

Cotswold Lion

Issue 32 • Spring/Summer 2015

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Save our Magnificent Meadows

Project grows to transform fortunes of vanishing wildflower grasslands

A wildflower grassland week, botanical surveys, walks, talks and plenty of scrub bashing are all among activities firing local interest in a project to enhance the Cotswolds' famous landscape.

The three-year Save our Magnificent Meadows project, launched in May 2014, aims to restore up to 1,125ha (2,780 acres) of wildflower-rich limestone grasslands in the AONB. Initial response among public and landowners has been "really positive", says Magnificent Meadows Conservation Officer, Eleanor Reast:

"So many individuals and groups are already proud of the grasslands in their communities and have approached us to ask how they can help. We want to reconnect even more people with the wonders of our wildflower grasslands and hope they will join in with the project, even in the smallest way, to create a lasting legacy for the landscape of the Cotswolds."

Wildlife-rich grasslands were once widespread throughout the UK but have seriously declined, largely due to changed land management practices. Only 2% of meadows that existed in the 1930s remain. The Cotswolds

contains 3,000ha (7,413 acres) – over 50% – of the UK's Jurassic unimproved limestone grassland.

"It is a habitat that is not only important in its own right but is also crucial for many different species," Eleanor says. Limestone grassland supports rare and declining plants like frog and bee orchids, the pasqueflower and Cotswold pennycress, as well as nationally rare butterflies such as the chalkhill blue and Duke of Burgundy.

Save our Magnificent Meadows aims to conserve and restore just under 6,000ha (14,826 acres) of wildflower meadows and grasslands across the UK.

Primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the £3m project is the UK's largest partnership project transforming the fortunes of wildflower meadows, grasslands and wildlife. Led by Plantlife, the partnership is made up of 11 organisations, including the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

"In the Cotswolds we will be particularly working along the scarp and river valleys," Eleanor says. "The main focus is not the management of already existing high-quality grassland sites, but targeting the low-

quality and former wildflower-rich grasslands that often surround them. By connecting existing meadows we will enlarge and buffer them, making

them more resilient and robust to large-scale environmental change."

Eleanor has been providing advice to landowners on how to improve

their grassland for wildflowers, and a seed harvester has been purchased to

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Pasqueflowers thrive on limestone grassland



Around the Cotswolds

Dark skies

The Rollright Stones, Oxfordshire, has been awarded Dark Sky Discovery Site status as a top spot to stargaze away from light pollution. Noted as a place where the Milky Way is visible to the naked eye, it is regularly used by Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group and has featured on BBC *The Sky at Night* and *Stargazing LIVE*, www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk

More than a cookery book

Home-made cakes in the restaurant at Painswick Rococo Garden are such a hit with visitors that the Friends of the Rococo Garden have produced a recipe book featuring some favourites, alongside temptations of their own and from local hotels and pubs. *More than just a cookery book* also includes lovely photos from the garden and gardening tips. Priced £9.99, it's available from local shops and online at www.rococogarden.org.uk

Walking festival

Stretch your legs at Corsham's second Walking Festival, 12–14 June. The historic Wiltshire market town, awarded Walkers are Welcome status in 2014, is hosting 22 varied walks offering something for everyone, plus evening entertainment. Find more information at www.corshamforwalking.org.uk and make bookings from mid March via Pound Arts, whose summer festival coincides with the walking, www.poundarts.org.uk

New farm stays for students

Brand new eco-friendly accommodation featuring nine en suite bedrooms and a large communal room has been created at The Farm, for students and residential courses/seminars. Through a range of experiences The Farm, on Abbey Home Farm near Cirencester, connects young people with healthy, real food and how it is produced organically, www.thefarm.education

collect seeds from species-rich donor sites for broadcasting onto less diverse grassland nearby.

She hopes to meet more farmers and landowners who are interested in collaborating on Magnificent Meadows and she is recruiting Landowner Champions to help advocate the project's ideas and best practices.

Matt Darby, who manages Kemerton Estate in the northwest of the Cotswolds with his father Adrian, is one such Landowner Champion. Over more than two decades, the Kemerton Estate, a mixed farming business, has been working to restore some 47ha (115 acres) of wildflower-rich grassland and has reverted around 27ha (68 acres) from arable to grassland under stewardship schemes.

"One of the things we hope to achieve with the help of Save our Magnificent Meadows is to get a better diversity of sward appearing in the reversion areas," Matt says.

"For me, the chief perk of being a farmer is living in the countryside, seeing plants and animals which are such a rich part of life. A world without skylarks, cowslips, curlews and common blue butterflies would be immeasurably poorer, and I believe as farmers we must leave a little space for nature. It gives us so much in return.

"I see the role [of Landowner Champion] as persuading other farmers to avail themselves of this opportunity. Historically, one-size-fits-all agricultural subsidies encouraged farmers to apply fertilisers and herbicides to marginal grassland. In a number of cases this wasn't cost effective and the application of inputs was later stopped, but the damage had by then been done.

"Many farms will have bits of marginal grassland that have great potential to be rich in wildflowers. Magnificent Meadows offers a helping hand to farmers who think that their farms will be enhanced by a little more natural beauty on display."

Magnificent Meadows events, open days and guided walks for the



public, plus educational visits to schools are planned to further raise awareness of the importance of species-rich grassland. A landmark Cotswold Grassland Week, 6–14 June, will feature a range of diverse activities from talks and walks to fascinating discovery days and plenty of fun for families.

Community Champions are also being sought to help spread the project's message and encourage people, particularly in urban areas like Gloucester, Cheltenham and Banbury on the edges of the AONB, to benefit from the natural environment on their doorstep.

There are lots of opportunities for volunteers to help with practical habitat management, Eleanor says. "We've already had working parties clearing scrub on the National Trust's Sherborne Estate to make way for

wildflowers and they are hoping to bring back grazing there to ensure scrub doesn't take over again, plus we've done scrub clearing in the Trust's Woodchester Park ready for re-seeding."

Botanical surveying, seed collecting and sowing, haymaking and scything on small landholdings, with training provided, are among other volunteer activities.

"We aim to survey sites we are restoring before seeding and then to monitor them in successive years," Eleanor says. "We want to train up 12 botanical recorders by the time the Save our Magnificent Meadows project ends in June 2017, so that they can continue to carry things forward: feeding data into local record centres as well as being able to show landowners they've helped create an area of land much richer in species.

"Three years is such a short time in the life of a meadow and we need efforts to be self-sustaining beyond that, which is why volunteers and champions are so important," she concludes. "The rewards of their work will be all around them as they see the seeds they've sown come up as stunning wildflowers. For children it can ignite a lifelong interest in wildlife too. It's a real opportunity to make a difference."

Sponsorship & Advertising

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



info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk
01451 862000



Get involved in Save our Magnificent Meadows

For information and events, see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/getting-involved/wildflower-grasslands

Would you like advice on restoring species-rich grassland? Do you already have wildflower-rich grassland and would like to donate seed? Contact Conservation Officer Eleanor Reast, email: Eleanor.reast@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk, tel: 01451 862036.

Find out about volunteering from Community Engagement Officer Katherine Holmes, email: Katherine.holmes@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk, tel: 01451 862038.

To contact Matt Darby, Landowner Champion, email: matt@kemerton.com

For more information on Save our Magnificent Meadows, visit www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk

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www.facebook.com/cotswoldsaonb

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Editor: Nicola Greaves

Chief Writer: Sian Ellis

Designed by: www.touchmedia.uk.net



Rural revels

Morris dancing, shin kicking and river football – it's the taking part that counts!

Laurie Lee, writing in *Cider with Rosie*, described early 20th-century life in Slad as an inexorable cycle in which “The year revolved around the village, the festivals round the year, the church round the festivals, the Squire round the church, and the village round the Squire.”

As ever, he had captured the heartbeat of rural community, and though today squires may be somewhat thin on the ground, revels continue to be part of the social glue that makes life in the Cotswolds fun: fetes from Slad to Colerne, country shows from Stroud to Moreton-in-Marsh, and Morris dancers, never more than a hop or hanky wave away, marking high points in the calendar.

Morris traces its roots in England to the 15th century and Cotswold Morris, collected and recorded by Cecil Sharp in the early 20th century, is perhaps the best-known variety of the tradition. Each side has its own steps and dances – Fieldtown (Charlbury Morris) or Border (Wychwayz Border Morris), for example, while Ilmington dances have been exported as far away as the USA. You can catch the Ilmington side performing, among other places, at the Church of St George in Lower Brailes on St George's Day or on Ilmington Downs at Larkstoke at dawn on May Day.

Chipping Campden Morris Men, whose records date back to circa 1730, dance a unique tradition, with what's often described as a “bicycle” step, says Tim Sexton, Campden's Foolish Squire (Morris titles and roles are a book in themselves). “In time to the music, the hands and feet move as if walking, but where the foot is in contact with the ground it performs a small hop and a drag back. A bit like the 'moonwalk'.

“We are a very family orientated side,” he adds. “A lot of the older sides would pass down their tradition through father and son.”

Wap, wells, cheese and wool

The Cotswolds is also renowned for its unusual customs. Randwick Wap combines a series of events including a church service and ceremonial cheese rolling for good luck (3 May), and culminates in Wap Day (9 May) featuring a procession, more cheese rolling, dunking of the Mayor at the Mayor's Pool and a fayre.



The Traditional Ilmington Morris Men

“The key elements combine pagan, Christian and other civil activities,” says Cal Williams, Vice President of the Wap Committee, explaining that these eclectic strands seem to have been fused in a celebration to mark the 13th-century completion of Randwick's parish church. ‘Wap’ may derive from the Saxon ‘wappenshaw’ (weapon show) when villagers proved their preparedness for a call to arms, and became intertwined with peasant and church-based customs around spring, fertility and the blessing of produce.

“Revival of the Wap in 1972 by the late Revd Nial Morrison with the support of local folk historians was focused on bringing people together – and very successful it has been,” Cal says.

May also sees Bisley Well Dressing, an Ascension Day custom begun in 1863 by the local vicar, Revd Thomas Keble, after the seven springs that once provided the main source of water for

the community were remodelled.

Yet more cheese rolling, down the vertiginous slopes of Cooper's Hill, Brockworth, raises the banner for madcap sports (25 May). Whether it derives from Roman times, a rite of passage for local lads, or some other bright idea, is not clear, nor what inspires folk to hurl themselves after a 7-8lb Double Gloucester – except the glory of winning and scoffing it.

Meanwhile Cotswold woollen traditions are upheld, literally and strenuously, at the annual Tetbury Woolsack Races on Gumstool Hill (25 May). Probably originating in the 17th century with young drovers showing off to local women by running uphill carrying a woolsack, nowadays it's a ‘fun’ way for individuals and teams to demonstrate their strength and fitness.

Games afoot

Anyone with a muscular sense of humour should also take in the Cotswold Olympics in the natural amphitheatre of Dover's Hill above Chipping Campden (29 May). Dating from 1612, when promoted by lawyer Robert Dover to encourage manly sports “for the harmless mirthe and jollitie of the neighbourhood”, they are “the first celebration of the modern Olympics,” says Graham Greenall, chairman of Robert Dover's Games Society (see also *Cotswold Lion*, Spring/Summer 2012).



Cheese rolling at Randwick Wap

They certainly put a local twist on the ancient Games of Greece with disciplines like (now world-famous) shin kicking and displays of backwords. Surviving attack from killjoy Puritans as well as interruption by civil war and enclosure of Dover's Hill, they prevail with a “traditionality and quaintness that we need to defend,” Graham says. “They are part and parcel of the place.”

Campden celebrations continue the following day with the Scuttlebrook Wake that sees the procession and crowning of the Scuttlebrook May Queen, dancing by Chipping Campden Morris Men and a fair.

Not to be outdone, Bourton-on-the-Water River Football on August Bank Holiday Monday has been making a splash since 1880, with two six-a-side teams from Bourton Rovers FC competing in the River Windrush.

“The rules are the same as for any football game, but not always strictly adhered to,” advises Bourton-on-the-Water Visitor Information Centre. “It's possible it started as a bit of fun during the annual village get together, Bourton Club Day.” Crowds regularly make for Rovers' largest attendance of the season.

So much for summer – later months bring their own quirky revels – and what to make of all these Cotswold traditions that, despite their arcane origins, survive against all the odds? Perhaps their popularity continues because through them we have a chance to reaffirm connections with our ancestors, re-boot our spirits, and reinvigorate our sense of community: it's the taking part that counts.

For further information on events around the Cotswolds, see page 12.



Children from Bisley Blue Coat C of E Primary School celebrate Bisley Well Dressing

Just add water

Cotswold rivers and streams are the liquid history of the AONB landscape



Cleveland Lakes, Cotswold Water Park

Jill Bewley

Mention the Cotswolds and what springs to mind? The escarpment, golden limestone villages, wool churches and farmland? Water rarely tops the list of immediate mental images and yet it is everywhere, the very mood music of the most quintessential scenes: the Slaughters linked by the River Eye, Castle Combe beside the By Brook, madcap Football in the River at Bourton-on-the-Water (see page 3).

Rivers like the Churn, Coln, Leach and Windrush rise on the scarp and run southeast, along with the Evenlode, to join the Thames (which has its official source at Thames Head). Smaller rivers to the north of the AONB flow into the Warwickshire Avon, those of the south and west run into the Bristol Avon, and those like the Chelt, Frome and Cam run northwest to the River Severn.

It all adds up to a veritable network of liquid history: from the rivers and streams, and torrents of glacial meltwaters following the Ice Ages, which carved the Cotswolds' distinctive valleys through millennia of erosion; to the fast-flowing streams that powered Stroud Valleys mills in the 17th/18th-century heydays of woollen cloth manufacture.

Today canals that once bustled with trade provide opportunities for leisure, with walking along the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn, and rambling, cycling and boating along the Kennet and Avon to the south. Numerous river stretches may be fished (see for example Cotswold Flyfishers, www.cotswoldflyfishers.co.uk). And Cotswold spring water slips down a treat in beers from the likes of Hook Norton Brewery.

Enhancing habitat

Such a precious resource requires careful management. The limestone aquifer beneath the AONB and the rivers that it feeds are a key supply of drinking water to people as far away as London, the South East and Birmingham. While the calcareous substrate of the Cotswolds naturally lends itself to clear, clean h₂O, much work is ongoing, in farming and other sectors, to maintain quality and restore it where it has slipped.

Increasing appreciation of the significance of water habitat for flora and fauna has also seen exciting wildlife initiatives in recent years, not least Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Cotswold Rivers Living Landscape Programme to reconnect and restore healthy river habitats throughout the region (www.gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk).

Having focused predominantly on the Windrush catchment before moving across to the Coln, since 2010 the programme has advised 127 landowners on management of their watercourses for water voles and other wildlife.

Surveys in recent decades had shown an 83% decline in water vole populations in Gloucestershire (mirroring decline across the UK). Following measures like scrub clearance, deployment of mink rafts and livestock fencing to protect riverbanks, the latest survey for water voles over 110km (68 miles) of Cotswold River watercourses is "very encouraging", says Water Vole Officer, John Field:

"Where water voles had been absent in the

areas we surveyed, they are now [categorised as] rare, and everywhere else they have moved from either rare to occasional or from occasional up to frequent. It has been a very positive programme."

Project activities aim to be "as multi-species and multi-objective as possible," John says, in order to satisfy the EU Water Framework Directive to make rivers of good ecological and chemical status, as well as benefit specific wildlife.

Elsewhere, Cotswold Water Park, on the doorstep of the AONB, combines conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats for native species like waterbirds, bats, dragonflies and orchids, with a fantastic diversity of leisure activities across 104sq km (40sq miles) and 150 lakes: from angling to watersports, birdwatching and cycling (www.waterpark.org).



Creating a 'leaky dam'

Managing water flow

Water catchments in the AONB have an increasing role to play in response to climate change too, not simply in the provision of water supplies but also in the control of flooding.

Managing water flow is nothing new – irrigated water meadows beside rivers produced lush grazing and an 'early bite' of grass for sheep.

Now a Stroud Valleys scheme is at the forefront of Natural Flood Management, also known as Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems (RSuDS).

For topographical and other reasons, hard-engineered solutions (like concrete barriers) are considered unsuitable on the River Frome and its tributaries in alleviating flooding seen in the Stroud Valleys in recent years. RSuDS, involving an extensive partnership of land managers and local stakeholders, and with support from local flood action groups, could provide one answer.

"We can take numerous measures to slow down water flow at peak periods when floods arise, or divert water onto places where there will be no adverse impact," says Chris Uttley, Rural SuDS Project Officer spearheading the three-year project.

One measure already underway, in conjunction with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the National Trust, is to put large woody debris into the watercourse at various sites in the Slad Valley and at Sheepscombe: to create 'leaky dams', which act as baffles to slow flow at flood peaks. Additionally, such leaky dams help to remove silt, a major contributor to flooding and a pollutant for aquatic wildlife.

"Such natural management is very cost effective because it reduces flood risk, improves the quality of the stream and it has benefits for wildlife," Chris says. The aim is to roll out this and other RSuDS measures across the 235sq km (90sq mile) Frome catchment.

RSuDS might also provide one solution to the Environment Agency, as it currently considers flood management plans for the Thames and Severn basins, both of which are impacted by Cotswold catchments.

Cotswold liquid history continues to evolve and flow.

For more information on Stroud RSuDS, contact Project Officer Chris Uttley, email: chris.uttley@stroud.gov.uk, tel: 01453 754464. Twitter: @Stroud_RSuDS



Works to re-establish the riverbank

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



Water voles are on the increase

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Points of view

Stunning viewpoints around the AONB unfold stories of landscape and man, and send spirits soaring

“With the exception of love, there is perhaps nothing else by which people of all kinds are more united than by their pleasure in a good view.”

So wrote Kenneth Clark in *Landscape into Art* (1949), and who hasn't stood sharing a beautiful panorama, wondering also about the people who have paused on that very spot, maybe centuries earlier, and if they felt a same sense of peace or exhilaration?

Thanks to the dramatic geology of the Cotswolds, we have a magnificent array of elevated viewpoints, along the western edge of the escarpment, the high wold and commons, rolling hills and valleys, as well as the curious outliers eroded from the scarp like Brailes Hill. Big skies and long-distance scenes stretch for ever; sun, shadows and scudding clouds paint transient moods and colours.

Many inspiring viewpoints along

the 84km (52-mile) scarp – including Stinchcombe Hill, Painswick Beacon, Cleeve Hill and Common – may be reached from the Cotswold Way. In 2010 local landscape painter Rupert Aker walked the entire route, capturing changing scenes as he went. He recalls:

“My most memorable moment was reaching Barrow Wake and Crickley Hill at sunset; the warm light and long shadows; the blue Malverns and May Hill across the vale. Ignoring the sprawl of Gloucester and Cheltenham beneath me, there was something timeless and humbling about watching the sun set that day, something our Neolithic ancestors too would have gazed upon, along with so many generations in between.”

Cotswolds-based landscape painter Guy Warner also enjoys the freedom of roaming footpaths through the hills, a feeling he seeks to capture in



Longborough, Gloucestershire

Nick Turner



Sharing the view at Stinchcombe Hill

Nick Turner

his work. “There is something special about being able to see a great distance and pick out towns and villages that you know,” he reflects. “It gives a reassuring sense of your place in the landscape.”

Guy's favourite view is from Stow-on-the-Wold looking down into the Dikler valley from the Fosse Way close to the junction with the Evesham and Tewkesbury roads:

“It is a rare window from the bustling town centre onto the peaceful and idyllic landscape which lies all around. As the view is to the west it is often suffused with misty, warm light as the sun drops towards

the horizon, and lifts my spirits whenever I go past.”

Poets, painters, musicians, all have been moved by diverse Cotswold prospects, and it's not simply the natural beauty – the vast sweep of the Evenlode Valley from Milton Downs, Ilmington and the roof of Warwickshire – that captivates. Centuries of history, encapsulated in a glance, stir the imagination too: Sudeley Castle wrapped around by field and tree, seen from the Cotswold Way above Winchcombe; a hilltop look down onto the plain where the 1642 Battle of Edgehill raged.

Viewpoints themselves physically resonate as dominant landmarks, like the massive outlier of Bredon Hill with its traces of Iron Age hill forts that took strategic advantage of its elevation.

Sir Simon Jenkins writes in *England's 100 Best Views* of “Bath's marriage of architecture and landscape”: peering up to the backdrop of wooded hills from certain streets is every bit as special

as peering down into the city from Bath Skyline walk. Cheltenham and Cleeve Hill and Common enjoy similar symbiosis, while Broadway Tower is an iconic beacon in the landscape as much as a top spot for bird's eye views.

Vistas into and out of the Cotswolds, to and from favourite viewpoints are precious. With AONB designation, there are many safeguards to keep it that way, although change, some concerning, goes on all the time – trees developing along particular verges of the Fosse Way that have closed off views; scrub growing into trees at The Peak near Birdlip that threaten to obscure the outlook.

Mostly, though, our viewpoints continue to reveal the evolving beauty and stories in their surrounding landscapes, to enrich and unite everyone who seeks them out.

For more information about Cotswold landscapes by Rupert Aker visit www.rupertaker.com; and by Guy Warner at www.guywarner.co.uk

Favourite viewpoints

What is your favourite Cotswolds viewpoint and why? Let us know and we'll share a few in future issues of the *Cotswold Lion*. Email us at info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or write to the address on page 2. In the meantime, feast your eyes from these:

Bath Skyline

The National Trust's most downloaded walk takes in 9.6km (6 miles) of changing scenes through hidden valleys and beech woods, interspersed with magnificent vistas over the World Heritage City and to the Mendip Hills, www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Bredon Hill

A E Housman waxed lyrical here and from the summit you can have panoramic views of the escarpment, Vale of Evesham, Malverns and Severn Vale, www.naturalengland.org.uk

Broadway Tower

The Capability Brown-inspired folly on an ancient beacon site is the second highest point in the Cotswolds

at 312m (1,024ft) above sea level. Peer from the roof platform over patchwork fields to Welsh mountains in one direction and Buckinghamshire in another, www.broadwaytower.co.uk

Cleeve Hill

Rising to 330m (1,083ft) above sea level, the Cotswolds' highest point is famous for panoramas that sweep from Cheltenham over the Malverns, Severn Vale and the Forest of Dean to the mountains of Wales, www.cleevecommon.org.uk

Kilkenny Viewpoint and Picnic Area

Also known as Cold Comfort Common, the re-colonised quarry workings and limestone grasslands near Andoversford are surrounded by views of rolling Cotswold farmland, www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/parks

Tyndale Monument

Honouring local man William Tyndale, burned for heresy in 1536 after daring to translate and print the New Testament in English, the 34m (111ft) tower atop Nibley Knoll gives 360-degree enjoyment of the curving escarpment, to the Severn estuary and beyond, www.northnibley.org.uk/html/monument.html



Crickley Hill by Rupert Aker

'Your Cotswolds' – photography competition

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Cotswolds AONB and to celebrate the occasion we are launching a photography competition – with fantastic prizes

The Cotswolds was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1966 in recognition of its rich, diverse and high quality landscape. It is the country's largest AONB: covering 2,038sq km (790sq miles) from Warwickshire and Worcestershire in the north, through Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, down to Bath and Wiltshire in the south.

Throughout 2016 exciting events and activities are planned to celebrate its 50th anniversary, including a photography competition in partnership with Cotswolds Tourism. We are asking amateur photographers of all ages to send up to three digital images which they feel best reflect the beauty and uniqueness of the Cotswolds AONB, whether landscapes, historic buildings or some other special feature.



Canon



Win a day's photography tuition

There are superb prizes up for grabs in two categories – adult and under-16s – plus prizes for everyone who enters:

- The adult winner receives a Canon EOS 700D 18-55 IS Kit worth £539 from Clifton Cameras, Dursley.
- Under-16s winner receives a full day's photography tuition with Cotswolds-based photographer/filmmaker Nick Turner: exploring different landscape techniques and learning how to get the best out of your digital camera.
- The runner-up in each category wins a training course worth £149 at Clifton Cameras on how to get the best out of your DSLR camera.

- Everyone who enters can claim a 50% discount on getting their images professionally printed at Clifton Cameras new photo print suite.

Nick Turner is full of encouragement to everyone to get out and about and capture a prize-winning image, saying the AONB is one of the best places to work as a photographer: "There is such a great diversity of natural landscape types to choose from – rolling hills, commons, water meadows, hidden valleys, beech woodlands, all of which change with the seasons, continually offering up new photographic opportunities, not to mention the architectural heritage in villages, ancient churches and monuments."

For tips from Nick on taking great pictures

of landscapes, places and people around the Cotswolds AONB, see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/photography and to find out about his work visit his website www.nickturnerphoto.com.

Clifton Cameras, Dursley, is the go-to place for the very best deals in official UK products, from digital cameras and lenses to tripods and accessories – with friendly, knowledgeable staff on hand to help you choose the right photo equipment for you, www.cliftoncameras.co.uk.



Your Cotswolds – how to enter

Submit up to three digital images recently taken by you, including a sentence with each to highlight where/when it was shot and why you feel it captures the beauty and uniqueness of the Cotswolds AONB. Each image must be taken in the AONB and submitted in electronic format by email or on disc by post; for full details see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/photography.

Closing date: entries must be received by 30 November 2015.

Terms and conditions: 'Your Cotswolds' is open only to amateur photographers. The two winning photographs will be featured in the *Cotswold Lion* Spring/Summer 2016, as well as in *The Cotswolds 2016 Visitor Guide* – the main promotional print for enticing people to holiday in the area. Images will also be promoted through websites and social media channels. For entry forms and full terms and conditions, see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/photography.

Riding high

Around 18,000 horses and ponies are kept within the AONB and, whether you own or hire one, you can explore some great bridleways and tracks

"We're so lucky here in the Cotswolds because it's a beautiful area in which to enjoy riding," says Lois Eyre, County Access & Bridleways Officer, British Horse Society, Gloucestershire. "Horse riding is a sport that anyone, regardless of age, ability or background, can have a go at, and it's a good way to stay active too."



Exploring the Cotswolds on horseback

courtesy of the BHS

"If you are interested in learning to ride a horse, then the British Horse Society, the Association of British Riding Schools and the Riding for the Disabled Association can all provide advice about how and where to get started."

"Former riders wishing to refresh skills might also consider Take Back the Reins, a project begun by the British Equestrian Federation as an Olympic Games legacy – The Talland School of Equitation, Ampney Knowle, is one Cotswold centre which is running courses during 2015."

Alongside inspiration for rides on the Escape to the Cotswolds website, you can now download routes with maps and directions, including from the popular *Cotswolds on Horseback* series, from a brand new British Horse Society access website. These range from shorter routes like Beverstone & Chavenage (13km/8 miles) or Hazelton & Cold Aston (15km/9.3 miles) to longer rides like Chedworth & Withington Woods (30km/18.6 miles) or Naunton, Hawling & Salperton (33km/20.5 miles).

"For landscape variation, you can ride beside the River Windrush on the Naunton & the Slaughters route, through Withington and Workman's Woods, or enjoy the great views from the scarp edge on the bridleway above Stanton," Lois says, adding, "As many bridleways and byways cross farmland, riders do need to be able to negotiate gates, for they are numerous, and unfortunately, not all are rider-friendly."

For horse owners who want to try riding somewhere away from home, but don't fancy the map reading, BHS Gloucestershire

is planning some guided rides during 2015 – Horsey Hikes for more confident riders and Riding Rambles for those who prefer something gentler. Look out for information on Facebook – Gloucestershire British Horse Society – and Twitter – @GlosBHS.

Find out more:

Information on horse riding routes in the Cotswolds, stables and equipment providers, can be found at www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Download routes in the *Cotswolds on Horseback* series from www.bhsaccess.org.uk

For problems with bridleways, or to ask about Map Reading for Equestrians courses, email: bhsglos.access@gmail.com

For useful tips and best practice guidance on keeping horses and ponies in the AONB in a landscape-friendly way, including information on planning, maintenance of the environment and equine welfare, download the Cotswolds Conservation Board leaflet from the publications section at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Association of British Riding Schools www.abrs-info.org

British Horse Society www.bhs.org.uk

Riding for the Disabled Association www.rda.org.uk

Creative Cotswolds

Bursting with artists and craftspeople, the Cotswolds is just the place to discover your own talents

It has been claimed that Stroud has more artists per capita than almost anywhere else in Britain; the town and its surrounding valleys are certainly a hotbed of writers, craftspeople and alternative culture.

Nor is this a new phenomenon but rather a continuation of the momentum that got going a century or so ago with Arts & Crafts incomers in search of the vernacular: people like Ernest Gimson, Norman Jewson and the Barnsley brothers who set up at Sapperton.

Local literary talents from Laurie Lee to Jilly Cooper have been inspired by (Cooper's words) "ravishingly beautiful" Cotswold landscapes. And long after most mills in the valleys ceased to clatter, **Stroud International Textiles** celebrates contemporary applied arts whilst linking to traditional textile culture (www.sitsselect.org). **Stroud Valleys Artspace** promotes artists and their role in the community with studio spaces for professionals, plus a range of events through the year (www.sva.org.uk)

Nearby at Chalford, **Pangolin Editions** has cast world-class sculptures from the late Lynn Chadwick to Damien Hirst and showcases work in its gallery (www.gallery-pangolin.com). You can find must-haves from woollen blankets to pottery by local talents in **Made in Stroud** (www.madeinstroud.org) and everything from jewellery to ceramics at the **Cotswold Craftsmen Gallery** in Nailsworth (www.cotswold-craftsmen.org).

Centuries of inspiration

The picture is mirrored across the Cotswolds, reflecting a longstanding trend that has seen people drawn to and moved by the attractiveness of the landscape, not least the Romans who spotted its farming and economic potential. Visit, for example, **Chedworth Roman Villa**, the Romano-British des res with superbly crafted mosaics (www.nationaltrust.org.uk). Local oolitic limestone also proved an excellent medium for Romano-British sculptors – find out more at the **Corinium Museum**, Cirencester (www.coriniummuseum.org).

Cotswold Woollen Weavers in the village of Filkins takes inspiration from the wool and cloth-making traditions that saw the region thrive from the Middle Ages into the 18th century (www.cotswoldwoollenweavers.co.uk). And the legacy of 19th/20th-century Arts &

Crafts pioneers, who found the Cotswolds to be an ideal rural setting in which to pursue their high-quality craftsmanship, is all around (see *Cotswold Lion*, Spring/Summer 2013).

William Morris discovered "heaven on Earth" at **Kelmscott Manor** (www.sal.org.uk) and C R Ashbee brought his Guild of Handicraft to Chipping Campden in 1902: it continues to this day in the atmospheric workshop of **Hart Gold & Silversmiths** (www.hartsilversmiths.co.uk), sharing The Old Silk Mill with **The Gallery at The Guild** cooperative of artists, sculptors and other craftspeople (www.thegalleryattheguild.co.uk).

Then combine a visit to the Arts and Crafts Movement gallery at **The Wilson**, Cheltenham (www.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk) with a browse next door at **The Guild at 51** to see and buy contemporary work in the same tradition by members of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen (www.guildcrafts.org.uk).

Meanwhile, the vogue for artists' colonies in picturesque corners of Britain in the last decades of the 19th century took off at Broadway with the arrival of Americans Francis Millet, Henry James, John Singer Sargent *et al* – the latter's painting *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose* (1885–1886), which he worked on in a garden here, helped to make his name.

"Today their legacy lives on with a rich tapestry of galleries along the High Street," says Broadway-born visual artist **Jeremy Houghton**. "**The Gordon Russell Museum** and the new **Ashmolean Museum**, Broadway are also testament to [Broadway's] artistic pedigree." (www.jeremyhoughton.co.uk; www.gordonrussellmuseum.org; www.ashmoleanbroadway.org)

Get creative

Surrounded by so much inspiration, why not explore your own creativity – maybe discover a talent you never knew you had!

Venues like **Court Barn** at Chipping Campden, which celebrates talented designers and craftspeople in the area from the Arts & Crafts era to the present, make half-term holidays fun with arts and crafts workshops specifically for children and families (www.courtbarncampden.org.uk).

Or learn throwing and hand-building techniques at an adult pottery workshop at



Liz Lippiatt, textile designer, Stroud International Textiles

Whichford Pottery, Warwickshire, established by Jim Keeling in 1976. "People have made all sorts from flower pot shapes to wall plaques and little animals," says Jane Lancia (www.whichfordpottery.com).

The 162ha (400-acre) **Farncombe Estate**, Worcestershire, with panoramic views over the Vale of Evesham, is a blissful setting for residential and day adult leisure courses and study breaks: everything from botanical or portrait painting to textiles and cake making (www.farncombecourses.co.uk).

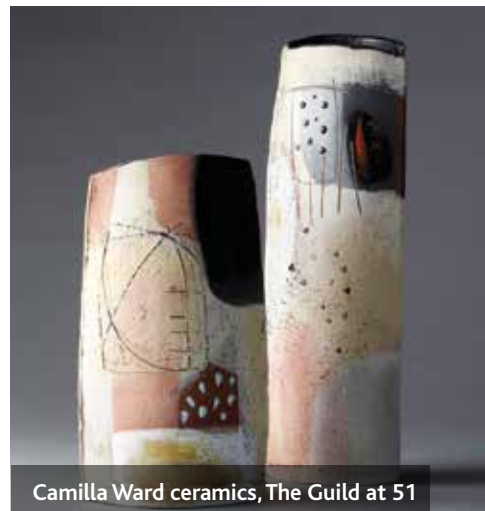
Nearby **Stanton Guildhouse** at Stanton Broadway also offers courses and summer schools in arts and crafts from wood turning to stained and kiln-fired glass (www.stantonguildhouse.org.uk). And **Hawkwood College** in 17ha (42 acres) of grounds near Stroud will help you to fulfil your potential whether in hat making, clay modelling or calligraphy (www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk).

Or do you have a nose for perfume? **Cotswold Perfumery** at Bourton-on-the-

Water, one of the more unusual creative businesses in the AONB, has been making fine English fragrances since 1966, including for HM The Queen. Courses with chief perfumer John Stephen reveal what it takes to concoct beautiful aromas (www.cotswold-perfumery.co.uk).

And just imagine the satisfaction of sitting in an elegant Windsor chair that you've made using a pole lathe and hand tools on a green woodwork course at **Westonbirt, The National Arboretum** (www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt).

Finally, why not learn or develop a rural craft intrinsic to the character of the very Cotswold landscape that has attracted and inspired so many people, helping to maintain and enhance it for others to enjoy while they explore their artistic talents? Check out the Cotswolds Conservation Board's **Cotswolds Rural Skills** calendar – from hedgelaying and charcoal making to dry stone walling – and make a lasting creative mark on the landscape (www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk).



Camilla Ward ceramics, The Guild at 51



Learn dry stone walling



Hart Gold & Silversmiths



Work by Ray Key, The Gallery at The Guild

Tall tales

Where will you find England's highest fountain, largest rose, oldest inn, most beautiful village – explore the Cotswolds!

At more than 91m (300ft), the single-jet fountain in the canal at Stanway House is the **world's tallest gravity-fed fountain**. It is driven from a 455,000-litre (100,000-gallon) reservoir 177m (580ft) above the canal, via a 2km (1.2-mile) pipe, www.stanwayfountain.co.uk

Bibury was acclaimed the **most beautiful village in England** by Victorian Arts & Crafts pioneer William Morris, while more recently Fox News put it among the world's most picturesque villages, www.bibury.com



Fastest time to complete the 164km (102-mile) **Cotswold Way** is a breathtaking 19 hours, 31 minutes, by Nathan Montague of Marlborough in September 2014. The women's record, set in 2013 by Sarah Morwood from Devon, is 21 hours, 51 minutes, www.cotswoldrunning.co.uk / www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way

Wake up and smell **England's largest rose**: claimed to be *Rosa filipes* 'Kiftsgate', a stunning sight when it's covered in panicles of white blooms tumbling among trees in Kiftsgate Court Gardens in early to mid-July, www.kiftsgate.co.uk



With a heritage dating back to c. 947 AD and a Cornish duke, The Porch House in Stow-on-the-Wold styles itself **England's oldest inn**. Curiosities include witches' marks carved into the fireplace mantle in the restaurant, www.porch-house.co.uk

Inventor Edwin Beard Budding, a mechanic who built and repaired machinery for Stroud's textile mills,

created the **world's first lawnmower** in 1830, testing it at night to avoid neighbours' curiosity. Stroud's Museum in the Park boasts two models, www.museuminthepark.org.uk



The **first major encounter** of the English Civil War, involving 30,000 men, was the Battle of Edgehill, 23 October 1642 – the result, a rather bloody draw, though the Royalists kept control of the road to London. A Civil War walk is a more civilized way to explore this part of South Warwickshire, www.castleatedgehill.co.uk/history



The Romans brought *Helix pomatia* – the **UK's largest land snail** – to the Cotswolds, fattening them on milk and herbs to eat as a snack. Now a protected species, the lime-rich-soil-loving Roman snails hang out at Leckhampton Hill, Cooper's Hill and Chedworth Roman Villa, www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum has some 2,500 different types of trees, among them 80 champions. But its **loftiest tree** of all is a Grand fir (*Abies grandis*) reaching to 43.5m (142ft), www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Shh, it's a **best-kept secret** that the 18th-century icehouse at Prior Park Landscape Garden, Bath, became a hiding place for ammunition and supplies to be used by resistance fighters in the event of German invasion in WW2, www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Spotlight

Burford

The spectacular view down Burford High Street, past historic stone and timber-framed buildings to the medieval bridge over the River Windrush, is a classic. Probably founded as an Anglo-Saxon 'burh', to protect the ford over the river, the town flourished on the medieval wool trade and later became an important coaching centre. Bypassed by Victorian railways, it was re-discovered by car-borne tourists and today revels in the title of Oxfordshire's Gateway to the Cotswolds.



Burford High Street

See and do In Tudor times, traders paid their tolls at The Tolsey; now the striking building houses the refurbished museum (re-opens April), highlighting Burford's social and working history. Burford Church, the glorious wool church built from c. 1175 to 1500, contains striking monuments to Henry VIII's barber and the 'terrible Tanfields'. 'Bale' tombs in the churchyard are unique to the Windrush valley.

Pick up a town trail leaflet from the Visitor Information Centre or join The Burford Tour (www.theburfordtour.com) to explore the town's historic alleyways and streets, revealing 15th-century almshouses, visits by Charles II and Nell Gwynn (their son was created Earl of Burford), and the 17th-century Great House.

Shop and eat Antiques, jewellery, crafts, old-fashioned sweets, a Madhatter Bookshop (sells both hats and books) and England's oldest pharmacy, Reavley's (founded 1734) make Burford a shop-browser's delight. Sunny days are well catered for by courtyard, garden and pavement dining at cafés and former coaching inns (you'll also find log fires inside). Splurge on the eight-course tasting menu at The Lamb Inn; enjoy classics like duo of fish and chips at The Bull; savour scones and gourmet teas at Huffkins or patisseries at Maison Blanc.

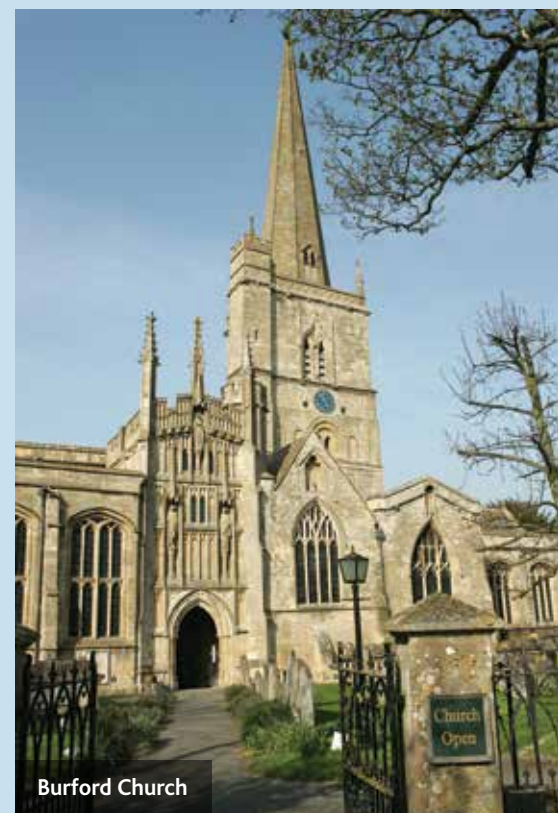
Make a date Levellers Day, 16 May, recalls the 1649 stand for equality and religious tolerance by mutineer Leveller soldiers from Cromwell's army. Over 300 were imprisoned in Burford Church (one scrawled his name on the font) and three ringleaders were shot. A parade and churchyard ceremony commemorate the event. The biennial Burford Festival returns, 5–14 June, with Party on the Rec, classical music concerts, pub music nights and more (www.burfordfestival.org).

Fancy that! The sight of over-zealous restoration work on Burford Church in 1876 proved the catalyst for an appalled William Morris to co-found The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (1877).

Walking and exploring Nearby Foxholes Nature Reserve is the place for May bluebells and summer rambles in ancient woodlands (www.bbwt.org.uk), while Minster Lovell Hall and Dovecote provides picturesque history in a riverside setting perfect for picnics (www.english-heritage.org.uk).

Meet farm animals at Cogges (www.cogges.org.uk) and discover conservation projects for species like Crowned Sifaka Lemurs at Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens (www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk). Lodge Park and Sherborne Estate is another great option for wildlife and walks (www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

Visiting essentials www.burfordcotswolds.co.uk



Burford Church

News from the Cotswolds Conservation Board

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/news



Double anniversary

The 10th anniversaries of the creation of the Cotswolds Conservation Board and the launch of the Sustainable Development Fund are celebrated in two brochures reviewing achievements of the last decade.

Established in 2004 and with members drawn from across the Cotswolds, the Board has statutory purposes to promote the conservation, enhancement, understanding and enjoyment of the AONB, and in so doing to foster the social and economic wellbeing of local people.

Over the last decade, much has been achieved with many partners across the region, with initiatives as diverse as The Cotswolds Ancient Woodland Project, the Dry Stone Walling Academy and the Cotswolds Educational Programme of outdoor learning and activity for children. In 2011 the Cotswolds AONB gained the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism award.

Looking forward, Board Director Martin Lane says, "The mix of expertise, knowledge, skills and commitment from Board members, staff, volunteers and partner organisations offers a bright future in challenging times for this very special landscape."

The Sustainable Development Fund, also notching up its 10th anniversary, has seen over £400,000 worth of investment contributed to more than 100 projects ranging from medieval pond restoration at Alderton, North Wiltshire, to the founding of a community-led internet radio station in Chipping Campden.

Download 'Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Cotswolds Conservation Board' and 'Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Fund' from www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

For further information about the Sustainable Development Fund, contact David Molloy, Rural Skills and Grants Officer, tel: 01451 862002; email: david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Artwork for walkers

Thanks to fundraising efforts by dedicated individuals and organisations in Chipping Campden, a new artwork has been installed in front of the Market Hall: walkers now know just where the Cotswold Way begins – or ends.

Created by stone carver and artist Iain Cotton, the limestone disk complements a marker in Bath at the southern end of the 164km (102-mile) National Trail. The new artwork features a quotation from T S Eliot to evoke the experience of exploring the Cotswold Way, as well as names of places and historic sites en route.

Find further trail information at www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way



Unveiling the new marker

Visitor Giving blazes a trail

The Cotswolds Visitor Giving Scheme, launched by the Cotswolds Conservation Board in 2013, continues to raise substantial funds for conservation projects.

Projects have included improvement to part of the Winchcombe Way footpath, habitat restoration along a stretch of the River Coln near Bibury, and woodland coppicing in a nature reserve near Painswick.

"Local tourism depends on the beauty of local landscapes and visitor giving, by which voluntary donations are collected from visitors via tourism businesses, helps to maintain and enhance the very environment that people have come to enjoy," says Simon Smith, the Board's Project Development Officer.

"Initial responses from local businesses have been really positive – it's an easy scheme to be part of – and already 10 have joined. We are looking to sign up many more in the coming months and to make contributions to further environmental projects."

Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, among the latest to join visitor giving, is making a donation from every membership sold through 2015. Adam adds:

"I consider it a privilege to live and work in such a beautiful part of the country and I know many of our visitors and members share my feelings on how important it is to care for our environment. This is a great way for us all to join together [... to help] conserve and enhance our landscape."

Businesses interested in joining the Cotswolds Visitor Giving Scheme can find out more from Simon Smith, tel: 01451 862031; email: simon.smith@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

For more about Cotswolds Visitor Giving, see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visitingiving



Adam Henson and visitors

Cotswolds Choice gets thumbs up

Local farmers, food producers and retailers gave an enthusiastic 'thumbs up' to the Cotswolds Choice initiative at a recent workshop.

The new quality marque, being piloted in the Stroud area, recognizes local food, drink and products that have been raised and made in an environmentally friendly way.

Liz Godsell of Godsell's Cheeses comments: "Local people who want to buy genuinely local food and drink will soon find it much easier to buy the products they want from local farms and local producers."

Stephen Aiano, who is leading the scheme, adds:

"Cotswolds Choice will be good for farmers, good for shops, good for the environment and good for local people."

It is proposed to roll out the scheme right across the AONB later this year.

To find out more about Cotswolds Choice, contact Stephen Aiano, tel: 07798 645666; email: info@rural.support



Landscape ambassadors

A new online training tool encourages tourism providers across the AONB to become 'landscape ambassadors'.

Developed as part of Our Land sustainable tourism initiative that celebrates the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, the new fun training scheme is designed to foster greater insight into the local environment, landscape and heritage.

Anyone from hoteliers to attractions and visitor information staff can use the online training tool, which tests knowledge on a range of themed multiple-choice questions including wildlife, historic buildings, landscape features and famous people. After successful completion, participants can print out and display their own 'Landscape Ambassador for the Cotswolds' certificate.

More than 130 businesses across the AONB are signed up with Our Land, giving a commitment to ensure visitors enjoy an authentic experience of the Cotswolds' special landscape as well as supporting sustainable tourism.

Find out more about Our Land at www.our-land.co.uk and landscape ambassador training at <http://knowour-land.co.uk>



Hamper winner

Congratulations to Mrs B. Harvey of Rugby, the lucky winner of our prize draw (Cotswold Lion, Autumn/Winter 2014–2015). Mrs Harvey receives a hamper of tasty seasonal preserves, recipe card and wooden spoon from The Artisan Kitchen, www.theartisankitchen.co.uk



Glorious gardens

The Cotswolds is home to some of Britain's greatest gardens, their diversity and historical range quite breathtaking. Explore rare Rococo flourishes and landscapes by Capability Brown whose tercentenary is celebrated next year. Or thank intrepid Victorian plant collectors for the summer shade of an arboretum and relax in the secret nook of an Arts & Crafts garden.

Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe

Castle and gardens meld in a wonderful interplay of historical echoes. The Queens Garden, named for four of England's queens associated with Sudeley, is a stunning vision of roses in June. The pattern on a dress worn by Elizabeth I influenced the design for the Knot Garden (planted 1995) and a Civil War poem gave inspiration for the East Garden, www.sudeleycastle.co.uk



Chastleton House, near Moreton-in-Marsh

A prosperous wool merchant built Chastleton between 1607 and 1612, to show off his wealth and power, and to this day the garden retains its basic Jacobean layout with divisions into compartments according to use. Puzzle over the circle of topiary shapes in the Best Garden and spot the mulberry tree believed to be 400 years old, www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Blenheim Palace, Woodstock

Enjoy walks and picnics in the magnificent, Capability Brown landscaped park whose design (1760s) – apparently natural but in fact “contrived to pleasing effect” – helped the palace to gain World Heritage Site status. The Formal Gardens including the Water Terraces, landscaped in the 1920s by French architect Achille Duchêne, offer a sublime counterpoint www.blenheimpalace.com



Prior Park Landscape Garden, Bath

Follow winding paths to hidden retreats, a grotto, tranquil lakes and superb views over Bath. Created between 1735 and 1764 by local entrepreneur Ralph Allen with advice from Capability Brown and Alexander Pope, the garden is set in a sweeping valley and boasts one of just four Palladian bridges in the world, www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Painswick Rococo Garden

To stroll this restored 18th-century pleasure park is to enter a theatrical set of dramatic vistas, follies and water features – the Red House, Exedra, Gothic Eagle House and Plunge Pool – typical of the flamboyant Rococo period when Georgians escaped to their gardens to party. Plant ‘furnishings’ include dazzling early spring snowdrops and summer heritage roses, www.rococogarden.org.uk



Stanway House & Fountain

Stanway was making magic with water even before the world's tallest gravity-fed fountain was built in 2004 (see page 8). The water garden (1720s) gave the landscape what its likely creator Charles Bridgeman called “incomprehensible vastness” and that feeling prevails, not least along the restored canal on the terrace above the Jacobean manor house, www.stanwayfountain.co.uk



to c. 1485

Medieval

- Monastery and manor house gardens provide food and medicine, with herbs, dovecotes, fishponds, stewponds.
- In 1301–1303 three fishponds are recorded at Malmesbury Abbey; they later silt up, but two have been dug out in modern times, in Abbey House Gardens.

1485–1603

Tudor

- Renaissance inspiration and growing affluence are expressed in property as status symbols: deer parks and knot gardens are among must-haves.
- A 'fayre park' is created at Dyrham 1511–1516, although the park seen today is laid out in the 1660s.
- Sudeley Castle's knot garden (1995) pays homage to Elizabethan connections.

1603–1714

Stuart

- French and Dutch formal garden influences bring grander scale, terraces, long avenues and topiary.
- The garden at Chastleton House is laid out in Jacobean style with compartments.

1714–1830

Georgian

- Landscape gardeners like William Kent, Charles Bridgeman pursue idealised, naturalistic styles; gardens merge with nature.
- The canal and cascade in the water garden (1720s) at Stanway House.
- Painswick Rococo Garden exemplifies the fashion of the time.
- Charles Bridgeman designs the parkland at Lodge Park.
- Prior Park Landscape Garden (1735-1764) and parkland at Bath.
- Today's deer park at Newark Park is laid out after 1750.
- An 18th/19th-century landscape park is created at New Park.
- Sezincote is built (1810) with a water garden in Piccadilly park and lake.



Kiftsgate Court Gardens, Chipping Campden

Created on the edge of the escarpment by three generations of women gardeners, Kiftsgate is renowned for its eponymous rose (see page 8), to be found in the intoxicating double rose border. Diverse delights include the richly coloured Yellow Border, White Sunk Garden and more recent Water Garden in contrastingly restrained black, white and green design, www.kiftsgate.co.uk

Batsford Arboretum

Famed for trees originating in Japan and China, the 23ha (56-acre) arboretum was largely landscaped and developed in the late 19th/20th centuries and continues to evolve. Spring highlights include the National Collection of Japanese Flowering Cherries (late April/early May), while species like Californian Nutmeg, Dawn Redwood and Maidenhair Tree are splendid in summer, www.batsarb.co.uk



Hidcote, near Chipping Campden

'Quiet American' Major Lawrence Johnston's 20th-century Arts & Crafts garden has influenced designers to this day. Meander the maze of pathways and lose yourself in the series of individually styled 'outdoor rooms' featuring rare shrubs and trees, colourful herbaceous borders and unusual plants, many collected from Johnston's hunting trips to faraway places, www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Snowhill Manor and Garden, near Broadway

When Charles Wade designed his terraced garden 'rooms' in the Arts & Crafts style in the 1920s, with the help of his friend M H Baillie Scott, he wanted "a place for pretty thoughts and soft musings". The spell is as potent as ever with "different courts for varying moods", secret nooks, framed views over the Cotswolds and curious objects dotted around, www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Upton House and Gardens, near Banbury

See the gardens being returned to their 1930s heyday when Lady Bearsted employed pioneering female garden designer Kitty Lloyd Jones to create a haven for leisure. Follow in their steps from the orchard, past the rock garden, down the herbaceous border, along the Mirror Pool and formal gardens to the charming Bog Garden, www.nationaltrust.org.uk



1837–1901

Victorian

- Plant hunters bring back exotic species and collections are displayed in rockeries and arboretums.
- Arboretums develop at Westonbirt and Batsford.
- Plant collector Henry John Elwes discovers *Galanthus elwesii* in Turkey (1874) and establishes snowdrops and an arboretum at Colesbourne Park.
- Plants, trees and shrubs in Kelmscott Manor gardens inspire William Morris designs like Willow Bough (1887).

1901–2015

Edwardian to present

- Outdoor 'rooms', Arts & Crafts influences, colour-themed, ornamental and wildflower gardens flourish.
- Hidcote and Snowhill exemplify Arts & Crafts-style gardens divided into 'rooms'.
- Upton House gardens cater for the 1930s millionaire lifestyle.
- Topiary designed by Edwin Lutyens, herbaceous borders and a newly planted parterre feature at Misarden Park Gardens, Miserden.
- HRH The Prince of Wales creates the iconic Wild Flower Meadow in the 1980s at The Highgrove Gardens, Tetbury.
- Imaginative topiary and superb herbaceous borders transform Bourton House Garden near Moreton-in-Marsh from the 1980s.
- Mill Dene Garden, an "English country garden with fun and surprises" is created at Blockley from 1990.

Walks & Events Guide

Welcome to the Cotswolds AONB Spring/Summer 2015 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.

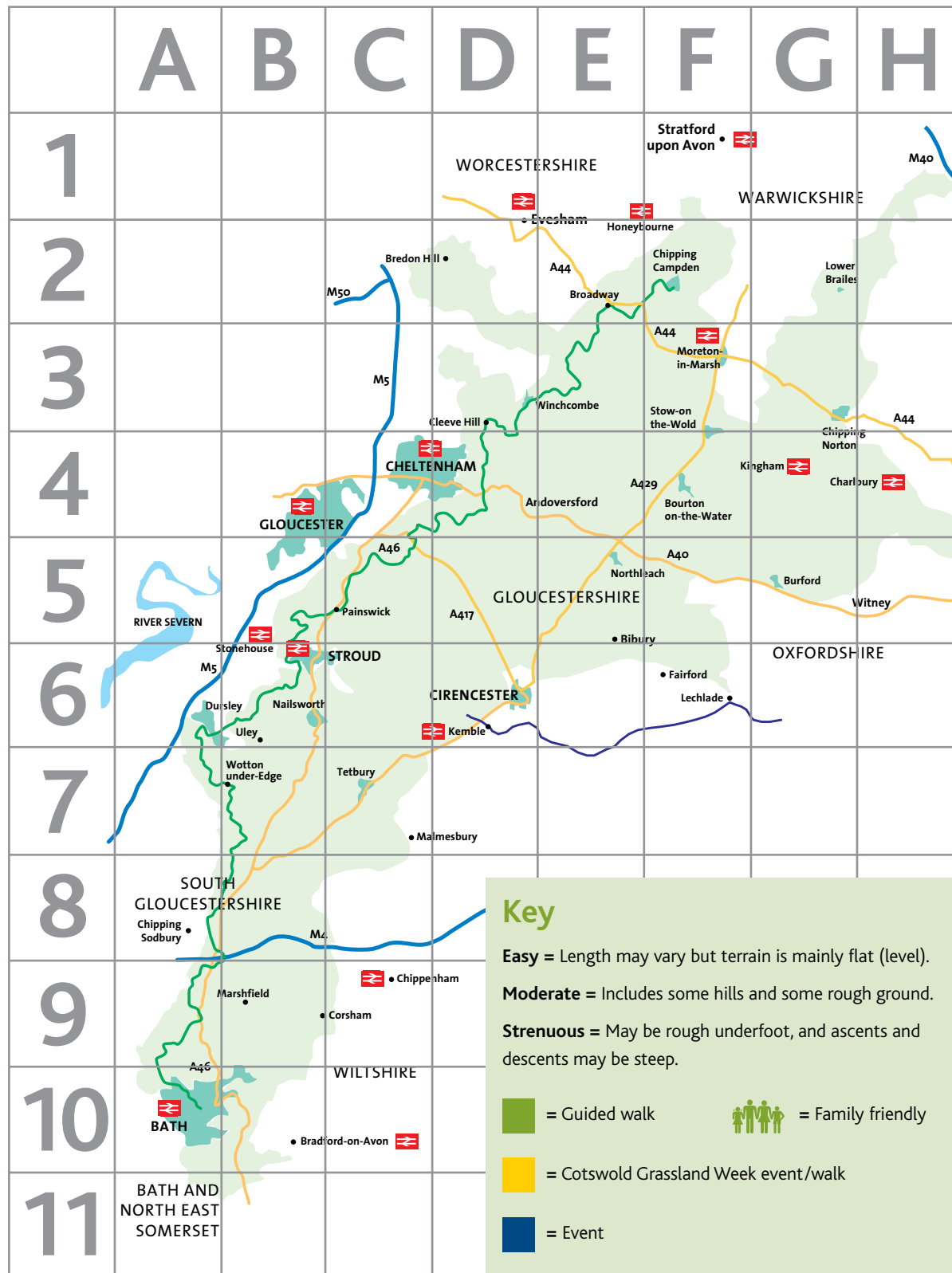
Guided tours of Chipping Campden 40th anniversary

Celebratory Walk: Join the Wardens on a special tour of this historic Cotswold market town. Meet at 2.30pm on Saturday 15 August and recreate the first walk of 1975 that attracted over 84 people to the town.

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 26 May until 24 September. Suggested donation £3.

Walk the Diamond Way

Join a group led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens walking the North Cotswolds Diamond Way in six stages (each about 10 miles) on the fourth Wednesday of each month from April to September. For further information and to reserve a place contact Allan Allcock on 0787 638 7029.



Tuesday • 7 April • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

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

Thursday • 9 April • 13:30

Gargoyles in Gloucestershire by John Putley

Fascinating insights from John Putley, local historian and Learning & Outreach Officer for Gloucestershire Archives. £5 including light refreshments.
Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Friday • 10 April • 10:00

Friday Foray, Don't Dilly in the Valley

Strenuous • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
A strenuous walk in the Upper Slad Valley and Dillyay. It may be rough underfoot with steep ascents and descents but the views make the effort worthwhile. Pub lunch available nearby at the walk end.
Starting point: Bulls Cross (off the B4070) SO878088 • Map square C5
Leaders: H Watkinson & C Dickinson

Sunday • 12 April • 10:00

The Broadmead Brook. Castle Combe to Dyrham

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles
Minibus transport [£4] 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 ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Monday • 13 April • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'Valleys and Woods'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles
Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30am and passes through Kingscote village and on to Tiltups End via Hazlecote Lane. We return via Hartley Bridge and Kingscote. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.
Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote, by arrangement • ST814960 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Wednesday • 1 April • 10:00

5 Churches and a Ring

Easy • 3.5 hours • 6 miles
A route around the churches of the Ampney Brook valley. The walk is mostly flat with a number of stiles and some road walking and crossings.
Starting point: Crown of Crucis Inn car park Ampney Crucis (on A417) • SP066017 Map square E6
Leaders: G Saunders, J Shaw & P Burgon

Sunday • 5 April • 10:00

Lost in the Willows: Hunt for the Golden Egg

Children are invited to discover Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's exciting new living willow maze 'Lost in the Willows' at the historic Sudeley Castle. Undertake a quest through the maze, find the dens of Ratty, Mole and Badger and capture a golden egg.
Venue: Sudeley Castle
www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Tuesday • 7 April • 10:00

Walking the Edge

Easy • 3 hours • 4 miles
A relatively short and level walk designed for all ages, particularly parents with children, although unsuitable for pushchairs or buggies. The walk through Westridge Woods offers superb views from the Cotswold Edge, with the opportunity for young and old to appreciate the wide variety of local trees and wild flowers.
Starting point: Roadside parking at the top of the Old London Road leading from Wotton Under Edge to the B4058 • ST757943 Map square B7
Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Les Jones

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.



Tuesday • 14 April • 10:00

Views and Valleys

Moderate • 4 hours • 7.5 miles

A beautiful and varied walk from St Mary's, Temple Guiting, taking in the hamlets of Farmcote and Cutsdean and a section of the Cotswold escarpment at Cromwell's seat. Several short hills and stiles. Please bring a packed lunch. Accessible loo at St Mary's.

Starting point: Temple Guiting Village Hall SP090279 • Map square E3

Leaders: Ali Clifton Barnard & Maureen Shears

Tuesday • 14 April • 10:00

Where Weavers Quenched their Thirst

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk along paths and tracks through the King's Stanley Parish.

Starting point: King's Stanley public car park adjacent to the King's Head pub (not the sports field car park). SO812035 Map square B6

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & John Graham

Friday • 17 April • 9:30

Over the Cotswold Edge – Beyond the Way

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 11 miles

A chance to see the Cotswold hills' northern edge, beyond the Cotswold Way. We take the Heart of England Way, then go over Ilmington Downs enjoying views over South Warwickshire and descend into Ilmington. Return is via Foxcote and Ebrington. Please bring a packed lunch.

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

Leaders: Allan Allcock, Andy Briars & Julie Downing

Tuesday • 21 April • 10:00

A Real Gem

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circuit from Icomb via Wyck Rissington on parts of the Diamond Way. Excellent views over the Evenlode and Windrush Valleys and beyond.

Starting point: Icomb church. Please park considerably in the village • SP213226 Map square F4

Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Thursday • 23 April • 10:00

Blockley Heritage Walks 1

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

Enjoy some of the walks in the recently published Blockley Heritage collection. This one takes us down the historic high street via Upton Wold to Snowhill, returning via Snowhill Hill, Far Upton Wold and the Diamond Way. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bus shelter, Blockley Village Green. Please park considerably in the village SP164349 • Map square F3

Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Friday • 24 April • 10:00

Cavalier Valleys, Walls, Ways and Roundheads

Moderate • 5 hours • 7.5 miles

Just outside Bath we start in a surprisingly secluded area walking through delightful combs before rising to Lansdown and visiting the Civil War battlefield. Pub stop for drinks available at Blathwayt Arms, Lansdown. To be flexible please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday • 24 April • 10:00

Around the Frome Valley

Moderate • 3.25 hours • 6 miles

Join us on a circular walk from Miserden through Duntisbourne Abbots and Winstone with varying countryside. Exploring open country and villages returning across the River Frome through Miserden Estate woodland. Two moderate climbs.

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

Leaders: P Cluley, B Chilvers & G Ricketts

Saturday • 25 April • 10:00

Boundaries; in and out around the village

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A lighthearted look at how the hill top villages regarded one another, their industry, customs, and the importance of boundaries. Pub snacks available or bring a picnic. Off A46 between Brockworth and Painswick or off B4070 between Birdlip and Stroud, then follow signs to Scout HQ.

Starting point: County Scout Headquarters car park, Cranham Village, GL4 8HP SO895130 • Map square C5

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart, T Sugrue & E Currier

Saturday • 25 April • 10:00

A Tale of Two Churches

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

From Charlbury across the river walking through fields to the medieval church of Shorthampton with its fine wall paintings. Then continuing along the Evenlode valley to the second church with an impressive array of memorials. Lunch options in Charlbury on return.

Starting point: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Sunday • 26 April • 10:00

A walk around the valleys of St Catherine

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: Layby off the A420 west of Marshfield. ST772738 • Map square B9

Leaders: Dave Jennings, Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sunday • 26 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 ST748757 • Map square A9

Leader: John Walker

Wednesday • 29 April • 10:00

The Whittington Stone Mines

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

From the source of the Colne to the Whittington stone mines, returning through Puckham Woods and Cleeve Common. Passing through two areas of remote and beautiful grassland which are part of the celebrated Magnificent Meadows project. Drinks and lunch available at the pub.

Starting point: Craven Arms, Brockhampton SP035223 • Map square D4

Leaders: T Duffin, R Hales & M Williams

MAY

Saturday • 2 May • 10:00

Romans and Ambassadors

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

A figure of 8 walk using The Wychwood Way and an ancient Saltway, visiting Ditchley Park and Stonesfield village with an optional visit to North Leigh Roman Villa [no charge]. There may even be bluebells. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Stonesfield, The Ridings, just beyond the White Horse • SP395178 Map square H4

Leader: Janet Deller

Monday • 4 May • 10:00

Sheep and Wool Day

The first ever Sheep and Wool Day at Northleach features stalls, crafts, children's activities plus delicious refreshments from the Cotswold Lion Cafe. Entrance free.

Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Tuesday • 5 May • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 5 May • 10:00

Woods and Wolds

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10.5 miles

An exhilarating route through undulating countryside, experiencing high wolds with lovely views and beautiful woodlands. We will look for signs of early summer. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Batsford Arboretum car park (by kind permission) • SP183334 Map square F3

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Thursday • 7 May • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 2, 'Up and Down around Selsley'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30am, visiting North Woodchester and South Woodchester, before passing through Dingle Wood onto Selsley Common and back to our start point. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Bell Inn, Selsley. Please park considerably at the roadside. SO835039 Map square B6

Leaders: Eric Brown & John Graham

Friday • 8 May • 9:30

Temple Mount – Up and Down Again

Moderate • 6 hours • 10.5 miles

We take in ancient wood and parkland, the Salt Way, views of Winchcombe and a leg stretch or two along the Cotswold Scarp which will get the lungs working! Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Temple Guiting Village Hall SP090279 • Map square E3

Leaders: Andy Briars, Allan Allcock & Julie Downing



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Our lambing barn is open to all; watch the excitement of lambing and kidding, and enjoy informative talks by our team.

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15th April - 20th December

See first hand where milk comes from, as we show you the process from udder to glass with the help of our rare breed farm animals.

Shearing

16th May - 28th June

Is it getting hot in here? Some of our primitive sheep naturally shed their coats before the summer arrives, but others need a helping hand!

Nature Week

23rd - 31st May

We'll be celebrating all things natural during the half term holiday, with activities to bring you closer to the great outdoors.

Open dated tickets and memberships are now available to buy online.

www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk

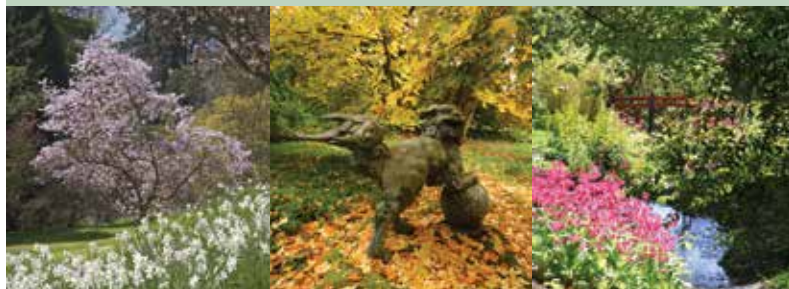
Cotswold Farm Park
Guiting Power, Cheltenham GL54 5UG
01451 850307



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01386 701441 arboretum@batsfordfoundation.co.uk
www.batsarb.co.uk



Tuesday • 12 May • 10:00



Two Glorious Commons

Easy • 2.5 hours • 4 miles

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

Starting point: Amberley Inn, Amberley. Not the inn car park please. SO850013 Map square B6

Leaders: David Harrowin & Hilary Paveley

Wednesday • 13 May • 10:00

Bluebell Pilgrimage

Moderate • 3.75 hours • 6 miles

Meet at Stonehouse Pay & Display car park at 10.00 or at the Rail Station at 10.12. A steady climb up over Doverow Hill to Standish Wood for the bluebells and return via the Cotswold Way and a vineyard. Refreshments available in Stonehouse. Route includes some stiles.

Starting point: Stonehouse Rail Station, Upper Querns Rd, Stonehouse • SO808053 Map square B6

Leaders: P Burgon & G Saunders

Wednesday • 13 May • 12:00



Dorn Farm Trio with Afternoon Tea option

Easy • 3.25 hours • 5 miles

One: An hour or so on a short tour of Old Farm led by Simon or Sarah Righton. Two: A gently led stroll into the surrounding countryside. Three: An optional delicious afternoon tea back at the farm mid afternoon. That's quite a tasty trio!

Starting point: Old Farm, Dorn, signed off Fosse Way (A429) just north of Moreton-in-Marsh • SP205339 • Map square F3

Leaders: Julie Downing & Maureen Shears

Thursday • 14 May • 10:00

Blockley Heritage Walks 2

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.5 miles

Enjoy some of the walks in the recently published Blockley Heritage collection. This one takes us to neighbouring Chipping Campden via Broad Campden returning via Northwick Industrial Park, where Blockley's Polish connection features. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bus shelter, Blockley Village Green. Please park considerately in the village SP164349 • Map square F3

Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Thursday • 14 May • 13:30

Work of the Cotswold Wardens

Talk by head warden John Bartram.

£5 including light refreshments.

Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Friday 15 May - Sunday 17 May

Winchcombe Cotswolds Walking Festival

A varied programme of walks in and around this Walkers are Welcome town.

Venue: Winchcombe

www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com

Saturday • 16 May • 10:00



Marshfield – Over the Scarp and back again!

Strenuous • 5 hours • 9 miles

We take restored paths from The Green Lane down into St Catherine's valley before climbing over the Scarp to Tadwick. A short section of the Cotswold Way and a climb back to Nimlet and a different route back to the start. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Layby off the A420, west of Marshfield. ST772738 • Map square B9

Leaders: John Walker & Fred Dugan

Sunday • 17 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 ST748757 • Map square A9

Leader: John Bartram

Monday • 18 May • 10:00

Not Quite the Toots

Moderate • 3 hours • 4.5 miles

A gradual ascent to Selsley Common through farmland & woods. We return via a different route to King's Stanley. Livestock, mud and wild flowers may be encountered. Food available at the pub after the walk, if required.

Starting point: King's Head pub, King's Stanley.

Public car park adjacent to the pub. 66S bus route from Stroud, railway stations in Stroud & Stonehouse. SO812035 • Map square B6

Leaders: John Graham & Derrick Hildersley

Tuesday • 19 May • 10:00

Eyford Park and Naunton from Adam's Farm

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

Leaving Adam's Farm to the east, we walk to the B4068 passing Eyford Park. We then turn north and use the 'Wardens' Way to return via Naunton, Guiting Power and Kington. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Cotswold Farm Park car park. Please park away from the pedestrian entrance to the Park. SP114266 • Map square E4

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday • 22 May • 10:00



A Devon village?? In a Wiltshire Combe!

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7 miles

Following millstreams, this walk is a delightful mix of valley and upland paths centring on one of the most picturesque villages in the Southern Cotswolds. 16th century inn for drinks stop at White Hart, Ford. To be flexible please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Castle Combe upper car park ST846777 • Map square B9

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Saturday • 23 May • 10:00



Marshfield: Town and Country

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.25 miles

A walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking brideways south to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop - stay and visit the Open Gardens for lunch and/or a cream tea afterwards.

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield ST781737 • Map square B9

Leader: David Colbourne

Saturday • 23 May • 14:00



The Lime Tree Wood

Moderate • 3 hours • 4 miles

A slow walk to enjoy the diversity of flora in the ancient Lineover Wood and on Ravensgate Common.

Starting point: Entrance to Lineover Wood.

Park up the track off the A40, 1 mile east of Charlton Kings • SO986196 • Map square D4

Leaders: J Heathcott, J Woodland & K Buckle

Sunday • 24 May • 10:00

Kite Festival

Get outside with us for a free event in the fresh air at Minchinhampton Common. Meet us by the Reservoir on Minchinhampton Common! We'll be celebrating this wonderful pastime with kite making activities and flying tips from kite enthusiasts. You can bring along your own kite or buy a National Trust kite kit and make your own on the day.

Venue: Minchinhampton Common www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Tuesday • 26 May • 10:00

Tetbury to Long Newton

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

Our walk takes us past Tetbury's historic church with its elegant spire to Wiltshire Bridge and Folly Farm tithe barn. The Monarch's Way leads us to Long Newton church before we turn back towards Tetbury.

Starting point: Tetbury Tourist Information Centre at the junction of Brewery Lane and Church Street.

Free long term car parking at the Old Railway Goods Yard off Cirencester Road. ST890930 • Map square C7

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Alan Bulley

Wednesday • 27 May • 10:00

On Crickley Hill

Strenuous • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

After enjoying the views from Crickley Hill, a walk along the Cotswold Way to Greenway Lane then down to Little Shurdington before climbing back up the Gloucestershire Way to the hill top.

Starting point: Crickley Hill lower car park (small charge applies) • SO930164 Map square C5

Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & T Duffin

Thursday • 28 May • 13:30

History Tour of Northleach

Join a tour led by Peter Dawson taking in key buildings and places of historical importance in the town.

Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Friday • 29 May • 10:00

Upper Coberley and the Churn Valley

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

From Colesbourne we climb by the woods up to Upper Coberley before dropping down to the Churn Valley at Cockleford and following the river back to the start.

Starting point: Colesbourne Inn • SO999133 Map square D5

Leaders: G Ricketts, P Cluley & B Chilvers

Friday • 8 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 the Bandstand • ST744652 • Map square A10

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Friday • 8 May • 10:00

Friday Foray from Cranham

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Taking in the bluebells of Buckholt Wood, Cooper's Hill, and Great Witcombe Roman Villa. The mosaics at Witcombe Villa are being especially opened for viewing on this walk. Pub lunches can be ordered before the start.

Starting point: The Black Horse, Cranham SO895129 • Map square D5

Leaders: C Dickinson, H Watkinson & J Foulkes

Saturday • 9 May • 10:00

Boundaries Moved

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A circular walk to explore the churches and villages of the Ampney Brook; Ampney St Peter, Poulton, Ashbrook, Barnsley, and Ampney Crucis. Pub snacks at Barnsley or bring a picnic.

Starting point: Layby on the A417 from Cirencester after the Crown of Crucis Hotel SP072018 • Map square E6

Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart, E Currier & T Sugrue

Sunday • 10 May • 10:00

Forever England

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 12 miles

Discovering a corner of the Cotswolds in the First World War. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Burford car park • SP255123 Map square G5

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday • 10 May • 10:00

Beating of the Bounds

The National Trust will be leading walks taking in the boundaries of Rodborough Common.

Meet up at Winstones Ice Cream to come and celebrate the traditions of the Common with us! These routes were once walked on Ascension Day to check and mark parish boundaries. The day is a free event for all the family – a day of fun, exercise and tradition. 10am-2pm.

Venue: Rodborough Common www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Tuesday • 12 May • 10:00



Bluebells in Foxholes

Easy • 3 hours • 5 miles

The walk to Foxholes BBOWT Nature Reserve will be via Bruern and hopefully we will enjoy a fabulous display of bluebells. Pub options at the end of the walk in Sipton or bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Sipton under Wychwood village hall • SP278181 • Map square G4

Leader: Gerald Simper

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Friday • 29 May • 13:30

ALE Walk (After Lunch and Evening) Coates

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 11 miles

A new time and format for a Wardens Walk! A longish walk with 2 steep climbs that goes through Sapperton, Tunley, Frampton Mansell, and Tarlton. The pub has let us park in the pub car park; if you want to eat in the pub before or after the walk please book in advance.

Starting point: Tunnel House Inn, Coates SO966006 • Map square D6

Leader: G Saunders

Saturday • 30 May • 10:00

Boundaries and Barricades

Moderate • 7 hours • 11 miles

We will be on Bredon Hill exploring the evidence of boundaries related to settlements and land usage over thousands of years whilst enjoying magnificent views. Includes two ascents of the Hill. Pub lunch available in Elmley Castle or bring your own.

Starting point: Beckford, outside church SO976358 • Map square D3

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Saturday • 30 May • 10:00

In the Footsteps of Parson Cornwall

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

The Reverend Alan Cornwall came from London to take up the parishes of Newington Bagpath and Owlpen in 1827. The walk recounts some of his experiences and visits places of historic and social interest during his ministry, which lasted over 40 years.

Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote, by arrangement. ST814960 • Map square B7

Leaders: John Hammill & Ian Cooke

Sunday • 31 May • 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 • ST778630

Map square A10

Leaders: Pauline Vincent, Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

JUNE

Tuesday • 2 June • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 2 June • 10:00

Isbourne Way 3 (Toddington to Wormington)

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Third in a series of five circular walks which will incorporate the whole of the new Isbourne Way, from the source of the Isbourne River to its confluence with the Avon near Evesham.

Starting point: The Pheasant Pub, Toddington GL54 5DT at the intersection of the B4632 and the B4077. SP047325 • Map square E3

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Smith, Alan Wicks & John Pearson

Tuesday • 2 June • 10:00

Minchinhampton Miscellany

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk around parts of the Minchinhampton Parish including Old Common, Besbury Common, Minchinhampton Common and the village of Box.

Starting point: Car park off Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, alongside the common behind the church. SO871008

Map square C6

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & David Collings

Thursday • 4 June • 10:00

A Circuit of Batsford

Moderate • 5 hours • 2.5 miles

We go to Batsford village where we will hear about its connections with the Mitford family. We take in views of Batsford House before returning along the Heart of England Way.

Starting point: Blockley Village Green. Please park considerably in the village • SP164349

Map square F3

Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday • 5 June • 14:00

Dyrham Park Wild Flower Walks

Easy • 1 hour • 1.5 miles

Park by Visitor Reception, on entering the Park from the A46 and convene by Reception. The walk takes in the Whitefield wild flower meadow and maybe the gardens if there is time.

Starting point: Visitor Reception • ST749757

Map square A9

Leader: Pauline Wilson

Saturday • 6 June • 10:00

Farm Visit and Family Walk

Easy • 4 hours • 2 miles

After an easy walk to Village Farm, the Fawdry, after refreshments, introduce their farm. Then follows a tractor and trailer tour around the farm highlighting some of the environmental work they are undertaking in conjunction with everyday farming methods. Please bring a picnic lunch. Booking essential 01993 831810.

Starting point: Children's playground in Salford • SP289282 • Map square G3

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Saturday • 6 June • 11:00

Nature Discovery Day on Bannerdown Common

Celebrate nature and wildlife on the common and join in exciting activities for the whole family.

Venue: Bannerdown Common

www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk

Saturday • 6 June • 14:00

Bee Orchids and Barbarians

Easy • 2 hours • 1 mile

Explore the wild flower rich grasslands and archaeology of Crickley Hill Country Park. The walk will also look at the success of conservation grazing.

Starting point: Visitor centre of Crickley Hill Country Park • SO930164 • Map square C4

Leader: Julian Bendle

Saturday • 6 June • 19:30

Don't go into the Cellar!

Are you ready for this Morbid Curiosities theatre production featuring Houdini, Conan Doyle and H P Lovecraft? £10.

Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach

www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk

Sunday • 7 June • 10:00

Wild Flowers of the Glyme Valley

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles

A gentle stroll beginning and ending in the centre of Chipping Norton. The walk will include green lanes and the rich wild flower meadows in and around Glyme Farm.

Starting point: Chipping Norton Town Hall in the Market Square • SP314272

Map square H4

Leader: Craig Blackwell

Sunday • 7 June • 11:00

Open Farm Sunday at Greystones Farm

Learn about modern and traditional farming and go on a meadow minibeast hunt at this Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust farm.

Venue: Greystones Farm Nature Reserve

www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/whats-on

Cotswold Grassland Week

6-14 June

Discover the fabulous wild flower grasslands of the Cotswolds during a week of walks, talks and discovery days! Explore, have fun, www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk/events



www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk

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Groups welcome at any time by arrangement, just call 07850 585539

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Monday • 8 June • 10:00

Flower Search

Easy • 2 hours • 3 miles

A leisurely walk over wild flower rich grassland and beech woodland, featuring views over the Severn Vale and a typical Cotswold village. Regret, unsuitable for pushchairs or buggies.

Starting point: Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, between Uley and Selsley on the B4066 SO794014 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Harrowin & Mike Brinkworth

Tuesday • 9 June • 9:30

Magnificent Meadows at Night

Talk by two local experts introducing the beautiful moths and fabulous bats that inhabit meadows at night. Refreshments available.

Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk

Tuesday • 9 June • 10:00

Wild farming – like other farming but harder!

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Farming wildlife instead of wheat?! With Ellie Phillips (Conservation Officer) and David Stevenson (Ranger) from the Cleeve Conservators, join us to discover Cleeve Common as a working farm. PLEASE wear sturdy footwear as the route may be steep/muddy in places.

Starting point: Cleeve Common Quarry car park (past Golf Club, over cattle grid) SO989271 • Map square D4

Leaders: Simon Mallatrat & Jean Booth

Tuesday • 9 June • 15:00

An afternoon walk around Daneway Banks: the home of the Large Blue Butterfly

Easy • 1.5 hours • 1 mile

A walk in the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Daneway Banks Nature Reserve. The Reserve Manager will lead the walk around this wonderful wildlife haven and explain what makes this nationally important grassland so special.

Starting point: Daneway Inn car park SO937034 • Map square C6

Leader: Pete Bradshaw

Wednesday • 10 June • 10:00

Expedition to Wild Flower Meadows

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles

Down the Leach Valley with a guided tour by the National Trust through part of the Sherborne Estate and a farmer led visit to the wild flower meadows of Conygree Farm. A short picnic stop at the farm (bring your picnic) and return by the reverse route.

Starting point: Westwood Community Centre, Basset Rd, Northleach GL54 3QJ • SP119142

Map square E5

Leaders: P Burgon, G Saunders & J Shaw

Thursday • 11 June • 10:00

Literary Connections 1

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 8 miles

We take in Stanway and Snowhill and trace the literary figures past and present who have found inspiration in the Cotswolds. Some steep ascents from Stanway and Snowhill. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Stanton Village car park SP067344 • Map square E3

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Keith Sisson



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I hidden treasures

Chastleton House and Garden

A rare gem of a Jacobean house and garden. Owned by the same increasingly impoverished family until 1991, it has remained essentially unchanged for more than 400 years. This fascinating house and gardens exude an informal and timeless atmosphere in a gloriously unspoilt setting.

01608 674981
nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton

National Trust

Thursday • 11 June • 13:00

The butterflies and flowers of Brown's Folly

Moderate • 2 hours • 2 miles
 Join us for a woodland walk to the limestone grassland plateau overlooking Bath to see the amazing wildlife of Brown's Folly. Learn about the history that sculpted the site and the mines beneath it.
Starting point: Woodland car park on Prospect Place/Farleigh Rise. ST798663
 Map square B10
Leader: Joe Middleton

Friday 12 June - Sunday 14 June

Corsham Weekend Walking Festival

Festival of 22 varied walks exploring the lovely landscapes in and around Corsham, a Walkers are Welcome town.
Venue: most walks start from Corsham
www.corshamforwalking.org.uk

Friday • 12 June • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 3, 'High And Low Around Wotton'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles
 Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30am, taking the Cotswold Way via Brackenbury Ditches to the Tyndale Monument, before descending to North Nibley. We return via Elmcote and Bradley. Refreshments available locally after the walk if required.
Starting point: Swan Inn, Wotton Under Edge ST756932 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Graham Smith

Friday • 12 June • 10:00

Friday Foray

Strenuous • 3 hours • 5.5 miles
 A hilly route taking in Witcombe Woods, Witcombe Park, more of the woods and then past Starveall.
Starting point: On the old A417 east of Birdlip School • SO929142 • Map square C5
Leaders: K Buckle, H Watkinson & C Dickinson

Friday • 12 June • 14:00

Dyrham Park Wild Flower Walks

Easy • 1 hour • 1.5 miles
 Park by Visitor Reception, on entering the Park from the A46 and convene by Reception. The walk takes in the Whitefield wild flower meadow and maybe the gardens if time.
Starting point: Visitor Reception • ST749757
 Map square A9
Leader: Pauline Wilson

Friday • 12 June • 14:00

Managing Grasslands for Wildlife

An illustrated talk exploring our amazing wild flower grasslands, their ecology and management.
Venue: The Old Prison, Northleach
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Saturday • 13 June • 10:00

The Magnificent Meadows of Leckhampton Hill

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles
 A walk along the Cotswold Way at Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common. The walk will contrast the managed grassland of Charlton Kings Common with the wilder Leckhampton Hill. We will visit the archaeological and industrial interest as well as the Magnificent Meadows.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Starting point: Brownstones Quarry car park; Hartley Lane, Leckhampton • SO951179
 Map square D4
Leaders: T Sugrue & J Harvey

Saturday • 13 June • 10:00

It's To Tite

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles
 A gentle walk along a section of the Oxfordshire Way to Chadlington for our lunch stop in a pleasant local pub. After lunch return to Charlbury largely on field tracks via Dean and a streamside walk complete with mill.
Starting point: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4
Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Saturday • 13 June • 10:00

Painswick's Spectacular Commons

Strenuous • 7 hours • 12 miles
 Visiting Juniper Hill, Edge Common, Huddinknoll Hill, Painswick Beacon, and Sheepscombe Common. These commons are among the best unimproved flora-rich grasslands in the Cotswolds. Bring a picnic lunch. **Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.**
Starting point: Bulls Cross layby; on B4070 1 mile north of Slad • SO867105
 Map square C5
Leaders: J Heathcott, M Dunning & K Buckle

Saturday • 13 June • 13:00

The Magnificent Meadows of Leckhampton Hill

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles
 A second walk along the Cotswold Way at Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common. The walk will contrast the managed grassland of Charlton Kings Common with the wilder Leckhampton Hill. We will visit the archaeological and industrial interest as well as the Magnificent Meadows.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Starting point: Brownstones Quarry car park; Hartley Lane, Leckhampton • SO951179
 Map square D4
Leaders: T Sugrue & J Harvey

Sunday • 14 June • 10:00

Arboreal Adventures

Moderate • 5 hours • 8 miles
 A walk featuring the attractive beech and conifers of Ridings and Ashen Plains Wood to Breakheart Hill. We return to Wotton via Waterley Bottom in time for an optional cream tea. Bring a packed lunch; pub stop for drink only.
Starting point: Chipping car park, Wotton Under Edge. ST756932 • Map square B7
Leaders: David Harrowin & David Collings

Sunday • 14 June • 11:00

Nature Day at Woodchester Park

Guided walks, children's activities, information on conservation work at Woodchester – something for everyone.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Venue: Woodchester Park
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Tuesday • 16 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. The walk first runs through woods above the Hinchwick valley, descends briefly into an adjoining valley and then returns along the bottom of the dry Hinchwick valley itself.
Starting point: Hinchwick Hamlet. Please park tidily on the grass verge • SP145300
 Map square F3
Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Wednesday • 17 June • 9:30

Scarlet and Green

Strenuous • 4 hours • 3 miles
 Explore Stroud's wildflower-rich meadows with artists, photographers and writers. Observe, photograph, draw and write about your response to this unique landscape and discover what local people are doing to safeguard it. £5 charge.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Starting point: Subscription Rooms, Stroud Town Centre • SO851051 • Map square C6
Leaders: Walking the Land

Wednesday • 17 June • 10:00

Mitford Country

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles
 With pretty villages, a river to walk beside, far reaching views and a fascinating family connection this walk never fails to delight. Lunch at The Maytime at the end of the walk.
Starting point: The Maytime Inn, Asthall OX18 4HW • SP289114 • Map square G5
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday • 19 June • 14:00

Dyrham Park Wild Flower Walks

Easy • 1 hour • 1.5 miles
 Park by Visitor Reception, on entering the Park from the A46 and convene by Reception. The walk takes in the Whitefield wild flower meadow and maybe the gardens if there is time.
Starting point: Visitor Reception • ST749757
 Map square A9
Leader: Pauline Wilson

Saturday • 20 June • 9:30

A Mitford Hero

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9.5 miles
 A favourite circuit around the Longborough and Moreton area visiting the church on the Batsford estate and looking at how events can change the course of history. Please bring a packed lunch and protective bags for boots if possible (for church visit).
Starting point: Longborough. Meet by bus shelter in High Street next to school. Please park considerably in village. SP179296
 Map square F3
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday • 20 June • 10:00

Siston Court Circular

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 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.
Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Saturday • 20 June • 11:00

Discovery Day on Capel's Mill Meadow

Join local experts and help to survey the plants; watch experienced scythesmen and women demonstrating the traditional method of using scythes to manage grassland.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Venue: Capel's Mill Meadow, Stroud
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Sunday • 21 June • 14:00

Mindfulness in Meadows: take a walk to savour nature and quiet the mind

Easy • 1.5 hours • 0.5 mile
 Learn the skill of Mindfulness, which naturally quiets our busy minds, enhancing our ability to savour the sights and sounds of nature. Limited places and booking essential but there will be no charge. See website for details.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Starting point: Swells Hill • SO863021
 Map square C6
Leaders: David Behrens & Eleanor Reast

Sunday • 21 June • 14:00

Butterflies and Blooms

Moderate • 2 hours • 1.5 miles
 Join us on a guided walk around Butterfly Conservation's Rough Bank Nature Reserve.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Starting point: Rough Bank Nature Reserve car park • SO914087 • Map square C5
Leaders: Chris Wiltshire and/or Sue Smith

Sunday • 21 June • 18:00

A short evening walk on the longest day!

Easy • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles
 A walk down into the Combe Hay and Midford valley along the Somerset Coal Canal and *Titfield Thunderbolt* railway line. Includes wild flower meadows and woodland glades. Not suitable for pushchairs. Do not park in the P&R as it is locked at 6.30pm. Park considerably in nearby estate.
Starting point: OUTSIDE the Odd Down Park and Ride gate. ST733617 • Map square A10
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Pauline Vincent & Dave Jennings

Tuesday • 23 June • 18:00

Meadows: home to more than just plants!

From fungi to moths – hear about what else can be found in our species-rich grasslands. £5.
Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.
Venue: The Subscription Rooms, Stroud
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

Tuesday • 23 June • 18:45

Summer Evening Walk No. 1

Moderate • 1.5 hours • 3 miles
 An attractive circular walk to Newington Bagpath via Hay Bottom and the beautiful Lasborough valley. Suitable for families, but not pushchairs or buggies. Meals available at the inn before or after the walk, if required.
Starting point: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote, by arrangement. ST814960 • Map square B7
Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Wednesday • 24 June • 10:00

Sudgrove and the Frome Valley

Strenuous • 3 hours • 6.25 miles
 Through woodlands and fields to Edgeworth and the River Frome returning along the river. A longer walk than usual involving some ascents of the valley sides making it fairly strenuous, especially in hot weather.
Starting point: Carpenter's Arms, Miserden SO938089 • Map square C5
Leaders: R Hales, M Williams & T Duffin

Thursday • 25 June • 18:00

Save our Magnificent Meadows!

Hear about the Save our Magnificent Meadows project in the Cotswolds: its aims, progress so far, and how you can help your local meadows. £5. **Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.**
Venue: The Subscription Rooms, Stroud
www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk



Friday • 26 June • 10:00



Hidden Houses, Open Paths

Moderate • 5 hours • 9 miles

This walk follows St Catherine's Valley upstream before rising onto the Marshfield Plateau. It returns across open land to the Fosse Way where we visit the "Three Shire Stones". To be flexible please bring a packed lunch. Pub drinks available in the Catherine Wheel, Marshfield. Not suitable for pushchairs. **Starting point:** Bannerdown Common layby on the Fosse Way, 1.5 miles north of Batheaston. ST793689 • Map square B9 **Leaders:** David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday • 26 June • 10:00

Hamlets, Golf, and Point to Point

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.8 miles

A stroll around the edge of a golf course, a point-to-point course and two small hamlets. **Starting point:** Kilkenny Viewpoint car park on A436 • SP004186 • Map square D4 **Leaders:** G Ricketts, B Chilvers & P Cluley

Friday • 26 June • 14:00



Dyrham Park Wild Flower Walks

Easy • 1 hour • 1.5 miles

Park by Visitor Reception, on entering the Park from the A46 and convene by Reception. The walk takes in the Whitefield wild flower meadow and maybe the gardens if there is time.

Starting point: Visitor Reception • ST749757 Map square A9

Leader: Pauline Wilson

Sunday • 28 June • 10:00



A figure of eight walk from Horton

Moderate • 2.5/2 hours • 5 and 4 miles

A level morning walk before climbing to Hawkesbury Upton village and returning mostly along the Cotswold Way to Horton. An afternoon walk takes in Little Sodbury and the Old Sodbury Roman Fort/Horton Iron Age camp and views of Horton Court. Please bring picnic lunch if doing both walks.

Starting point: Horton Village Hall ST759844 • Map square A8

Leaders: John Walker & Richard Jones

Sunday • 28 June • 10:00

Whatever the Weather

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 11 miles

A walk with a weather theme. Please bring a packed lunch. **Starting point:** Long Compton Church SP328331 • Map square G3 **Leaders:** Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday • 28 June • 14:00



A guided walk around Painswick Beacon to hear about the plants and insects that make this place special

Moderate • 2 hours • 2.5 miles

A short walk with plenty of stops to enjoy the plants, insects and magnificent views of Painswick Beacon. Learn more about this limestone grassland common and its impressive range of orchids and butterflies. **Part of Stroud Festival of Nature.**

Starting point: Public car park next to Catbrain Quarry • SO867117 • Map square C5 **Leader:** Paul Hackman, Natural England

Tuesday • 30 June • 10:00

Greystones – A Walk on the Wildside

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 4 miles

An opportunity to explore this Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust gem with the Reserve Manager. He will lead us through the reserve describing the Greystones of our ancestors and show us the glorious flower meadows by the River Dikler. We complete the walk via Wyck Rissington.

Starting point: Bourton-on-the-Water, Station Road car park • SP170208 • Map square F4 **Leaders:** Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

JULY

Saturday • 4 July • 9:00

National Meadows Day

A range of exciting meadows-based activities around the Cotswolds – look out for details!

Venue: various in the Cotswolds www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk



Saturday • 4 July • 9:30

The Wild Garden

Moderate • 6 hours • 12 miles

An interesting route in West Oxfordshire which offers fine views and splendid countryside. Join us for lunch in the Wild Garden and enjoy its peace and tranquillity while learning about local history. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bledington - meet on village green near the maypole. Please park considerately in the village. SP244227 Map square G4

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday • 4 July • 10:00

Park and Paintings

Moderate • 4.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Sweeping views of Blenheim Park and ancient woodlands on this 6.5 mile circular walk to Coombe with a chance to see some of the best medieval wall paintings in Oxfordshire. Lunch options in Woodstock at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Woodstock, opposite The Marlborough Arms • SP445167 Map square H4

Leader: Dave Scott

Tuesday • 7 July • 10:00



Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Wednesday • 8 July • 10:00



Woodlands, fields, streams, villages, and a great pub

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A pleasant mix of fields, woodland, and attractive villages, exploring two tributary branches of the infant Frome. Some steeper climbs and descents and may be muddy so unsuitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Fostons Ash Inn (on B4070) GL6 7ES • SO914113 • Map square C5

Leaders: J Shaw, G Saunders & C Dickinson

Friday • 10 July • 10:00

Friday Foray by the Canal

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk from the Daneway pub to Pinbury Park and Waterlane through woods and fields with two short climbs. Back via the canal. Lunch available at the Daneway.

Starting point: Daneway pub near Sapperton SO939034 • Map square C6

Leaders: H Watkinson, C Dickinson & K Buckle

Sunday • 12 July • 14:00



Kids' Quiz Walk

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 3 miles

Circular children's quiz walk with a Cotswold theme. Some ascent and descent, no road walking, mainly common and woodland. All welcome, but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please bring a drink and a snack. Sorry, not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Main Parking Area on Selsley Common. The Common is on the B4066 between Stroud and Dursley. SO827026 Map square B6

Leaders: Trish Iliadou & David Owen

Tuesday • 14 July • 10:00

Isbourne Way 4 (Wormington to Sedgeberrow)

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

Fourth in a series of five circular walks which will incorporate the whole of the new Isbourne Way, from the source of the Isbourne River to its confluence with the Avon near Evesham.

Starting point: Outside St Katherine's Church in Wormington WR12 7NL. Please park considerately on the roadside in the village. SP038364 • Map square D3

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Smith, Alan Wicks & John Pearson

Thursday • 16 July • 10:00

Castlett Wood, Kineton, a brook and a river

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

From Guiting Power and following the Castlett Brook through Castlett Wood before passing through the hamlet of Kineton, where we briefly go alongside the River Windrush and then return to Guiting Power.

Starting point: Guiting Power Village Hall car park • SP095246 • Map square E3

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Friday • 17 July • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 4 'By the Waters of the Ewelme'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10.30am, initially following the River Ewelme, then passes Downham Hill to Peaked Down and Cam Long Down. We visit Uley Bury before descending to our start point. Lunch available at the cafe after the walk or at the Crown Inn.

Starting point: Prema cafe, Uley. The cafe is situated down a signposted street opposite the village shop. Please park considerately in the village. ST792984 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Ian Cooke

Saturday • 18 July • 9:30

Michael or Mary?

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

This takes us from one boundary in the north at Kilkenny through Withington Parish to its boundary in the south. Varied countryside and excellent views. Optional visit to the interesting Withington church. Please bring a packed lunch and protective bags for boots if possible (for church visit).

Starting point: Kilkenny Viewpoint car park on A436, near Andoversford • SP004186 Map square D4

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook



Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses 2015 Spring/Summer Programme

Ever wondered how a dry-stone wall is constructed or a thatched roof is created? 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

Cotswold Farm Park, 24-25 March
Lansdown, 11-12 April
Naunton, 25-26 April
Burford, 9-10 May
Tetbury, 18-19 May
Broadway, 30-31 May
Cotswold Farm Park, 13-14 June
Sherborne, 1-2 July
Lansdown, 18-19 July

Naunton, 11-12 August
Leckhampton (nr Cheltenham), 5-6 September
Sherborne, 12-13 September
Tetbury, 26-27 September
Burford, 10-11 October
Broadway, 20-21 October

Dry-stone walling (Improvers) - £119

Sherborne, 25-26 April
Tetbury, 7-8 September
Burford, 24-25 October

Dry-stone walling Academy courses

LANTRA Level 2 - £325
Northleach, 9-16 March
LANTRA Level 1 - £295
Northleach, 8 - 13 June
LANTRA Level 2 - £325
Northleach, 18-19 & 25 July
LANTRA Level 1 - £295
Northleach, 29-31 August
& 5-6 September
LANTRA Level 2 - £325
Northleach, 10-11 & 17 October

Lime Mortar Building Repair (Beginners) - £109

Ebworth Centre, 13-14 May
Ebworth Centre, 13-14 June

Lime Mortar Building Repair (Improvers) - £119

Ebworth Centre, 8-9 July

Blacksmithing (Taster) - £99

Northleach, 16 May
Northleach, 27 June
Northleach, 25 July
Tetbury, 25 October

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

Thatching (Taster)/TBC - £99

Northleach, 15 July
Northleach, 19 September

Introduction to Scything - £75

Northleach, 20 May
Northleach, 20 June
Location TBC, 25 August
Location TBC, 12 September

Charcoal Making - £59

Coberley, 16 May
Coberley, 24 June
Badminton Estate, 25 July
Badminton Estate, 23 September

Flax Making (Taster Day) - £59

Northleach, 9 May
Northleach, 19 June
Northleach, 5 September

Introduction to Horse Logging - £99

Coberley, 21 February
Coberley, 3-4 October

Hedgelaying - £109

Chipping Norton, 21-22 February
Coaley, 7-8 March

Cotswold Tile Roofing - £119

Naunton, 9-10 June
Naunton, 19-20 September

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.

"What more can I say, an excellent course thank you."

Sunday • 19 July • 10:00

How far is it to Egypt?

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 10 miles

The walk will cross Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons to Minchinhampton and then to Longford in the Avening Valley. It will then continue on the eastern side of the Nailsworth Valley through Nailsworth and hillside settlements to return to Rodborough Common. Bring a picnic lunch, or short pub lunch available.

Starting point: National Trust free car park on Rodborough Common, approximately half a mile to the south of Stroud. SO852035 Map square B6

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Sunday • 19 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 ST748757 • Map square A9

Leader: John Walker

Wednesday • 22 July • 10:00

Up to The Heavens

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk along the wooded Toadsmoor Valley to The Heavens and through fields with fine views including Nether Lypiatt Manor. Not forgetting the obelisk commemorating a horse called Wag who lived for 42 years. A flat walk interspersed with short steep ascents and descents.

Starting point: By the Post Office and Lamb Inn, Eastcombe. SO890046 • Map square C6

Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & T Duffin

Thursday • 23 July • 10:00

The Fifth Foray – a wild flower hunt on Cleeve Hill

Moderate • 5 hours • 4-5 miles

Back by popular demand! Join our fifth annual flower foray through both Cleeve Common and nearby butterfly reserves in the company of Ellie Phillips, Cleeve Common Conservation Officer. We spotted 100 species last year! PLEASE wear sturdy footwear – route may be steep/muddy in places. Bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Cleeve Common Quarry car park (past Golf Club over cattle grid) SO989271 • Map square D4

Leaders: Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth

Friday • 24 July • 9:30

Clapton and the Rissingtons from Sherborne

Strenuous • 6.5 hours • 12 miles

Leaving Ewepen Buildings we descend into Sherborne and then climb up to Clapton-on-the-Hill. Turning NE we cross the Diamond Way south of Bourton, and then return to Sherborne via Little & Great Rissington. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: NT car park at Ewepen Buildings, Sherborne Estate. SP158143

Map square F5

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday • 24 July • 13:30

ALE Walk (After Lunch and Evening) N Cerney

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10-12 miles

The second ALE walk calling at Woodmancote, Duntisbourne Rouse, and Bagendon. If you wish to eat at the pub before or after the walk (or both) please book in advance.

www.bathurstarms.com

Starting point: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney GL7 7BZ • SP019079 • Map square D5

Leader: G Saunders

Saturday • 25 July • 10:00

A Magnificent Meadow at the boundary of the Dillay

Moderate • 4.25 hours • 7 miles

To the top of the Dillay Valley and back via the Dillay Brook through Snows Farm with a visit to the butterfly reserve and a chance to hear from a farmer on route. Magnificent Meadow views over Rough Banks. Bring a picnic lunch; refreshments available at the pub.

Starting point: The centre of Bisley and the Bear car park if visiting the pub. SO903061

Map square C5

Leaders: T Sugrue, E Currier, J Stuart & S Clark

Saturday • 25 July • 10:00

Dyrham, Hanging Hill and the Cotswold Way

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

From Dyrham across to Doynton and Wick before a steep climb of Hanging Hill. The return is mostly on the Cotswold Way. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. No Park admission fees for those participating in the walk.

Starting point: Dyrham Park Reception ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Walker & Keith Rawlings

Sunday • 26 July • 10:00

Battle to the Races

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.5 miles

A level walk with views to the west before crossing the ridge and descending to Woolley and Charlecombe in the Tadwick valley, then up to the Battlefield and Bath Race Course. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Lansdown Park and Ride ST730682 • Map square A10

Leaders: Wilf Dando, Pauline Vincent & Dave Jennings

Monday • 27 July • 10:00

Valleys, Hills and Ice Creams

Strenuous • 3.5 hours • 6 miles

From the church we cross the Cirencester Road to the hamlet of Hyde. We descend to the canal, where we follow the towpath for a time before our climb back to the common and our reward at Winstones ice cream shop. We return to the start via lane and common.

Starting point: Car park adjacent to Minchinhampton church (off Bell Lane). SO871009 • Map square C6

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

Tuesday • 28 July • 10:00

A Walk in the Secret Forest

Easy • 5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk partly off Rights of Way in the ancient Forest of Wychwood. Returning through Cornbury Park with its herds of Fallow and Sika deer, by kind permission of Lord Rotherwick. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury SP358196 • Map square H4

Leader: Tony Graeme

Tuesday • 28 July • 18:00

An evening Doynton – Dyrham circuit

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A fairly level walk to Dyrham, before joining the Cotswold Way. After a climb through Dyrham Wood, a permissive path takes one around the wood giving good views and we take public footpaths back to the start. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: The Cross House Inn, Doynton. ST720740 • Map square A9

Leaders: John Bartram & Fred Dugan

Wednesday • 29 July • 18:45

Summer Evening Walk No. 2

Easy • 1.5 hours • 3 miles

A low level walk from Wotton to Kingswood and return. Food available at the inn before or after the walk, if required.

Starting point: Royal Oak Inn, Haw Street Wotton Under Edge. Car parking at the inn for customers only. ST755935 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown, Staszek Jarmuz

Friday • 31 July • 9:30

Across the Tops from Condicote

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 12 miles

Take in the gentle high arable land of the North Cotswolds before following the River Windrush from Ford to Kineton and climbing back, passing the stone workings that give the district its identity. Please bring a packed lunch. Possible pub stop (for drinks only).

Starting point: Condicote Village Hall SP153283 • Map square F3

Leaders: Andy Briars, Allan Allcock & Julie Downing

Friday • 31 July • 10:00

Sevington, Grittleton and Littleton's Round

Easy • 5 hours • 9.5 miles

Exploring the open land and villages surrounding one of the most picturesque combes in the Southern Cotswolds, this walk returns to Castle Combe via the Fosse Way/Macmillan Way through the Manor grounds. To be flexible, please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Starting point: Castle Combe upper car park. ST846777 • Map square B9

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday • 31 July • 10:00

A 3 Village Walk

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A hilly walk around 3 lovely Cotswold villages. Lunch and snacks available at the pub.

Starting point: The Plough Inn, Cold Aston SP129196 • Map square E4

Leaders: B Chilvers, G Ricketts & P Cluley

AUGUST

Sunday • 2 August • 10:00

Town & Down

Strenuous • 5 hours • 8 miles

A walk to Uley along the Ewelme Valley, returning around the ancient hill fort and very attractive Cam Long Down ridge. The walk features two steep ascents. Bring a picnic lunch or pub snack available.

Starting point: Dursley Town Hall. Free long stay car parking signed from Long Street or opposite the Old Spot pub. ST757982

Map square A6

Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Hooper

Tuesday • 4 August • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Tuesday • 4 August • 10:00

Literary Connections 2

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

Second in the series. We go through Chipping Campden, Mickleton and back up to Dover's Hill tracing literary figures, past and present, who have found inspiration in the Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Dover's Hill National Trust car park • SP137395 • Map square F2

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Julie Downing

Wednesday • 5 August • 10:00

Withy Wander

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Where shall we wander? To see a raven, sheep, a frog, a fox, and many horses. One steep climb, two major road crossings, and some tall stiles. www.thegoodpubguide.co.uk/pub/view/Mill-Inn. 01242 890204.

Starting point: Mill Inn at Withington GL54 4BE • SP033154 • Map square E5

Leaders: G Saunders, J Shaw & P Burgon



Saturday • 8 August • 10:00

Over and under the M4! Dyrham to Old Sodbury

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 10 miles

The walk will mostly follow the Cotswold Way to Old Sodbury Church with the return under the Cotswold scarp via Hinton. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Keith Rawlings

Tuesday • 11 August • 10:00

Burford and the Windrush

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk over undulating countryside via Fulbrook, Swinbrook and the Windrush valley. Includes some walking on [mainly minor] roads and possibly some muddy field tracks. Lunch options in Burford at the end of the walk.

Starting point: Burford public car park SP255123 • Map square G5

Leader: Tony Graeme

Wednesday • 12 August • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 5, 'Old Abbey and Holywell'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10.30am and takes us via Bradley Green to Wotton Hill and Coombe Hill. We return via Holywell and Wotton. Simple lunches available at the cafe after the walk, if required. More substantial fare available in Wotton.

Starting point: Sports Club cafe, Kingswood. Kingswood lies a mile south west of Wotton

Under Edge. The cafe is next door to Dinneywicks pub. ST747917 • Map square B7

Leaders: Eric Brown & Alan Bulley

Thursday • 13 August • 10:00

Blockley Heritage Walks 3

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

Enjoy some of the walks in the recently published Blockley Heritage collection. This one takes us on the Diamond Way to Hinchwick and Longborough, returning on the Heart of England Way via Sezincote, Bourton-on-the-Hill and the ancient Bourton Woods. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bus shelter, Blockley Village Green. Please park considerately in the village. SP164349 • Map square F3

Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Friday • 14 August • 10:00

Friday Foray from Cackleford

Easy • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

From Cackleford through the villages of Cowley and Coberley, taking in a manor, a court, woods, pastures, and the River Churn. Pub lunches can be ordered before the start.

Starting point: The Green Dragon, Cackleford SO969141 • Map square D5

Leaders: C Dickinson, K Buckle & H Watkinson

Saturday • 15 August • 10:00

Marshfield: Town and Country

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 4.25 miles

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways south to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). Not suitable for pushchairs. Lunch available in pubs and tearoom before the village show at 2pm.

Starting point: Market Place, Marshfield. ST781737 • Map square B9

Leader: David Colbourne

Sunday • 16 August • 10:00

Parks and Courts

Strenuous • 7 hours • 12 miles

We walk from the village northward along the Cotswold escarpment via Standish Woods and Oxlynch to Haresfield Beacon and the village of Haresfield. The return route is via Standish to Eastington and Stanley Downton. Bring a picnic lunch or brief pub lunch available.

Starting point: King's Stanley village free car park, adjacent to the King's Head pub. SO813034 • Map square B6

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Wednesday • 19 Aug • 10:00

The Court of King Solomon

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

A gentle walk over undulating countryside and down country lanes taking in the villages of Waterlane, Iles Green, Oakridge, and Bourne Green. There are two short steep ascents.

Starting point: The Bear Inn, Bisley SO903062 • Map square C5

Leaders: R Hales, M Williams & T Duffin

Wednesday • 19 August • 10:00

From Upton to Compton

Moderate • 6 hours • 12 miles

Meeting at Upton House, a beautiful National Trust property, our walk will consist of stunning views and pretty ironstone villages, all linked by the Centenary Way and MacMillan Way. Possible pub stop but please a packed lunch. Take time to visit Upton House after the walk, transformed back to the 1940s.

Starting point: Upton House [National Trust] car park • SP369457 • Map square H2

Leader: Janet Deller

Thursday • 20 August • 10:00

From Wool to Words

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 9.5 miles

The walk leaves the historic wool town of Northleach and reaches the hamlet of Clapton-on-the-Hill with its medieval writing in the tiny church. We pass through Farmington and cross rolling countryside to explore the history of the three places. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Northleach War Memorial. Parking possible on main road. SP114147

Map square E5

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Friday • 21 August • 10:00

Loop the Loop

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

From a 17th-century pub we follow the Cotswold Way across farmland with livestock and stiles to the restored canal. A steep climb leads back through farmland and woods to Selsley Common. We pass buildings of architectural and industrial interest, including an Arts & Crafts church.

Starting point: The Bell Inn, Selsley. Please park considerately at the roadside or in the car park on Selsley Common. 66S bus route from Stroud, railway stations in Stroud & Stonehouse. SO835038 • Map square B6

Leaders: John Graham & Derrick Hildersley

Saturday • 22 August • 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 ST748757 • Map square A9

Leaders: Fred Dugan & Sandy Higgins

Tuesday • 25 August • 10:00

Walking through History

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A figure of eight passing through Chastleton, Cornwell, Churchill and Daylesford. We will hear about the gunpowder plot, the East India Company and much more. Pub lunch available at Churchill or bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Adlestrop Village Hall, Trust the Motorist car park • SP241272 • Map square F3
Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday • 28 August • 10:00

A Whittington Wander

Moderate • 2.75 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the source of the River Coln via Sevenhampton and the ancient village of Whittington; returning by Syreford Mill and Syreford.

Starting point: The Craven Arms, Brockworth SP035223 • Map square D4
Leaders: P Cluley, G Ricketts & B Chilvers

Saturday • 29 August • 10:00

Boundaries Ancient and Modern

Moderate • 6.5 hours • 11 miles

Along some very old paths from Broadway to Saintbury and then to the top of Broadway Hill for a pit stop, returning to the village along paths to the west of the hill. Bring a packed lunch or enjoy the cafe on Broadway Hill.

Starting point: Broadway, car park off Childswickham Road (pay & display). SP089376 • Map square E2
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sunday • 30 August • 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 ST733617 • Map square A10
Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sunday • 30 August • 14:30

In Search of "Old Mont"

Easy • 2 hours • 4 miles

A circular walk through Fulwell and Clevely visiting places associated with "Old Mont" Abbott, carter and shepherd, made famous by Sheila Stewart's book *Lifting the Latch*. The walk is largely on field paths which can be muddy and uneven so stout footwear is advisable.

Starting point: Enstone, cemetery just off the B4030 • SP381251 • Map square H4
Leader: Tony Graeme

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday • 1 Sept • 10:00

Tuesday Tramp

Moderate • 3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Wednesday • 2 Sept • 10:00

Painswick, Paradise, and the Beacon

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

We follow the Painswick Valley north to the Royal William then over the Beacon for views over the Severn Vale, then we turn south back to Painswick. Small charge for parking but some roadside parking available. Suitable for families but not for pushchairs.

Starting point: Stamages Lane car park Painswick • SO865095 • Map square C5
Leaders: J Shaw, P Burgon & G Saunders

Thursday • 3 Sept • 10:00

Dipping into Broadway's Heritage

Moderate • 5.5 hours • 7.5 miles

We whet our interest in Arts & Crafts with a brief visit to Broadway Tower. After descending to Broadway we explore its heritage with a talk from the Gordon Russell Museum (pub lunch optional or bring your own) and return up the High Street past historic houses.

Starting point: Fish Hill car park, near Broadway • SP120369 • Map square E2
Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Friday • 4 Sept • 9:30

Over the Cotswold Edge 4

Moderate • 5 hours • 10 miles

Another chance to see the north western edge of the Cotswold Hills. From Snowhill we walk southwards and join the Cotswold Way down to the Stanways and Stanton before returning uphill off the Way. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Snowhill public car park SP097340 • Map square E2
Leaders: Allan Allcock, Andy Briars & Julie Downing

Monday • 7 Sept • 10:00

Chavenage, Beverstone and where's that Hermit's Cave?

Easy • 3 hours • 5 miles

We take a bridle path from Chavenage House with its tale about an amorous civil war Royalist at Beverston Castle. We continue across farmland to investigate a hermit's cave and return to the start via Lodge Farm.

Starting point: Chavenage Green, 0.5 miles north west of Chavenage House • ST865957
Map square C7
Leaders: Brian Mundy & David Harrowin

Friday • 11 Sept • 10:00

Friday Foray

Moderate • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Mostly footpaths passing Woodmancote to Nottingham Hill then Cleeve Hill with a couple of steep climbs.

Starting point: Layby 100m north of Southam SO974260 • Map square D4
Leaders: K Buckle, C Dickinson & H Watkinson

Saturday • 12 Sept • 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 ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Wednesday • 16 Sept • 10:00

An Autumn Amble

Moderate • 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk passing the Birdlip Radio Station and Cuckooen Barn Farm to join the Gloucestershire Way along Coldwell Bottom towards Stockwell and back.

Starting point: Barrow Wake car park (off A417) • SO931153 • Map square C5
Leaders: M Williams, R Hales & T Duffin

Thursday • 17 Sept • 10:00

Blockley Heritage Walks 4

Moderate • 5 hours • 8.5 miles

Enjoy some of the walks in the recently published Blockley Heritage collection. This one takes us to Moreton-in-Marsh via Draycott, Aston Magna and Dorn, with its Roman connection, returning via Batsford and Blockley Downs with wonderful views over the village. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Bus shelter, Blockley Village Green. Please park considerably in the village. SP164349 • Map square F3
Leaders: Paul Adams & Keith Sisson

Friday • 18 Sept • 10:00

Coffee Morning Walk No. 6, 'Trekking to Tresham'

Moderate • 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10.30am and drops down to the Kilcote Valley to pick up the Monarch's Way to Tresham. The Cotswold ridge is followed to Alderley; we return to Hillesley via field footpaths. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

Starting point: The Fleece Inn, Hillesley. Parking available at the sports ground 200 yards south of the inn on the opposite side of the road. ST768897 • Map square D2
Leaders: Eric Brown & Derrick Hilderley

Saturday • 19 Sept • 10:00

Boundaries Blurred

Strenuous • 6.5 hours • 11 miles

A walk to explore the woods, fields, meadows, and waterways in late summer. Visiting Edgeworth, Trilliss, Oakridge, Siccaridge, Sapperton, and Pinbury. Bring a picnic lunch as only drinks available at the pub in Oakridge.

Starting point: Roadside on the Winstone to Sapperton road near the crossroads for Edgeworth and Duntisbourne Lear SO960064 • Map square C6
Leaders: S Clark, J Stuart, E Currier & T Sugrue

Sunday • 20 Sept • 10:00

Upper Swainswick to Dyrham – A wandering route!

Strenuous • 6 hours • 10 miles

Minibus transport [£4] departs promptly at 10am to Upper Swainswick. Booking essential on 01225 892374. The walk takes in Little Solsbury Hill [NT] for stunning views over Bath, a wild wood and then climbs Ramscombe Bottom to Charmy Down airfield, Tadwick, Tog Hill, Doynton and back. Please bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park ST748757 • Map square A9
Leaders: John Walker & Sandy Higgins

Sunday • 20 Sept • 10:00

A Return to the Oxfordshire Ironstone Railways

Strenuous • 5.5 hours • 12 miles

Please park considerably on the roadside in the village and bring a packed lunch.

Starting point: Whichford Village Green SP342351 • Map square H3
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Wednesday • 23 Sept • 10:00

Within a Parish

Easy • 3 hours • 5.5 miles

This pleasant walk is in the parish of Lyneham, situated in the Eastern Cotswolds. The route follows field paths and quiet lanes, an ideal walk for novice walkers and those who prefer less undulating terrain. Lunch afterwards at the Golf Club.

Starting point: Wychwood Golf Club OX7 6QQ • SP277209 • Map square G4
Leader: Rosemary Wilson



Nick Turner

Friday • 25 Sept • 10:00

Napping with Bella

Moderate • 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk to Belas Knap through woods and fields. Start is west from Brockhampton crossroads then right at the T junction and on to the end of the road; or, turn right on the Syreford to Whittington road and then continue to the car park at the end.

Starting point: Car park by Wardens Wood at the dead end of the road from Brockhampton or Syreford and Whittington. Phone 01452 619838 for directions if needed. SP010235 • Map square D4
Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & G Ricketts

Sunday • 27 Sept • 10:00

A Barrow Full of Romans

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

A walk around the west of Castle Combe, taking in the nature reserve [not on a public footpath but with permission from landowners], 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 ST846777 • Map square B9
Leaders: Wilf Dando, Pauline Vincent & Dave Jennings

Sunday • 27 Sept • 10:00

No Escape from Landscape and Mandscape

Strenuous • 7 hours • 10 miles

The walk rises from the village to the escarpment and follows the Cotswold Way to Coaley Peak, Nympsfield and Uley Bury. It descends to Coaley village then to Frocester for a visit to the largest medieval barn in the county. Bring a picnic lunch or brief pub lunch available.

Starting point: King's Stanley village free car park, adjacent to the King's Head pub. SO813034 • Map square B6
Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Wednesday • 30 Sept • 10:00

Villages and Views South of Stow

Moderate • 6 hours • 10 miles

From Stow we pass through Netherswell on our way to Wyck Rissington. Onwards to Icomb Hill for panoramic views of the Swells, Stow, Daylesford and beyond. Please bring a packed lunch. Also ample opportunities for refreshments on return to Stow.

Starting point: Stow-on-the-Wold, public car park near Tesco off A429 • SP191262
Map square F3
Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Walks leaders sought

Are you interested in volunteering and leading walks with our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens?

Contact Becky Jones,

Cotswolds Conservation Board on 01451 862000

or email: Rebecca.jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk for further details.



Lower Slaughter, Cotswolds



St Cyr Church, Stonehouse



Painswick, Gloucester



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