

Cotswold Lion

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The newspaper of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Festival at the castle
page 3

Diamond Jubilee plans
take shape page 4

10 top picnic
locations page 6

Car-free Cotswolds
page 7

Large Blues fly again
page 8



Cotswold Olimpicks celebrate 400 years

London 2012? The modern Games all started with rustic sports at Chipping Campden!



Olimpick Tug of War

Nick Turner

"We get TV crews from Japan and Australia coming to film us shin-kicking and they think we are completely mad," says Graham Greenall, chairman of Robert Dover's Games Society. "We don't think so. It's a tradition of glorious eccentricity unique to Robert Dover's Cotswold Olimpicks and local rural life."

While global eyes may turn to London from July to September for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, aficionados of grass-roots sporting culture will be heading first for Chipping Campden. For, as the British Olympic Association stated in its

winning bid to stage London 2012, this year marks the 400th anniversary of the inaugural Robert Dover's Games that began "the historical thread in Britain that was ultimately to lead to the creation of the modern Olympics."

To celebrate the historic anniversary the Cotswold Olimpicks, on Friday 1st June, will feature an extended programme of events with an enhanced Jacobean flavour, plus a brand new castle to crown the lofty plateau of National Trust-owned Dover's Hill. Visitors can also expect more local food stalls, alongside the familiar bands and cannon fire, rustic racing, backwards, tug o'war and, of course, the World Shin-kicking Championships.

It is likely that locals already held some form of boisterous Cotswold Whitsuntide festivities when Robert Dover arrived on the scene in 1611. Born in Norfolk, educated at Cambridge and Gray's Inn, he was a solicitor – with a classical knowledge and flair for showmanship. Within months "he had grabbed everything by the throat," Graham says.

From 1612, Dover promoted a two-day event that honoured the ancient Games of Greece, "for

"We are often asked how serious we are about it all," says Graham, who has been involved with the annual jamboree for some 25 years. "We are very serious in as much as it's historical fact that our Games were the first in modern times to be referred to as Olimpicks, certainly by 1630."

the training of the youth in manly sports and for the harmless mirth and jollitie of the neighbourhood". As chief director and manager, he trotted about on a white horse, and a 1636 collection of celebratory poems, *Annalia Dubrensia*, shows him in ceremonial garb and a plumed hat that came – via Mickleton-born Groom of the Royal Bedchamber Endymion Porter – from King James I.

"The Games were certainly backed by royalty, including James I and Charles I, and Prince Rupert allegedly visited in 1636," Graham says. "More importantly, it was about having fun in an era that was sliding towards Puritanism."

Continued on page 2



Nick Turner

World-famous shin-kicking, not for the faint-hearted.

Around the Cotswolds

Silver for sustainability

The Chestnuts 'eco-luxe' holiday cottage, Shilton, scooped silver at the 2011 Beautiful South Awards for Excellence, for its efforts in sustainable tourism. Alongside recycling and energy conservation measures, guests are provided with a bicycle and re-usable shopping bags to encourage environmentally friendly tourism.

"Living sustainably isn't about giving up luxury, it's thinking about things like recycling or using a wind-up torch," says owner Chris Burton.

The Chestnuts is run as a Carbon Neutral Enterprise and is a Gold Award member of the Green Tourism Business Scheme. It now goes forward to the national VisitBritain awards in May.

More walkers welcome

There are more reasons than ever to put your best foot forward in 2012 as growing numbers of towns and villages around the Cotswolds achieve Walkers are Welcome status.

The community-led scheme, which has a national network of some 70 locations, recognises places that offer something extra special to walkers. Winchcombe was the Cotswolds' first Walkers are Welcome town, in July 2009, and has since been joined by Longborough, King's Stanley and Leonard Stanley, Stroud and Bradford-on-Avon.

The scheme brings noticeable economic benefits, says Sheila Talbot, chair of Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome steering group. "We have witnessed a growing number of walkers in the town, especially the pubs and tea rooms. Accommodation providers are reporting a steady stream of bookings throughout the year."

Pad the Palladian Way

A new book by Gloucestershire-based walker Guy Vowles describes a fascinating 125-mile architectural walking trail. The Palladian Way runs past England's finest Palladian estates from Stowe House in Buckinghamshire, across the Cotswolds by Blenheim Palace and Barsley Park estates through to Prior Park just outside Bath.

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, with the assistance of the Friends of the Cotswolds, restored a section of footpath and an old clapper bridge at Signet, and the complete route is now waymarked.

For further details and signed copies of *The Palladian Way* (£9.99) see Guy's website, www.guysrambles.co.uk

Rugged oil beetle stronghold

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is celebrating the discovery of 11 rugged oil beetles at its Elliott nature reserve, on Swift's Hill near Stroud. The rare beetle (*Meloe rugosus*) is one of four species of oil beetle that are believed to have suffered drastic declines in the UK. A further four are thought to be extinct in the UK.

The rugged oil beetle is active in winter, however the other three remaining species can be found in spring and summer. Buglife is encouraging the public to look for them using identification information on its website, www.buglife.org.uk. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust will continue to search for the beetle at its other Stroud Valleys grassland reserves. If you are interested in getting involved visit www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Indeed, the Olimpicks were to have a chequered history, interrupted from 1642 by the Civil War and again from 1852 with the enclosure of Dover's Hill.

"It's fascinating that after the Restoration in 1660, the Games started up again immediately," Graham says. "They obviously touched the heart of the community. As to their termination in 1852, that was purely political and not due to rumoured rowdiness. I've seen the police sergeant's reports for 1849 to 1851 and the single phrase that comes through is 'all quiet.'"

War and politics aside, the Games were revived as part of celebrations of the Festival of Britain in 1951 and since 1966 have grown into the annual sporting extravaganza that today can draw up to 5,000 spectators.

When it comes to competitions in the Games, Graham says, "We are like Janus, we look both ways. We are aware of our past and heritage, and also aware that this is the 21st century and things change. Dover was happy to copy the original Greek Games in a very local Cotswold style and we adapt, too."

Horse-racing, hare-coursing and cock-fighting may have fallen by the wayside, but shin-kicking has made the Games legendary. It is thought to have developed from the 'underplay' of wrestling.

"Contestants hold each other by the shoulders and kicking is a tactic rather than the ultimate aim, putting your opponent off balance so that you can throw them," Graham says, adding, "The judge is called a stickler, a name that we claim also originated here, though the *Oxford English Dictionary* might disagree."

Time was, shin-kickers hardened their shins before competing by striking them with hammers and they were allowed to wear boots tipped with iron, resulting in numerous broken legs. Even with shins padded with straw, today's white-smocked contestants "are not entirely keen to do it again," Graham admits. He himself has given demonstrations but never competed!

Displays of backwords and single-stick – training exercises for fencing and fighting – also have honourable heritage, as do gurning, sack racing, and spurning the barre (akin to tossing the caber). The water race finale of the hotly contested team Championship of the Hill produces slapstick worthy of any Robert Dover theatrics.

"The friendly rivalry is all in true Olimpicks spirit," Graham says.

Roll up on Friday 1st June and you will be warmly welcomed by Robert Dover (aka Father John Brennan – "being a priest he has a ringing voice and he can also ride a horse"), plus other members of the society attired



Nick Turner

Olimpick sack race

in Jacobean costume. Proceedings start earlier than usual, at 2pm, continuing until midnight.

"We are attempting to make it more like the original Games just for this year, for example with more falconry, which was very much part of the Jacobean scene, and more local food stalls, which also used to predominate," Graham says. "There will be more demonstrations of original activities and our new castle will be used in games rather than just as a backdrop."

When the last shin has been kicked and fireworks have exploded, it's off by torchlight into Chipping Campden's

square for dancing into the night, although some may be hobbling!

"The issue of legacy was one of the things that won the Olympic Games for London," Graham reflects. "Our legacy in the Cotswolds isn't a stadium, it's people. We'll still be here in 2013 and 2014 holding our Olimpicks. It's difficult to define what Britishness or Englishness is, but certainly the Cotswold Olimpicks are part of it."

For further information about Robert Dover's Cotswold Olimpicks, including parking/shuttle buses, see www.olimpickgames.co.uk Tel: Graham Greenall, 01386 840081.

The 'other' Olympics

Cotswold residents have excelled in the 'other' Olympics, as well as their own. "Chipping Campden boasts gold medallist Frederick Merriman, who was in the Metropolitan Police team that won Tug-of-War in the 1908 London Olympics," Graham Greenall says. "It's no longer an Olympic event, but we continue the tradition on Dover's Hill!"

More recent Olympian stars, at Beijing 2008, include rowing gold medallists Peter Reed from Nailsworth and Cheltenham-born Zac Purchase. And we wait with bated breath to see which locals will become stars of Team GB in London.

Meanwhile, Broadway artist Jeremy Houghton has already been busy as an official BT artist for London 2012, painting Olympic hopefuls like fellow Broadway native and champion rower Alex Gregory.

"It has been inspiring to meet such dedicated human beings," Jeremy says. "In many ways painting in watercolours is like competing in sport; it's unforgiving and doesn't allow for mistakes. You've got to be on top of your game at a particular moment."

Also look out for the Olympic Torch on its 70-day relay to London. It passes through (22nd May) Bradford-on-Avon, Bath; (23rd May) Cirencester, Stroud, Painswick, Brockworth, Shurdington, Cheltenham; (1st July) Broadway and Chipping Campden.

"It's an honour for Campden to be on the route and an even greater honour to Robert Dover, because of what he set up more than 250 years before Pierre de Coubertin had the idea for the modern Olympics," Graham Greenall says.



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Festival at the castle

This year marks the quincentenary of the birth of Katherine Parr. Lady Ashcombe talks to *The Cotswold Lion* about the remarkable queen's links to Sudeley Castle and why Henry VIII's 'forgotten' sixth wife deserves to be honoured.

Discovering history at Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, is like slowly unlocking a secret: ruins of a medieval banqueting hall here, the glimpse of a Tudor love letter there. For more than 1,000 years the estate has seen royalty come and go; it suffered at the hands of Oliver Cromwell and was rescued by Victorian romantics.

In modern times, the golden-grey castle and beautiful gardens have enjoyed a renaissance under the care of current chatelaine Lady Ashcombe and her family.

"It is extraordinary to live in a place that holds all this energy," Lady Ashcombe enthuses. "It fires the imagination and we enjoy telling stories here."

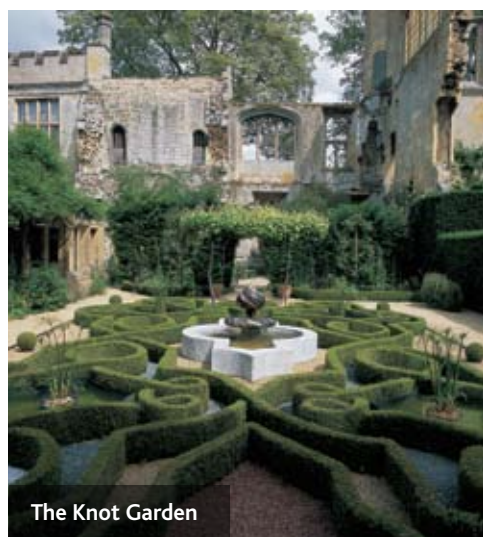
This year it is the story of Katherine Parr in particular that will be told, the Tudor queen who lived, died and is entombed at Sudeley Castle.

"We are the only private house in England that has a queen or king buried in the church in the garden," Lady Ashcombe continues. "Katherine Parr was such an extraordinary, powerful, passionate woman, and she deserves to be honoured. We began planning celebrations two or three years ago for the 500th anniversary of her birth in 1512, but we never imagined so many people would want to join in."

The Katherine Parr festival, 1st April–28th October, centres on an exhibition featuring items from the castle's collection, loans from other sources, plus a film presented by historian Dr David Starkey. Special events include Tudor Family Fun Days, literary and historical talks, At Home with Lady Ashcombe, and a Tudor Banquet.

Festival visitors will discover how "gracious, learned and pious" Katherine, although she was in love with the charismatic Sir Thomas Seymour, decided it was God's will she should accept King Henry VIII's daunting proposal to be his sixth wife in 1543. Her later love letter to Thomas, on display at the castle, lays bare her true feelings.

Unlike Henry's first five wives, Katherine neither died nor was she beheaded or divorced. "She got left out of popular history because she survived him and yet she was truly remarkable," Lady Ashcombe says.



The Knot Garden



Katherine served as Regent of England while Henry invaded France in 1544; she outwitted court plots against her and bravely sustained the Protestant cause at a time of religious turmoil. She was the first English queen, indeed first woman in the 16th century, to publish a work of prose – her religious works, *Prayers and Meditations* and *Lamentations of a Sinner*.

Following Henry's death in 1547, Katherine was free again to follow her heart and did so eagerly, marrying Sir Thomas Seymour the very same year.

"I think she was madly in love, but she also felt neglected. She had hoped to be Queen Regent while her stepson Edward [VI] was young," Lady Ashcombe says. "And Thomas was jealous of his brother, who became Protector."

At least the new King Edward granted Sudeley to Sir Thomas – who was his uncle – and Thomas immediately set about refurbishing the castle for Katherine to escape to when she fell pregnant within a year of their marriage. She arrived at the magnificent palace accompanied by a huge retinue.

"Katherine must have been thrilled she was going to be a mother and she must really have wanted to be in this quiet place away from all

the plotting at court," Lady Ashcombe says, also revealing that the Katherine Parr Room is going to be redecorated for the 2012 celebrations.

Tragically, Katherine's joy was shortlived, for within one week of the birth of her daughter, Mary, on 30th August 1548 the 36-year-old mother was dead from puerperal fever. Her funeral is to be re-enacted at Sudeley on 9th September, following the original service. It was England's first Protestant royal funeral.

The festival explores much more of Katherine's life and legacy, as well as what happened to treacherous Sir Thomas and little Mary. Lady Ashcombe is also keen that celebrations, and tourism generally at Sudeley Castle, help to benefit Winchcombe and the wider community:

"We're partners in many ways. The more attractions and things for people to do in one's own area, the better it is for everybody. The fact that Winchcombe and all the towns and villages in the Cotswolds now have wonderful shops, restaurants and hotels is good for everyone."

Much has happened since 1962 when Lady Ashcombe – then American-born Elizabeth Chipps – first visited Sudeley Castle. Arriving in frosty moonlight, "It was something right out of a Gothic tale."

She nevertheless married the son of the castle, Mark Dent-Brocklehurst, and from 1969 they modernised and opened Sudeley to the public to pay for its upkeep. When Mark suddenly died in 1972, and death duties and debt threatened, Elizabeth, later remarried to Lord Ashcombe, battled on with her young family.

Sudeley has gone on to become one of England's most enchanting castles to visit, with award-winning gardens that Lady Ashcombe believes are her greatest achievement.

There will always be difficulties and frustrations, she says, but she remains passionate about Sudeley: "It has been a life challenge but one that has been very rewarding."

For more about the Queen Katherine Parr Quincentenary, 1st April–28th October, visit www.sudeleycastle.co.uk; tel: 01242 602308.

Images supplied by Sudeley Castle.



Katherine Parr's tomb

A right royal affair

Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival (18th–20th May) plans a walk through the countryside around Sudeley Castle on Friday 18th May, imagining how it may have changed since Katherine Parr lived here. There is a visit to Katherine's burial place, St Mary's Church, and a talk by Sudeley Castle's archivist on 'Tudor times at Sudeley', www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com.

Winchcombe Festival of Music & Arts (28th May–3rd June), of which Lady Ashcombe is patron, is celebrating Katherine Parr's Quincentenary as well as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, www.winchcombe.co.uk/festival.





Diamond Jubilee plans take shape

Street parties, beacons and a spectacular new water festival promise a sparkling anniversary.

Plans to commemorate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee are off to a cracking start right across the Cotswolds, with something for everyone to join in. The Queen acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 but, 60 years later, the main focus for Jubilee activities is the extended Bank Holiday weekend of 2nd–5th June.

Never mind London's Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant, a star attraction locally is the first ever **Stroud on Water Festival** 2nd–4th June at Marling School playing field, celebrating the partial restoration of the Stroudwater Canal and the 40th anniversary of the Cotswold Canals Trust – happily coinciding with Her Majesty's jamboree.

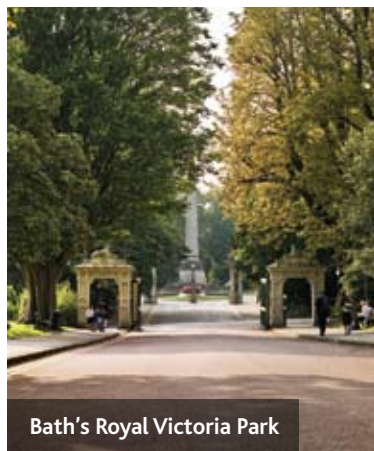
During the three-day event, which also hosts the Inland Waterways annual Trailboat Festival, visitors can expect to see lots of boats on the canal for the first time in more than 100 years, plus magical illuminated evening displays. There will be music, poetry, comedy, dancing and plenty of children's fun.

Queen Elizabeth II is only the second monarch in British history to achieve 60 years on the throne – Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years. Over the central celebratory weekend in early June key national events, besides the Thames pageant, include The Big Jubilee Lunch, a concert at Buckingham Palace, Diamond Jubilee Beacons, and a service of thanksgiving.

Around the Cotswolds, activities linking in and out of the central themes add special local flavour and twist.

The Queen specifically requested that **The Big Lunch** be part of national festivities, encouraging people to share lunch, a picnic or street party to foster community spirit. Renowned for its superb local produce, the Cotswolds is ideally placed to respond.

Gather some goodies and head along to **Bath's Royal Victoria Park** for The Queen's Jubilee Picnic in the Park (5th June). Two giant screens will show Jubilee revels while you enjoy



Bath's Royal Victoria Park

your al fresco nosh and there will be performances from Bath Philharmonic Orchestra, emerging pop artists, and ABBA tribute band Björn Again. The event is free and you are encouraged to dress in retro 1977 style, a nod back to the Silver Jubilee.

Street, picnic and village parties are planned over the long weekend from Burford and Milton-under-Wychwood to Nailsworth. Wotton-under-Edge also looks forward to a football tournament, workshops with Under the Edge Arts, a concert, fireworks and 60-year royal display at the Heritage Centre.

There's music for every taste. Wotton-under-Edge stages a **Royal Celebration Concert**, the Handel-inspired *Divine Music for Trumpets and Voices*, on 19th May at St Mary the Virgin Church. **Winchcombe Festival of Music & Arts** (28th May–3rd June) plans everything from free coffee concerts to a Gala Night and Last Night of the Proms, and an evening music festival crowns Chipping Norton's revels on 3rd June.

Bruno Peek, Pageantmaster, **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons**, tells *The Cotswold Lion* that the night skies will be lit up across the region

too. Beacon chains, once a tool for communication, have become a symbol of unity across communities: to mark The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 a chain of 2006 beacons flared across the world, the largest ever chain to be lit.

This year, on Monday 4th June, the aim is to light 2,012 (or more!) beacons. While Her Majesty ignites the National Beacon following the concert at Buckingham Palace, look for telltale glows around Tetbury, Wotton Hill, Nibley Knoll, Nailsworth, Miserden, Pen Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, Mickleton and Dover's Hill at Chipping Campden, to name just a few registered locations.

The beacon at Stow-on-the-Wold will flicker from the tower of St Edward's Church, also the venue for an historical exhibition, *St Edward's Church during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II* (1st–5th June). Many further churches are opening their doors, hosting events and special services as part of the **Jubilee Churches Festival** 25th May–5th June.

The Cotswold Voluntary Warden Jubilee project sees the launch of a series of online walks that are easily accessible and have no stiles, and there will be a few royal-themed guided walks this summer (see page 20).

Crowning moments

As a favourite royal haunt, the Cotswolds has special reason to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Prince Charles, Princess Anne and Zara Tindall are just the latest in a long line of blue bloods to be attracted here. Did you know –

- 👑 The mighty Mercian King Offa had a palace in Winchcombe in Saxon times.
- 👑 Sudeley Castle traces its royal connections back to King Ethelred (The Unready) in the 10th century. Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn famously enjoyed a summer sojourn here in 1535.
- 👑 Tradition tells that Paradise, near Painswick, was so named by Charles I after he was charmed by its tranquillity, no doubt in contrast to the civil war in which he was embroiled.
- 👑 'Farmer George' (George III), visiting the Cotswolds in the late 18th century, endeared himself to locals by chatting with farmers about animal and land prices.
- 👑 Queen Mary stayed at Badminton House for much of the Second World War.
- 👑 Queen Elizabeth II sought shelter at the Cross Hands Hotel, Old Sodbury, during a blizzard in 1981.
- 👑 Prince Charles' Highgrove Shops lead the way for royal souvenirs with Diamond Jubilee fine bone china and commemorative corgi soft toys!



One of 2,012 beacons to be lit on 4th June

Our Land – enjoying and protecting the Cotswolds

A new sustainable tourism initiative is encouraging people to reconnect with their local landscapes.

Launched in October 2011, 'Our Land' celebrates the nine Protected Landscapes of South East England, including the Cotswolds, which have joined together for the first time in a central tourism website, www.our-land.co.uk. Every enterprise promoted on the site is passionate about local landscapes, communities and sustainable practices.

More than a third of the South East is designated Protected Landscape, covering the diverse splendours of the Chilterns, Cotswolds, High Weald, Isle of Wight, Kent Downs, New Forest, North Wessex Downs, South Downs and

the Surrey Hills. These are already popular destinations – employment in tourism in Protected Landscapes is around double the national average, at almost 20%. Our Land aims to boost business further, while fostering sensitive enjoyment.

Visitors to the new website (hosted by responsibletravel.com) can browse specific regions and accommodation preferences, and explore itineraries themed around seasons and activities like cycling and walking. Every experience listed brings to life what makes their locale distinctive, telling authentic stories of the landscape through food, buildings,

history, people and wildlife.

Businesses that sign up to Our Land also promise to reduce their environmental impacts and make positive contributions to local economies and communities.

Vicky Greves runs King John's Barn self-catering accommodation at Langley Farm, near Burford, and joined Our Land because, "It is important to make people aware of the real stories of the landscape, that the Cotswolds isn't a park or museum, but a living, working environment where farmers play a vital part. We've had one family return several years running so that their children



Launching Our Land are: Rob Fairbanks, Surrey Hills AONB; Chris Reynolds, Kent Downs AONB; Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt, Sec of State for Culture, Sport, Olympics; Kate Humble, TV presenter; Nick Johannsen, Kent Downs AONB; Justin Francis, responsibletravel.com



Exploring the Cotswolds' distinctive landscape

can see what happens at lambing."

King John's Barn holiday accommodation was created by converting a semi-derelict agricultural building and Vicky, already part of the Green Tourism Scheme, promotes recycling and reducing energy use. "Being farmers, it is something we do naturally anyway."

Social media elements on the Our Land website encourage people to share experiences and question local experts like historians and conservationists. Cotswolds-based food writer and dog owner Helen Peacocke has already been busy, posting insider tips about "dog-friendly" The Mount Inn, Stanton. "The owners provided not only a bowl of water for my Border collie Pythius but also a dog basket beside a log fire."

Helen, author of the popular *Paws* series of books, goes on to reveal a quirky, shaggy sheepdog tale about Stanton's church – see the website! – and says, "I plan to comment on further dog-friendly pubs I find, to help others who travel with dogs and love good local food."

Our Land, endorsed by TV presenter Kate Humble, has been made possible by £1 million funding from the Rural Development Programme for England.

It is hoped it will be rolled out as a template for other Protected Landscapes across the country and is seen as a further initiative to enhance the Cotswolds' reputation as one of the country's 'greenest' destinations – the AONB was recently awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.

Vote now for the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds

Cast your vote and each of the top seven wonders will become the focal point for a brand new Wonder Walk.

In our last issue we asked: what are the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds? Nominations poured in, illustrating just how rich and diverse attractions are in the AONB.

For some, it was ancient and mysterious sites like the Rollright Stones that deserve to make the top seven list. Others plumped for breathtaking viewpoints, such as Cam Peak or Solsbury Hill, site of an Iron Age hillfort and inspiration for the famous Peter Gabriel song of 1977.

Villages proved popular vote-winners, from Snowhill to Bibury, as did local heritage, including Woodchester Mansion, Minster Lovell Hall and Hailes Abbey. Walking and sights enjoyed along the way, and the well known yew trees in Painswick churchyard, have all been put forward.

Now we would like you to vote for the final Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds. Simply visit our website www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/wonders to view the full list. The poll closes at midnight on

1st June.

Then look out for the next issue of The Cotswold Lion when we will publish the winning Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds. We will also reveal more details about a set of new guided and self-guided Wonder Walks based on the winning entries, to be created by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

Congratulations to Wendy McNamee whose Seven Wonder entry was picked at random, winning her a Cotswolds T Shirt and eco bag.



Ten top summer picnics

Our medieval ancestors broke from their hunting for hearty outdoor feasts and Renaissance princes threw bucolic banquets, while Victorians loved elegant garden parties. Al fresco dining has always appealed.



Picnic on the commons around Stroud

Nick Turner

Luckily the Cotswolds AONB has some of the loveliest spots for a picnic and so with summer fast approaching we've chosen ten top locations for a day out. Pack your hamper with delicious local treats from a farmers' market or deli, work up an appetite exploring common and hill, or settle with lunch and feed your soul on poetry. (And we know you will take your rubbish home to leave everything just as beautiful as when you arrived.)

Kites and ice cream

Pack your picnic at Stroud Farmers' Market (Saturdays) and head up to **Rodborough Common** with your kite – then fly away your cares on the end of a string. You might spot rare butterflies like the Adonis Blue in flight around the flower-rich limestone grassland too. Tuck into your goodies and drink in the superb views, across Gloucestershire and



towards Wales. Winstones Ice Cream is perched on the slopes of the common, which could provide the perfect dessert. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Leafy lunch

A shady spot under a tree is the ideal place to relax on a (hopefully) hot sunny day and that's where you'll find the picnic area at **Westonbirt, The National Arboretum**. Then discover the season's highlights: come in early summer to admire the incredible white bracts of the handkerchief tree, or in July/August to catch the Indian bean tree in flower, while the drone of bees along Lime Avenue reveals nature's own nectar-gathering picnic in full flow.

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Refresh beside riverside ruins

There's plenty to feed the imagination when you settle on the grass at **Minster Lovell Hall** beside the River Windrush. The picturesque 15th-century ruins, once home to one of the richest men in England, evoke a world when good lordship and hospitality (including the odd banquet or two) maintained medieval loyalties. After your picnic, stroll around the Hall and dream! www.english-heritage.org.uk

Delicious views

Broadway Tower Country Park is crowned by the inimitable Capability Brown/James Wyatt 'Saxon tower' folly and the viewpoint



Broadway Tower

here, at 1,024ft above sea level, is outstandingly dramatic. Make it a stopping point for your snack on a ramble along the Cotswold Way (there's car parking if you drive) and survey vistas that stretch away over hill and field for 62 miles, taking in as many as 16 counties. www.broadwaytower.co.uk

Feeding time on the farm

Take the kids along for some animal magic at **Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park**, Guiting Power. Learn about rare breeds and buy a snack bag to feed the animals on a farm safari, explore the Cotswold Lion Maze or help bottle feed lambs or goat kids. When human tummies begin to rumble, break out a picnic in one of the outdoor seating areas (there are also tasty home-made cakes in the café). Then maybe head off on a Wildlife Walk. www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

Skyline temptations

Load your knapsack with scrumptious fare from Bath's shops and work up an appetite walking the six-mile **Bath Skyline**. There are lots of tempting places to pause en route, including for exhilarating views down into the Georgian city. Step through history from an Iron Age hill fort to 18th-century follies and soak up the tranquillity of hidden valleys, woodlands and meadows simmering with wildlife. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Feast for film buffs

Not only is **Castle Combe** rated among the prettiest villages in England, it has star quality as a film set too, having been a location for *Doctor Doolittle* and *Stardust* through to *Wolfman* and Steven Spielberg's latest blockbuster, *Warhorse*. Sit beside the brook or 14th-century market cross and watch the world go by in idyllic surroundings. www.castle-combe.com

Feed your soul

'Here of a Sunday morning/My love and I would lie/And see the coloured counties/And hear the larks so high...' runs A E Housman's poem *Bredon Hill*. Visit **Bredon Hill National Nature Reserve** and be inspired too, not least by trees descended from the original 'wildwood'. Invertebrates, birds, butterflies and glow worms thrive in the tree, scrub and grassland habitat. Pull out your poetry book along with your picnic, or pen a few lines yourself. www.naturallengland.org.uk

Gardens and sweet treats

Step back into the 1930s at **Upton House and Gardens**, near Banbury, and a time when Lord and Lady Bearsted hosted the most divine weekend parties. Wander terraces, walled gardens and woodlands, gaze into the Mirror Pool and breathe in the fragrances of the Scented Garden. After a relaxing picnic in a quiet spot you might want to drop by the traditional sweet shop for a few more mouthwatering morsels. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Picnic and people-watch

Dip your toes in the River Windrush on a summer's day at **Bourton-on-the-Water** and while away a lunch or teatime hour people-watching. Clear sparkling water and attractive bridges make the 'Venice of the Cotswolds' a charming and lively backdrop for a pitstop. The village is full of attractions to visit, from the famous perfumery to the Cotswold Motoring Museum & Toy Collection. www.bourtoninfo.com



Bourton-on-the-Water

Car-free Cotswolds

Catch the bus for some great days out, helping to reduce traffic congestion and your carbon footprint too.

Public bus services may have undergone major review and changes over the last year, but there's still a good network around the Cotswolds that, with a little planning, provides great days out for visitors and residents alike. So, leave the car at home and hop aboard: it helps to reduce traffic and you also get to sit back and enjoy the views.

Each year, more than 23 million visitors come to explore the Cotswolds. The Cotswolds Conservation Board and local businesses are committed to sustainable, nature- and landscape-friendly tourism that balances enjoyment with conservation. Here are just a few hot tickets to getting around by bus.

Gateway towns are natural transport hubs. Pick up, for example, Cheltenham's Day Tours by Public Transport guide from the Tourist Information Centre on the Promenade (01242 522878). The **North Cotswolds Tour** includes stops at the 'must-see' villages of Broadway, Chipping Campden and Bourton-on-the-Water: a perfect taster tour.

Or soak up passing scenes on the meandering, 90-minute journey through the Cotswolds between Cheltenham and Oxford, via the ancient wool town of Northleach, picturesque Burford and Witney. The route has been rated among the UK's **Top 20 Bus Rides** for over 60s travelling free (*The Daily Telegraph*, 2008). Of course, you can be any age to savour the charming views (Swanbrook 853 bus; 01452 712386.)

Maybe roam with the Romans, who arrived in the Cotswolds in AD 47 and built roads like the Fosse Way and towns like Cirencester. Trace their steps with the **Fosse Link** (01451 820369) from Moreton-in-Marsh

and alight in Cirencester for the **Corinium Museum**, home to one of the country's largest collections of Romano-British antiquities.

If you are based in Cirencester, you can bus to historic **Tetbury**, browse for antiques and drop into Prince Charles' Highgrove Shop. Or continue on to **Westonbirt Arboretum** – visitors using public transport who present their tickets are given half-price entry. (Cotswold Green bus 881/Cotswold Volunteers (CCVS) bus 27).

With more than 3,000 miles of public footpaths weaving through the Cotswold landscape, wheels and walks make a superb combination. Numerous buses stop on or near the **Cotswold Way National Trail**, from Bath in the south to Broadway and Chipping Campden in the north.

Or catch the **bus and ramble back**, following a series of trails devised by The Cotswolds Conservation Board. How about Great Rissington to Bourton, a 6.5-mile step across the Windrush valley through the wildlife-rich water meadows of The National Trust's Sherborne Estate and back along the river to Bourton. There are plenty of refreshment opportunities at journey's end. (Pulhams 802 service from Bourton War memorial, ask for Lamb Inn, Great Rissington; 01451 820369.)

Tickets to ride

Pick up a copy of **Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport** for detailed bus and rail timetables and more car-free ideas. Also, look out for details of the new **Cotswolds Discoverer** bus and rail pass
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk



Spotlight

Chipping Norton

'Chipping' means a market and the original Saxon village of Norton transformed in medieval times with the bustle of folk who came here to its markets and fairs. Wealthy Cotswold wool merchants left their stamp on local buildings and, to the west, Victorian cloth magnate William Bliss built the extraordinary Bliss Tweed Mill (now luxury flats).

Modern-day 'Chippy' (as it's affectionately known) continues to bustle with a lively, working market town atmosphere, a population circa 6,500, and the cachet of once being rated by *Tatler* as third best place in the country to live. The centre of town around the historic sloping Market Place is where the must-see heritage is concentrated. Also cast your eyes down thoroughfares like New Street to lovely vistas of open countryside – set 700ft up on the wolds, Chippy is Oxfordshire's highest town.

See and do The one-mile Town Trail introduces Chippy's architectural highlights, from cuddled-up cottages and back lanes to fine Georgian frontages beside the Market Place. View earthworks from the vanished 11th/12th-century castle; St Mary the Virgin Church with its splendid 15th-century nave (financed by wool merchants); the medieval Guildhall, Cotswold-perfect 17th-century almshouses, and 19th-century Town Hall. The Museum of Local History, High Street, tells the town's story through wonderfully eclectic displays (open from Easter).

Eat and shop Pubs, restaurants, cafés and, naturally, 'chippies' cluster in profusion. Medieval The Chequers and former coaching inn The Blue Boar are great for atmosphere. Savour a cake at Nash's Bakery, favourite traditional dishes at The Old Mill coffee shop and bistro, modern British fare at Wild Thyme Restaurant with Rooms. Independent stores entice: antiques, gifts, antiquarian books, family butcher Trev Beadle, and the scrumptious Cotswold Deli and Cheese Shop. Jaffé & Neale, named among the UK's top 50 bookshops (*The Independent*), tempts with tomes and slabs of cake. Market: Wednesday; farmers' market: 3rd Saturday of the month.



Bliss Mill

Make a date The Theatre, Spring Street, was created in the 1970s from a Salvation Army Citadel-turned-furniture-warehouse, by Royal Shakespeare Company actors John and Tamara Malcolm. Come for theatre, music, dance, comedy, opera, film, or the famous annual pantomime. The 100th Chipping Norton Music Festival takes place 9th–24th March 2012.

Walking and exploring The surrounding limestone countryside is ideal for a few hours' saunter. Local trails range from 2.5 to 16 miles, featuring mills and meadows, flora and fauna, stream and lane. Or soak up the mysterious aura of the Rollright Stones, a short hop to the north (Stagecoach no. 50 plus

walk). Did a witch turn mortals to stone to create the Neolithic King's Men circle, King Stone monolith and Whispering Knights burial chamber?

Fancy that! Experimenting with local willow bark in the 1760s, Revd Edward Stone discovered salicylic acid, the active ingredient in aspirin. See the blue plaque on West Street. For the latest Chippy gossip, pick up the lively *Chipping Norton News*, on sale around town.

Visiting essentials Buses to Chipping Norton include S3/Oxford, X8/Kingham Station, X9/Witney, 50/Stratford-upon-Avon. Car parking in town is free. Further information, including walking trails to download, www.chippingnortontown.info.





David Simcox

Large Blues fly again

Numbers of the rare butterfly are rising, thanks to latest conservation efforts.

The Large Blue (*Maculinea arion*), one of our most extraordinary butterflies, was declared extinct in Britain in 1979. In the Cotswolds, where nearly 40 known colonies once existed, official records say they vanished in 1963.

The insect's demise was largely attributed to 20th-century changes in grazing – in the Cotswolds, the diminution of sheep grazing – and the subsequent loss of the short-turfed habitat where soil is warm and heat-loving red ants (*Myrmica sabuleti*) may thrive.

Large Blues lay eggs on wild thyme and their caterpillars feed on the flowers before dropping to the ground where they attract and fool *Myrmica sabuleti* with sweet secretions from a 'honey' gland.

The ants, believing the caterpillars are their own grubs, take them underground into their nests and place them in their brood chamber. Here the caterpillars feed on ant grubs before hibernating, pupating and re-emerging above ground as beautiful butterflies.

"It's a remarkable lifecycle, one of the great wonders of the natural world," says freelance research ecologist and Large Blue expert David Simcox. "Not only do the butterflies produce chemicals that simulate those given out by ants, but they also mimic the noises of queen ants, which is why they are treated like royal guests."

A major project to re-introduce Large Blues into restored habitat in southwest England began in the 1980s, led by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH). While efforts in Somerset were notably successful, attempts at three sites in the Cotswolds in the 1990s were less so.

In 2010 David and his colleague Sarah Meredith, funded by CEH, Butterfly Conservation and Oxford University, and working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and the National Trust, made further

experimental introductions at two Cotswold sites: near Stroud and at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Daneway Banks Nature Reserve, Sapperton (where the butterflies were also re-introduced in 1999).

Encouragingly, in summer 2011 David and Sarah made 67 Large Blue sightings.

"The grazing is now correct for Large Blues at Daneway Banks because Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has put in sheep and ponies there," says county butterfly recorder Chris Wiltshire, adding, "Visitors should start looking for Large Blues from mid-June into the first or second week of July."

"The grazing is now correct for Large Blues at Daneway Banks because Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has put in sheep and ponies there."

Large Blues introduced in the 1990s came from Sweden, but the latest ones are from colonies in Somerset and are more acclimatised to UK conditions, with a greater likelihood that they emerge when the wild thyme is at the right stage of flowering.

David reared the caterpillars from eggs. "They are cannibalistic and so each had to be kept in an individual container. We released 436 between the two sites," he reveals. "We aim to boost numbers this year and then hopefully they will be self-sustaining. I'm also hoping we can re-colonise sites around Painswick in future."

Continued funding for all aspects of the Large Blue project remains crucial and has wider conservation value, too, David says. "We've collected data spanning 40 years which shows that if you get habitat management right for the Large Blue, other rare insects, plants and birds will benefit."

Will the CAP fit the Cotswolds?

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as well as the beginning of a crucial period of debate over proposed reforms that will take effect from 2014.

Agriculture has been a flagship of European collaboration since the early days of the European Community and today CAP – the agreed framework under which farmers of member states operate – accounts for £47 billion, or some 40% of the EU budget.

Originally designed to boost European food production following post-war shortages and to bolster farm incomes, the CAP achieved its aims through market price support. Subsidy has cushioned farmers against the vagaries of weather and markets, so keeping food supply secure and affordable. CAP payments have also helped farmers, who are expected to maintain high levels of care for animals and the environment, to compete in the market place with food producers elsewhere who aren't committed to such standards.

Administered via the twin 'Pillars' of direct farm payments (subsidy) and rural development, CAP has weakened the link between subsidy and production over the years, with greater emphasis put on diversification and environmental and public benefits: conservation of the landscape, wildlife and historic features, or maintaining public access, for example. Defra says that nearly 6.5 million hectares (nearly 70%) of England's farmland are in agri-environment schemes. The Farmland Bird Scheme alone is worth over £3.5 million to the Cotswolds.

Some 176,393 hectares, or 86%, of land is classified as agricultural in the Cotswolds AONB, with a further 10% covered by woodland, and the importance of CAP is "integral", says Janet Dwyer, Professor of Rural Policy and Co-Director of the Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire:

"When you think of the landscape, you think of beautiful villages, but also stone walls around fields, the nice mix of arable land and pasture, the tradition of estate management and woodland areas, and strong recreational interest. The Cotswold landscape is maintained by farming in lots of ways and valued by lots of people."

In future farmers face big challenges. Gail Soutar, Senior CAP and International Affairs Adviser, NFU, says, "The UN estimates that the global

population will grow to over nine billion by 2050 and food production will need to rise by 70% to meet that increased demand. In the UK the population is due to rise to 70 million by 2026. That's an additional eight million mouths to feed in just 14 years."

Pressures of climate change, greater environmental expectations, energy security and increased price volatility mean, "Put simply farmers will have to produce more, but impact less," Gail says.

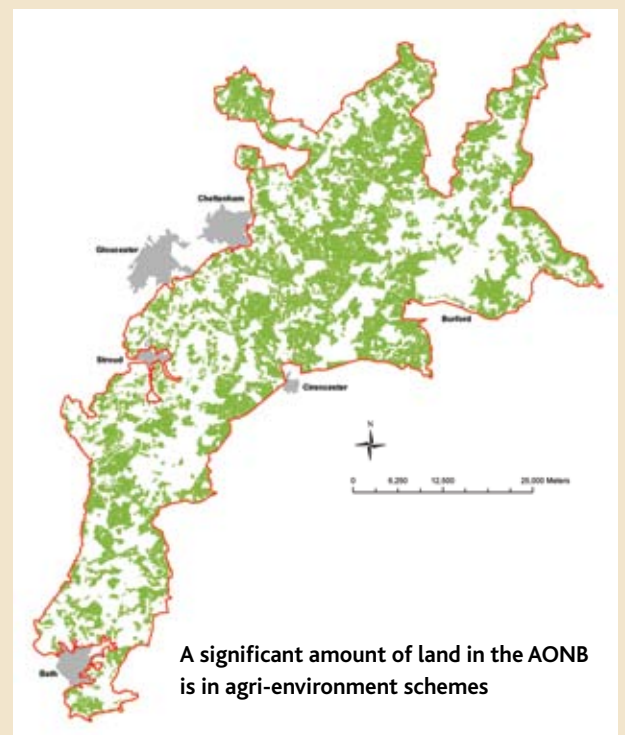
How will CAP help farmers to meet the challenges and opportunities, and are proposed reforms now under discussion for implementation in 2014–2020 on the right track? Views are mixed.

Defra, for example, believes that farm production should move away from direct subsidies and CAP should have greater emphasis on Pillar 2 environmental activity.

The NFU fears that reform proposals to 'green' Pillar 1 direct payments by linking them to specific environmental practices could hinder competitiveness and food production.

Professor Dwyer sees much to benefit Cotswold farmers and wider businesses in proposed rural development measures.

Over the next 18 months EU member states will negotiate these and many other reforms to hammer out a CAP agreement for 2014–2020. In coming issues, *The Cotswold Lion* will look in more detail at measures and what they mean for local farmers, residents and visitors to the AONB.



A significant amount of land in the AONB is in agri-environment schemes

Passionate producers: Marshfield Ice Cream

Much has changed since 1971, when Will Hawking's parents began dairy farming at Marshfield, high on the Cotswold Hills overlooking Bath. The family's herd has grown from 50 to 200 Friesians and in 1988 Will diversified into premium ice cream making. Now, a third of the daily production of 3,600-4,000 litres of organic milk goes into creating an award-winning range of 26 luscious flavours.

"We wanted to make a product where we could talk more directly to consumers," Will says. "It took ten years to really get going – there was



plenty of trial and error. But I'm very passionate: it's a wonderful business to plant the grass seeds, grow the grass, produce the milk, turn it into ice cream and see someone enjoying the finished product.

"The farm is on classic Cotswold brash that is very free draining, which enables us to keep our cows out at grass for much longer than in other parts of the country. We like the idea of free-ranging cows; it's a much less intensive way of keeping them.

"We've nearly 1,000 acres and we've been organic since 1999. We also aim to be as self-sufficient as possible. We produce 95% of the food our cows eat on the farm and we've a borehole that makes us self-sufficient for water. We generate 50 kW of electricity from solar panels on a farm building, which helps to run our cold stores.

"Good ingredients are key to making good ice cream. Sixty percent of any Marshfield Ice Cream is our milk and the rest is double or clotted cream. The milk is super fresh because our ice cream dairy is just across the yard from the milking parlour. We

milk twice a day, at 4am and 3pm.

"We use local ingredients wherever possible, like strawberries from the Vale of Evesham, and brownies from Marshfield Bakery swirled into our Chocolate Fudge Brownie. We never use artificial colourings, flavourings or preservatives.

"We make 1,300 litres of ice cream an hour when flat out, in converted calf sheds, and use a batch pasteurizing process where the heating is at a lower temperature and slower. It gives a slight caramelization to the sugar and you retain more of the flavour of the cream.

"We've experimented with lots of flavours, but our vanilla and clotted cream ice creams still account for 35% of all we make. Strawberry, chocolate, toffee fudge and blackcurrant are also very popular. We supply outlets across the country; old-fashioned flavours like Mint Choc Chip go well at the seaside.

"I think salted caramel will be a fashionable flavour, so we may well launch a new ice cream – we like to introduce a fresh flavour every year.

"This spring we are opening an ice

cream parlour at weekends on the farm, with a display about the farm and turning grass into ice cream. We have a great family business with a close-knit team and, although

days are long, you're not really in the rat race."

Marshfield Farm, ice creams and sorbets,
www.marshfield-icecream.co.uk



Ice cream production at Marshfield Farm

Cotswold champions: Joe Henson MBE

In 2011 Joe Henson received an MBE for services to conservation. Born in London in 1932 the son of actor Leslie Henson, he set his heart on farming as a child, spurred not least by ownership of a toy model farm. He attended the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and from 1962 went into partnership farming with his friend John Neave at Bemborough Farm, Guiting Power.

In 1971, encouraged by his wife Gill and John, Joe opened the pioneering Cotswold Farm Park showcasing rare breeds (now run by his son as Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park). In 1973 he became founder chairman of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Now retired, Joe, 79, still keeps a close interest in the Farm Park. He is also an honorary Cotswold Voluntary Warden.

How did you first become interested in Britain's rare breeds of farm animals?

I've always loved animals and when we moved from London to Middlesex I would visit a farm still run on historic lines. I left school as soon as I could and worked there, with horses and hand milking cows.

Later at the Royal Agricultural



College I learned about agricultural history. I became deeply interested in historic breeds and the part they played in our heritage – and horrified that many had disappeared. Our first rare breed at Bemborough was a flock of Cotswold sheep. Then I started breeding Gloucester cattle and Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs. It all went from there.

Why is it important to conserve rare farm breeds?

They are a living, walking, breeding part of our heritage. From a scientific

view, they each have a unique combination of genes which, once lost, will never really be reassembled. You never know whether a breed might have a future commercial niche or role – Dexter cattle are now valued as the perfect smallholder's breed and people are clamouring for Longhorn beef.

What has given you most pleasure and satisfaction in your work?

Meeting the wonderful people who have kept rare breeds going – every

breed now has its own society. And I was thrilled to be awarded the MBE: I've worked jolly hard for rare breeds!

And greatest disappointments?

Animal disease. Worst of all is bovine TB. It breaks my heart when I have had to stand by the handling pens and be told animals have to be slaughtered. It's my life work going down the drain.

What is the most important lesson you have learned?

My animals always come first, much to my wife's chagrin on many occasions when she has been in her wellies helping me get two bulls apart after a gate has been left open. I have a very understanding wife!

What hopes, ambitions, dreams for the future?

I can't ask for more than what Adam is doing, continuing my enthusiasm, and my three daughters are doing fantastic things too. My biggest hope is that an answer to the bovine TB problem will be found because we are losing not only cattle but also badgers, which die a painful death.

What do you most enjoy about living in the Cotswolds?

It's a wonderful area! I know so many farmers and friends here, and we help each other out if there's any trouble.

Visitor information for Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

Do you know a 'Cotswold champion' whose work helps the AONB to thrive? We are looking for nominations – whether a conservationist, volunteer, artist or someone else who adds richness to Cotswold life. Send your suggestions to info@cotswolds-aonb.org.uk or via [twitter@cotswolds-aonb](https://twitter.com/cotswolds-aonb) and we will feature a selection in future issues.



Joe Henson with his son Adam

Deep in Dursley

An exciting project to encourage children to discover the natural magic of Dursley's very own 'lunar' landscape has taken off.

At first glance Breakheart Quarry may seem a little stark. But look closer and you soon find the limestone laid down here 165 million years ago holds an intriguing haul of fossil seashells, while former quarrying has created a distinctive habitat for flora and fauna like mosses, lichens, wild strawberry and grizzled skipper butterflies.

In 2009, Breakheart Community Project Limited (BCPL) negotiated a 99-year lease of the 20 ha site, including Millend Wood, from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The aim: to make the best of its recreational and educational potential for local inhabitants. Most recently, a £6,800 grant from the Cotswolds AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) has enabled BCPL and Dursley-based arts organisation World Jungle to launch DEEP outdoor education and play programme.

"DEEP stands for Discover, Explore, Enjoy, Protect," says project manager Ben Ward. "We have been developing activities for local children to discover Breakheart Quarry, which is regionally important for its geology, ancient woodlands and supporting rare species including the dormouse.

"The kids can explore diverse habitats and wildlife, enjoy taking part in natural learning and play activities, whilst also learning how to protect the environment for future generations."

In the autumn the project hosted two free half-day training courses for people interested in working outdoors with children, and set about linking with local schools, cubs, brownies and other youth organisations to bring up to 12 groups of youngsters on visits.

"The quarry is such an amazing location, like a lunar or *Dr Who*-style landscape surrounded by ancient woodland, grassy areas and a variety

of micro-climates," Ben says. "There are so many stories and activities to excite children at different times of the year – wildlife and tree identification walks, fungal forays, learning about moths and butterflies, bushcraft, environmental art, outdoor fires and cooking. The kids have already had some great experiences.

"Through the visits we are developing a training resource pack and educational materials to offer to schools and youth groups both locally and across the county in the future," he adds. "They will be able to pick options to fit in with their curriculum. We've met with local school heads and they are very enthusiastic about the project."

Initial DEEP visits to Breakheart Quarry have been free thanks to the SDF grant, but will continue for a "small rental charge" to BCPL, Ben says.



"We definitely want more groups to contact us and come. While the primary target of the project is young people, the overall aspiration is to get the wider community to explore and enjoy Breakheart Quarry. So we hope children will tell their parents what a wonderful place it is and encourage them to visit, too."

To find out more about DEEP, contact Ben Ward at World Jungle on 07889 512644, email ben@worldjungle.org.uk.

Grants up to £13,000 are available from SDF. Visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/grants for further information.

New climate change advisory service

Farmers and rural businesses across the AONB can now benefit from dedicated advice on the challenges and opportunities created by climate change.

James Lloyd joins the Cotswolds Conservation Board team as climate change adviser and will work closely with local farmers and business to identify measures to increase efficiency and productivity, as well as demonstrating that sustainable land use can enhance profitability.

James, who was previously rural development adviser for the Gloucestershire Development Agency, says, "This exciting new role will involve taking forward a variety of initiatives focused on resource management, renewable energy, and sustainable land management, including assistance with various funding applications, and administration of a small grant scheme for innovative demonstration projects."

The new post has been established thanks to funding from National Grid.

Children reap the benefits of growing school garden

A team of volunteers, including the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, has been helping children at Malmesbury Primary School to build a garden and outdoor classroom.

Teacher and former climate scientist, Jill Caaney, who designed the garden, says,



"Gardening brings so many benefits to children and it is wonderful to allow children to be part of the creation of the garden. I believe that helping children connect to their environment is key to them understanding wider scientific and environmental issues."

The garden, which features a dry stone wall seating centrepiece built by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, will be fully planted by spring.

Horse sense

The Cotswolds Conservation Board's new guidance leaflet on keeping horses and ponies is now available via its website.

There are some 18,000 horses and ponies kept within the AONB and their rising population can impact both positively and negatively on the landscape. Drawing together advice from local authorities, the British Horse Society, horse owners and equine businesses,

the leaflet highlights best practice with regard to keeping horses in harmony with the landscape and environment, as well as animal welfare.

You can download the leaflet from the publications section of the AONB website, www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Readership Survey prize draw

Thank you to all our readers who entered the prize draw readership survey in the last issue.

We had a fantastic response and have taken many of your views and ideas on board, including having a new children's page, a focus on Cotswold towns and villages plus more walks and events. We hope you like the new, improved version and please do keep your comments and suggestions coming in.

Congratulations to our prize draw winner, Mr G Hale from Evesham who wins a copy of the Winchcombe Way guidebook!

It's education, naturally

The AONB education programme, led by the Board's Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, continues apace with new initiatives and days out planned with local schools across the Cotswolds and beyond.

In conjunction with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, pupils from Stow-on-the-Wold Primary School will visit the Trust's Greystones Farm nature reserve in June to learn more about nature and the countryside through a variety

of activities such as stream dipping, bug hunts and animal tracking.

The Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome steering group is getting involved with the education programme by helping to take children from Winchcombe Abbey Primary School out of the classroom to explore the nature and history of their local environment. Steering group members are also working with local secondary schools to stage an orienteering event to be included as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

More countryside educational days are being organised across the AONB this year with schools including Chipping Campden, Willersey, Winchcombe Abbey Primary School and Dashwood Primary School in Banbury.

Cotswold Way – in South Korea!

The Cotswolds Korea Friendship Trail has launched in the South Korean island of Jeju Olle, promoting links between the island's long distance coastal trail and the Cotswold Way. It follows a similar launch of a specially signed route at Stinchcombe Hill last year.

Just like twin towns, friendship trails create mutual publicity and foster international alliance, and plans are already underway to launch another one, with the Bruce Trail in Canada in April.



Walks & Events Guide

Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Spring/Summer Walks & Events Programme which offers numerous opportunities to explore and enjoy one of the most treasured landscapes in England. The majority of the walks listed here are researched and led by our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and are ideal for those wanting to enjoy a couple of hours or even a whole day walking in the countryside. We recommend you always wear appropriate footwear as some walks may be muddy in place. Sorry, but only assistance dogs are allowed on the walks. Unless otherwise stated, all guided walks are free of charge however donations are collected at the end which go towards helping to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds countryside. Further details of these walks and other events taking place throughout the Cotswolds AONB can be found at www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Guided tours of Chipping Campden

The Cotswold Wardens have conducted guided tours of Chipping Campden for nearly forty years.

Regular Walks: This year, beginning on 29th May until 27th September, we are to lead these walks twice a week on Tuesdays (start 2.30pm) and Thursdays (start 10.00am). Meet at the Market Hall for an easy walk which lasts 1.5 hours and is suitable for families. We suggest a donation of £2.00 per person.

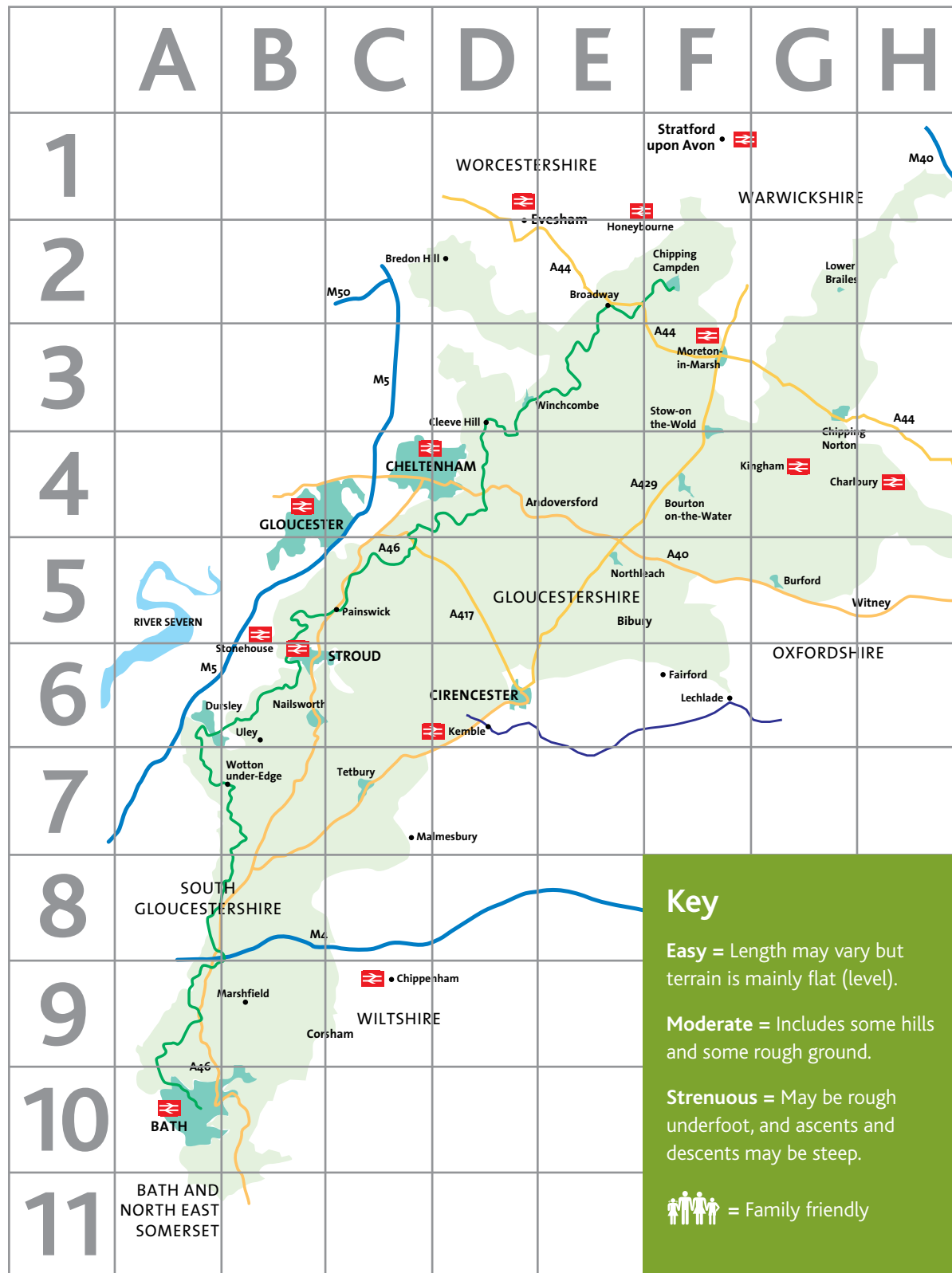
Tailor Made Walks: The Wardens can provide a town walk, an audio visual show followed by a tea or supper as appropriate for organised parties. For further details contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131 or email: ann.colcomb@btinternet.com

Walk the Cotswold Way

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

Walk the Diamond Way

Join a group led by the Cotswold 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.



Key

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

Moderate = Includes some hills and some rough ground.

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

= Family friendly

Saturday 7th April • 10:00

Doynton, Dyrham, & Pennsylvania
Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles
 A walk from Doynton up onto the Cotswold Escarpment, using the Cotswold Way through Dyrham Wood, and visiting the attractive village of Dyrham.
Starting point: Doynton, nr Cross House PH ST719740 • Map square A9
Leader: Reg Bleaden

Wednesday 11th April • 10:00

Macmillan Way - Stage 9
Moderate • 5.5 hours • 8 miles
 For this linear walk from Sherston to Castle Combe, transport will be arranged to convey walkers from Castle Combe to the start of the walk in Sherston. Please book by April 2nd on 01453 836221 and bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Castle Combe public Car Park ST845777 • Map square B9
Leaders: Alan Bulley & Sandy Higgins

Wednesday 11th April • 10:00

Commons and Beechwoods
Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4 miles
 A scenic walk across commons and through hillside woodlands.
Starting point: Public Car Park on roadside of Rodborough Common SO851035 • Map square B6
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & David Collings

Thursday 12th April • 7:30pm

Spring Nightwalk
 Join Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for a quiet moonlight walk around their Daneway reserves as the wildlife evening shift wakes.
Venue: Siccaridge Wood and Daneway Banks nature reserves, Sapperton.
Pre-book: 01452 383333

Friday 13th April • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No 1
Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles
 Meet at 10 am for coffee at Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote. Walk starts at 10.30 am to Kingscote village and through Kingscote and Horsley Woods. Lunch available at the Inn on completion of the walk.
Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote ST814960 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Saturday 14th April • 10:00

Over the Top and Round the Side
Moderate • 5.5 hours • 8 miles
 A contrasting walk over the top of Bredon Hill to Elmley Castle returning round the base to Beckford. There are ancient forts and orchards too. Pub lunch available.
Starting point: Beckford, outside entrance to church. SO976358 • Map square D2
Leaders: Colin Boulton & Julie Downing

APRIL

Tuesday 3rd April • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp
Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
 A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at Pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.
Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9
Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Wednesday 4th April • 10:00

Reflections on Trees: a poetic walk
Moderate • 2.25 hours • 3.75 miles
 A chance to look at woodland in a new way. We will have several stops where wardens will read poems on the subject of trees. This woodland walk includes one steady climb. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Cripplegate Car Park SO832068 • Map square B5
Leaders: Pippa Burgon, John Shaw & Tony Wilson

Friday 6th April • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and countryside
Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles
 A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and on part of the Cotswold Way, passing historical points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.
Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

FOUR UNMISSABLE FESTIVALS...

CHELTENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL
2 - 7 MAY

THE TIMES CHELTENHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL
12 - 17 JUNE

CHELTENHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL
4 - 15 JULY

THE TIMES CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL
5 - 14 OCTOBER

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cheltenhamfestivals.com

[/cheltenhamfestivals](https://www.facebook.com/cheltenhamfestivals)

[@chelfestivals](https://twitter.com/chelfestivals)

Saturday 21st April • 7:00pm

Evening Bird Walk

An inspiring and informative walk with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust around Coombe Hill nature reserve looking for breeding wading birds.

Venue: Coombe Hill nature reserve, Cheltenham.

Pre-book: 01452 383333

Sunday 22nd April • 10:00

Down to a Combe, across to a Stoke

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.7 miles
Circular walk via the Kennett and Avon Canal to Limpley Stoke, Monkton Combe, and Midford.

Starting point: Nr. Cross Keys, South Stoke Road, Combe Down
ST748619 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Sunday 22nd April • 10:00

Town and Down

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
A walk which will provide an insight into Dursley's history and development, coupled with ascents to Cam Long Down and Uley Bury hill fort to provide a geographical perspective of the town and locality. Pub refreshment available at end of walk.

Starting point: Dursley, May Lane public Car Park, opposite the Old Spot Inn
ST753981 • Map square A6

Leaders: John Hammill & Hilary Paveley

Sunday 22nd April • 2:00pm

Lower Woods Spring Wildflower Walk

A beautiful varied walk with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust around this large reserve, one of the best in the South West - enjoying and learning about the wonderful wildflowers.

Venue: Lower Woods nature reserve, Wickwar.

Pre-book: 01452 383333

Wednesday 25th April • 10:00

Badminton Past and Present

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles
A morning walk through this famous Estate. No stiles. Not suitable for push chairs. Please bring a snack.

Starting point: Badminton village Post Office, ST804827 • Map square B8

Leaders: Gill Sheppard & Moyra Evans

Friday 27th April • 10:00

Bluebells in Fox Holes

Easy • 4 hours • 7 miles
Starting from Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes through Bruern woods reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where the bluebells should be in flower. We return by woodland and field paths. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Shipton Village Hall
SP278181 • Map square G3

Leader: Gerald Simper

Friday 27th April • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles
A circular route taking in Bull Banks, Duntisbourne Abbots, Winstone and Winstone Woods.

Starting point: West of Winstone
SO957094 • Map square D5

Leaders: Ken Buckle, Colin Dickinson & Geoff Ricketts

Saturday 28th April • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles
A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and on part of the Cotswold Way, passing historical points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park
ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Saturday 28th April • 10:00

Brewers and Traitors

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles
From Hook Norton to the Sibfords via Traitors Ford and Ditched Lane (MacMillan Way). Return via Swacliffe Common and d'Arcy Dalton Way. Stunning views over Brailes and beyond and a lovely woodland trail. Please bring packed lunch.

Starting point: Hook Norton Primary School, Sibford Road • SP356337 • Map square H3

Leader: Janet Deller

Saturday 28th April • 10:00

On The Edge

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles
Commons, woodland and villages around the edge of the Cotswold escarpment.

Starting point: Stroud, Stratford Park Leisure Centre • SO844056 • Map square B5

Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle & Mike Dunning

Sunday 29th April • 11:00

Horton Walking Festival: Horton Court & the scarp

Moderate • 1.5 hours • 2 miles
We climb the scarp from Horton Court to admire the views, returning by part of the Cotswold Way and field paths, with freedom to visit Horton Court afterwards. Please visit website (www.hortonandlittlesodburyvillagehall.org.uk) for full details of 3 day Walking Festival.

Starting point: NT Car Park, Horton Court
ST766851 • Map square A8

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Sunday 29 April • 10:30

Love Food Festival

The Love Food Festival returns to Dyrham with plenty of mouth-watering local produce to try and buy. Learn how to grow and cook your own food using various methods, and have a go at activities.

Venue: Dyrham Park

MAY

Tuesday 1st May • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at Pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne
ST818711 • Map square B9

Leaders: C Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Wednesday 2nd May • 10:00

A Wool Town and a Village

Moderate • 2 hours • 4 miles
A short walk in the Leach Valley with visits to two 'Wool' churches - one large town centre, one village. The walk features field paths with delightful views and one moderately steep climb.

Starting point: The Old Prison, Northleach
SP109150 • Map square E5

Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon & Rosemary Woodham

Sunday 6 May

Poets and Estates

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles
Starting at Chastleton House in Oxfordshire we go to visit Adlestrop with Jane Austen connections. The return is via the Daylesford Estate and Cornwell House. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chastleton House Car Park
SP249291 • Map square: H5

Leader: Trish Gilbert

Sunday 15th April • 10:00

To National Trust Hill and Park!

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles
A linear walk from Swainswick to Little Solsbury Hill (NT), Chilcombe Bottom, Charmy Down, Tadwick and back to Dyrham via Freezing Hill and Doynton. Please bring a packed lunch. Booking required for bus transport to the start from Dyrham Park on 0117 9371335 [NB: Grid reference is to Dyrham Park Car Park not the walk start point which is 762 683.] Not suitable for push chairs.

Starting point: Dyrham Park Car Park
ST749758 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Sunday 15th April • 10:00

To Stow and Beyond

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12.5 miles
A walk to Stow using the Oxfordshire Way and other paths leading out of the Evenlode Valley. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bledington Green
SP244228 • Map square G4

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday 17th April • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
A series of morning walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills giving good views in clear weather. We will stop for a coffee and snack only. Lunch available in the village pubs or tea rooms.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall Car Park, Box,
off A4. ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould

Wednesday 18th April • 10:00

Wednesday Wander

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles
East along the Macmillan Way before climbing to the Gloucester Beeches and its surrounding open countryside. Then descending to the River Frome valley and its ancient woodland. There are two moderate ascents. Optional pub lunch at The Bell in Sapperton.

Start point: Sapperton. From St Kenelm Church • SO947034 • Map square: D6

Leaders: John Foulkes, Mike Williams & Royden Hales

Tuesday 17th April • 7.30pm

Nightwalk at Greystones Farm

Join Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust for a walk around Greystones Farm nature reserve after the sun has set.

Pre-book: 01452 383333

Saturday 21st April • 10:00

Boats and Battles

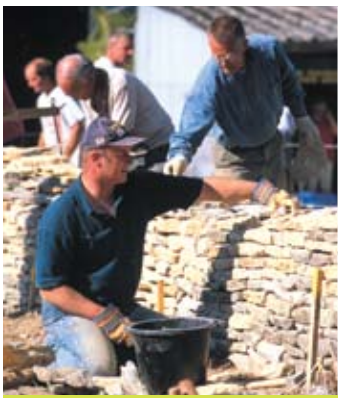
Strenuous • 6 hours • 12 miles
Explore the history of this undiscovered corner of England on the northern edge of the Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Warmington Green
SP412477 • Map square H1

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires



Nick Turner



Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses 2012

Spring/Summer Programme

A range of rural skills courses are on offer this year in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. All courses are just £99.

Why not have a go at learning a new traditional countryside craft. No experience is necessary for most courses and all tools and equipment are provided.

Dry-stone Walling

(Beginners) • Lansdown • 14/15 April
 (Beginners) • Long Compton • 5/6 May
 (Beginners) • Naunton • 26/27 May
 (Beginners) • Leckhampton Hill • 9/10 June
 (Beginners) • Tetbury • 23/24 June
 (Beginners) • Cotswold Farm Park • 14/15 July
 (Intermediate) • RAC, Cirencester • 21/22 July
 (Beginners) • Lansdown • 28/29 July
 (Beginners) • Long Compton • 4/5 August
 (Beginners) • Crickley Hill • 18/19 August
 (Beginners) • Tetbury • 8/9 September
 (Beginners) • Naunton • 22/23 September
 (Intermediate) • RAC, Cirencester • 13/14 October

Blacksmithing

Northleach • 23rd June
 Northleach • 15th September

Lime Mortar

Ebworth Centre, Glos (TBC) • 23/24 June
 Ebworth Centre, Glos (TBC) • 1/2 September

Green Woodworking

Limpley Stoke, Bath • 2 & 3 June
 Limpley Stoke, Bath • 7 & 8 July
 Limpley Stoke, Bath • 1 & 2 September

Charcoal Making

Limpley Stoke, Bath • 9/10 June
 Limpley Stoke, Bath • 15/16 September



For further details and to book online visit

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Tel: 01451 862000

Tuesday 8th May • 9:30

Diamond Way Sampler with a pitstop No 1

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A chance to sample the northern most part of the Diamond Way and two of the north Gloucester frontier villages, Hidcote and Mickleton where we pitstop. We return over the Cotswold Edge via Dovers Hill, the site of the Cotswolds Olympics on 1st June. Pub lunch available or bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Chipping Campden Market Square • SP151391 • Map square F2
Leaders: Allan Allcock & Julie Downing

Wednesday 9th May • 10:00

Hawker's Folly

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4 miles

A leisurely walk around two wildflower rich commons. Match your skill in identification with the Wardens. Pub snack after walk if required. Suitable for families, but not buggies/pushchairs.

Starting point: Amberley Inn, Amberley, not pub Car Park please.
 SO850013 • Map square B6
Leaders: David Harrowin & Brian Mundy

Thursday 10th May • 10:00

Green Oases within a City

Easy • 3.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Circular walk from Royal Victoria Park, taking in three other parks within the City, with views of two others.

Starting point: Royal Avenue, Bath, in front of Bandstand. • ST744654 • Map square A10
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Thursday 10th May • 10:00

Chastleton House

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Chastleton House is a National Trust property tucked away in a quiet corner of rural West Oxfordshire. Both the house and the surrounding countryside have changed little over the past three centuries. Picnic lunch at walk end.

Starting point: Chastleton House Car Park SP251290 • Map square H5
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday 10th May • 6:30pm

Wind in the Willows

A specially adapted outdoor performance of The Wind in the Willows with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Venue: Greystones Farm nature reserve, Bourton-on-the-Water
Pre-book: 01452 383333

Friday 11th May • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No 2

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at The Bell Inn, Selsley. Walk starts at 10.30 am from Selsley to Woodchester, returning via Dingle Wood. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: Bell Inn, Selsley SO836039 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Staszek Jarmuz

Friday 11th May • 4:00pm

Wind in the Willows

A specially adapted outdoor performance of The Wind in the Willows with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Venue: Rendcomb College, Rendcomb
Pre-book: 01452 383333

Saturday 12th May • 10:00

Regal Celebrations in Rhyme No 1

Strenuous • 7 hours • 11 miles

The walk involves two ascents and descents of Bredon Hill with, all being well, some superb views. Pub lunch available in Elmley Castle.

Starting point: Bredon - outside the Village Hall • SO929369 • Map square D2
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Saturday 12th May

The Cotswold Wool Gatherers "back to back challenge"

Venue: Cotswold Farm Park

8 team members, including one shearer and 7 spinners and knitters, create one man-size jumper in a day!

Tel: 01451 850307

Sunday 13th May • 10:00

Spring around Castle Combe

Easy • 3.5 hours • 7 miles

A joint walk with Bath branch of Leukemia and Lymphoma Research [Their walkers being sponsored!] Dyrham to Ford via Danks Down, North Wraxall, Truckle Hill, Nettleton Mill, Dyrham Golf Course.

Starting point: Castle Combe Car Park ST845773 • Map square B9
Leaders: John Walker & Fred Dugan



Sunday 13th May

North Cotswold Food and Farming Festival

Venue: Cotswold Farm Park

Come and sample the best of Cotswold food and drink. Admission to the Food and Farming Festival is free.

Tel: 01451 850307

Tuesday 15th May • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A series of morning walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills giving good views in clear weather. We will stop for a coffee and snack only. Lunch available in the village pubs or tea rooms.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall Car Park, Box, off A4. • ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould

Tuesday 15th May • 10:30

Butterflies and their Habitat on Stinchcombe Hill

Easy • 2.5 hours • 3 miles

A walk around Stinchcombe Hill with Chris Wiltshire, the Gloucestershire County Butterfly Recorder. Learn about the Spring butterfly species which inhabit this unique landscape and witness examples, weather and climate change permitting. Suitable for families, but not buggies or push chairs.

Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill public Car Park (not golf club Car Park) ST744983 • Map square A6
Leaders: John Hammill & Ian Cooke

Wednesday 16 May

The Court of King Solomon

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

A relatively gentle walk from Bisley, taking in the communities of Waterlane, Oakridge and Bournes Green. On route we pass Solomons Court which dates back to C16. The walk is generally flat with two short ascents from typical valleys.

Start point: Bisley Cricket Club Car Park SO904061 • Map square C6

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & John Foulkes

Friday 18th - Sunday 20th May

Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival

This friendly walking festival offers 17 guided walks for all abilities, with knowledgeable guides who can give you an insight into the countryside.

Booking essential: www.winchcombe-welcomeswalkers.com/festival

Saturday 19th May • 10:00

Hilary's Request. A Return to Cranham/Painswick area

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A figure of Eight Walk - 5miles morning and 5miles afternoon centred on the Royal William Inn, Cranham. (Parking by permission). Some steep ascents and descents. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic.

Starting point: Car Park at Royal William Inn, Cranham. (With permission) SP879127 • Map square C5

Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart & Ted Currier



Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival

18th May – 20th May 2012

What better way to explore the beautiful Cotswold landscape than attend the award winning Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival. This friendly walking festival offers 17 walks for all abilities, with knowledgeable guides who can give you an insight into the countryside.

For 2012 the Walking Festival includes:

- An insight into life in and around Sudeley Castle in Tudor times where Queen Katherine Parr is buried.
- Walk the Windrush Way from Winchcombe to Bourton-on-the-Water through the hills passing the remains of 'lost' medieval villages en route.
- Find out about Winchcombe's military history during the two World Wars.
- Walk to Longborough, a pretty 'Walkers are Welcome' village in the hills near Stow-on-the-Wold.
- Walk part of the Cotswold Way with the National Trail Officers and gain an insight in how the trail is managed.
- Walk part of the new Holst Way from the Holst Museum in Cheltenham with one of the route's originators.
- For the more energetic why not try orienteering on Cleeve Common, the highest point in the Cotswolds. Suits all ages.
- Visit a Roman Villa, beautiful villages nestling in valleys, identify wild flowers, learn about birdsong or learn about Winchcombe's historical past.

Booking early is essential to ensure places!

Further information:

www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/festival

Saturday 19th May • 7:00pm

National Trust: Ebworth Spring Watch

Come to find out about the bats, badgers and deer that live at Ebworth.

Venue: Ebworth Centre, Cranham

Booking essential: 01452 813597 or Nathalie.Bradley@nationaltrust.org.uk

Sunday 20th May • 10:00

On the Edge

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles

A walk along part of the Fosse Way south of Bath and through the villages of Combe Hay and South Stoke. Please bring a packed lunch.

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

ST748619 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Tuesday 22nd May • 10:00

The Wardens and Windrush Ways No 1

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

First in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens & Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Windrush Way from Winchcombe to Roel Hill returning via the Wardens Way. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane (pay & display) Car Park • SP23284 • Map square D3

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Tuesday 22nd May

Olympic Torch Relay

Bradford-on-Avon, Bath

Wednesday 23rd May • 10:30

Macmillan Way - Stage 10

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 7.5 miles

For this linear walk from Castle Combe to Box, there will be transport to convey walkers to the start of the walk at Castle Combe. Please book by 14th May on 01453 836221. Pub lunch available. Note later starting time.

Starting point: Car park at Selwyn Hall, Box, off A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Alan Bulley & Judith Slee

Wednesday 23rd May

Olympic Torch Relay

Cirencester, Stroud, Painswick, Brockworth, Shurdington & Cheltenham.

Friday 25th May • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Some woods, a park, a lake, a lodge and then back to the Inn.

Starting point: The Highwayman Inn (with prior permission) • SO965107 • Map square D5

Leaders: Colin Dickinson, Ken Buckle & Geoff Ricketts

Saturday 26th May • 10:00

Lineover and Ravensgate

Easy • 3 hours • 4 miles

Ancient Woodland and Limestone Grassland

Starting point: South of A40 1 mile East of Charlton Kings • SO986196 • Map square D4

Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle & Mike Dunning

Saturday 26th May • 10:00

Marshfield & St. Catherine's Valley

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles

Marshfield to St. Catherine's brook and the Limestone Link, an ascent to Oakford Lane, and passing under Dick Nick & Mottcombe woods.

Starting point: Marshfield, near Almshouses ST774737 • Map square B9

Leader: Reg Bleaden

Sunday 27th May • 2:00



The Slaughters

Easy • 2 hours • 3 miles

This lovely walk starts by exploring Upper Slaughter before climbing gently to Copse Hill where there are great views of Upper Slaughter, the Dikler Valley and Stow. The return is via Lower Slaughter, the old flour mill and lovely River Eye.

Starting point: Upper Slaughter Church SP155233 • Map square F4

Leader: Anne Martis

Sunday 27th May • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and on part of the Cotswold Way, passing historical points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Sunday 27th May • 10:00

National Trust: Orchids and Butterflies

Come and discover the wonderful world of orchids and butterflies of the Commons.

Venue: Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons.

Booking essential: 01452 813597

Nathalie.Bradley@nationaltrust.org.uk

Sunday 27 May • 10:30

Love Food Festival

The Love Food Festival returns to Dyrham with plenty of mouth-watering local produce to try and buy. Learn how to grow and cook your own food using various methods, and have a go at activities.

Venue: Dyrham Park

Tuesday 29th May • 10:00



Exploring Minchinhampton Common

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk typical of high Cotswold country with good views from the Common and returning via the area known as the Park and the Bulwarks iron age fortifications.

Starting point: Car park on Common by Golf Club House • SO854008 • Map square B6

Leaders: Les Jones & Ken Leach

Wednesday 30th May • 10:00

It's the Windrush Way for lunch at the Black Horse

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7 miles

A walk from Guiting Power across to the Windrush Way and on to the delightful elongated village of Naunton where a pub lunch will be available at the Black Horse. The return is along the Wardens Way to Guiting Power. The Car Park is a 'Trust the Motorist' with a £1 fee.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park • SP94245 • Map square E4

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

JUNE

Friday 1st - Saturday 2nd June

Robert Dover's Cotswold

Olimpick Games

Venue: Chipping Campden

Saturday 2nd - Monday 4th June

Stroud on Water Canal Festival

A water-based fun family event coinciding with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend.

Venue: Marling School Playing Field, Stroud. www.stroudonwater.org.uk

Sunday 3rd June • 10:00

Canal to 'Nowhere'

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7 miles

A walk to Woodchester via Selsley, returning via Dingle Wood and the Cotswold Way.

A rare opportunity to see craft on the recently restored canal. Pub stop - drink only.

Starting point: Recreation Ground, Kings Stanley • SO812035 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Harrowin & David Owen

Monday 4th June • 10:00



Views from Little Solsbury Hill

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 3.5 miles

From slip road up to summit of hill for views over Bath, down to Northend, Chilcombe bottom, and back via Nature reserve.

Starting point: Slip road or Swainswick, East of A46, 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at the A46/A420 junction ST762683 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & Philip Lawrence

Tuesday 5th June • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at Pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Wednesday 6th June • 10:30



How Observant Are You?

Easy • 2.5 hours • 3.5 miles

A gentle family walk from Combe to the river and the Roman Villa with a difference. There will be a quiz to test observational skills for young people aged 7 to 70! Please bring a pencil. Optional pub lunch afterwards.

Starting point: Combe Village Green SP412158 • Map square H5

Leader: Gerald Simper

Friday 8th June • 10:00



Where Am I?

Easy • 2.5 hours • 3.5 miles

North, South, East or West? How do you know where you are or where you are going? Use a map and features in the landscape to understand how to navigate your way in the countryside. Design for accompanied children 5 upwards.

Starting point: Car Park, Churchill Road, Kingham • SP261242 • Map square G4

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Saturday 9th June • 9.00

Photography Safari

Bring your camera to capture the best images of flowers and local wildlife with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. They will help you to gain some practical skills in nature photography and discover the beauty of one of their reserves.

Venue: Coombe Hill nature reserve, Cheltenham.

Pre-book: 01452 383333



Sunday 10th June • 10:00



A Family Walk and Farm Visit

Easy • 5 hours • 4.5 miles

An easy walk from Chipping Norton to Salford where we join the Fawdry's at Village Farm who will take us on a tractor and trailer tour of the farm. Bring a picnic lunch though hot and cold drinks and home made cakes are available. A walk back to Chipping Norton in the afternoon. Numbers limited to book please telephone 01993 831810.

Starting point: New Street Car Park, Chipping Norton • SP312270 • Map square G3
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Sunday 10th June • 10:00

St. Catherine's Valley

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles

A walk around the valley to the west of Marshfield. Please bring a packed lunch. Some steep hills.

Starting point: Lay by on the A420 west of Marshfield • ST772738 • Map square B9
Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando

Wednesday 13th June • 10:00



Beside the Leach

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles

An easy walk around Eastleach and on to Southrop and back following the course of the river Leach. The walk includes a visit to an interesting Norman church and extensive water meadows. The walk includes a number of stiles.

Starting point: Near the Victoria Pub, Eastleach Turville • SP198052 • Map square F6
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon & Rosemary Woodham

Thursday 14th June • 10:00

The Flowers and Wildlife of the Glyme Valley

Easy • 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A circular walk starting and finishing in Chipping Norton. It includes a feast of wildlife habitats including species rich limestone grassland, ancient hedgerows as well as Over Norton parkland with its veteran trees and orchids. Led by an expert naturalist.

Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall SP313270 • Map square H3
Leader: Craig Blackwell

Friday 15th June • 10:00

The Wardens and Windrush Ways No 2

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

Second in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens and Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Wardens Way from Guiting Power to Deadmanbury Gate returning via the Windrush Way. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park • SP95248 • Map square E4
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 15th June • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No 3

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at the King's Head Inn in the centre of King's Stanley. Walk starts at 10.30am from King's Stanley to Leonard Stanley, Coaley Peak, Hill Farm, returning via the Cotswold Way. Pub refreshment available at end of walk.

Starting point: King's Head Inn, King's Stanley SO812035 • Map square B6
Leaders: Eric Brown & John Graham

Saturday 16th June • 10:00

Find the Norman Knight

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles

Brailes area has a lot to offer in both a variety of scenery and historical interest. We walk south via tracks around Brailes Hill and beyond to enjoy the flora and fauna which live there. Bring a packed lunch and drinks.

Starting point: Brailes Village Hall Car Park, Castle Hill Lane. • SP308394 • Map square G2
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Tuesday 19th June • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside: Manors, Monks, Mulberry & MacMillan

Moderate • 6 hours • 8.5 miles

The only longer walk in the series of walks from Box, on the day before the Summer Solstice, featuring the Wiltshire plateau south of Box, visiting Kingsdown, Monkton Farleigh and South Wraxall. Extensive views, weather permitting.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall Car Park, Box, off A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould

Thursday 21st June • 18:30

A short walk on the longest day: Up to a Down

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

We follow part of the Kennett and Avon Canal, and climb up to Bathampton Down to enjoy the views over the valleys. Various orchids may be seen at Hampton Rocks, a 'Dry Arch', and 'Seven Caves'.

Starting point: The George Inn, Bathampton (park near railway line) ST776665 • Map square B10
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Saturday 23rd June • 10:00

The Quiet Valleys

Strenuous • 7 hours • 12 miles

The wooded valleys between Painswick and Miserden

Starting point: Walkers Car Park, Golf Course Road off B4073 north of Painswick SO867105 • Map square C5
Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle & Mike Dunning

Sunday 24th June • 10:00

Shipton Shuffle

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Walk from Tetbury via Doughton to Shipton Moyne for lunch. Return via Estcourt estate. Open gentle country, charming hamlets and villages. May be muddy in places. Pub lunch or picnic.

Starting point: Tetbury Tourist Information Centre, West Street ST890930 • Map square C7
Leaders: Hilary Paveley & Steve Knight

Wednesday 27th June • 10:00

The Painswick Valley

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A moderate walk around the Painswick Valley with some steep descents. Refreshments available in Stroud or Painswick.

Starting point: Stroud Leisure Centre SO847057 • Map square B5
Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & John Foulkes



Location, location

Pictured: the lake behind Farncombe House.

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Events Co-ordinator - Special Interest Groups
01386 854215 or visit:
www.cotswoldconferencecentre.com



Nick Turner

Wednesday 27th June • 10:00

By the Sherborne Brook & Water Meadows

Moderate • 6 hours • 9.5 miles

A super walk through Sherborne to the River Windrush & its water meadows & onward to The Fox at Little Barrington for lunch. We return through the villages of Windrush & Sherborne.

Starting point: National Trust Car Park at Ewepen Barn • SP159144 • Map square F4
Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Thursday 28th June • 10:00



Highgrove Circular

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk from Tetbury passing Highgrove House and Westonbirt School. A short walk across the golf course, through grazing landscape and farm, returning to Tetbury via a green lane. Refreshments available in Tetbury at end of walk.

Starting point: Tetbury, Old Brewery Lane Car Park, adjacent to Tourist Information Centre ST890930 • Map square C7
Leaders: Brian Mundy & Alan Bulley

Friday 29th June • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4 miles

Woodland, some farmland, Cranham Church. Some steep hills.

Starting point: Wildlife Trust Car Park A46 SO886140 • Map square C5
Leaders: Geoff Ricketts, Ken Buckle & Colin Dickinson

Saturday 30th June • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and on part of the Cotswold Way, passing historical points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Saturday 30th June - Sunday 1st July

The Cotswold Show

A fun-packed family day out.

Venue: Cirencester Park.
www.cotswoldshow.co.uk

JULY

Sunday 1st July

Olympic Torch Relay

Broadway & Chipping Campden.

Tuesday 3rd July • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at Pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9
Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Tuesday 3rd July • 10:00

A Summer Walk to the Rollright Stones

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

A walk to enjoy the fact and the fiction of the ancient Rollright Stones. The walk goes via the charming hamlet of Little Rollright. Please bring a packed lunch. The car park is free long stay in the centre of Chipping Norton.

Starting point: New Street Car Park, Chipping Norton • SP312270 • Map square G3

Leader: Trish Gilbert

Tuesday 3rd July • 10:00

A Remote and Beautiful Valley

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Explore some of the North Cotswolds' most beautiful and remote countryside. Please park tidily on the grass verge.

Starting point: Hinchwick Hamlet SP145301 • Map square F3

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Thursday 5th July • 10:00

Flower Foray on & around Cleeve Common

Moderate • 5 hours • 5 miles

A fabulous flower foray! With Conservation Officer Ellie Phillips, we hope to showcase the wonderful range of wildflowers that grow both on the Common & nearby butterfly reserves. Bring a packed lunch & sturdy footwear for scrambling over rougher areas.

Starting point: Cleeve Hill Quarry Car Park - turn off the B4632 at the summit, signposted to the Golf Club, down narrow track over cattle grid, left & right into Car Park.

SO989272 • Map square D4

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Tuesday 10th July • 10:15

A Figure of Eight Walk from Ford - morning walk

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles

The morning part of a gentle walk around Ford exploring the Upper Windrush valley. Pub lunch available at The Plough Inn. Park in the Car Park opposite the inn.

Starting point: Ford. The Plough Inn. SP88294 • Map square E4

Leaders: Colin Boulton & Julie Downing

Tuesday 10th July • 14:00

A Figure of Eight Walk from Ford - afternoon walk

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

The afternoon part of a gentle walk around Ford exploring the Upper Windrush valley. Park in the Car Park opposite the inn.

Starting point: Ford. The Plough Inn. SP88294 • Map square E4

Leaders: Colin Boulton & Julie Downing

Wednesday 11th July • 10:00

Wardens Work - Hedgelaying

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk along the upper reaches of the Coln Valley with extensive views of open country to the site of the medieval village of Thorndale returning past Upcote Plantation. The walk features an example of hedgelaying undertaken by Cotswold Wardens. The walk includes one long steady climb.

Starting point: The Old Mill Inn, Withington SP032154 • Map square D4

Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon & Rosemary Woodham



Thursday 12th July • 10:00

The Portmeiron Connection

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

This walk explores fine undulating Cotswolds scenery starting from Oxfordshire's highest town. It includes the estate village of Cornwell and a lunch stop in Churchill where a pub snack is available.

Starting point: New Street Car Park, Chipping Norton • SP312270 • Map square G3

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Friday 13th July • 10:00

The Wardens and Windrush Ways No 3

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Third in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens and Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Windrush Way from Guiting Power to Naunton Downs returning via the Wardens Way. Please bring suitable refreshments.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park • SP95248 • Map square E4

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 13th July • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No 4

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10 am for coffee at the Rose & Crown Inn, Nympsfield. Walk starts at 10.30 from Nympsfield to Owlpen, return via Lutherage farm and Bowlas wood. Lunch available at the Inn on completion of the walk.

Starting point: Rose & Crown Inn, Nympsfield SO800005 • Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & Steve Knight

Saturday 14th July • 10:00

Longday, Shortday, Moreday and Muffity

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 11 miles

A walk to explore domestic cotswold architecture. Edgeworth, Daglingworth, the Duntisbournes and Winstone. Some steep ascents and descents. Please bring a packed lunch (No Pub).

Starting point: Winstone - South of Park Cottage on roadside verge by Lodge entrance to Misarden Park • SO956094 • Map square C5

Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart & Ted Currier

Sunday 15th July • 10:00

Views to and from Bannerdown!

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

Climb Little Solsbury Hill for Views, then Bailbrook, Bathampton, Bathford, Wartime tunnel entrance, Shockerwick, Bannerdown, Chilcombe Bottom Nature reserve. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Slip road for Swainswick, East of A46, 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at A46/A420 junction • ST762683 Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Tuesday 17th July • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A series of morning walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills giving good views in clear weather. We will stop for a coffee and snack only. Lunch available in the village pubs or tea rooms

Starting point: Selwyn Hall Car Park, Box, off A4 • ST824686 • map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould

Saturday 21st July • 10:00

Scent to Snowhill

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles

The lavender fields will be in full bloom at this time of the year. Join us on this delightful walk, from Blockley to the escarpment, which promises splendid views along the way. Bring a packed lunch and drinks.

Starting point: Blockley Village Green SP164350 • Map square F2

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday 21st July • 10:00

Ninety Nine Steps to a Castle

Strenuous • 4 hours • 7.5 miles

A hilly circuit of the villages around Brailes Hill with stunning views of the Warwickshire countryside. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Upper Brailes Village Layby SP305395 • Map square G2

Leader: Janet Deller

Sunday 22nd July • 10:00

Battle to the Races

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

From Lansdown to Charlcombe and Woolley overlooking the Tadwick Valley, then up to Battlefields and Bath Racecourse. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Glanville Road, Lansdown, Bath ST743678 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Sunday 22nd July • 10:00

St Kenelm's Walk & Play

6 - 7 miles

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome will lead a 'pilgrimage' walk from Winchcombe to Hailes Abbey for lunch, then following St Kenelm's Way to the Well to watch the St Kenelm's play, before walking back to Winchcombe via Sudeley Castle. Bring drinks and either a packed lunch or buy lunch at Orchard Tea Rooms).

Starting point: Back Lane Car Park, Winchcombe (Parking £1 all day, toilets 20p) Map square E3

Tuesday 24th July • 10:00

Scarp, Bottoms and Beechwoods

Moderate • 5 hours • 7.5 miles

A circular walk from Stinchcombe Hill via Stancombe, North Nibley and Waterley Bottom. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill public Car Park (not Golf Club Car Park) • ST744983 Map square A6

Leaders: John Hammill & Brian Mundy

Wednesday 25th July • 10:00

Four Tythings

Moderate • 5 hours • 6 miles

A pleasant walk around Spoonbed Valley and over Painswick Beacon. There is one steep ascent to the top of the beacon from where views stretch to Malvern, the Black Mountains and down the Severn Valley.

Starting point: Walkers Car Park, Painswick Beacon • SO868105 • Map square C5

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & John Foulkes

Thursday 26th July • 10:00

Diamond Way Sampler with a pitstop No 2

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

A pleasantly undulating walk along sections of the Diamond Way passing through the estate of Daylesford and on through rolling countryside to Bledington for a lunch at The King's Head Inn and return. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Adlestrop Village Hall Car Park. (Trust the motorist) • SP242272 Map square G3

Leaders: Julie Downing & Andy Briars

Thursday 26 July • 10:00

National Trust: Meet the Archaeologists

Come and discover what special archaeological features the commons have.

Venue: Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons.

Booking not needed

Friday 27th July • 10:00



Friday Foray

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.3 miles

A circular route going down and along under the escarpment then a steady climb to the highest point on the Cotswolds followed by a gentle walk across the common.

Starting point: Quarry Car Park, Cleeve Hill SO989271 • Map square D3

Leaders: Ken Buckle, Colin Dickinson & Geoff Ricketts

Saturday 28th July • 10:00

Sodbury to Horton & the Roman Fort

Moderate • 4 hours • 6.5 miles

A moderate walk using part of the Cotswold Way and the Coffin Trail. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Old Sodbury Church ST755817 • Map square A8

Leader: Reg Bleaden

Saturday 28th July • 10:00

Between Bibury and Northleach

Moderate • 7 hours • 12 miles

Sheep Country. A long but relatively flat walk across the downs grazed for centuries by the Cotswold Lion.

Starting point: Bibury the footbridge by Arlington Row • SP11667 • Map square F5

Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle & Mike Dunning

Sunday 29th July • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and on part of the Cotswold Way, passing historical points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Tuesday 31st July • 10:00

Hitting the Spot

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.5 miles

A walk following the Cotswold Way from Dursley over Cam Long Down to Uley Bury iron age fort and returning to Dursley via Uley, Elcombe, Coopers Wood and Hermitage Wood. Bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Dursley, Long Street long stay Car Park • ST758982 • Map square A6

Leaders: Les Jones & Ken Leach

AUGUST

Thursday 2nd August • 10:00

A Walk that ticks all the Boxes

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk through Castlett Woods above Guiting Power with the gentle sound of the brook flowing down below. Gentle climbs and descents with excellent views and big skies. Come along and tick the boxes yourself.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park • SP95246 • Map square E3

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

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Nick Turner

Saturday 4th August • 10:00

Cornflowers and Campions

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles

The wildflower meadow represents a quintessential part of the character and beauty of our British countryside. Join us on this walk from Hawling in search of a meadow 'par excellence'. Please bring a packed lunch and drinks.

Starting point: Hawling, near the Methodist Church. Please park with care on the gravel verges • SP67231 • Map square E4

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Tuesday 7th August • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at Pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Wednesday 8th August • 10:00

Reflections on Water: a poetic walk

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A chance to look at the landscape in a new way. We will have several stops where wardens will read poems on the subject of water. Hourly bus 151 from Cheltenham or Cirencester.

Lunch available at the Bathurst Arms.

Starting point: The Bathurst Arms North Cerney • SP019079 • Map square D5

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Rosemary Woodham & Tony Wilson

Thursday 9th August • 9:30

Very Very Old, and Just Old, Sites Around Wotton

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Visit an Iron Age fort, walk through some strip lynchets and pass a haunted pub. Several eating places in Wotton for lunch after the walk.

Starting point: Roadside parking at top of hill on Old London Road • ST754941

Map square B7

Leaders: Ken Leach & Les Jones

Sunday 12th August • 10:00

Mills and Ewelme

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk to Uley along the Cotswold Way, returning through Owlpen and Nymphsfield. Pub snack available if required.

Starting point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site SO794014 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Hooper

Wednesday 15th August • 10:30

Macmillan Way - Stage 11

Moderate • 5 hours • 6.5 miles

For this linear walk from Box to Bradford-on-Avon, there will be transport to convey walkers back to Box at the end of the walk. Please book by 6th August on 01453 836221. Pub lunch available. Note later starting time.

Starting point: Car Park at Selwyn Hall Box off A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Alan Bulley & John Walker

Thursday 16th August • 10:00

Down the Windrush to Mitford Country

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

The walk heads downstream from Burford to Swinbrook and Asthall with their connections to the illustrious Mitford family. An optional lunch is available at the Maytime Inn in Asthall before returning via the lost village of Widford. Easy gradients.

Starting point: Burford Free Car Park. Near Church • SP253123 • Map square G5

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Friday 17th August • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No 5

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at Hunters Hall Inn. Walk starts at 10.30am into the Ozleworth valley. Lunch available at the pub on completion of the walk. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote ST813960 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Ian Cooke

Saturday 18th August • 10:30

Marshfield - Town & Country

Easy • 2 hours • 4.25 miles

We walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then take bridleways and lanes south to Ashwicke and return through the fields on footpaths (no stiles).

Starting point: Market Place • ST78117369

Map square B9

Leader: David Colbourne

Saturday 18th August • 10:00

Regal Celebrations in Rhyme No 2

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 11 miles

This walk explores the outlying hills to the north-west of the AONB. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Alstone, outside the church SO983325 • Map square D3

Leader: Vivienne McGhee

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th August

Bike Blenheim Palace - A Festival of Cycling

A unique cycling festival in the grounds of historic Blenheim Palace.

www.bikeblenheimpalace.com

Sunday 19th August • 10:00

A Barrow Full of Romans

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A walk to the west of Castle Combe, crossing the Fosse Way. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Castle Combe public Car Park. ST846777 • Map square B9

Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando

Tuesday 21st August • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A series of morning walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills giving good views in clear weather. We will stop for a coffee and snack only. Lunch available in the village pubs or tea rooms.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall Car Park Box off A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould

Wednesday 22nd August • 10:00

Two Guitings and Three Fords

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

This walk explores the extensive woodlands that border the valley of the Castlett Stream and then on, across rolling countryside with big skies, to the hamlet of Ford. Here the Plough Inn exhorts weary travellers to step in and quaff the nut brown ale. Pub lunch here then! Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park. (Trust the motorist £1 fee.)

SP94245 • Map square E4

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Wednesday 22nd August • 10:00

Wednesday Wander

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

An undulating walk through woods and fields to the villages of Randwick and Whiteshill before returning to the scarp and its magnificent views over the Severn Valley. Some long inclines and descents.

Start point: Cripplegate Car Park, Haresfield Beacon • SO832086 • Map square B5

Leaders: John Foulkes, Mike Williams & Royden Hales

Saturday 25 August • 10:00

Badminton Estate, Tormarton, & Doddington Park

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

A steep climb towards the A46, then to Lyegrove Farm and the Badminton Estate, towards Acton Turville, then Tormarton with time to visit the church and local hostelry, returning via Doddington Park.

Starting point: Old Sodbury Church ST755817 • Map square A8

Leader: Reg Bleaden



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Saturday 25 August • 10:00

The Golden Valley

Strenuous • 7 hours • 11 miles
 Across the Golden Valley from Bisley to Minchinhampton.
Starting point: Bisley churchyard.
 Park considerably around the village SO903060 • Map square C5
Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle & Mike Dunning

Saturday 25th - Monday 27th August

Treefest at Westonbirt Arboretum

Treefest is Westonbirt's signature summer event that incorporates camping, woodcraft demonstrations, exhibitors, family activities and local live music. The result - a festival that truly celebrates all that our trees and nature inspire!
Venue: Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury
www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-treefest

Monday 27th August • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles
 A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and on part of the Cotswold Way, passing historical points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.
Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Thursday 30th August • 10:00

What on earth is going on at Cleeve Common?

Moderate • 4 hours • 5 miles
 Horse dung in a cement mixer, 2000 metres of electric fence & a herd of Galloway Cattle?! To find out what's going on join our walk to explore the management of Cleeve Common. Bring a packed lunch & sturdy footwear.
Starting point: Cleeve Hill Quarry Car Park. SO989272 • Map square D4
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 31st August • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
 The walk is across peaceful countryside, with occasional steep dives and ascents.
Starting point: Car Park by King George playing field • SO906061 • Map square C5
Leaders: Colin Dickinson, Ken Buckle & Geoff Ricketts

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1st September • 10:00

From Miserden to Bisley and We Won't Dally Along The Dillay

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
 A varied circular walk from Miserden to Bisley via the Dillay, Througham, The Holy Brook and Sudgrove. Pub snacks available or bring a packed lunch. Some steep ascents and descents.
Starting point: Miserden Car Park, next to School (With Permission)
 SP93489 • Map square C5
Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart & Ted Currier

Saturday 1st September

The Moreton-in-Marsh Show

The Moreton-in-Marsh 60th Anniversary Show is a traditional agricultural show and a great day out for all the family.
Venue: The Showground, Batsford Road, Moreton-in-Marsh.
www.moretonshow.co.uk

Tuesday 4th September • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
 A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox & Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at Pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.
Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9
Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Wednesday 5th September • 10:00

Wardens Work - Clearance

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles
 A walk from Kilkenny to Pegglesworth, Ravensgate Hill and Lineover Wood with extensive views over Cheltenham. The walk features clearance work undertaken by Cotswold Wardens to create a butterfly reserve and an ancient woodland. The walk features a section of the Cotswold Way and includes a steep descent and one long steady climb.
Starting point: Kilkenny Picnic Site Car Park - off the A436 • SP004186 • Map square D4
Leaders: Tony Wilson, Pippa Burgon & Rosemary Woodham

Thursday 6th - Sunday 9th

Heritage Open Days throughout the area

Sunday 9th September • 14:00

Blenheim Estate: of Kings, Queens and Heroes

Easy • 2 hours • 3.5 miles
 This short walk around the estate looks for traces of Blenheim's historic past. These include in the 12th century Henry II and 'Fair Rosamund' as well as the 18th century palace created for a war hero.
Starting point: Combe Lodge Gate, Blenheim Park • SP426158 • Map square H4
Leader: Anne Martis

Tuesday 11th September • 10:00

The Wardens and Windrush Ways No 4

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9.5 miles
 Last in a series of four circular walks designed to cover the whole of the Wardens and Windrush Ways in sequence. We follow the Wardens Way from Bourton-on-the-Water to Naunton returning via the Windrush Way. Please bring a picnic lunch. Allow plenty of time to find suitable parking.
Starting point: By the War Memorial next to the river in the centre of Bourton-on-Water SP167207 • Map square F4
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Wednesday 12th September • 10:00

Roundabout Lyneham

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles
 This is an un spectacular but pleasant walk in the parish of Lyneham situated in Oxfordshire's Evenlode Valley. The route is ideal for those who prefer less undulating terrain and novice walkers. Coffee available before start and lunch after in Golf Club.
Starting point: The Wychwood Golf Club, Lyneham • SP277209 • Map square G3
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 14th September • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No 6

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles
 Meet at 10am for coffee at the Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge. Walk starts at 10.30am from Wotton, to Wortley and Wortley Hill. Return to Wotton via the Cotswold Way. Lunch available at the hotel on completion of the walk.
Starting point: Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge • ST756934 • Map square A7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Staszek Jarmuz

Saturday 15th September • 10:00

Slate, Forest and Villa

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles
 Explore the origins of Stonesfield slate and Cornbury Park as the walk travels down this lovely section of the Evenlode Valley. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: FiveWays Crossroads, Charlbury East • SP360188 • Map square H4
Leader: Tish Gilbert

Sunday 16th September • 10:00

New Castle Combe Circular

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 7 miles

Castle Come village, Flower meadow, Ford, Old Coach Road, North Wraxall, Nettleton Mill, Golf Course path back to Car Park. Pub lunch at Ford or Castle Combe afterwards!

Starting point: Castle Combe Car Park ST845773 • Map square B9

Leaders: John Walker & John Dougal

Tuesday 18th September • 10:00

Box and the surrounding countryside

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A series of morning walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills giving good views in clear weather. We will stop for a coffee and snack only. Lunch available in the village pubs or tea rooms.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall Car Park, Box, off A4 • ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould.

Wednesday 19th September • 10:00

A walk in the Frome Valley

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk in the Frome Valley with a variety of field and woodland paths. Some short steep climbs with views over the valley. Refreshments available at the Carpenters Arms. Please park carefully in the village.

Starting point: Carpenters Arms, Miserden SO937088 • Map square C5

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & John Foulkes

Thursday 20th September • 10:00

Diamond Way Sampler with a pitstop No 3

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

The walk features the woodland glades, valleys and high pastures of this secluded corner of the AONB around Hinchwick. We will walk on two sections of the Diamond Way. Few metalled surfaces, lots of trees. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Hinchwick Manor. Park with care on the grass verges SP145300 • Map square F3

Leaders: Andy Briars, Allan Allcock & Julie Downing

Sunday 23rd September • 14:00

Cirencester Town Walk

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A gentle walk around Cirencester town, looking at historic buildings and the development of the town since Roman times, including the amphitheatre. Wear stout footwear.

Starting point: Outside Cirencester Parish Church • SP022021 • Map square D6

Leaders: Hilary Paveley & Jill Stuart

Sunday 23rd September • 10:00

Four Fords (or is it five?)

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A walk from Bradford on Avon to Westfield, Hungerford Castle, Ifford, Freshford, and along the Kennett and Avon Canal. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Station Car Park, Bradford on Avon (small charge)

ST824607 • Map square B10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Sunday 23rd September • 8:00pm

National Trust: Autumn Equinox Star Gazing

Come along to marvel at the wonders of the solar system and find out more about what's up in the night sky.

Venue: Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons

Booking essential: 01452 813597

Nathalie.Bradley@nationaltrust.org.uk

Wednesday 26th September • 10:00

A Circuit around Stow-on-the-Wold

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 9 miles

Walk out from Stow passing through the villages of Maugersbury, the Swells, Donnington and Broadwell where we shall take lunch at the Fox pub before a return to Stow.

Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold. Tesco public Car Park • SP191262 • Map square F3

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Friday 28th September • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A scenic walk around Painswick, with an optional lunch on return

Starting point: Edgemoor Inn (with prior permission) SO850091 • Map square C5

Leaders: Colin Dickinson, Ken Buckle & Geoff Ricketts

Saturday 29th September • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and on part of the Cotswold Way, passing historical points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Cotswold Voluntary Wardens

Sunday 30th September

North Cotswold Food and Farming Festival

Venue: Cotswold Farm Park

Come and sample the best of Cotswold food and drink. Admission to the Food and Farming Festival is free.

Tel: 01451 850307



Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in *The Cotswold Lion*, and require a rate card and technical specification, please contact:

Email: anna@touchmedia.uk.net
Tel: 07845 293054



Farmers markets in the Cotswolds

Bath

Every Saturday
Green Park Station, Bath

Bishops Cleeve

Third Sunday of the month
Tithe Barn

Bourton-on-the-Water

Fourth Sunday of the month
Countrywide Stores

Bradford on Avon

Third Thursday of the month
Westbury Gardens

Charlbury

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

Cheltenham

Second and last Friday of the month
Long Gardens, Promenade

Chipping Norton

Third Saturday of the month
Market Square

Cirencester

Every second and fourth
Saturday of the month
Market Place

Dursley

Second Saturday of the month
Town Hall

Gloucester

Every Friday
The Cross and Westgate Street

Malmesbury

Second Saturday and fourth
Saturday of the month
Market Cross

Nailsworth

Fourth Saturday of the month
Mortimer Gardens

Stratford-upon-Avon

First and third Saturday of the month
Rother Street

Stroud

Every Saturday
Cornhill Market Place and surrounding streets

Stow-on-the-Wold

Second Thursday of the month
Market Square

Witney

Third Wednesday of the month
Town centre

Woodstock

First Saturday of the month
In front of Town Hall

Wotton-under-Edge

First Saturday of the month
Town Hall



Nick Turner

Just for fun

Enjoy the beautiful Cotswold countryside

Summer is the best time of year to get outside with the family and explore the great outdoors. From a small back garden, to the local park or even sprawling woodland, the choice is endless – and the Cotswolds is full of just such places.

There are so many good reasons to get outdoors; not only is it proven to be good for keeping you fit and healthy, it also helps stimulate the senses too! There are so many things to see, hear, smell, touch and even taste.

You may not realise, but many of our native woods are looked after by the Woodland Trust, a conservation charity which aims to create more places rich in native trees. The UK actually has a tiny proportion of woodland, especially compared to the rest of Europe. So, summer is a great time to experience our native woods and all the things they have to offer.

For example, nearly one third of all butterfly species prefer to live in woodlands – so why not see how many you can spot? Summer tends to have the most activity in the woods, from insects to birds and mammals, you may even spot a hare or deer if you are lucky!

Next time you are enjoying the Cotswolds countryside this summer, have a go at playing our Cotswolds Bingo game and see how many different species you can find.

Visit www.naturedetectives.org.uk for more great activities.



Butterfly: find them on flowers uncurling their proboscis to drink



Blackbird: can you see them listening for worms?



Frogs: can you hear the croak of a frog?



Bumblebees: watch for bees visiting flowers



Dragonfly: damsel and dragonflies can be found near ponds



Hare: can you see hares' ears sticking out above the corn?



Oak tree: can you identify an oak tree from its leaves?



Deer: if you are quiet, you may spot a deer



Ladybird: count the spots and look for different species

Cotswolds Jubilee Walks

As part of this year's Jubilee celebrations, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens – the voluntary arm of the Conservation Board – have created a new series of stile-free circular walks that take in some of our most beautiful landscapes.



Bourton Circular via Wyck Rissington

This easy, 4.5 mile low level walk starts from the centre of Bourton-on-the-Water, passing through Greystones Farm nature reserve and Salmonsbury Site of Special Scientific Interest which has superb meadows in early summer. Watch out and listen for water voles crossing the bridges. The route follows a section of the Oxfordshire Way and Diamond Way, and passes through the unspoilt Cotswold village of Wyck Rissington.

Route

1 From the War Memorial, walk along green to first footbridge and cross road to green opposite. Follow Oxfordshire Way sign down the alley, bearing right at junction to reach Station Road.

Cross road, turn left and after 140m turn right into Cemetery Lane then immediately left into Greystones Lane. Follow until the farm is reached. Go through a metal kissing gate, turn right through the farmyard then ahead through gate and follow farm track for 220m.

At junction of paths **2** turn left through gate, cross the middle of the field, through another gate and continue across 3 more fields. Go through gate in left hand corner of third field and along an enclosed track in a spinney. When path junction is reached **3** turn right through metal gate along the Oxfordshire Way.

Continue across bridge over River Eye and sleeper bridge over River Dickler. Continue across meadow, cross bridge to bear left through **3** fields to Wyck Rissington road. **4**

Turn right along road, passing pond and Church until road turns left **5**. Continue ahead on track, following bends and through 2 gates to a spinney. Here turn **6** right through gate and along field edge with hedge on left. At next gate **7**, turn left through a gap in the hedge then across 3 fields to lane.

Turn right through gate **8** along the lane to gate in tall hedge. Cross field through gate and then across two bridges by Rissington Mill. Turn right across field to a kissing gate. Cross next field, through a gate and left on path around the end of a lake. At the path junctions **9** turn left, though a gate and follow lane which bends right until the Cemetery entrance is reached **10**. Turn left along a path alongside the bus garage to the road.

Turn left for 20 metres, cross the road and retrace steps along path to start point.