

# THE Cotswold LION

FREE  
WALKS & EVENTS GUIDE  
INCLUDING



ISSUE 24 - SPRING/SUMMER 2011

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

## Improvements on track for Cotswold line passengers

Passengers travelling to and from the Cotswolds will soon be able to benefit from a £67m improvement scheme to the North Cotswolds Line which is due for completion later this year.

Network Rail and First Great Western have invested in the conversion of 20 miles of the Cotswold line to a double track railway, freeing up capacity on the line and making it easier for trains to pass each other.

The scheme is designed to improve punctuality, provide extra capacity for more trains and reduce the impact of delays, which

This summer, the second stage between Moreton-in-Marsh and Evesham will be completed, with the whole project scheduled for completion by the autumn.

One particular feature of the development has been the installation of welcome signs in Japanese at Moreton-in-Marsh railway station, known as the Gateway to the North Cotswolds.



is good news for people travelling through the northern part of the Cotswolds AONB from Oxford and London towards Hereford.

The project began with the double track laid in the Chipping Camden tunnel 18 months ago. Now, the first stage, a four mile section between Charlbury and Ascott-under-Wychwood has been completed, with new double track laid, new platforms and footbridges, signalling, improved station lighting, bicycle racks, better waiting shelters and digital passenger information systems at stations.

The Cotswolds attract an estimated 50,000 visitors a year from Japan and the signs at the station welcome visitors from Japan and direct them to local services including directions to platforms for Oxford and London, as well as the town's hotels.

It also points out the bus stop which serves many of the popular towns including Chipping Campden, Bourton-on-the-Water, Stow-on-the-Wold and Stratford.

The idea was the brainchild of station manager Teresa Ceesay after she noticed that staff were increasingly being asked for



Cotswold Line staff member, Gary Hale

information from Japanese tourists. She contacted Chris Dee at Cotswolds and Forest of Dean Tourism who helped with advice on the design and translation of the signs.

Ms Ceesay said: "The Cotswolds are heavily promoted in Japan and the train is very important for visitors to the area, with Moreton being the main stop. We have had a very positive reaction to our new signs and received good feedback from our Japanese customers."

Rail passengers to Moreton can also enjoy enhanced bus services around the Cotswolds thanks to a new pick up point at the station itself. Operated by Pulhams Coaches, the 801 service runs regularly from Moreton Station,

stopping off at the popular towns of Stow and Bourton along the way, then on to Cheltenham.

The 855 service to Kemble via Cirencester also now stops at the new pick up point, offering a link between the two stations. Further details are available at [www.pulhamscoaches.com](http://www.pulhamscoaches.com).

More details of the Cotswold Line improvements can be found at [www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/northcotswolds](http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/northcotswolds) and [www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/8640.aspx](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/8640.aspx)

For further information on bus and train services in the AONB, pick up a copy of the Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport guide from your nearest visitor information centre.



JILLY COOPER'S COTSWOLDS

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NATIONAL TRUST GOING LOCAL

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THE MAGIC OF WYCHWOOD FOREST

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# Explore the beauty of the Cotswolds

*With an extensive network of long distance routes*



The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty certainly is walking country; it boasts the country's newest national trail and an impressive network of long distance paths catering to all kinds of walkers. The paths cross some of the area's finest landscapes and historic landmarks, making it easy for people to explore and enjoy the countryside.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board is currently planning a new guide to promote the major walking routes across the area and make it easier for people across the whole of the AONB and beyond to access and enjoy the Cotswolds landscape on foot. The new guide will be available later this year, however in the meantime, we have provided an overview of some of the long distance routes in the Cotswolds to give a flavour of what is out there and hopefully inspire some more of our readers to discover the joy of walking in the Cotswolds.

## The Cotswold Way National Trail

The Cotswold Way National Trail is probably the best known walking trail in the Cotswolds. The Trail meanders along the western edge of the Cotswold Hills, mainly following the often-wooded top of this limestone escarpment, from where there are extensive views

over the Severn Vale to the Malvern Hills and the distant hills of the Mendips and the Welsh borders. It descends from time to time to visit attractive villages, crossing stone-walled countryside and passing many places built from the local limestone, along with many sites of historic interest such as Belas Knap Neolithic burial chamber, Sudeley Castle and Hailes Abbey.

**Start:** Market Hall, Chipping Campden (OS: SP151392)

**Finish:** Bath Abbey (OS: ST750647)

**Length:** 102 miles/164 km  
[www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold)

## Diamond Way

Originally designed as a 60 mile walk to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Ramblers' Association, this is a scenic route that uses quiet footpaths and visits many small Cotswold villages with golden stone cottages and welcoming pubs. The route stretches from Ebrington in the North to Northleach in the South

and from Oddington in the East to Guiting Power in the West. The Diamond Way can be tackled as a long distance footpath or as a series of 30 short circular walks.

**Start:** Redesdale Hall, Moreton-in-Marsh (OS: SP204324)

**Finish:** As above

**Length:** 60 miles/96 km

## Gloucestershire Way

The Gloucestershire Way features nearly 100 miles of beautiful countryside and traditional Cotswold towns and villages. Starting from Chepstow and crossing the River Severn at Gloucester the route climbs the Cotswold escarpment at Crickley Hill and passes through Salperton, Stow-on-the-Wold and Winchcombe, then ends at Tewkesbury where the River Severn and Shakespeare's River Avon meet.

**Start:** Chepstow Castle (OS: ST534941)

**Finish:** Tewkesbury (OS: SO891324)

**Length:** 94 miles/151 km

## Heart of England Way

The Heart of England Way runs the length of the West Midlands region from Cannock Chase AONB in Staffordshire, through rural Warwickshire and then finishing in the Cotswolds AONB at Bourton-on-the-Water. The walk is steeped in history and passes through Chipping Campden, Batsford Arboretum, Longborough and Lower Slaughter in the Cotswolds. It also forms part of the E2, one of the European Long Distance Paths that stretches 3,030 miles from Galway to Nice.

**Start:** Milford Common, Staffs (OS: SJ973209)

**Finish:** Bourton-on-the-Water (OS: SP166208)

**Length:** 100 miles/163 km

## Oxfordshire Way

Starting in the picturesque village of Bourton-on-the-Water, the Oxfordshire Way links the Heart of England Way with the Thames Path National Trail. Crossing rolling limestone countryside of the Cotswolds, the route passes through Shipton-under-Wychwood, Charlbury and many other villages before crossing Otmoor to Studley, north of Oxford. From here it crosses the open farmland and woods of the

chalk hills of the Chilterns to reach the Thames at Henley. The Oxfordshire Way also links up with Blenheim Park, a World Heritage Site, and forms part of the European Walking Route E2.

**Start:** Bourton-on-the-Water (OS: SP167206)

**Finish:** Henley-on-Thames (OS: SU763826)

**Length:** 67 miles/108 km

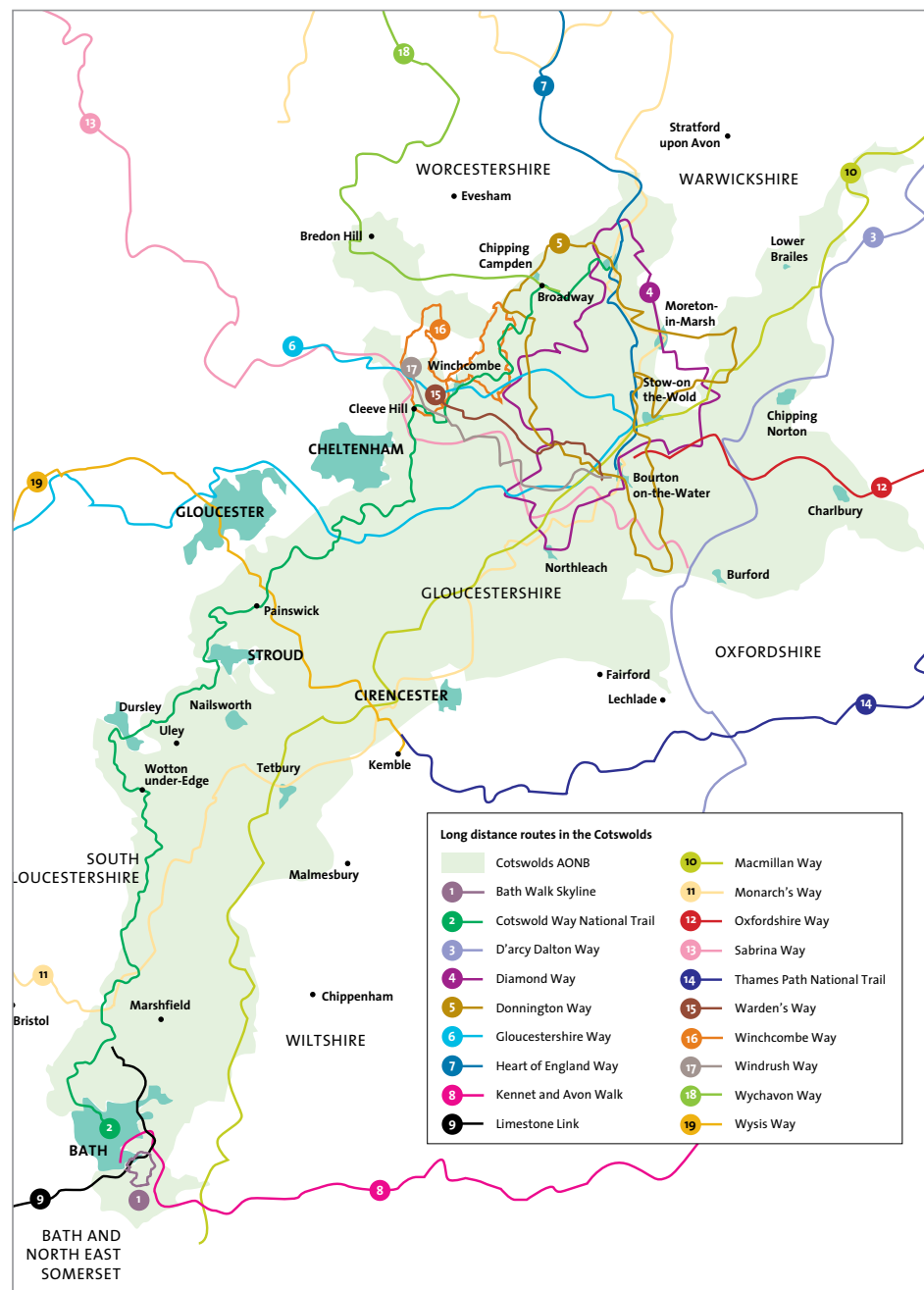
## Wardens and Windrush Ways

A pair of very different paths between the same endpoints forming a great circular. Both ways run from Winchcombe to Bourton providing a very useful link between many of the major long distance paths. When the routes were established by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens they couldn't decide between a peaceful quiet route and one that calls in on all the lovely villages on the way. So they set up both, thus creating a magnificent circular route. Winchcombe, a "Walkers are Welcome" town, is a good base for the walk which along its length encapsulates all that is best in the Cotswolds.

**Start:** Winchcombe: Abbey Terrace (OS: SP024282)

**Finish:** Bourton on the water: war memorial (OS: SP168207)

**Distance:** 26 miles/42 km



## Wychavon Way

Originally opened to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 this route links the river Severn and the Cotswolds through the Vale of Evesham, with villages, hills, rivers and, in springtime, plenty of glorious flower displays.

The walk originally ended in Winchcombe but has recently been re-routed to Broadway, the launch of the new route is scheduled for Spring 2011 along with a new walkers' guidebook.

**Start:** Holt Fleet, Droitwich Spa (OS: SO824633)

**Finish:** Broadway (OS: SP095375)

**Length:** 41 miles/66 km

## Limestone Link

The Limestone Link is a route of 36 miles joining the limestone of the Cotswolds to that of the Mendip Hills. It is a connecting route between the Cotswold Way at Cold Ashton and the West Mendip Way at Shipham. Between the two, the route passes through the valleys and villages south of Bath. Except for an ascent at each end, the walk is mostly flat and not strenuous.

**Start:** Cold Ashton (OS: GR751726)

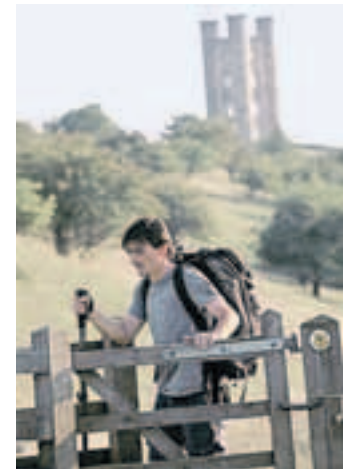
**Finish:** Shipham (OS: GR445575)

**Distance:** 36 miles/58 km

## Sabrina Way

The Sabrina Way, named after the Roman goddess of the River Severn, and opened by the Princess Royal in 2002, is one of a growing number of strategic long distance riding routes devised by the British Horse Society and Ride-UK. It links with the Claude Duval Bridle Route in Great Barrington, and heads west for approximately 28 miles through the Cotswolds AONB to Woolstone, picking the most interesting and attractive riding route to the least hazardous crossing of the River Severn, at Haw Bridge, before turning north to Hartington in Derbyshire, where it links with the Pennine Bridleway.

**Start:** Great Barrington, Gloucestershire



(OS: SP208138)

**Finish:** Hand Dale Farm, near Hartington (OS: SK149612)

**Distance:** 203 miles/327 km

## The Macmillan Way (Cross Cotswold Pathway)

The Macmillan Way, which runs from Lincolnshire to Dorset is so called because all funds raised along the route are donated to the charity Macmillan Cancer Support.

Along the Cotswold section of this route is the 86-mile Cross Cotswold Pathway which runs from Banbury to Bath. The Macmillan Way Association has also developed a route between Chipping Campden and Banbury known as The Cotswold Link. This enables walkers to do a 'Cotswold Round', going from Banbury to Bath on the Cross Cotswold Pathway, from Bath to Chipping Campden on the Cotswold Way and returning to Banbury on the Cotswold Link.

**Start:** Boston (OS: TF327442)

**Finish:** Abbotsbury (OS: SY560845)

**Distance:** 287 miles/461 km

For further details of walking routes in the Cotswolds, go to [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)



# FORTY FIVE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



**This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Cotswolds' designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In 1966, the Cotswolds became the 23rd such area to be designated, the Gower Peninsula being the first in 1956. Today there are 46 AONBs across England, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as 15 national parks; in fact around a quarter of all the land in the UK and Ireland is officially protected.**

Such designations are of national importance and value. But what does the AONB mean locally? The Cotswold Lion asked a few local people about their views on the importance and meaning of the AONB to them.



*Chris Burton, Proprietor, The Chestnuts/Culls Cottage: I became aware of the Cotswolds as a distinctive*

and scenically beautiful region when I studied Jurassic fossils for my Masters degree in the early 1980s. A number of field trips and recreational visits made me realise that it was an area rich not only in fossils, but that the underlying rocks influenced the sculpting of the magnificent undulating landscape and provided the stone for the honey coloured buildings and dry stone walls that typify the area. I moved from my native Hertfordshire to live there as soon



*David Glenn, Managing Director, Huntsmans Quarries: Quarrying is an activity that many would regard as incompatible with an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The reality is that the special character of the Cotswolds is down to its geology - from its wildlife to its agriculture and even the taste of local beer.*

We are proud to make our living from the geology. By producing walling and building stone and slate since the early 1800s, we like to think that we have done our bit to maintain the unique honey-colour of the built environment that is probably the region's most unique feature.

We have also, of course, provided rural employment for several generations. Today, there are 50 of us and our product range has extended to include aggregates (both primary and

The 45th anniversary of the AONB is a landmark that all of us who love the Cotswolds should celebrate. We are delighted to support the Cotswolds Conservation Board in its vital work in protecting and seeking to enhance the region.



*Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP - Member of Parliament for The Cotswolds: The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding*

Natural Beauty is a truly exceptional place and remains as important and relevant today as it was when it was first enacted 45 years ago.

In my opinion, however, the Cotswolds now face potential changes as big as anything since World War 2.

The planning system is undergoing radical change towards greater localism and it is yet to be seen whether this will lead to a demand for more or less housing development.

centres, community bus services and the like are to survive and prosper.

For centuries the Cotswolds has been a living landscape built on thriving communities. The people of the Cotswolds have always been inventive and entrepreneurial and that is why the Cotswolds AONB is as special a place as it is.



*Tony Richardson (RSPB Regional Director): The Cotswolds encompass what has long been recognised*

as one of the most iconic of English landscapes. Its formal recognition and protection has supported the AONB's wildlife and natural habitats now for 45 years. However there are a great many pressures on the Cotswolds and the RSPB believes the relevance and work of the AONB is as important now as ever.

The RSPB works to protect birds and wildlife through resolving the problems that threaten their habitats and our

wider environment. This includes declines in once common birds, a lack of or inappropriate woodland management and damage to habitats through development or climate change. We work across the Cotswolds offering advice to farmers, local authorities and other land managers.

For example we have been working closely with the Cotswolds Conservation Board and Natural England on the Cotswolds Farmland Bird Project. Part of the South West Farmland Bird Initiative the project and local farmers have delivered 1800ha of farmland bird habitats, and contributed over £2 million to the local economy, through Natural England's Environmental Stewardship.

The project focuses on providing the nesting habitats, summer food (especially insects) and winter seeds that are the critical ingredients for a healthy farmland bird community. This work is benefiting species such as lapwing, grey partridge, turtle dove, yellow wagtail, tree sparrow and corn bunting, as well as other species such as the brown hare and rare arable plants like shepherd's needle and corn marigold.



as I could. Twenty five years later I operate two luxury, eco-friendly holiday cottages in the villages of Shilton and Southrop and the region's beauty, at every time of year, continues to captivate me.

As a region, The Cotswolds is well positioned to attract visitors, but then so are many others and we need every endorsement available to help win visitors. I use the AONB logo on our websites; I feel that it guarantees our claims about the beauty of the region, particularly to international visitors who may not be familiar with our area and its truly outstanding natural beauty.

recycled), concrete and agricultural lime. Some 90 per cent of our products are consumed within 20 miles of our quarry at Naunton.

As an essentially local, family-run company, we care passionately about the Cotswolds. While minimising our impacts, we also recognise that we can contribute positively in ways other than through our products. We practice active conservation, managing habitats to encourage endangered species, and opening the geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (created by quarrying) to the public and the site as a whole to schools.

During the last 13 years virtually no development has taken place in the Cotswold villages and that has resulted in a threat to the village schools, pubs, shops and other amenities and local services being closed.

The price of houses in the Cotswolds is now almost out of reach of most first time buyers, which is leading to an ageing population as the young have to move out.

The Coalition Government's agenda for localism and the Big Society will require many more people to become involved as volunteers if libraries, community



## Map and Compass Course

Learn the skills needed to find your way across the Cotswolds. Sunday April 10th and Sunday 15th May. For further details and to book a place on the course, contact Rebecca Jones on 01451 862008 or email: [Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

## Cotswolds Conservation Board

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**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

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**Jilly Cooper is one of Britain's most prolific authors. Her books have sold more than 12 million copies in the UK alone and have been translated into 15 different languages. She was awarded the OBE for her services to literature in 2004, and two years ago received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Gloucestershire for her contribution to literature and service to the county. Her latest novel *Jump!* is set in the fictional Cotswold village of Willowwood. She lives with her husband Leo in an old house in Bisley, near Stroud.**

## *“Why I simply adore the Cotswolds”*

# JILLY Cooper

*The Cotswolds have long been associated with the famous. Sir Winston Churchill was born and brought up in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, Prime Minister David Cameron is MP for Witney, and two of the Queen's children live here - Prince Charles at Highgrove and Princess Anne at Gatcombe Park. Modern day celebrities abound throughout the region, with Liz Hurley, Kate Winslet, Kate Moss, Hugh Grant, Damien Hirst, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen and Jeremy Clarkson among many who have homes in the Cotswolds. So what is it about the Cotswolds that makes the region such a favourite haunt, home and hideaway for those in the public eye?*

*“ I was having all these fantasies about gumboots and cow parsley, and London was getting a bit too much ”*

*The Cotswold Lion begins the first in a series featuring famous residents with the author and journalist Jilly Cooper, a woman synonymous with the Cotswolds and whose best-selling Rutshire Chronicles series of novels have consistently celebrated the glorious countryside of this beautiful corner of England. Jilly Cooper tells the Cotswold Lion how she fell in love with the area.*

It was 1982, and Jilly Cooper and her publisher husband Leo were thinking about moving out of London and going to live in the country. “I was having all these fantasies at the time about gumboots and cow parsley, and London was getting a bit too much,” she said. “One weekend, Leo and I, and our two dogs, were staying at Longleat for a PawTrek, which was lovely - actually, we spent the night in Lord Bath's Kama Sutra room, but that's by the way - when, at lunch, someone said there was a house at Bisley on the market. Leo and I went up to look at it and it was heaven, one of the loveliest houses we'd ever seen. It was only fractionally more expensive than our London house, but twice as large with fields, a wood and a glorious view. We fell in love with it and we have been here ever since.”

Nearly 30 years on, she remains enchanted by the beauty of the area in which she lives. Every day she takes her dogs Feather, a black greyhound and a mongrel called William for a tramp around the Bisley area. “We go through the woods, down into the Toadsmoor valley and on by the lake at Eastcombe,” she said. “There are some stunning walks around Bisley and the surrounding area.

“Bisley is a sweet village, with a great post office, a marvellous antiques shop, and two

lovely pubs. That's one of the wonderful things about the Cotswolds - its pubs. They've all had a terrible struggle in recent times, haven't they, but they are surviving and people must continue to support them as they are so vital to our area.

“We really seem to have everything we need in the Cotswolds. I am devoted to Stroud - it has a wonderful market, lovely bookshops and very fine clothes shops.” Indeed, it was from Stroud that Jilly acquired her very own Cotswold Lion.

“Ours was made of chains and plough shares by local sculptor Paul Grellier and commissioned by Stroud in Bloom. Alas he was rejected as too distracting for passing motorists. So I bought him and we put him on the side of our house. He is very regal and fierce and guards us as he gazes down the valley.

“That's the point; you don't need to go to London to find all these things because in Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Cirencester you have all these amazing shops. And in the north of the Cotswolds there are such super gift shops as well.

“But above all it is the beauty of the Cotswolds that is so breathtaking. Everywhere you look, there is such variety - lovely rides, beautiful valleys packed with such huge trees, the varying hues of

Cotswold stone, wildflowers everywhere. Do you know, there was one orchid in our valley when we came here, now there are hundreds. And the wildlife is everywhere. It really is so lovely - I have written a lot about it in my latest book.”

Jilly's latest novel *Jump!* is another Cotswolds-based blockbuster, having already sold 120,000 copies in hardback before Christmas. Set in the fictional Cotswolds village of Willowwood and featuring the caddish Rupert Campbell-Black, familiar to readers of her Rutshire Chronicles series of novels, it tells the story of Etta Bancroft who one day finds a horribly mutilated filly in the snow. Having nursed the poor creature back to health, Etta discovers she is a very well bred horse. Named Mrs. Wilkinson, she ends up running in the Grand National.

“Willowwood is a typical Cotswolds village,” said Jilly. “That's another thing about the Cotswolds - people take such enormous pride in their villages. Their gardens are brilliant; you see the most amazing gardens in summer. And the people are so sweet everywhere you go. They love their animals and walking their dogs. The whole make-up of the Cotswolds has always been such an inspiration for my books.”



Jilly at home with her very own Cotswold Lion





Ian Boyd, with one of his herd of pedigree organic Herefords, kept outdoors all year round, fed on hay from lower meadows, and naturally fertilizing the fields for wildlife

# COTSWOLDS FARMER LEADS THE WAY IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Drawing on the support and guidance of knowledgeable advisors, farmers can play a leading role in putting high quality wildflower meadows back into the Cotswolds landscape.

Wildflower meadows and grassland are important habitats in the Cotswolds for a wide range of plants and insects, and they are one of the AONB's distinctive features. Yet since the 1930s, the total area covered by wildflower-rich limestone grassland has fallen from 40% to less than 3,000 hectares - 1.5% of the total area. There is now a lack of suitable grazing cattle to manage these grassland habitats which limits the grasslands re-introduction.

Farmers are in the vanguard of wildlife conservation and have a pivotal role to play in reversing this trend. One Cotswolds farmer who is leading the way in helping to conserve important wildlife is



Ian Boyd, a finalist in last year's Nature of Farming Award. Through a programme of careful habitat management on his land at Whittington Lodge Farm, he has seen his farm transformed into a haven for wildlife.

Ian Boyd's family have been farming on the Cotswolds for 80 years and he identified that Environmental Stewardship was the route he wanted to pursue. "We have fully embraced it," he said.

His farm has been successfully working towards the management of farm habitats for wildlife for more than a decade; he joined the Higher Level Stewardship scheme two years ago. The farm now boasts an abundance of wildflowers, insects and seed crops that attract birds all year.

"It is essential to encourage wildlife because it is one of the basic building blocks in the food chain of life and habitat management for wildlife is part of my job - if you get the habitat right, the wildlife will ultimately follow," said Ian.

By managing flourishing habitats for insects, many species are attracted to the farm including grey partridge, lapwings, corn buntings, small toadflax, Venus's looking glass, greater and lesser horseshoe bats, great crested newts and six types of orchids. This wealth of wildlife sits alongside a well-run commercial farm of 100

hectares of arable fields and a pedigree herd of 60 Hereford cows and calves which are so essential to graze the wildflower rich meadows. The traditional dry-aged beef is sold off the farm and completes this unique circle of life.

He is a supporter of the Cotswold Farmland Bird Project, a regional conservation project run by Natural England in tandem with the RSPB and the Cotswolds Conservation Board. It has been set up to reverse the decline in the numbers and variety of birds that can be found in the Cotswolds.

Ian shares his passion for wildlife by regularly taking visitors on "safaris" around his farm. "I enjoy sharing the farm and its variety of birds, insects and wildflowers with others; I also run an education programme for schools and special interest groups for this purpose."

Kevin Rylands, South West Farmland Conservation Adviser for the RSPB said: "It's inspiring to see the hard work and care that many farmers across the southwest, including the Cotswolds, are putting in to ensure that there are safe havens for wildlife in fields, woodlands and hedgerows. These farmers show there is still space for nature alongside modern farming."

For further information contact Ian at [info@whittingtonlodgefarm.com](mailto:info@whittingtonlodgefarm.com)



Early purple orchid

## FACT FILE

### What is Environmental Stewardship?

Environmental Stewardship is a government scheme open to all farmers and land managers and tenants in England. The scheme financially rewards good stewardship and management of the land to improve the quality of the environment. Environmental Stewardship has made sure that many farmers and land managers have the advice and funding which is needed in order to undertake important work to conserve and enhance the countryside in England.

### How much land is currently under stewardship in the Cotswolds AONB?

#### \* Active Environmental Stewardship Agreements in the Cotswolds AONB:

649 Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) Agreements Active: 92,807.68 Hectares  
 104 Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship (ELS + HLS) Active: 18,657.87 Hectares  
 5 Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) only Agreements: 47.39 Hectares  
 120 Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) Agreements: 21,378.88 Hectares  
 27 Organic Entry Level + Higher Level Stewardship Agreements: 7,254.06 Hectares

#### \* Other Environmental Agreements in the AONB:

111 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Agreements: 6,639.55 Hectares

\* Agreement figures on 14/01/2011



# Access for all in the Cotswolds AONB

Activities have been underway over the last few months to make access to the Cotswolds AONB easier for disabled people.

One such example is a new Countryside Mobility scheme. The new Countryside Mobility scheme is based on the principle of the town centre Shopmobility schemes, and will make trumper all-terrain mobility buggies available for hire at some of the South West region's most well-known beauty spots.

The scheme, Countryside Mobility South West, run by Exeter-based charity Living Options Devon (LOD), is coming to Crickley Hill Country Park near Gloucester as a joint project between LOD, Gloucestershire County Council and the Cotswold Way team.

The Trampers can be hired for a small hourly charge, must be booked in advance and are only available to hire through a membership scheme to ensure people receive proper training in how to use them safely. Gloucestershire County Council will also be supporting the scheme



by providing storage for the trampers and coordinating bookings.

Other sites across the South West but outside the AONB that are involved in the scheme include Haldon Forest Park (Exeter), Stover Country Park (Newton Abbot), Durlston Country Park (Swanage), Berry Head National Nature Reserve (Brixham),

Siblyback Lake (Liskeard), and the Heddon Valley (Exmoor). Along with Crickley Hill, Trampers will be available at more sites across the region this summer.

The scheme is being supported with a grant from Natural England as part of its Access to Nature programme, funded from the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme.

"Opening up the countryside to all is central to what we are trying to achieve", says James Maben,

*“Opening up the countryside to all is central to what we are trying to achieve”*

Countryside Mobility Project Manager from Living Options. "We are delighted to be adding Crickley Hill Country Park to what is a growing list of sites."

The Cotswold Way is also becoming a popular destination for the Disabled Rambler Association activities with a visit to Cleeve Common last year, where a 43-strong rambler group, including 17 in wheelchairs, got to enjoy the stunning vistas of Cleeve Common and the Cotswold Way. All terrain, power wheel chairs - mainly of the four wheel 'Tramper' type - were used.

The trip was the result of regular contact between the Cotswold Way team and the Disabled Ramblers Association in a joint effort to discover what changes might be made to parts of the Cotswold Way to make it more accessible to disabled users. It was decided to initially focus on Cleeve Common, due to the

relatively large area with reasonably accessible gradients, the stunning scenery, and the diverse range of historic and natural features.

Several visits took place beforehand to work out a circular route and avoid steep gradients. The experience of Mary Knight, who advises the Disabled Ramblers, Ellie Phillips from the UK Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group who looks after the conservation interests of

Cleeve Common; David Stevenson the Cleeve Common Ranger, and Cotswold Voluntary Warden John Heathcott, was invaluable in designing an informative and accessible route. More routes are planned for 2011.

"It was a highly successful day", says James Blockley of the Cotswold Way team. "It also shows that by pooling expertise and diligent planning, there's no reason why we can't make the bulk of the Cotswold Way accessible to those with limited mobility. We will be working to achieve this over the coming months."

Full details about the South West Mobility scheme, the sites, and how to become a member can be found on the website [www.countryside-mobility.org](http://www.countryside-mobility.org) or by telephoning 01392 456522.

Details on the Disabled Ramblers Association can be found at [www.disabledramblers.co.uk](http://www.disabledramblers.co.uk).

# Local schemes benefit from grant funding

Eleven projects in the Cotswolds, ranging from parish councils to playgroups, have benefitted over the last few months from receiving awards of grants from the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

The Fund is available for local communities, groups and businesses to apply for grants for projects that help to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds AONB.

David Molloy, Rural Skills and Grants Officer for the Board said the scheme was proving successful and that the Board would be looking to develop and extend the programme still further in 2011.

He said: "If schemes show a clear benefit to the wider community, they will stand a good chance of qualifying for a grant through the Fund. Our grants can range from a few hundred pounds up to a maximum of £25,000."

Three of the 11 projects funded in the last six months demonstrate the range of grants awarded. At Guiting Power, £1,442 was awarded to a playgroup project, in Tetbury just over £2,500 was granted to a local food and drink festival, and at Shipton-under-Wychwood, £10,000 was allocated towards a community amenity.

The Wychwood Wild Garden is a beautiful woodland and garden, owned and managed by the local community close to the centre of Shipton-under-Wychwood in Oxfordshire. A major part of the project involved the purchase of the garden by the local community themselves, along with a series of improvement works to make the amenity more suitable for recreational purposes.

Footpaths were resurfaced, stone pillars repaired and the planting of trees and wild flowers was carried out. The garden was officially opened in November 2010.

In Tetbury, organisers of the local food and drink festival benefited from an SDF grant to help fund the expansion of their annual event, which promotes the sale and purchase of local produce. The grant helped organisers buy new equipment for the festival as well as providing additional funding for advertising.

In Guiting Power, a grant was made to help set up and run a "Grow Your Own" project for children at a small playgroup. Children were involved in the design of the garden, planting their own vegetables and fruits and creating and using compost heaps.

"This project was a very good example of how the SDF can help to educate young people about sustainable living," said David. "We are always keen to support new community-backed ideas which have long-term benefits for the AONB."

Anyone wishing to apply for a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund should contact David on 01451 862002 or [david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk). Grants can fund up to 75% of the costs of a project and in exceptional cases 100% may be given to voluntary bodies.



## Want to stock up on THE LION?

Small outlets that would like to display free copies of the Cotswold Lion for members of the public can now order via the Internet.

The service is ideal for stocking up on the newspaper at peak times and can be done easily by going to [www.promo-direct.co.uk](http://www.promo-direct.co.uk), registering and ordering as many copies of the Cotswold Lion as you need. The copies will be delivered to your

door. If you have any questions, please call 0845 644 1873 or email [order@promo-direct.co.uk](mailto:order@promo-direct.co.uk).

This service is only available to outlets or groups that would like to order multiple copies for public consumption. If you would like to simply download an electronic copy of the Cotswold Lion, go to the publications section of our website at: [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk).

## BIG SOCIETY FUND LAUNCHED

Oxfordshire County Council has launched a brand new fund to help local community groups get their ideas up and running.

The Big Society Fund is providing £600,000 which will help communities identify and provide local facilities and services. If you think you may be able to do something for your local area, visit the Oxfordshire County Council website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or call their advice line on 01865 815 526.



# The National Trust -

# GOING LOCAL

There have been some changes in the National Trust in the Cotswolds recently - brighter colours being used on advertising leaflets, wardens changing their names to rangers, for example - but they also symbolise a deeper change taking place in the Trust.



An outing to Rodborough Common

Under the title of 'Going Local', the local managers of houses, gardens and countryside areas are being given more freedom in the way they work and are finding new ways of involving local people, their neighbours, volunteers and communities, in the way the properties are run.

In the north of the Cotswolds the change will be most obvious with an experiment in the centre of Stratford where the former National Trust shop is being converted, with the ground floor turned into an exhibition area for local artists, known as the Gateway Centre.

Six properties - Snowhill Manor, Hidcote Manor Garden, Gloucestershire Countryside, Chastleton House, Charlecote Park and Coughton Court - have all joined forces to create the new

Gateway centre in the former Trust shop.

"By showing local artists work, we want to get local people more involved but also show how Trust properties have already inspired people's creativity," said Lisa Edinborough, Hidcote's Visitor Service Manager. "For instance, we will be working with a local milliner who will also be taking her work around local schools for us, doing demonstrations for the children."

The Gateway centre will provide one new way of meeting local people. The Trust has also been busy for the last couple of years with a learning Guardianship which takes its staff out to local schools and from now on to local communities.

In Gloucestershire, for example, the rangers working near Stroud

plan visits and activities with their local schools to help teach a little about the countryside. Each school gets six sessions which could include activities as diverse as working with the rangers, pond dipping, walling, planting apple trees at a school or learning about local history.

"We see each group of pupils perhaps every six weeks to two months and it's very popular both with the schools and the Trust staff. We are busy developing lots of new ideas to take it even further," said Nathalie Bradley, Outdoor Experience Manager.

The National Trust in the Cotswolds operates a wide variety of properties and landscapes from the Bath Skyline and grand house of Dyrham Park in the south through the varied landscapes of Minchinhampton and

Rodborough Commons, Woodchester and Sherborne to Chedworth Roman Villa, Snowhill Manor, Hidcote Gardens and Upton House in the north.

Each has their own neighbours and people who love to visit regularly and who have their own ideas about how they would like to see the places develop.

"Our challenge is to get to know the wide range of people who visit all of these many varied places, say hello and talk to them about what they like about and want from these places. We want to get people involved," said Janet Gough, General Manager for Gloucestershire Countryside.

At Dyrham Park, the Trust gardens have been opened as part of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) for many years but now the Trust has invited six private gardens in the village to join in. The whole event, on 4 and 5 June, will now be focussed on the village with the support of the villagers and for the benefit of NGS. The National Gardens Scheme (NGS) has been in operation since 1927 where gardens across the country are opened for charity each year.

A pioneering project is also currently being run at Chedworth Roman Villa as part of the current £3m redevelopment project to protect the fragile remains and make them accessible to a wider range of visitors. With help from part of a £700,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the villa is being opened up to a wider range of people than had previously visited.

A group of refugees and asylum seekers being helped by the Swindon Harbour Project recently visited the villa for a Roman day out which included mosaic making and exploring what life was like 1,700 years ago under Roman rule. The visit was part of

work to help them settle into normal life in the UK, as well as providing an informative day out.

As well as bringing groups to Chedworth, the work includes staff going out to schools and visits to social clubs, old people's homes and other local groups.

One of the best ways for people to get more engaged with the Trust is through volunteering at a property where there are many different opportunities to get involved and find out more about how the Trust can support local communities. As well as the expected roles, there can even be the chance for people with some specialist knowledge to get involved.



The Harbour Project at Chedworth

Hidcote Manor Garden, for example, is always keen to hear from anybody with a strong interest or knowledge in plants to help in the plant sales centre by giving out advice to other gardeners who drop by.

If you would like to know more about the National Trust in the Cotswolds or would like to be more involved, you can get in touch with your nearest property through [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wessex](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wessex).



Dry Stone Walling at Crickley Hill



The Plant in Time project

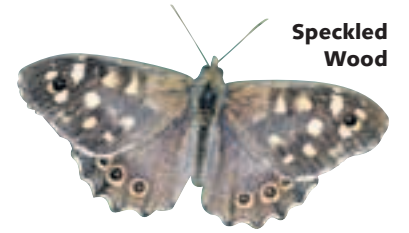




## Celebrating the International Year of the Forest

### TALKING TO THE EXPERTS

# The Woodland Butterfly



Speckled Wood



Male Silver Washed Fritillary

**One can't discuss woodlands in the Cotswolds without focusing on the plethora of plants and wildlife that lie within. To this end, Cotswold Lion spoke to Chris Wiltshire from Arion Ecology, an invertebrate ecologist and a leading butterfly recorder for the region, on the woodland butterfly.**

*What types of woodland butterflies are prevalent in the Cotswolds today?*

It depends on how you define a woodland butterfly. I consider it to be a species which utilises woodland as its principal habitat - it breeds there and spends the majority of its life within that habitat, whether that be on the forest floor or up in the canopy. They may well use other habitats and wander across the country in search of different woodland but woodland remains their principal environment.

The Cotswolds currently supports the following woodland species: Purple Hairstreak, White-Letter Hairstreak, White Admiral, Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Silver Washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood and possibly the Duke of Burgundy Fritillary.

*Which species of woodland butterflies are on the rise and why?*

The Speckled Wood is doing quite well and, since 1976, when national monitoring began it has shown an increase of 139% in England, with this increase reflected in its Cotswold populations too. The Speckled Wood is able to utilise all types of woodland where its larvae feed on shaded grasses and it's not as fussy as some other species. It will even breed in shady gardens and this is perhaps why it continues to thrive.

The conspicuous orange coloured Silver Washed Fritillary is one of Britain's largest butterflies and has seen a 95% increase in England since 1976. It is more or less confined to mature deciduous or mixed woodlands and prefers to lay its eggs on the

bark of Oak trees in the vicinity of violets on which the caterpillars will feed in the spring.

The Silver Washed Fritillary is a powerful flyer and is sometimes seen wandering far from woods as it searches for new habitat to colonise. Being a very mobile species and its ability to use mature woodlands probably helps to explain why it is doing so well. It is Britain's commonest Fritillary and probably the only one increasing in abundance.

The Purple Hairstreak is a small inconspicuous butterfly which has to be looked for because it spends its whole life up in the canopy of Oak trees usually in woodland but also in large free-standing Oaks and in hedgerows too. It lays eggs on the buds and the larvae feed on them in spring before eating the leaves. The adult butterfly flies high in the canopy and feeds on honeydew on the leaves. Only rarely might it visit shrubs or flowers below the canopy. The populations of Purple Hairstreak are relatively stable with little change since monitoring began.

*And which ones are on the decline?*

The White-Letter Hairstreak is similar in size and habits to its purple cousin, but has seen an 83% decline in England - a figure that will apply to the Cotswolds as well.

While it spends most of its life up in the canopy of trees, it is Elm trees on which it breeds, with a preference for Wych Elm especially in the Cotswolds. It will also use Elms in hedgerows but the problem is that they must be

mature enough to flower because it lays its eggs close to flower buds so that the newly hatched larvae can feed on the flowers in the spring before moving on to the leaves. Due to the problems with Dutch Elm disease the majority of trees mature enough to produce flowers subsequently die and, as a result, suitable habitat is often short-lived and the butterfly has to find new habitat. This explains their decline.

Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries were once seen in many woods across the Cotswolds but now the situation is very serious with only one major woodland complex east of the Severn still supporting them and even there its future is not secure. Its larvae feed on violets but those must be in open woodland, ideally coppiced or recently cleared woods where violets flourish.

This is a transient habitat because the coppice regrows or woods are replanted and after a few short years the habitat becomes unsuitable and unable to sustain colonies of Pearl-Bordered Fritillaries. The butterfly needs interconnecting rides and glades for it to be able to move from one coppiced area to the next as the habitat develops. Unfortunately coppiced woodland on this scale is now very scarce and it is not surprising that in England the long-term trend shows a 73% decline but probably worse in the Cotswolds.

I was not sure whether to include this last butterfly as a woodland species but historically that is what it was. The Duke of

Burgundy Fritillary is actually the sole representative of the Metalmark family in Britain. It is one of our most endangered butterflies and Gloucestershire, the Cotswolds in particular, holds about 10% of known colonies.

Once this species used to be found mainly in coppiced or open woodland where it bred on Primroses or Cowslips but it has evolved to use grassland with scrub these days and now mainly utilises Cowslips. There may be one woodland colony left in the Cotswolds although it was thought to have died out several years ago but several adult "Dukes" were seen in 2010 at the same location. It remains to be seen if it continues to survive there. Woodland colonies, like the previous species, require the coppiced woodland which is a transient habitat and does not survive without the intervention of man.

*Where are good woodland locations in the Cotswolds to see these butterflies?*

Lineover Wood is a Woodland Trust reserve and is managed for conservation mainly by members of the Gloucestershire branch of Butterfly Conservation. It supports strong colonies of Speckled Wood and Silver Washed Fritillary, modest colonies of both Purple and White-Letter Hairstreaks and the occasional White Admiral.

The woods of the Bathurst Estate, west of Cirencester, are good for several of these species with Overley Wood supporting Purple Hairstreak, Silver Washed Fritillary and Speckled Wood in reasonable numbers and with small colonies of Pearl-Bordered Fritillary and White Admiral. To the south west of this large woodland complex is Hailey Wood and it is the most important site for Pearl Bordered Fritillaries in Gloucestershire. It also supports colonies of Speckled Wood and Silver Washed Fritillary and possibly Duke of Burgundy.

West Wood has during the last ten years been home to the White-

Letter Hairstreak, White Admiral, Silver Washed Fritillary and Speckled Wood while the woods between Chedworth and Woodbridge still support these species except that White Admiral is replaced with Purple Hairstreak in the list.

Buckholt, Cranham and Buckle Woods are all close to each other and there have been regular sightings of the White-Letter Hairstreak, Silver Washed Fritillary and Speckled Wood. The same three species are also recorded from Hilcot and Sapperton Woods.

Towards the east of the AONB in West Oxfordshire, Foxholes Nature Reserve which is managed by Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust provides a woodland haven for the White Admiral and Speckled Wood among others.

*And finally, how can the public help in supporting these woodland butterflies?*

Butterfly Conservation tries where possible to carry out conservation to support our scarce and endangered butterfly and moth species but in order to do this it needs to know what species are where. People can help here by sending in records of what they have seen to Chris Wiltshire, the county butterfly recorder at [chriswiltshire164@o2.co.uk](mailto:chriswiltshire164@o2.co.uk) or 01453545509.

A record consists of what, when, where and by whom it was recorded; an indication of numbers seen is also helpful. An Ordnance Survey grid reference, preferably to six figures but a minimum of four (a 1km square) is required. Hand-held GPS units are common these days and many walkers use them and they are ideal for giving a precise grid reference.

All this information helps us to establish the current status of butterflies and the habitat and it is then possible to try to take appropriate action for their conservation.

*Thanks for your time, Chris.*



Duke of Burgundy

Find out more about woodlands in the Cotswolds on one of our free woodland walks taking place this summer. See pages 12 to 15 for listings.





# Celebrating the International Year of the Forest

## The Wychwood Forest Project

**With 30% of the earth still covered by woodland and home to 300 million people worldwide, forests have played a crucial role in supporting mankind for centuries. Forests provide everything from food, medicine, detergents and paper through to being a haven for biodiversity, helping to maintain soil nutrients and structures, capturing and holding water, and serving as an important check against global warming.**

It's against this backdrop that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness of the sustainable management, conservation and development of all types of forests,

With the Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimating that every year 130,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the world's forests are lost due to deforestation - with conversion to agricultural land, and unsound land management practices being among the causes, it's clearly time for a renewed focus on forests.

That's exactly what has been happening at a local level in the Cotswolds through the Wychwood Project which covers much of the West Oxfordshire area of the

AONB. The project is an initiative which, for the past 13 years, has been combining history, conservation and the work of local communities to protect and promote a very unique forest - the Royal hunting Forest of Wychwood.

Established by William the Conqueror following the Norman conquest, by 1086 the Forest of Wychwood covered much of what is today West Oxfordshire - including all or part of 41 modern day parishes, from Taynton to Woodstock and from just south of Chipping Norton down to Northmoor near the River Thames.

Within the Forest the right to hunt deer, wild boar and other wildlife was reserved for the King and his courtiers and local people's rights were governed under a special Forest Law. The area spanned 120 square miles with a substantial part - around a third - consisting of woodland areas.

As the area began to be cleared over the ensuing years - often for agricultural use - a network of hedgerows and fragmented woodlands were left behind. Two residents, concerned about the erosion of the character of the area got together to form the Wychwood Forest Project in 1997. The project was initially funded by the Countryside Commission and continues to be supported by Oxfordshire County Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and local people. Project Director,

Nick Mottram takes up the story:

"What was important to us at the outset was to establish a connection between the beautiful Wychwood landscape and the local communities around it. We wanted people to appreciate both the history and identity of the area, as well as some of the practical requirements for protecting and enhancing the area for years to come."

With the establishment of the Friends of Wychwood, an independent charity with nearly 700 members which has supported the project in both raising funds and a pool of volunteers, the last few years have seen the evolution of the project into providing a host of land management activities.

"Today the Wychwood Project is playing a highly proactive role in protecting this historic Forest landscape", says Nick Mottram. "Activities include providing conservation advice to farmers, volunteer groups which undertake regular hedge laying, hedge restoration and tree planting, and the protection of species, such as the barn owl."

Most of the land within the historic boundaries of the Forest of Wychwood is privately owned. A key part of the Wychwood Project's responsibilities is therefore to build and maintain relationships with local landowners and farmers.

"We have an excellent relationship with local landowners", says Nick again. "If, for example, a local farmer needs

support, whether managing some grassland on his or her farm or how to protect some ancient trees, we are always ready to help - both through advice and, where possible, feet on the ground."

These feet on the ground are provided by the Friends of Wychwood as well as local volunteers such as the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Voluntary Wardens and the Witney Woodland Volunteers.

starting to build up its own woodland portfolio. In January 2010, after extensive fundraising, 22 acres of farmland were purchased on the north-western fringe of Witney, with the aim of creating new woodland with public access for the benefit of local people and wildlife. This is the tenth community woodland the Project has helped to create and the largest so far.

"This new undertaking marks a



Land cleared of woodland in the 19th century, north of Leafield

Engaging the young as volunteers has also been a key mandate of the Wychwood Project, manifested through the development of the Wychwood V, a young volunteers body. With funding from Vinspired, a national body which connects 16 to 25 year olds with volunteering opportunities throughout the UK, recent projects have included helping with the restoration of the ancient Eynsham Abbey Fishponds and planting new areas of woodland.

"Too often, there is a disconnect between where young people live and the areas that surround them", says Nick. "Wychwood V ensures that young people have a stake in their local landscape."

The Wychwood Project is also

key point in the development of the Wychwood Project and will help us to achieve many of our long term aims to benefit the people, landscape and wildlife of the Wychwood area," concludes Nick Mottram.

"We hope that local people and Friends of Wychwood members will want to join in with the design, creation and ongoing management of the woodland. The next big challenge will be to secure the funding to allow these good intentions to become a reality over the coming years."

The Wychwood Project is reinterpreting a Royal Hunting Forest in the 21st Century, ensuring that this beautiful ancient landscape within the AONB is enjoyed for many years to come.



## SEBASTIAN SELLERS TAKES THE LOCAL ROUTE

**Local timber sourcing supports woodland management, adds value to UK woodlands, has a positive effect on the local economy, and cuts down on unnecessary carbon emissions from overseas transport.**

Buying local timber from a local supplier also means you can view timber at an early stage, ensure that it meets yours and your customers' needs, and even enables you to visit the woodland or forest it has come from.

One local furniture maker that is sourcing sustainable, local timber for its products is Northleach-based, Sebastian Sellers Furniture Makers.

The company has been operating in Northleach for the past eight years, designing and making in its own workshops hand-made kitchens, bedrooms and free-standing furniture. Much of its timber is sourced locally (via timber suppliers) from the Cotswolds and nearby UK locations. With a main supplier, Pontrilas, for example, all wood is harvested in the UK from sustainable resources which have a Forestry Commission Felling Licence - granted only where a re-planting program is in place and sustainability is proven.

"Whether it's oak, ash or cherry, we try to use the very best local materials and timber sourced from sustainable

woodlands", says owner, Mike Sellers Smith, who has worked with furniture for 42 years. "The main reason for this is the quality of the local timber, its depth and character, and the fact that woodland management in the UK today is now much more geared towards our needs."

Yet, as in all sectors, UK timber is not immune to global competition and cheaper imports from abroad. "That is why individual furniture makers are so important", continues Sellers Smith. "While many larger providers tend to look to imports as a means of cutting costs, it's left to specialists such as ourselves to ensure that UK timber still has an important role in creating furniture of the highest standard."

Sellers Smith concludes: "We believe in making highly skilled handmade furniture that can quite literally last lifetimes. We also believe in celebrating the character, beauty and sheer quality of English and Cotswolds timber as well as providing an ecologically friendly option. We are confident that this approach will stand us in good stead for a more secure future."





## 'Greening' hotels could improve business



### REnewable energy for tourist ACcommodation buildingS (RELACS)

For businesses wanting to improve their eco-credentials and reduce bills at the same time, efforts to save energy can be a win-win situation. For example, installing renewable energy technologies right now can earn income for businesses, through the Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) and the forthcoming Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

Such technologies are a visible reminder to visitors that they are embarking on a more eco-friendly holiday. FITs payments are at their highest now, and will reduce over time, so there hasn't been a better time for businesses to install technologies such as solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate electricity. Solar water

heating is also a no-brainer for accommodation businesses requiring hot water in the summer tourist season, and the forthcoming RHI will pay to produce hot water from solar panels.

RELACS is a new local initiative from Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA), funded by Intelligent Energy Europe and local funders,

offering a range of FREE services to help businesses reduce energy use and improve their carbon footprint. RELACS is open to all tourist accommodation building types across the Cotswolds, Brecon Beacons, Forest of Dean and Wye Valley, from large hotels to small guest houses, B&Bs, holiday cottages and campsites.

One of the key services offered through RELACS will be free sustainable energy audits of tourist accommodation buildings. Where a renewable energy technology is considered a realistic option, a full feasibility study can be offered to identify all the costs, benefits and any issues.

As an extra incentive to

participate in the project, there will be a competition for the 'best improvements' in energy use reductions and the winning organisation will win a trip for staff to an international tourism fair in Berlin in March 2013.

For further details, contact the Severn Wye Energy Agency on 01452 835079

## Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival wins tourism award



Cotswolds Tourism Awards

The inaugural Winchcombe Walking Festival in May 2010 was recognised for its achievements by being selected the silver award winner in the 'Small Event of the Year' category for the Cotswolds Tourism Awards 2010.

The 2010 awards were independently judged and co-ordinated by Cotswolds and Forest of Dean Tourism.

The festival was organised by Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome steering group, part of a national network of Walkers are Welcome towns, now numbering 55 towns and growing. The steering group, consisting of walkers, businesses and local councillors used their wide gamut of knowledge to ensure the foundations for the walking festival were laid, ready for guided walk leaders to enthral walkers with interesting knowledge of the flora, fauna and conservation of countryside, much of which many would walk blissfully by.

This year the Winchcombe Walking Festival will run from May 20-22 and looks to build

on last year's success. There will be new opportunities to explore the lovely countryside around Winchcombe including walking a section of the new Winchcombe Way which is being launched on 21 May.

This year's festival will offer 17 walks ranging from family walks for children, evening walks, half and full day walks, to historic tours of Winchcombe.

Later in the week the Winchcombe Festival of Music and Art starts on May 25th.

To find out more about the Walking Festival and pre-book, either pick up a brochure from your nearest tourist information centre, or visit [www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/](http://www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/) festival



## Escape to the Cotswolds!

Fosse Way, Northleach GL54 3JH

Tel: 01451 862000 email: [info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/escape](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/escape)

Housed in an 18th century old prison, this new discovery centre tells the fascinating story of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and how people over the centuries have made a natural landscape even more beautiful.

Open April - October, Wednesdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm

FREE ADMISSION

## Horses in the landscape

The Cotswolds Conservation Board is producing guidance on how to ensure the keeping of horses and ponies does not impact adversely on the Cotswold landscape.

With rising prosperity the number of horses kept has grown considerably. There are an estimated 18,000 horses in the Cotswolds kept for a wide range of recreational and business purposes as well as for racing. These include casual riding, hunting, pony trekking and polo. The equine sector is an important part of the Cotswold economy valued to be worth at least £54 million a year based on feed, bedding, farriery and livery charges and the total value could easily be double.

However, in some cases the way horses and ponies are kept is having an undesirable impact on the character and quality of the landscape including field shelters, lighting, equipment left outside, over-grazing and poaching of grassland leading to areas of bare ground and nettles.

Mark Connelly, Land Management Officer for the Board, said: 'Sometimes it is as simple as using green or brown tape instead of white; the horses see it just as well and the tape can almost be invisible in

the landscape.'

The guidelines also recommend using existing buildings and keeping new stables and other structures to a minimum. But where new stables and field shelters are needed they should be carefully sited and of an adequate size to store equipment such as jumps when not in use and to avoid sub-division of pastures where possible as well as ensuring there is enough pasture to avoid overgrazing and poaching of the ground.

The guidelines also highlight that horses can be good for conservation as they have evolved to live under extensive grazing systems where low quality, high fibre forage is abundant. The ideal forage for horses is provided by unfertilised, species-rich pasture, containing a wide range of grasses and herb species rich in both fibre and minerals.

For further information, contact the Board on 01451 862000.



# Friends work bears fruit

As one of the most beautiful areas in England, it is vital that the Cotswolds is kept truly special - and the work of the Friends of the Cotswolds is playing a key role in helping to maintain high standards.

Set up only four years ago as a registered charity, the Friends of the Cotswolds is already making an impact throughout the AONB, working with local people to identify projects for funding and helping to develop community initiatives.

Recent successes have included programmed repairs to a clapper bridge near Burford, donations towards the Naunton dovecote and Tetbury Railway Shed and appeals for repairs to a Grade II\* memorial in a Blockley churchyard, and

restoration work on the village fountain in Over Norton.

Chairman of the Friends, Simon Randall, said that when they were formed in 2006, they quickly realised that raising money for the Cotswolds in difficult economic times was not going to work. "So instead, our board carefully selected a number of specific projects around the region that we felt we could support, and we have gone on from there," said Simon. "In doing so, we have looked to support projects which

benefit the landscape and local communities. Essentially, we provide some initial funding and then work with local people on further fundraising.

"We approach individual appeals in conjunction with the relevant local authorities," he added. "We are planning to recruit a part-time administrator/research assistant and local liaison officers to assist with local fundraising and identify people in the community who are most likely to contribute towards a particular project."



Signet Clapper bridge near Burford



The village fountain in Over Norton

The Friends of the Cotswolds' principal aim is to support the conservation and enhancement of the environment and landscape of AONB, as well as raising awareness of its distinctive qualities as a special place to live, work and visit.

They are already upgrading their website to provide more information about their activities as well as include articles about the AONB including a regular feature on pub walks.

Simon added: "The Friends are also anticipating raising funds to support the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Rural Skills Programme. We are very grateful

for the support given to us by the Board and we hope that the fruits of this collaboration will begin to be realised during 2011, both with the success of our fundraising but also identifying other projects and opportunities as they arise."

**The Friends of the Cotswolds are seeking donations for their current appeal projects, as well as suggestions for new opportunities. They can be contacted via the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000, by email: [friends@friendsofthecotswolds.org](mailto:friends@friendsofthecotswolds.org) and by visiting: [www.friendsofthecotswolds.org](http://www.friendsofthecotswolds.org)**

## Festival puts Churches at centre of local life

**Guess the venue of a musical version of Mamma Mia, a cinema night, or a local quiz night? No it's not the local pub or the village hall, it's the local church and it's all part of a creative new festival taking place throughout the Cotswolds AONB during 2011.**

The Cotswolds AONB is known across the world for its delightful scenery and numerous picturesque villages and historic towns straddling a vast area of outstanding natural beauty. At the heart of these villages and towns are their churches. They come in all shapes, sizes, ages, denominations and for centuries, the churches have been at the centre of community life.

Far from being stuck in their history, however, they remain to this day vibrant centres of worship and activities serving the needs of both their regular congregations and of their wider communities - to say nothing of the many thousands of visitors who come to the Cotswolds throughout the year.

This is the view of the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, the Bishop of Dorchester, and forms the

inspiration behind the Cotswold-wide Churches Festival - to be staged between 14th and 22nd May this year 2011.

The purpose of the festival is simple - to give churches throughout the region an opportunity to open their doors and provide a warm welcome to visitors, whether they are coming from the immediate area or further afield.

The festival is being organised and coordinated by Inspiring Experience Travel, a specialist division of the Witney-based company, Great Experience Travel Group. In addition to their regular business as highly-respected independent travel agent and tour operator, especially as Oxford Airport's official travel partner, Great Experience also provides a range of tourism-focused consultancy services. For the last

18 months, they have been engaged by the Diocese of Oxford to develop a wide-ranging programme of activities aimed at showing off the visitor potential of the beautiful churches across the Diocese.

And the thinking behind the Festival fits in well with Bishop Colin's key roles of developing relations with neighbouring Dioceses, denominations and secular bodies across the county.

"We want to make this a completely ecumenical and inclusive event", said Bishop Colin. "The festival will provide these beautiful churches with a platform to stage events and activities - whether providing tea and cakes, offering tours around their church, hosting a flower festival, an evening of poetry reading or any other ideas that they may have".

"Although the initiative for the festival comes from the Diocese of Oxford, churches from neighbouring Dioceses across the Cotswolds AONB and other denominations are most welcome to take part and are certainly showing a great interest in doing so."

And ideas are coming in aplenty!

A dedicated website has been created for the event, [www.cotswoldchurchesfestival.org](http://www.cotswoldchurchesfestival.org). The site is designed not only to give churches an opportunity to register what they are doing during the Festival period, but will also be used by visitors to the Cotswolds along with local residents who would like to build in a visit to one of more of the area's beautiful churches into their plans.

Amongst the events which are scheduled to be taking place include choral concerts, art displays, mystery plays, demonstrations of brass-rubbing, tours around the churches along with a range of historical and heritage events - all designed to link the churches strongly to their local communities.

"As a Churchwarden at St James the Great in the lovely village of Stonesfield, where our church dates back to the 12th Century, I know all too well that people pigeon-hole churches as somewhere that they only think of on a Sunday or during a birth, marriage or funeral. And this even

though the village church is probably the community's most recognised landmark," said David Gambier, Managing Director of the Great Experience Travel Group, and principle coordinator of the Cotswold Churches Festival 2011 project.

"The festival will give the churches throughout the region the opportunity to show themselves off in a variety of new and exciting ways. It's only since Victorian times that churches have had the reputation for being quiet, sedate places where visitors only feel comfortable speaking in hushed tones. Prior to this, the church would fulfil a myriad of roles central to village life - the pub, the school, the shop as well as being a centre for worship. We want to bring a bit of this pre-Victorian era back to the region's churches."

If you are a member of the clergy or belong to a congregation of a church within The Cotswolds, and you would like to become involved in the Festival, visit [www.cotswoldchurchesfestival.org](http://www.cotswoldchurchesfestival.org) and register your church for more information.



# WALKS & EVENTS Guide

**Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Spring/Summer Guided Walks & Events Programme**, offering numerous opportunities to explore one of the most beautiful parts of England in a range of informal day walks. The walks are all researched and led by our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and are ideal for those wanting to get a little fitter, enjoy our countryside and wildlife, and make new friends. We recommend you always wear appropriate footwear as some walks may be muddy in places. Please also check the website for the latest information before heading off in case of any changes, particularly during inclement weather. We're sorry but no dogs, except guide dogs, are allowed on the walks. Walks are free unless otherwise stated, however donations are welcome. Further information: [www.cotswolds-aonb.org.uk/guidedwalks](http://www.cotswolds-aonb.org.uk/guidedwalks)

**Walk the Cotswold Way**  
Join a group led by the Voluntary Wardens walking 10 miles of the Cotswold Way on the first Wednesday of each month, starting from May. Early booking recommended. For further information and to reserve your place call Bob Cox on 01242 820192 or email: [cox.langett@btinternet.com](mailto:cox.langett@btinternet.com)

**Walk the Diamond Way**  
Join a group led by the Voluntary Wardens walking 10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Tuesday of each month, starting from April. Early booking recommended. For further information and to reserve your place contact John Medlyn on 01386 438060 or email: [john@medlyn.org.uk](mailto:john@medlyn.org.uk)

**Guided tours of Chipping Campden**  
**Regular walks:** meet at the Market Hall, Chipping Campden on Tuesdays between 7 June and 27 September for a 2.30pm start. These easy 1 1/2hr walks are led by the Voluntary Wardens and suitable for families. Donations of £2 suggested towards the Countryside Fund.  
**Tailor made:** Voluntary Wardens can provide a town walk, an audio visual show followed by tea or supper for organised parties. Contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131 or email: [ann.colcomb@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.colcomb@btinternet.com)

## April

### SATURDAY, APRIL 2 • 10.00

**Ducks and Drakes and (hopefully) Daffodils** ☺  
The Windrush Valley east of Burford in Springtime - a repeat of a well worn but lovely walk at any time. Optional lunch at the Maytime afterwards. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Maytime Inn, Asthall  
**Leader:** Ann Julian  
**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 288113 Map square: H5

### SUNDAY, APRIL 3 • 14.00

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum** 🌳  
Barking Mad Guided Walk: Discover the remarkable variety of tree barks at Westonbirt and their incredible stories. Normal admission charges apply - tel 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

### TUESDAY, APRIL 5 • 10.00

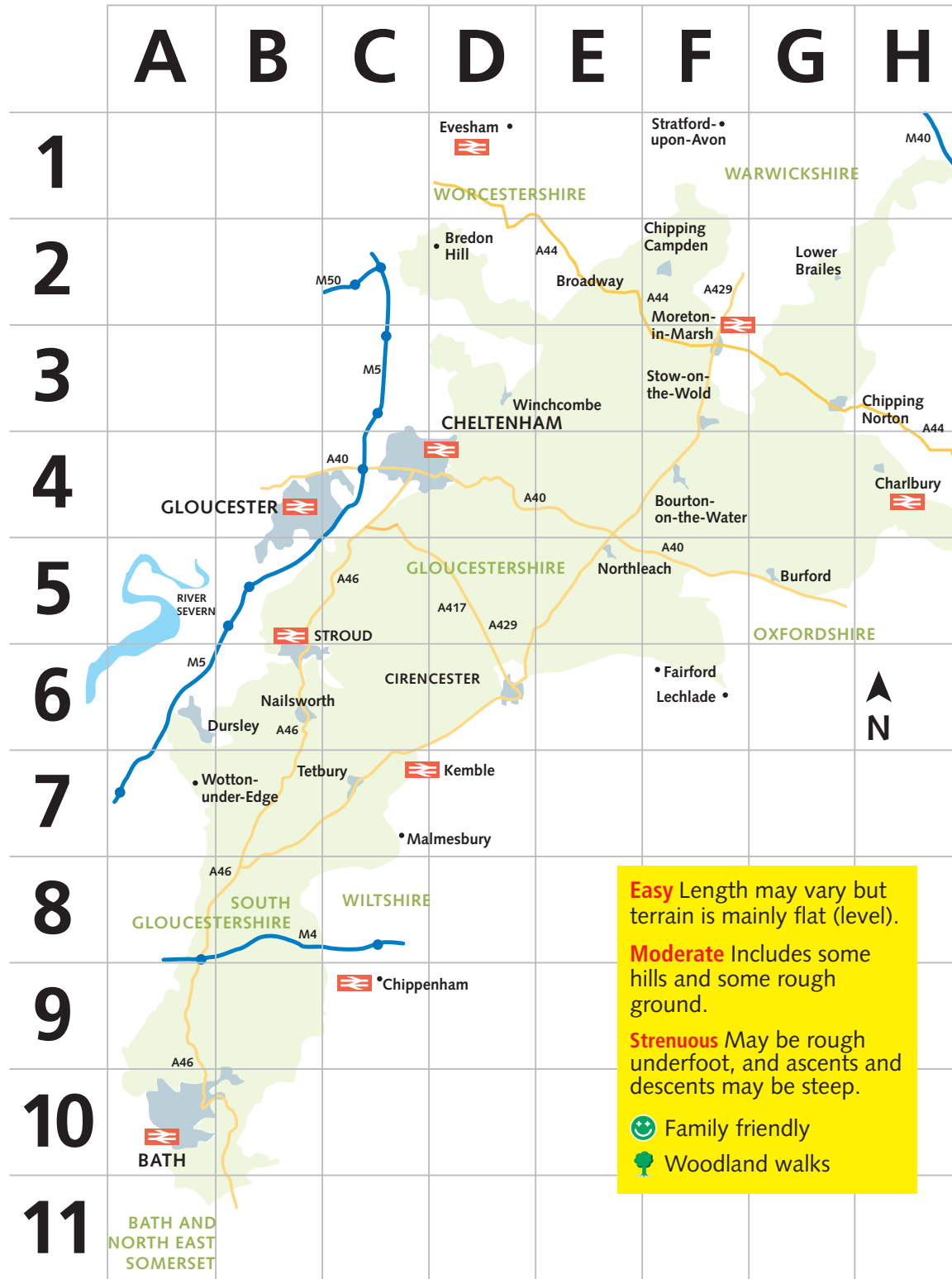
**Tuesday Trump**  
A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish, including a visit to a community supported agricultural farm. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox and Hounds, Colerne, or adjacent Conservative Club  
**Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slee  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156 / 818711 Map square B 9

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 • 10.00

**A Hike Around Chedworth**  
A walk to the picturesque village of Chedworth with a visit to the fine Norman church. Return through Chedworth woods, and via the Roman villa. The walk includes two fairly steep climbs and several stiles. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Disused Chedworth Airfield, 1.5 miles north-west of Chedworth on the Compton Abdale road.  
**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OL: 45 / 040132 Map square: E5

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9 • 10.30

**Family Coffee Morning Walk: Round and about Kingscote** ☺  
Suggest morning coffee prior to walk - back in time for lunch if required. Suitable for families. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Hunters Hall pub car park  
**Leaders:** Eric Brown, Staszek Jarmuz  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 162 / 814960 Map square: B7



### SATURDAY, APRIL 9 • 10.00

**The Battle of Stow**  
On the walk we visit the 1646 battle site of the Royalist army and retrace the route as the troops retreated to the bloody end in the square at Stow. From Stow we walk back to Longborough through characteristic Cotswold villages. Suitable for all. Lunch available at the Coach and Horses after the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Coach and Horses pub, Ganborough on A424 north of Stow  
**Leader:** Anne Martis  
**4.5 hours • 7.5 miles**  
SP: 172291 Map square: F3

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9 • 10.00

**Alight 'Kelston for Saltford' and the Races**  
Looking back to 1869 when it was possible to arrive by train and walk up to Bath Racecourse. The land was purchased from local landowner Mr Inigo Jones on condition that the station was known as Kelston for Saltford. Please bring a picnic. Not suitable for push chairs. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Swineford picnic site off A431 Bristol to Bath road. Please do not park in the pub car park unless you plan to eat there.  
**Leaders:** Gill Sheppard, Phil Lawrence  
**5.5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS: 155 / 692 692 Map square: A10

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9 • 10.00

**Family Bluebell Walk: Wilcote and Lady Well** ☺  
An easy walk to see bluebells in Coneygar Copse and Holly Grove. Optional lunch at the ancient Royal Oak Inn afterwards. Family friendly though buggies would be difficult! **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Ramsden Royal Oak. Please park sensibly nearby.  
**Leader:** Ann Julian  
**2 hours • 4 miles**  
OS Explorer: 180/357153 Map square: H5

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9 • 10.00

**Walk part of the new Winchcombe Way**  
Explore a section of this new route before its official launch next month. We walk to Dumbleton, passing the Hall and its ice house, skirt Dumbleton Hill and return in time for lunch at the Gardeners Arms. Pub lunch available after the walk. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Alderton, the Gardeners Arms car park  
**Leaders:** Robert & Sheila Talbot  
**3 hours • 5.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 999333 Map square: E3

### SUNDAY, APRIL 10 • 10.00

**River Walk: Spring in the By Brook Valley**  
A joint walk with the Bath branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research to see the spring flowers in the By Brook Valley. From the car park, down to the village, then over the ridge to Ford via Danks Down. Return on the Macmillan Way beside the By Brook via Long Dean. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Castle Combe car park  
**Leaders:** John Walker, Fred Dugan  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156 / 845773 Map square: B9

### TUESDAY, APRIL 12 • 10.00

**Springtime on the Scarp**  
A fairly energetic walk taking us past some of the most interesting historic houses on the hills around Broadway. Views and mud are likely to be splendid. Please bring a packed lunch. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Fish Hill picnic site car park, off the A44 above Broadway.  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth and Simon Mallatrat  
**6 hours • 9 miles**  
SP: 119370 Map square: E3

### TUESDAY, APRIL 12 • 10.30

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum** 🌳  
Conifer Capers, Tuesday 12 - 14 April 10.30 - 16.00: Explore our magnificent trees and discover the remarkable world of conifers. From the oldest to the tallest, biggest to some of the rarest, join our conifer capers trail to find out more! Then have a go at creating a family of cone creatures. Ages 4+. Admission charges apply - tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 • 10.00

**Step Back in Time...**  
...to an age of sheep farming, quarrying and milling. Admire the quaint cottages of the workers as well as the grand estates of the land owners. Pub lunch available after the walk. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** The Fox Inn, Barrington  
**Leader:** Rosemary Wilson  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 205131 Map square: F5

### THURSDAY, APRIL 14 • 10.00

**South of the Village on the Hill**  
A walk that passes through the pretty Cotswold villages of Longborough and Donnington and includes a chance to look at the site of the Battle of Stow and to gaze at the unique Sezincote House. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Bourton-on-the-Hill; please park with consideration  
**Leaders:** Peggy Lutter and Ann Harris  
**5.5 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 184362 Map square: F3

### FRIDAY, APRIL 15 • 10.00

**Woodland: Through the Woods to Binley** ☺  
A spring woodland walk through Horsley, Sandgrove and Kingscote Woods. Suitable for families. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Horsley village hall, Priory Fields, Horsley  
**Leaders:** Mike Brinkworth, Norman Kay  
**2.5 hours • 4 miles**  
OS: 162 / 838979 Map square: B6

### SATURDAY, APRIL 16 • 10.00

**Family Walk: To the River and the Villa** ☺  
A lovely walk which includes the spectacular wall paintings of St Laurence Church, Combe Longa and a coffee break at the Roman Villa. Optional lunch at the Cock Inn afterwards. Family friendly but not suitable for buggies. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Combe. Park sensibly and meet on the Green  
**Leader:** Ann Julian  
**2 hours • 3.5 miles**  
OS Explorer: 180 / 412158 Map square: H5

### SATURDAY, APRIL 16 • 10.00

**Far from the Madding Crowd**  
Enjoy the tranquillity of the Cotswolds in and around Temple Guiting & Ford. Bring drinks and a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Temple Guiting village hall car park next to primary school  
**Leaders:** Roger & Pat Cook  
**6 hours • 11 miles**  
Explorer OL: 45 / 090279 Map square: E3

### SUNDAY, APRIL 17 • 10.00

**Down to a Combe across to a Stoke**  
Circular walk from Combe Down via the Kennet and Avon Canal to Limley Stoke, Monkton Combe, Midford and back to Combe Down. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cross Keys, South Stoke Road, Combe Down  
**Leaders:** Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings  
**5 hours • 8.7 miles**  
OS: 172 / 748619 Map square: A10

### TUESDAY, APRIL 19 • 10.30

**Family & River walk: Hidden Bibury** ☺  
Discover the secrets of Ratty's hidden home along the riverbank in Bibury. Explore Bibury's hidden treasures. Suitable for families. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Swan Hotel, Bibury  
**Leaders:** Colin Boulton, Martin Jones (National Trust), Glos Wildlife Trust  
**1.5 hours • 2.5 miles**  
Explorer: 115 069 Map square: E5

### TUESDAY, APRIL 19 • 10.00

**'Secret' chapel, deserted medieval village and ancient hill fort.**  
Across the fields from Lower Brailes to Winderton and the site of the former village of Chelmscote. Returning via Castle Hill. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** The George Hotel, Lower Brailes. Please park tidily in the car park.  
**Leader:** Tony Graeme  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Explorer: 191 / 315392 Map square: G2

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20 • 9.30

**Macmillan Way - Stage 5**  
This summer we are continuing the series of linear walks along the Macmillan Way to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Starting from where we finished Stage 4 last summer at Northleach, we walk on this stage to Chedworth via Hampnett, Yanworth and Chedworth Woods. A minibus will transport walkers from the meeting point at Chedworth airfield to the actual start of the walk at Northleach. In order to book your place on the bus, for which there will be a minimal charge, please phone 01453 836221 by April 11th at the latest. A pub lunch is available towards the end of the walk. Please note the earlier starting time. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Disused Chedworth Airfield, 1.5 miles north-west of Chedworth on the Compton Abdale road.  
**Leaders:** Alan Bulley, David Harrowin  
**5 hours • 7 miles**  
OS: 163/040132 Map square: E5

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20 • 10.00

**From Kilkenny through Foxcote and back via Shill Hill**  
A walk in open rolling countryside around Foxcote Hill with good views to the north and west of Andoversford, Shipton, Withington and beyond. The first half of the walk is on the Gloucestershire Way descending through Foxcote to the Shipton Golf Course. The return is on bridleways via Thorndale and skirting Shill Hill. The footpaths are in good condition. The return is generally uphill but with no steep inclines. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Kilkenny Viewpoint car park  
**Leader:** John Foulkes  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OL 45: 004 186 Map square: D4



**THURSDAY, APRIL 21 • 10.30**

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum**  
Easter Challenge Family Event: Thursday 21 - Monday 25 April 10.30 - 4pm. With spring in full swing why not venture out with us this Easter as we spring forth to discover the awakening forest - from buds bursting and rising sap to colourful blooms and wildflower carpets. Solve our Easter challenge for a sweet reward and enter our Easter prize draw! Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22 • 10.30**

**National Trust: Dyrham Park**  
A walk led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Dyrham Park, descending the Cotswold escarpment through the ancient Deer Park, farmland and the historic village of Dyrham, returning to the Park via the Cotswold Way National Trail. We pass the site of the Battle of Dyrham (AD 577), medieval strip lynchets and a view of Hinton Hill Fort. Please wear appropriate footwear. Park admission fees do not apply to those participating in the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Visitor Reception Dyrham Park  
**Leaders:** Cotswold Voluntary Wardens  
**2 hours • 3.5 miles**  
OS: 155/748757 Map square: A9

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23 • 10.00**

**Bluebells in Bruern Wood**  
Country lanes and farmland paths to Milton-under-Wychwood and Shipton-under-Wychwood for lunch at the 14th century Shaven Crown. Return along parts of the Oxfordshire Way and Bruern Wood, renowned for its display of nodding bluebells. Even ground for most of the way but probably muddy places. NB: Shaven Crown caters for smaller appetites at a smaller price! **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Bruern Abbey. Park where Oxfordshire Way crosses the road west of the level crossing.  
**Leader:** Ann Julian  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 264204 Map square: G4

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23 • 11.00**

**National Trust: Snowhill Manor & Gardens**  
Easter Trail: 23 April - 25 April 11am - 5.30pm. Join the fun and games on our traditional Easter trail. Collect the clues hidden around the garden, solve the puzzle and win a tasty prize. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01386 852410. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Snowhill Manor & Gardens

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24 • 14.00**

**Gloucestershire County Council: Cooper's Hill Local Nature Reserve**  
A "SAC" full of Wildlife! An afternoon walk around Cooper's Hill Local Nature Reserve. The Site Warden from Gloucestershire County Council will guide the walk, which will explore some of the best Bluebell woods in the country, at this European designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC). No dogs allowed, except hearing dogs. Tel: Julian Bendle on 01452 886142 for further information. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Four miles south east of Gloucester at the Fiddlers Elbow car park (blue and yellow height barriers) on the A46 Brockworth to Stroud road  
**Leader:** Julian Bendle  
**1.5 miles**  
OS: 162 / 886142

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 • 10.00**

**Slaughterford, the By Brook and Rudloe Manor**  
We follow parts of the By Brook to the south of Ford by river bank, meadows and tracks to passing the site of a 9th century battle and a former RAF station at Rudloe Manor, returning through Thickwood and over Colerne Down. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** White Hart Inn, just south of the A420 at Ford  
**Leaders:** Phil Lawrence & Gill Sheppard  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS: 156 / 841748 Map square: B9

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28 • 10.00**

**Walks along the Donnington Way No. 5: Guiting Power to Ford**  
A series of walks based on the Donnington Way and its pubs. This one has a morning walk through Guiting Wood to Ford for lunch and an afternoon return via Temple Guiting and through Castlett Wood. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Guiting Power village hall car park (Trust the Motorist)  
**Leaders:** Keith Sisson and Paul Adams  
**5.5 hours • 10 miles**  
OS Leisure 45 / 094248 Map square: E3

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28 • 10.30**

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum**  
Westonbirt Wildflowers Guided Walk, 10.30am - 12.30pm: Discover the wealth of wildflowers that grow at Westonbirt and how we make sure they continue to thrive. Not suitable for children under 10. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29 • 10.00**

**Monarch's & Macmillan Way**  
A walk exploring sections of 2 long-distance footpaths to appreciate the landscape, visiting Hampnett and Yanworth churches on the way. Some steep sections. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Hangman's Stone layby on old A40 road from Puesdown to Northleach  
**Leaders:** Ken Buckle, Geoff Ricketts, John Foulkes  
**3 hours • 6 miles**  
OL: 45/ 089152 Map square: D4

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30 • 10.00**

**Lost One, Found Two**  
Join us on a scenic walk around the civil parishes of Temple Guiting, Guiting Power and Hawling. The walk is along easy tracks, bridleways and lanes. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Hawling near to Methodist Church. Please park consistently on the verges  
**Leaders:** Roger and Pat Cook  
**5.5 hours • 10 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 067231 Map square: E4

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30 • 10.00**

**Painswick's Wooded Valleys**  
An energetic walk visiting Saltridge, Lords, Blackstable and Frith Woods and the villages of Sheepscombe and Slad. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. Walk accessible via the No. 46 bus route from Cheltenham or Stroud. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Painswick Walkers car park, Golf Course Road, off B4073 north of Painswick  
**Leaders:** John Heathcott, David Burwell, John Woodland  
**6 hours • 10 miles**  
OS: 179 / 868105 Map square: C5

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30 • 10.30**

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum**  
Budburst to Bare Trees Guided Walk - 10.30 - 12.30pm: People have followed the seasonal rhythms of nature for thousands of years - come and discover its importance. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

**May**

**TUESDAY, MAY 3 • 10.00**

**Tuesday Tramp**  
A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish, also pointing out the work of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens in Colerne Park. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox & House, Colerne, or adjacent Conservative Club  
**Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slea  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 156 / 818711 Map square: B9

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 • 10.00**

**Bluebell Pilgrimage**  
A walk via Doverow Hill to look at the Bluebells in Standish Woods, returning via the Cotswold Way; includes a steady climb in the first half. Public transport (train) available from Cheltenham, Gloucester or Kemble. Refreshments available after the walk in Stonehouse. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Meet at Stonehouse Pay & Display car park at 10.00am, or Stonehouse Railway Station, Upper Queens Road at 10.15am  
**Leaders:** Pippa Burgon, Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham  
**3 hours • 5.5 miles**  
OS: 179 / 808053 Map square: B5

**SATURDAY, MAY 7 • 10.00**

**Tures, springs and dewponds: The Top Three**  
Third in a short series of walks exploring the wolds above Stanway, Cutsdean and Snowhill, with exceptional access to sites off public rights of way. Today we'll see the ture under construction at the Durhams, overlooking the source of the Windrush. Pub lunch or picnic at Snowhill. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Signed car park at Half Moon Plantation on Buckle Street, 1 mile N of Jackdaws' Castle stables  
**Leaders:** Stephen Wright and Chris Haslewood  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OL: 45/104318 Map square: E3

**SUNDAY, MAY 8 • 10.00**

**International Year of the Forest 2011: Colerne Park**  
A walk to Colerne Park where the Woodland Trust will describe their aims and show the fruits of six years of coppicing by the Wardens. From Box, along the By Brook to DREWETTS Mill, Widdenhams and Tilley's Wood to Colerne Park. Return via Rudloe Manor and the south bank of the By Brook. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Selwyn Hall car park, Box  
**Leaders:** John Walker, John Bartram  
**5.5 hours • 9 miles**  
OS: 156 / 824686 Map square: B10

**SUNDAY, MAY 8 • 10.00**

**Adlestrop, Oddington, Daylesford and Chastleton**  
This walk passes through some of the loveliest villages in the east of the Cotswolds. The manor houses and churches in each of the villages are associated with historic figures such as Jane Austen, Robert Catesby, the leader of the gunpowder plot, Warren Hastings the first Governor of India and the Sir Anthony Bamford JCB entrepreneur. We'll also visit Adlestrop and the quiet station where, in June 1914, the Paddington to Worcester train stopped unexpectedly, the poet Edward Thomas heard a blackbird sing and later wrote his famous poem 'Adlestrop' evoking memories of all English villages. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Adlestrop Village Hall car park  
**Leader:** Anne Martis  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
OL: 45 / 241272 Map square: G3

**MONDAY, MAY 9 • 10.00**

**To the woods, to the woods to the woods,**  
A walk through three woods of different characteristics and management at a time when a rich variety of wildflowers should be at their best. The National Trust Ranger for Littleworth Wood will join us to walk through this priority 1 biodiversity site. Please bring a packed lunch. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Stanton village hall car park  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth and Simon Mallatrat  
**10 hours • 6 miles**  
SP: 067344 Map square: E3

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 • 10.00**

**Into the Golden Valley**  
Down through Hyde - along the canal - back via Burleigh. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Car park on the edge of Minchinhampton Common behind the church (off Bell Lane)  
**Leaders:** Mike Brinkworth, Dave Collings  
**2.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 162/872009 Map square: C6

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 • 10.00**

**Wandering along the Windrush**  
A walk along the Windrush valley to the former village of Widford, then we go on to Swinbrook to see the graves of the Mitford sisters. We continue down the valley before returning to Burford via Asthall. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Burford car park  
**Leaders:** Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan  
**5.5 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 254125 Map square: G5

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11 • 10.15**

**National Trust: Snowhill Manor and Gardens**  
Snowhill Secrets Explorer Tour: A rare chance to get up close to some of the treasures in Snowhill's vast and varied collection, with one of our inhouse team of conservation experts. Find out more about Charles Wade's fanciful world and see some fabulous items not normally on display. Normal admission charges apply. Booking essential on 01386 842814. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Snowhill Manor Gardens

**THURSDAY, MAY 12 • 10.00**

**A Bouquet of Bluebells**  
Bluebells are not the only flowers on this spring walk across fields, along tracks and through an ancient woodland. Indeed, there is much to see and learn about this interesting area of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. Optional lunch at the end of the walk at The Royal Oak. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Ramsden, please park thoughtfully near the War Memorial  
**Leader:** Rosemary Wilson  
**2.15 hours • 4.2 miles**  
Map reference: 180/356152 Map square: H4

**THURSDAY, MAY 12 • 9.30**

**The Stow Battle Circuit**  
A delightful route looking at the pretty villages of Broadwell, Donnington & Longborough and taking in the 1646 battle site and follow the line of the retreat into Stow of the King's forces. There are numerous eating places in Stow. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stow-on-the-Wold; the Old Stocks in the Market Square. Suggest park at Tesco's public car park.  
**Leaders:** Julie Downing, Allan Allcock & Andy Briers  
**3.5 hours • 6.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45 / 192269 Map square: F3

**SATURDAY, MAY 14 • 10.00**

**Music to Your Ears - The Yellow Brick Road**  
A walk to the top of Bredon Hill, around the top and down via Westmancote, to Bredon for pub lunch etc. Return to Beckford by walking through the villages on the western slope. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Beckford. Outside the church. Please park consistently  
**Leaders:** Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood  
**6 hours • 11 miles**  
OS Explorer: 190/976358 Map square: D2

**SUNDAY, MAY 15 • 10.00**

**Houses and Fish Ponds**  
Circular walk from Nailsworth to Avening, then Macmillan Way to Chavenage, returning via Washpool and Ruskin Mill. May be some muddy sections. Bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Long stay car park (opposite bus station) in Old Market, Nailsworth  
**Leaders:** Peter Russell & Norman Kay  
**5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS: 162/849996 Map square: B6

**SUNDAY, MAY 15 • 10.00**

**Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Walk 4 Wildlife**  
Five mile sponsored walk through the Golden Valley between Chalford and Cirencester. Going through Daneway Banks, Siccaridge Woods, Strawberry Banks, and Three Groves Wood Nature Reserves. Pre-booking required on 01452 383333 quoting ref: 11W4W. Cost: Adults £7 or £10 on the day, children/dogs £2. Family £16 or £20 on the day. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Directions sent on booking  
**Leaders:** GWT  
**4 hours**

**TUESDAY, MAY 17 • 10.00**

**More of the Secret Forest**  
Explore parts of the ancient Wychwood Forest off the public rights of way and return through Cornbury Park, with its herds of Fallow and Sika deer. By kind permission of Lord Rotherwick. Please bring packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Charlbury, the 'Spendlove' car park  
**Leader:** Tony Graeme  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
OS Explorer: 180/358196 Map square: H4

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 • 10.00**

**Springtime; Spring Flowers**  
A leisurely walk around two wildflower rich commons. Match your skill in identification with the wardens. Pub snack after walk if required. Suitable for families, but not buggies/pushchairs. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Amberley Inn, Amberley. Not pub car park please.  
**Leaders:** David Harrowin & Ian Cooke  
**2.5 hours • 4 miles**  
OS: 162/850013 Map square: B6

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 • 10.15**

**Quaking the Dead**  
From the famous churchyard of Painswick to Sheepscombe via Painswick valley and Lords Wood. Returning via the historic Quaker burial ground at Dell Farm. Includes one steep incline. Refreshments available in Painswick. Walk accessible by Route 46 to Stroud to Cheltenham bus service. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stamages Lane car park on A46  
**Leaders:** Royden Hales, John Foulkes, Mike Williams  
**2.5 hours • 6 miles**  
Explorer: 179 / 865095 Map square: C5

**THURSDAY, MAY 19 • 10.00**

**Walks Along the Donnington Way No. 6: Snowhill & Stanton**  
A series of walks based on the Donnington Way and its pubs. Today's morning walk visits Buckland and Laverton before a lunch at the Mount at Stanton. The afternoon route passes historic Stanway. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Snowhill public car park  
**Leaders:** Keith Sisson & Paul Adams  
**5.5 hours • 9.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45/096340 Map square: E3

**SATURDAY, MAY 21 • 10.00**

**Around the Old Railway Line**  
A walk through the North Oxfordshire Cotswolds picking up the route of the old Chipping Norton to Banbury railway line. The route goes through the villages of Great Rollright, Swerford and Hook Norton. Packed lunch required. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Whichford village green. Please park consistently on roadside.  
**Leaders:** Martin & Lucy Squires  
**5.5 hours • 11 miles**  
OS Explorer: 191/315347 Map square: G3

**SUNDAY, MAY 22 • 10.00**

**On the Edge**  
A walk to Southstoke, Upper Midford along part of the Somersetshire Coal Canal to Combe Hay, returning via the Fosse Way (old Roman way) back to start point. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Southstoke Road, Combe Down Cross Keys  
**Leaders:** Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings  
**5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
OS: 172/748619 Map square: A10

**TUESDAY, MAY 24 • 10.00**

**From One Estate to Another**  
A pleasant undulating walk into the Cornbury Park Estate in Charlbury before going across to the Ditchley Park Estate. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Spendlove Free Car Park, Charlbury  
**Leader:** Trish Gilbert  
**5.5 hours • 11 miles**  
OS Explorer: 180/358196 Map square: H4

**TUESDAY, MAY 24 • 10.00**

**European Day of Parks - Green Oases with a City**  
Circular walk from Royal Victoria Park, Bath taking in three other parks within Bath (Hedgemoor Park, Sydney Gardens and Henrietta Park) with views of two others (Parade Gardens and Alexandra Park). Returning from Abbey church yard via the Cotswold Way to starting point. Coffee stop in Sydney Gardens suitable for families but not suitable for pushchairs. Parking if required in Charlotte Street car park, Bath. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Royal Avenue in front of bandstand  
**Leaders:** Wilf Dando and Pauline Vincent  
**3.5 hours • 5 miles**  
OS: 172/744654 Map square: A10

**THURSDAY, MAY 26 • 10.00**

**A High Mast and Three Rivers**  
An interesting walk through the iconic (and quiet) Cotswold villages of Icombe, Lower Slaughter and Lower Swell and contrast them with the hustle and bustle of Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Stow-on-the-Wold, Tesco public car park  
**Leaders:** Ann Harris & Peggy Lutter  
**5.5 hours • 10 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45/192262 Map square: F3

**FRIDAY, MAY 27 • 10.00**

**Friday Foray**  
Starting from the Bathurst Arms pub, the walk passes through Scrubditch, Bagendon and Baunton. For an easy option (3.5 miles) finish at Baunton and catch the bus back to the start point. Follow the Monarch's Way alongside the River Churn from Baunton to North Cerney. Lunch available at the Bathurst Arms pub. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Bathurst Arms, North Cerney (with prior permission) - please park in the far car park  
**Leaders:** Colin Dickinson, Geoff Ricketts, Ken Buckle  
**3 hours • 6.5 miles**  
OL: 45/018079 Map square: D5

**SATURDAY, MAY 28 • 10.00**

**Heaven Scent**  
Splendid views as we walk the high ground towards the escarpment; enjoying the lavender fields before our return. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Blockley, village green  
**Leaders:** Roger & Pat Cook  
**6 hours • 10.5 miles**  
OS Leisure: 45/164350 Map square: F2

**SATURDAY, MAY 28 • 10.00**

**Cotswold Heights**  
Prehistoric settlements on and around Cleeve Common, Wontley Farm, Belas Knap, Winchcombe, Postlip, Cleeve Cloud. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cleeve Common Masts. From A40 take minor road to Whittington. After church turn left, follow lane for 4 miles. Turn right at crossroads sign posted "Cleeve Common".  
**Leaders:** Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier  
**6.5 hours • 10 miles**  
OS: 179/994248 Map square: D3

**SATURDAY, MAY 28 • 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). Suitable for families. Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a teashop - or stay and visit our Open Gardens for lunch and / or a cream tea.. For Marshfield Open Gardens information please telephone 01225 891229. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Market Place, Marshfield  
**Leader:** David Colbourne  
**2.5 hours • 4.25 miles**  
OS: 172/781737 Map square: B9

**SUNDAY, MAY 29 • 10.00**

**The Rollright Stones**  
The Rollright Stones is a special place steeped in history and folklore. Located on the Jurassic Way, a prehistoric trackway, the stones were a sacred place for our ancestors from around 3000BC. The purpose of the Kings Stone still eludes us but the Whispering Knights are known to be part of an ancient tomb and the King's Men stone circle was a meeting place with the nearest similar site in Cumbria. This walk starts in Little Compton permitting a relatively gentle climb onto the Jurassic Way with good views on a clear day of the Evenlode Valley. Suitable for all. Late pub lunch available after the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Front of Little Compton Manor  
**Leader:** Anne Martis  
**4.5 hours • 7 miles**  
SP: 261 301 Map square: G3

**SUNDAY, MAY 29 • 10.30**

**National Trust: Dyrham Park**  
A walk led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Dyrham Park, descending the Cotswold escarpment through the ancient Deer Park, farmland and the historic village of Dyrham, returning to the Park via the Cotswold Way National Trail. We pass the site of the Battle of Dyrham (AD 577), medieval strip lynchets and a view of Hinton Hill Fort. Please wear appropriate footwear. Park admission fees do not apply to those participating in the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park  
**Leaders:** Cotswold Voluntary Wardens  
**2 hours • 3.5 miles**  
OS: 155/748757 Map square: A9

**MONDAY, MAY 30 • 10.30**

**Lineover and Ravensgate**  
A slow walk around a flora rich ancient woodland and across an open common. Pub lunch possible after the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Lineover Wood. Park up track south of A40, 1 mile east of Charlton Kings, 100 yards from the Reservoir Inn.  
**Leaders:** John Heathcott, David Burwell, John Woodland  
**2.5 hours • 4 miles**  
OS: 179/986196 Map square: D4



## TUESDAY, MAY 31 • 10.00

## Be a Cotswold Detective

A there and back walk between two villages, using a map to follow the trail and spot some landscape features as well as some quirky things. This walk is suitable for accompanied children of five and upwards. Wear wellies, bring an adult and a snack to enjoy at the end of the walk in the attractive village playground. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Fifield village. This is signed off main A424 Burford to Stow Road. Please park considerably.

**Leader:** Rosemary Wilson

**1.5 hours • 2 miles**

OL: 45/240189 Map square: G4

## TUESDAY, MAY 31 • 10.30

## Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum

Forest Fun Family event, 31 May - 2 June 10.30am - 4.00pm. Forests are great places for fun! Follow our playful trail to explore, create, build and imagine your way around Westonbirt. Make your own green games with natural materials. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

## June

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1 • 10.00

## A River, an Ancient Road and an Ancient Dewpond

An easy walk beside the river Leach, from Eastleach to Sheepbridge including a section of the Roman road Akeman Street; then on to Macaroni Downs Farm to view an ancient dewpond restored and maintained by the wardens and back to Eastleach. Suitable for families. Optional pub lunch available after the walk. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Near the Victoria pub in Eastleach Turville. Please park sensibly in the village.

**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham, Geoff Ricketts

**2.75 hours • 5.5 miles**

OL: 45/198052 Map square: F6

## SATURDAY, JUNE 4 • 10.00

## Orchids, Redstarts and belted Galloways

A farm walk with a difference on the Snowhill Hill estate. Farm manager Carl Will takes us through his working woodland, onto rare flower, bird and butterfly sites, and past the best preserved dewpond in the north Cotswolds. Finish with free coffee and biscuits in the granary. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Look for signs to Snowhill Hill Farm on the high lanes between Snowhill near Broadway and Trooper's Lodge (A44/A424)

**Leaders:** Carl Willin, with Stephen Wright

**2.5 hours • 2 miles**

OL: 45/122330 Map square: E3

## SATURDAY, JUNE 4 • 10.30

## Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum

Remarkable Rhododendrons Guided Walk: Discover Westonbirt's fantastic rhododendrons and their links with the history at the arboretum. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

## SUNDAY, JUNE 5 • 10.00

## Around the Mountain?

A walk to make use of the wardens hard work! From Marshfield, across the A420 northwards to the Broadmead Brook which we then follow down to West Kingston. Across country to North Wroxall (circling Mountain Bower), over the A420, through the woods to Lucknam Park and return via North Wood and Colerne Wood. Please bring a picnic lunch. Park considerably in the roads around the Market Place. **Strenuous**

**Starting point:** Market Place, Marshfield

**Leaders:** John Walker, John Dougal

**6 hours • 11.5 miles**

OS: 155/781737 Map square: B9

## SUNDAY, JUNE 5 • 10.00

## National Trust: Hidcote

Tree Climbing: Join us for some tree climbing for fun for the whole family. Expert instructors will be on hand to help you climb high into the branches on our most loved trees and admire the spectacular views. More information: Pamela Johnston, 01386 438333. Normal admission charges apply. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Hidcote Manor Gardens

## TUESDAY, JUNE 7 • 10.00

## Tuesday Tramp

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish, including a visit to Rocks East Leisure facility. Bring a mid morning munchie! **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Fox & House, Colerne or adjacent Conservative Club

**Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slee

**3 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 156/818711 Map square: B9

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 • 10.00

## Macmillan Way - Stage 6

Continuing the series of linear walks along the Macmillan Way to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, we walk from Chedworth to Sapperton via Rendcomb, Woodmancote and Pinbury Park, passing the tiny Saxon church of Duntisbourne Rouse on the way. A minibus will transport walkers from the meeting point at Sapperton to the actual start of the walk at Chedworth airfield. In order to book your place on the bus, for which there will be a minimal charge, please phone 01453 836221 by May 30th at the latest. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Sapperton church. Please park considerably in the village.

**Leaders:** Alan Bulley, Peter Russell

**7 hours • 11 miles**

OS: 163/947034 Map square: D5

## THURSDAY, JUNE 9 • 10.00

## A Woodland Walk around Castle Combe - International Year of the Forest

Along Summer Lane to walk through some beautiful, peaceful woodlands and areas of unimproved limestone grassland. We visit Parsonage Wood, Hammerdown, West Yatton Down, Danks Wood and Beckers Wood. Please bring a mid morning snack. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Castle Combe Public Car Park

**Leaders:** Gill Sheppard, Moyra Evans

**3.5 hours • 5.5 miles**

OS: 156/846777 Map square: B9

## SATURDAY, JUNE 11 • 9.45

## Stowe &amp; Rome

Along the Evenlode Valley from Hanborough to Charlbury. Starts after the arrival of the 0921 train from Oxford and 0802 train from Worcester. It finishes in time for return trains. If coming by car park at Charlbury and catch the 0908 train to Hanborough. Packed lunch required - advised to check train times nearer to date. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Hanborough Railway Station

**Leader:** Dave Scott

**4.5 hours • 9 miles**

OS Explorer: 180/433143 Map square: H5

## SATURDAY, JUNE 11 • 10.00

## Villages of the Vale

An easy walk (only one slope) mainly in the Vale of Evesham bordering the Cotswold escarpment. Pub lunch available. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Stanton, village hall car park

**Leaders:** Colin Boulton & Mike Gittins

**5.5 hours • 9 miles**

OS Leisure: 45/067343 Map square: E3

## TUESDAY, JUNE 14 • 10.00

## Discover a Micro Brewery set in the Warwickshire Cotswolds

This walk is full of ups and downs with wonderful views down and across the Stour Valley. Lunchtime brings us to the pretty village of Whichford where the landlord of the Norman Knight has offered to show us around his CAMERA award winning micro brewery. Return to Cherrington is by way of the Whichford Woods and a section of the Shakespeare Way. Pub lunch available at the Norman Knight. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Cherrington Church

**Leader:** Kevin Myhill

**6 hours • 7.5 miles**

OS Explorer: 191/291365 Map square: G2

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15 • 10.00

## Around Shab Hill

A summer walk from Barrow Wake around Shab Hill enjoying magnificent Cotswold vistas particularly towards Cowley and Coberley. It will take us past Birdlip Radio Station on to Coldwell Bottom and back by Stockwell. Some gradual ascents and descents. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Barrow Wake Car Park

**Leaders:** Mike Williams, Royden Hales, John Foulkes

**2.5 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 179/931153 Map square: D5

## THURSDAY, JUNE 16 • 9.30

## The Disappeared Hamlets of the Past

The walk encompasses a number of secluded valleys, high features, woodlands and lets us look at Cotswolds past through the missing villages and medieval churches. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks. There is the possibility of a pub stop mid afternoon. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Guiting Power, village hall car park (Trust the Motorist)

**Leaders:** Andy Briars, Allan Allcock and Julie Downing

**6 hours • 12 miles**

OS Leisure: 45/096245

## THURSDAY, JUNE 16 • 10.00

## The Flowers and Wildlife of the Glyme Valley

A circular walk starting and finishing in Chipping Norton. It includes a feast of wildlife habitats including species rich limestone grassland, ancient hedgerows as well as Over Norton parkland with its veteran trees and ridge and furrow pasture. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Chipping Norton Town Hall

**Leader:** Craig Blackwell

**3 hours • 4.5 miles**

OS: Explorer 191/313270 Map square: H3

## SATURDAY, JUNE 18 • 10.00

## Over the Hills to Winchcombe

A walk crossing the Cotswold heights including Nottingham, Stanley, Langley and Cleeve Hills and visiting Southam and Comdean. Grassland Flora and spectacular views. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. Walk accessible by local buses from Cheltenham to Prestbury (service N).

**Strenuous**

**Starting point:** Prestbury High Street, by the War Memorial

**Leaders:** John Heathcott, David Burwell, John Woodland

**7 hours • 11 miles**

OS: 179/972239 Map square: D4

## SATURDAY, JUNE 18 • 11.00

## Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum

In Pursuit of Plants Guided Walk: Join us to hear tales of the remarkable plant hunters, the trials they faced and the incredible plants they brought back. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

## SUNDAY, JUNE 19 • 10.00

## Dursley Four Peaks

Meander along the River Ewelme to Uley and return over Uley Bury, Downham Hill, Cam Long Down & Cam Peak. Are you up for the challenge? Pub snack available. **Strenuous**

**Starting point:** Long stay car park Dursley, access from Long Street opposite Market Hall

**Leaders:** David Harrowin, Alan Hooper

**6 hours • 9.5 miles**

OS: 162/755983 Map square: A6

## SUNDAY, JUNE 19 • 10.00

## A Figure of '8' around Wellow

This walk can be a morning walk, afternoon walk or an all day walk. Morning walk will be to Combe Hay and back to Wellow. The afternoon to Hinton Charterhouse and back to Wellow. Please bring a packed lunch if staying all day. Morning walk starts 10.00am and the afternoon walk 13.30pm. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Both walks start at Wellow Free Car Park.

**Leaders:** Dave Jennings and Wilf Dando

**5.5 hours • 11 miles**

OS: 172/735581 Map square: A10

## SUNDAY, JUNE 19 • 17.00

## National Trust: Hidcote

Folk and Flowers: Relax and unwind by listening to the melodic sounds of local folk musicians as you stroll around the gardens. Normal admission charges apply. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Hidcote Manor Gardens

## MONDAY, JUNE 20 • 17.00

## National Trust: Hidcote

Picnic Week: Bring along a picnic and enjoy the picturesque garden which will remain open well into the evening for you to admire. More information from Pamela Johnston 01386 438333. Normal admission charges apply. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Hidcote Manor

## THURSDAY, JUNE 23 • 18.00

## An Evening Overlooking the Evenlode

As well as the fine views this walk will give, there is time to ponder the history of the tiny hamlet of Sarsden and look at how inhabitants over the generations have influenced the landscape. Optional meal at The Chequers, Churchill afterwards, please book this independently on 01608 659393. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Sarsden Cross, near Churchill, park carefully on the verge

**Leader:** Rosemary Wilson

**1.5 hours • 3.5 miles**

OL: 45/291232 Map square: G4

## FRIDAY, JUNE 24 • 10.00

## Friday Foray

A walk across the agricultural country between the two villages, passing Dowdeswell Manor and the ancient settlement in Upper Dowdeswell and Dowdeswell Church. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Andoversford village. The walk starts from Station Road - please park tidily.

**Leaders:** Geoff Ricketts, John Foulkes, Ken Buckle

**3 hours • 5.5 miles**

OL: 45/024197 Map square: D4

## SATURDAY, JUNE 25 • 10.00

## Flower Power

A short stroll across Selsley Common with, weather permitting, magnificent views across the Severn Vale, and a search on the common for wild orchids. **Easy**

**Starting point:** Car park on Selsley Common by information board.

**Leaders:** Ted Thornton, David Harrowin

**1.5 hours • 2 miles**

OS: 162/828026 Map square: B6

## SATURDAY, JUNE 25 • 10.30

## National Trust: Dyrham Park

A walk led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Dyrham Park, descending the Cotswold escarpment through the ancient Deer Park, farmland and the historic village of Dyrham, returning to the Park via the Cotswold Way National Trail. We pass the site of the Battle of Dyrham (AD 577), medieval strip lynchets and a view of Hinton Hill Fort. Please wear appropriate footwear. Park admission fees do not apply to those participating in the walk. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park

**Leaders:** Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

**2 hours • 3.5 miles**

OS: 155/748757 Map square: A9

## SUNDAY, JUNE 26 • 10.00

## Old Sodbury to Horton and the Roman Hill fort

A walk to the Roman camp at Horton using local footpaths and part of the Cotswold Way. Suitable for families. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Old Sodbury Church; please avoid parking immediately outside the church.

**Leaders:** Reg Bleaden, Phil Lawrence

**4 hours • 6.5 miles**

OS: 167/756817 Map square:

## July

## TUESDAY, JULY 5 • 10.00

## Tuesday Tramp

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish, to include a local brewery visit. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Fox and Hounds, Colerne, or adjacent Conservative Club

**Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slee

**3 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 156/818711 Map square: B9

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 6 • 10.00

## Over the Edge

A walk to and across Edge Common from Painswick. Starting from Painswick the walk crosses the valley of the Wash Brook to Huddinknoll Hill, common land rehabilitated by the wardens and on to Edge Common with its wild orchids. The return follows a section of the Cotswold Way. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Walkers car park, Golf Course Road, off B4073 north of Painswick.

**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham

**2.75 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 179/868105 Map square: C5

## THURSDAY, JULY 7 • 10.00

## Flower Foray on and around Cleeve Common

With the Cleeve Common Conservation Officer, Ellie Philips, we hope to show you the wonderful range of wildflowers that grow on the common and in the nearby butterfly reserves. Ellie will have scoured the common to pick the best route and with luck will find us some rarities as well. Please bring a packed lunch and ensure footwear is suitable for scrambling over the rougher areas. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Cleeve Hill Quarry car park

**Leaders:** Jean Booth and Simon Mallatratt

**5 hours • 5 miles**

SP: 989272 Map square: D4

## SATURDAY, JULY 9 • 10.00

## A dewpond for racehorses, restored by the Wardens

Just before the River Leach (now you see it, now you don't) leaves the Cotswolds to join the Thames, this is a delightful walk up the valley to the old Bibury racecourse. Why Macaroni Downs, Beer Furlong and Cupid's Corner? All will be revealed. Six miles in the morning and after a pub or picnic lunch there's an optional loop of four miles. **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Eastleach Turville, near Lechlade.

Please park tidily in the village below the Victoria Inn.

**Leaders:** Stephen Wright, Colin Boulton

**3 hours • 6 miles**

OL: 45/198052 Map square: F6

## SATURDAY, JULY 9 • 11.00

## Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum

Tales from the East Guided Walk: Discover the remarkable plants from China and the people that risked everything to bring them here. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**

**Starting point:** The Lamb at Eastcombe

**Leaders:** Mike Williams, John Foulkes

**2.75 hours • 5 miles**

OS: 179/890046 Map square: C6

## SUNDAY, JULY 10 • 10.00

## Cotswold Way Circular: Old Sodbury &amp; Dyrham

From the church at Old Sodbury to Combe End; Dodington and under the M4; Hinton to Dyrham village. Return along the Cotswold Way via Tormarton and Dodington Park. Please bring a picnic lunch. Pub drinks at Tormarton if we arrive in time! **Moderate**

**Starting point:** Old Sodbury Church/school. Please do not obstruct the church access.

**Leaders:** John Walker and John Bartram

**6 hours • 11.5 miles**

OS: 155/757817 Map square: A8



**SUNDAY, JULY 24 • 10.00**

**Box Hill & the By Brook**

An undulating and varied walk with lots of local interest passing evidence of the past local quarrying, Manor Houses and small settlements, with an opportunity for a beverage half way. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Selwyn Hall Car Park at Box  
**Leaders:** Phil Lawrence & Judith Slee  
**5 hours • 8 miles**  
 OS: 156/824685 Map square: B10

**THURSDAY, JULY 28 • 10.00**

**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**  
 OS: Explorer 180/444167 Map square: H3

**FRIDAY, JULY 29 • 10.00**

**Wistful Wistley to Comely Coberleys**

A walk over Wistley and Ravensgate Hills, joining the Gloucestershire Way to Upper Coberley returning via the Coberley villages. Bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Seven Springs at bottom end of large lay-by on A436 to east of junction with A435  
**Leaders:** Ken Buckle, John Foulkes, Geoff Ricketts  
**5 hours • 7 miles**  
 Explorer: 179/969172 Map square: D4

**SATURDAY, JULY 30 • 10.00**

**Crossing Valleys to Bisley**

A walk across Holy Valley and the Frome Valley and by Battlescombe and Bidcombe, passing through Nature Reserves and Woods. The walk also passes through Waterlane and Far Oakridge villages. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Sapperton Church. Park considerably in the village, not by the church.  
**Leaders:** John Heathcott, David Burwell, John Woodland  
**6 hours • 10 miles**  
 OS: 168/947034 Map square: D6

**SUNDAY, JULY 31 • 10.00**

**Parks, Woods and Bottoms**

Chavenage Green - Avening - Horsley and return to start. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Chavenage Green  
**Leader:** Eric Brown  
**5.5 hours • 10 miles**  
 OS: 162/867957 Map square: C7

**SUNDAY, JULY 31 • 10.30**

**National Trust: Dyrham Park**

A walk led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Dyrham Park, descending the Cotswold escarpment through the ancient Dee Park, farmland and the historic village of Dyrham, returning to the Park via the Cotswold Way National Trail. We pass the site of the Battle of Dyrham (AD 577), medieval strip lynchets and a view of Hinton Hill Fort. Please wear appropriate footwear. Park admission fees do not apply to those participating in the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park  
**Leaders:** Cotswold Voluntary Wardens  
**2 hours • 3.5 miles**  
 OS: 155/748757 Map square: A9

**August**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2 • 10.00**

**Tuesday Tramp**

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish and along the By Brook. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds, Colerne or adjacent Conservative Club  
**Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slee  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
 OS: 156/818711 Map square: B9

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3 • 10.00**

**Outward Bound from Bisley**

A circular walk from Bisley through the Piedmont Valley, returning via the Dilley Brook, Downs Wood, High Wood and Calfway Farm. Steep in places. Optional pub lunch on return. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** The Bear Inn car park, Bisley (by prior arrangement)  
**Leaders:** Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham  
**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**  
 OS: 179/903061 Map square: C5

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 • 10.00**

**A walk that Ticks the Boxes"**

A walk through Castlett Wood, with the gentle sound of the brook flowing down below, followed by super views over the hills on the way to Kington and return. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Guiting Power village hall car park (Trust the Motorist)  
**Leaders:** Peter Mansion & Paul Adams  
**2.5 hours • 5.5 miles**  
 OS Leisure: 45/095246 Map square: E3

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 • 10.00**

**Under Wychwood**

Railway Walk on Cotswold Line – History of the Wychwood Forest Walk from Kingham to Charlbury. Starts after the arrival of the 0921 train from Oxford and finishes for return train. If coming by car, please park at Charlbury and catch the 0939 train from Charlbury. Packed lunch needed. Please check on trains nearer to date. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Kingham Railway Station  
**Leader:** Dave Scott  
**4.5 hours • 9 miles**  
 OL: 45/256226 Map square: G3

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 • 2.30**

**Long Day, Short Day, More Day and Muffity**

A village walk around Stonesfield, famous for production of the characteristic Cotswold slates. Suitable for families - but some short uneven and steep sections. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Stonesfield, by the Post Office  
**Leader:** Tony Graeme  
**1.5 hours • 2 miles**  
 OS Explorer: 180/394171 Map square: H4

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 • 10.00**

**Exploring Woodchester Park**

Starting from Selsley Common car park over fields to bottom entrance of Woodchester Park we pass three lakes and boat house, then the mansion. On up the hill to Coaley Peak for picnic lunch. Back to the start via the Cotswold Way. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Selsley Common car park by the information board.  
**Leader:** Ken Leach  
**5.5 hours • 8 miles**  
 OS: 162/828026 Map square: B6

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11 • 10.00**

**Down the Windrush to Mitford Country**

The walk heads downstream from Burford to Swinbrook and Asthall with their connections with the Mitford family. An optional lunch is available at the Maytime Inn in Asthall. The return is by way of the lost village of Widford. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Burford free car park (near church)  
**Leader:** Kevin Myhill  
**5.5 hours • 9 miles**  
 OL: 45/253123 Map square: G5

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 • 10.00**

**A Figure of 8 Celebrating the 2011 International Year of Woodlands**

10am start for morning walk of 5.5 miles to Witcombe and Witcombe Woods. 2.00pm start for afternoon walk of 5 miles to Hazel Hanger and Climperwell Woods. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic if attending both walks. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Birdlip - no through road east of village beyond school  
**Leaders:** Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier  
**5.5 hours • 10.5 miles**  
 OS: 179/931142 Map square: C5

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14 • 10.00**

**Doynton, Dyrham & Pennsylvania**

A walk from Doynton up onto the Cotswold escarpment, using the Cotswold Way through Dyrham wood and visiting the attractive village of Dyrham. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Doynton village near the Cross House pub; please park sensibly in the village  
**Leaders:** Reg Bleaden, Phil Lawrence  
**4 hours • 7 miles**  
 OS: 155/719740 Map square: A9

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 • 9.30**

**The Hidden Valleys in the Wolds**

A super summer walk passing through several hidden valleys, including the "Valley of the Boars" and beautiful quiet countryside. Some climbs but nothing too serious. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cold Aston/Aston Blank. The Plough Inn - please park with care in the village  
**Leaders:** Allan Allcock, Andy Briars & Julie Downing  
**5.5 hours • 9 miles**  
 OS Leisure: 45/129197 Map square: E4

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 • 10.00**

**Friday Foray**

Starting from the Mill Inn in Withington village, the walk visits Foxcote, ascending Foxcote Hill and Shill Hill and then explores Withington Woods. Lunch available at The Mill Inn if desired. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Mill Inn, Withington (with prior permission) - please park at the far end of the car park  
**Leaders:** Colin Dickinson, Geoff Ricketts, Ken Buckle  
**3.5 hours • 7 miles**  
 OL: 45/032154 Map square: D4

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 • 10.00**

**Music to Your Ears - The Shepherds of the Delectable Mountain**

What was Ralph Vaughan Williams' connection with the Vale of Evesham as seen from Dumbleton Hill? The walk climbs both Dumbleton and Langley Hills before a welcome lunch break at Gretton. The return to Dumbleton is much easier. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Dumbleton - outside the village hall in Dairy Lane  
**Leaders:** Vivienne McGhee and Sue Greenwood  
**6 hours • 11 miles**  
 OS Leisure: 45/017359 Map square: E3

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 • 10.30**

**Marshfield - Town & Country**

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking brideways south to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a teashop - and stay to enjoy Marshfield Village Day procession (2pm) and show. Suitable for families. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Market Place, Marshfield  
**Leader:** David Colbourne  
**2.5 hours • 4.25 miles**  
 OS: 172/781737 Map square: B9

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 • 11.00**

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum**

Imports from over the Pond Guided Walk: Discover the incredible variety of trees and shrubs from North America and their importance. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 • 10.00**

**Battle to the Races**

A walk to Chalcombe & Woolley with views overlooking the Tadwick valley. Then to the battlefields, on Lansdown and Bath Race Course. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Glanville Road, Lansdown, Bath  
**Leaders:** Dave Jennings, Wilf Dando  
**5 hours • 8.5 miles**  
 OS: 172/743678 Map square: A10

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23 • 10.00**

**Blockley - a delightful and historic village No.1**

A morning walk along the historic High Street to Bourton Downs before a lunch at the Great Western pub. For the afternoon we climb out of Blockley through Norcombe Wood to Campden Hill Farm. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Blockley, The Great Western Pub  
**Leaders:** Keith Sisson and Paul Adams  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
 OS Leisure: 45/166348 Map square: F2

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24 • 10.00**

**Trees In Trust**

A walk through the beech woods around Sheepscombe, taking in the meadows above the village. The walk is along footpaths and forestry clearance trails and includes two significant gradients. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** National Trust car park at Eborth House  
**Leaders:** Royden Hales, Mike Williams  
**2.25 hours • 4.5 miles**  
 Explorer: 179/900113 Map square: C5

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 • 10.00**

**An Ericaceous Education**

Which translates as a walk all about heather based ecosystems and how this important habitat is established, rescued and maintained. In a walk across Cleeve Common and the surrounding reserves Ellie Phillips, the Cleeve Common Conservation Officer, will show us the results of work to date and explain some more radical techniques that are being trialled. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cleeve Hill Quarry Car Park  
**Leaders:** Jean Booth and Simon Mallatrat  
**3 hours • 4 miles**  
 SP: 989272 Map square: D4

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 • 10.00**

**Across the Churn Valley**

A walk following the old Portway across the Churn river to Colesbourne and Elkstone, returning via Upper Coberley, Hilcote and an ancient ridgeway through Withington Woods. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Disused Chedworth Airfield 1.5 miles north of Chedworth on Compton Abdale road  
**Leaders:** John Heathcott, David Burwell, John Woodland  
**7.5 hours • 13 miles**  
 OL: 45/040132 Map square: E5

**MONDAY, AUGUST 29 • 10.30**

**National Trust: Dyrham Park**

A walk led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Dyrham Park, descending the Cotswold escarpment through the ancient Deer Park, farmland and the historic village of Dyrham, returning to the Park via the Cotswold Way National Trail. We pass the site of the Battle of Dyrham (AD 577) medieval strip lynchets and a view of Hinton Hill Fort. Please wear appropriate footwear. Park admission fees do not apply to those participating in the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park  
**Leaders:** Cotswold Voluntary Wardens  
**2 hours • 3.5 miles**  
 OS: 155/748757 Map square: A9

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31 • 10.00**

**Macmillan Way - Stage 8**

Continuing the series of linear walks along the Macmillan Way to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, we walk from Chavenage Green to Sherston via Westonbirt Arboretum. A minibus will transport walkers from the meeting point at Sherston to the actual start of the walk at Chavenage Green. In order to book your place on the bus, for which there will be a minimal charge, please phone 01453 836221 by August 22nd at the latest. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Sherston High Street  
**Leaders:** Alan Bulley, Eric Brown  
**5 hours • 7.5 miles**  
 OS: 173/854858 Map square: C7

**September**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 • 18.45**

**Bats at Sherborne**

Meet at the Estate Yard car park at 6.45pm. Brief introduction to bat biology at the estate office before moving out on to the estate to watch Lesser Horse-Shoe Bats leave a roost site and Daubentons feeding over the Brook. Suitable for families. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** National Trust Estate Office car park 6.45pm  
**Leader:** Mike Robinson  
**3 hours • 1 miles**  
 SP: 169147

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 • 10.00**

**Weaving Around Wotton**

Explore the ancient town of Wotton-under-Edge and surrounding countryside on these two short walks - 1. 10.00 to Kingswood 3 miles 2 hours; 2. 14.00 to Holywell 3 miles 2 hours. Do one or both - pub snack available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Chipping car park, Wotton-under-Edge  
**Leaders:** David Harrowin, David Collings  
**4 hours • 6 miles**  
 OS: 162/756932 Map square: A7

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 • 10.00**

**Tuesday Tramp**

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish, to include a visit to Westwood Farm. Bring a mid morning munchie. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Fox & Hounds, Colerne or adjacent Conservative Club  
**Leaders:** Russell Harding & Judith Slee  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
 OS: 156/818711 Map square: B9

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 • 10.00**

**Watermeadows and a Saxon Church**

A walk via Stratton Watermeadows to Daglingworth where we will visit the church with some exceptional Saxon features, returning beside a Cotswold stream and via some of Cirencester's mediaeval buildings. Level walking. Lunch available in Cirencester after the walk. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Cirencester Rugby Football Club, at the junction of the A435 and the Whiteway (by prior permission). Car park entrance 100m up the Whiteway.  
**Leaders:** Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham, Geoff Ricketts  
**3.5 hours • 6 miles**  
 OS: 169/023025 Map square: D6

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 •**

**Cirencester Heritage Open Days**

Celebrate Cirencester's heritage by joining a programme of walks, re-enactments, open houses and events in and around Cirencester. September 8th - 11th www.cirencester.org.uk for further details.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 • 10.00**

**Geological Growth on Cleeve Common**

We think of the Cotswolds as a big chunk of limestone, but it is a bit more complicated than that and the plants know it. On this walk we have got together Dave Owen from Gloucestershire Geology Trust and Ellie Phillips, Cleeve Common Conservation Officer who will pool their knowledge to show how the underlying geology changes the life on the surface. Please make sure your footwear is up to scrambling around awkward places. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Cleeve Hill Quarry Car Park  
**Leaders:** Simon Mallatrat and Jean Booth  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
 SP: 989272 Map square: D4

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 • 10.30**

**Forestry Commission: Westonbirt Arboretum**

The Healing Power of Trees Guided Walk: Come and discover how trees make us feel better. Normal admission charges apply. Tel: 01666 880220 for further information. **Easy**  
**Starting point:** Westonbirt Arboretum

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 • 10.00**

**Views of the Ozleworth Valley**

Start: Chipping car park Wotton - Newark Park via Ozleworth Bottom - Cotswold Way to Wortley - return to start. Packed lunch required. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Chipping car park, Wotton-under-Edge  
**Leaders:** Eric Brown & Ian Cooke  
**5.5 hours • 9 miles**  
 OS: 162/756932 Map square: A7

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 • 10.00**

**Views of Long Compton better than a King's**

A walk on the borders of Oxon and Warwickshire with plenty of views from the top of the scarp. The route includes the area of the Rollright Stones and Little Rollright before dropping down into Long Compton where a pub lunch is available. A climb up to Whichford Woods is made before the route returns to Great Rollright. A moderate walk that does include a couple of long climbs. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Great Rollright Crossroads  
**Leader:** Kevin Myhill  
**5.5 hours • 10 miles**  
 OS Explorer: 191/322314 Map square: G3

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • 10.00**

**The Secret Cotswolds**

Discover some of the hidden corners of the Cotswolds on this walk to "one of the prettiest villages in England". The route passes through Enstone, Heythrop Park, Little and Great Tew and Ditchley Park. Please bring a packed lunch. **Strenuous**  
**Starting point:** Enstone Sports & Social Club (off B4022 Charlbury Road)  
**Leaders:** Martin & Lucy Squire  
**6 hours • 12 miles**  
 OS: 191/378238 Map square: H3

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 10.00**

**Castle Combe Circular**

Almost 10 miles to commemorate the Alzheimer's Society first Memory Walk 10 years ago. Castle Combe - Nettleton Mill then along the Broadmead Brook to West Kingston. Bridleway and footpaths to North Wraxall, then along the old coach road to Ford. Then beside the By Brook to Long Dean and back to Castle Combe (more gentle gradients than on previous walks!). Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Castle Combe Car Park  
**Leaders:** John Walker and John Dougal  
**5 hours • 9 miles**  
 OS: 156/845773 Map square: B9

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 • 10.15**

**Prinknash Abbey, Painswick Beacon and Popes Wood**

Through Prinknash Abbey's grounds onto the Cotswold Way to Painswick Beacon and climb the hill fort for outstanding views over the Severn Estuary and beyond. Return through Popes Wood, an ancient beech wood with SSSI status. Some steep sections in Popes Wood. Walk accessible by route 46 Stroud to Cheltenham bus service. Refreshments available at Prinknash Abbey after the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Prinknash Abbey car park  
**Leaders:** John Foulkes, Royden Hales, Mike Williams  
**2.5 hours • 4.5 miles**  
 OS: 179/879138 Map square: C5

**THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER • 9.30**

**Around the Villages from Churchill**

This fairly long but undemanding walk from Churchill goes through the Sarsden Estate and three villages on the Oxfordshire/Gloucestershire border. Optional pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** All Saints Church, Churchill. Please park on roadside considerably.  
**Leader:** Trish Gilbert  
**5.5 hours • 11 miles**  
 OL: 45/282241 Map square: G3

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 • 10.30**

**National Trust: Dyrham Park**

A walk led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Dyrham Park, descending the Cotswold escarpment through and ancient Deer Park, farmland and the historic village of Dyrham, returning to the Park via the Cotswold Way National Trail. We pass the site of the Battle of Dyrham (AD 577), medieval strip lynchets and a view of Hinton Hill Fort. Please wear appropriate footwear. Park admission fees do not apply to those participating in the walk. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park  
**Leaders:** Cotswold Voluntary Wardens  
**2 hours • 3.5 miles**  
 OS: 155/748757 Map square: A9

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 • 10.00**

**Four Fords (or is it five?)**

A walk from Bradford on Avon to Westfield, Hungerford Castle, Iford, Freshford and along the Kennett & Avon Canal. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** Meet Bradford-on-Avon Station Car Park (small charge)  
**Leaders:** Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings  
**6 hours • 10 miles**  
 OS: 173/824607 Map square: B10

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 • 10.00**

**Blockley - a delightful and historic village No. 2**

The morning walk takes us to Paxford & Neighbrooke before a lunch at the Great Western Pub. For the afternoon we climb out of Blockley and pass through Batsford, Bourton-on-the-Hill & Bourton Woods. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** The Great Western Pub, Blockley  
**Leaders:** Keith Sisson, Paul Adams  
**5 hours • 9.5 miles**  
 OS Leisure: 45/166348 Map square: F2

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 • 10.00**

**Friday Foray**

Starting from the Green Dragon Inn in Cockleford, the walk visits Cowley, then ascends to Stockwell before returning to Cockleford via Cowley Wood. Lunch available at the Green Dragon Inn. **Moderate**  
**Starting point:** The Green Dragon Inn car park (with prior permission) - please park at the far end of the car park.  
**Leaders:** Colin Dickinson, Geoff Ricketts, Ken Buckle  
**3 hours • 5 miles**  
 Explorer: 179/969141 Map square: D5



# Try something new this Summer!



Check out our new website for rural skills courses in the Cotswolds coming soon – [www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk)



Ever wondered how a dry-stone wall is constructed? Ever looked at a thatched roof 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?

With day courses available from just £49, why not give it a go and see if you have a hidden talent for one of these historic Cotswold crafts?

**NEW**  
Blacksmithing  
Taster Day  
Only £99

### Dry-stone walling - Beginners

7/8 May	Long Compton	£99
21/22 May	Tetbury	£99
11/12 June	Naunton	£99
25/26 June	Long Compton	£99
9/10 July	Lansdown, Bath	£99
6/7 Aug	Naunton	£99
27/28 Aug	Crickley Hill	£99
10/11 Sept	Tetbury	£99
17/18 Sept	Lansdown, Bath	£99

### Lime Mortar - Beginners

4/5 June	Crickley Hill	£99
10/11 Sept	Crickley Hill	£99

### Thatching Taster Weekend

25/26 June	Northleach	£99
17/18 Sept	Northleach	£99

### Dry-stone walling - Intermediate

23/24 July	Cirencester	£99
15/16 Oct	Cirencester	£99

### Grassland Ecology & Management

12 June	Minchinhampton Common	£49
10 July	Cleeve Common	£49

### Map & Compass – beginners

Courses on 10th of April and 15th of May. For more information and to book a place contact Rebecca Jones on 01451 862008 or email: [Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

### Blacksmithing Taster Day

21 May	Northleach	£99
20 Aug	Northleach	£99

**"A well-run and informative course, with an excellent tutor!"**

Doug, Cirencester

For further details on all our courses including availability and course bookings, contact the Cotswolds Conservation Board. Tel: 01451 862000 or visit our website [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)