



Cotswold Lion

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Issue 27 • Autumn/Winter 2012-13

The newspaper of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Lumps, bumps and tumps

Autumn into winter is the best time to explore the Cotswolds' Neolithic and Iron Age sites

There's something both moving and mysterious about suddenly coming upon the bulge of a Neolithic long barrow or the emphatic ridges of an Iron Age hill fort: tangible, time-defying evidence of how our ancestors lived in and shaped the Cotswold landscape.

Most evocative of all are those visits when autumn and winter conspire to sharpen the experience: when low, raking sunshine and shadows throw ancient lumps, bumps and tumps into relief; when grass and overgrowth have retreated; when a scatter of frost or snow defines outlines.

How to interpret such remains? The effects of later settlement and agriculture have largely hidden where Neolithic man lived, probably in low-lying communities close to water, c. 4,000 BC to 2,500 BC. So his funerary and ritual monuments, in prominent locations in the hillsides above, are potent windows into his world.

"The Cotswolds is well endowed with visible sites that you can go and see in the landscape," says Jan Wills, County Archaeologist at Gloucestershire County Council.

"Other areas may have just as

complex archaeology below ground, but not as many outstanding monuments above. One of a variety of complex reasons for that is that we are in an area where stone suitable for building is prevalent. Elsewhere people built in timber and that generally doesn't survive."

Belas Knap Long Barrow, two miles south of Winchcombe, is a rewarding goal on a brisk winter's walk along the Cotswold Way. Big, brooding and almost brutally impressive, it dates from c. 3,000 BC and conceals four burial chambers within its grassy trapezoid mound. During excavations of the 19th and early 20th centuries, skeletal remains of 37 people were identified before the site was restored to what we see today.

The styles of Neolithic tombs vary from region to region, perhaps suggesting distinct tribal cultures working with locally available materials. Belas Knap is one of more than 100 Cotswold-Severn tombs: constructed of megaliths forming passageways and associated burial chambers that have then been covered over by earth to create an oval or elongated mound.

Among intriguing features at

Belas Knap is the 'false entrance' of two standing stones and a lintel stone within a 'horned' forecourt at the northern end of the mound. Was this to divert attention from the real entrances to the burial chambers from the sides?

"We don't really know the reason for the false entrance, if that is what it was," Jan says. "It could simply have been a way of making the tomb look impressive. I'm sure these tombs made a statement as well as being places to bury the dead. There may

have been burial rites or ceremonies that took place in the forecourt."

In the Neolithic period, society had moved from nomadic hunting and gathering to a more settled agrarian

Continued on page 2



Belas Knap Long Barrow, near Winchcombe.

Nick Turner

Around the Cotswolds

Sustainable visitor centre at palace

A new Visitor Centre at Blenheim Palace has sustainability at its heart with a range of green features, including energy efficient underfloor heating, electric water-saving taps, solar control glass, LED lighting and heat recovery on ventilation.

Located in the East Courtyard, the centre re-uses a redundant part of the palace that was formerly a dairy, laundry and drying yard, and includes a welcome and information desk, The Oxfordshire Pantry café and a stunning shopping area.

It is the largest development seen at the palace for over 200 years, and the enhanced retail and catering facilities respond to an increase in tourism following the 'free Annual Pass' ticket offer launched in 2009. More than 550,000 people a year now visit the World Heritage Site.

Blenheim Palace is committed to working in a sustainable way and holds a Silver Award in the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Rare orchid gains ground

A rare orchid once on the brink of extinction in the UK is blooming again in beech woodlands in the Cotswolds. Seven years ago only three red helleborines were recorded at the secret National Trust site, but following conservation efforts 30 plants have now been seen. Red helleborines exist on just three sites in southern England.

Get involved with Avon's wildflower grasslands

Avon's Wildflower Grassland Project, run by the Avon Wildlife Trust as part of their Living Landscape programme, aims to create a thriving network of this iconic Cotswold habitat.

The project operates in the southern area of the Cotswolds AONB and provides free grassland management advice and supports farmers with environmental stewardship applications. A team of practical volunteers works on grasslands that need more sensitive management.

If you would like to volunteer with the project or would like advice on managing or creating species-rich grassland, please contact Project Officer Eleanor Higginson by emailing eleanorhigginson@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk or by calling 0117 917 7279.

Pastures new

The Cotswolds has a new tourist attraction – rapeseed fields at East Lodge Farm, Stanton, on the Gloucestershire/Worcestershire border. Over the summer, more than 1,000 Japanese visitors came by coach to tour the fields and the farm's press and bottling site, where the crop is made into oil for the table.

"The Japanese see England as a hugely colourful country of crops like rape, linseed, lavender and poppies, and they are now adding these amazing fields of colour to their tours," says Charlie Beldam, who also showed the tourists around the farm's linseed fields.

Eco-silver

Burford Visitor Information Centre has received a Silver Award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme. The centre was praised for green policies like offering locally produced goods and encouraging people to leave the car at home and explore by walking, cycling or using public transport.



Jo Ward

Uley Long Barrow, near Dursley.

existence. Concern for the dead, evidenced by substantial tombs in dramatic locations, suggests a belief in the power of ancestors. Possibly Neolithic tombs partly functioned as territorial markers overlooking the communities in the valleys below.

Windmill Tump Long Barrow, 1.5 miles southwest of Rodmarton on a gentle slope beneath the crest of a ridge, is a further fine example of the Cotswold-Severn type and features a trapezoidal design and horned forecourt with so-called false entrance. Originally constructed 4,000–3,500 BC, it seems to have been used for burials well after the Neolithic era because in addition to human skeletons Roman coins and pottery have been found.

For another superbly atmospheric location, wander up to **Uley Long Barrow**, 3.5 miles northeast of Dursley on the B4066 and overlooking the Severn Vale. Also known as **Hetty Pegler's Tump** after a 17th-century landowner, the 120ft-long mound is watched by leafless trees and swirly skies in winter.

This Cotswold-Severn barrow follows a transepted design with two pairs of chambers opening from a central passage. At least 5,000 years old, it has yielded between 15 and 20 skeletons and has been partly reconstructed following excavations and vandalism over the centuries. It's brilliant for a spooky sense of its builders because you can crawl right inside – bring a torch.

If you don't fancy going underground, **Nympsfield Long Barrow**, just along the Cotswold scarp

on the B4066, has its internal burial chambers uncovered for viewing.

In the interests of chronology, you might put the **Rollright Stones** (off the A44 on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border) next on your list of seasonal expeditions. Spanning Neolithic and Bronze Age, the Rollrights are an imagination-grabbing feature of the ritual landscape of the time and have been recently voted by the public as one of the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds – see opposite.

Theories as to the Stones' purpose abound, including that their alignment served a sophisticated astronomical function. "What you can probably say for certain is that the site was ceremonial in some way and a focal point of the community," Jan says. "But we will never know precisely how it was used."

If you haven't leapt off to the Rollrights, long, flat-topped **Uley Bury Iron Age hill fort** just outside Uley is good reason to linger on the Cotswold escarpment, maybe as part of a breezy step along the Cotswold Way. The 32-acre site, 750ft up on a spur of the escarpment, occupies a

naturally commanding position and was created by terracing a double line of ramparts into the hillside.

There's evidence of occupation of Uley Bury from 300 BC to 100 AD and finds here have ranged from large amounts of pottery to a gold coin of the Dobunni tribe.

"People used to think that Iron Age hill forts were defensive sites," Jan says. "But there is really very little difference in the material culture of hill forts compared with non-hill fort sites of the time, and there is generally very little evidence of conflict and battle."

"It has also been thought that hill forts were more about social hierarchy, but again there is no evidence of social distinction if you compare material remains of them with those of non-hill fort settlements. So why they were built is a bit of an open question."

It's the sort of conundrum to puzzle in the fresh air as you explore other hill forts along the Cotswold escarpment, such as **Kimsbury** (Painswick Beacon) and **Crickley Hill**. A half-mile self-guided trail around the latter brings to life 4,500 years of intermittent habitation from 4,000 BC.

In the south of the Cotswolds AONB, **Little Solsbury Hill** above the village of Batheaston was once occupied by wattle and daub huts within a univallate (single) rampart faced with drystone walls.

In the north of the AONB, **Bredon Hill** in Worcestershire is a hugely rich archaeological site boasting double-ditched Kemerton Camp Iron Age hill fort at the summit, and the smaller Conderton and Elmley Castle hill forts. Conderton has a single stone rampart and ditch, and may originally have been a cattle compound that later became a village of round huts.

What the Romans subsequently did when they invaded is another chapter in the story of the Cotswold landscape. For now, standing on Bredon Hill or beside a Neolithic lump, tump or bump, it's the peaceful invasion of nature that largely holds sway. But when autumn and winter shadows creep, you might just imagine you glimpse a ghostly figure or two.

Time travelling

For further information on visiting:

Belas Knap, Windmill Tump, Hetty Pegler's Tump, Nympsfield Long Barrow, www.english-heritage.org.uk

The Rollright Stones, www.rollrightstones.co.uk

Uley Bury, Kimsbury (Painswick Beacon), Solsbury Hill, www.megalithic.co.uk

Crickley Hill, www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Bredon Hill, www.bharchaeology.weebly.com/index.html

The Cotswold Lion is published by: Cotswolds Conservation Board

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Tel: 01451 862000, Email: info@cotswoldsconb.org.uk

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Editor: Nicola Greaves

Chief Writer: Sian Ellis

Designed by: www.touchmedia.uk.net



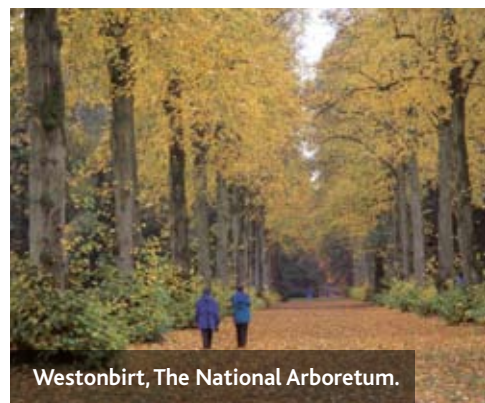
Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds revealed

Poll-topping features highlight what makes the Cotswolds so special

Earlier this year the Cotswolds Conservation Board invited public nominations for the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds and the votes poured in.

You chose cherished historic sites and buildings, beautiful natural attractions, stunning viewpoints, distinctive landscape and cultural features, towns and villages – over 80 fascinating wonders that help to give the Cotswolds its unique character.

Following a final public vote, here's what you decided are the Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds.



Westonbirt, The National Arboretum.

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum

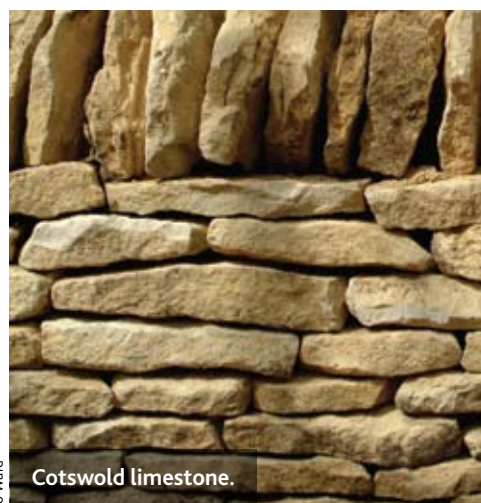
The Cotswolds AONB is famed for its beech, yew and ancient woodlands. So what more fitting location for Westonbirt, The National Arboretum? Home to 16,000 trees and 2,500 different specimens, five national collections and 80 champion trees, it makes an exhilarating escape at any time of year. Visit in autumn for magnificent colour and the sticky smell of the Katsura (toffee apple tree), and in winter for the Enchanted Christmas illuminated trail. www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Cotswold Way National Trail

The 102-mile National Trail from Chipping Campden to Bath threads together some of the best sights and experiences in the Cotswolds. First up, it's an energising walk along the Cotswold escarpment, with lots of circular taster routes like The Selsley Circuit. It's also a winner for the brilliant viewpoints, historic attractions and picturesque places on or near the trail, including Broadway Tower, Sudeley Castle and Wotton-under-Edge to name a few. www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold



Cotswold Way National Trail.



Cotswold limestone.

Cotswold limestone

What would the Cotswolds be without the oolitic limestone that underlies much of the AONB? It gives the bed to the special grassland and rare habitats, and it has built the area's distinctive grey- and golden-stone villages. When wool brought wealth, medieval merchants used the stone to create their great houses and the famous Cotswold 'wool' churches. Some 4,000 miles of drystone walls criss-cross the AONB, etching much-loved character lines on the face of the landscape.



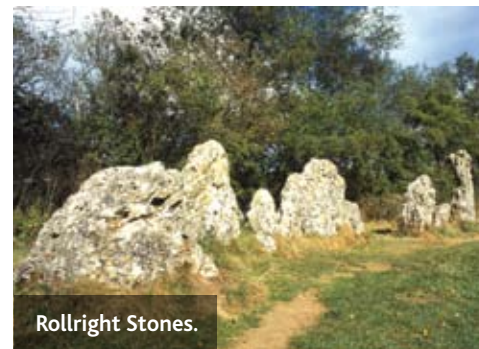
Woodchester Mansion and Park.

Woodchester Mansion and Park

For a story of architectural ambition, mysterious abandonment and rescue, this is hard to beat. Hidden in its valley, Grade I listed Woodchester Mansion is an unfinished Victorian Gothic masterpiece that lays bare the historic secrets of its construction, while the Woodchester Mansion Trust looks to the future with its pioneering on-site traditional building skills training programme. Explore, too, the 'lost landscape' of the 18th/19th-century park. www.woodchestermansion.org.uk www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The Rollright Stones

Man's interaction with the landscape is the Cotswolds' age-old story, and the Neolithic and Bronze Age Rollright Stones bear early, mysterious witness. But what purpose was served by the ceremonial circle of the 77 oolitic limestone King's Men? What significance has the King Stone and what rituals unfolded at the Whispering Knights burial chamber? Enigma, rooted in our ancestors' cultural relationship with their surroundings, makes this site irresistible. www.rollrightstones.co.uk



Rollright Stones.

Cleeve Hill and Common

Breathtaking in every sense, a stride up Cleeve Hill takes you to the highest point of the Cotswold Hills at 1,083ft. You can truly feel away from it all and the views are superb: across the Severn Vale to the Malvern Hills and beyond, or following slopes that roll off to the vales of Oxfordshire. The common is typical Cotswold landscape, with escarpment, hilltop and dip slope, and the unimproved limestone grassland remains a precious bastion for flora and fauna. www.cleevecommon.org.uk



Cleeve Hill and Common.

Stroud Farmers' Market

Even in an area renowned for farmers' markets selling fresh local produce, this one, run by Made in Stroud, stands out. It's not simply scrumptious offerings of farmhouse cheeses and ciders, artisan breads and cakes, free-range and organic meats on 45–60 stalls that lure. Over 13 years the award-winning Saturday market, one of the busiest in the UK, has become a vibrant social hub in the centre of town, with seasonal celebrations like apple day festivities in October. www.fresh-n-local.co.uk



Stroud Farmers' Market.

The Board is now working with its voluntary wardens to create a new series of walks based around the Seven Wonders to enable more people to experience, enjoy and find out more about what makes these places so special.

Stars in our eyes

Dark Cotswold winter skies are ideal for stargazing live.



The earth's moon.

NASA

Dark skies and tranquillity are two of the special qualities that help make the Cotswolds such a magical place. Not surprising, then, that BBC's *Stargazing LIVE* visited last January and enjoyed some superb viewing from the Neolithic Rollright Stones on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border at Long Compton.

"Winter is the best time to be stargazing, when it's dark and clear, and we think our viewing site at the Rollright Stones is one of the best in the country," says Robin Smitten, Chairman of Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group (CNAAG) which hosted the *Stargazing LIVE* visit.

"They came and looked at the big 'square' of the constellation of **Pegasus**, the winged horse, from here: one of the tests of a dark sky is how many stars you can see inside the square. In a light-polluted city you would be hard pushed to see any, but here they counted 12. We're hoping the BBC will return for more great sights this coming January."



Jupiter.

NASA

Stargazing has become widely popular in recent years thanks in part to TV programmes fronted by the likes of Professor Brian Cox. But humans have always looked heavenwards.

"It's possible the Rollright Stones were built on an astronomical alignment and as they are our viewing base we claim that CNAAG is the oldest astronomical group in the country!" Robin smiles.

Officially founded in 2005, CNAAG has special permission to stargaze from the Rollright Stones site, as well as the Recreation Ground at Long Compton. There are plenty more good viewing points around the Cotswolds, including Broadway Tower, Cleeve Hill, elevations to the east and west of Chipping Norton, and Kilkenny Picnic Site.

"You can be somewhere reasonably dark from most towns within ten or 15 minutes," Robin says.

CNAAG is open to anyone, meets monthly in The Fox Hotel at Chipping Norton for talks by astronomy experts, and stargazes whenever weather allows. The group also visits schools and youth organisations. "If we can inspire youngsters, we've served our purpose," Robin says.

Ian Davies was nine years old when he first got hooked on astronomy by the appearance of Halley's Comet in 1986. Today he is Observing Director of the Cotswold Astronomical Society, which meets on the second Saturday of each month at Century Hall, Shurdington, and also has viewing sites at Bredon Cricket Club and near Prescott. It welcomes newcomers and is keen on outreach activities too.

"Many people think you need to spend a lot

of money on astronomy and it's not the case," Ian says. "As a beginner, all you need is your eyes and to learn your way around the skies."

Ian and Robin agree the **winter moon** is a great starting point for study. "The best time to observe is any time from the moon's early crescent stage to the first quarter, when shadows show up the depth of the craters," Robin says. Craters resulted from the impact of asteroids and comets, and the dark patches known as seas, or maria, are the solidified lava from ancient volcanic eruptions.

"There are astronomers who spend all their time looking at the moon; it's a reminder of how violent our solar system was when it was formed," Robin says.

There are no once-in-a-lifetime astronomical events predicted for this winter, but still lots to entice you to wrap up warm and get outside.

"The **Geminids meteor shower** that peaks from 13th to 14th December is expected to put on a good show because you will be able to see it around new moon when the skies will be clear and dark," Ian says. Other meteor showers – aka shooting stars – to watch for include the **Taurids** (5th–12th November) and **Leonids** (15th–20th November).

"From December to January **Jupiter** will be well placed for observing and with a pair of binoculars you will easily be able to make out its four moons," Ian continues. "With a modest telescope such as you can use at our society you will pick out details like gas clouds on the face of Jupiter, and **Saturn's rings** in the early hours before dawn if you are up then. Jupiter and Saturn are really beautiful planets."

There are more than 400,000 million stars in the **Milky Way** galaxy and Ian says it's best viewed through binoculars. "A telescope magnifies so much you don't get the big picture. The same is true for the **Pleiades**, or **Seven Sisters**, a really nice star cluster to be seen over winter."

The **Orion nebula** is another of Ian's top tips for December to January. "It's a little smudge around Orion's sword that is a star factory: a great big swirling cloud of gas and dust that is condensing to form brand new stars. Even through binoculars it is fascinating."

Dedicated stargazers might like to attempt



Orion nebula.

NASA

Moon talk

The moon measures 2,160 miles across and is approximately 239,000 miles away from Earth.

- ☾ It takes 1.3 seconds on average for light to travel from the moon to Earth.
- ☾ The moon goes through a complete set of phases – new, full, crescent/decrecent, half, gibbous/more than half – in 29.5 days.
- ☾ A 'blue moon' can refer to the third full moon in a season with four full moons. Most years see 12 full moons, but as lunar and solar calendar years differ, every two or three years there is an extra full moon – hence a rare event.

the 'Messier Marathon', spotting their way through 110 'best and brightest deep sky objects for amateurs' – details on the Cotswold Astronomical Society website. (Ian has spotted around 55.)

But whether you look upwards every night or once in a blue moon (although that's a full moon, so less good for stargazing), there's always the chance you will discover something new or rare.

"Astronomy is one area where amateurs can make a real contribution," Ian says. "It's a big sky and even with massive telescopes experts can only look at one thing at a time."

Apart from stargazing with the naked eye, both Ian and Robin say that amateurs need only modest equipment. "I would recommend people get a pair of 10 x 50 good quality binoculars and a star map for the month – available in astronomy magazines – to learn their way around the night sky," Robin says. "Some of the best nights you can have are with a pair of binoculars."

Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group:
Robin Smitten, Chairman, tel: 07527 22441;
www.cnaag.com

Cotswold Astronomical Society:
Ian Davies, Observing Director,
email: observing@cotswoldas.org.uk
www.cotswoldas.org.uk

Winter warmers

There's nothing better than getting out and about for warming the spirits in autumn and winter. Nature is full of surprises, while seasonal events add their own magical glow. We've picked ten top activities around the Cotswolds to put pep in your step and banish any blues.

Go bat detecting: autumn evenings are the perfect time to watch bats before they hibernate. Visit Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Chedworth nature reserve to see long-eared and common pipistrelle bats, and Greystones Farm nature reserve to see Natterer's and lesser horseshoe. www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Share an unforgettable Owl Evening at Cotswold Falconry Centre, Batsford Park. Tour the owl woods to witness these beautiful birds' evening rituals, watch a flying demonstration and handle a variety of owls. 8th September, 13th and 27th October. www.cotswold-falconry.co.uk

Savour Apple Weekend at Snowhill Manor near Broadway, 13th–14th October. Several hundred

varieties of apple grown in Britain are on display – Snowhill alone grows around 50 different types – and there are apple juicings, tastings, a children's trail and more. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Walk the Batsford Golden Mile at Batsford Arboretum in October, and view the exhilarating autumn colours of the Liquidambar, maples and cherry. www.batsarb.co.uk

Get in the festive spirit at Bath Christmas Market, 22nd November–9th December. The opening night features an atmospheric lantern procession and there are gifts galore at more than 130 traditional wooden chalets. www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

Explore the illuminated evening Winter Wonderland of Prinknash

Deer & Bird Park on selected December weekends. Santa is to be found in the famous Wendy House and the reindeer appear amid rainbow-coloured trees and glowing lakes. www.thebirdpark.co.uk

Feel on top of the world striding up a breezy hilltop to exhilarating views: the 'Ilmington and the roof of Warwickshire' route is one of a series of special Jubilee Walks that will blow away the cobwebs. Download it at www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk/jubilee

Get your skates on for a whirl around the ice rink in the abbey grounds during Christmas in Cirencester, 30th November–16th December. Then hunt for gifts in the traditional Christmas market. www.christmasincirencester.org.uk

Go quackers at the annual Boxing Day Bibury Duck Race. Sponsor a duck (they're plastic and love taking part) in aid of charity. Mulled wine and mince pies will help to fend off the cold. www.cotswolds.com

Gallivant with galanthophiles at Colesbourne Park, where thousands of dazzling, honey-scented snowdrops brighten even the gloomiest winter's day. Weekends in February and first weekend in March, from 1pm. www.colesbournegardens.org.uk



Nick Turner

Snowdrops at Colesbourne Park.



Cotswold Falconry Centre.

Great escapes

Don't stay cooped up indoors, there's so much going on around the Cotswolds this autumn and winter. You will find lots more ideas for great days out, including events, activities, sights and walks, at www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk.

Foragers' feast

Luscious local orchard and hedgerow fruits are among autumn's tastiest treats, and it's certainly worth the tingly fingers to forage for blackberries on a crisp walk. So pull on your boots and get looking for berries because we've asked champion of modern British cuisine and regional ingredients The Cotswold Chef Rob Rees MBE to conjure up a seasonal recipe or two.



Plum, Apple and Blackberry Fruit Cobbler

Serves 6

For the filling:

1kg mixed English autumn fruits e.g. plums, pears, apples or blackberries
75g caster sugar
Zest of 1 lemon

To make a cobbler top:

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
200g self raising flour
75g unsalted Netherend Farm butter chilled and grated
75g caster sugar
1 Cotswold Legbar egg
100 ml Cotteswold Dairy milk

1. Spread the fruit evenly in an oven-proof dish
2. Grate over the zest and the sugar
3. In a bowl sift together the flour, sugar and the baking powder

4. Add the chilled grated butter and 'rub in' to the flour creating a texture like fine breadcrumbs
5. Crack the egg into the milk and beat together
6. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and add the milk and egg mixture
7. Working from the outside inwards mix the liquid and the flour together to form a sticky dough. Dropping consistency is what you are after so adjust with either more milk or a touch of flour accordingly
8. Using a tablespoon place 'dollops' of the dough on top of the autumn fruits. Take care to place them evenly with a few gaps in between each one
9. Bake in a hot oven at 200°C for 30 minutes or until golden. Test to see if the cobbles are cooked by placing a skewer into the centre – it should come out piping hot and clean.

Crab Apple Schnapps

This is a standard recipe for Crab Apple Schnapps, but I've jazzed it up with a couple of extras!

Direction:

- Wash 10–20 crab apples and cut them in halves. Leave the skin on
- Put them in a clean glass jar with tight-fitting lid
- Cover with clear, unflavoured vodka – 40% alcohol content (80 proof)
- Add 1 fresh vanilla pod slit open lengthways, 1 red chilli and a sprig of rosemary
- Let steep for 8–10 weeks or more in a dark place at room temperature, 18–20°C (64–68°F)
- Shake lightly and taste it from time to time
- Strain and filter your infusion into a clean glass bottle or jar with tight-fitting lid
- Store (age) for a couple of months in a dark place at room temperature before serving
- If you find your result too bitter, boil equal volume sugar and water until syrup, allow to cool and pour into your bottle to adjust to taste.

Rob Rees CIC (www.thecotswoldchef.com) and partner charity The Wiggly Worm (www.thewigglyworm.org.uk) operate as social enterprise businesses. Why not enjoy an autumn walk on the Cotswold Way and drop into the recently opened ethical, local, sustainable – and scrumptious – **Star Bistro** at Ullenwood.

Painswick

It's thought that a Norman lord of the manor, Pain Fitzjohn, gave his name to 'Wyke' (from Saxon for 'village'), hence Pain's Wyck/Painswick. Today the small market town, high on a south-facing spur of the western Cotswolds, is also known as the 'Queen of the Cotswolds' for its beautiful buildings of locally quarried, creamy grey limestone, not to mention regal valley views.



Yew trees, St Mary's churchyard.



Penny Jones, Westonbirt's propagator, with new trees for the collection.

Westonbirt leads the way

New climate change tree trials identify species for the future

What will be the effect on trees of climate change, including hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters predicted for the Cotswolds?

A multi-national trial has begun that aims to identify which species of trees will thrive in the future, with results likely to influence forestry planning and timber production.

Thirty-seven sites along the European Atlantic coast have been chosen for the EU-funded Reinforce project, from Portugal to Scotland and including Westonbirt, The National Arboretum working with Forest Research.

The same 30 tree species have been planted at each trial location, with three seed provenances for each species and 12 trees per seed provenance – a total of 39,960 trees. The study will measure survival, health, height, trunk diameter and form in the differing conditions and climate of each site.

"Trees are a key indicator species of what is going on environmentally," says Westonbirt Curator Mark Ballard. "A warming climate can present opportunities: we might be able to grow trees that previously struggled. But it also presents challenges like increasing pest diseases that can have a real environmental and economic impact.

"Trees lock up a lot of carbon, while a by-product of photosynthesis is oxygen. Without trees, the world is a very different place. We need to look to the future and get things right, and Westonbirt has a key role to play in that."

The 1,080 trees planted in a plot at Westonbirt's Silk Wood last spring include familiar species like English oak and Scots pine, as well as more unusual ones like Atlas cedar and Maritime and Monterey pines.

"The point of these trials is to push the limits of what can grow,"

Mark says. "By trialling different seed provenances, we can test if those with a more southerly provenance, for example, will survive better in the future."

Reinforce – REsource INfrastructure for monitoring and adapting European Atlantic FORests under Changing climate – runs for four years. "If a tree is going to have problems it should be apparent fairly early on, so we should be getting results almost from the off," Mark says.

"Helping visitors understand the importance of trees to society is a core part of our work and the Reinforce trials give us a great opportunity to do this," says Ben Oliver, Learning and Participation Manager. "At the moment the trees are still small but we have interpretive panels to explain what is happening and our volunteer guides can provide lots of information.

"We are creating a presentation to encourage people to join in to predict which trees will do well. It's based on betting odds: for example, we reckon some trees will fall at the frost hurdle. As we start getting results the presentation will be updated."

Westonbirt, famous for its Grade I registered park and garden featuring more than 3,000 different types of trees, is extending the Reinforce project by planting another plot in Silk Wood with species of specific interest to UK forestry. Japanese cedar is one tree that could become an important timber species in future.

Visitors can also find out more about the effects of climate change on landscaping in the 2050 Glade, and the popular family event, Autumnal Highlights (week commencing 29th October), will consider how Westonbirt's glorious autumn colour might alter in future.

For more information on research at Westonbirt, visit www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Nick Turner

Handsome buildings, constructed on the wealth of the wool and cloth trade, climb steep narrow streets, and mills powered by the Painswick Stream are now converted into covetable dwellings. It's an intimately picturesque town with a thriving sports, arts and crafts scene (including annual summer Arts Festival), and friendly community spirit.

See and do St Mary's Church, a crowning glory at the town's heart, dates from the 14th century and sports a 173ft spire that's visible for miles. The churchyard's famous yews were planted in the 1700s (legend says only 99 will ever grow) and the recently conserved stone memorials, many commemorating Painswick's wealthy 17th/18th-century clothiers and merchants, are truly remarkable: from table-top to 'tea caddy' tombs. Wend around town with an 'Exploring Painswick' leaflet (30p): sights include Palladian Beacon House with its superb Rococo plasterwork and Tudor Byfield House with its 'donkey door'.

Eat and shop Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen's gallery at The Painswick Centre and The Fiery Beacon Gallery sell alluring contemporary art and crafts. Browse beautiful British woodware by Dennis French at Painswick Woodcrafts, collectibles at The Chairman, and antique, vintage and decorative home accessories at Kate Rich. Foodie temptations range from tapas to seafood at Olivas, and from luxury cream teas to elegant dining at the Juniper Bar & Restaurant in the Cotswolds88 Hotel. Relax in Cardynham House Bistro, or enjoy a twist on seasonal British fare at the Falcon Restaurant and a twist on modern European cuisine at JK's at St Michaels Restaurant.

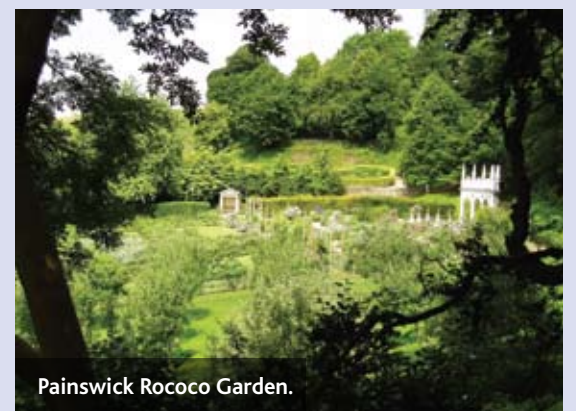
Make a date The annual 'clypping' ceremony on Painswick Feast Day (this year 23rd September) is a traditional must-see. It derives from Old English 'clep' meaning 'embrace' and involves children encircling

St Mary's Church with dance and song.

Walking and exploring There are over 140 footpaths through the parish and Painswick is the mid-point on the Cotswold Way – maybe head north to Painswick Beacon to discover the Iron Age hill fort and panoramic views from 928ft. The theatrical Rococo Garden, half a mile from the town centre, is spectacular in early spring when snowdrops veil the woodland floor. Also hire electric bikes from the garden – another great way to explore the surrounding countryside.

Fancy that! The bowling green at the back of The Falcon Hotel, where Painswick Falcon Bowling Club plays, was laid down and enclosed in 1554 and is the oldest in the country. Painswick RFC, formed in 1872, is England's oldest village rugby club.

Visiting essentials Bus to Painswick: Stagecoach 46 (Cheltenham–Forest Green). Volunteer-run Painswick Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall opens Apr–Oct, Mon–Fri 10am–5pm (to 1pm, Sat). Further information, www.painswick-pc.gov.uk. Also keep in touch via *The Painswick Beacon* community newspaper, www.painswickbeacon.org.uk



Painswick Rococo Garden.

Passionate producers: Cotswold Spring Brewing Co.

A conversation between friends in a pub led to the establishment in 2005 of Cotswold Spring Brewing at Dodington Spring. Their dream, to create an independent craft brewery that uses spring water drawn from the Cotswolds' limestone plateau, has reaped numerous awards, including Supreme Champion at the SIBA 2011 National Beer Competition for the company's OSM seven-grain mild.

"We're passionate about producing beer with craftsmanship and character," says co-owner Mark Frankcom. "We have three core beers available throughout the year and two seasonal beers each quarter to

complement them.

"We design everything on paper first. Beers are judged on their look, then aroma, taste and mouthfeel, and finish. Our Trooper beer, for example, takes people out of light summer drinking and into autumn with its amber colour, strength and fruitiness underpinned by a malty body. Our Rascal wheat beer also has a late summer, autumnal feel and it's a little unusual: cloudy and effervescent with a thick creamy head, and zesty with fruity notes.

"For winter we wanted a full-bodied, robust, dark stout, but also something characterful. So we created our oatmeal stout, Guv'nor. The oatmeal gives a smooth body

to hang the rich stouty flavours of chocolate, coffee and liquorice on. Vixen is ideal for winter too, a tawny brown beer with toffee-apple fruitiness and spicy dry-pepper finish.

"People often overlook beer as an accompaniment to food. Trooper goes fantastically with kippers and Vixen goes well with locally shot venison, beef, or even a herb dumpling stew.

"We use only natural ingredients to make our beers: British malts, a secret selection of hops, water and yeast.

"When the brewery set up, a key idea was to use local spring water and we are sited in a former farmyard right on the Cotswold spring line. We have a direct feed from Cotswold



Matt Bryan (left) from Clarke Dove Insurance with brewer Nik Milo receiving the gold award for best bitter 'Stunner' at the SIBA Beer competition at Ludlow Spring Festival.

Spring Water, which has a borehole on top of the hill. The water has filtered through the limestone of the Cotswold plateau making it slightly hard, which gives our beers a crisp, refreshing finish.

"We brew three or four times a week, making around 12,500 pints. The process of boiling, mixing and fermenting ingredients can sound like it is eminently repeatable to always get a perfect beer. But it changes all the time according to when ingredients have been harvested or even how cold the brew house is. That's where the genius of our master brewer Nik Milo comes in, tweaking

and tasting all the way through.

"We use heat exchange technology during the process to save energy and a local smallholder uses our spent hops for fertiliser. He feeds our spent grain to his cows, pigs and goats.

"Beer has been enormously important to our British diet and culture for centuries, and craft brewers now produce such a diverse range. It's no longer just the man of a certain age who drinks beer, but lots of women and younger people too. All sorts come to visit our brewery and shop."

Cotswold Spring Brewing Co.
www.springbrewing.co



Cotswold champions: Sophie Thompson



Sophie Thompson makes animal sculptures from her studio at Milton-under-Wychwood in Oxfordshire. She graduated from Exeter College of Art and Design in 1992 and, having been inspired by curiously shaped pieces of scrap on friends' farms, she recycles 'redundant' materials – scythes for bird tails, hedge cutters for crocodile teeth, chain for the shaggy coat of a goat.

Sophie works mainly to commission but also exhibits throughout the region and her public works, which often involve local schools or community groups, include a deer and bats along the visitor trail at the National Trust's Lodge Park, Aldsworth.

How did you first become interested in animal sculpture?

Growing up in rural Oxfordshire I was always surrounded by animals and had numerous pets from ferrets to ponies. I was intrigued by their form and movement. Coming from a creative family, we always had art materials at home and I spent many hours modelling my pets.

Why recycle 'scrap' from farms to make into animal sculptures?

Sustainability and recycling are important to me, and a lot of my sculptures are of farm animals so it's nice to use bits of farm machinery, putting pieces of old plough harness to good use to make a horse, for example. You get the history of farming in the sculpture. I like the paint and rust on metal as well: it's had a working life.

The lovely shapes of machine parts might suggest a hip of a horse or the beak of a bird and that gives me ideas for sculptures. Old farm machinery especially, like plough parts, was twisted and turned so it's easy to get movement from it.

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

Being able to earn a living from what I like making and being able to work at home so I can fit in around my son and horses.

Any disappointments?

It is getting harder to find scrap metal because of the value going up. I think farmers' sons are selling it for beer money at the weekend! I'll have to use new metal for some pieces, but it's the recycling part that I love.

What is the most important lesson you have learned?

Know what you are making. I've always worked with animals and studied their movement, and we have horses, sheep and goats at home. If you are used to the way an animal moves you can then capture the character and give the sculpture a personality. For more unusual animals I go to the zoo.

What hopes, dreams, ambitions for the future?

To spend a whole year just making horse sculptures and to have an exhibition of about 40 of them. I've always absolutely adored horses. They are so varied, from dainty little ponies to fit and lean race horses, to Shire horses with big feathers and great strong necks.

What do you most enjoy about living in the Cotswolds?

Walking and being able to sit in a pretty pub in the evening! We live near Foxholes [nature reserve] and I walk my dogs through the woods

every morning before work. It is always different and in autumn the leaves are beautiful.

Visitors to Sophie's studio are welcome but must ring to book in advance (01993 831645). For details of exhibitions and commissions, see www.sophiethompson.com

Do you know a 'Cotswold champion'? We are looking for nominations – whether a conservationist, volunteer, artist or someone else who adds richness to Cotswold life. Send your suggestions to info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or via twitter @cotswoldsaonb and we will feature a selection in future issues.



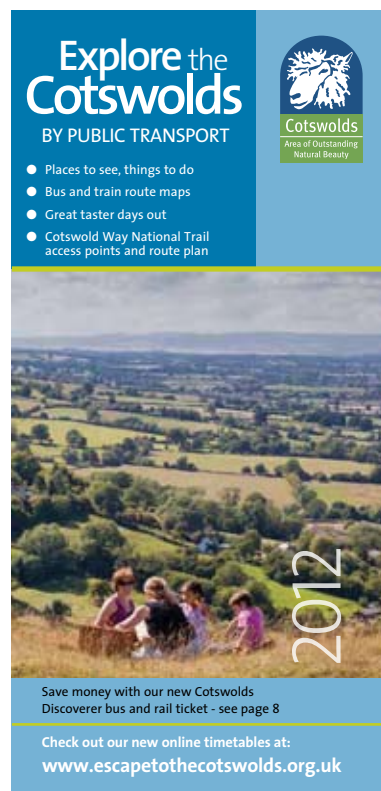
Simon Lea

Sophie Thompson and her recycled sheep.

Exploring by public transport

The very latest *Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport* is now available, highlighting activities and visitor attractions accessible by bus and train.

If you fancy a good walk, for example, the guide suggests 16 places along the Cotswold Way where you can start and finish using public transport. Great 'taster day out' ideas include a trip across the North Cotswolds, shopping in Bourton-on-the-Water, rambing a Jubilee Walk and relaxing with refreshments in delightful Northleach.



The Cotswolds Discoverer - it's just the ticket!

A new travel scheme has been launched to help more people discover the Cotswolds by bus and by train from just £10 per day. Visit www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverer for further details.

To download a copy of *Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport* and view online travel timetables and route maps, visit www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/visitor-info/gettinghere/

Jubilee walks success

A new series of walks created to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend in June has proved a huge hit with both locals and visitors to the Cotswolds.

The 14 circular walks, created by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, are available direct from the Escape to the Cotswolds website and there have been well over 2,000 downloads since their launch.

Ranging in length from 2.5 to 5 miles, the routes explore diverse aspects of the AONB's beautiful landscapes, from woodland and parkland around Badminton to curious village sights and historic tales at Ebrington and Foxcote. The routes avoid stiles, enabling easy access to the countryside for as many people as possible.

To download a route and enjoy a ramble, visit www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/jubilee



Cotswolds AONB Management Plan review

Local communities across the AONB have been working with the Board as part of a review of the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan 2008-13.

The Management Plan provides information on a number of different aspects of the AONB including planning, transport, tourism, recreation, historic buildings and biodiversity to help guide the management of the AONB over the next five years. The new plan, which will come into effect in April 2013, has identified a range of key issues and policies covering each of these and other topics. For further details, including opportunities to contribute to the review, contact Malcolm Watt on 01451 862004.

Annual Review 2011/12

The Cotswolds Conservation Board's Annual Review 2011/12, which provides an overview of the Board's work and achievements during last year, is available to view online. To download a copy, go to: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/annualreview

National Grid boosts Sustainable Development Fund

Thank you to National Grid, which has given sponsorship to the Cotswolds AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

The regional grants scheme, available to individuals, groups or businesses, aims to encourage innovative and unique projects that seek to benefit the AONB, with particular focus on the environment, community and/or local economy.

Previous SDF-funded projects have included support for community shops, renewable energy installations in village halls, community gardens, restoration of quarry sites for environmental education, a community beekeeping initiative, and a woodland management project.

The funds which have been contributed by National Grid will add to the support that the Cotswolds Conservation Board can give to SDF applicants.

To find out more about the Sustainable Development Fund and how to apply, visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/sdf

In Roman steps

A new conservation shelter at Chedworth Roman Villa is among recent projects to have received a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund. The imaginative £3m development, which includes a refurbished visitor centre, features suspended walkways and viewing platforms over Chedworth's Roman mosaics – allowing visitors to walk just above the precious flooring and get a sense of the sights, sounds and smells that would have greeted them in the 4th century.



Get on the treasure trail

The new *Cotswold Way Companion Treasure Trail* is a fun way to explore the 102-mile National Trail, following clues whose answers may be found on existing buildings, monuments and structures.

The book is the latest edition in the popular Treasure Trails series and if you solve the puzzle you have a chance of winning £1,000 in the annual Treasure Trails prize draw.

Trails are available for £5.99 from Tourist Information Centres and selected retail outlets including the Escape to the Cotswolds discovery centre in Northleach.

Farm and woodland advice

An advice service offered by the Conservation Board, to landowners in the Cotswolds AONB, includes help with Entry and Higher Level Stewardship applications.

As well as the promotion of woodland management through the Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant Scheme, help and advice is available for new schemes and renewals. Don't miss out on available funding of up to £700/ha.

For further details, contact Charles Robinson on 01451 862038, or visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Demand grows for climate change advice

Farmers and other rural businesses have been "very receptive" to the Board's new climate change advice service, established thanks to funding by National Grid, says James Lloyd, climate change officer.

Since we reported James' appointment in the last issue, he has supported over 40 businesses with increased carbon footprint 'greening' measures. He has completed ten business carbon audits helping organisations to better understand, measure and plan reductions in their carbon footprint through improved energy efficiency, improved farming practice, building design and micro renewables.

"Climate change mitigation is about saving costs as well as carbon, for example on fuel consumption," James says. "In terms of climate change adaptation we are looking at building up business resilience and self-sufficiency."

A recent tour of Calmsden Manor Farm and Daylesford Organics, Kingham, brought together the Defra Adaptation Policy team and local landowners, to discuss climate change issues and opportunities within the Cotswolds. "It was a really useful day. We helped Defra to understand our issues and they gave us the benefit of their research and work," James says.

For further details on the Board's climate change advisory service and free business consultations, contact James Lloyd on 01451 862033, james.lloyd@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Make your mark through new corporate team building activities!

Fed up with paintballing or raft-building with milk bottles? The Conservation Board is now offering rural skills-based activities to corporate clients that are practical, benefit the Cotswolds landscape and give participants a real sense of achievement. Activities include dry-stone walling, hedgelaying and woodland coppicing, with bespoke packages and catering tailored to the client's needs.

For further details, contact the Board's Rural Skills and Grants Officer, David Molloy, on 01451 862002, or visit www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk



Walks & Events Guide

Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Autumn/Winter 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 places. 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 40 years.

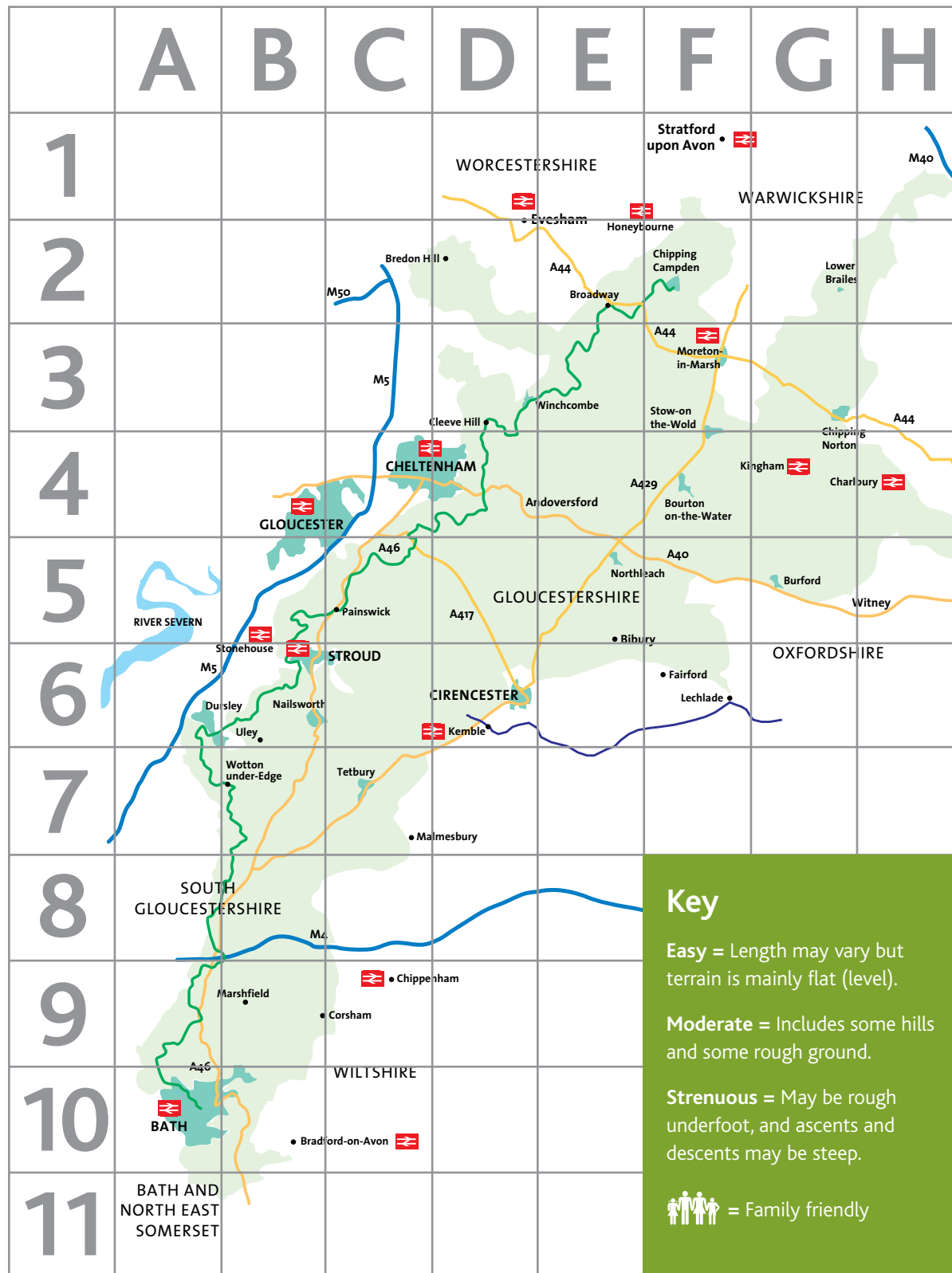
Tailor Made Walks: The Wardens can provide a town walk, an audio visual show followed by a tea or supper as appropriate for organised parties. For further details contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131 or email: ann.colcomb@btinternet.com

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 or email: cox.langett@hotmail.co.uk. 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.



Saturday 6th October • 10:00

Obelisk Observations

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles

A figure of eight walk starting from Cam Peak Car Park taking in two unusual man-made features. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Cam Peak (Peaked Down) car park • ST768993 • Map square A6

Leaders: Steve Knight & David Owen

Sunday 7 October • 10.00

Evenlode Valley 1 - Moreton & Evenlode

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

This is the first of a series of circular walks that explore the Evenlode Valley from source to where it runs into the River Glyme. It follows the Diamond Way to the village of Evenlode. Footpaths take it back to near the source close to the Four Shires Stone. Note paths can be muddy during periods of wet weather. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Redesdale Hall (front), Moreton-in-Marsh, SP204324 • Map square F3

Leader: Anne Martis

Tuesday 9th October • 10:00

Railways, Rivers, Relics and Writers

Easy • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Starting in the pleasant village of Kingham this walk rarely loses sight of the River Evenlode which inspired a couple of writers in the early 20th century. There is an opportunity to visit a church featured in Simon Jenkins' England's 1,000 Best Churches. Lunch opportunities in Kingham at end of walk.

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

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday 11th October • 10:00

Northern Delights (1)

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 8 miles

First in a series highlighting some of the best walks in the Cotswolds' far north. This one takes us to the northern extremity and Meon Hill passing Hidcote Manor. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Lower Quinton (St Swithin's Church), near Mickleton SP184470 • Map square F1

Leaders: Keith Sisson & Paul Adams

Friday 12th Oct • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No. 1

Easy • 3 hours • 6 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at the Royal Oak, Leighterton. Walk starts at 10.30 from Leighterton to Westonbirt, return via the Monarch's Way. Lunch available at the Inn at the end of the walk. The walk is suitable for children.

Starting point: Royal Oak Inn, Leighterton ST823912 • Map square C7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Graham Smith

OCTOBER

Throughout October

Self-guided orienteering trail

Download the trail at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/local-to-you/south-west/view-page/item601995 or borrow one from the Ewe Pen Barn Car Park at Sherborne where the trail starts.

For more information call National Trust: 01451 844257

Tuesday 2nd October • 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 the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Wednesday 3rd October • 10:00

Churches with Stories

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.75 miles

A walk to two churches with links to Lewis Carroll's Alice and to Dick Whittington. Views down the Churn Valley. One steep descent. Accessible by 151 bus from Cheltenham or Cirencester (hourly service). Lunch available at The Hungry Horse.

Starting point: Hungry Horse Pub Seven Springs • SO968170 • Map square D4

Leaders: P Burgon, A Wilson & J Shaw

Saturday 6th October • 10:00

A Woodland Walk to Cirencester

Moderate • 7 hours • 12 miles

Through Hailey Wood and Coates to Cirencester Park. Pub lunch or picnic.

Starting point: Sapperton Church. Please park around village but not by the church. SO947034 • Map square C6

Leaders: J Heathcott, K Buckle & M Dunning

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Friday 19th October • 10:00

Blockley to Batsford Delight

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
A delightful circuit from the picturesque and interesting village of Blockley with stunning views of the North Cotswolds and beyond.
Starting point: Blockley Village Shop/Cafe SP164349 • Map square F3
Leaders: John Smith & Graham Luck

Saturday 20th October • 10:00

Over The Hills to Brailes

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles
This starts from the lovely village of Whichford, of Whichford Pottery fame. It soon heads over the hills to arrive in Brailes, another village full of character. More hills are encountered on the return journey of a walk of beautiful views and autumn colours. Please park considerably in village and bring packed lunch.
Starting point: Whichford Village Green, south east of Shipton-on-Stour SP315346 • Map square G3
Leaders: Lucy and Martin Squires

Tuesday 23rd October • 10:00

Where Romans Trod 1

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
The first of two walks incorporating parts of the Roman Akeman Street. It includes other ancient tracks and a wartime airfield. Pub lunch available at the end of the walk.
Starting point: Bird in Hand Inn, Whiteoak Green, Hailey, on B4022 between Charlbury and Witney • SP344139 • Map square H4
Leaders: Tony Graeme & Barbara Mills

Tuesday 23rd October • 10:00

Beverston & Chavenage, plus the chance to make a sketch

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 6.5 miles
An opportunity to wander through typical south Cotswold farmland. We will stop for lunch and the chance to make a sketch. Bring a packed lunch, pencils and a pad.
Starting point: Beverston high street, please park considerably • ST861939 • Map square B7
Leaders: Norman Kay & Brian Mundy

Wednesday 24th Oct • 10:00

Crossing the County Boundaries

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
A morning walk skirting the wide open spaces of the Gloucestershire-Wiltshire border. A fairly flat walk suitable for families.
Starting point: Didmarton Village Hall ST818872 • Map square B7
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Lorraine Blench

Friday 26th October • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
A route of mostly quiet roads and fields to visit Hampnett and Turkdean with a few moderate climbs.
Starting point: Old Prison Car Park Northleach SP109149 • Map square E5
Leaders: K Buckle, G Ricketts & J Foulkes

Saturday 27th October • 10:00

Manor Houses in the North Cotswolds (1)

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 11 miles
First in a series of walks considering the history of 5 manor houses in the area. It involves two ascents of the Cotswold Edge and magnificent views. Pub lunch available in Ilmington.
Starting point: Mickleton, outside St Lawrence Church • SP162435 • Map square F1
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sat 27th Oct - Sun 4th Nov

Halloween Costumes Entertainment

Venue: Blenheim Palace
www.blenheimpalace.com

Sunday 28th October • 10:00

Follow the Brooks to Dyrham (National Trust Walking Festival)

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles
A linear walk from Castle Combe to Dyrham Park along the By - Brook and Broadmead Brook, via Nettleton Mill, West Kington and West Littleton. Please bring a packed lunch. Booking required for bus transport (£2) to the start from Dyrham Park on 0117 9371335. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Visitor reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square B9
Leaders: John Walker and Sandy Higgins

Sunday 28th October • 10:00

A Walk in the Park (National Trust Walking Festival)

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
The walk follows a woodland track through Newark Park's estate down to Ozleworth Bottom, passing two delightful lakes, to reach the village of Wortley. Here the walk meets the Cotswold Way and ascends Wortley Hill back to the house.
Starting point: Newark Park National Trust Car Park • ST782931 • Map square B7
Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Bulley

Sunday 28th October • 10:00

Autumn Colour Walk

Enjoy the commons at this colourful time of year. £3 per adult/children free. Advance booking required.
Venue: Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons
Pre-book: National Trust 01452 814213

Tuesday 30th October • 10:00

The Bath Skyline (National Trust Walking Festival)

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
Circular walk on National Trust land on the southern outskirts of Bath at Claverton Down with some fine views overlooking the city and passing old quarry workings at 'hamton' rock. Coffee stop only. Please park considerably in Beechwood Road.
Starting point: Beechwood Road, Combe Down, Bath • ST758622 • Map square A10
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings & Pauline Vincent

NOVEMBER

Thursday 1st Nov • 10:00

Marshfield - Town and 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, Marshfield ST781736 • Map square B9
Leaders: David Colbourne & John Dougal

Friday 2nd November • 10:00

Roll Right Over Them Hills

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles
This walk undulates up and down the scarp edge of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds passing through Whichford Woods before dropping down into Cherington in the Stour Valley. Here there is an opportunity for an optional pub snack lunch. The return is via Whichford before more climbs back up to Rollright.
Starting point: Great Rollright Cross Roads, north of Chipping Norton SP322314 • Map square G3
Leader: Kevin Myhill

Saturday 3rd November • 9:30

Walk not Gallop

Moderate • 6 hours • 11 miles
Walk the high wolds around Longborough which afford stunning views and interesting sights; taking in Blockley, Bourton-on-the-Hill & Hinchwick. Bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Longborough village shop/cafe. SP179296 • Map square F3
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday 3rd November • 10:00

To the Queen of The Cotswolds

Moderate • 5 hours • 7.5 miles
A circular walk from Stroud up one side of one of the 5 valleys that converge on the town and back down the other side via Pitchcombe.
Starting point: Car Park, Stratford Park Leisure Centre • SP844056 • Map square B6
Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Saturday 13th October • 9:30

A Saxon Sortie

Moderate • 6 hours • 11.5 miles
A delightful walk from Guiting Power utilising the Wardens Way and returning via Eyford Park and Adam's Farm. Bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Guiting Power Village Shop/Cafe. Please park with consideration in the village • SP094248 • Map square E4
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday 13th Oct • 10:00

A circular Walk via the Badminton Estate to Tormarton

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles
From the church, there is a steep climb to the A46 and the Cross Hands Public House, but the views are worth it. We then head towards Lyegrove Farm and the Badminton Estate before turning right towards Acton Turville. We then make our way towards Tormarton where we will have time to visit the church and local hostelry (drinks available!). Return on the Cotswold Way via Doddington Park. Please bring a packed lunch and park considerably near the church (there may be weddings).
Starting point: Old Sodbury Church ST756818 • Map square A8
Leaders: Reg Bleadon & John Wells

Tuesday 16th Oct • 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside - a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles Max
A series of morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box, Wilts into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop mid walk for drinks and snacks brought with you. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs or tea rooms.
Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park in Box, Wilts off the A4. ST824686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould.

Wednesday 17th October • 10:00

In the Bleak Midwinter

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
A walk through Buckholt Wood to Coopers Hill and Witcombe Roman Villa.
Starting point: Off A46 at Cranham Corner. Follow signs to Cranham Church. SO894125 • Map square CS
Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & J Foulkes

Thursday 18th October • 10:00

Autumn on the Scarp

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles
A mixture of autumn woodlands and fine views over the Vale. Two steep climbs but very much worth the effort! Bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Fish Hill Car Park SP121369 • Map square E2
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt



Chipping Sodbury Farmers Market

Every second and fourth Saturday each Month

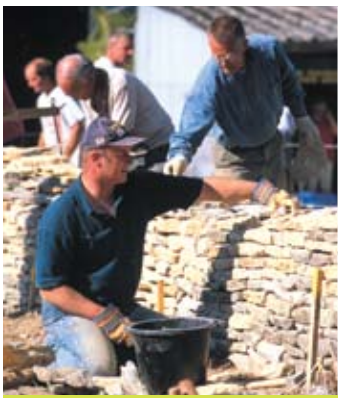
Festival of Food and Sodbury Jazz Festival
29 September 2012

Christmas Market
8 December 2012

www.visitchippingsodbury.com







Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses 2012/13

Autumn/Winter Programme

A range of rural skills courses are on offer this year in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Courses start from just £49. 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 - £99

(Beginners) Tetbury, 8-9 September
(Beginners) Naunton, 22-23 September
(Intermediate) RAC, Cirencester, 13-14 October
(Beginners) Leckhampton Hill, 13-14 October
(Beginners) Lansdown, Bath, 27-28 October

Hedgelaying - £99

(Beginners) Westonbirt, 3-4 November
(Beginners) Moreton-in-Marsh, 24-25 November
(Beginners) Westonbirt, 12-13 January 2013
(Beginners) Luckington, 26-27 January 2013
(Beginners) Coberley, 16-17 February 2013
(Beginners) Luckington, 2-3 March 2013

Blacksmithing (Taster Day) - £99

Northleach, 15 September
Tetbury, 13 January
Tetbury, 24 February

Green Woodworking (Beginners) - £99

Limpley Stoke (Bath), 13-14 October
Limpley Stoke (Bath), 30-31 March 2013

Rustic Spoon Carving (Beginners) - £59

Limpley Stoke (Bath), 10 November
Limpley Stoke (Bath), 26 January 2013
Limpley Stoke (Bath), 16 March 2013

Stick Chair Making - £99

Limpley Stoke (Bath), 17-18 November
Limpley Stoke (Bath), 8-9 December
Limpley Stoke (Bath), 2-3 February 2013

Woodland Coppicing - £49

Limpley Stoke (Bath), 27 October
Coberley (Glos), 11 November
Coberley (Glos), 6 January 2013
Coberley (Glos), 20 February 2013
Limpley Stoke (Bath), 23 February 2013

Rural Skills Competitions

Dry-stone walling
Gatcombe Park Estate (Gloucestershire), Sunday 7 October
Hedgelaying
Ford (Gloucestershire), Saturday 17 November

Corporate team building activities now available!

Make a REAL difference on your next team building day!



For further details and to book online visit
www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk
Tel: 01451 862000

Saturday 3rd Nov • 10:00



Between Court & Fort (National Trust Walking Festival)

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

We follow the Cotswold Way to Little Sodbury where we stay below the ridge and find ourselves going along the Cotswold Way in the opposite direction! Climb to Sodbury Iron Age/Roman hill fort, then along the ridge until we have stunning views of Horton Court. Please bring a picnic lunch to eat in the Ambulatory or Court, which will be open for the last time in 2012.

Starting point: NT Car Park, Horton Court ST766851 • Map square B8

Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Sunday 4th Nov • 10:30



Dyrham Park and Countryside (National Trust Walking Festival)

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. (See the Diamond Jubilee stone) No park admission fees to those participating in the walk.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Colin Hunt

Sunday 4th November • 10.00

Ebworth Ramble

Discover this well-kept, hidden estate. Due to its success last year, the National Trust has decided to lead another walk with ranger Matt Stanway around the beautiful Ebworth Estate.

Venue: Ebworth Estate
£3 per adult/children free.

Booking essential: National Trust
01452 814213

Sunday 4th November • 2.00pm

Autumn Colour Walk

Come and see the beautiful autumn colours on the Beech Avenue at Sherborne with ranger Mike Robinson.

Venue: Sherborne Park Estate
Booking essential: National Trust
01452 844257

Tuesday 6th Nov • 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 the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee

Wednesday 7th Nov • 10:00



Through Woods and Valleys

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

From Cockleford along the Churn Valley and then uphill to the village of Elkstone; returning through Cowley Wood. One short steep climb. Option of pub lunch at the Green Dragon.

Starting point: Green Dragon Pub Cockleford; use rear Car Park • SO969142 • Map square D5
Leaders: T Wilson, P Burgon & J Shaw

Thursday 8th November • 9:30

Over the Cotswold Edge (1)

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

A chance to see the NW edge of the Cotswold Hills. Starting in the Cotswolds' most northern town we take the Cotswold Way, then with views over the Vale of Evesham, we descend via the Sub-Edges and on to Willersey. Return is around Farncombe Estate, Weston Park and Dover's Hill. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chipping Campden Town Square • SP151391 • Map square F2

Leaders: Allan Allcock & Andy Briars

Thursday 8th November • 10:00

A Walk on the Roman Side

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Starting along the Coln River before heading north to visit Yanworth and its 12th Century Church. We then turn south through Chedworth woods and return to the Roman Villa.

Starting point: Chedworth Roman Villa (National Trust Car Park)
SP054134 • Map square E5

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Saturday 10th Nov • 10:00



Ever Changing Views around Dumbleton Hill

Easy • 3 hours • 6 miles

This fairly level walk circumnavigates the hill following the Winchcombe Way and we pass an ice house at Dumbleton. Ever changing views with a good chance of seeing wildlife. Optional pub lunch afterwards.

Starting point: Gardener's Arms Car Park, Alderton • SO999333 • Map square D3

Leader: Sheila Talbot

Sat 10th Nov - Fri 14th Dec

A Christmas Journey - The Story of The Three Kings Christmas at Blenheim Palace

Venue: Blenheim Palace
www.blenheimpalace.com

Tuesday 13th November • 10:00

On the Way (1) - Stanton

Moderate • 3-4 hours • 5-7 miles

First in a series of winter walks from some of the most interesting places along the Cotswold Way. Precise route to be chosen on the day, depending on conditions, but expect a climb up the hill by one route or another!

Starting point: Stanton Village Car Park SP067343 • Map square E3

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatrat

Wednesday 14th November • 10:00

Hillside Settlements

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Up to St Chloe, Amberley and Littleworth, down to North and South Woodchester.

Starting point: Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation Car Park, Inchbrook SO842011 • Map square B6

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper

Thursday 15th Nov • 10:00



Northern Delights (2)

Moderate • 6 hours • 8.5 miles

Second in a series highlighting some of the best walks in the Cotswolds' far north. This one starts at Ilmington and takes in Compton Scorpion, Foxcote Manor and Ebrington. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Ilmington (War Memorial) SP212435 • Map square F2

Leaders: Keith Sisson & Paul Adams

Friday 16th November • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No. 2

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at the Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge. Walk starts at 10.30am from Wotton to North Nibley and returns via the Tyndale Monument and the Cotswold Way. Lunch available in Wotton on completion of the walk.

Starting point: Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge • ST757934 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Steve Knight

Fri 16th - Sun 18th November

Living Crafts for Christmas

Venue: Blenheim Palace
www.blenheimpalace.com

Saturday 17th November • 10:00

A Beautiful Village to a High Town

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 9 miles

The walk starts in the lovely Evenlode Valley before heading around the border of the AONB including a part of the Glyme Valley and the outskirts of the highest town in Oxfordshire. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chadlington Village Hall, south of Chipping Norton
SP330220 • Map square G4
Leader: Trish Gilbert

Tuesday 20th Nov • 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside - a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles max

A series of morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box, Wilts into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop mid walk for drinks and snacks brought with you. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs or tea rooms.

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

Tuesday 20th Nov • 10:00

Where Romans Trod 2

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles

A second of two walks incorporating parts of the Roman Akeman Street. It includes part of Blenheim Park and the well preserved North Leigh Roman Villa. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Stonesfield, between Charlbury and Woodstock, near P.O. and Church Gate
SP394171 • Map square H4
Leader: Tony Graeme

Wednesday 21st November • 10:00

A Wednesday Wander

Easy • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

An undulating walk with few ascents along parts of the Diamond Way and the Gloucestershire Way via Milkwell Covert and Salperton Park. Optional lunch at the Puesdown Inn.

Starting point: Puesdown Inn on A40 west of Northleach • SP076171 • Map square D4
Leaders: J Foulkes, M Williams & R Hales

Wednesday 21st November • 10:00

A Swell View of Stow

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Around Stow-on-the-Wold and local villages, taking in some of the history and lovely countryside of the area.

Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold (Tesco Car Park) • SP191262 • Map square F3
Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Thursday 22nd November • 9:30

From Stone Age to Medieval Times via Rome

Moderate • 4 hours • 8 miles

A morning walk taking in the Stone Age barrow at Belas Knap and the Roman villa in Spoonley Woods, before walking back through the grounds of Sudeley Castle. Impressive views of the Cotswolds. Pub lunch available in Winchcombe.

Starting point: Winchcombe - Back Lane Car Park, next to Library
SP024284 • Map square E3
Leaders: Graham Luck & Rob Talbot

Thu 22nd Nov - Sun 9th Dec

Bath Christmas Market

For 18 days the quaint streets and square between the stunning Bath Abbey and the internationally renowned Roman Baths are transformed into a Christmas shopper's haven
www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

Saturday 24th November • 10:00

Late Autumn in the Glyme Valley

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

The walk travels down the tranquil Glyme Valley to Lidstone via Old Chalford and the site of a deserted medieval village. The return passes through Heythrop Park and Bradstone Manor. Please bring a packed lunch. Note New Street Car Park is free long stay parking.

Starting point: New Street Car Park, Chipping Norton • SP312269 • Map square G3
Leader: Janet Deller

Sunday 25th Nov • 10:00

It may be Bull?

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Wellow to one of the Twinhoes. Views of Combe Hay Manor House. Into Combe Hay village and on to Engine Wood passing the Bull's nose! before returning to Wellow. Coffee stop only.

Starting point: Wellow free Old Station Car Park • ST735581 • Map square A10
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Wednesday 28th Nov • 10:00

Over the Hill to Owlpen - Plus Sketching

Moderate • 4 hours • 5.5 miles

A ramble through woods and fields and down the Cotswold Edge to Owlpen. A stop to make a sketch, so bring pencil and pad. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Horsley Village Hall
ST838979 • Map square B6
Leaders: Norman Kay & David Harrowin

Friday 30th November • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk around Brimpsfield and Climperwell with some moderate slopes.

Starting point: Old A417 east from Birdlip village • SO931142 • Map square C5
Leaders: G Ricketts, K Buckle & J Foulkes

Fri 30th Nov - Sunday 23rd Dec 17.00

Enchanted Christmas at Westonbirt

Go walking in a winter wonderland at Westonbirt Arboretum's Enchanted Christmas, promising a festive family feast of lights, trails, treats and more.

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-christmas

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st December • 9:30

Two Greats of the North

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

Looking at the growth and decline of two of the great villages of the North Cotswolds - Chipping Campden and Blockley. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Chipping Campden Town Square • SP151391 • Map square F2
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Sunday 2nd December • 10:00

Over Charmy Down

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Along different paths repaired by the Wardens into St Catherine's Valley before a steep climb up to the Charmy Down airfield. Level walking then until a descent to Ramscome Bottom. Then along the Limestone Link before another steep climb to Ashwicke and back to Marshfield. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Lay-By off the A420, west of Marshfield • ST772738 • Map square B9
Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Sunday 2nd December

Food & Farming Festival

Come and enjoy the best of food and drink from around the Cotswolds, with demonstrations, entertainment and much more. Admission to the festival is free.

Venue: Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park
www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

Monday 3rd December • 10:00

Leigh's Legacy

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4 miles

A flat walk through the Woodchester Park Estate. Pub snack available locally after walk, if required.

Starting point: Woodchester Park National Trust Car Park - by arrangement.
SO800015 • Map square B6
Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Wilcox

Tuesday 4th Dec • 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 the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

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

Wednesday 5th December • 10:00

Roman Footsteps

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Up the lovely Leach Valley to Akeman Street to explore some Roman features of the landscape. Includes one steep climb and descent. Optional lunch at the Victoria pub. Please park sensibly around the village.

Starting point: Victoria pub Eastleach.
SP198052 • Map square F5
Leaders: P Burgon, J Shaw & T Wilson

Thursday 6th December • 10:00

On the Way (2) - Cleeve

Moderate • 3-4 hours • 5-7 miles

The short series of walks at interesting places along the Cotswold Way continues with a winter walk around the common and surrounding areas - wrap up warm! Bring suitable refreshments.

Starting point: Cleeve Common - quarry Car Park • SO989271 • Map square D3
Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 7 December • 5.30pm

Broadway late night Christmas shopping

A host of festivities for all the family including carol singers, swing band, horse & carriage rides, street entertainers, pig roast, mulled wine, roast chestnuts and much, much more!

Friday 7 December

Christmas fayre

Bourton-on-the-Water annual Christmas late night shopping extravaganza! Shops will be open till 9pm and there will be plenty to entertain with the lighting of the Christmas tree in the river at 6pm.

Friday 7 December • 3.00pm

Spirit of Christmas in Chipping Campden

The popular traditional Christmas fair in Chipping Campden with the switching on of the Christmas lights and plenty of stalls, entertainment and much more.

Sunday 9th December • 10:00

Pucklechurch, Hinton, and Doynton

Easy • 4 hours • 6 miles

Along the escarpment to Hinton and then inside the AONB to Doynton returning across country. Please bring a packed lunch. May be muddy if very wet!

Starting point: Pucklechurch Community Centre
ST700765 • Map square A9
Leaders: Reg Bleadon & Sandy Higgins

Wednesday 12th December • 10:00

Brailes Trio

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

This is a delightful walk in the Warwickshire area of the Cotswolds AONB with far reaching views across a patchwork of farmland. The walk takes us to each of the three villages bearing the name Brailes. Pub lunch available after the walk at The George.

Starting point: The George, Lower Brailes
SP315392 • Map square G2
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 14th December • 10:00

An Amble from Adlestrop (Part 1)

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

A lovely walk from Adlestrop passing through the Daylesford Estate on the way to Upper Oddington. If St Nicholas Church is open there will be time to see the acclaimed wall painting of The Last Judgement.

Starting point: Adlestrop village hall Car Park (Trust the Motorist)
SP241272 • Map square G3
Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Friday 14th December • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No. 3

Moderate • 3 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. We then follow the Cotswold Way to Blackquarries hill and return to Wotton via Coombe. Lunch available in Wotton on completion of the walk.

Starting point: Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge • ST757934 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Staszek Jarmuz

Sunday 16 December • 10.00

Evenlode Valley 2 - Oddington & Bledington

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

The second of a series of circular walks that explore the Evenlode Valley from source to where it runs into the River Glyme.

Starting from Kingham it also explores the historic villages of Daylesford, Oddington and Bledington that lie in the valley. Note footpaths can be muddy during periods of wet weather. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Kingham Post Office, Oxon
SP259239 • Map square G4
Leader: Anne Martis

Friday 21st December • 9:30

Battle - Where? A tale of at least Two Battle Sites?

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 3.5 miles

A delightful route from Stow via Broadwell, Donnington and near Longborough taking in the official 1646 battle site and the retreat into Stow... but is this the true site of the last major engagement of the English civil war?

Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold (Tesco Car Park) • SP191262 • Map square F3
Leaders: Julie Downing, Andy Briars & Allan Allcock

Wednesday 26th December • 11.00

Bibury Duck Race

The Boxing Day Bibury Duck Race returns in 2012, so wrap up warm and cheer on your duck when the festivities get underway in aid of local charities.

Venue: River Coln, Bibury

Sunday 30th December • 10:00

Around Minchinhampton Commons

Easy • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Starting point: Opposite Amberley Inn, Amberley (please do not use inn Car Park)
SO850013 • Map square B6
Leaders: Graham Batemen & Mike Brinkworth

JANUARY

Tuesday 1st January • 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 the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

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

Tuesday 1st January • 10:00

Prestbury Hill Climb

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

By the Hewletts to Wantley Farm and back over Cleeve Hill.

Starting point: War Memorial, Prestbury High Street. • SO972239 • Map square D4
Leaders: J Heathcott, K Buckle & M Dunning





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Tuesday 1st January • 10:00

Downs and Combes

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A New Year's Day walk to Upper Midford, Combe Hay village and walking part of the disused Somersetshire Coal Canal.

Coffee stop only.

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

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Thursday 3rd January • 10.30

Short in Distance - High in Interest

Easy • 2 hours • 3.5 miles

It starts in the pleasant village of Churchill in the far west of Oxfordshire and home to two famous people who have left their mark in different ways. Learn something of the heritage left by one of these and his love of the rolling Cotswold Hills. Pub lunch available at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Churchill by Chequers Inn on B4450 • SP282241 • Map square G4

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Sunday 6th January • 10:00

Sudeley Valley & St Kenelm's Well

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Past Sudeley Castle and follow the valley before ascending along a new path around Parks Farm, by the old deer wall to St Kenelm's Well. We skirt Dunn's Hill with great views of the castle, Winchcombe and beyond to Cleeve Common.

Starting point: Winchcombe - Back Lane Car Park • SP024284 • Map square E3

Leaders: Sheila & Robert Talbot

Tuesday 8th January • 10:00

High Wolds and Valleys

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 7 miles

After an initial climb the route will follow the valley up to the villages of Notgrove and Cold Aston returning via Folly Farm. There are some sweeping views and a few ups and downs.

Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Naunton - Black Horse Pub.

Please park considerately in the village. SP119236 • Map square F3

Leaders: John Mackelworth & Julie Downing

Thursday 10th January • 10:00

Circa Chippy

Easy • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

This walk almost makes a complete circuit around the historic Oxfordshire market town of Chipping Norton. Starting down the Glyme Valley the walk then heads north using an old Salt Way before heading into Over Norton Park. Fine views are experienced to the west of Chippy before plunging back down into the town passing the old castle. Lunch facilities available at end of the walk.

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

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Tuesday 15th January • 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside - a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box, Wilts into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop mid walk for drinks and snacks brought with you. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs or tea rooms.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park in Box, Wilts off the A4.

ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould

Friday 18th January • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No. 4

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at the King's Head Inn, King's Stanley. Walk starts at 10.30am from King's Stanley via the Cotswold Way to Coaley Peak. We descend past Hill Farm to Leonard Stanley and back to King's Stanley. The walk includes a visit to Godsell's dairy in Leonard Stanley, with an opportunity to buy their famous Gloucester cheeses. Lunch available at the inn on completion of the walk.

Starting point: King's Head Inn, King's Stanley SO812035 • Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & John Graham

Saturday 19th January • 10:00

Romans and Roundheads

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

From Haresfield Beacon, a National Trust site and Romano-British hill fort, along the Cotswold Way to Edge. Return through Pitchcombe, Sherman and Standish Woods.

Starting point: Cripplegate National Trust Car Park • SP832086 • Map square B5

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Saturday 19th January • 10:00

From Valley Bottom to Hill Top

Moderate • 5 hours • 9.5 miles

Enjoy outstanding views across the Evenlode Valley to the Warwickshire Hills and beyond. This walk crosses Chastleton Common to the village of Evenlode. It returns via Little Compton and Wheelbarrow Castle. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Lay-by on A44 west of Greedy Goose Inn, between Moreton-in-Marsh and Chipping Norton • SP269289 • Map square G3

Wednesday 22nd January • 10:00

A countryside view of a city

Moderate • 3 hours • 4 miles

A circular walk from Bath's Pulteney Bridge via Alexandra Park, Lyncombe Vale and Sydney Gardens. Coffee stop only. Start only 10 mins. from Bus/Railway station.

Starting point: Pulteney Bridge, Bath (Opposite Victoria Art Gallery).

ST752649 • Map square A10

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Tuesday 22nd January • 10:00

A Winter Walk With Five Ends

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A morning's walk from Chadlington in the Evenlode Valley - a village with five ends. Refreshments are available in the village at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Chadlington Village Hall, south of Chipping Norton

SP330220 • Map square G4

Leader: Trish Gilbert

Wednesday 23rd January • 10:00

A Winter Blow

Moderate • 2 hours • 4 miles

A walk on (mainly) good paths and lanes past Shab Hill to Ullenwood and along the Cotswold Way. Return via Crickley Hill with stunning views over the Severn Vale.

Starting point: Barrow Wake Car Park A417 SO931153 • Map square C5

Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & J Foulkes

Wednesday 23rd January • 10:00

Medieval Villages of the Coln Valley

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

From the source of the River Coln, through the villages of Sevenhampton, Syreford and Whittington. The return route should provide glorious views over the Coln Valley. Pub lunch available afterwards.

Starting point: Brockhampton - Craven Arms Car Park (with prior permission)

SP036223 • Map square E4

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Wednesday 23rd January • 10:00

An Amble from Adlestrop - Part 2

Moderate • 2.25 hours • 4.5 miles

Another short walk from Adlestrop with views over the Evenlode Valley as we pass Chastleton House and Chastleton Barrow.

Starting point: Adlestrop village hall Car Park (Trust the Motorist)

SP241272 • Map square G3

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Saturday 26th January • 10:00

Three Houses, Two Valleys

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Newark Park, passing through the beautiful and secluded Ozleworth and Bagpath valleys. En route we reflect on the history of Newark and its near neighbours at Boxwell Court and Ozleworth Park. Pub lunch available locally on completion of the walk.

Starting point: Newark Park National Trust Car Park, by arrangement

ST782931 • Map square B7

Leaders: John Hammill & Norman Kay

Saturday 26th January • 10:00

Which Wood?

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

The route travels along and above the Evenlode Valley including sections of the ancient royal hunting estate of the Wychwoods. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bledington Village Green on B4450, east of Stow-on-the-Wold

SP243227 • Map square G4

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday 27th January • 10:00



An easier climb to Tadwick, then Up and Step down!

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 8 miles

Across the valley to Woolley (Georgian Church) then following the contour until we just touch the Cotswold Way and cross the valley for a gentle climb to Tadwick. A steep climb then to the A46, before crossing Charmy Down airfield and stepping down to Chilcombe Bottom and back to the start.

Starting point: Slip road for Swainswick, East of A46, 3.3 miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at the A46/A420 junction

ST762683 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & John Dougal

FEBRUARY

Sunday 3rd February • 10:00

Two Mini Valleys

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.5 miles

The walk explores the Kilcott and Tresham valleys. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Newark Park National Trust Car Park, by arrangement

ST782931 • Map square B7

Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Hooper

Tuesday 5th February • 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 the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne

ST818711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding & Judith Slee



Nick Turner

Wednesday 6th February • 10:00

Step out on an Estate

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A fairly gentle stroll through the Stowell Estate visiting the delightful church at Stowell and returning via the mill and village of Yanworth. One short moderate climb.

Starting point: Hangman's Stone Car Park on A40 west of Northleach

SP089152 • Map square E4

Leaders: T Wilson, J Shaw & P Burgon

Friday 8th February 9.30

Going for Guiting

Moderate • 4 hours • 8 miles

Leaving the village and taking in the Diamond and Winchcombe Way, passing streams, rolling hills and Guiting Wood. Pub lunch possible at the end of the walk or shop in Guiting Power for snacks.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park near church (Trust the Motorist £1)

SP094246 • Map square E4

Leaders: Andy Briars, Alan Allcock & Julie Downing

Saturday 9th February • 10:00



The Cotswold Edge - Sodbury to Horton and the Roman Fort

Moderate • 4 hours • 6.5 miles

From Old Sodbury to Little Sodbury and Horton following the Cotswold Way, the coffin trail or along the ridge depending on the weather and how muddy the paths have become! Please bring a packed lunch. Please park considerably near the church (there may be a wedding on during the day).

Starting point: Old Sodbury Church

ST756818 • Map square A8

Leaders: Reg Bleadon & John Wells

Sunday 10 February • 10:00

Evenlode Valley 3 - Foxholes & Shipton

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

This the third in a series of circular walks that explore the Evenlode Valley from source to where it runs into the River Glyme. This walk explores the villages of Shipton-under-Wychwood and Milton-under-Wychwood and passes through Bruern Wood by Bruern Abbey. Please note footpaths can be muddy during periods of wet weather.

Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: The Lamb, Shipton-under-Wychwood, north of Burford.

P276173 • Map square G4

Leader: Anne Martis

Tuesday 12th February • 10:00



Marshfield - Town and 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, Marshfield

ST781736 • Map square B9

Leaders: David Colbourne & John Dougal

Thursday 14th Feb • 10:00



Northern Delights (3)

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 8 miles

Third in series highlighting some of the best walks in the Cotswolds' far north. From Aston Magna to Stretton-on-the-Fosse and Toddendam via the lost Ditchford villages. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Aston Magna (The Old Church)

SP201358 • Map square F2

Leaders: Keith Sisson & Paul Adams

Friday 15th February • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No. 5

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote. Walk starts at 10.30am from Kingscote through Hay Bottom and past Lasborough into Ozleworth Bottom. We return to Kingscote via Bagpath. Lunch available at the inn on completion of the walk.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote

ST813960 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Lorraine Blench

Saturday 16th February • 10:00

Manor Houses in the North Cotswolds (2)

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

Second in the series considering the history of 2 manor houses in the area. Pub lunch available in Snowhill.

Starting point: Adjacent to Hinchwick Manor. Please park considerably on the road verges.

SP145300 • Map square F3

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sunday 17th February • 10:00

Nailsworth Parish Figure of Eight

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A figure of eight walk, comprising two 5 mile loops starting from Nailsworth. The morning walk goes to the east of the town passing through Longfords and Box. The afternoon walk, starting at 13:30, goes to the west of the town passing through Newmarket, Sallywood and Wallow Green. Snack lunches are available at a number of places in Nailsworth at lunchtime if required.

Starting point: Old Market Car Park, Nailsworth, opposite bus station.

ST849996 • Map square B6

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & David Collings

Tuesday 19th February • 10:00



Box and surrounding countryside - a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box, Wilts into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop mid walk for drinks and snacks brought with you. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs or tea rooms.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park in Box, Wilts off the A4.

ST824686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould.

Tuesday 19th February • 10:00

When is a coombe not a coombe (or a cwm)?

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 8 miles

This is a figure of eight walk centred on the village of Long Compton. It is a 5 mile morning walk followed by 3 miles in the afternoon. It is possible to join only morning or afternoon if desired. Walk includes some steep ascents and descents. A pub lunch is available between the two sections.

Starting point: The Red Lion Inn, Long Compton on A3400 north of Chipping Norton

SP288327 • Map square G3

Leader: Tony Graeme

Wednesday 20th Feb • 10:00



There may be Snow

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.75 miles

Walk along the Wysis Way descending into the Piedmont and Dillay Valleys through Snows Farm nature reserve. The walk uses metalled roads and tracks and can take account of any bad weather that may arise.

Starting point: Car Park of the Bear Inn Bisley

SP093061 • Map square C5

Leaders: R Hales, J Foulkes & M Williams

Thursday 21st February • 10:00

On the Way (3) - Hailes

Moderate • 3-4 hours • 5-7 miles

Third of a short series exploring some of the most interesting places on the Cotswold Way. The exact route and distance will be weather dependent!

Starting point: Hailes Abbey Car Park SP051301 • Map square E3

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 22nd February • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk through Chedworth Woods, Fosse Bridge, and Stowell Park.

Starting point: Chedworth Roman Villa Car Park • SP055134 • Map square E5

Leaders: G Ricketts, K Buckle & J Foulkes

Sunday 24th February • 10:00

Crossing County Borders

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

We walk to Monkton Combe, Midford, Pipehouse, Iford, Upper Westwood, Freshford, and Limpley Stoke, returning via the Kennet and Avon Canal. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Dundas Marina Car Park ST784626 • Map square A10

Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando

Thursday 28th February • 10:00

Old Hooky Country

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

This walk explores the undulating countryside of the North Oxfordshire Cotswolds. It includes passing through Whichford Woods and one of Warwickshire's prettiest villages, Whichford. It then heads to Hook Norton and goes through Hook Norton's famous brewery before returning back to Great Rollright. Walk includes several hills. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Great Rollright Cross Roads, north of Chipping Norton SP322314 • Map square G3

Leader: Kevin Myhill

MARCH

Saturday 2nd March • 10:00

Up to the Races

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

A gentle climb via Upton Cheney to Lansdown golf course, then following the contour to the race course and the new path under Beckford's Tower. Descend into Weston via Primrose Hill where the Cotswold Way takes us back to Prospect stile, then North Stoke before a gentle descent back to the start. Please bring a packed lunch. Parking is in the picnic area not the pub Car Park.

Starting point: Swineford picnic area. ST691692 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Sunday 3rd March • 10:00

Iron Age Fort, Hill Climb & Steam Railway

Moderate • 3 hours • 6.5 miles

Starting on the edge of Cleeve Common, this walk takes in an Iron Age hill fort, a GWR steam railway station, Prescott Hill Climb racing circuit, ever changing views and a mystery frog.

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

Leaders: Sheila & Robert Talbot

Tuesday 5th March • 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 the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club.

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

Leaders: Russell Harding and Judith Slee

Tuesday 5th March • 10:00

Roman Roads and a Royal Forest

Easy • 3 hours • 6 miles

Wychwood was one of the larger areas established as a royal hunting forest. The walk passes through remnants of the forest, along ancient tracks, some of which are Roman in origin. This is an easy walk with far reaching views and lots of interest.

Starting point: The Pearl, Leafield (at east end of village), north of Witney SP325155 • Map square G4

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Wednesday 6th March • 10:00

Romans, Monarchs, & Flyers

Moderate • 2.25 hours • 5.75 miles

A mainly flat walk with only short ascents and descents although possibly muddy. Optional pub lunch at the Seven Tuns in Chedworth.

Starting point: Chedworth Airfield, parking by the side of the Cirencester to Compton Abdale minor road on the edge of the airfield. (about 1.5 miles NW of Chedworth) SP040132 • Map square E5

Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgon & T Wilson

Friday 8 March • 9.30

Over the Cotswold Edge (2)

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 10.5 miles

A chance to see the north-eastern edge of the Cotswold Hills. Starting in Chipping Campden, the Cotswolds most northerly town, we take the Heart of England Way then go over Ebrington Hill. With views over South Warwickshire, we descend into Ilmington. Our return is via Foxcote and Ebrington. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start point: Chipping Campden Town Square SP151391 • Map ref: F2

Leaders: Allan Allcock & Andy Briars & Julie Downing

Saturday 9th March • 10:00

Along the Windrush to Sherborne

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12 miles

This is a walk along one of the most beautiful Cotswold river valleys. The walk heads west from the historic and much visited Cotswold towns and passes through some lovely villages. Please bring a packed lunch. Burford's free car park is at the lower end of the town close to the church.

Starting point: Burford Car Park SP252124 • Map square G5

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday 10th March • 10:00

Camels in the Cotswolds

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

A flat walk to Leighterton and Didmarton. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Sherston High Street ST853858 • Map square B8

Leaders: David Harrowin & David Collings

Wednesday 13th March • 10:00

A Real Gem

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

From Icomb via Wyck Rissington on parts of the Diamond Way with spectacular views over the Evenlode and Windrush Valleys.

Starting point: Icomb - Church gates SP214226 • Map square F4

Leaders: Bob Fisher & Malcolm Duncan

Wednesday 13th March • 10:00

Two Adjoining Estates

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

A pleasant undulating walk that passes through the Cornbury and Ditchley Park estates. These lie either side of the lovely River Evenlode. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Spendlove Car Park, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4

Leader: Trish Gilbert

Thursday 14th March • 10:00

On the Way (4) - Hailes again!

Moderate • 3-4 hours • 5-7 miles

The last in this short sequence of walks at interesting places on the Cotswold Way. We return to Hailes where hopefully we shall find the first signs of spring. Exact route and distance will be weather dependent!

Starting point: Hailes Abbey Car Park SP051301 • Map square E3

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 15th March • 10:00

Friday Coffee Morning Walk No. 6

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Meet at 10am for coffee at Dinneywicks Inn, Kingswood nr Wotton Under Edge. Walk starts at 10.30am, passing through Kingswood, Nind and Ozleworth Bottom to Newark Park. We take the Cotswold Way via Tor Hill to return to Kingswood. Lunch available at the inn on completion of the walk.

Starting point: Dinneywicks Inn, Kingswood, nr Wotton Under Edge ST747916 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Sunday 17th March • 10:00

Nigel's walk - (One of them!)

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Start whilst fresh with a steep climb to Brown's Folly. Level walking then to Monkton Farleigh with White Horse views if it is clear, before heading back to the Dundas Aqueduct in the Avon Valley via Conkwell. Back along the river bank before climbing back into Brown's Folly nature reserve and Bathford church. Please park considerably near the PO and bring a packed lunch. Refreshments at Dundas.

Starting point: Bathford Post Office ST791669 • Map square B10

Leaders: John Walker & Bobby Collins

Tuesday 19th March • 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside - a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of morning walks from Selwyn Hall, Box, Wilts into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in clear weather. May be muddy following wet weather. We will stop mid walk for drinks and snacks brought with you. Lunch may be obtained after the walk in the village pubs or tea rooms.

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

Leaders: Judith Slee, Bob Cole & Sid Gould

Wednesday 20th March • 10:00

Wednesday Wander

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

Along the River Coln to join the old railway track which is now a nature reserve. On to Chedworth and Withington Woods. Optional lunch at the Mill Inn.

Starting point: Mill Inn Withington SP032154 • Map square D5

Leaders: J Foulkes, M Williams & R Hales

Thursday 21st March • 10:00

Northern Delights (4)

Moderate • 6.6 hours • 9.5 miles

Fourth in series highlighting some of the best walks in the Cotswolds' far north. A figure of eight based on the Cherington Arms where a pub lunch is available.

Starting point: Cherington (Cherington Arms) SP293369 • Map square G2

Leaders: Keith Sisson & Paul Adams

Saturday 23rd March • 10:00

Conquerors, Allies, and Refugees

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 9.5 miles

A circular walk to absorb the history of the area via Yanworth, Chedworth, Fossebridge, and Stowell Park. Optional pub lunch or picnic.

Starting point: Hangman's Stone Layby on A40 west of Northleach SP088151 • Map square E4

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & T Currier

Sunday 24th March • 10:00

Grand Old Duke of York

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

The Ups and Downs! Up from Wellow, Down to Combe Hay village, Up to the village of Southstoke, Down to Midford, then up to Twinhoo and Down again to Wellow. The End!

Starting point: Wellow free Old Station Car Park • ST735581 • Map square A10

Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando.

Tuesday 26th March • 10:00

From Caesar to Churchill

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

The walk explores the grounds of the Blenheim Estate before heading down Akeman Street to the North Leigh Roman Villa. The return is via Combe and more of the Blenheim Estate with good views of the House. Pub lunch at Combe an option. Note there is free long stay Car Park by Woodstock Library.

Starting point: Woodstock Museum, Oxon by stocks SP444166 • Map square H4

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Wednesday 27th Mar • 10:00

Commons and Villages

Easy • 3 hours • 5 miles

Picturesque tour of upland commons and neighbouring villages in the southern Cotswolds. Glorious views of adjacent valleys, the Forest of Dean and beyond (weather permitting). Fairly flat terrain and very few stiles. Refreshments available at local inns after the walk. Suitable for families but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: Minchinhampton Common, Reservoir Car Park SO855013 • Map square B6

Leaders: Graham Bateman & David Collings

Friday 29th March • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk on roads and tracks around Woodmancote with two moderate climbs.

Starting point: Rear of Duntisbourne Abbots services on A417 • SO977092 • Map square D5

Leaders: K Buckle, G Ricketts & J Foulkes

Saturday 30th March • 10:00

Between the Coln and the Churn

Strenuous • 7 hours • 12 miles

Through Lineover Wood to the Churnside villages of Cowley, Coberley, and Colesbourne.

Starting point: Kilkenny Picnic Area off A436 SP004186 • Map square D4

Leaders: J Heathcott, K Buckle & M Dunning



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Friends look to the future at the Old Prison

Campaign seeks to raise £750,000 to create a vibrant visitor centre in Northleach



There were cheers in Northleach when it was announced in June that the Friends of the Cotswolds are the preferred bidder to take over the Old Prison from Cotswold District Council.

Following last year's decision by the council to sell, in order to save ongoing repair and maintenance costs, it was feared that the iconic Grade II* listed building and the nationally renowned Lloyd-Baker Collection of Rural Life could be 'lost' to the public for ever. But a petition from local residents saw the council pledge to give weighting to public access and conservation of the site's heritage in the bid process.

Community support

"There has been tremendous community support to keep the Old Prison open to the public and the Friends of the Cotswolds want to continue that community engagement now and into the future, working with Northleach Town Council, local residents and the Cotswolds Conservation Board," says Director of the Friends, David Glenn.

"In the immediate term, we hope people will help us to raise funds to secure and invest in the future of the Old Prison site, including the Rural Life Collection, to create a vibrant visitor centre that will benefit the town and the Cotswolds AONB. There are also wonderful opportunities for people to be involved through volunteering in what promises to be an exciting, sustainable community heritage facility."

The vision

The Cotswolds Conservation Board, which continues as main tenant of the Old Prison, will work with the Friends to build on experience running the existing Escape to the Cotswolds discovery centre. Plans include improving access and interpretation of the site, local geology and the Lloyd-Baker bygones collection; creating a showcase of local produce, crafts and rural pursuits; and providing a lively hub for traditional rural skills

training and demonstration.

Interactive displays, events, story-telling and other activities will promote the natural and cultural heritage of the AONB, while the use of renewable energy sources will demonstrate sustainability and conservation in action.

Raising funds

The Friends of the Cotswolds, an independent registered charity, are now campaigning to raise £750,000, in order to realise plans. In addition to applications to the Rural Economy Grant Scheme, Landfill Communities Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund, sponsors and donations are being sought, as well as support through volunteering and events.

"The Old Prison site is close to the heart of so many people and together we can breathe new life into it, to the benefit of Northleach and the wider Cotswolds community," David Glenn says.

To find out more about how to support the Friends, visit www.friendsofthecotswolds.org

Making a donation

Gift Aid declaration

Name of charity: Friends of the Cotswolds
(Reg No. 1115119)

Details of donor

Title: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I want the Friends of the Cotswolds to treat

- The enclosed donation of £ _____ as a Gift Aid donation as I am a UK tax payer and authorise the Friends to reclaim tax currently at 25p in the £.
- All donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please send this coupon along with your payment to: Friends of the Cotswolds, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH.

giftaid it

Heritage at the Old Prison

The bold, Grade II* listed Old Prison at Northleach was one of four houses of correction built in Gloucestershire in the 1790s, following the design of the grandly named High Sheriff, Sir George Onesiphorus Paul.

Sir George campaigned to reorganise and improve the county's prison system, promoting a regime based on good health and meaningful work. While such improvements lapsed after his death in 1820, a specific cell block for women prisoners was later added – and can still be viewed today, with a display on the life and times of inmates.



The Lloyd-Baker Collection of Rural Life housed on site is the largest publicly owned regional collection of agricultural 'bygones' in the country. Originally gathered by local landowner Olive Lloyd-Baker (1902–1975), artefacts include beautifully crafted farm wagons and carts, workshop equipment and implements for working the land. The earliest farm wagon is from the 1820s.

Escape to the Cotswolds discovery centre, which opened within the Old Prison in 2010 and is run by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, tells the story of the Cotswolds – its geology, landscape, nature, history and people. With maps and guides on hand, there's plenty to inspire exploration using the area's fantastic network of walking routes like the Cotswold Way. Popular activities at the centre have included taster days in blacksmithing.

