

Cotswold Lion

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In praise of Laurie Lee

Join centenary celebrations of the much-loved Cotswold author

Who can forget *Cider with Rosie*, the iconic portrayal of his childhood in Slad and the Stroud valleys by Laurie Lee (1914–1997). A lyrical landscape of beech woods and pasture, village traditions and characters, deference to squire and church: all so poignantly captured before the intrusion of motorcars and the modern world.

Lee's classic has sold over six million copies worldwide and brought countless literary pilgrims to walk in his steps around the area. In 2014, the centenary of his birth, there's all the more reason to visit as celebrations, from music, poetry and exhibitions, to walks, competitions and activities for schools, continue throughout the year.

"We are all anticipating a very exciting year, sharing with the world the largely unspoiled, extraordinary beauty of Stroud and the areas around it," says Rick Vick, organiser of Stroud Arts Festival, one of many local groups focusing on Laurie Lee's centenary.

"Laurie was quite prolific and had extraordinary talents, he was a fine artist and poet, and wrote scripts for films, quite apart from *Cider with Rosie*."

One highlight among many is the Slad Valley Festival, 21–29 June, coinciding with the anniversary of Lee's birthday (26 June). Treats include an exhibition of work by Gloucestershire artists and craftsmen on the theme 'Inspired by Slad Valley' in Holy Trinity Church. There will be cream teas and open gardens, a performance of *Cider with Laurie* in the former village Schoolhouse and a centenary cricket match, culminating in a cider festival and flamenco evening at The Woolpack inn.

June also sees Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust launch the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way. Last year the Trust bought ancient woodland once owned by Lee, a keen nature lover, renaming it Laurie Lee Wood to add to its three other nature reserves in the Slad Valley. Using funding from Gloucestershire Environmental Trust Company, 13 'poetry posts' featuring Lee's poetry inspired by Slad and its wildlife are to be installed throughout the valley, helping to mark the new walking trail.

Roger Mortlock, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's chief executive officer, says, "Lee's iconic evocation of the English countryside is still celebrated around the world through

Cider with Rosie and remarkably the key elements of the landscape that inspired that book still survive.

"The landscape is as important

as any of the characters in the book, which is why we are delighted as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to mark Laurie Lee's centenary."

For further information on Laurie Lee Centenary 2014 celebrations see our Events Guide, p. 12, and visit www.laurielee.org



Nick Turner

Slad Valley



Around the Cotswolds

Bard's birthday

Extra special celebrations in Stratford-upon-Avon, 26–27 April, are set for this year's 450th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare. Lively events and activities at the five Shakespeare family homes and the Royal Shakespeare Company will mark the major milestone in style. www.shakespeare.org.uk / www.shakespeares-england.co.uk

Walking Festival

Step out and enjoy fresh air and good company: Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival, now in its fifth year, takes place 16–18 May. With a mix of themed walks and social events, the festival attracts people from around the world, further enhancing the town's Walkers are Welcome status. Book early as places are limited! www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com

Birds of Gloucestershire

The most comprehensive book ever written about Gloucestershire bird life reveals that an amazing 330 species have been recorded in the county in modern times, a reflection of the area's diversity of habitat. Maps show the distribution of more than 130 regular bird species, based on fieldwork by over 200 volunteers. Packed with information and superb illustrations, *The Birds of Gloucestershire* by Gordon Kirk and John Phillips (Liverpool University Press, hardback £45) also highlights the importance of Cotswold farmland for declining bird species. www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk

Cycle and footpath to Bath

A new route will improve access from Batheaston and Bathampton to Bath city centre for walkers and cyclists. The cycle and footpath, officially opening this spring and connecting to National Cycle Route 4, has involved building a bridge over the River Avon at Batheaston.

Freedom to enjoy

It's said the best things in life are free and around the Cotswolds there's plenty to enjoy without raiding your wallet, whether you're counting the cost of living or simply looking for great experiences

Take a historical tour through the churchyard, past the dovecote and around the picturesque ruins of Minster Lovell Hall. Exploration of the erstwhile home of Richard III's henchman Lord Lovell, one of 15th-century England's richest men, can also be combined with a walk along the lovely Windrush Valley. www.english-heritage.org.uk

Tuck into a panoramic picnic at Devil's Chimney on Leckhampton Hill overlooking Cheltenham and with views for miles around. Simply bring your bag of goodies and a curious imagination, and chew over how the limestone pillar got its name. Further tasty views include from Bredon Hill, Dover's Hill and Painswick Beacon. www.cheltenham.gov.uk

Dip into Bath for a day: browse Renaissance treasures and other art in the Holburne Museum, join a free walking tour of the city with Mayor of Bath Honorary Guides, explore 57-acre Royal Victoria Park with its superb collection of trees, and savour views over Bath from Alexandra Park. www.visitbath.co.uk

Walk your way to that glow of wellbeing that only the great outdoors can provide. The 102-mile Cotswold Way alone offers endless variety of scenery and attractions along the escarpment – with bite-size circular routes into surrounding hills and valleys like a six-mile 'rivers, forts and robberies' ramble on The Sodburies Trail. www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold

Free-wheel through exhilarating



Rollright Stones

Stir ancient secrets at Belas Knap Neolithic long barrow, a brisk walk above Winchcombe. Excavations have found remains of 37 people buried here, and the false entrance and side chambers make an eerie landmark. Alternatively count the mysterious Rollright Stones, said to be a petrified monarch and courtiers, on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border. www.english-heritage.org.uk

Share family fun and burn up some energy, kite-flying on Minchinhampton, Rodborough or Selsley Commons – rolling hills and open spaces are the best natural playgrounds. Also hunt intriguing finds on Dursley Sculpture and Play Trail in Twinberrow Woods. www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk www.valevision.org.uk

Free-wheel through exhilarating

landscapes and along country lanes. Okay, a lot of the time you'll actually be pedalling, but set your own pace. Off-road adventurer? Tackle the 15-mile Brailes Hill and Ascott route over the Ironstone Hills. Easy rider? Try the 6.5-mile circuit from Kingham Station through the Evenlode Valley past Cotswold border country villages. Download inspiration from www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk and www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org

Go wild spotting meadow flowers, butterflies, grey heron, and traces of otter and water voles at Greystones Farm nature reserve, Bourton-on-the-Water. Also I-spy woodland wild flowers and birds like nuthatch, song thrush and great spotted woodpecker at Midger Wood nature reserve near Wotton-under-Edge. www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

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Water vole

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Cotswolds at war

Centenary reveals the roles played by local people and places in the First World War

Daily in towns and villages, we walk past war memorials. They're part of the quotidian scene, sombrely inscribed with the names of those who lost their lives in the First World War 1914–1918 (and later conflicts).

But can we really imagine what it was like on the Front and the Home Front 100 years ago? Centenary commemorations of the outbreak of the war, being held across the region, promise to put us in touch with many moving stories.

When Britain went to war in 1914, armchair strategists reassuringly claimed: "It'll all be over by Christmas." The optimism was ill founded. The Great War, the first real instance of total war using modern weaponry, saw whole nations pitted against each other on land, at sea and in the air, and more than 16 million people across the globe lost their lives.



Poet Ivor Gurney

Veterans of the times have all now passed away, but records of their bravery and suffering, in the muddy trenches of France and Belgium, on the beaches of Gallipoli, and in the deserts of Arabia, live on. The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum is a magnificent resource for tracing men who joined The Gloucestershire Regiment (The Glosters) and their campaigns (www.glosters.org.uk). Or perhaps search for ancestors at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (www.sofa.org.uk).

Some communities who waved their folk off to WWI were lucky and welcomed them all back again: so-called 'Thankful Villages' like Little Sodbury and Coln Rogers. The Royal British Legion identifies 51 across England and Wales, 14 of which are 'Doubly Thankful' because everyone returned from WW2 as well.

It's why you will find no traditional war memorial at Upper Slaughter, a rare Doubly Thankful Village. Instead the names of those who returned safely are recorded on boards in the village hall. Among them is Francis George Brain Collett, who served in both world wars. His son Tony, 83, still lives in the village.

"My father served with the Glosters in Iraq [then Mesopotamia] in World War One and was wounded twice, but he hardly ever spoke of it afterwards, people just didn't," Tony reflects. "I think they were just relieved to get back and carry on with what they were doing before. My father was a carpenter, decorator and builder."

The Souls family of Great Rissington were not so lucky. Recorded on the memorial in the church are the names of five brothers, Albert, Alfred, Arthur, Frederick and Walter, all wiped out in the war; a sixth brother, too young to fight, was struck down by meningitis. No greater wartime sacrifice by a single British family is known (www.sole.org.uk/lostsoul.htm).

One of Gloucestershire's remarkable soldier poets, Ivor Gurney, fighting with the 2/5th Glosters, provides evocative insights into the lot of the common soldier in the trenches of Belgium and Northern France: the patriotism, companionship, boring routines, horrors, suffering and disillusionment.

"What is also striking about Gurney's writings about wartime France and distinguishes his work from [that of] other war poets, is how often he makes direct mention of his own Gloucestershire places," says Eleanor Rawling, author of *Ivor Gurney's Gloucestershire* (The History Press.) "He draws on images of Gloucestershire to keep him grounded and as a means of maintaining his identity and calm amidst the noise, clamour and fear of war."

Just one such example, she says, is 'That Centre of Old', in which "it is Cooper's Hill 'plain almost as experience' and 'autumn Cranham with its boom of colour' to which he turns 'after a strafe end'. It is as if the Severn Meadows and the Cotswold Hills became the ideal places of memory, the touchstones of hidden happiness, or at least of an identity, that he could cling to whenever a sight or sound sparked off his imagination."

'Total war' dramatically affected the Cotswolds Home Front too. Rendcomb Airfield was a Royal Flying Corps training facility and Minchinhampton Aerodrome, now Aston Down, was a base for the Australian Flying Corps.

The region's great estates were pressed



Blenheim Palace

into service, to house Red Cross/Voluntary Aid Detachment hospitals, and to grow food. An exhibition at Sudeley Castle, running throughout the year, highlights both family members' service abroad through intimate diary and photographic records, and the hospital in Winchcombe, which was run from Sudeley (www.sudeleycastle.co.uk).

"The men came to the hospital straight from the trenches," says Sudeley Castle archivist Jean Bray. "There were Australians and Canadians as well as British troops. We have photographs of the hospital and I think the men were very well looked after. Most of them send affectionate letters back afterwards."

At Blenheim Palace, the Long Library became a convalescent hospital and there were rooms for a surgery, reading and smoking. Patients were cared for by a team including family members, nurses and the impressive Sister Munn, who encouraged treatment of emotional as well as physical trauma.

"She firmly believed that if you are going to fix the man, you have to fix the head as well as the body," says Blenheim Palace Education

Officer Karen Wiseman.

An exhibition, 'A Great Estate at War – Land, Sea and Air', features the Marlboroughs' 'flying cousins', Winston Churchill's frontline service and life on the estate (runs to 21 April). Themed tours are also planned (www.blenheimpalace.com).

"The gardens [at Blenheim] were dug up and planted with vegetables," Mrs Wiseman says. "The 9th Duke of Marlborough got rid of the deer from the park and planted some of it with crops, and he encouraged the tenant farmers to produce as much as possible."

"There was such a shortage of labour, due to men being away at war, and the Duke became one of the leading lights in forming The Women's National Land Service Corps, getting women working on the land."

Such tales merely scratch the surface of the Cotswolds at war, and 'lest we forget' you will find many more around the region, this centenary year and beyond.

See our Events Guide p. 12 for more information.



Camp of 10th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Cheltenham c1914–1915



Mayhem and mills

From Civil War to the heyday of woollen cloth manufacture in the Cotswolds

It's surprising how much springs to light within just a few steps in a Cotswold churchyard. Take **St Mary's, Painswick**: on the church tower you'll spot damage from Civil War cannon balls and, at ground level, the famously distinctive tombs of the clothiers who flourished when the town's mills (now handsome dwellings) were busy.

It's as good as any introduction to two of the dramatic forces that left their mark on the area in the 17th and 18th centuries, providing the curious with plenty to rediscover today.

The Cotswolds, like the whole country, was torn apart by the Civil War (1642–1651) and through **battles at Edgehill, Lansdown Hill and Stow-on-the-Wold** witnessed three encounters between Royalists and Parliamentarians.

Edgehill 1642 was the first major battle following Charles I's rift with Parliament and "was supposed to be the decisive battle that would decide everything, but it was a bit of a stalemate," says Tim Norris, Civil War expert and chairman of **Stow & District Civic Society** (www.stowcivicsociety.co.uk).

Lansdown Hill 1643 was inconclusive too; however three years later was rather different as Roundheads chased Cavaliers into Stow. "There was a pitched battle in the square," Tim says. "Two hundred people were killed and around

1,500 imprisoned in the church overnight."

The destruction of the last Royalist field army was a bitter blow to the King and within months he had surrendered himself to the Scots at Newark, marking the end of the first phase of the war.

You can get great views of the flat expanse of Edgehill battlefield from **The Castle** inn (www.castleatedgehill.co.uk), which peers down from the hilltop. Or walk the plateau edge at Lansdown, a trail punctuated by battlefield interpretation panels.

At Stow, monuments in St Edward's Church and churchyard recall those who lost their lives and there is a changing display of Civil War arms and armour in the library foyer of St Edward's Hall. A plaque beside the market cross commemorates the spot where Sir Jacob Astley surrendered.

The human story of the Civil War plays right across the Cotswolds. Moreton-in-Marsh was a Royalist centre and Charles I sheltered at **The White Hart Royal Hotel** (www.whitehartroyal.co.uk) following the Battle of Marston Moor 1644. Cromwell stayed at Broadway's **Lygon Arms** (www.pumahotels.co.uk) before the decisive Battle of Worcester 1651.

At **Chavenage House** (www.chavenage.com) near Tetbury, the curse on Colonel Nathaniel



Courtesy of the late Betty Mills

Freem's Mill, near Nailsworth, showing cloth drying on the tenter, attached by tenterhooks

Stephens for supporting the execution of the King sends shivers down the spine, while the peace of **Burford's St John the Baptist Church** (www.burfordchurch.org) belies the violence of Cromwell's imprisonment of 340 Levellers there and execution of three in the churchyard. The ruins of the Banqueting Hall of **Sudeley Castle** (www.sudeleycastle.co.uk) are a gaunt reminder of its 'slighting' by Parliamentarians in 1649.

From combat to commerce: the renowned Cotswold wool industry suffered during the wars as access to traditional markets was disrupted. Clothiers willing to supply the King's army at Oxford were provided with letters of protection; others simply had their goods taken 'to the utter undoing of them and theirs'; some sold cloth to the Parliamentarians.

Post war, mills became an ever greater feature of the landscape. The northern Cotswold village of **Blockley** interestingly turned to silk production, with eight mills operating at one time, powered by Blockley Brook. Many children were employed "because their hands were so fine," says Richard Keyte, a member of Blockley Heritage Society, which holds fascinating records (www.blockley-heritage-soc.co.uk).

The evolution of weaving and woollen cloth manufacture in the Cotswolds may be traced in the streetscapes of places like Bradford on Avon. In particular the valleys around **Stroud, Dursley, Nailsworth and Painswick** were shaped by the cloth industry. Fast flowing streams to provide power to fulling mills, the availability of Fuller's Earth to cleanse wool and Cotswold Lion sheep to supply fleece (soon superseded by imported fleece) gave competitive advantage to such locations.

"By the 1700s, people talk of there being around 170 active mill sites in the Stroud Valleys," says Ian Mackintosh, a trustee of **Stroudwater Textile Trust** (www.stroud-textile.org.uk). Open days organised by the Trust at Dunkirk, Gigg and St Mary's Mills, or guided walks around clothiers' houses and mill-associated sights reveal the huge impact of the industry.

Displays in Stroud's **Museum in the Park** (www.museuminthepark.org.uk) also tell the story of cloth. And though the canals that helped the mills to flourish no longer transport goods, there's some great walking along the **Stroudwater and Thames & Severn Canal** (www.cotswoldcanals.com).

Trade was truly international and local mills supplied everyone from royalty to the military, including 'Stroud Scarlet' for soldiers' uniforms. "As worsted became more fashionable, the West of England brand also developed in the second half of the 19th century and was much in demand for suits," Ian says.

But for the most part, the advent of steam power and competition from the north of England took its toll. Mills in the Cotswolds adapted, diversified or closed, remaining in their different guises and new uses as monuments to their age.

Nevertheless the proud tradition continues in the manufacture of premium woollen cloth for billiard sports and tennis ball coverings at **WSP Textiles** (www.wsptextiles.com). And at award-winning **Cotswold Woollen Weavers** (www.cotswoldwoollenweavers.co.uk) in the village of Filkins, where you can discover more about local wool heritage amid looms and artefacts, and be tempted by woollen throws, cushions and more.

Weathercock at St Mary's Church, Painswick.



Dunkirk's massive waterwheel drives historic machinery in the Stroudwater Textile Trust's Centre

Ale and hearty

Raising a glass to Cotswold breweries

Known as 'liquid bread' for its natural ingredients, beer has been brewed in Britain from Neolithic times. Basically, as soon as harvesting of cereals began, agriculture and ales became firm friends.

Many a pint has been enjoyed over the centuries since, and local breweries, once in decline, are these days very much back in fashion creating their magic from barley, hops, water and yeast.

"The number of local and micro-breweries has massively increased compared with a decade ago," says Neil Walker from the Campaign for Real Ale. "It has really been driven by greater demand for local products, real ale and greater choice of styles to appeal to all types of people."

The Cotswolds, naturally, is blessed with a good number of distinctive and award-winning local breweries, providing a rich flavour of the region.

Picturesque Donnington Brewery, Stow-on-the-Wold, is the only brewery in the world still powered by the same Victorian water wheel. The Arkell family began brewing here in 1865 and to this day traditional beers are produced by much the same recipe as always, including water ('liquor') drawn from the spring beside the mill pond.

Family-owned Hook Norton Brewery boasts an impressive heritage, too, and is the finest example of a Victorian tower brewery in the country. On brewery tours you can see the original



steam engine, learn how beer is made – like its 'hoppy' Shepherd's Delight and prides itself on artisan methods that a brewer from 100 years ago would recognise. Ingredients are kept simple and locally sourced where possible, the biggest nod to technology is the use of a thermometer, and bottled conditioned beers are all hand bottled.

Or take a tour of family-owned Cotswold Brewing, Bourton-on-the-Water, to appreciate the importance of traditional, handcraft techniques in creating its unique beers, including Cotswold Wheat Beer, a lighter English take on Bavarian wheat beer. Some say the brewery's stout tastes like a cross between stout and porter – and should be called a sporter!

Meanwhile the Cotswold Lion Brewery, Coberley, pays homage to the iconic Cotswold Lion sheep with brews



See the original steam engine at Hook Norton

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Great Cotswoldians: William Smith (1769–1839)

A visit to Churchill, west Oxfordshire, reveals the story of the 'Father of English Geology'

For it was here in 1769 that William Smith was born. The eldest son of the village blacksmith, he received only a rudimentary education, however Smith was bright and a keen observer of the local countryside. On his uncle's farm at Over Norton he loved to collect fossilised sea urchins that local milkmaids used to weigh butter, and he and his friends played marbles with fossil brachiopods.

In another age, perhaps such interests would have remained a hobby, but Smith had been born into the Industrial Revolution and contemporary entrepreneurs were also occupied with rocks – digging for coal and carving out canals.

At 18, he became an assistant to Edward Webb, a surveyor of Stow-on-the-Wold (there's a commemorative

plaque on the north side of the square). It set Smith on a career as a land surveyor, drainer, canal engineer and mineral prospector that would take him around the country.

While working on the construction of the Somerset Coal Canal in the 1790s, Smith noted "regularity in the direction and dip of the various Strata in the hills around Bath". Spotting that rock layers occurred in a predictable pattern, he also realised that certain fossils were characteristic of particular strata and that these fossil assemblages could be used to order strata in terms of relative age – his Principle of Faunal Succession.

Smith produced a pioneering table of the strata near Bath in 1799 and a colour-coded geological map of the area. Then in 1815 he published his landmark hand-coloured geological

map of England, Wales and part of Scotland: the first to be created in such detail and scale. His radical *Strata Identified by Organized Fossils* appeared 1816–1819.

Unfortunately, Smith was the victim of plagiarism and spent time in a debtors' prison, but recognition eventually came in 1831 when the Geological Society of London awarded him the first-ever Wollaston Medal; at the presentation he was hailed as the 'Father of English Geology'.

Today in Churchill, Smith is commemorated by an exhibition in the heritage centre and by a village trail to sites associated with his childhood.

"We're very proud of our famous son and we will make sure he gets a particularly high profile next year in events to celebrate the bicentenary

of his amazing 1815 geological map," says Chris Gowing, secretary, Churchill & Sarsden Heritage Centre. "Through Smith's geological observations the science of stratigraphy was born, leading the way to unlocking many other deep earth secrets."

*Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre, www.churchillheritage.org.uk
Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, Queen Square, also holds fossils and documents relating to William Smith, www.brsls.org*



Charity ride success

After seven months and 2,674 miles, Cheltenham-based William Reddaway and his mount Strider completed their Ride Round England to cheers from crowds at Farncombe Estate near Broadway in December.

"It was a superb Cotswold homecoming," William says. "Knowing the name of every hill and looking up to the scarp and seeing Broadway Tower was just wonderful."

Recently retired William and Strider – "of unknown breeding but with some Shire/Clydesdale characteristics" – set out from Farncombe Estate in May to raise money for charity (Cotswold Lion issue 28). Training on Cleeve Common and in Cheltenham proved its worth for the epic trek that took in 30 cathedrals and abbeys en route.

"It made sure we were both fit enough and, apart from saddle sores at one stage, Strider did superbly. He's now a lot heavier and better muscled up than when we started," William says.

Some £60,000 has been raised and, while the pair are resting from long-distance riding for a while, William hopes to reach £100,000 through talks and events.

His and Strider's efforts will benefit the Family Holiday Association (including Gloucestershire families), the Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre,



Riding for Disabled and the Cotswold Riding for the Disabled Association.

For information on events, or to donate, see: www.rideroundengland.org

£3 million plans for Kelmescott Manor

An exclusive private dining experience is among new fundraising ideas at Kelmescott Manor, former home of Father of the Arts & Crafts Movement, William Morris.

"We will be using Morris family recipes found at the Manor," says property manager Sarah Parker. "Small groups can sit in Morris's former dining room and tour the house. It's a very special experience, available just a few times a year."

The Grade-I listed Tudor farmhouse near Lechlade, owned by the Society of Antiquaries of London charity, became Morris's summer retreat from 1871. It contains an exceptional collection of his possessions and works, plus those of his family and associates.

Following a recent Conservation Management Plan, it is hoped to raise £3 million for a programme of essential work and sympathetic enhancement over the

next ten years: including conservation of buildings and improvement of visitor facilities. The Manor annually attracts 20,000 people.

"Kelmescott Manor, the river and landscape was Morris's source material for the most amazing designs and also has so many layers of history. Furniture and tapestries go back to 1600," Sarah says.

"We want to improve interpretation of those layers, and make use of barns for contemporary art and craft exhibitions and family-friendly events. Morris inspired countless people, and you can see his legacy across the Cotswolds.

"We've a colossal amount of money to raise and every penny goes back into the running of the Manor. Our new Friends scheme is proving popular and we are open to ideas for events. It's very exciting."

Kelmescott Manor www.kelmescottmanor.org.uk



Green growth

Sustainable tourism initiatives bring benefits to all

The iconic hills, valleys and attractions of the Cotswolds lure more than 23 million visitors a year to the AONB. Wear and tear on the environment that accompanies such popularity means sustainable tourism is ever more crucial, to keep the area special, keep visitors coming, and maintain benefits to local businesses and communities. Initiatives like the Green Tourism Business Scheme and Our Land have seen remarkable growth.

With over 2,000 members, the Green Tourism Business Scheme (www.green-tourism.com) is the world's largest, most established sustainable grading programme. Numerous Cotswold businesses have gained accreditation, including top Gold awards, even when faced with the challenges of operating from traditional Cotswold stone buildings.

Iris and Greg McCormack for example, owners of gold-awarded St Anne's B&B, a listed former wool merchant's house in Painswick, say they

may not be able to get permission for solar hot water or other low carbon energy systems, but keep bills down "by old-fashioned methods of insulation: thick, interlined curtains combined with blinds at all the windows." A gas stove also reduces the need for the Aga.

Our Land (www.our-land.co.uk), launched in 2011 to promote and develop sustainable rural tourism in the National Parks and AONBs of South East England, now celebrates 22 protected landscapes across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Over 160 Cotswolds holidays in the scheme offer distinctive 'experiences to treasure' while committing to sustain the environment, support their community and share their knowledge of the local landscape.

Our Land members Olivia and Barnaby Hatch run Talton Lodge in south Warwickshire, a smallholding offering memorable accommodation, activities and food. They believe visitors have a holistic attraction to such holidays: "It's about making the most of my country's countryside, looking for an authentic new experience that is sustainable in all senses of the word and at the same time enjoying a more active, nature-based alternative to their usual urban routine."

The Cotswolds AONB holds the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and, in tune with the charter approach of 'working together', the Cotswolds Conservation



Photographing Batsford Arboretum



Talton Lodge, south Warwickshire

Board organises events, from photography workshops to landscape awareness walks, to help businesses improve their knowledge of the AONB and grow the sustainable tourism network.

Susie Hunt, PR and Marketing Manager, Batsford Arboretum (also a member of Our Land), recently attended a photography workshop which she says encouraged her to "find ways to show Batsford at its best within the wider landscape", providing "a refreshing and

inspirational view of how photographs can 'sell' an attraction and an area.

"Batsford is a business with an environmental conscience and the course opened my eyes to new ways to get that message across more effectively to both our existing and new visitors." It's a message worth shouting about.

For further information on Sustainable Tourism in the Cotswolds, visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Cotswold Champions: 13th Earl of Wemyss

The Stanway estate has been owned by the Tracy family and their descendants, the Earls of Wemyss, for 500 years. Today it covers 4,995 acres and includes the beautiful Jacobean manor house, 18th-century water garden, five villages, farms, parkland and woodland. The 13th Earl has lived here since 1976 and has restored many features on the estate. Stanway's fountain, added in 2004 and reaching 300ft, is the tallest gravity fountain in the world.

What has been your guiding principle at Stanway?

To conserve and enhance the beauty that it already has. I believe there was a Golden Age about 100 years ago when there were a lot of people to look after the estate and some things had since decayed or disappeared. It's really been trying to recreate what was there.

For example?

Cotswold stone walls are a major feature of the landscape and we've put back several miles of them. We've restored and re-planted

ten copses and about 1500 parkland trees, and restored and laid three or four miles of hedges, creating shelter for songbirds. In the villages we've sold very few cottages, so we've been able quite successfully to preserve the social fabric, control aesthetic developments and maintain architectural character.

Which project are you most proud of?

Putting back the canal [in the water garden]. We believe it was originally by Charles Bridgeman, in my opinion Britain's greatest landscape gardener. He invented the English style of gardening and his schemes aimed at what he called "incomprehensible vastness". His canal, cascade and avenue gave that feeling to the Stanway landscape.

How do you balance respect for the past with a thriving present and future?

Restoring old assets is a way to preserve what you have into the future, making the estate much more interesting for outside people, providing a source of employment and modest profit.

We've restored the [possibly 17th-century]

brewery, which is a great attraction and sells beer in many pubs, and restored the flour mill – children brought up on electronic gadgets are absolutely fascinated by water power. We are now restoring a cider mill, which I'm told will be the only working cider press in the country run on old-fashioned lines with a horse pulling the stone round. We hope to sell cider in a new shop.

What do you most enjoy about living in Stanway House?

The sense of tradition, it breeds a beautiful atmosphere, and being in a dip at the base of the escarpment, it's very protected and peaceful.

And the Cotswolds?

The harmony of the landscape and buildings, and authentic Cotswold people – their accents are very English and sit so well with the other features of the area.

Stanway House & Fountain is open from June 2014; for details, see: www.stanwayfountain.co.uk



Go figure

When it comes to number crunching, the Cotswolds has plenty of claims to fame, adding up to some great days out. Around the 790 sq-mile (2,038 sq-km) AONB you will find:

2 World Heritage Sites,

the City of Bath and Blenheim Palace. What more elegant summer experience than a visit to Blenheim, the 'perfect example of an 18th-century princely dwelling' with Lancelot 'Capability' Brown landscaped park and beautiful formal gardens.

www.blenheimpalace.com

3 National Nature Reserves,

among them Bredon Hill. Enjoy the shade of 300-year-old trees descended from the original 'wildwood', now home to more than 230 invertebrate species including the very rare violet click beetle.

www.naturalengland.org.uk



Over 400 flower-rich grassland sites,

supporting a wide range of species. Catch the skylark's trill at Radway Meadows in Warwickshire, as well as the maroon flowers of water figwort that provide nectar for bumblebees, adder's-tongue fern and sweet-scented dog-rose.

www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

400-plus Scheduled Ancient Monuments,

giving fascinating insights into the past. View earthwork remains of Chipping Norton's motte-and-bailey castle, for example, and imagine the lives of its 11th/12th-century builders.

Find a town trail at www.chippingnortontown.info



11 species of bat at Brown's Folly reserve

near Bath, and the local area supports 15% of the UK's population of the threatened greater horseshoe. Spot bats swarming at the reserve's mine entrances at dusk (spring/autumn) and along woodland rides (summer). www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk



89 SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest),

such as Crickley Hill: noted for its range of habitats characteristic of the Cotswold limestone, from scrub to semi-natural woodland, as well as nationally important rock exposures, particularly pea grit. Walking trails reveal diverse aspects of interest.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/parks



More than 130 designated important geological sites.

Take millions of years in your stride with Geology Trails available from www.glosgeotrust.org.uk, or download a Cotswold Stone 'Wonder Walk' starting from Broadway Tower.

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk



It's 1,083 feet (330 metres) to the highest point

of the Cotswolds, at Cleeve Hill. Spectacular views to the Malverns, Wales, Shropshire and Oxfordshire are worth the puff and Cleeve Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its wonderful geology, habitats and botany.

www.cleevecommon.org.uk

Over 3,000 miles (4,828 km) of public footpaths

criss-cross the AONB. The record for running the 102-mile (164-km) Cotswold Way National Trail along the escarpment is 20 hours and 36 minutes, but ambling shorter sections is just as much fun – lots of ideas at www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold



Over 4,000 miles (6,437 km) of dry stone walls

run through the Cotswolds (equivalent in length to the Great Wall of China). Why not learn a traditional rural skill like dry stone walling – for courses see www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Spotlight

Northleach

One of the Cotswolds' quieter towns, tucked away from the busy A40 at a crossroads on the Roman Fosse Way, Northleach boomed in the days of the medieval wool trade and again as a stop on the Gloucester to London coach route.



Northleach Charter Fair

Chadwick Photography

Between times, it sank into economic doldrums: with the felicitous result that many 15th–17th century half-timbered and limestone buildings around the Market Place and The Green remained unchanged. Today 'des res' and a favourite among tourists in the know, Northleach is a compact blend of charm and surprises.

See and do Big news at Northleach has been the acquisition of the iconic Old Prison by the Friends of the Cotswolds. Already home to the Escape to the Cotswolds visitor centre (introducing the history and landscapes of the AONB), the Lloyd-Baker Collection of Rural Life and more recently the new Cotswold Lion Café, it's being developed as an exciting hub for rural skills and activities – keep an eye on events throughout 2014.

The 'wool church' of St Peter & St Paul is a gem of Perpendicular style whose many treasures include exceptional memorial brasses to the merchants who paid for its 15th-century rebuilding. In quirky contrast, experience live entertainment of yesteryear on a tour of Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music featuring demonstrations of barrel organs and reproducing pianos.

Shop and eat A cluster of independent retailers includes the Dolls House for your perfect miniature dwelling and award-winning family butchers W J Castle in half-timbered Tudor House. Buy artisan wines from around the world and enjoy bistro-type lunches in the stylishly relaxed Ox House. Snack in the Cotswold Lion Café or eat in atmospheric former coaching inns: The Red Lion Inn, The Sherborne Arms and The Wheatsheaf Inn. The charter market is on Wednesdays.

Walking and exploring Guided tours of the town's history, or geology around the Hampnett Valley, are among walks organised from The Old Prison – also the start point for a 16.5-mile (26.5 km) circular cycle ride via Hazleton, around the high wold and valleys (download from www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/ cycling). The attractive gardens of nearby Stowell Park

Estate open on 18 May and 22 June as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Chedworth Roman Villa, and Lodge Park and Sherborne Estate, are also close by – see p. 10–11.

Make a date Northleach Charter Fair, held annually on the last Saturday in June, harks back to 1227 when King Henry III gave the town a charter. A great family day out.

Fancy that! It's said a network of stone vaulted tunnels threads beneath Northleach, possibly the legacy of mining, or escape routes from a nearby monastery at times of religious persecution.

Visiting essentials For further information, including bus timetables to Northleach, visit www.northleach.gov.uk



Experiencing a prisoner's life in the Old Prison

New academy for dry stone walling

This spring the Cotswolds Conservation Board launches its Cotswolds Dry Stone Walling Academy, to provide accredited training opportunities for new and existing dry-stone wallers in the Cotswolds, South of England and Wales.

The Academy, only the second of its kind in the UK, offers LANTRA-accredited qualifications from Level 1 (initial) to Level 3 (advanced) and is run in partnership with the Cotswolds branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain.

"There is a lack of accredited wallers in the Cotswolds and the Academy will provide a pathway for people who want to come into the

profession as well as progress," said the Board's Rural Skills Officer David Molloy.

"Through training in traditional techniques, the Academy will work to provide a level of standard control across the Cotswolds, where dry stone walls are such an important feature of the landscape."

Located in the grounds of the Old Prison, Northleach, the Academy will offer both full and part-time training courses throughout the year.

For more information, contact David Molloy, tel: 01451 862002; email David.Molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or visit www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Multimillion pound boost to save UK's Magnificent Meadows

For the first time in history, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a unique partnership of conservation organisations, including the Cotswolds Conservation Board – led by Plantlife – a significant sum for a national project to save the UK's remaining fragments of meadow.

There were once natural wildflower meadows in every parish – today only 2% of the meadows that existed in the 1930's remain. Nearly 7.5 million acres of wildflower meadow have been lost in the UK so far and they are still being destroyed. In the Cotswolds AONB, which contains over 50% of the UK's total Jurassic unimproved limestone grassland, there are just 1.5% of wildflower grasslands remaining – fewer than 3,000 acres.

The Save our Magnificent Meadows Project is a £3 million project which will transform the fortunes of our vanishing meadows and grasslands. Over the next four years, over 74,000 acres across the UK will be targeted including a number of significant sites in the Cotswolds AONB.

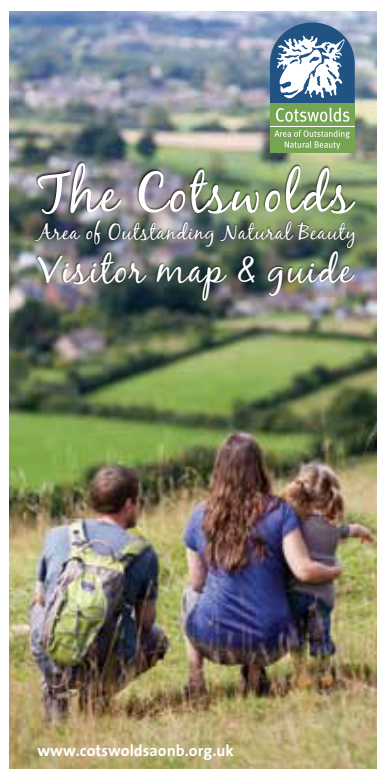


New guide is a hit

The handy new fold-out Cotswolds visitor map & guide highlighting special features and places to explore in the AONB is proving a hit.

Alongside descriptions of the AONB's geology, built heritage, flora and fauna, a map locates key sites to enjoy days out: including nature reserves, stunning viewpoints, Roman villas, gardens and walking trails – with plenty of colourful illustrations and photography.

Published by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, the map and guide is available from visitor information centres, or from the online shop (£2.50 including p&p; free to download), www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/shop



Cotswolds Visitor Giving Scheme awards

The first payout of the Cotswolds Visitor Giving Scheme has enabled Cotswolds Rivers Trust and the World Land Trust to undertake important conservation and habitat restoration work.

The Cotswolds Rivers Trust (CRT) used a £500 grant to install flow deflectors in the River Coln at Winson near Bibury, helping to vary the depth in the riverbed so that plants like water-crowfoot can thrive and providing habitat for invertebrates and fish like the brown trout – an iconic species of the Cotswolds.

The World Land Trust used a £500 grant to carry out coppicing at the Kites Hill nature reserve near Painswick Beacon: encouraging new woodland growth and benefitting a variety of plants, insects and birds. Four interpretation boards have also been installed along the woodland trail.

The Cotswolds Visitor Giving scheme, launched last year by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, raises funds through voluntary donations collected from visitors via tourism businesses. Funds go towards a range of landscape and environmental projects across the AONB.



Trevor Cramphorn, CRT (left), with Simon Smith

For further details of joining the scheme contact Simon Smith at the Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862031 or email: simon.smith@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.

For further details of the scheme go to www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visitorgiving

Encouraging rare bats

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens are helping to enhance habitat for the barbastelle bat.

A colony of the rare bats has been recorded in the South Warwickshire Cotswolds and is being studied following a grant from the SITA Trust, which supports environmental projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.

The Warwickshire Barbastelle Project, a partnership led by Warwickshire County Council with Warwickshire Bat Group, has been researching the bats' ecology and breeding cycle and is now working with local landowners to provide better quality, better connected habitat. Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have been called upon to help with tree planting.

"We aim to connect up roost sites and key feeding areas, through hedgerow planting and creating wildflower meadows which attract insects, particularly moths, which the barbastelle likes to feed on," said project officer Lois Browne.

The barbastelle, a medium-sized bat distinctive by its pug-shaped nose, is one of Britain's rarest mammals.

Clear views on planning

The Conservation Board takes a strategic, Cotswold-wide view on all matters concerning planning and produces a range of guidance documents, position statements as well as a five-year Management Plan for the AONB.

Local authorities need to have up-to-date Local Plans in place to provide clarity over where developments can and cannot take place in the Cotswolds AONB.

That is the clear message given by Nick Boles MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, DCLG to Conservation Board Chairman Jeff West and Director Martin Lane at a recent meeting arranged by Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP to discuss the Board's concerns. Lord de Mauley MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of

State, Defra was also present.

Following the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012, which sets out Government's planning policies for England, the Conservation Board has been concerned over the growing number of planning applications for major development that have been granted despite the Board's strenuous objections.

The Board's Planning Officer, Malcolm Watt noted: "A number of housing schemes in the AONB have

been permitted on appeal because the need for housing appears to be given more weight than the protection of the landscape. More applications are in the pipeline. The Board will continue to object to schemes which it considers are harmful to the scenic beauty of the Cotswolds. The Board will also assist the local authorities to ensure Local Plans are adopted as soon as possible throughout the Cotswolds AONB."

Currently the only authority in the AONB which has an up-to-date plan is South Gloucestershire Council, in which it sets out allocated sites for housing.

National Trust adventures

Around the AONB, the National Trust cares for a wonderful diversity of properties, from a Roman villa to beautiful skyline landscapes. Dip into intriguing histories, walk for miles with glorious views or run about with the kids in a park – just a few adventures with the Trust. Find out more about properties in the Cotswolds at www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Country life and leisure

Lodge Park and Sherborne Park Estate combines a 17th-century grandstand built to serve a passion for deer coursing, gambling, banqueting and entertaining, with a working country estate that's home to an abundance of wildlife. Share a Family Fun Walk or Woodland Stroll, and explore the 18th-century water meadows or sculpture trail around the pleasure grounds.



Eccentric treasure trove

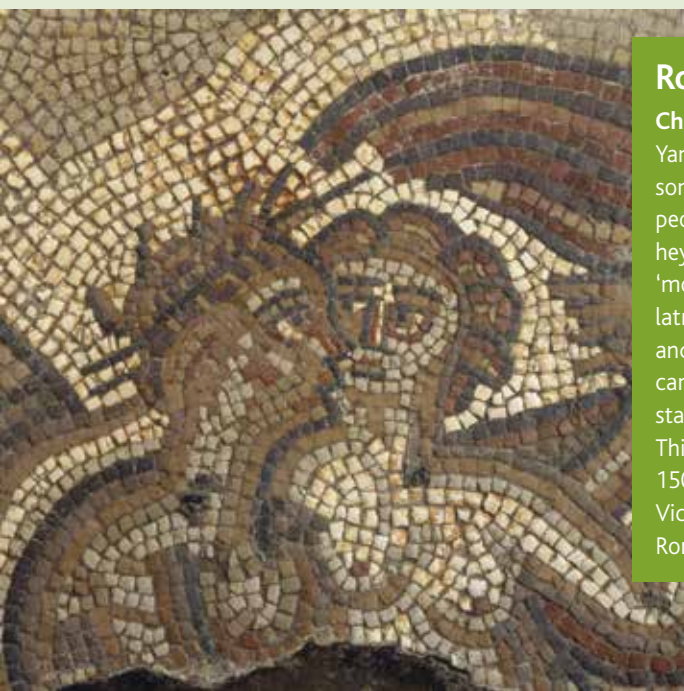
"Let nothing perish" was the motto of collector extraordinaire Charles Paget Wade (1883–1956) and at **Snowhill Manor and Garden**, near Broadway, you can rummage around thousands of his eclectic treasures: from Samurai armour to clocks, model ships to musical instruments. Afterwards relax in the Arts & Crafts-style terraced garden, a haven of quiet corners and hidden vistas.



Upstairs, downstairs

Enjoy superb Dutch art and ceramics collected by civil servant William Balthway who built the 17th-century mansion at **Dyrham Park**, near Bath. Then glimpse life 'below stairs' in the Victorian kitchen, intriguing bells' passage and dairy. Contrasts continue outside with walks and vast vistas around the deer park, the intimacy of the West Garden, and Old Lodge picnic and play area.





Roman riches

Chedworth Roman Villa, Yanworth, was home to some of the country's richest people in its 4th-century heyday. Admire all the Roman 'mod cons': bathhouses, latrines, underfloor heating and fantastic mosaics, which can be viewed up close from state-of-the-art walkways. This year celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Victorian discovery of the Romano-British villa.

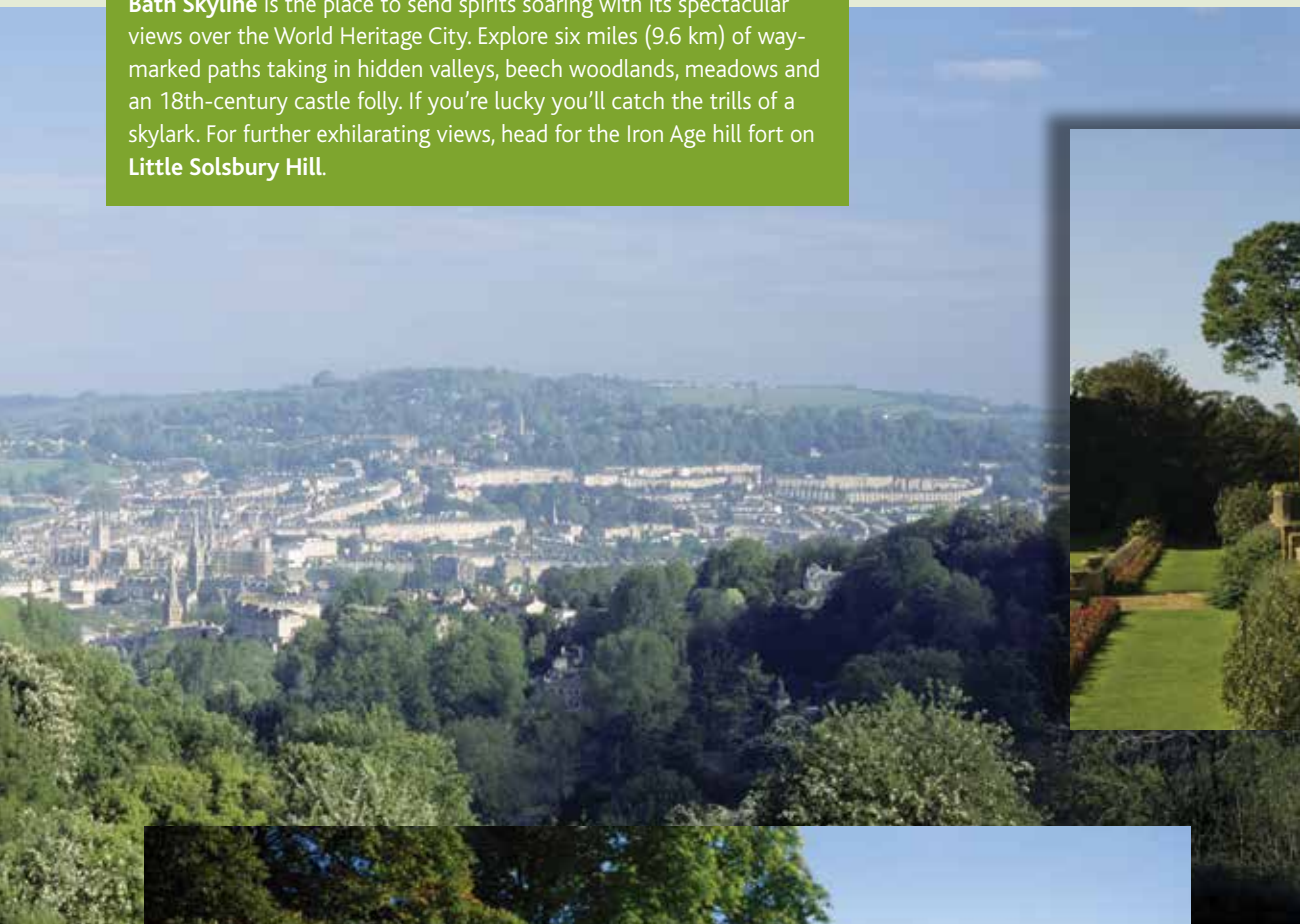


Secrets, ruin and rescue

Stretch your imagination and your legs at **Newark Park**, on the escarpment looking down into the Ozleworth valley. From Tudor hunting lodge to fashionable home: discover a dramatic story of boom, bust and rescue. Play garden games (croquet to giant chess) or stroll miles of parkland routes. There's a new café this summer and special arts exhibitions throughout the year.

Sky highs

Bath Skyline is the place to send spirits soaring with its spectacular views over the World Heritage City. Explore six miles (9.6 km) of way-marked paths taking in hidden valleys, beech woodlands, meadows and an 18th-century castle folly. If you're lucky you'll catch the trills of a skylark. For further exhilarating views, head for the Iron Age hill fort on **Little Solsbury Hill**.



Weekend house party

Join guests of Lord and Lady Bearsted to relive the exquisite atmosphere of a 1930s weekend party at **Upton House and Gardens**, south Warwickshire: surrounded by beautiful European porcelain and artworks from Canaletto to Stubbs. Enjoy sweeping lawn and terraces, visit the reopened Picture Gallery, share a summer of music including jazz evenings, or hire Upton for your own party!



Peace and picnics

Following the Dissolution, just a few elegant cloister arches remained from 13th-century **Hailes Abbey**, near Winchcombe. Together with the foundations of the church they make a wonderfully peaceful site – ideal for a picnic. Learn about Cistercian monastic life and the famous 'Holy Blood of Hailes' with the free audio tour and in the museum. (National Trust-owned; maintained/managed by English Heritage.)

Also visit these National Trust properties around the Cotswolds:

- Arlington Row
- Chastleton House
- Dover's Hill
- Haresfield Beacon
- Hidcote Manor Garden
- Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons
- Prior Park
- Woodchester Park

Walks & Events Guide

Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Spring/Summer 2014 Walks & Events Guide

The majority of walks here are led by our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens therefore you can be assured of an enjoyable, professional and often entertaining walk in the Cotswolds. 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. Warden leaders will take all reasonable care and precautions but each walker is ultimately responsible for their own safety, and for determining their capability to complete the chosen walk. Unless otherwise stated, all walks are free of charge however donations to the Countryside Fund are very welcome and are collected at the end. For further details of all walks and events in the Cotswolds, please visit www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk. Please do check this website for any changes to walks during bad weather.

Walk the Cotswold Way

Join a group led by the Voluntary Wardens walking 10 miles each month commencing May every year. To travel by coach from Winchcombe and walk from S to N, contact Mary on 01451 820160 or m.hamilton@tesco.net. Alternatively to travel by coach from near Bath and walk from N to S, contact John on 0117 9374561 or woodlandsbarn@btinternet.com.

Guided tours of Chipping Campden

Regular Walks: Join the Cotswold Wardens for a guided walk along Chipping Campden's "most beautiful village street now left in the island". Hear how the ancient town has developed, from the importance of wool through to the influence of the Guild of Handicrafts. Walks start at the Market Hall at 2.30pm on Tuesdays and at 10.00am on Thursdays from 27 May until 2 October. Suggested donation £3.

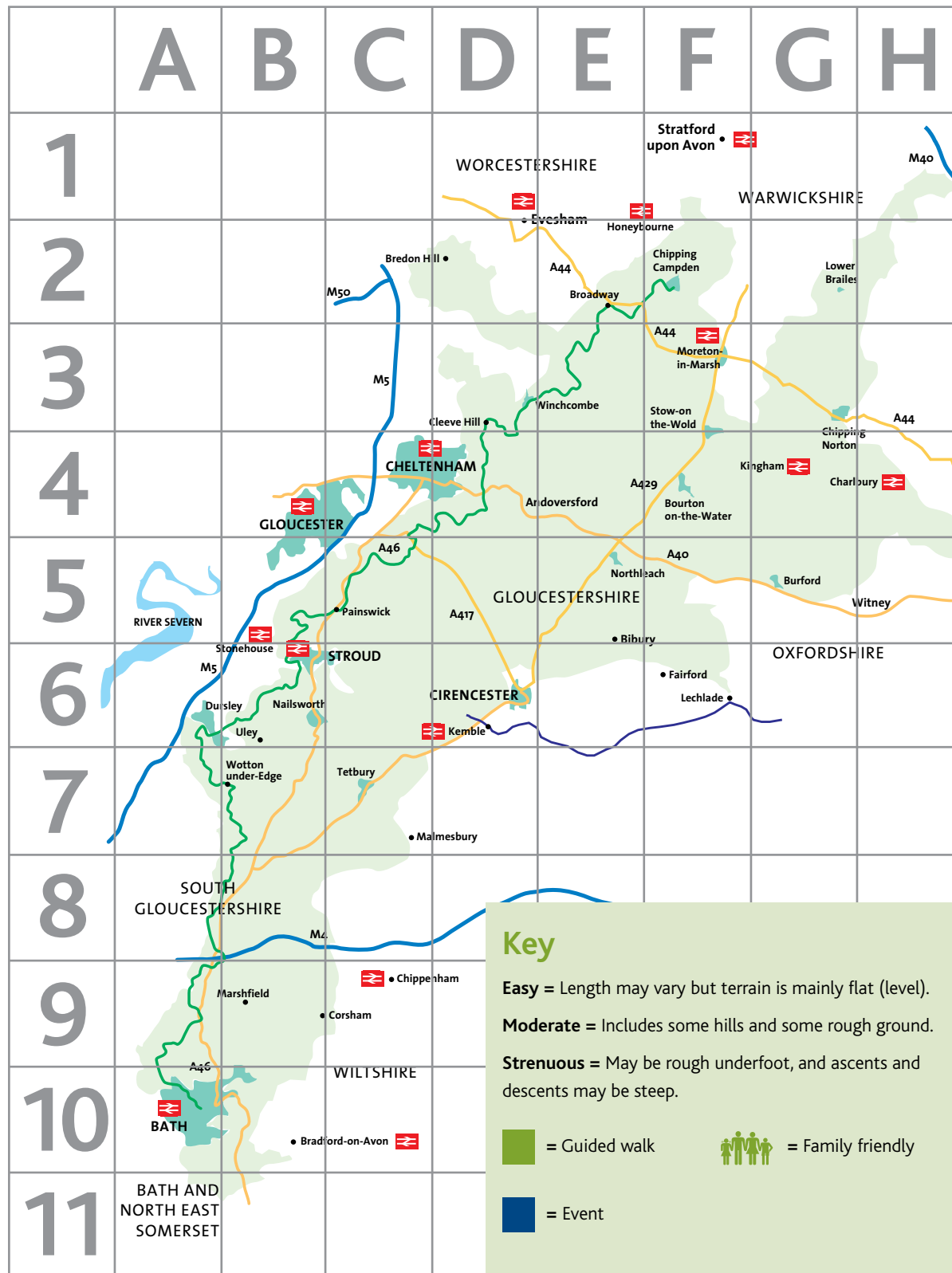
Tailor made: The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens offer a town walk with an audio visual show followed by tea or supper for organised parties in Chipping Campden. For further details contact Ann Colcomb on 01386 832131 or email: ann.colcomb@btinternet.com

Walk the Diamond Way

Join a group led by the Voluntary Wardens walking 8/10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Wednesday of every month from April to September. For further information and to reserve a place contact Allan Allcock on 0787 638 7029.

Looking after the countryside

Ash dieback is one of a growing number of potentially damaging diseases affecting our landscape. So, when visiting the countryside, please help to reduce the spread and impact of these diseases by ensuring that no plant material is removed and that all footwear and outdoor equipment are regularly cleaned.



APRIL

15 Feb-21 April

WW1 Exhibition 'A Great Estate at War – Land, Sea and Air'

To celebrate the First World War centenary year Blenheim Palace will open with a fascinating WW1 exhibition exploring the stories behind the family members and workers on the Blenheim Estate. Normal admission prices apply
Venue: Blenheim Palace
www.blenheimpalace.com

Tuesday • 1 April • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles
 A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for Pushchairs.
Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST818711 • Map square B9
Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Tuesday • 1 April • 10:00

Evenlode Valley no.6 Charlbury & Stonesfield

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles
 This is the sixth of a series of circular walks exploring the Evenlode Valley. From Charlbury it follows footpaths close to the Evenlode as far as Stonesfield before returning along the Oxfordshire Way. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Charlbury Spendlove Free Car Park. SP 358 196 • Map square H4
Leader: Anne Martis

Wednesday • 2 April • 10:00

Burford – A walk around the Town

Easy • 1 hours • 1 mile
 This gentle town walk is intended to be a general guide to this very interesting medieval Cotswold town. More specialist tours are available from the Friends of the Tolsey Museum 01993 823188.
Starting point: Tourist Info. Centre Burford High Street. SP 251 121 • Map square G5
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Saturday • 5 April • 10:00

A Ditch in the Woods

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles
 Walk through Wigwell Nature Reserve then through fields to meet the Saltway. It continues through Ditchley Park and woods returning to Charlbury for lunch at Rose and Crown (no food but bring your own sandwiches and buy a drink).
Starting point: Spendlove Car Park Charlbury. SP 358 196 • Map square H5
Leader: Tony Merry

Wednesday • 9 April • 10:00

The 99th Day of the Year

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
 A morning walk from a historic coaching inn across country, and along a quiet road leading to the secluded and attractive Bagpath Valley. A steady scenic climb from the valley, skirting Bagpath village, brings us back to the starting point.
Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn Car Park, Kingscote (By arrangement). ST 814 960 • Map square B7
Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper

Friday • 11 April • 10:00

Friday Foray for Bluebells

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 6 miles
 North to Hampnett then via the Monarch's Way to Yanworth and back. Hopefully there will be a display of Bluebells in Stowell Grove where we stop for a break.
Starting point: Hangmans Stone Layby on old A40. SO 152 088 • Map square E4
Leaders: K Buckle, C Dickinson & H Watkinson

Saturday • 12 April • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
 A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. ST 748 757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Fred Dugan & Sandy Higgins

Sunday 13 April

World Heritage Day

Celebrating 28 years of Bath's World Heritage Site status
Venues: various around Bath
www.visitbath.co.uk

12-27 April



Easter Trail and Activities

This year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Victorian discovery of Chedworth Roman Villa – one of the grandest villas in Roman Britain and one of the best preserved Roman sites in the country. Throughout school holidays you can have a go at Victorian games, dressing-up, join special tours and activities. Normal admission prices apply.

Venue: Chedworth Roman Villa
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chedworth

Tuesday • 15 April • 10:00



Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box - Off the A4. ST 824 686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Wednesday • 16 April • 10:00

Cider with Rosie

Strenuous • 3 hours • 5 miles

A strenuous walk around the Slad Valley to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Laurie Lee's birth. The walk includes steep climbs and descents. Pub lunch available at the historic Woolpack Inn.

Starting point: Bulls Cross Slad.

SO 878 088 • Map square C5

Leaders: A Wilson, P Burgon & J Shaw

Saturday • 19 April • 09:30

In and Around 'Yubberton'

Moderate • 6 hours • 12 miles

A favourite from Campden encompassing country houses, well known personalities and politicians together with sites of battles. Beautiful views abound!

Starting point: Chipping Campden – Market Hall. SP 151 391 • Map square F2

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Sunday • 20 April • 10:00



Swineford, Up to the Races

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

A steep restored path up to North Stoke, then around the contour from Prospect stile with views towards Woolley, before crossing the battlefield and returning by a different route from North Stoke. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Swinford picnic site.

ST 691 692 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 22 April • 10:00

Wardens' Way & Windrush Way Circular Walk 1

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

A series making the most of Ways linking Winchcombe and Bourton-on-the-Water. We follow the Wardens' Way from Winchcombe to Roel Gate, returning on the Windrush Way via Waterhatch with superb views of Sudeley Castle. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane Car Park (£1 per day). SP 024 285 • Map square D3

Leaders: Paul Adams, John Foster & Keith Sisson

Thursday • 24 April • 10:00

Exploring Villages and Valleys North of Northleach

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

An undulating walk through the villages of Hazleton, Turkdean and Cold Aston. Please bring a packed lunch. There may also be an opportunity for a refreshment stop en route.

Starting point: Notgrove Village Hall Car Park (Trust the Motorist).

SP 109 203 • Map square E4

Leader: Bob Fisher

Thursday • 24 April • 19:00

The Defence of Cirencester – Peter Grace talk

Hear how the Home Guard defended Cirencester during the Second World War.

A talk with Peter Grace historian from the Living Memory Historical Association, known for saving the Hospital Air Raid Shelter in Cirencester. £6 or £5 for Friends of the Museum. Booking essential, either at museum shop or on 01452 522682.

Venue: Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
www.glost.org.uk

24-27 April

Chipping Norton Literary Festival

A four day Literary Festival with a packed programme of author talks, discussion panels, signings, readings, workshops and much, much more.

Venue: various across Chipping Norton
www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org

Friday • 25 April • 10:00

Views of Cheltenham

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A steep climb up to the Devil's Chimney then along the Cotswold Way above Cheltenham and back via Seven Springs and Hartley Bottom.

Starting point: Quarry Car Park off Hartley Lane which is off Leckhampton Hill.

SO 946 176 • Map square D4

Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & G Ricketts

Friday • 25 April • 10:00



Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'By River, Trail and Valley'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The mainly flat and scenic walk starts at 10:30, along the Little Avon river and on footpaths and the Cotswold Way through farmland via Hillesley and Alderley, including the Ozleworth Valley.

Starting point: Café next door to Dinneywicks pub in Kingswood nr Wotton-under-Edge.

ST 747 917 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Lorraine Blench

25-28 April

Walking and Photography Weekend

A weekend of help and advice on improving your outdoor photography, in a stunning location on the Cotswold Edge, with guidance from a professional photographer.

Venue: The Stanton Guildhouse, Broadway
<http://walkthelandscape.co.uk/photographyweekend.htm>

Saturday • 26 April • 10:00

Over Upton and Through the Woods to Paradise

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

Visiting Painswick Beacon, Popes Wood, Buckholt Wood, Cranham, the Painswick Valley and Paradise.

Starting point: Walkers Car Park, Golf Course Road. Off the B4073 north of Painswick.

SO 867 105 • Map square C5

Leaders: J Heathcott, J Woodland & K Buckle

Saturday • 26 April • 07:00



Birds & Breakfast

Easy • 2 hours

A walk for 'early birds' around the Northleach area led by members of the local bird club, the North Cotswold Ornithological Society. Price includes full English breakfast at the Old Prison. £8.50.

Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach

www.ncosbirds.org.uk

Sunday • 27 April • 10:00



A Barrow Full of Romans

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A walk around the West of Castle Combe, crossing the Fosse way to Nettleton and West Kington. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Castle Combe public Car Park. ST 846 777 • Map square B9

Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando

Tuesday • 29 April • 10:00

Spring Surprises in Stanton

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

Third in a series of seasonal walks exploring the footpaths around Stanton. We will look for spring flowers & listen for birdsong. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Stanton Village Car Park. SP 067 344 • Map square E3

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Wednesday • 30 April • 10:00

Wednesday Wander

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk from Birdlip through Hazel Hanger and Climperwell Woods to Brimpsfield and back. Some moderate slopes.

Starting point: The old A417 east of Birdlip village. SO 931 142 • Map square C5

Leaders: J Foulkes, M Williams & D Gladstone

30 April-5 May

Cheltenham International Jazz Festival

Bringing you some of the biggest names in Jazz to the town.

Venue: Town Hall and others.

www.cheltenhamfestivals.co.uk

MAY

Thursday • 1 May

Slad Brook from Source to Confluence

Without the 'Slad Brook' there would have been no cloth trade in the local valleys around Slad.

Without the cloth trade there would have been no riots in Slad and Stroud in 1825. Join us on a walk from the source of the brook to its confluence with the Frome in Stroud.
www.laurielee.org

Friday • 2 May • 09:30



Back to Back to Bourton 3

Moderate • 6 hours • 12 miles

Building on previous walks, we head for Clapton then Sherborne where we will have a packed lunch before heading back over little trodden paths. Views, rolling hills, woodland, wildlife and River Windrush seclusion.

Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water War Memorial. SP 167 207 • Map square F4

Leaders: Andy Briars, Allan Allcock & Julie Downing



© National Trust. Photo: Registered Charity Number 205846.

I hidden treasures

Chastleton House and Garden

Enjoy a rare glimpse into life in this ancient country manor house and garden nestled in the beautiful Evenlode valley. Dust, cobwebs and rambling roses, add to a feel of 'romantic neglect'.

01608 674981
nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton

National Trust

Friday • 2 May • 10:00

Avening in the Morning

Moderate • 4 hours • 7 miles

This scenic and fairly hilly walk passes through Minchinhampton, then close by the royal Gatcombe Estate, through the attractive villages of Avening and Box before crossing Minchinhampton Common back to the start point. Stretches through woods may be muddy. Lunch available in the town after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Alongside Minchinhampton Church (on edge of Common).

SO 872 009 • Map square B6

Leaders: Alan Bulley & Brian Mundy

Saturday • 3 May • 10:00 & 14:00

The Leach Valley figure of 8

Easy • 2.5 & 1.75 hours • 4.5 & 3.5 miles

10.00 start for a morning walk to Southrop and back. After a lunch break a further walk to Sheepbridge and back. You can do both or either walk with a picnic or pub lunch in the village.

Starting point: Eastleach village hall Car Park. SP 200 053 • Map square F5

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & E Currier

Sunday • 4 May • 10:00



Little Solsbury Hill and Chilcombe Bottom Nature Reserve

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 3.5 miles

From the slip road, up to the summit for views over Bath, then down through a "Wild Wood" to Northend, Chilcombe Bottom Nature Reserve and back to the start. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

ST 762 683 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & John Wells

Sunday • 4 May • 5:30



Dawn Chorus Walk

Join Peter Brash, National Trust wildlife expert, for a refreshing walk and a truly memorable experience as the dawn chorus builds from the first cheep to a crescendo of birdsong. £3 or £6 with refreshments.

Venue: Chedworth Roman Villa

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chedworth

Monday • 5 May • 10:00

A Foray to Forthay from Stinchcombe Hill

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Stinchcombe Hill following the Cotswold Way towards North Nibley and on to the secluded valley of Waterley Bottom. A steady ascent leads to our return path through glorious beech woods overlooking Dursley.

Starting point: Stinchcombe Hill Public Car Park (Not the golf club Car Park).

ST 744 983 • Map square A6

Leaders: John Hammill & John Graham





Great Wall of Broadway

If you are one of the many walkers climbing up Broadway Hill along the Cotswold Way to visit Broadway Tower you cannot help noticing the great length of dry stone wall made from oolitic limestone in different states of repair.

The sight of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens working on the dry stone wall adjacent to the path is a good excuse for a well-earned rest. Equally some Wardens will find any excuse to stop what they are doing to explain their handiwork.

The Great Wall of Broadway consists of over 1 km of dry stone walling, a lot of which is in a poor state of repair. The National Trust replaced approx 75 metres of wall in 2009 and it has befallen the Voluntary Wardens to embark on the enormous job of replacing or repairing the remainder.

Work started in 2008 under the leadership of David Jelfs, a man who devoted his latter life to the Cotswolds and whose legacy will remain for a hundred years or more as the current team re-building the wall left a small time capsule in a section of the wall they rebuilt to recognise his feats. David Jelfs' legacy as well as National Grid helped fund the local limestone.

Tuesday • 6 May • 10:00



Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for Pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne.

ST 818 711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Tuesday • 6 May • 10:00

Across the Northern Cotswolds to Blockley

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 11 miles

From Snowhill, passing one of the highest farms in the north Cotswolds and breaking for lunch in Blockley. Leaving on the Diamond Way we use tracks and minor roads to return. Pub lunch available.

Starting point: Snowhill Village Car Park

(north of village - no charge).

SP 097 340 • Map square E3

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

6-11 May

Chipping Campden Literature Festival

War and Peace – For the centenary anniversary of WWI the festival will be exploring the themes of conflict, peace and resolution through the best of writing; past and present. www.campdenlitfest.co.uk

Wednesday • 7 May • 10:00



Two Commons, Two Valleys

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4 miles

A leisurely walk around two wild flower rich commons, with views of two scenic valleys. Lunch available at the Inn after the walk if required. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: Amberley Inn, Amberley.

Not pub Car Park please.

SO 850 013 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Harrowin & Steve Knight

Thursday • 8 May • 10:00

Broadway to Stanton Classic

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles

From Broadway gradually ascending the Cotswold escarpment before descending to Stanton via Laverton and Buckland. A classic walk encompassing rolling pasture, national footpaths and impressive views. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Broadway, Shear House

Car Park, Lemington Road (WR12 7ET)

SP 101 377 • Map square E2

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Smith & Alan Wicks

Friday • 9 May • 10:00



Green Oases within the City

Easy • 3.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Circular walk from Royal Victoria Park, taking in three other parks within the City, with views of two others. Suitable for pushchairs if you can cope with steps.

Starting point: Royal Avenue Bath, in front of

Bandstand. ST 744 652 • Map square A10

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Friday • 9 May • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

From the Crown Inn to Tarlton and back through Bathurst Estate Woods. Pub lunch option at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Crown Inn, Frampton Mansell.

SO 922 027 • Map square C6

Leaders: H Watkinson, K Buckle & C Dickinson

Saturday • 10 May • 10:00



There's an Old Mill by the Stream

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Through a nature reserve and fields to Coldron Mill onto Spelsbury and Taston. Returning to Charlbury and lunch option at Rose and Crown (no food but bring your own sandwiches and buy a drink).

Starting point: Spendlove Car Park Charlbury.

SP 358 196 • Map square H5

Leader: Tony Merry

Sunday • 11 May • 10:00



The Broadmead Brook. Castle Combe to Dyrham

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

Bus transport [£2] departs promptly at 10am to Castle Combe. After the village, we cross the golf course to Nettleton Mill and follow the Broadmead Brook back to Dyrham via West Kington. Please bring a picnic lunch. Booking essential on 01225 892374.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park

ST 748 757 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Tuesday • 13 May • 10:30



Observe Where the Romans Lived

Easy • 2.5 hours • 3.5 miles

A gentle family walk from Combe to the river and the Roman Villa with a difference. There will be an optional quiz to test your observational skills. Please bring a pencil. Pub lunch option at end. More details contact 07762 019373.

Starting point: Combe Village Green.

SP 412 158 • Map square H5

Leader: Gerald Simper

Wednesday • 14 May • 10:00

Haresfield Beacon and some Gloucester Cows

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A steep descent and one long steady climb. We pass a farm where Single Gloucester Cheese is made from the milk of rare breed Gloucester cows. Fine views over to Wales and The Malverns with a return through a Bluebell wood.

Starting point: Haresfield NT Car Park (also known as Shortwood or Cripplegate) on the minor road from Edge to Haresfield Beacon.

SO 832 086 • Map square B5

Leaders: P Burgon, J Shaw & A Wilson

Thursday • 15 May • 10:00

Scenic Woods and Hills Above The Stour

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Highlights of this walk include tremendous views over the Stour Valley, the pretty Warwickshire villages of Cherington, Sutton-under-Brailes and Whichford. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Long Compton Church.

SP 287 330 • Map square G3

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Friday • 16 May • 10:00



A Macmillan Way and Palladian Way plateau walk

Easy • 4 hours • 7.5 miles

Largely on National Trails this circular walk is on high ground from Kingsdown via the Wraxhalls, Cumberwell Park, Little Ashley and Monkton Farleigh. Please bring a picnic lunch. Drinks/snacks available at King's Arms in Monkton Farleigh. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Blue Vein Layby, Kingsdown.

ST 828 672 • Map square B10

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Keith Daulby

16-18 May



Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival

A large variety of walks and events in and around the historic town of Winchcombe – a Walkers are Welcome town.

Venue: Winchcombe

www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com

Sunday • 18 May • 10:00



From a Down to a Combe – Across to a Stoke

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.5 miles

A circular walk from Combe Down to Monkton Combe and Limpley Stoke. Please bring a picnic lunch. Thanks to Wessex Water for parking permission. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Wessex Water Car Park, Claverton Down, Bath. ST 778 630

Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Monday • 19 May • 10:00

Heritage Trail No. 1, from Rodmarton

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

We follow part of the Monarch's Way towards the village of Tarlton, then on to the famous Tunnel House Inn near Coates for a brief stop, with an opportunity to view the impressive canal tunnel portal. We return to Rodmarton through Hailey Wood and via the MacMillan Way.

Starting point: Rodmarton church.

Please park carefully at the roadside.

ST 943 981 • Map square C7

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Alan Bulley

Tuesday • 20 May • 10:00



Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box

– Off the A4. ST 824 686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Wednesday • 21 May • 10:00

A farm full of flowers

Moderate • 2 or 5 hours • 2 or 8 miles

A two stage walk – Carl Willn, Snowhill Hill estate manager, will show us the magnificent Hornsleaslow Roughs SSSI, and then we will walk down the valley to another wonderful site. Bring a picnic lunch if doing both sections.

Starting point: Snowhill Hill Estate, GL56 9TH – from the A424 near the junction with the A44 take the Snowhill road (Follow signs to wardens walk). Entrance on the left after 2 miles down a tree-lined drive.

SP 123 333 • Map square E3

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatrat

Thursday • 22 May • 10:00

Wardens' Way & Windrush Way Circular Walk 2

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

A series making the most of Ways linking Winchcombe and Bourton-on-the-Water. Following the Wardens' Way from picturesque Guiting Power through Guiting Wood to Deadmanbury Gate, returning on the Windrush Way via medieval Hawling village. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Green.

Please park considerately in village.

SP 095 248 • Map square E3

Leaders: Paul Adams, John Foster & Keith Sisson

Saturday • 24 May • 10:00



Lineover Wood and Ravensgate Common

Easy • 3 hours • 4 miles

An unhurried nature walk to enjoy the flowers and trees of an ancient wood and unimproved grassland hillside and to discuss their management. The walk includes a slow climb.

Starting point: Lineover Wood; park on the track on the south side of the A40 just east of the Koloshi Restaurant.

SO 986 196 • Map square D4

Leaders: J Heathcott, M Dunning & J Woodland

24-26 May



Roman Market

Watch traditional crafts and browse through stalls selling Roman games, glass beads, local cheese and honey, candles, wool and sheepskin, pottery, jewellery and more.

Normal admission prices apply

Venue: Chedworth Roman Villa

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chedworth

Sunday • 25 May • 10:00



Lansdown and Its Valleys

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

We follow the contour under the Beckford Tower to Primrose wood, descend to Weston and then keep to the Cotswold Way to the battlefield, before returning via Langridge and Woolley. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Lansdown Park and Ride.

ST 731 681 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Bartram & Sandy Higgins

Monday • 26 May • 10:00



A Walk in the Woods

Moderate • 3 hours • 4 miles

A walk through varied woodland, including beech and oak. Wood anemones and bluebells in season. Refreshment available at the pub after the walk, if required. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Starting point: King's Head pub, King's Stanley. Car parking opposite the pub.

SO 811 034 • Map square B6

Leaders: John Graham & John Hammill

Tuesday • 27 May • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 2, 'North West of Horsley'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30 and explores the north westerly environs of Horsley, visiting Wallow Green, Sallywood, Newmarket and Nailsforth. We return via the Horsley fishponds.

Starting point: Village shop Horsley.

Shop signposted from main road in village.

ST 839 981 • Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy





Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses 2014

Spring/Summer Programme

Ever wondered how a dry-stone wall is constructed? Or looked at a thatched roof and pondered how it's done? The Cotswolds Conservation Board is offering a range of traditional rural skills courses this spring & summer. No experience is necessary for most courses and all tools and equipment are provided.



Dry-stone walling (Beginners) - £99

Lansdown, 12-13 April
Naunton, 26-27 April
Blenheim Palace, 10-11 May
Tetbury, 19-20 May
Broadway, 31 May-1 June
Cotswold Farm Park, 14-15 June
Sherborne, 23-24 June
Lansdown, 19-20 July
Naunton, 9-10 August
Illmington, 22-23 August
Sherborne, 13-14 September
Tetbury, 27-28 September
Blenheim Palace, 11-12 October
Broadway, 20-21 October

Dry-stone walling (Improvers) - £119

Sherborne, 26-27 April
Tetbury, 8-9 September
Blenheim Palace, 25-26 October

Lime Mortar Building Repairs (Beginners) - £109

Ebworth Centre (near Birdlip), 14-15 June
Ebworth Centre (near Birdlip), 5-6 August

Lime Mortar Building Repairs (Improvers) - £119

Ebworth Centre (near Birdlip), 20-21 September

Blacksmithing (Taster) - £99

Northleach, 17 May
Northleach, 15 July
Northleach, 26 July
Tetbury, 26 October

Cotswold Tile Roofing - £99

Naunton, 24-25 May
Naunton, 9-10 August

Thatching (Beginners) - £99

Northleach, 17 & 18 May
Northleach, 9-10 August

Make your own Charcoal (TBC) - £99

Ullenwood, 3-4 June
Ullenwood, 19-20 July

Team building activities

Treat your staff to a team building experience with a difference with one of our bespoke rural skills activities. Located in the picturesque Cotswolds landscape our full and half-day activities include dry stone walling, blacksmithing, historic building repair and hedgelaying. So why not book with us and make your next team event one to remember!

Gift Vouchers

Looking for a gift that's a little bit different? Try one of our Cotswolds Rural Skills gift vouchers. Vouchers are redeemable against any course that the Conservation Board provides (equal to value of gift voucher) and are valid for 12 months.

For further details and to book online visit

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

Tel: 01451 862000

Wednesday • 28 May • 10:00

Discovering the Thames and Severn Canal

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk which follows the disused Thames and Severn canal from Oakridge to Daneway, returning through Siccaridge Wood and Far Oakridge.

Starting point: Oakridge School
SO 912 032 • Map square C6

Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & J Foulkes

Thursday • 29 May • 19:00

Air Photo Photography of the First World War – Nicholas Watkis Talk

See how the use of air photography and photographic interpretation developed as a primary source of intelligence during the First World War. £6 or £5 for Friends of the Museum. Booking essential, either at museum shop or on 01452 522682

Venue: Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
www.glost.org.uk

Friday • 30 May • 10:00



Around Shab Hill

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.75 miles

A pleasant walk around Shab Hill visiting the site of the world's biggest haystack, a long barrow, and plastic trees.

Starting point: Barrow Wake Car Park off the B4070 on the old A417.

SO 931 154 • Map square C5

Leaders: G Ricketts, P Cluley & B Chilvers

Saturday • 31 May • 10:30



Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park
ST 748 757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Fred Dugan & Keith Rawlings

Saturday • 31 May • 07:00

Birds & Breakfast

Easy • 2 hours

Another 'early birds' walk around the Northleach area led by members of the North Cotswold Ornithological Society. Price includes full English breakfast at the Old Prison. £8.50
www.ncosbirds.org.uk

JUNE

Tuesday • 3 June • 10:00



Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for Pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne.

ST 818 711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Tuesday • 3 June • 10:00

A Remote and Beautiful Valley

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Passing through some of the North Cotswolds' most remote and beautiful countryside. First we go through woods above the Hinchwick valley, then descend briefly into an adjoining valley and return along the bottom of Hinchwick valley itself.

Starting point: Hinchwick, by Hinchwick Manor (park with care on grass verge).

SP 145 300 • Map square F3

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Saturday • 7 June • 10:00

To Sheepscombe by Hill and Dale

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 10 miles

Over Juniper Hill to Sheepscombe via Steanbridge and Black Stable Wood. Pub lunch or picnic then back via Lord's Wood, Saltridge Common, Tocknells and Highgrove. We explore woods, commons, and streams in the hills and valleys around Painswick.

Starting point: Walkers Car Park off Golf Course Rd Painswick.

SO 867 105 • Map square C5

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & E Currier

Sunday • 8 June • 10:00

Neither Fish nor Fowl

Moderate • 6 hours • 9 miles

An exploration of the higher valleys south of Stroud onto the Cotswold plateau at Kingscote and the changing landscape created by man's usage. Pub lunch available if required, or bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Nailsworth Town Centre, Free Car Park near the Bus Station.

ST 849 995 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Owen & David Harrowin

Sunday • 8 June • 10:00



Two Railways, a Canal and Wild Flowers

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

We follow the Titfield Thunderbolt railway/ Somerset Coal Canal line to Tucking mill where Wessex Water will allow access to their wild flower meadow. Then the Combe Down tunnel [1 Mile] and return via the Wansdyke. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Odd Down Park and Ride.

ST 733 617 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & Wilf Dando

Tuesday • 10 June • 10:00

Haymaking and Merrymaking

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Bledington is a typical Cotswold village with a green, a church, a school and a pub. Ducks waddling beside the stream complete the rural idyll. After an easy walk there is the option of pub lunch or a picnic.

Starting point: Bledington Village Green.

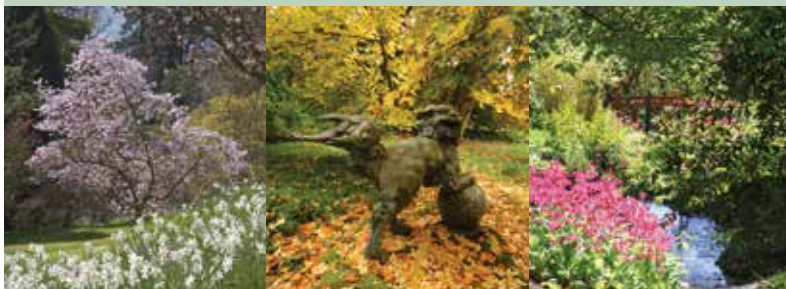
SP 243 227 • Map square G4

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Batsford

ARBORETUM & GARDEN CENTRE

For gentle walks through our magical tree garden; everything you need for the garden and allotment including gorgeous plants and gardening sundries; fabulous gifts and freshly-baked lunches and teas, Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre is an inspirational day out – all year round.



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Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre
Batsford, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire GL56 9AB.
01386 701441 arboretum@batsfordfoundation.co.uk
www.batsarb.co.uk



Sunday • 15 June • 10:00

Weaving Around Kingswood

Moderate • 5 hours • 7.5 miles
A walk through the once industrialised village of Kingswood, along the Kilcott Valley to Hillesley for lunch. We return via Wortley in time for an optional Town Hall tea. Pub at lunch stop for drinks only.
Starting point: Chipping Car Park, Wotton Under Edge. ST 757 934 • Map square B7
Leaders: David Harrowin & David Collings

Tuesday • 17 June • 10:00



Box and the surrounding countryside – A Long Summer Walk

Moderate • 6 hours • 9 miles
The annual long walk from Box into the surrounding countryside. Along the By-Brook valley before climbing to Biddestone village, for a picnic lunch beside the scenic pond. Please bring a picnic, drinks only in the pub. An alternative route for the return.
Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4. ST 824 686 • Map square B10
Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

17 June – 6 July 14

The Valley Under the Skin

Glass artist Amanda Lawrence set out to get 'under the skin' of the Slad Valley, where she lives and works, with a two-year walking project. Traversing the valley from end to end, she explored streams, woods, edges and settlements with camera, pencil and sound recorder, aiming to see the valley from angles other than the obvious. Admission free.
Venue: Lansdown Gallery, Lansdown, Stroud
www.amandalawrenceglass.com

Wednesday • 18 June • 10:00

Hills, Dells and Dales near Adlestrop

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
This circuit takes us across rolling countryside, through woods and past nearby historic villages. Please bring a packed lunch
Starting point: Adlestrop Village Hall. SP 241 272 • Map square G3
Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Thursday • 19 June • 10:00

Old Hooky Country

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles
The walk heads east to visit Hook Norton and it's famous brewery. The return is via one of Warwickshire's pretty villages, Whichford before the afternoon climbs back up to Great Rollright. Plenty of splendid views. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Great Rollright Crossroads. SP 322 314 • Map square G3
Leader: Kevin Myhill

Saturday • 21 June • 10:00



Coffee Morning Walk No. 3, 'To the Woods'

Easy • 4 hours • 6 miles
Meet for coffee at 10am. The mainly flat walk starts at 10:30 and offers good views of the Cotswold escarpment. The route sets off in a southerly direction towards Wickwar, passes through Lower Woods and returns to Kingswood by a parallel route.
Starting point: Café next door to Dinnewicks pub in Kingswood nr Wotton-u-Edge. ST 747 917 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Steve Knight

Saturday • 21 June • 10:00

Over The Edge

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles
A walk to Edge Hill visiting the pretty ironstone villages of Shenington, Alkerton, Hornton and Ratley. Return is via the wooded ridge along the Centenary Way. Please bring a packed lunch. There is the possibility of a pub stop.
Starting point: Middle Tysoe Church SP 341 443 • Map square H2
Leader: Janet Deller

21-29 June

Slad Valley Festival

A week-long celebration in the Slad Valley to mark the centenary of Laurie Lee's birth. Exhibitions, flower festival, writing competition, guided walks and much more.
www.sladsociety.org.uk

Sunday • 22 June 10:30



Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST 748 757 • Map square A9
Leaders: Sandy Higgins & Dave Jennings

Wednesday • 25 June • 10:15

Quaking the Dead

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 6 miles
Park in the pay and display car park south of the church off the main road in Painswick. From the famous churchyard to Sheepscombe via Painswick valley and Lords Wood, returning via the historic Quaker burial ground at Dell Farm.
Starting point: Bus stop opposite the Falcon Inn Painswick. SO 865 095 • Map square C5
Leaders: R Hales, J Foulkes & M Williams

Thursday • 26 June • 10:00

The Flowers and Wildlife of the Glyme Valley

Easy • 3 hours • 4.5 miles
A circular walk led by an expert naturalist with a feast of wildlife habitats including rich limestone grassland (hopefully seeing a rare plant in flower) ancient hedgerows as well as Over Norton parkland with veteran trees and orchids.
Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall. SP 313 270 • Map square G3
Leader: Craig Blackwell

Thursday • 26 June

Slad Woods Walk

Organised by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust who recently acquired the field from the writer's family, this walk will take place on Laurie Lee's birthday and include poetry readings and music.
www.laurielee.org

Friday • 27 June • 10:00



Monarchs, Prime Ministers, and Prisoners

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles
A gentle walk around Northleach, Hampnett, and Stowell.
Starting point: The Old Prison (AONB offices) Northleach. SP 109 149 • Map square E5
Leaders: B Chilvers, G Ricketts & P Cluley

Saturday • 28 June • 10:00

More Manor Houses

Moderate • 7 hours • 11 miles
Continuing the exploration of the Manor and related houses of the north Cotswolds. From Winchcombe to Hawling and Brockhampton, returning through Charlton Abbots. Pub lunch available in Brockhampton.
Starting point: Winchcombe Back Lane Car Park (£1 per day). SP 024 285 • Map square D3
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Saturday • 28 June • 10:00

Into the Slad Valley

Strenuous • 7 hours • 11 miles
Along the canal and up to the Heavens, through Laurie Lee countryside to Swifts Hill, Elcombe, and Slad. Down to Steanbridge and on to Downs Hill, Bulls Cross, Frith Wood, and Wickridge Hill. Pub or picnic lunch.
Starting point: Stroud Leisure Centre Car Park. Use top of the Car Park. SO 844 056 • Map square B5
Leaders: J Heathcott, M Dunning & K Buckle

28-29 June

Bike Bath

Bike Bath will return in 2014 on the weekend of the 28-29 June. Described as a "Cycling weekend to remember".
Venue: Bath
www.bikebath.co.uk

Sunday • 29 June • 10:00



The Bath Skyline

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
A circular walk on National Trust land south of Bath at Claverton Down with fine views overlooking the City and passing old quarry workings at "ampton rock". Not suitable for pushchairs. Coffee stop only. Thanks to Wessex Water for parking permission.
Starting point: Wessex Water Car Park, Claverton Down, Bath. ST 778 630 • Map square A10
Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Sunday • 29 June • 10:00

Hills and Halls

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12 miles
This walk at the northern end of the AONB shows offer the delights of this end of the Cotswolds to the full including a fantastic viewpoint over Warwickshire. Please bring a packed lunch. The start is by the village pond.
Starting point: Warmington Village Green. SP 413 477 • Map square H1
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Wednesday • 11 June • 10:00



Ancient Highways and Byways around the Bathford area

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles
Cross country stagecoach route – Bath to London, climbing to Kingsdown, crossing the old Roman roads to Monkton Farleigh before returning via Browne's Folly SSSI Nature Reserve. Please bring a picnic lunch. Pub refreshments/snacks available. Not suitable for pushchairs.
Starting point: Bathford High street opposite the Crown Inn. ST 787 668 • Map square B10
Leaders: David Le Lohé & Keith Daulby

Friday • 13 June • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles
A walk through Lineover Wood to Ravensgate Hill and Needlehole passing St Paul's Epistle before returning to the start. Optional pub lunch available.
Starting point: Kilkenny Inn Car Park on the A436. SP 007 188 • Map square D4
Leaders: C Dickinson, K Buckle & H Watkinson

Friday • 13 June • 10:00

West of Moreton – A Diamond Way Sampler

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles
Another Diamond Way sampler. Uphill via Batsford and down through Draycott and Paxford, then the delightful Diamond Way back to Moreton. Plenty of views and lovely countryside. Please bring packed lunch.
Starting point: Moreton-in-Marsh War Memorial. SP 205 326 • Map square F3
Leaders: Allan Allcock, Andy Briars & Julie Downing

Saturday • 14 June • 10:00



Family Walk and Farm Visit

Easy • 4 hours • 2 miles
The visit starts with an easy walk to Village Farm. Here the Fawdry's after refreshments will provide a tractor and trailer tour of their farm. Please bring a picnic to enjoy on the tour. Limited numbers so please phone 01993 831810.
Starting point: Salford Children's playground. SP 289 282 • Map square G3
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Saturday • 14 June • 09:30

Walking the Woods and Ways

Moderate • 6 hours • 11.5 miles
From Guiting Power utilising the paths in Guiting Woods, Kinton and Adam's Farm. Please bring a packed lunch.
Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park (Honesty Box). SP 095 246 • Map square E3
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook



I
Chedworth Roman Villa

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Victorian discovery of Chedworth Roman Villa with special events throughout the year.
01242 890256
nationaltrust.org.uk/chedworth
National Trust

Sunday • 29 June



Slad Family Walk

Easy

The School, the Squire, the Woolpack, the cottages, the characters... all brought to life when walking on the level. Family-friendly stroll on pavements, through the lanes in and around Slad. 'Cider with Rosie' for those who may or may not be ambulant.

Starting point: Meet outside the Woolpack and bring a picnic or retire to the Woolpack.

Venue: Woolpack Inn, Slad
www.laurielee.org

JULY

Tuesday • 1 July • 19:00



Summer Evening Walk No. 1, 'High Summer'

Easy • 1.5 hours • 3 miles

Join us on a gentle evening walk in high summer from a historic Cotswold Inn. Take the opportunity to enjoy refreshment afterwards at the Inn.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn Car Park, Kingscote, by arrangement.
ST 815 960 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Steve Knight

Tuesday • 1 July • 10:00



Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for Pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne.
ST 818 711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Wednesday • 2 July • 10:00

Commons and Valleys in Summer

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A journey through varied terrain in the southern Cotswolds. Features include upland commons, wooded valleys, attractive villages and an historic mill. Memorable views (weather permitting). Opportunity for lunch at local inns at end of walk.

Starting point: Minchinhampton Common, Reservoir Car Park.
SO 855 013 • Map square B6

Leaders: Graham Batemen & Mike Brinkworth

Thursday • 3 July • 10:00

Long Compton View A King Would Die For

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

An undulating walk along the borders of Oxfordshire and Warwickshire with plenty of scenic views. It includes a visit to one of the seven wonders of the Cotswolds, The Rollright Stones. Afternoon includes two long climbs. Optional pub lunch.

Starting point: Great Rollright Crossroads.
SP 322 314 • Map square G3

Leader: Kevin Myhill

Friday • 4 July • 10:00

Flower Foray on and around Cleeve Common

Moderate • Max 5 hours • up to 5 miles

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

Starting point: Cleeve Hill Quarry Car Park (beyond the golf club).
SO 989 272 • Map square D4

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Wednesday • 9 July • 10:00

Painswick to Edge and Back

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A rewarding walk through excellent countryside with extensive views to east and west, visiting Edge and one of the best local SSSI's. Accessible by 46 bus from Cheltenham & Stroud. Small charge for Car Park.

Lunch options in Painswick

Starting point: Stamages Lane Car Park Painswick. SO 865 095 • Map square C5

Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgon & A Wilson

Thursday • 10 July • 10:00



Upton Inn Circular

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

From Upton Cheney to Beach before ascending Hanging Hill, following the Cotswold way to Piple Wood. then descending to North Stoke and back to Upton Cheney for lunch in the Upton Inn. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Upton Inn Car Park.
ST 692 698 • Map square B9

Leaders: Sandy Higgins & Keith Rawlings

Thursday • 10 July • 10:00

Castlett Wood, Kineton & Barton

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

From Guiting Power, following the Castlett Brook through Castlett Wood before passing through the hamlet of Kineton. Simply lovely!

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall Car Park (donation required).
SP 095 246 • Map square E3

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Friday • 11 July • 10:00



Friday Foray

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 6 miles

Circle north and back to Winstone then on to Duntisbourne Abbots and west to Bulls Bank (steep climb) before returning.

Starting point: West of Winstone on the roadside by the wood and on the edge of the road leading to Lodge.

SP 947 095 • Map square D5

Leaders: K Buckle, C Dickinson & H Watkinson

Saturday • 12 July • 10:00

A Summer Saturday Stroll

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12 miles

A walk to one of the most beautiful villages in England. The walk heads east from Great Rollright through the Swere Valley. Please bring a packed lunch. Please park considerately by the cross roads.

Starting point: Great Rollright Crossroads.
SP 322 315 • Map square G3

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

14-27 July



Festival of British Archaeology

Have you ever wished to be an archaeologist? Here is your chance to find out what it could be like. Hands-on activities, including identifying archaeological finds, archaeological illustration, specialist talks and lots more! Normal admission prices apply
Venue: Chedworth Roman Villa
www.nationaltrust.org.uk.chedworth

Tuesday • 15 July • 10:00



Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4. ST 824 686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 15 July • 09:30

A Swell Walk from Stow

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

A delightful circuit with fine views taking in the Swells, Donnington & Broadwell, also passing Stow well.

Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold, public Car Park by Tesco. SP 191 262 • Map square F3

Leaders: Rodney Langman & Stewart Rainbow

Wednesday • 16 July • 10:00

Heritage Trail No. 2, from Tetbury

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

The route passes a former grist mill before passing through the Estcourt estate to a sheep town, Shipton Moyny. We return on a path crossing Duchy land and finish the walk with a viewing of Tetbury's inspiring church.

Starting point: Old railway yard free Car Park, off Cirencester Road, Tetbury.
ST 893 932 • Map square C7

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Ian Cooke

Thursday • 17 July • 09:30

A Corner of a Foreign Field

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. We explore the link between Mickleton and Belgian soldiers as well as take in Hidcote and Ebrington. Pub lunch possible.

Starting point: Mickleton Church. Please park with consideration for church users.
SP 162 435 • Map square F2

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Julie Downing

Saturday • 19 July • 10:00

Villages of the Ermin Way

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 11 miles

Exploring Cotswold architecture through the Duntisbournes, Daglingworth, Bull Banks, and Miserden Park. No pub so please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: South of the Pound Cottages in Winstone and on the roadside To Lodge.
SO 947 095 • Map square C5

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & E Currier

Sunday • 20 July • 10:30



Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park
ST 748 757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Fred Dugan & Sandy Higgins

Monday • 21 July • 10:00



Coffee Morning Walk No. 4, 'A Route to Nowhere'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30 and follows the Cotswold Way Loop over water meadows to the Stroudwater Canal, passes Stanley Mill, then climbs through ancient woods to viewpoints from Selsley Common. Pub lunch available after the walk if required.

Starting point: The Bell Inn, Selsley Common, Selsley. Please park considerately at the roadside. SO 835 038 • Map square B6

Leaders: John Graham & Eric Brown

Wednesday 23 July • 10:00

Wednesday Wander

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A high level walk with magnificent views, principally along sections of the Cotswold Way. We traverse Cleeve Hill via Wontley Farm to Belas Knap (Neolithic long barrow). The return descends to the north of Postlip and back to the start. Lunch available at the golf club.

Starting point: Cleeve Hill public Car Park past golf club. SO 991 272 • Map square D3

Leaders: J Foulkes, M Williams & R Hales

Thursday • 24 July • 10:00

Summer In Stanton

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Last in the series of seasonal walks exploring the footpaths around Stanton. We will climb up the escarpment and look for summer butterflies and flowers. Pub lunch available at the end.

Starting point: Stanton Village Car Park.
SP 067 344 • Map square E3

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Friday • 25 July • 10:00



Royalty and (Drug) Lords

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Winchcombe through the grounds of Sudeley Castle, St Kenelms Well, and Salters Hill, and back.

Starting point: Public Car Park by the library in Winchcombe; Pay & Display.
SP 024 283 • Map square D3

Leaders: P Cluley, G Ricketts & B Chilvers

Saturday • 26 July • 10:00



Box to Monkton Farleigh via The Avenue!

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

A climb out of the Avon valley through woods to Blue Vein, then the Macmillan way to the Avenue. Return via Monkton Farleigh, Kingsdown and Shockerwick. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Level or downhill after early climbs!

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4. ST 824 686 • Map square B10

Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Sunday • 27 July • 10:00



On the Edge

Moderate • 4 hours • 8 miles

A walk along part of the Fosse Way (Roman Road) to Combe Hay and along the Somerset Coal Canal to Midford before returning via South Stoke. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Odd Down Park and Ride
ST 733 617 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Tuesday • 29 July • 10:00



When is a barrow not a barrow?

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles

This walk in the Evenlode Valley has fine views and pretty villages with plenty of history. From Adlestrop it takes in Chastleton Barrow, Chastleton House and village, and Evenlode village. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Adlestrop Village Hall.
SP 242 272 • Map square G3

Leaders: Tony Graeme



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AUGUST

Friday • 1 Aug • 19:00



Summer Evening Walk No. 2, 'Harvest Home'

Easy • 1.5 hours • 3 miles

Join us on a gentle evening walk at harvest time from a historic Cotswold Inn. Take the opportunity to enjoy refreshment afterwards at the Inn.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn Car Park, Kingscote, by arrangement.
ST 815 960 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Friday • 1 Aug • 10:00

The Uncommons of Cleve Common

Moderate • max 5 hours • 4 to 5 miles

Explore the secret world of Cleve Common. With Conservation Officer Ellie Phillips, we will take a look at some of the Common's rarest species. Bring a packed lunch and sturdy footwear for scrambling over rougher areas.

Starting point: Cleve Hill Quarry Car Park – beyond the golf club.

SO 989 272 • Map square D4

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Saturday • 2 Aug • 10:00

Setting Sail

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

A visit to Compton Wyngates windmill then onto Lower Tysoe and Winderton. The walk returns via the medieval village of Chelmscote and Upper Brailes. Please bring a packed lunch though possible pub stop. Please park considerately around The Green.

Starting point: Sutton-under-Brailes Village Green. SP 300 373 • Map square G2

Leader: Janet Deller

Sunday • 3 Aug • 10:00

Lasborough, Old and New

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

A walk to Kingscote through the secluded valleys of Ozleworth Bottom and Lasborough Park. We return via Marlees Brook and Ozleworth Park. Pub at lunch stop for drinks only.

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

ST 782 931 • Map square B7

Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Hooper

Tuesday • 5 Aug • 10:00



Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for Pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne.
ST 818 711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Friday • 8 Aug • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk up Pen Hill to Elkstone village, then down to Lower Cockleford, before returning. The walk has a mixture of quiet lanes, footpaths, and tracks with excellent views. There are some steep ascents and descents. Lunch available at the Inn.

Starting point: Colesbourne Inn A435 (GL53 9NP). SP 000 133 • Map square D5

Leaders: C Dickinson, K Buckle & H Watkinson

Saturday • 9 Aug • 10:00

A Walk in the Park

Strenuous • 6 hours • 8 miles

An exploration of Woodchester Park, highlighting the work of the National Trust to create a more open park and of the Mansion Trust to increase access to the uncompleted house. A guided tour of Woodchester Mansion will be available before returning to the start point. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Car Park at Coaley Peak Picnic Site. SO 795 014 • Map square B6

Leader: David Owen

Sunday • 10 Aug • 14:30



Long Day, Short Day, Moreday and Muffitie

Easy • 1.5 hours • 2 miles

A village walk around Stonesfield, famous for production of the characteristic Cotswold slates. Suitable for families, but some short steep and uneven sections difficult for buggies and wheelchairs.

Starting point: Stonesfield Post Office.
SP 394 171 • Map square H4

Leader: Tony Graeme

Sunday • 10 Aug • 10:00



Over Solsbury Hill, to Bathford and Bannerdown

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

A climb to take in the views from Little Solsbury Hill, down through Bailbrook to Bathampton, then Bathford before climbing to Bannerdown Common and down to the St. Catherines valley. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

ST 762 683 • Map square A10

Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Tuesday • 12 Aug • 10:00

What's in the Wychwoods

Easy • 5 hours • 8 miles

The walk passes through all three of the Wychwood villages. We shall discover the charm of these well kept places and reveal some of their amazing history. Pub lunch available. Contact 07762019373 for further details.

Starting point: Shipton-under-Wychwood Village Hall. SP 278 181 • Map square G3

Leader: Gerald Simper

Wednesday • 13 Aug • 10:00



The Source of the Thames

Easy • 3 hours • 6.5 miles

An easy walk to the source of the Thames following part of the Monarch's Way and including Coates village and part of the former Thames and Severn canal. The walk includes a presentation on the history and role of the RAU. Refreshments available in Cirencester.

Starting point: Royal Agricultural University main car park Cirencester.
SP 005 014 • Map square D6

Leaders: A Wilson, P Burgon & J Shaw

Friday • 15 Aug • 10:00



Chastleton 'Plus' 1 – Walk and Visit the House

Easy • 3.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Arranged with the Trust so a tour of the House is possible after the walk. Delightful circuit including Little Compton, whose impressive house like Chastleton has Civil War connections, also the Iron Age Camp. Pub lunch/picnic at Little Compton.

House charges apply for non NT members.

Starting point: Chastleton House (National Trust) Car Park (signed off A436 Stow to Chipping Norton). SP 250 290 • Map square G3

Leaders: Julie Downing, Kevin Myhill & Dave Scott

Saturday • 16 Aug • 10:00



Marshfield: Town and Country

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4.25 miles

We walk along the High Street of this small medieval town to the almshouses, then take bridleways and lanes south to Ashwicke and return through the fields on footpaths (No stiles). Stay to enjoy Marshfield village day. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Market Place Marshfield.
ST 781 737 • Map square B9

Leaders: David Colbourne & John Bartram

Tuesday • 19 Aug • 10:00



Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4. ST 824 686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 19 Aug • 10:00

Hornleasow – a Classic Dry Cotswold Valley

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles

Climbing first we cross Bourton Downs to reach Hornleasow Quarry, an SSSI famous for Jurassic fossils. We then follow Hornleasow's dry valley down to Hinchwick Manor, returning along Diamond Way to our start point. Please bring packed lunch.

Starting point: On woodland verge 200m SW of Jockey Stable Cottages On minor road 0.5 mile WSW of Trooper's Cottage (A44 Bourton on the Hill to Broadway).
SP 140 329 • Map square E3

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Wednesday • 20 Aug • 10:00



Coffee Morning Walk No. 5, 'Hills and Valleys Around Hawkesbury'

Moderate • 4 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. Our walk over rolling green hills and through wooded valleys starts at 10:30. The route descends from Hawkesbury Upton to Hawkesbury church, then visits Hillesley and Lower Kilkott before returning via the Monarch's Way. Lunch available at pub after completion of walk if required.

Starting point: Beaufort Arms pub, Hawkesbury Upton.
ST 777 869 • Map square B8

Leaders: Eric Brown & David Harrowin

Thursday • 21 Aug • 10:00

Wardens' Way & Windrush Way Circular Walk 3

Moderate • 4 hours • 6.5 miles

A series making the most of Ways linking Winchcombe and Bourton-on-the-Water. From picturesque Guiting Power to Aylworth and Gazeley Wood on the Windrush Way and returning via delightful Naunton on the Wardens' Way. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Green. Please park considerately in village.

SP 094 248 • Map square E3

Leaders: Paul Adams, John Foster & Keith Sisson

Saturday • 23 Aug • 10:00

Whither Withington

Moderate • 7 hours • 12 miles

Along the Coln Valley through ancient woodland, by Norman churches and across the Wolds. Visiting Stowell, Chedworth, Withington, Cassey Compton, and Yanworth. Picnic or pub lunch.

Starting point: Hangman's Stone layby. On road South off A40 east of old Puesdown Inn.
SP 089 152 • Map square E4

Leaders: J Heathcott, J Woodland & K Buckle

23-24 Aug



Traditional Crafts Weekend

Come along for a visit and an opportunity to watch traditional craftsmen displaying their skills. Normal admission prices apply.

Venue: Chedworth Roman Villa

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chedworth

Sunday • 24 Aug • 10:30



Dyrham: Park and Countryside

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park
ST 748 757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Sid Gould & John Bartram



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www.waterpark.org





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www.laurielee.org
www.stroudartsfestival.org
www.museuminthepark.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday • 2 Sep • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Not suitable for Pushchairs.

Starting point: Fox & Hounds, Colerne.

ST 818 711 • Map square B9

Leaders: Russell Harding, Judith Slee, Sid Gould & Bobby Collins

Wednesday • 3 Sep • 10:00

Cotswold Way circular walk from Birdlip

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

A rewarding circuit with extensive views across the vale. One long steep descent and an undulating return, taking in Witcombe and the Roman Villa and Witcombe Wood. Can be muddy. Lunch available at the pub.

Starting point: Royal George Car Park, Birdlip.

SO 925 144 • Map square C4

Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgon & A Wilson

Wednesday • 3 Sep • 10:00

By the Sherborne Brook & Windrush Water Meadows

Moderate • 6 hours • 9.5 miles

Through the National Trust village of Sherborne to the River Windrush & its water meadows then on to The Fox at Little Barrington for lunch (or bring a packed lunch). Return via Windrush and Sherborne villages.

Starting point: Ewepen Barn National Trust

Car Park. SP 158 143 • Map square F4

Leader: Bob Fisher

Saturday • 06 Sep • 10:00

A Walk in Time

Moderate • 6 hours • 9 miles

Walk back in time as we explore the Bronze and Iron Age hilltop remains in the woods and countryside around the villages of Nympsfield, Owlpen and Uley. Pub lunch available or bring a picnic lunch.

Starting point: Car Park at Coaley Peak Picnic Site. SO 795 014 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Owen & Steve Knight

Saturday • 06 Sep • 10:00

Siston Court Circular (National Trust Walking Festival)

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12 miles

Strenuous because of length. No hills! Dyrham was modelled on Siston so the walk will get as close as we can and then return on the old turnpike that went between them. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

No park admission fees for those participating in the walk.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park

ST 748 757 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

6 Sep-5 Oct

Laurie Lee: Poetry, Paintings and Drawings

This exhibition shows a collection of recently discovered sketches, drawings and paintings by the celebrated Stroud-born writer.

Venue: Museum in the Park

www.museuminthepark.org.uk

6-7 Sep 14

Northleach Steam & Vintage Show

A traditional country steam show and ale festival with full size and scale steam engines, stationary engines, classic cars, vintage tractors, vintage motorcycles, military and commercial vehicles, stalls, crafts, live music during the day and beer tent. £5 adults/children free.

Venue: Northleach

www.northleachsteamshow.co.uk

Wednesday • 10 Sep • 10:00

Chastleton and The Four Shires

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Chastleton House is a National Trust property tucked away in West Oxfordshire. Little has changed over the last three centuries as this circular walk explores the wider setting. Option after the walk enjoy a picnic and visit the house independently.

Starting point: Chastleton House Car Park.

SP 250 290 • Map square G3

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday • 12 Sep • 10:00

Limpley Stoke and Sally in the woods to Browne's Folly SSSI

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

Ridge Walk from Monkton Farleigh into the Limpley Stoke valley returning via the river Avon to Warleigh, Sally-in-the-Woods and Browne's Folly SSSI. Bring a picnic lunch but refreshments available at Dundas Marina Café. Drinks in the pub afterwards!

Starting point: Kings Arms (recently renamed the Muddy Duck) Pub Car Park in Monkton Farleigh. ST 804 655 • Map square B10

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Keith Daulby

Friday • 12 Sep • 10:00

Friday Foray

Strenuous • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

From Eastcombe to Bisley via Nashend, then to the Scrubbs and Piedmont and back to Eastcombe. Pub lunch available at The Lamb Eastcombe. Please park considerately in the village. Via paths and quiet lanes through farmland, villages, and woods with one steep climb at the end.

Starting point: Eastcombe, by the village green. SO 891 044 • Map square C5

Leaders: H Watkinson, C Dickinson & K Buckle

Tuesday • 16 Sep • 10:00

Box and surrounding countryside – a morning walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A series of monthly walks from Box into the surrounding countryside. Some hills, giving good views in good weather. May be muddy following wet weather. Please bring drink and snack for mid-morning break. Lunch may be obtained afterwards in village pubs, and cafes.

Starting point: Selwyn Hall free Car Park, Box – Off the A4. ST 824 686 • Map square B10

Leaders: Judith Slee & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 16 Sep • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 6, 'From Toots to Teashop'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The stile-free walk starts at 10:30 from the Bell Inn to viewpoints from Selsley Common, then on the Cotswold Way through Penn Woods to Coaley Peak viewpoint. We will return via a permissive bridleway. Pub lunch available after the walk if required.

Starting point: The Bell Inn, Selsley Common. Please park considerately at the roadside.

SO 835 038 • Map square B6

Leaders: John Graham & Eric Brown

Wednesday • 17 Sep • 10:00

Four Tythings

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A pleasant walk around the Spoonbed Valley and over Painswick Beacon. One long ascent to the top of the beacon where views stretch to Malvern, the Black mountains, and the Severn Estuary.

Starting point: Walkers Car Park on Golf Course Rd. off the B4073.

SO 868 105 • Map square C5

Leaders: R Hales, M Williams & J Foulkes

Thursday • 18 Sep • 10:00

Wardens' Way & Windrush Way Circular Walk 4

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

A series making the most of Ways linking Winchcombe and Bourton-on-the-Water. Following the Wardens' Way from Bourton through Lower and Upper Slaughter to Naunton, returning on the Windrush Way via medieval Lower Harford. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bourton on the Water War Memorial. SP 167 207 • Map square F4

Leaders: Paul Adams, John Foster & Keith Sisson

Saturday • 20 Sep • 10:00

Along the By-Brook

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk to Long Dean, Ford and West Kington taking in a Nature reserve off the public path (with permission). Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Castle Combe public Car Park. ST 845 773 • Map square B9

Leaders: John Walker & Keith Rawlings

Saturday • 20 Sep • 10:00

Exploring Hidden Valleys to Misarden Park

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 10 miles

Exploring ancient sites along the River Frome, taking in a varied landscape towards the arboretum and lake at Misarden Park. Return via Caudle Green. Picnic or pub snacks in Miserden. Suitable for families with care.

Starting point: By Birdlip school on the disused road east of the village. (Old A417).

SP 929 142 • Map square C5

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart & E Currier

Saturday • 20 Sep • 10:00

Yet More Manor Houses in the North Cotswolds

Moderate • 7 hours • 11 miles

From Adlestrop through the Oddingtons to Mangersbury, then on to Bledington for lunch before returning through Daylesford. Pub lunch available in Bledington.

Starting point: Adlestrop Village Hall Car Park (Honesty box). SP 241 272 • Map square G3

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sunday • 21 Sep • 10:00

Discover North Oxfordshire's Ironstone Railways

Strenuous • 6 hours • 12 miles

From the Civil War village of Ratley this walk explores the ironstone country of the North Cotswolds with its network of old railways and pretty villages. Please bring a packed lunch and park considerately along the roadside.

Starting point: Ratley road junction.

SP 381 474 • Map square H1

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires



OPEN DAILY From 10.30am

www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk
 info@cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk
 01451 840307

Guiting Power, Cheltenham
 GL54 5UG

Adam Watsons Cotswold Farm Park

Tuesday • 23 Sep • 10:00

Evenlode Valley no.7 Stonesfield & The Glyme

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9 miles

The last of the series of walks following the Evenlode. From Stonesfield it follows footpaths south of the river to Long Handborough. It enters Blenheim Park by the Springlock Gate close to Glyme returning via Combe.

Please bring packed lunch.

Starting point: Stonesfield Church.

SP 393 170 • Map square H4

Leader: Anne Martis

Friday • 26 Sep • 10:00

The south Painswick Valley

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A moderate walk around the Painswick Valley with some steep ascents. Refreshments available at the leisure centre or in Stroud and Painswick.

Starting point: Stroud Leisure Centre Car Park. Park at the top. SO 847 057 • Map square C5

Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & G Ricketts

Saturday • 27 Sep • 10:30

Dyrham: Park and Countryside (National Trust walking Festival)

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold way, passing historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees to those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park

ST 748 757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Sandy Higgins & Dave Jennings

Sunday • 28 Sep • 10:00

A walk around the valleys of St. Catherines

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk down the valley to St Catherine's Court and Motcombe Wood. Please bring a picnic lunch. Some steep hills! Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Lay-By off the A420 West of Marshfield. ST 772 738 • Map square B9

Leaders: Dave Jennings & Wilf Dando

Tuesday • 30 Sep • 10:00

Fabulous Ford Figure of Eight

Moderate • 3 to 6 hours • 4 to 9 miles

Two circuits centred on the Plough. Our choice of route on the day will make the most of some heavenly scenery and inevitably include the Upper Windrush Valley. Walkers may choose am, pm or both. Approximate afternoon start 1.30pm, from same Car Park. Pub lunch optional.

Starting point: Ford, The Plough Inn (Car Park opposite). SP 088 294 • Map square E3

Leaders: Julie Downing & Alison Clifton-Barnard

Lots happening at the Old Prison

It's been non-stop activity at the Old Prison at Northleach in recent months, with the opening of a popular new café plus year-round lively events, from children's dinosaur mask-making to themed walks and talks, plus tours of the prison itself – a former 18th-century house of correction.



Since conservation charity the Friends of the Cotswolds acquired the impressive Grade II*-listed building last July, there has been huge community support for its development as a vibrant visitor hub: building on the existing Escape to the Cotswolds visitor centre and the nationally important Lloyd-Baker Collection of Rural Life.

The new Cotswold Lion Café, selling delicious locally sourced,

homemade food and offering special deals to mums and toddlers, families and over-60s, has quickly gained fans among local residents and visitors alike. The café – and the historic court room – may also be hired, offering ideal venues for children's parties, business meetings and other celebrations and events.

Another new chapter in fundraising opens too. The Friends in partnership with the Cotswolds Conservation Board – main tenants

of the Old Prison – submit a Stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) this April.

A successful bid will boost plans to develop the site as a major visitor centre, showcasing the UK's best 19th and early 20th-century collection of farm wagons and promoting understanding and enjoyment of the Cotswolds, through exciting displays, rural skills demonstrations and training, local produce and much more. It is hoped to raise donations to provide match-funding as part of the HLF application.

"We are extremely grateful for the enthusiastic community support for this project, in terms of people's time and their generous donations," Friends' Chairman Simon Randall says. "Over £100,000 has already been raised towards the sum we need to realise our exciting plans.

"Further donations, to provide match-funding, will help to make our HLF bid a success, and secure the future of the Old Prison for all to enjoy."

Events at the Old Prison

- Farmers & Craft Market – 5 April
- Rock & Fossil Roadshow – 12 April
- Easter Egg Hunt & Family Easter Sunday Roast – 20 April
- Birds & Breakfast 'early birds' walk – 26 April & 31 May
- May Day Celebration – 5 May
- Family Day with children's activities – 28 May
- Pig Roast and Band Night – 20 June
- History Tour of the Old Prison – 9 July

Plus regular promotions:

- Parent & Toddler – Wednesday mornings
- Over 60s meal deal – Thursday lunchtimes: £6.75 – two courses

For further details of all events, go to www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk or 'like' us at

www.facebook.com/oldprison

A unique venue for hire

You can hire the café, Court Room and exhibition gallery for your own events, meetings and special occasions. For details of hire charges and catering, please contact Louisa Davison on 01451 861563 or email: lioncafe@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Sample fine local produce

The Cotswold Lion Café uses local suppliers where it can to provide the best quality raw ingredients in order to make our homemade specials.

Cotswold suppliers include:

- Simon Weaver in Upper Slaughter for organic Cotswold Brie
- David's chilli oil in Cheltenham
- R-Oil in Lower Swell for rapeseed oil
- The Roastery and Barista Academy in Witney for coffee
- Jeeves and Jericho in Witney for loose teas
- Hayles Fruit Farm near Winchcombe for apple juice
- Watermoor meats in Cirencester for fresh meat
- North's Bakery in Winchcombe for fresh bread

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

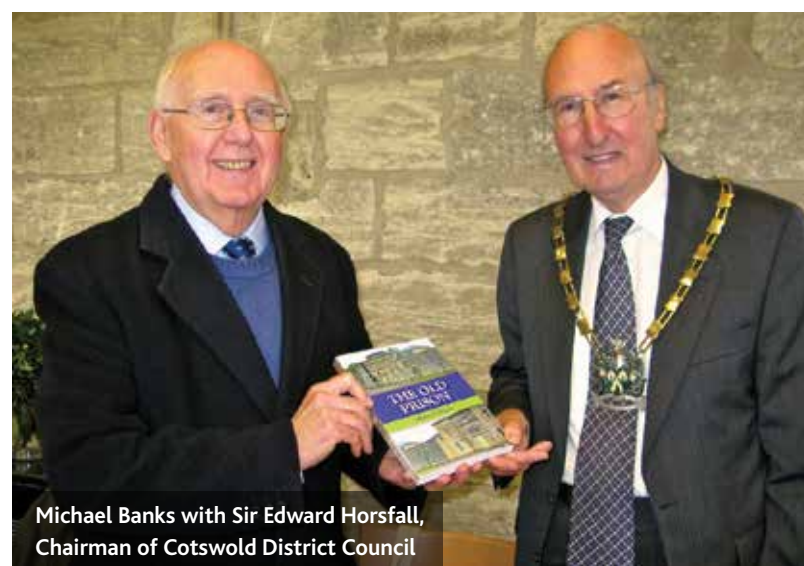
- The enclosed donation of £ _____ as a Gift Aid donation as I am a UK tax payer and authorise the Friends to reclaim tax currently at 25p in the £.
- All donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

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Michael Banks with Sir Edward Horsfall, Chairman of Cotswold District Council

Read the story of *The Old Prison*

The fascinating story of *The Old Prison* at Northleach is now available thanks to a new book recently published by the Friends of the Cotswolds and written by local historian Michael Banks.

Featuring a foreword by Lord Vestey, *The Old Prison – the Story of the House of Correction at Northleach*, is an in-depth account of this Grade II* listed building, from its inception in the mid-18th century to its closure as a Petty Sessional Court in 1974, right up to the present day and the purchase of the building by the Friends in 2013.

The book was launched at an event last December, celebrating the opening of the Cotswold Lion Café.