

THE Cotswold LION

FREE
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WALKS & EVENTS GUIDE



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THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

Boost for British wool good for Cotswolds

British wool is becoming more popular again. Demand is increasing, and the British Wool Marketing Board has seen continuous rising interest in wool throughout the year.



Adam Henson discusses the qualities of Cotswold Lion Wool with members of the Oxford Weavers and Spinners

Indeed, British wool prices have hit a 25-year high, promising better all-round returns for producers. All of which is good news for the Cotswolds, which is set to benefit from this resurgence in interest for home-produced wool.

Cotswold farmer and BBC Countryfile presenter Adam Henson is positive. "I feel passionate about wool," he told the Cotswold Lion. "I was brought up in the Cotswold Hills and the farming of Cotswold sheep has built the manor houses and churches here and given this region its rich heritage."

"Demand from places like China is going up and I would wager that the price of British wool will go up even more," said Adam, who owns the Cotswold Farm Park, the rare breed centre at Guiting Power.

"It is a very versatile product, and I'm a big fan of Cotswold wool, which the Cotswold Sheep Society is doing a lot to promote. Cotswold wool was known as The

Golden Fleece because it was such a valuable product and contributed towards the wealth of the wool barons. Its very fine, lustrous and silky texture makes excellent products."

Cotswold wool is also being boosted by the Campaign for Wool, a five-year cross industry initiative launched by Prince Charles and funded by the world's leading wool organisations including the British Wool Marketing Board and supported by leading brands, manufacturers and retailers.

Our local wool is a renewable resource with a rich heritage as sheep have grazed the Cotswolds for more than 2,000 years. The most famous breed, introduced by the Romans, became known as the Cotswold Lion. Wool is interwoven into the history of the Cotswolds, and while today there are fewer sheep on the Cotswold Hills, the tradition of manufacturing fine woollens still continues at Filkins, between Burford and Lechlade.

Here, Cotswold Woollen

Weavers manufacture a wide range of woollen cloths, garments, knitwear, rugs and accessories, where visitors are welcome all year at Richard and Jane Martin's mill to see the products and the processes involved in manufacturing them.

Said Jane: "We are in our 30th year in business and for some of us, there has always been a trade in British wool. There is a groundswell coming back to wool from people who were not necessarily aficionados, but are attracted by natural fibres and quality. For us, that has always been our customer base, and we manufacture for some of the big fashion houses.

"People are also much more ecologically aware today and recognise that wool is an

absolutely sustainable, renewable resource," she said. Cotswold Woollen Weavers were one of the first users of Cotswold wool 28 years ago, a process that was initially problematic due to the fact that it had not been processed industrially for a long time. "Our activities have coincided with renewed interest in the breed," added Jane. "For too long, the illustrious historical pedigree of Cotswold wool has been ignored as irrelevant."

The Cotswold Sheep Society also welcomed the renewed interest in British wool. Council member Angela Reid said: "Any resurgence in the price of wool must be good news for flock keepers of all breeds of sheep. In the case of the Cotswold it is particularly encouraging as their long, lustrous, crimped wool is such an important feature of the breed.

"It has been a real concern for many years that the cost of shearing our sheep has been greater than any cheque received for the sale of the wool. A good

Continued overleaf



Richard Martin, owner of The Filkins woollen weavers



THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF THE COTSWOLDS

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A REVIVAL OF HEDGELAYING

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CLASSROOM IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

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Cotswolds businesses GO GREEN

Businesses across the Cotswolds are being encouraged to go 'green' following a new initiative aimed at making tourism businesses more sustainable and helping them towards national green accreditation.

The Cotswolds Green Scheme (CGS) is a new sustainable tourism initiative established jointly by Cotswolds & Forest of Dean Tourism, West Oxfordshire District Council Tourism Service and the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Tourism businesses including hotels, B&Bs, attractions and campsites can join the free scheme by completing a self-assessment questionnaire which measures their commitment to environmental issues such as car-free tourism, use of local produce, nature and conservation, recycling and resource use, and energy efficiency. They must also demonstrate their commitment to raising awareness of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Chris Jackson, Tourism Officer for West Oxfordshire District Council, said the Cotswolds initiative represented a stepping

stone towards the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS), the national sustainable tourism certification scheme for the UK.

Chris said: "There are quite simple steps that businesses can take and the key is to encourage them to think long term. The scheme costs nothing to enter, provides useful networking opportunities and businesses can pick up money saving tips as they complete the questionnaire."

One businesswoman enthusiastically embracing the principle is Chris Burton, who runs two eco-luxe cottages – The Chestnuts at Shilton, near Burford, and The Culls at Southrop. She belongs to both the GTBS and the new Cotswolds Green Scheme.

She said: "We belong to these schemes to provide us with a framework within which we can develop our sustainable practices, to learn from the best practices of

others and to have an endorsement of our work which our customers can see is substantiating our claim to be an eco-friendly business.

"I moved here 25 years ago and the region's beauty, at every time of year, continues to captivate me. Rather than damaging the area I want to preserve, enhance and share the region, and sustainable tourism helps achieve this goal. Sustainable tourism creates a viable business for the long term, bringing money to the region, creating employment and enhancing the amenity of the villages."



The Chestnuts in West Oxfordshire is one of a growing number of 'green' businesses in the Cotswolds

International award for tourism in the Cotswolds



The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has been awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.

The Charter is awarded to AONBs and National Parks which have shown a commitment to developing tourism while considering the needs of the environment, local residents, businesses and visitors.

The Cotswolds AONB is just the fourth AONB in England to receive the prestigious award and

joins an elite group of 77 members which include some of Europe's most beautiful landscapes.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board has been working closely with tourism authorities and businesses across the area to develop a five-year Sustainable Tourism and Action Plan which aims to recognise the Cotswolds as a sustainable visitor destination widely known for its quality and enriching visitor experiences.

Nick Holliday, Chair of the Cotswolds AONB Sustainable Tourism Partnership, said: "We are delighted to receive this award which demonstrates that we are implementing a strategic approach to working with local communities and tourism businesses to deliver tourism that complements and helps to promote our beautiful landscape, nature, culture and heritage, as well as supporting local employment and local produce."

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Cotswold fleece can weigh more than 6 kg, so a better price per kg would be particularly advantageous. Being a rare breed, many Cotswolds are in small flocks, so anything that makes them more economic can only be a good thing; it might even

encourage more people to start their own flocks."

Sheep wool is also being increasingly used for insulation in buildings. Its crimped nature which traps air in millions of tiny pockets makes it an excellent natural insulator.



The Cotswold Sheep Society staged an International Back To Back Wool Challenge at Meysey Hampton, raising £450 for Cancer Research as well as showcasing this ancient breed of sheep, now classified as a rare breed.

The Challenge dates back 200 years when a £1,000 wager was made to make a coat from a sheep's back to a man's back in one day. Lucinda Foster, Society Secretary, said: "It was a fantastic

day and they finished the challenge in just under 14 and a half hours, which was really good going considering how difficult it is to handle unwashed Cotswold fleece.

"It was an excellent opportunity for visitors to have their first introduction to the once famous Cotswold Lion. People were also able to enjoy demonstrations of a variety of country skills from stone-walling to the weaving of bee skeps."

What are the SEVEN WONDERS of the Cotswolds?

Millions of people at home and abroad love the Cotswolds for its picturesque villages, charming market towns, beautiful churches, gentle hills, distinctive dry-stone walls, ancient woodlands and tranquil landscape which is quintessentially English.

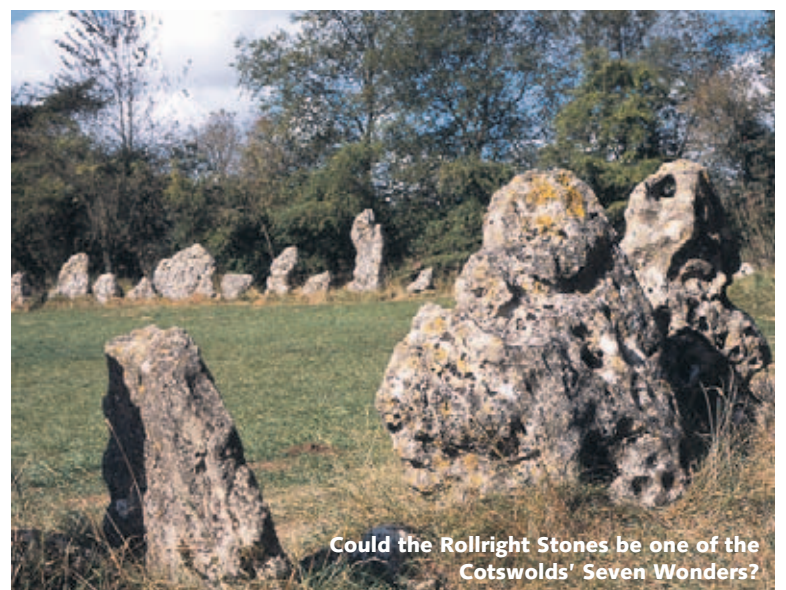
It is an area of great geological fascination, rich in wildlife, steeped in history and home to a host of fascinating sites and features, monuments and historic buildings. Stretching across seven counties, the Cotswolds offer a rich array of wonderment for visitors.

With such rich pickings, what do you think would qualify as the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds? The list could include historical, geological, natural, cultural or landscape features that encapsulate why the Cotswolds is such a special and distinctive place.

We would like you to email your own nominations for a Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds list. Send your suggestions to info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or send via twitter @cotswoldsaonb and your entry will go into a prize

draw. The first entry drawn by our editorial panel will win a Cotswolds T-shirt and we will

publish the results of the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds in our next issue.



Could the Rollright Stones be one of the Cotswolds' Seven Wonders?

Find out more at: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

The Cotswolds – A Changing Landscape

It took millions of years to create the Cotswolds and its climate, then 7,000 years for man to shape the land to his own purpose. In the 21st century is today's Cotswold landscape so settled, so lived-in, so attractive that change is undesirable, even unthinkable?

What has endured, and what has changed since the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was set up in 1966? How has the age-old business of farming the land changed and is life much different for those who live and work here?

Farming today

Agriculture is the industry at the heart of the landscape. For centuries the wide expanse of limestone wolds, farmed for both livestock and arable has provided a livelihood for thousands of families, many of them working small mixed farms.

In terms of land area used for farming, very little has changed since 1966. Richard Lloyd, Cotswolds Conservation Board member and formerly with the Countryside Agency says: "While there has been some increase in woodland area, in terms of farming land lost to development, the Cotswolds remains largely unscathed – mainly due to strict planning policies."

Small farms still survive. A 2007 survey found 3,434 farm holdings in the Cotswolds AONB,

working land of on average only 51.4 hectares, and over 43% of these are under 5ha in size which do not have a significant income from agriculture. But the nature of farming has changed: mechanisation means fewer jobs, while competition and intensive practices have changed the way that farmers work. Since 1953 the number of employed farm workers has almost halved.

"Globalisation, the freeing up of trade and EU entry in 1973 left Cotswold farmers vulnerable to global market forces and fluctuating prices for their products," says Richard Lloyd. "The result has been a need to increase output, diversify and do more with less with a rapid decline in the agricultural workforce."

Caring for the Cotswolds

Intensive farming has hit the environment and wildlife. Since the 1930s, the area of the Cotswolds covered by wildflower-rich Jurassic limestone grassland has fallen from 40% to just 1.5%. That's less than 3,000 hectares. Farmers are concentrating on

cereal crops and oilseed rape; 46% of farmed area is grassland so there are now fewer livestock to manage the remaining grassland habitats and this could also slow the creation of new areas of wildlife habitat.

The balance between farming and wildlife objectives is delicate, but much has been achieved. Cotswold farmers have joined the government's Entry Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship schemes with enthusiasm to conserve and attract wildlife on their land alongside efficient farming.

Around 33% of the Cotswolds AONB was designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area in the early 1990s with special funding to help conservation measures. The successor Higher Level Stewardship scheme launched in 2005 supports the pioneering Cotswold Farmland Bird Project. This aims to reverse the decline in the numbers and variety of birds in the Cotswolds on arable land with very successful results so far.

Jenny Phelps of the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group says:

"When I went to agricultural college the emphasis was simply on food production and profitability, but today there is a much greater focus on farmers being the custodians of the landscape and on sustainable farming."

Living here

For centuries the Cotswolds was seen as something of a rural backwater, but since World War 2 its population has grown, technology has advanced dramatically; people are more prosperous plus there is an increase in leisure time, mobility and tourism.

As a place to live, the Cotswolds AONB is valued as one of the most desirable places in Britain. A recent survey rated Burford as the best town in Britain to live in, and sixth best in Europe. But this high value has its down side, with soaring property prices. An average house in the Cotswolds costs around £385,000 today which, with prices as much as 20 times the average wage, puts buying a house in the Cotswolds beyond most people's reach. Compare this with 1966 when the average house price was £3,800 – just 3 times the average wage of a full time worker – and a house in the Cotswolds would have been far more affordable (source: Land Registry of England and Wales).

A new role

Since 1966 one industry has boomed in the Cotswolds. Tourism is now the region's biggest source of income, worth around one

billion pounds a year. As a place to visit, the Cotswolds landscape, its villages and market towns, is without equal in the country and an online magazine voted it second in a top ten of paradise locations around the world.

Those who know say the best way of getting to know the special character of the Cotswolds landscape is by walking it. The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have for 40 years been introducing people to the many faces of the countryside. They offer a round-the-year programme of 200 free guided walks throughout the AONB.

Barbara Blatchley, from Painswick, was the Cotswolds' first Voluntary Warden. "I saw an article in the paper about the Voluntary Warden Service so I jumped in quick," said Barbara, now 84 years old. She recalls the first walk she led around Chipping Campden. "Steve Dorey, a local photographer, came with me. We showed a slide presentation about the Wardens, and the WI did the teas. I organised a lot of town walks over the years – around Chipping Campden, Tetbury, Minchinhampton, Painswick, and Bibury to name a few – and they were very popular. People came from all over, visitors and locals, and the WI teas were always part of the attraction."

Barbara believes her beloved Cotswolds has retained its timeless quality. "I don't think there have been any real changes over the last 45 years. There are strict rules on planning, which has to be good, and the region is as lovely as ever."



Downham Hill panorama by Nick Turner



A Farmer's story – Malcolm Whittaker

There are few men better qualified to observe changes in Cotswolds farming than Malcolm Whittaker, who has lived for 73 years in the family farmhouse on a 200-acre farm in Syde, near Cirencester. He left school aged 14 and took over the farm after his father died in 1956.

"It's quite amazing" he says, "to see how farming has changed over the last 45 years – mainly due to mechanisation. Today a 300-horsepower tractor (in 1966 they were 65 horsepower) can plough, cultivate and lay seeds in just one sweep. Where a good day's work for a combine harvester in 1966 was 20 acres a day,

today 100 acres is possible, although not the norm." The downside of this has, of course, been fewer farm labourers. "When I was 20 there were at least 60 men working in farms in Syde and the villages nearby. Now it's no more than four. This has caused irreversible social change, with many young people simply not able to afford to live in our villages."

Increased agricultural output and the growth of larger estates have also been seen throughout the Cotswolds. "When farmers died, many big estates took the land back in, the result being that the 200 to 300 acre estates are often replaced

by estates of as much as 3,000 acres. And the advent of herbicides has revolutionised farming, allowing farmers to continuously grow crops, such as corn." While Malcolm has now stepped back from front-line farming, he sees the influx of new families as adding an extra vibrancy to some villages, including Syde. "I have little time for people who complain about newcomers," he says. "They have really brought new life and dynamics to some villages. They may well have to travel further to their workplace, but it ensures that villages such as Syde remain sustainable."

GOING UNDERGROUND

One of the biggest challenges in areas of outstanding natural beauty, such as the Cotswolds, is ensuring that people have their telecommunications and electricity needs met, while at the same time, protecting the natural environment from the distribution networks required to fulfil these modern-day requirements.

A novel answer to this difficult challenge has been found in the Worcestershire village of Ashton under Hill, where, thanks to the efforts of villagers, the Cotswolds Conservation Board and local electricity provider, Western Power Distribution, the majority of low to medium voltage lines have been buried underground.

The £375,000 scheme, completed earlier this year, has seen over two kilometres of overhead lines replaced with nearly three kilometres of underground cabling.

Such was the sensitive nature of the work that whole sections of cable, including across the local cricket pitch, were laid under Ashton under Hill without a blade of grass disturbed or an 'over' missed. This was due to new 'mole' technology that can bore tunnels underground at up to 100 meters long.

"Providing a secure power supply is really important to WPD and this current initiative has also allowed us to improve the environment in this part of the AONB"

said Christian Hjelm of Western Power Distribution. "Through the use of the latest technologies, we are both ensuring a sustainable and secure power supply to the local community while enhancing the attractiveness of the village."

And the benefits for the small village of Ashton under Hill are there for all to see, or not to see as the case may be.

"We are enormously proud of our beautiful village and take its upkeep and visual attractiveness very seriously," said local resident, David Hancock and one of the main drivers behind the initiative.

"With many residents having previously noted that the removal of overhead power lines would improve the village's attractiveness, we are delighted that Western Power Distribution has taken on this project. The village now looks a lot better with up to 90% of overhead electricity lines having been removed."

The project started over four years ago with David Hancock having initially approached E.ON, owner of Central Networks which was the distribution

business at that time. With the industry regulator, Ofgem, encouraging utilities to fund such schemes in protected areas where certain criteria are met, the village applied through the Conservation Board for the undergrounding of overhead electricity lines and was successful.

"With villagers having to give consent for their gardens to be dug up and even the local MP and Church Commissioner involved at certain stages, it's been quite a challenge pushing the project through," continues David Hancock. "We are thrilled with the results, however and now hope that BT will follow suit in doing the same thing to our telephone lines!"

Malcolm Watt, of the Conservation Board said "we were pleased to support the proposal to remove overhead wires in this attractive village. This is the second such scheme completed in the Cotswolds AONB, and we are working with Western Power on a further project at the moment. We are pleased to receive suggestions for schemes which we can discuss with Western Power."



Bringing woodland back to life with the Heartwood Project

A woodland project in the beautiful Wiltshire village of Limpley Stoke, just outside Bath is helping to revive traditional skills, promote woodland heritage and welcome everyone back to the woods through the restoration of neglected coppice in an ancient woodland within the Cotswolds AONB.



The Heartwood Project is part of a larger movement at work today in Britain, designed to return craftspeople to our woodlands, making their livelihoods from innovative and sustainable approaches to woodland management across the country.

Inspired to form the project and contribute to the revival of a shared woodland heritage, Karen Walkingshaw and partner Adam, received an award of over £6,000 from the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Sustainable Development Fund to help realise their dream.

"We searched for a woodland owner who would be receptive to the use of traditional approaches such as coppicing to create learning opportunities in rural skills through courses and volunteering, and wild play experiences for children and young people," said Karen. "We also set out to try to diversify the woodland produce in our area whilst restoring the over-stood coppice and maintaining our

resources with sensitivity.

"The landowner at Limpley Stoke encouraged our ideas and welcomed us into her woodland. With no monetary exchange, the landowner has her woodland managed and we have access to a wonderful space to develop and share our knowledge and skills; an excellent model which could be easily replicated amongst other woodland owners and workers."

With their SDF grant, Adam and Karen were able to buy a 6ft charcoal kiln, protective deer netting and packaging for their charcoal.

"Already this has drawn a lot of interest and support in our community," they said. "We are supplying the local shop in Freshford and were featured in their regular publication 'Shop News!' as the village proudly announced "charcoal from our own woods". Since the arrival of the kiln we have been able to run courses and provide educational resources which explain the benefits of

charcoal production in a sustainable management approach. Demand is steadily growing and people are increasingly motivated to switch from imported to local supplies."

The couple's next step is to expand their woodland workshop to offer courses in green woodworking and other coppice crafts, creating opportunities for more meaningful connections to woodlands and a clearer understanding of the intimate relationship between woodland workers and the woods in which they work.

"We are also hoping to create a network of woodland owners and workers who can share resources in a similar manner to the Heartwood Project and offer each other mutual support and help throughout the woodland year," they said. "With so many woodlands standing in neglect and poor health, the increasing need for sustainable local resources, as well as more opportunities in rural livelihoods, there's never been a better time to get into woods."



Adam Shadlock and Karen Walkingshaw, at Heartwood kiln at Limpley Stoke

HEDGELAYING – A REVIVAL TAKES SHAPE



Alan Ashby from Kent competing in the hedgelaying competition

The Cotswolds are strongly associated with dry-stone walls but hedgerows are equally important to the landscape and the ecological well-being of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as requiring just as much skill to lay.

The hedge has been with us for centuries and is an integral part of the British countryside. It is believed to provide habitats for more than 600 plant species, 1,500 insect species, 65 birds and 20 mammals, some of which are extremely rare.

Hedgelaying is a rural skill, handed down over the generations, and supported by the National Hedgelaying Society which represents those engaged in this most ancient of rural skills,

The Chairman, Robin Dale, lives in the north Cotswolds and said the skills of the hedgelayer were becoming increasingly in demand. "Hedgelaying went into decline after the war, due to mechanisation of farms and hedge removal but today the laying and maintaining of hedgerows is a key part of good farming practice and the skills of the hedgelayer are in great demand," he told the Cotswold Lion.

Robin said the National Hedgelaying Society and environmental stewardship schemes had done much to help make hedgelaying more popular again. In addition, the Cotswolds Conservation Board has been working to support such rural skills, running a popular annual hedgelaying competition and organising courses in the winter.

"A lot of contractors make their

living out of it, and those of us engaged in hedgelaying have plenty of work in reserve to do," said Robin. "It's so much cheaper than walling, and has many important ecological benefits such as providing safer havens for smaller birds.

Robin said there were 35 different styles of hedgelaying in England, all designed to suit the needs of particular areas. Each style has developed over years to cope with local climate, different farming practices and the types of trees and shrubs that grow in the hedge. In the north Cotswolds, the Midland style is generally used while in the southern parts, hedgelaying follows the Berkeley and Somerset styles.

Robin was taught hedgelaying skills in the 1960s by Lord Dulverton's head forester on the Batsford Park near Moreton-in-Marsh. He also learned from an early age the importance of being a custodian of the countryside. "I was taught to leave the land as you found it – we are all just big gardeners really," he said.

"The vast majority of us keep our farms tidy and look after the countryside. You have to work with nature, you cannot go against it, and hedgelaying and trimming is, in

principle, no different really to pruning roses. Hedgelaying and maintenance is a key part of good farming practice now, but it is essential that we improve standards and encourage the next generation."

Certainly the importance of hedges cannot be understated. They act as 'wildlife corridors', enabling species to move between habitats, provide a thick barrier to sheep and cattle, and are important for their scenic value. And once a hedge has been laid, regular trimming will keep it in good order for up to 50 years. Maintenance of hedgerows is now part of good farming practice and it is good to see the skills of the hedge layer once again in great demand.



COTSWOLDS AONB RURAL SKILLS COMPETITIONS 2011

Open Dry Stone Walling Competition

Sunday 2nd October 8.45 – 4.30pm

Location: Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, Gloucestershire

North Cotswolds Hedgelaying Competition

Saturday 19th November 8.30 – 3.30pm

Location: Hitchen Farm, Ford, Gloucestershire

For further details and to enter online go to www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Just what the doctor ordered

The Cotswolds has long been a popular place for walkers to enjoy the idyllic countryside and scenery. Its varied and distinctive landscape makes it a haven for walkers throughout the year.

However, as well as being a recreational activity, the health and well-being benefits of walking are becoming more widely acknowledged. More energy, reduced stress, a strong heart and lungs, reduced blood pressure and weight control are just some of the benefits derived from regular walking.

Through the nationwide Walking for Health (WfH) initiative, run by Natural England, many more people in the Cotswolds have been enjoying an increasingly healthier lifestyle. Regular health walks are run by local authorities throughout the Cotswolds AONB, and provide an opportunity for people wanting to take those first steps towards

better health.

In the Cotswold town of Winchcombe, people are also walking on doctor's orders. This new initiative for 'prescription walks' was inspired by WfH and is the brainchild of local Cotswold Voluntary Warden, Sheila Talbot.

"Over the last few years, Winchcombe has become one of the walking capitals of the Cotswolds," said Sheila. "A key reason for this is the 'Walkers are Welcome' initiative and the network of improvements we have put in place to attract walkers to the town and boost the local economy. This includes a web site, improved footpaths and signage, an annual walking festival and a new 42-mile walk known as the

Winchcombe Way. Having put so many improvements in place, we wanted everyone to enjoy them. This led us to explore the concept of prescription walks with the local surgery."

Sheila Talbot continues: "The excellent WfH initiative is highly active in Winchcombe with a walk taking place every Thursday. However, it was clear to me that many people who worked during the day would not be able to enjoy such health-focused walks. Having heard about the concept of prescription walks, I thought that Winchcombe would be the ideal location."

Sheila teamed up with another local volunteer who ran the WfH walks in Winchcombe, Ursula

Cootes. Together, they drew up a set of shorter circular walks with a variety of lengths, surfaces and ascents.

Today, the prescription walks have been formalised within Winchcombe Surgery with all doctors having an electronic copy of the map and guidelines on their

computers which can be given out to patients when required.

"Exercise is of huge importance when it comes to staying healthy both physically and mentally and prescription walks are a great means of achieving this", says Kate Starkey, Practice Manager at Winchcombe Medical Centre.



Find out more at: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

10 GREAT THINGS

*to do in the Cotswolds
this autumn and winter*

Autumn and winter are wonderful times of the year to wrap up warm and enjoy the great outdoors - and there are so many things to do. So we've compiled a list of ten ways in which you can explore and enjoy it for yourself, many of which won't cost you a penny.

Get the camera out and capture the Cotswold landscape in all its autumn glory. Great places to see autumn colours include the National Arboretum at Westonbirt, Batsford Arboretum near Moreton, Foxholes Nature Reserve near Kingham and Buckholt Wood near Painswick



Westonbirt Arboretum/Paul Groom

Walk the Bath Skyline. Six miles of way-marked trails, hidden valleys, tranquil woodlands and a patchwork of meadows rich in wildlife, plus of course great views of the City of Bath.

Learn a traditional rural skill. This is the season for woodland coppicing and hedgelaying, so it's a great time to have a go at trying your hand at one of these ancient skills on a 1 or 2 day introductory course. www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Try geocaching. This relatively new countryside pursuit is basically a treasure hunt using a GPS. There are lots of 'caches' hidden throughout the Cotswolds AONB. Find out more at www.geocaching.com.

Catch the bus and walk back. Follow one of the many self-guided walks where you can catch the bus to the start point and enjoy a leisurely walk back. See www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk for downloadable walking routes.

Hunt for fossils. There are many places in the Cotswolds where fossils are varied and abundant - Leckhampton Hill, Cleeve Common and Cross Hands Quarry in South Warwickshire are just some sites awash with fossils.

Go on a guided walk. Explore some of the hidden, yet beautiful parts of the Cotswolds countryside on an enjoyable guided walk with our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens. Walks are free and you don't need to pre-book. See pages 8 - 11 for details.

Go wild about mushrooms. Get to know your Penny Buns from your Shaggy Ink Caps. Many organisations, including wildlife trusts lead fungal forays throughout the Cotswolds.

Get on your bike. Explore the Cotswolds' stunning scenery by bike. This time of year can bring great cycling weather when the frosts mean mud-free routes and clear blue skies. See www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk for some off-road cycling routes.

Walk the Cotswold Way - make it your new year's resolution to walk the entire 102 miles of this beautiful National Trail and join the growing list of members on the Cotswold Way Hall of Fame.

Find out more at: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Cotswold Way goes international



The Cotswold Way National Trail has teamed up with South Korea's Jeju Olle Trail to become one of the world's first 'friendship trails'.

This new initiative is a result of last year's World Trails conference on Jeju Island, attended by the Cotswold Way at the invitation of the conference's host, the Jeju Olle Trail, a new long distance walking route around the coast of the island.

Out of the conference came the concept of 'friendship trails'. These are essentially similar to twin towns, whereby trails in different countries team up in the name of partnership, mutual publicity and international alliance.

The launch of the new Cotswolds Korea Friendship Trail took place in April as a mark of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

A short circular walk following the Cotswold Way around Stinchcombe Hill near Dursley has been signed with special markers, introducing people to one of the most scenic parts of the Cotswolds AONB, whilst raising awareness of walking in other countries. Similarly, a section of

Jeju Olle will be marked with the familiar oak sign posts seen along the Cotswold Way, inviting visitors to the island to come walking in one of England's most stunning landscapes.

The Cotswolds Korea Friendship Trail is one of the first 'twin trails' in the world, and it is hoped that the idea will spread across the globe, promoting understanding and walking, whilst boosting tourism and local economy.



Launching the new Cotswold Way friendship trail

The Cotswolds has a new trail

Launched in May 2011 the new Winchcombe Way, a 42-mile figure-of-eight trail takes walkers through varied and distinctive landscapes. The route is centred on Winchcombe, a 'Walkers are Welcome' town and is completely waymarked as it passes ancient sites, historic buildings and through tranquil villages.

The trail has attracted great interest, featuring on radio, TV, walking magazines and national press whilst also appearing on the latest OS digital mapping.

The western section visits some of the outlying hills often missed by visitors before ascending to Cleeve Common, the highest point in the Cotswolds with fine views into Wales. This common offers a sense of remoteness as you cross towards Belas Knap, a Neolithic long barrow before descending into Winchcombe and its many hostleries.

The eastern section heads into the Cotswold heartland of rolling hills and hidden valleys before emerging on the Cotswold escarpment. Ascending from Winchcombe you encounter views of the town, secluded valleys and Sudeley Castle hidden in the trees before emerging into a more exposed environment on the top of the Cotswold Hills. Walk through woods, a secluded wooded valley with a trickling stream, past manor houses, hamlets, villages and parkland

hardly changed.

There are few more popular places in the country to put on your walking boots and enjoy the scenery. The Winchcombe Way is designed as a haven for walkers throughout the year. The figure-of-eight route allows walkers to return to their cars relatively easily, unlike linear walks.

A guidebook with text, maps and refreshment stops is available from TICs, local bookshops and at www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com



www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Taking the Classroom to the Countryside

Pupils from the Rose Hill Primary School in Oxford had a day out to remember recently with a visit to a working farm just outside Moreton-in-Marsh.

The visit was part of the education programme run by the Voluntary Wardens, the volunteer arm of the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Over the last few years this has become a leading means of introducing children to the countryside and helping them discover the rich landscape, wildlife and local history of the Cotswolds.

“The Wardens education project is all about getting children out into the Cotswolds so they can

really get to appreciate the unique landscapes on their doorstep”, said Becky Jones from the Cotswolds Conservation Board. “It’s about taking learning outside the classroom, bringing education to the outside environment, and teaching children about important countryside topics, such as where food comes from.”

The Rose Hill School trip was organised by Cotswold Voluntary Warden and former teacher Gerry Simper.

“I guess once a teacher, always a teacher,” said Gerry. “It was really enjoyable for me to put my former teaching skills back into practice again and open the eyes of these mostly city-based children to the joys of the countryside. The sheep shearing demonstrations were such a hit that the children even asked for lunch to be delayed – a sure sign of an engaged audience!”

He continues: “The fact that every member of the class sent an



individual thank you letter is also testament to what was a memorable day for these youngsters.”

The Wardens’ education programme has been running for a few years and has incorporated education visits to schools in Chedworth, Cranham, Bisley, Ilmington, Elmley Castle, Ashton under Hill, and Colerne (among others). The programme has also helped to improve school grounds

for wildlife. Around 30 Voluntary Wardens spend some of their time on educational work.

“We are so grateful to the thousands of ideas that our volunteers give to us and their enduring commitment,” concludes Becky. “Almost 526 hours of volunteer time was spent on education projects during 2010 and we are seeing this pattern continue during 2011.”



New guide to the Cotswolds on horseback

The third edition of The Cotswolds on Horseback has been published by the British Horse Society (BHS)

The BHS’s new publication comprises eight routes, with maps and route directions. There are currently another fourteen additional routes available online for free, and more due to be added. The routes enable riders to enjoy the rolling hills, rich history and stunning countryside of the Cotswolds

using bridleways, restricted byways, and quiet lanes, and cross arable and livestock farmland, woods, commons and country estates.

The routes were devised by local volunteers, including the Mid Cotswolds Tracks and Trails Group. BHS County Access and Bridleways Officer, Lois Eyre, who co-ordinated

the volunteer team, said: “I think all of us love riding in the Cotswolds, and would encourage others to visit as well. We were very pleased to have this opportunity to share our beautiful riding with others.”

The Cotswolds on Horseback is available from the BHS bookshop, priced £6.95.



Find out more at: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

WALKS & EVENTS Guide

Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Autumn/Winter 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.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/guidedwalks

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

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

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

October

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 02 • 10.00

Celebrate British Food Fortnight
Walk along the Sudeley Valley to Newmeadows Farm where Duncan the farmer will talk about his rare breed herd which supplies beef to local restaurants. Pub lunch available at the White Hart Inn (try Newmeadows Farm beef).
Easy
Starting point: Winchcombe. Back Lane car park
Leaders: Sheila and Robert Talbot
3 hours • 5 miles
023284 Map Square: D3

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 04 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at pub adjacent Conservative Club.
Moderate
Starting point: The Fox and Hounds Public House in Colerne
Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
818711 Map square: B9

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 05 • 10.00

A Morning Stroll to Waterhatch
A walk from Brockhampton via Charlton Abbots to Waterhatch. Autumn colours. Mainly easy walking but some short steep bits and several stiles en-route. Pub lunch available after the walk.
Moderate
Starting point: Craven Arms car park, Brockhampton (by prior arrangement)
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham
3 hours • 5 miles
034222 Map square: D4

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 08 • 10.00

Along Hidden Valleys to Misarden Park
A circular walk through a varied landscape from Birdlip School to Misarden Park lake, returning via Fishcombe Bank, Hazel Hanger Wood and Climperwell. With permission of the Misarden Estate. Bring a picnic lunch or pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Birdlip - old road near school
Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier
6 hours • 10 miles
928142 Map square: C4

Find out more at: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 • 10.00

Roman Ways, a deserted village and a wedding mystery
From Charlbury through Fawler, Wilcote and Finstock returning past Cornbury Park.
Moderate
Starting point: Centre of Charlbury, Spendlove car park
Leader: Tony Graeme
4 hours • 7.5 miles
358196 Map square: H4

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19 • 10.00

In the footsteps of Laurie Lee
A walk from Bull's Cross through Longridge Wood, Dillay Brook, Catswood with good views over Painswick and the Dillay valley. There are a number of ascents and descents between several small remote valleys. The walk goes through quietly unspoilt countryside and woodland immortalised by Laurie Lee in Cider with Rosie.
Strenuous
Starting point: Bull's Cross layby on the B4070
Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales, John Foulkes
3 hours • 5.75 miles
878088 Map square: C5

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 10.00

Walking from Longborough - 1
First in the series to celebrate Longborough's achievement of "Walkers are Welcome" status. This one takes us westwards across the highwolds to Ford and back. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Longborough. Cotswold Food Store car park (on A242)
Leaders: Keith Sisson and Paul Adam
5 hours • 10 miles
170296 Map square: E3

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 10.00

A Victorian Rector and Nine Old Maids
A short walk and a true story. How the daughters of the vicarage in the high cold Cotswolds lived life to the full and to a ripe old age. Pub lunch available after the walk.
Easy
Starting point: Great Rissington, Lamb Inn car park
Leaders: Colin Boulton and Stephen Wright
2.5 hours • 4 miles
200173 Postcode: GL54 2LP

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 • 10.00

Wild Wooded Valleys
Down the Frome Valley through Edgeworth to Danegrove, up the Holy Valley through Waterlane to Sudgrove. Bring a picnic lunch or pub lunch available.
Strenuous
Starting point: Winstone, west of the village
Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle
7 hours • 12 miles
956096 Map square: D5

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 • 10.00

A Little Known Gem
This walk around Woodchester and Selsley Common also passes through Boundary Court, a relatively unknown National Trust property in a beautiful valley.
Moderate
Starting point: Lay by on A46 at South Woodchester
Leaders: Alan Bulley, John Hammill
3 hours • 5 miles
842018 Map square: B6

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 • 10.00

The Battle of Edgehill
The Battle of Edgehill on 23 October 1642, was the first major encounter and an estimated 1500 men were killed with many more wounded. Both sides claimed victory, the parliamentarians claimed they had won a tactical advantage on the field but following the battle the Royalists were free to continue their march to London. We will walk over part of the battlefield starting from the Royalist position on Edgehill.
Moderate
Starting point: Ratley village hall car park
Leader: Anne Martis
4 hours • 7 miles
381474 Map square: H1

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 • 10.00

Grand Old Duke of York
The "Up" and Downs around Wellow, Combe Hay, South Stoke, Midford and Twinhoe. Returning to Wellow via Hankley Woods. Please bring a packed lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: Wellow free car park
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings
6 hours • 10 miles
735581 Map square: A10

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 • 10.00

What's in the Wychwoods?
The walk passes through the three Wychwood villages. We shall discover the charm of these well kept places and reveal some of their amazing history. Pub lunch available. Contact 07762019373 for further details.
Easy
Starting point: Shipton-under-Wychwood village hall (on A361 road at northern end of village)
Leader: Gerald Simper
5 hours • 8 miles
278181 Map square: G4

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 10.00

Westward Ho!
A loop to the west of Avening along paths, old roads and tracks.
Moderate
Starting point: Avening Social Club Car Park, Woodstock Lane, Avening
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth, Dave Collings
3 hours • 5.5 miles
884979 Map square: C6

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 • 10.00

Autumn Woodlands
Through several woods of different characters (separated by stretches with wonderful views) looking at the way the flora adapts to the changing seasons.
Moderate
Starting point: Stanton village car park (£1 trust box parking fee)
Leaders: Jean Booth and Simon Mallatrat
6 hours • 10 miles
067344 Map square: E3

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 • 10.00

Two Rivers, A Confluence and a Restored Railway
Walk alongside the River Avon to meet the River Boyd at the picturesque Riverside Station. Return via Bitton and Upton Cheyney. No stiles, but not suitable for pushchairs. Please bring a mid morning snack.
Easy
Starting point: Swineford picnic site off A431 Bristol to Bath Road. Please do not park in the pub car park unless you intend to eat there.
Leaders: Gill Sheppard, Phil Lawrence
2.5 hours • 4.5 miles
691692

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 10.00

From Neolith to Nouveau Riche
The walk straddles three counties and countless centuries. We will try to unravel some of the clues on the ground to surmise how the land may have been used over the centuries - from an ancient cattle enclosure to ultra modern leisure facilities - and everything in between! Optional pub lunch at The Greedy Goose at the end of the walk.
Easy
Starting point: The Greedy Goose on the A44 between Chipping Norton and Moreton-in-Marsh opposite the A436 turn to Stow.
Leader: Rosemary Wilson
3 hours • 6 miles
270289 Map square: G3

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 10.00

Turn Again Whittington
Another wilderness walk encompassing four parishes and visiting quaint villages which have become displaced through the ages.
Moderate
Starting point: New House Farm, Hawling. Please park on gravel verges adjacent farm.
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook
6 hours • 11 miles
067231 Map square: E4

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 10.00

Marshfield & St Catherine's Valley
Marshfield to St Catherine's brook and the limestone link, an ascent to Oakford Lane, and passing under Dick Nick and Mottcombe woods.
Moderate
Starting point: Park near almshouses in Marshfield
Leader: Reg Bleaden
4 hours • 7 miles
774737

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 • 10.00

A Feline Delicacy
A flat walk through Willesley and Westonbirt villages to Shipton Moyne, returning along the Sherston Avon. Pub stop - drink only.
Moderate
Starting point: Sherston High Street
Leaders: David Harrowin, David Collings
5.5 hours • 9 miles
853859 Map square: B8

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 • 10.00

Box and the surrounding countryside
A series of four morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box out into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop for coffee and a snack only. Lunch can be obtained after the walk in the village pubs. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Moderate
Starting point: Car park at Selwyn Hall, Box off A4
Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole
3 hours • 6 miles
824686 Map square: B10

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 • 10.00

Lasborough Links
A walk in the beautiful Lasborough Valley, starting from Kingscote. In addition to experiencing the glorious landscape we will hear about the valley's links with a notable clergyman, a Victorian water supply system and the genesis of the Australian Air Force. All this in the space of 5 miles. Pub lunch available on completion.
Moderate
Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote
Leaders: David Harrowin, John Hammill
3 hours • 5 miles
814960 Map square: B7

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 • 10.00

National Trust: Horton Court
An opportunity to enjoy the grounds of this Cotswold gem, and to take a circular walk through the fields and up to the hill top fort, with an opportunity to extend the walk to Hawkesbury Church and back along the Cotswold Way.
Moderate
Starting point: Horton Court
Leaders: Phil Lawrence, Gill Sheppard
1.5 hours or 3 hours • 2 miles or 5 miles
766850 Map square: A8

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25 • 10.00

Half Term Iron Age Family Fun Morning ☺
Relive the Iron Age and storm the ramparts at Crickley Hill Country Park. Experience at firsthand how our ancestors lived over 2500 years ago! The activities include a tour of the nationally important hill-fort, with the opportunity to try your hand at pot making, wattle and daubing and corn grinding! Places are strictly limited, so BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL - 01452 863170. No dogs allowed (except guide dogs/hearing dogs) **XXX**
Starting point: Crickley Hill Country Park, meet outside visitor centre. Sign posted off the B4070 four miles south of Cheltenham. Ample free car parking.
Leaders: Gloucestershire County Council countryside sites wardens
2 hours • 3.5 miles
OS 163 930163

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26 • 10.30

How Observant Are You? - Family Walk ☺
A gentle family walk from Combe to the river and the Roman Villa with a difference. There will be a quiz to test your observation skills for all those young people from 7 to 70. Please bring a pencil - but no dogs please. Optional pub lunch afterwards. Contact 07762019373 for further details. **Easy**
Starting point: Combe Village Green - please park prettily
Leader: Gerald Simper
2.5 hours • 3.5 miles
412158 Map square: H5

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26 • 10.00

Up and Over towards Ilmington
A walk from Hidcote Manor towards Ilmington and a return by Foxcote House and Hidcote Boyce.
Moderate
Starting point: Hidcote Manor car park (parking by kind permission of the National Trust)
Leaders: Bob Fisher, Malcolm Duncan
2.5 hours • 5.5 miles
176430 Map square: F2

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27 • 10.00

Views from the National Trusts, Little Solsbury Hill ☺
A gentle climb to the flat summit of Little Solsbury Hill for views over Bath, then down to Northend before returning via the nature reserve in the old reservoir at Chilcombe Bottom. **Easy**
Starting point: Slip road for Swainswick, east of the A46, 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at the A46/A420 junction
Leaders: John Walker, John Dougal
2.5 hours • 3.5 miles
762683 Map square: A10

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 • 10.00

Friday Foray
A walk to Woodmancote, via the Macmillan Way to Rendcombe, then the Monarch's Way to the finish. Optional pub lunch on return. **Moderate**
Starting point: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney (with prior permission). Use overflow car park.
Leaders: Ken Buckle, Geoff Ricketts, John Foulkes
2.5 hours • 5 miles
018079 Map square: D5

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 • 10.00

Cotswold Way: Prospect Stile to Dyrham Park
Lansdown Park and Ride (hence accessible to Bath residents without transport) to Dyrham Park via the racecourse, Prospect Stile and the Cotswold Way. A return 25 seat bus (£1 per person) will be available back to the Park and Ride at 5.15pm, allowing walkers time to visit the House and Garden after the walk (no garden admission fee payable). Please phone 0117 9371335 to ensure your place on the bus.
Moderate
Starting point: Lansdown Park and Ride Bath: west side of car park near to toilets/changing rooms
Leaders: John Walker, John Bartram
5.5 hours • 10 miles
731681 Map square: A10

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 • 10.00

Both Sides of the Track
A figure of 8 walk centred around the parishes of Campden and Ebrington taking in a fine Georgian house, superb views and a railway.
Moderate
Starting point: The Market Hall, Chipping Campden
Leaders: Pat and Roger Cook
5.5 hours • 10.5 miles
151392 Map square: F2

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 • 10.30

National Trust: Dyrham Park
A walk led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens from Dyrham Park, descending the Cotswold escarpment through the Deer Park, farmland and the village of Dyrham, returning to the Park via the Cotswold Way. We pass the site of the Battle of Dyrham, strip lynchets. 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
748757 Map square: A9

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 • 10.00

Two Parks, Two Valleys
A walk from historic Newark Park, rescued from terminal decline by the dedicated efforts of Bob Parsons. After passing its near neighbour Ozleworth Park, we climb gently through the secluded Bagpath Valley, returning via Ozleworth Bottom to Newark.
Moderate
Starting point: Newark Park
Leaders: Steve Knight, John Hammill
3 hours • 5.5 miles
782931 Map square: B7

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 • 9.30

Chipping Dem Stones
Starting and finishing in Oxfordshire's highest market town, Chipping Norton, we will visit the famous and unique Rollright Stones. The walk will enjoy rolling countryside views. Please bring a packed lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall steps
Leader: Ian Gourlay
5.5 hours • 8 miles
313270 Map square: G3

November

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 01 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Walk around the various footpaths of Coleme Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Woodland walk included (International Year of the Forests). Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at pub or adjacent Conservative Club.
Moderate
Starting point: The Fox and Hounds PH in Coleme
Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
818711 Map square: B9

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 02 • 10.00

Around the Ampneys ☺
An easy walk through the villages of Ampney Crucis, Ampney St Mary and Ampney St Peter with two ancient churches. Pub lunch available on return.
Easy
Starting point: The Crown of Crucis hotel car park (by prior arrangement). 2.5 miles east of Cirencester on A417
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham
2.25 hours • 4 miles
067018 Map square: E6

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 03 • 10.00

Perambulations at Power 1
Three walks exploring the fascinating area around Guiting Power; the inter-relation between its geography, flora, history and modern usage. The exact route for each walk will be determined by whim and weather. Lunch available after the walk.
Moderate
Starting point: Guiting Power village hall car park (Trust the Motorist)
Leaders: Jean Booth, Simon Mallatratt
2-3 hours • 4-6 miles
095246 Map square: E4

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 05 • 9.30

Around Barter's Hill
Enjoy the undulating countryside of West Oxfordshire to the south of Chipping Norton. Please bring a packed lunch.
Strenuous
Starting point: Churchill Parish Church on B4450 in centre of village. Please park sensibly.
Leaders: Lucy and Martin Squires
6 hours • 12 miles
283241 Map square: G4

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 05 • 10.00

Round and Round the Gardens
A circular walk from Bourton-on-the-Hill, along the ridge above Blockley, round the Batsford Estate to Moreton-in-Marsh for lunch. Pub lunch available at the Bell Inn.
Moderate
Starting point: Roadside - side road above Bourton-on-the-Hill - near Tower View Farm
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee, Sue Greenwood
6 hours • 10.5 miles
170325 Map square: F3

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 06 • 10.00

A Little Known Gem
This walk around Woodchester and Selsley Common also passes through Boundary Court, a relatively unknown National Trust property in a beautiful valley. **Moderate**
Starting point: Lay by on A46 at South Woodchester
Leaders: Alan Bulley, John Hammill
3 hours • 5 miles
842018 Map square: B6

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 08 • 10.00

Stand and Deliver
A circular walk through Dean and Chadlington including part of the route dedicated to highwayman Claude Duval. **Moderate**
Starting point: Spelsbury on B4026 Chipping Norton to Charlbury Road. Please park tidily near the church.
Leader: Tony Graeme
3 hours • 6 miles
349215 Map square: H4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 08 • 10.30

Marshfield - Town and Country
A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways south to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tearoom.
Easy
Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield
Leader: David Colbourne
2.75 hours • 4.25 miles
781737 Map square: B9

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 09 • 10.00

Two Coombes to Midger
A walk down Upton Coombe and Small Coombe to the Midger Wood nature reserve. We return home along the Cotswold Way. Pub snack available after the walk, if required.
Moderate
Starting point: Parish Hall, Hawkesbury Upton
Leaders: David Harrowin, Ian Cooke
2.5 hours • 5 miles
777870 Map square: B7

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 • 10.00

A Walk to Yubberton
Walk through open countryside towards Ebrington with good views and a return via a railway crossing. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Chipping Campden Town Square
Leaders: Allan Allcock, Andy Briars, Julie Downing
4 hours • 6 miles
151391 Map square: F2

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 • 10.00

Paths with a Purpose
Using old and new paths which link the villages of Old Sodbury and Little Sodbury. Please bring a mid morning snack. Not suitable for push chairs.
Moderate
Starting point: Old Sodbury Church. Please park considerably leaving clear access to the school and the church.
Leaders: Gill Sheppard, Moyra Evans
3.5 hours • 6 miles
756817

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 • 9.30

Hypocausts, Healing Wells and Hollygroves
Gentle West Oxfordshire countryside hiding much history and beauty including a Roman villa and a Saxon church. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Bridewell Organic Gardens & Vineyard on North Leigh to Finstock Road
Leader: Ian Gourlay
5 hours • 7.5 miles
376152 Map square: H5

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 • 10.00

Box and the surrounding countryside
A series of four morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop for coffee and a snack only. Lunch can be obtained after the walk in the village pubs. Not suitable for pushchairs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Car park at Selwyn Hall, Box off A4
Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole
3 hours • 6 miles
824686 Map square: B10

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • 10.15

Painswick to Pitchcombe
A walk along the Painswick valley to Pitchcombe returning via Pitchcombe Woods and Edge Common. The walk is generally flat with one long steady ascent. Walk accessible by public transport from Cheltenham and Stroud.
Moderate
Starting point: Stammages Lane car park (pay and display)
Leaders: Royden Hales, John Foulkes, Mike Williams
2.75 hours • 5 miles
865095 Map square: C5

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 • 10.00

Autumn in Wychwood
Explore the countryside and some of the villages in part of the ancient Wychwood Forest area. Returning through the Evenlode Valley. Please bring a packed lunch
Moderate
Starting point: Centre of Charlbury. Spendlove car park.
Leader: Trish Gilbert
5.5 hours • 10 miles
358196 Map square: H4

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 • 9.30

Shaken not Stirred
We start our walk in the lovely Barton Abbey estate then follow an old rover's road, "the Dornford Track" to Wootton for lunch. The return across country is via "Purgatory". Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Steeple Barton Church south east of Middle Barton
Leader: Ian Gourlay
5.5 hours • 9 miles
448249 Map square: H3

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 • 10.00

Via Monarch and Macmillan
A walk from Rodmarton via Culkerton, Avening, Nags Head, Cherington and Hazleton, following sections of the Monarch and Macmillan Ways. Please bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drinks only.
Moderate
Starting point: Rodmarton Village Hall car park
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth, Graham Bateman
6 hours • 9.5 miles
943980 Map square: C7

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 • 10.00

The Bath Skyline
A circular walk on National Trust land south of Bath on Claverton Down with some views overlooking the city and old quarry working at Hamton Rocks. Coffee stop only.
Moderate
Starting point: Sulis Club, North Road, Bath
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings
3 hours • 6 miles
774629 Map square: A10

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 • 10.00

Walking from Longborough - 2
Second in the series to celebrate Longborough's achievement of "Walkers are Welcome" status. This one takes us southwards including a circuit of villages including Stow-on-the-Wold. Pub lunch available.
Moderate
Starting point: Longborough. Cotswold Food Store car park (on A242)
Leaders: Keith Sisson, Paul Adam
5 hours • 9 miles
170296 Map square: E3

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 • 10.00

Friday Foray
Visiting the villages of Caudle Green and Whiteway, passing through a mix of farmland and woods.
Moderate
Starting point: Caudle Green - please park considerably in the village
Leaders: Geoff Ricketts, Ken Buckle, John Foulkes
2 hours • 4.5 miles
943104 Map square: D5

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 • 10.00

Heythrop Park and Upper Glyme Valley
The walk starts from the remains of a Neolithic burial chamber, the Hoar Stone. It then goes up the Glyme Valley passing the deserted medieval villages of Upper and Nether Chalford. The route returns to Church Enstone through Heythrop Park with its landscaped lakes and majestic mature trees. Please bring a packed lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: The Hoar Stone, Enstone on B4022 Charlbury Road
Leader: Anne Martis
5 hours • 9 miles
378237 Map square: H4

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 • 10.00

Four Valleys
Swainswick via Woolley to Lansdown, using the new footpath (not on OS maps yet!) looking down on Weston to the race course. Across a valley to Langridge and to the Ford, Charmy Down airfield and down hill for the last mile! Please bring a picnic lunch.
Strenuous
Starting point: Slip road for Swainswick east of A46, 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at the A46/A420 junction.
Leaders: John Walker, Philip Lawrence
6 hours • 10.5 miles
762683 Map square: A10

December

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 01 • 10.00

Perambulations at Power 2
Three walks exploring the fascinating area around Guiting Power; the inter-relation between its geography, flora, history and modern usage. The exact route for each walk will be determined by whim and weather. Lunch available after the walk.
Moderate
Starting point: Guiting Power village hall car park (Trust the Motorist)
Leaders: Jean Booth, Simon Mallatratt
2-3 hours • 4-6 miles
095246 Map square: E4

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 02 • 10.00

A High Wold Trio ☺
A circular walk linking three unspoilt villages which lie off the beaten track, mostly on field paths and quiet lanes.
Easy
Starting point: The Plough Inn, Cold Aston (3 miles south west of Bourton-on-the-Water)
Leader: Rosemary Wilson
2.5 hours • 5 miles
128198 Map square: F4

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 03 • 11.00

A Countryside View of a City ☺
A circular walk from Bath's Pulteney Bridge via Alexandra Park, Lyncombe Vale and Sydney Gardens. Suitable for families.
Moderate
Starting point: Pulteney Bridge, Bath (10 minutes walk from Bath Bus and Rail Station)
Leader: Pauline Vincent
3 hours • 4 miles
752649 Map square: A10

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 04 • 14.00

Tetbury Time Trail ☺
A gentle walk around Tetbury, exploring some of the town's lovely buildings and their history. Treat yourself to a tea shop afterwards!(Not included). **Easy**
Starting point: Outside Tetbury Tourist Information Centre, West Street
Leaders: Hilary Paveley, Geoffrey Heathcote
1.5 hours • 1.5 miles
890930 Map square: C7

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 04 • 10.00

Severn Views
A walk from Coaley Peak car park via Woodchester Park, Selsley Common, Kings Stanley and Leonard Stanley offering fine views towards the Severn Vale, weather permitting. Please bring a packed lunch.
Moderate
Starting point: Coaley Peak car park
Leaders: Eric Brown, Ian Cooke
5.5 hours • 9.5 miles
795014 Map square: B6

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 06 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp
Around the various footpaths of Coleme Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at pub or adjacent Conservative Club.
Moderate
Starting point: The Fox and Hounds PH in Coleme
Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee
3 hours • 5 miles
818711 Map square: B9

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 07 • 10.00

Cross Country to Woodmancote
A walk over open country and rolling hills to Burcombe and Woodmancote, returning via Halfpenny Hill. Includes one long steady climb. Optional pub lunch on return.
Moderate
Starting point: Five Mile House - park on old A417 road, access from Texaco services (not in pub car park)
Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Tony Wilson, Rosemary Woodham
2.5 hours • 5 miles
078091 Map square: D5

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 08 • 10.00

Stow Highlights Plus

A brief tour of Stow-on-the-Wold taking in historical points of interest followed by a delightful circuit viewing the hilltop town from below and taking in the Swells & Mangersbury.

Moderate

Starting point: Tesco public car park, Stow-on-the-Wold

Leaders: Julie Downing, Allan Allcock, Andy Briars

3 hours • 5 miles

191261 Map square: F3

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 10.00

Wild Gardens and Secret Woods

An opportunity to visit Shipton's wild garden followed by a walk to the villages of Milton-Wychwood, Fifield and Foscot via Herbert's Heathand Bould Wood. The return is along the Oxfordshire Way via Foxholes Nature Reserve and Bruern Abbey and wood. Please bring a packed lunch.

Moderate

Starting point: Dog Kennel Lane, Shipton-Wychwood (off A361 at southern end of the village)

Leader: Janet Moore

5 hours • 9 miles

277174 Map square: G4

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 10.00

Old Mills, Mansions and Matilda

A civilised walk commencing with coffee at 10.00. The walk starts at 10.30 from Kingscote and passes through the Ozleworth Valley.

Moderate

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote

Leaders: Eric Brown, Staszek Jarmuz

3 hours • 5.5 miles

814960 Map square: B7

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 10.00

A Real Gem

A circular walk which uses parts of the Diamond Way via Wyck Rissington. There are spectacular views over both the Evenlode and the Windrush Valleys.

Moderate

Starting point: Icomb Church Gates

Leaders: Bob Fisher, Malcolm Duncan

2.5 hours • 5 miles

214226 Map square: F4

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 9.30

A Case of Being in an Almost Constant (e)State.

A walk through the historic and attractive Ditchley estate and then past a burial chamber before arriving at Church Enstone for lunch. The return is along the Glyme valley through Cleveley, Radford and the Kiddington estate. Pub lunch available.

Moderate

Starting point: Kiddington crossroads on A44 between Enstone and Woodstock. Caution advised on this busy main road.

Leader: Ian Gourlay

5.5 hours • 8.5 miles

410221 Map square: H4

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 10.00

Views of a Great Estate

A level walk through the Badminton Estate and Little Badminton to the attractive village of Luckington and its church, returning via the Giant's Cave long barrow, using field paths and quiet lanes. Park in the High Street or at Badminton Jubilee Hall in Hayes Lane.

Easy

Starting point: East end of Badminton High Street near Estate gates

Leaders: Phil Lawrence and Gill Sheppard

4 hours • 8 miles

804826 Map square: B8

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 • 10.00

In and Around Charlbury

A pre-Christmas stretch starting at Charlbury and taking in the quiet villages of Taston and Spelsbury before returning along the Evenlode Valley. This walk can be very muddy in wet periods. Lunch available in pubs in Charlbury after the walk.

Moderate

Starting point: Centre of Charlbury in Spendlove car park

Leader: Anne Martis

4 hours • 5 miles

358196 Map square: H4

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 • 10.30

Post-Christmas Blow-out (not food variety)

An opportunity to stretch your legs (gently), blow away those cobwebs and shed (a few) calories. Suitable for families.

Easy

Starting point: Outside Overbury Church (please park considerably in village)

Leader: Colin Boulton

2.5 hours • 4 miles

957375 Map square: D2

January

SUNDAY, JANUARY 01 • 10.00

Hills and Valleys

A New Year's Day walk to South Stoke and Down to the valleys of Combe Hay and Midford. Coffee stop only.

Moderate

Starting point: Cross Keys, South Stoke Road, Combe Down

Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings

3 hours • 6 miles

748619 Map square: A10

SUNDAY, JANUARY 01 • 10.00

The Hills South of Cheltenham

Shurdington, Crickley and Leckhampton Hills. Local bus service available to the bottom of Leckhampton Hill.

Strenuous

Starting point: Daisy Bank car park off B4070 at Leckhampton Hill

Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle

3.5 hours • 7 miles

949189 Map square: C4

MONDAY, JANUARY 02 • 10.00

Around Minchinhampton Commons

A bracing morning walk on upland commons to welcome the new year. Fairly flat terrain and very few stiles. Glorious views of surrounding valleys and beyond (weather permitting). Refreshments available at local inns after the walk. Suitable for families, but not buggies/pushchairs.

Easy

Starting point: Opposite Amberley Inn, Amberley. Please do not use Inn car park.

Leaders: Graham Bateman, Mike Brinkworth

3 hours • 5 miles

850013 Map square: B6

TUESDAY, JANUARY 03 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp

Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds.

Moderate

Starting point: The Fox and Hounds PH in Colerne

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee

3 hours • 5 miles

818711 Map Square: B9

THURSDAY, JANUARY 05 • 10.00

Along the Border

A hidden area of the Cotswolds on the Oxfordshire/Gloucestershire borders with fine scenery and a gruesome story. Optional lunch at the Merry-mouth Inn at the end of the walk.

Moderate

Starting point: Merry-mouth Inn on A424 Burford to Stow Road, OX7 6HR

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

2.15 hours • 4.5 miles

232185 Map square: G4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 07 • 10.00

You think today's teachers have problems?

A short walk and a true story. The woeful tale of a string of teachers who couldn't handle the pressures of running a Gloucestershire village school in the mid 19th century. Pub lunch available. Suitable for teachers.

Moderate

Starting point: Hidcote Manor NT car park

Leaders: Stephen Wright and Vivienne McGhee

4 hours • 5 miles

177430 Postcode: GL55 6LR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 • 10.00

Stinchcombe Hill to Breakheart Hill

A walk from Stinchcombe Hill, taking in part of the Cotswold Way before descending to quiet lanes in the seclusion of Waterley Bottom. A steep return to the level of the escarpment via Breakheart Hill leads us to the Dursley Sculpture Trail with a range of artistic works by local schools and organisations. We return on a level path through the impressive beechwoods above Dursley.

Moderate

Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill public car park

Leaders: Ken Leach, Les Jones

3 hours • 5.5 miles

744983 Map square: A6

MONDAY, JANUARY 18 • 10.00

Crickley and Ullenwood

A shortish walk for winter from Crickley Hill along the Cotswold Way to Ullenwood then back through woods to Shab Hill. Plenty of views of the Vale and the Devil's Chimney. A good blow for the new year!

Moderate

Starting point: Crickley Hill car park (a small charge is payable)

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales, John Foulkes

2 hours • 4.5 miles

928164 Map square: C4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 • 10.00

A Winter's Walk whilst Nature is Resting

Follow the Wincombe Way towards the Salt Way and Little Farmcote. Good views but keep a weather watch as we return along the edge of Guiting Wood and Deadmanbury Gate. Please bring a packed lunch.

Moderate

Starting point: Wincombe. Back Lane car park.

Leaders: Sheila and Robert Talbot

4 hours • 8 miles

023284 Map square: D3

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 • 10.00

Tadwick? Where is it?

Down into St Catherine's valley, Trull's Wood, Monkwood Reservoir to the A46. A steep descent with views of Lansdown to Tadwick, then the Cotswold Way to Cold Ashton and the Limestone Link. Please bring a picnic lunch - drinks available at the plant nursery.

Moderate

Starting point: Layby on the A420 west of Marshfield

Leader: John Walker

5 hours • 8 miles

772738 Map square: B9

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 • 9.30

From Brailles Hill to Windmill Hill

There is plenty of interest and hills with views along this section of the Cotswold scarp in Warwickshire including a glimpse of the impressive Compton Wynyates house. Please bring a packed lunch.

Strenuous

Starting point: Upper Brailles village layby on B4035 Shipton to Banbury road

Leaders: Lucy and Martin Squires

6 hours • 12 miles

305395 Map square: G2

February

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 04 • 10.00

The Rhyme of a Seven Springer

Barrows and Hill Forts along the Cotswold Way to Seven Springs, Coberley and the Gloucestershire Way. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic.

Moderate

Starting point: Barrow Wake viewpoint CP 1 mile north of Birdlip off B4070

Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier

5.5 hours • 8.5 miles

931153 Map square: C5

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 04 • 10.00

Round and Round the Hills

A circular walk from Woolstone, round Woolstone, Dixon and Oxenton hills. Pub lunch available in Alderton with extensive views to the south and west (weather permitting).

Moderate

Starting point: Junction of Gotherington road and Woolstone adjacent to Grange Farm. Please park considerably on roadside.

Leader: Vivienne McGhee

6 hours • 11 miles

956302 Map square: D3

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 07 • 10.00

Tuesday Tramp

Walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at pub or adjacent Conservative Club

Moderate

Starting point: The Fox and Hounds PH in Colerne

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee

3 hours • 5 miles

818711 Map square: B9

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 08 • 10.00

A Winter Wander in Workman's Woods

An exploration of the beechwoods near Sheepscote, returning via the "alternative" community at Whiteway. Optional pub lunch on return.

Moderate

Starting point: Foston's Ash Inn, 2 miles south of Birdlip on B4070

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham, Tony Wilson

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

915114 Map square: C5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 09 • 10.00

Perambulations at Power 3

Three walks exploring the fascinating area around Guiting Power; the inter-relation between its geography, flora, history and modern usage. The exact route for each walk will be determined by whim and weather. Lunch available after the walk.

Moderate

Starting point: Guiting Power village hall car park (trust the motorist)

Leaders: Jean Booth, Simon Mallatrat

2-3 hours • 4-6 miles

095246 Map square: E4

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 • 10.00

A Winter Walk in the Evenlode Valley

A gentle walk looking at the beauty of the Evenlode Valley in winter. The walk can be muddy during wet weather. Lunch facilities in Chadlington at the end of the walk.

Moderate

Starting point: Chadlington Memorial Hall in centre of village

Leader: Irish Gilbert

3 hours • 6 miles

329219 Map square: G4

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 • 10.00

Badminton Estate, Tormarton and

Doddington Park

Climb to the A46 for views from the escarpment, then to Lyegrove and the Badminton estate, Acton Turville and Tormarton where we will have time to visit the local church and hostelry. Return via Doddington Park.

Moderate

Starting point: Park in road leading to Old Sodbury Church

Leader: Reg Bleaden

4.5 hours • 8 miles

756817

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 • 10.00

Uley Snowdrop Trail

Fields and woodlands around Uley, taking in historic Owlpen, Bencombe, Elcombe and the hill fort at Uley Bury. May be muddy in places. Pub lunch available at the end of the walk.

Moderate

Starting point: Uley village green, near The Crown pub - please park sensibly in village.

Leaders: Hilary Paveley, Steve Knight

3 hours • 6 miles

793985 Map square: B6

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 • 10.30

Marshfield - Town and Country

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways south to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tearoom. Half term walk suitable for families.

Easy

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield

Leader: David Colbourne

2.75 hours • 4.25 miles

781737 Map square: B9

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 • 10.00

Aconite and Snowdrop Walk

A walk to Horsley and Ruskin Mill providing extensive views as well as attractive woodland and hidden valley scenery. Chance to see aconites and snowdrops in Conygre Wood. Pub lunch available at end of walk.

Moderate

Starting point: Road opposite Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote

Leaders: Alan Bulley, Mike Brinkworth

3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

815961 Map square: B6

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 • 10.00

One Foggy Night!

A walk along the Cotswold Way to North Nibley, returning via Charfield. See the escarpment from a different perspective. Pub stop - drink only.

Moderate

Starting point: Chipping Car Park, Wotton-under-Edge

Leaders: David Harrowin, Alan Hooper

6 hours • 10 miles

756931 Map square: A7

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 • 10.00

Box and the surrounding countryside

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 07 • 10.00

Ancient Highways - A Saxon Church and the Salt Way
A walk from Coln Rogers with its Saxon Church to Winson, then through a dry valley to the Salt Way returning through Calcot alongside the Coln River. **Moderate**
Starting point: Coln Rogers village hall - park sensibly in the village
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgen, Rosemary Woodham
2.5 hours • 5 miles
087093 Map square: E5

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 • 10.00

Hills, Mills and Manor
A walk in the hills and valleys around Dursley and Uley, passing the sites of old cloth mills and historic Owlpen Manor. The return via part of the Cotswold Way provides wonderful views over the Severn Vale to the Forest of Dean (weather permitting). Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Cam Peak Car Park
Leaders: Steve Knight, Ian Cooke
5.5 hours • 8.5 miles
768993 Map square: A6

MONDAY, MARCH 12 • 10.00

100th Festival Walk
Chipping Norton Music Festival, which began early last century in Cherington, celebrates its 100th this year. Enjoy a walk with the Festival secretary in this little changed countryside to hear interesting snippets about one of the oldest music festivals in the country. Optional pub lunch at the end of the walk. **Easy**
Starting point: Cherington Arms - village signposted off A3400 Chipping Norton to Stratford road.
Leader: Rosemary Wilson
2.15 hours • 4.5 miles
292368 Map square: G2

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 • 10.00

What did you do in the war, Daddy?
A walk to Monkton Farleigh, site of WW2 Munitions Buildings, returning to Bathford via Kingsdown passing the access adit to underground workings. Please bring a snack. Not suitable for push chairs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Bathford. Pass the Crown Public House on the Kingsdown Road and meet at the unmetalled road opposite Bathford Post Office.
Leaders: Gill Sheppard, Moyra Evans, Phil Lawrence
3.5 hours • 6 miles
789669

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 • 10.00

Wyck, Westcote's - a tale of two valleys
Figure of eight which encompasses the valleys of the Dykler and the Evenlode. Moderate slopes. Possible pub lunch in Westcote. **Moderate**
Starting point: Wyck Rissington
Leaders: Andy Briars, Alan Allcock, Julie Downing
5 hours • 9.5 miles
190217 Map square: F4

SATURDAY, MARCH 17 • 10.00

High Wolds Villages
Through the Shiptons to Hampden, Salperton and Hawling, returning via Sevenhampton and the Coln Valley. Bring a picnic. **Moderate**
Starting point: Andoversford, Station Road
Leaders: John Heathcott, David Burwell, John Woodland, Ken Buckle
5.5 hours • 10 miles
023198 Map square: D4

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 • 10.00

Early Spring near Wotton
Quiet hills and valleys near Wotton: Coombe, Tyley Bottom, Ozleworth, Newark Park. May be muddy in places. Bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Chipping car park, Wotton-under-Edge, free on Sundays.
Leaders: Hilary Paveley, David Harrowin
5 hours • 9 miles
756932 Map square: A7

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 • 10.00

The Start of the Broadmead Brook
Using newly restored paths to West Littleton and West Kington. Northwards then to cross the M4 (bridleway bridge) to Tormarton. Return along the Cotswold Way for refreshments in the NT cafe. Please bring a picnic lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Dyrham Park car park (no charge) open 9.30
Leader: John Walker
6 hours • 11.5 miles
749758 Map square: A9

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 • 10.00

Box and the surrounding countryside
A series of four morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box out into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop for coffee and a snack only. Lunch can be obtained after the walk in the village pubs. Not suitable for pushchairs. **Moderate**
Starting point: Car park at Selwyn Hall, Box off A4
Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole
3 hours • 6 miles
824686 Map square: B10

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 • 10.00

Walking from Longborough - 4
A journey through varied terrain in the southern Cotswolds. Features include upland commons, wooded valleys, attractive villages and a former mill. Memorable views (weather permitting). Opportunity for lunch at local inns at the end of the walk. **Moderate**
Starting point: Longborough. Cotswold Food Store car park (on A242)
Leaders: Keith Sisson and Paul Adam
5.5 hours • 11 miles
170296 Map square: E3

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 • 10.00

Commons and Valleys in Spring
A journey through varied terrain in the southern Cotswolds. Features include upland commons, wooded valleys, attractive villages and a former mill. Memorable views (weather permitting). Opportunity for lunch at local inns at the end of the walk. **Moderate**
Starting point: Reservoir car park, Minchinhampton Common
Leaders: Graham Bateman, David Harrowin
3 hours • 5.5 miles
855013 Map square: B6

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 • 10.00

A Wednesday Wander
From Cockleford through the villages of Stockwell, Coberley and Cowley. Taking in a Court, a Manor, woods, pastures and the River Churn. Walk accessible by public transport from Cheltenham and Cirencester. Optional pub lunch on return. **Easy**
Starting point: The Green Dragon Inn at Cockleford. Use real car park.
Leaders: John Foulkes, Mike Williams
2.5 hours • 5 miles
969141 Map square: D5

THURSDAY, MARCH 22 • 10.00

Spring on the Scarp
Welcome the first signs of spring enjoying the wonderful views and exploring some of the background to this glorious part of the Cotswold escarpment. Please bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Dover's Hill car park (about a mile to the west of Chipping Campden)
Leaders: Jean Booth, Simon Mallatrat
6 hours • 10 miles
137395 Map square: F2

FRIDAY, MARCH 23 • 10.00

A visit to the Rollright Stones
A walk across undulating countryside to the Rollright Stones passing through Little Rollright and Salford. Please bring packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Chipping Norton - New Street free long stay car park
Leader: Trish Gilbert
4.5 hours • 9 miles
312271 Map square: G3

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 • 9.30

The Beacon Beckons - but we decline!
Figure of 8 morning walk to Sheepphouse, Pincot, Wickridge Hill, The Vatch, Steanbridge. Afternoon walk to Washbrook, Edge Hill, Parkhurst, Edge Farms. Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch or picnic if attending both walks. **AM start - 9.30: 7 miles 3.5 hrs**
PM start - 2.00: 4 miles 2 hrs
Moderate
Starting point: Main car park on Stroud Road in Painswick
Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Ted Currier
5.5 hours • 11 miles
865095 Map square: C5

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 • 10.00

Crossing County Borders
A walk to Monkton Combe, Midford, Pipe House, Upper Westwood, Freshford and Limpley Stoke. Return via Kennet and Avon Canal. Bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Dundas Marina
Leaders: Dave Jennings, Wilf Dando
6 hours • 10 miles
784626 Map square: A10

TUESDAY, MARCH 27 • 10.00

Over the Hills - and Cotswold Sheep
A walk in the hills and valleys around Horsley. Find out about the history of sheep in the Cotswolds and meet some friendly ones at close quarters. Bring a packed lunch. **Moderate**
Starting point: Horsley village hall, Priory Fields, Horsley
Leaders: Norman Kay, David Harrowin
5.5 hours • 8 miles
838979 Map square: B6

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 • 10.00

A Swell View of Stow
A super walk through some of the villages near Stow-on-the-Wold, followed by a visit to a local hostelry for lunch. Pub lunch available. **Moderate**
Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold, Tesco car park
Leaders: Bob Fisher, Malcolm Duncan
3 hours • 6 miles
191262 Map square: F3

FRIDAY, MARCH 30 • 10.00

Friday Foray
Down to the Thames and Severn Canal at Upper Lock, and follow the canal and River Frome to Chalford Bottom. Climbing through Cowcombe Wood, skirt the village of Hyde to return to Aston Down. **Moderate**
Starting point: Aston Down layby on Stroud-Cirencester Road
Leaders: Geoff Ricketts, Ken Buckle, John Foulkes
2.5 hours • 5.5 miles
911019 Map square: C6

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 • 10.00

Secrets of the School Punishment Book
A true story. Sitting in the classroom of an old village school you will learn what life was like and how discipline was kept 100 years ago. A pub lunch is available after the walk. **Moderate**
Starting point: Ilmington village school in Back Street
Leaders: Stephen Wright, Mike Matthews
2.5 hours • 4 miles
210438 Postcode CV36 4LJ

Catch up on all the latest walks, events and other news by visiting www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

FARMERS MARKETS IN THE COTSWOLDS

Bath

When: Every Saturday
Where: Green Park Station, Bath

Berkeley

When: Third Saturday of the month
Where: Town Hall

Bourton-on-the-Water

When: Fourth Sunday of the month
Where: Countrywide Stores

Bradford on Avon

When: Third Thursday of the month
Where: Westbury Gardens

Charlbury

When: Second Saturday quarterly: Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec
Where: The Playing Close

Cheltenham

When: Second and last Friday of the month
Where: Long Gardens, Promenade

Chipping Norton

When: Third Saturday of the month
Where: Market Square

Cirencester

When: Every second and fourth Saturday of the month
Where: Market Place

Dursley

When: Second Saturday of the month
Where: Town Hall

Gloucester

When: Every Friday
Where: The Cross and Westgate Street

Malmesbury

When: Second Saturday and fourth Saturday of the month
Where: Market Cross

Nailsworth

When: Fourth Saturday of the month
Where: Mortimer Gardens

Stratford upon Avon

When: First and third Saturday of the month
Where: Rother Street

Stroud

When: Every Saturday
Where: Cornhill Market Place and surrounding streets

Stow on the Wold

When: Second Thursday of the month
Where: Market Square

Tewkesbury

When: Second Thursday of the month
Where: Spring Gardens Car Park

Winchcombe

When: Third Saturday of the month
Where: Town Centre

Witney

When: Third Wednesday of the month
Where: Town centre

Woodstock

When: First Saturday of the month
Where: n front of Town Hall

Wotton

When: First Saturday of the month
Where: Town Hall

Sadly missed

The Cotswolds Conservation Board was saddened to learn of the death of Cotswold Voluntary Warden, David Jelfs, who died in July. David was a prominent figure in the north Cotswolds, having run Broadway Post Office and bookshop for many years and had been a Voluntary Warden for over 30 years. Among his many environmental achievements for the Cotswolds AONB, David and his work party assisted farmers and walkers by opening up the footpath network, and planted over 2,000 trees for a millennium project. He will be missed by his many friends.



Cotswolds Conservation Board

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



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

- The Board works:
- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB
 - to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB

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For more information about this course and to book a place please contact Rebecca Jones on 01451 862008 or email: Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

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.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Readership Survey PRIZE DRAW

Please help us to improve future editions of this publication by answering the following questions. Your answers will be entered into a prize draw to win a copy of the new Winchcombe Way guidebook and a Cotswolds AONB goody bag. Answers should be sent to: Cotswolds Conservation Board, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH, or emailed to: info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk no later than 31 January 2012.

1. Where did you obtain this copy of the Cotswold Lion?

- Tourist Information Centre Library Visitor attraction From a friend Local shop

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2. Which feature/section of this publication did you find most interesting?

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