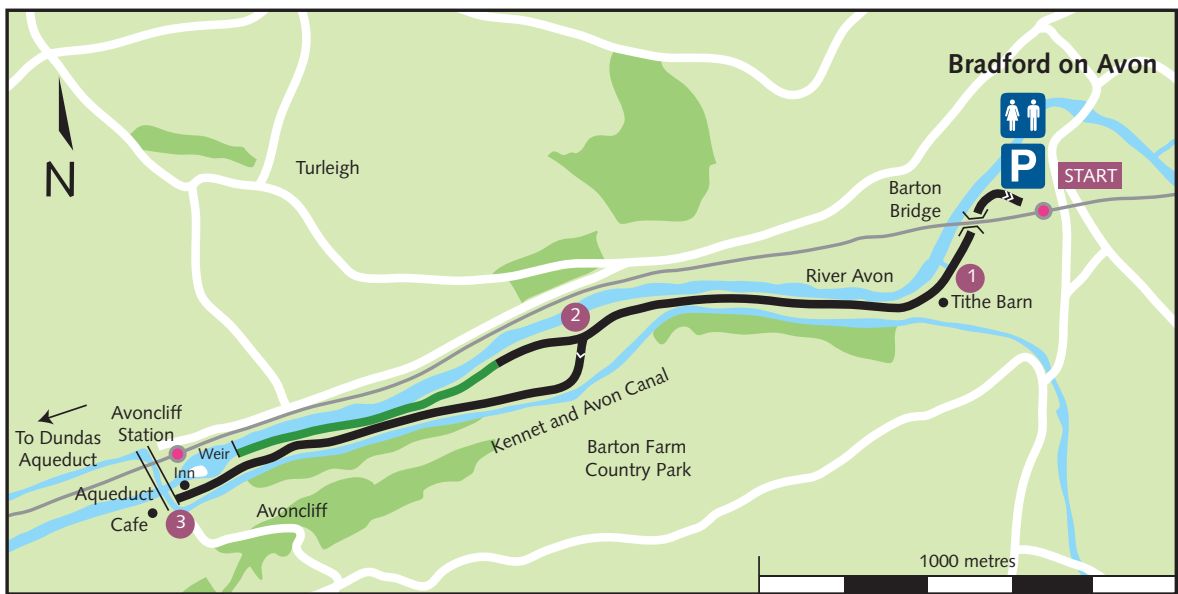
Walks on Wheels is a series of 15 short routes throughout the Cotswolds AONB that can be explored by users of wheelchairs, power scooters and children's buggies. The walks were created in 2008 by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens to mark 40 years of helping to improve access to the Cotswolds and conserve its landscape. The following route takes in the River Avon, Kennet and Avon Canal and the picturesque Wiltshire town of Bradford on Avon.

No 15. Bradford-on-Avon

Easy 4km canal walk on hard surface for most wheels. Alternative grassy path for wheelchairs.
Where is it?
Bradford-on-Avon is on the A363 between Bath and Trowbridge, and the walk starts at the railway station car park. Park at the far end in Zone B, pay and display.
The walk
This 4km route alongside the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal passes through the historic Barton Farm Park and leads to the Avoncliff aqueduct. The complete walk is accessible for all except hand-propelled wheelchairs. Subject to conditions underfoot, wheelchair users can enjoy a riverside walk of similar length. The surface is largely metalled or hard grit, with mown

grass on the riverside. All users have a steep short descent at the beginning. Thereafter wheelchairs are on the level while others face a short ascent to the towpath. At Avoncliff there is an optional steep descent to an inn, or a longer descent and steep ascent to a café.
Directions
From the far end of the station car park the walk drops on a short hairpin bend between two offset iron posts under the railway bridge. The path leads past the attractive farm buildings
1 (farmhouse, dairy, pigsties, granary and tithe barn) which are worth a close look now or on the way back. The ground at the site is gravelled. The path leads across the meadow with the river on the right and the canal just visible above to your left.
2 Half way through the walk, at a fork in the

path wheelchair users may bear right to a grassy riverside walk which passes through four double gates to Avoncliff weir. Turn around at the weir. The grass on this section is sometimes uneven and may be muddy after rain. You return the way you came.
The route to the left (not for hand-propelled wheelchairs) climbs a short way to the canal and follows the towpath for about 1,200 metres to where the canal turns right over the viaduct.
3 Here, turn round and go back the way you came.
Refreshments, toilets and parking
Restaurants, pubs and cafés in Bradford, pub and café at Avoncliff. Accessible toilets at the start. There is also limited parking at Avoncliff aqueduct (approached by a steep and narrow lane).



All 15 routes are available to download from the AONB website: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Higher Level Stewardship opportunities in the AONB

Do you farm or manage land in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty? If you do, you may be eligible for the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) grant scheme.

HLS is bringing environmental benefits to target areas of the country, including the Cotswolds. The scheme can be financially rewarding and offers a wide range of other advantages for your business.

Supported by Natural England, the Cotswolds Conservation Board can offer full support with your HLS application, at no cost to you. This service includes preparation of Farm Environment Plans, choosing land management options and completion of all relevant application forms.

To find out more, contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000.

- Key to map**
- Smooth hard surface
 - Grass, mown or grazed but may be uneven
 - Gentle slope
 - Steep slope
- Key to symbols**
- Parking
 - Toilets

Please Note:
Some of these routes may be difficult or impassable in bad weather and after rain. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and beware of traffic. The Cotswolds Conservation Board cannot accept responsibility for accidents or difficulties experienced by users of these routes.

Cotswold Grants

INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



A number of grants are available to help farmers, landowners, organisations and local communities make environmental improvements. These are administered by various organisations, all working to enhance the landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the Cotswolds. Listed on these pages are just some of the grants available. For further information please contact the relevant organisation.

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) provides funding for a variety of rural activities. For further information, see www.southwestrda.org.uk. The Rural Enterprise Gateway also helps rural businesses in the south west – see www.regs.w.org.uk or call Business Link on 0845 6009966, or for Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and the West of England, Graham Thompson on 01285 889873.

Sustainable Development Fund

A grant scheme administered by the Cotswolds Conservation Board supporting projects that bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the Cotswolds AONB.

Open to individuals, community, voluntary and partnership groups, the private sector, public bodies and local authorities and charities.

Applications can be made for grants ranging from several hundred pounds up to £13,000. The fund can provide up to 75% of the total project costs. In exceptional circumstances 100% may be provided for voluntary bodies.

If you think you have a suitable project, the Conservation Board would like to hear from you; call 01451 862002 for details.

More information is available on our website at: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

National Grid Pipeline Community Fund

Following consent given to National Grid to construct a new gas pipeline through the AONB from Wormington to Sapperton, a new grant fund for community and environmental projects has become available and will be administered by National Grid. Applications for the scheme must be in by the end of September. Further details of criteria and eligibility are available from: National Grid Community Relations, Unit 2a Vale Business Centre, Asparagus Way, Vale Park, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 1GN. Email: enquiries@sw-rp.co.uk

.....0800 731 0561

Gloucestershire Environmental Trust

The Gloucestershire Environmental Trust provides grants from funds generated by the Landfill Communities Fund for the benefit of Gloucestershire, its people and its environment.

Applications have to fit the Landfill Communities Fund objectives and must be approved and registered with ENTRUST www.entrust.org.uk

.....01452 739006
www.glos-environment-trust.co.uk

Useful fundraising websites

General fundraising

■ www.grantsnet.co.uk
Easy access to information on grants available to businesses and charities, with the ability to search grant schemes by area, project type or keywords

■ www.access-funds.co.uk
Regularly updated news about sources of funding

■ www.fundraising.co.uk
UK charity and non profit making fundraisers

■ www.ruralnet.org.uk
Details of rural funding sources

Charitable trusts

■ www.acf.org.uk
Trusts and foundations

■ www.funderfinder.org.uk
Information about the Fundfinder software and links to websites of trusts

■ www.dsc.org.uk
Information on the Directory of Social Change, a guide to trust funding

Company giving

■ www.cafonline.org
Charities Aid Foundation supports corporate community involvement

Government funding

■ www.governmentfunding.org.uk
Provides information on grants awarded by government departments

European funding

■ www.dti.gov.uk/regional/european-structural-funds/index.html
Information from the Department of Trade and Industry on European funding

■ www.esf.gov.uk
European Social Fund site

Other useful websites

■ www.charity-commission.gov.uk
Charity Commission publications and charity register

■ www.grantfinder.co.uk
Subscribing to Grantfinder, a leading commercial sourcing organisation, enables you to search its database

■ www.J4bgrants.co.uk
Registering on the website enables you to search for relevant grants and make use of other services

Grant finder services

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) www.fwag.org.uk

Conservation land management grants

- Avon FWAG.....0117 959 8522
- Gloucestershire FWAG.....01452 627487
- Oxfordshire FWAG.....01993 886565
- Warwickshire FWAG.....01926 318280
- Wiltshire FWAG.....0117 959 8522
- Worcestershire FWAG.....01905 362955

Business Link

Business orientated advice and diversification opportunities for South West

- Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Bath.....0845 600 9966
Email: enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk
Website: www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest

- Hereford, Warwickshire and Worcestershire0845 113 1234
Email: info@businesslinkwm.co.uk
Website: www.businesslinkwm.co.uk

Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

South West England has been allocated more than £156 million from the £3.9 billion national budget to help its land based businesses and rural communities to take advantage of new technologies, to learn new skills, to move into new areas of economic activity and to work collaboratively to develop communities and businesses. In addition the region's farmers can also benefit from national programmes to improve the environment and the countryside. For information on Solutions for Business and the RDPE Resource Efficiency for Farms initiative call 0845 6009966, or the Soils for Profit initiative call Natural England on 03000601244.

The new EU Regulations divide the aims of the programme into three main areas, called Axes: **RDPE Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sector.**

Contact Rural Enterprise Gateway on 0845 6009966 or James Lloyd, RDPE Project Facilitator – Gloucestershire First (01242) – 864149, Wiltshire - Heather White 01189 580584

RDPE Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside (80% of the total budget – mostly to be invested in national schemes such as Environmental Stewardship and The England Woodland Grants Scheme).

For Axis 2 contact:

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)

- Contact 0845 602 4098 or 0800 060 1118

Organic Entry Level Stewardship

- Contact 0845 602 4093

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

- 0845 602 4098 (Farmland Birds Project as part of HLS – contact Natural England on 03000 601118)

RDPE Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and promoting diversification of the rural economy – including Local Action for Rural Communities.

www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/pdf/guidh.pdf

Energy Grants Special

For the Department of Energy and Climate Change visit: www.decc.gov.uk

The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) sets out a path towards achieving the UK's target of sourcing 15% of overall energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. The lead scenario set out in the RES suggests that over 30% of our electricity (including 2% from small scale generation) and 12% of heat demand could come from renewable sources.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme will be the first of its kind for renewable heating anywhere in the world and is intended to implement this by April 2011. Proposals on the design and operation of the scheme include:

- Accessing the RHI;
- Eligibility;
- Tariff setting;
- Reviews

- Interaction with other policies.

The Feed-in Tariff (FIT) for small scale low carbon electricity effective from 1 April as part of a wider initiative on the Renewable Electricity Financial Incentives (REFI). Key highlights include:

- FITs will be applicable to installations up to 5MW (2kW for non-renewable CHP);
- Wind, solar PV and hydro projects of 50kW or less, and microCHP projects supported through the pilot will be required to use the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) eligible products installed by MCS accredited installers to claim FITs support;
- All tariffs will be linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI);
- Electricity supply companies to make FITs payments to eligible generators;
- FITs income for domestic properties will be exempt from income tax;
- Ofgem will act as the FITs scheme administrator;
- A levelisation process, undertaken by Ofgem, to share the cost of the scheme across all licensed suppliers in proportion to their share of the UK electricity supply market; and
- Regular reviews of the scheme, the first one in 2013.

Cash Rewards for Low Carbon Electricity and Heating

Low carbon building programme call helpline08704 232313

www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

All products and installers must be accredited under the new Microgeneration Certification Scheme www.microgenerationcertification.org

Big Lottery Fund

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme. Community Buildings, charities, Parish Council, schools and churches are all eligible for CSEP grants.....Helpline 0845 3671671 www.communitysustainable.org.uk/

Grassroots Funding

Limited funding may be available for community buildings via the national Grassroots scheme, administered locally by the Gloucestershire Community Foundation. www.gloucestershirecommunityfoundation.co.uk/pages/recieving_grassroots.htm

Energy Suppliers –Green Tariff Funds

Most large UK energy suppliers now offer 'green tariffs' including E.ON Sustainable Energy Fund02476 181945 source@eon-uk.com

EDF Green Fund0800 051 1905 greenfund@edfenergy.com

The Carbon Trust's energy efficiency loan scheme has saved UK businesses £100m and 615,000 tonnes of CO2 by funding equipment replacement projects.

Warm and Well

The Warm and Well scheme is a partnership between the councils of Gloucestershire (including Cotswold District Council) and the local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre. Warm and Well offers a range of grants and discounts to homeowners and private tenants to help pay for loft and cavity-wall insulation and heating improvements. For further details or to make an application please contact the Warm and Well hotline:0800 512 012