

FREE
Walks Guide Inside!

COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF
OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



SPRING / SUMMER 2016 / ISSUE 34

Celebrating 50 years of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



**Creative workshops
in the great outdoors**

with artist Alexandra Woods



PLACES TO VISIT | WALKING | FOOD & DRINK | FARMING | HEALTH & WELLBEING

**Fabulous 50 special
Cotswold experiences**



**A ramble a day
might keep
the doctor
away**



**50 ways to
eat our landscape**



**The Great
Outdoors
Events
Guide**



A great day out...

COTSWOLDS

Living Landscape Festival

enjoy the very best of
our outstanding landscape

Sunday 18 September 2016
10:30am – 4pm



FOOD & DRINK MARKET • RURAL CRAFTS • KIDS ACTIVITIES
GUIDED WALKS • ELECTRIC BIKE RIDES • MUSIC & DANCE
RURAL SKILLS & LIVESTOCK DISPLAYS • COTSWOLD LION CAFÉ
GO COTSWOLDS TOURS • DRY STONE WALLING COMPETITION



National Trust's Lodge Park
Aldsworth, Nr Cheltenham,
Glos, GL54 3PP

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/festival
01451 862003

Entrance to the Festival

Adults..... £4

Children..... £1

(Entry fee also applies to National Trust members)

FREE PARKING

The festival is organised by the
Cotswolds Conservation Board
with all proceeds going to help
protect the landscape.



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The Cotswold Lion is published by: Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Established in 2004, the Board is the only organisation to look after the Cotswolds AONB. The two key purposes of the Board are to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds AONB
- increase understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB, ensuring that these complement the conservation and enhancement of the area

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Front cover image:
Painswick taken by Peter Llewellyn.

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TO DONATE £3**



and help support the Cotswolds Conservation Board in Caring for the Cotswolds

WELCOME TO THE COTSWOLD LION



A new look for fresh ideas to explore & enjoy the Cotswolds in this 50th anniversary year.



The magazine team have been out and about across the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to bring you inspiring and fascinating stories and news for the spring/summer edition of the Cotswold Lion.

You'll have noticed our new look and format, which ties into the AONB's 50th anniversary celebrations. In 1966 the Cotswolds was designated as a

protected landscape recognising it as one of the country's finest landscapes and a place to be looked after for future generations. Throughout 2016, the Cotswolds Conservation Board will hold celebration events – which you will find detailed throughout the magazine.

On our recent trip to Kington we met up with artist Alexandra Woods. Alexandra is leading two Painting & Drawing the Cotswolds weekend workshops this year as part of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary (page 4–5). Across the fields at Windrush Farm, near Cold Aston we speak to the third generation shepherd/sheep farmer Ben Stait to see how sheep farming and shepherding has changed during the last 50 years (page 15). And as sunny temperatures rise we've found some of the best watery, windy and wildlife ways to stay cool and relax in our top ten cool experiences (page 8).

I would like the magazine to inspire you to get out there, and every issue will offer fresh ideas that spark a sense of adventure and discovery. That's why it's packed with our exciting walks guide (pages 19–30) and highlights of what to see and do in our Cotswolds event guide (pages 16–17).

And if you fancy exploring the Cotswolds in a new way, why not enter our competition to win a guided tour by electric bike.

Chris

Chris Brant, Editor

WIN a tour of the Cotswolds by electric bike!

We have teamed up with Cotswold Electric Bike Tours, a new attraction enabling visitors to get up-close and personal with the Cotswolds' idyllic villages and outstanding scenery. www.cotswoldelectricbiketours.com

To win a free tour worth £75 simply email

cotswoldlion@cotswoldsaoanb.org.uk your name, address, telephone number and where you picked up the magazine!

First prize is a voucher for two and single vouchers for 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. Valid until 31 October 2016 and booking subject to availability.

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Deadline is 31 July 2016.



Capability Brown landscapes at Blenheim Palace

Painting the Cotswolds



Creative workshops in the great outdoors celebrate the Cotswolds' golden anniversary.



"The Cotswolds is such a beautiful, rugged landscape, much of it shaped by farming, and always changing with the seasons," says Cotswold artist and tutor Alexandra Woods. "It's a wonderful place to be inspired."

Alexandra is leading two Painting & Drawing the Cotswolds

weekend workshops this year as part of celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Taking place in April and September and among a range of creative courses organised by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, the workshops will encourage people to enjoy the Cotswolds by observing and recording some of its special features.

"We will be capturing Capability Brown landscapes at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, drawing Cotswold Lion sheep, and developing mixed media pieces," Alexandra says. Materials will be supplied and courses are aimed at all abilities, with groups small enough for guidance and encouragement to be given on an individual basis.

"The Cotswolds is such a beautiful, rugged landscape, much of it shaped by farming, and always changing with the seasons"

Alexandra traces her own creativity and love of the countryside to her early childhood at Kineton in the 1970s. "The father of one of my school friends was head shepherd at the nearby Cotswold Farm Park and we had the chance to see and learn about the animals at close hand. There was also a local farmer who welcomed children in the village to visit [his farm] at lambing time."

Gaining Bachelor and Masters degrees, in textile design and sequential illustration respectively, Alexandra was inspired to embark on a painting career after she inherited a large box of oil paints from her grandfather. Unsurprisingly, given her fond childhood memories, passion for the countryside and an interest in good animal husbandry, she specialises in portraits of British farm animals.

"I aim to capture the essence of their spirit and promote the individual within the herd, with a view to encouraging people to have a greater consideration and understanding of animals and our colourful world," she says.

Capability Brown landscapes at Blenheim Palace offer a superb opportunity to develop creative skills in the forthcoming Painting & Drawing the Cotswolds workshops, Alexandra believes. "It is wonderful that the 300th anniversary of Brown's birth coincides with the 50th anniversary year of the Cotswolds AONB and both can be



© Alexandra Woods

© Alexandra Woods

George and Ethel by Alexandra Woods



Anthony Inwood

celebrated together. Brown shaped quite a lot of England and although his parkland is man-made, it has such a natural feel to it.”

During Day 1 of the workshop at Blenheim, Alexandra will guide you in techniques for measuring proportions and angles, considering perspective and composition, “looking at viewpoints just as Brown might have done.” As the natural light changes, so you will be encouraged to record impressions of the colours.

Day 2 of the workshop is all about drawing shaggy-forelocked Cotswold Lion sheep, outdoors at Adam Henson’s Cotswold Farm Park, Kineton. “They are the emblem of the Cotswolds Conservation Board and the idea is to capture a glimpse of their character as they move about,” Alexandra says.

On Day 3, at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Northleach, there is the opportunity to explore materials and techniques like print-making and drawing with the stitched line, to develop mixed media pieces incorporating paintings and drawings from days 1 and 2.

Even if you are unable to book into the workshops, you can be inspired by Cotswold landscapes all through the year. As well as sketching at Adam Henson’s Cotswold Farm Park, Alexandra suggests:

“Moreton-in-Marsh Show in September is another good place to see animals up close. Just walking along Cotswold lanes can be inspiring too – you just have to be patient to wait long enough at a fence to gain farm animals’ trust so that they become curious and, often, particular characters will then catch your eye.

“With landscapes, I tend to go out with friends to explore, taking a drawing board that I rest on my belt buckle. Light and colours constantly changing as the sun moves across the landscape is a challenge, so it’s about working with speed to capture

a glimpse. The main thing is not to always worry about how your drawing looks; it’s the process of drawing which helps you to carefully observe animals and landscapes and understand them.”

To enrol on Painting & Drawing the Cotswolds with Artist Alexandra Woods (15–17 April and 7–9 October) and for details of other weekend creative courses including photography, pottery and weaving, visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50



Nick Turner

Try drawing the iconic Cotswold Lion!

Also check www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50 for diverse and exciting golden anniversary events throughout the year, including:

Roadshow tour of the Cotswolds bringing information on guided walks and volunteering, plus rural skills demonstrations to venues around the region;

The Cotswolds Touring **Memory Café** visiting cafés across the AONB to collect stories for an online archive;

Golden Guided Tours to explore Cotswold landscapes, heritage and culture.



THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

2016 sees the Cotswolds celebrate 50 years of being designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and even the most fleeting visit to our rich rural landscape will reveal that there's plenty to celebrate.

The second largest protected landscape in England, after the Lake District National Park, the Cotswolds AONB contains beautiful rivers, lush valleys, enchanting woodlands and idyllic villages and towns.

The AONB's special qualities may have been wonderfully protected by volunteers, farmers and many who live and work within it, but it's a living, changing landscape. The world around it has changed dramatically during the last 50 years, while many natural and man-made events have shaped the Cotswolds too:

The Cotswolds AONB Timeline

1957

Campaign to Protect Rural England lobby for the creation of the AONB.

1966

The Cotswolds is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, covering 582 sq miles (1,507 sq km).

1968

Cotswolds Voluntary Warden Service set up.

1969

Chedworth nature reserve established by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

1970

Launch of the Cotswold Way.



1971

Cotswold Farm Park opened by Adam Henson's father Joe to help protect some of our rare breeds of farm animals.

1973

Cotswold Sheep, which once roamed the Cotswold hills in their thousands (the hills in fact take their name from the sheep) were classified as "critically rare" with fewer than 250 ewes.

1975

Wardens' guided walks programme begins.

1977

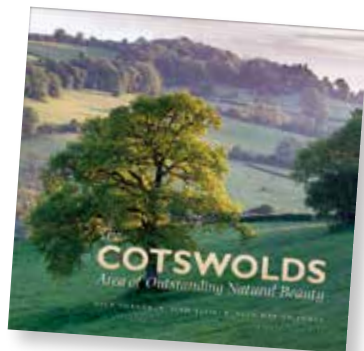
Wychavon Way long-distance (42 miles/68 km) footpath opened linking the River Severn and the Cotswolds through the Vale of Evesham.

1987

Bath selected by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

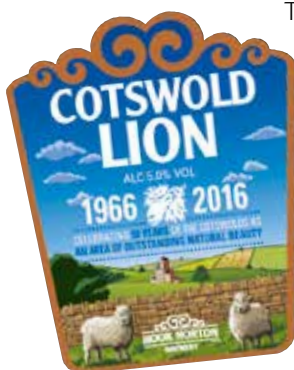
New Cotswolds Book

You can discover a lot more about the Cotswolds AONB and see stunning photography in a new book published as part of the golden anniversary celebrations. The book captures a feast of images by Cotswold photographer Nick Turner and writer Siân Ellis reveals the stories of the landscape.



'The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', published by Nick Darien-Jones, is available to purchase from book shops across the Cotswolds and online www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/shop

Cheers!



Two renowned Cotswolds businesses will be joining in with their own special contributions. Hook Norton Brewery will be reprising the 'Cotswold Lion' ale which they originally brewed for the 40th anniversary, while the Cotswolds Distillery will be badging a limited edition of their classic juniper-led gin.

50th Anniversary Highlights

The Golden Anniversary Walk

The Chairman of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, Liz Eyre will be walking the length of the Cotswold Way from Bath to Chipping Campden. Along the way she will be joined by the local MP's, walkers and community groups.



© National Trust Images/Nick Meers



Cotswolds Living Landscape Festival

A new outdoor festival on 18 September in partnership with the National Trust's Lodge Park.

Cotswolds Inspired – Art Exhibition

The anniversary will culminate in a public art exhibition open to amateur and professional artists from within and beyond the Cotswolds. It will showcase art work in a variety of mediums and genres inspired by the Cotswold landscape. Art submissions open from June 2016.



© Peter Llewellyn

For more information visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50

1990

Cotswolds AONB increases in size to 790 sq miles (2,038 sq km).

1994

Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment carried out.

1996

Bathampton Meadow nature reserve created.

2000

Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 allows establishment of Conservation Boards.

2001

Foot and Mouth Disease causes a crisis in agriculture within the Cotswolds and Britain generally.

2004

The Cotswolds Conservation Board evolves from the Cotswolds AONB Partnership to manage the AONB.

2005

Sustainable Development Fund launched. Cotswolds Rural Skills courses begin.

2007

Friends of the Cotswolds charity launched. First trustee appointed. Culmination of 5-year Caring for the Cotswolds project which saw £2.8m investment in the landscape.

2008

Walks on Wheels mark the 40th anniversary of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

2011

The Cotswolds AONB secures the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism award.

2012

Public vote for Seven Wonders of the Cotswolds.

2013

Cotswolds Visitor Giving launched, raising funds for conservation projects. Friends of the Cotswolds acquire the Old Prison, Northleach and Board opens Cotswold Lion Café.

2014

Cotswolds Discoverer integrated bus and rail ticket encourages use of public transport. Dry Stone Walling

Academy set up, helping to keep alive this great rural skill. Save our Magnificent Meadows 3-year project begins.

2015

Cotswolds Conservation Board and partners capture Cotswolds LEADER programme, a £1.988m programme of investment in rural growth and jobs.

2016

Cotswolds AONB shares 50th anniversary with: Prime Minister David Cameron who celebrates his 50th birthday. U.S. National Park Service turns 100.



Creative weekend courses in the Cotswolds

Courses in art, weaving & photography with each day at a different location in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Ditching the classroom for the great outdoors!

Enjoy the Cotswolds through observing and capturing the outstanding natural beauty in the Cotswolds AONB's special 50th anniversary courses.



Painting & Drawing the Cotswolds with Artist Alexandra Woods

15 – 17 April, 7 – 9 October 2016
Blenheim Palace, Cotswold Farm Park
& Cotswolds Discovery Centre

£235



Weaving the Wonderful Cotswolds with Rebecca Connolly

18 & 19 June 2016
Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park
& Cotswolds Discovery Centre

£155



Cotswolds Photography with Photographer Anthony Inwood

23 – 25 September 2016
Woodchester Mansion,
Westonbirt Arboretum & Rococo Gardens

£235

To book and to see further information visit

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50 or call **01451 862000**

Top 10 Cool Experiences

As sunny temperatures rise we've found some of the best watery, windy and wildlife ways to stay cool and relax.

50 shades of summer

Enjoy strolls at Westonbirt, The National Arboretum where dazzling leaves range in colour from lime to the reds of Japanese maple. Relax in the refreshing shade of green leafy rides and secluded glades, www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt



The Forestry Commission

Dip into wildlife

Look for kingfishers, heron, butterflies, otters along the River Eye at Greystones Farm nature reserve, Bourton-on-the-Water. Come river dipping on Open Farm Sunday (5 June) or Big Bourton Picnic (14 August), www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk



Wet your whistle

Discover the secrets of beer making on a tour of Hook Norton Brewery, England's finest example of a Victorian tower brewery, finishing in the sampling bar with beer tasting, www.hooky.co.uk



Cotswold Farm Park

Shear magic

See how sheep are given a helping hand to cool down at Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, Kineton. Shearing demonstrations take place 14 May–19 June, www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk



Canal & River Trust

Messing about in boats

Take a boat trip from the Wharf at Bradford-on-Avon and drift along the Kennet & Avon Canal, or explore the Stroudwater Navigation on trips from Ebley Mill, www.bradfordonavon.co.uk/ www.cotswoldcanals.com



Breezy views

Feel cool around the collar in the wind-whistled viewing gallery at the top of the Tyndale Monument on Nibley Knoll, North Nibley: 360-degree vistas over the escarpment and to the Severn Estuary are worth the 121-step climb, www.northnibley.org.uk

Kites and ice

Catch a breeze and fly your kite high up on Rodborough Common, then treat the kids to chilled drinks and coconut flavour ice cream from Winstones ice cream parlour on the edge of the common, www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Nick Turner

Fountain fun

Share a light shower in a gust of spray from the world's tallest gravity-fed fountain at Stanway House & Fountain, before exploring the 18th-century water garden. Open from June, www.stanwayfountain.co.uk



Something's fishy

See trout leap for food thrown by visitors – you could get wet – or hook your supper in the Catch Your Own Fishery at Bibury Trout Farm, plus learn about rainbow and brown trout, www.biburytroutfarm.co.uk



Neil Morgan Design

Making a splash

Dip your toes in the River Windrush at Bourton-on-the-Water and watch the world go by, but stand well back on 29 August at the River Football, making a big splash since 1880, www.bourtoninfo.com



Nick Turner

Fabulous 50

Special Cotswold Experiences

Send us your favourite experience enjoyed in the Cotswolds – and you could win a prize!



© Nicole Marina

What are your favourite or most memorable experiences that make the Cotswolds special to you? That's the question we are asking as part of our celebrations of the AONB's golden anniversary.

Maybe it's feeling your heart leap as a skylark trills overhead on a Bath Skyline walk, bundling the kids off to run wild across Cleeve Common, or a riverside picnic with friends near the romantic ruins of Minster Lovell Hall.

Send in your favourite experience – described in no more than 140 characters – and we will compile a Fabulous 50 to share, with ten nominations going forward for a public vote to find the overall Fabulous at 50 special Cotswold experience.



© Frances Wilson



© Charmaine Mitchell

You could be in for a prize, too: if your idea makes the top ten you will receive a 50th Anniversary Gift Set of our Hook Norton Cotswold Lion brew along with anniversary pint glass, plus tea for two at the Cotswold Lion Café at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre in the Old Prison, Northleach. If you are under 18 and a winner, you will receive a Cotswolds goodie bag of treats!

So is your favourite or

How, where, when

Send us your favourite or most memorable experiences that make the Cotswolds special to you, described in no more than 140 characters, in one of the following ways:

Email info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Tweet @CotswoldsAONB and use #Fabulousat50

Post a message on www.facebook.com/CotswoldsAONB

By postcard to Fabulous at 50, Cotswolds Conservation Board, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH.

You may enter up to three experiences per person. After 15 August 2016, we will share our Fabulous 50 reflecting the diversity of special experiences to enjoy around the Cotswolds, on the AONB website at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/fabulousat50. Our top ten will be posted on the website/published in the Autumn 2016/ Winter 2017 issue of the Cotswold Lion for a public vote to find the overall favourite Fabulous at 50 special Cotswold experience.

For terms and conditions and full details, see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/fabulousat50

memorable special Cotswold experience seasonal: smelling the intoxicating summer perfume of roses at Kiftsgate Court Gardens or scuffling through multi-coloured leaves on a crisp autumn morning at Batsford Arboretum?

Maybe it's enjoying a family fun day out at the unique Cotswold Olimpicks on Dover's Hill, playing nature detectives in a local nature reserve, or feeling a deep sense of mystery amid the Rollright Stones that you treasure? Let us know!



© Ian Curtress

WALKING FOR HEALTH IN THE COTSWOLDS

Picnics by streams, exploring historic sites and exercising the dog are all great reasons to pull on the wellies and head out on a footpath. Those who walk regularly will know how revived you can feel after a good step in the open air; how the exercise and fresh air seems to 'clear' the head.



A breath-taking view can invigorate us and lift our mood. Now it's official, there's a healthy incentive too: walking is good for you.

A recent report by The Ramblers and Macmillan Cancer Support concludes:

"Walking works. It makes people happy, keeps everyone healthy... and can even save your life".

Walking is one of the first things we learn, eager as toddlers to explore the world around us. As adults with busy but increasingly sedentary lives, it's all too easy to forget this simple pleasure. Yet if we find just a little time (30 minutes a day is hugely beneficial health-wise) to walk, perhaps following footpaths across wildflower rich commons or circling a Cotswold village, we can soon rediscover that sense of wonder in the incredible natural world around us. And it's free too.

So forget expensive gym sessions, walking has been proven to combat serious health issues and to improve mental health. It's an excellent, low impact exercise with numerous health benefits that also gives you the chance to explore your local area. According to Professor Diane Crone of the University of Gloucestershire and member of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, who has conducted research on the impact that walking has on our health:

"Being physically active can benefit your health, help you sleep better, maintain a healthy weight, manage stress and improve quality of life."

"Being physically active can benefit your health, help you sleep better, maintain a healthy weight, manage stress and improve quality of life."

Explore New Areas

Add variety to your walks, whether it's discovering hidden valleys, climbing a hill you've never seen the views from (the wildly beautiful limestone grassland of Cleeve Hill or the steep pastures leading up to Broadway Tower?) or exploring man-made treasures such as Woodchester Mansion or an Iron Age hill fort.

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens run guided walks across the Cotswolds, offering great insights into the AONB, often entertaining as well as scenic – from countryside views of Bath to bluebell woods or kids' Fort, Court and Common walks from Stroud. There are walks for all abilities and ages, including Town Walks which are usually on the flat.

See www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk

Discover Dover's Hill, scene of the Cotswold Olympics, Cirencester parkland or a prehistoric site through the great Walks on Wheels: short routes throughout the Cotswolds AONB, all accessible for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and buggies. Downloadable at www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk

For those wanting new inspiration for walks with family or friends, there are free downloadable 'miles without stiles' walks at www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk. Some of these are longer routes for experienced walkers – comfortable shoes or walking boots are a good idea.

Slightly longer self-guided walks are available to download from the Cotswold Way website www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way. The Cotswold Way offers just over 100 miles of magical walking, with long distance views from the Cotswold escarpment, and journeys through picturesque villages and past famous ancient sites.

Sociable Walking

Walking may be good for your mind and body but it can also have a positive impact on your social life. Joining a walking group can be a great way of meeting new people, sharing stories, having a laugh and making friends. A weekly dog-walk with a friend or a weekend afternoon ramble with friends is a very relaxing way to enjoy good company too. Even if you get lost, are soaked through in a rainstorm or your children decide to add a very muddy detour, you'll have shared experiences to remember and laugh about.



Walks on Prescription

The Cotswolds Conservation Board is aiming to run a pilot scheme during 2016, working directly with GP surgeries in the north of the AONB to provide prescriptive short walks (local to the surgeries) that the GP will be able to print off and give to patients.

Hopefully this will have benefits for patients' general health (working well in preventing illnesses) as well as aiding recovery after periods of ill health.

The NHS provides great information on the health benefits of walking at www.nhs.uk/livewell

The Ramblers' Association (www.ramblers.org.uk) organises group walks for a range of ages and walking abilities in towns and cities as well as the countryside. Liz Eyre, Chairman of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, will be walking the Cotswold Way in a very sociable style this year: starting Saturday 19 March from Bath, she'll be joined by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, and community groups.

The Health Facts

- **Walking 2 miles per day can reduce the risk of heart attack by 28%.**
- **You use roughly the same number of calories whether you walk or jog the same distance.**
- **Walking at any pace reduces risk of heart disease, stroke, osteoporosis, arthritis and some cancers.**

- **Walking at a brisk pace reduces blood pressure and improves the functioning of heart and lungs.**
- **Children who use green space are more likely to use green space as adults.**
- **150 minutes of moderate activity (walking is perfect!) per week is the recommended healthy amount for adults in the UK.**

For further information see the Cotswolds Conservation Board's guide to walking to health: www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk/walking/walking-for-health or visit www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way



Nick Turner



Nick Turner



Edible Cotswolds

50 WAYS TO EAT OUR LANDSCAPE

With its rolling hills, meandering rivers and open commons where cattle graze amongst the wild flowers, the Cotswolds offers a perfect foodie landscape; a fertile area in which to produce delicious food and drink, and a wonderful place in which to enjoy scoffing it. Our artisan producers help sustain our countryside so why not support them by greedily celebrating 50 fine food and drinks products from around the AONB.

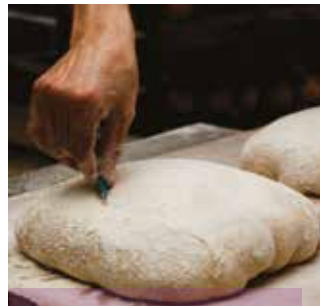
The first 25 foodie products are perfect for filling your picnic basket with and heading off to the banks of the idyllic Windrush or beautiful Evenlode. For Autumn/Winter we'll feature heartier Cotswold fare from warming pies and tasty local mutton to darker local ales and amber coloured ciders.

While the cowslips flower and the sun shines (hopefully!), it's time to lay down your blanket and tuck into a selection of the Cotswold goodies below:



Charcuterie from the Real Boar

1. Wild about charcuterie – salamis from www.therealboar.co.uk are made in the Cotswolds from Cotswold reared wild boar. This is meat that's as free-range, in fact wild as it comes.
2. The Cotswold Curer – free range, Cotswold produced salami and chorizos from Gloucestershire Old Spot pigs slow-reared in a village near Cirencester.
3. King of the Sourdough – a properly risen loaf from fifth generation family bakery, Hobbs House with shops in Chipping Sodbury, Tetbury, Nailsworth and Cirencester will be perfect with the charcuterie.



Hobbs House



Simon Weaver's Cotswold Brie

4. Cotswolds Whey – stroll across Minchinhampton Common and you may spot cattle from Woefulthane Organic Dairy. Buy their delicious cheese (including Single Gloucester and creamy Blue Heaven), yoghurts and creamy Jersey milk from the lovely Minchinhampton shop.
5. Fruit – there are some wonderful orchards within the AONB offering apples, pears, plums. See www.haylesfruitfarm.co.uk
6. Smoked trout from the crystal clear waters of the Bibury Spring at Bibury Trout farm.
7. Wild Spirit in the AONB – the Cotswolds Distillery, based near Chipping Norton produces a delicious Cotswolds Dry Gin including a brand which specifically celebrates the Cotswolds' AONB 50th anniversary.
8. Cotswold Brie – from Simon Weaver's organic dairy near Lower Slaughter. Subtle in flavour and wonderfully buttery.



Cotswolds Distillery Dry Gin



Tewkesbury Mustard



Old Cotswold Legbars



Jolly Nice home-reared meat



Cotswold Honey

- 9. Burford Brown eggs are great for hard-boiling or in home-made mayonnaise. Despite their name, they were developed in 1990 at Broadway. Or try Cotswold Legbars for their beautiful pale-blue shells.
- 10. Tewkesbury Mustard.
- 11. Double Gloucester cheese – try Cooper’s Hill Cheese Rolling.
- 12. Hook Norton’s Cotswold Lion Beer – brewed to celebrate the AONB’s golden anniversary.
- 13. Cotswold rapeseed oil – great for salad dressings in your picnic. See www.r-oil.co.uk and www.cotswoldgold.co.uk
- 14. Smoked salmon and meats from the Coln Valley Smokery.
- 15. Winstones Ice Cream – visit the ice-cream parlour on Rodborough Common.
- 16. Cider from www.cotswoldciderco.com supporting native apple varieties.

- 21. Windrush Ale or Shagweaver from www.northcotswoldbrewery.co.uk are lovely, summery pints.
- 22. Home-baked pies and quiche made with home-reared meat from some of our fabulous farmshops including www.oldfarmdorn.co.uk (near Moreton-in-Marsh) and www.harrietsjollynice.co.uk (near Minchinhampton).
- 23. Relish in chutneys from Malmesbury’s Tricklements condiments.
- 24. Summer is a great time for picking elderflowers – cook with local gooseberries or make elderflower cordial.
- 25. Cotswold Honey – delicious runny honey or set from bees that have foraged on our spring blossoms and wildflowers.



Cotswold Cider

- 17. Gorsehill Abbey Cheese – ripe, mellow cheese from organic dairy cows grazing the rich fertile farmland near Broadway.
- 18. Jess’s Ladies Organic Farm Milk – not homogenised, this is milk from cows grazing organic pastures rich in wildlife.
- 19. Perry – try this traditional drink from the fruit of ancient perry pear trees, a great (and fast disappearing) feature of our landscape.
- 20. Still thirsty? Try a refreshing Cotswold lager from www.cotswoldbrewing.com



Look out for this logo – only products that keep the Cotswolds AONB beautiful can use it.

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LAZY SUMMER DAYS ON THE RIVERBANK

Redolent of simple, carefree summers, and pond dipping can give our children (and us) the sort of adventures our grandparents enjoyed when they gathered by water on a summer's day to paddle, picnic and play.



Family fun by the riverbank

There's something about messing about by water that transports even the most cynical to a nostalgic childhood world of dam-building, pooh sticks and exploring.

With rivers and streams meandering through wildflower meadows and mellow villages, and cosy riverside pubs to warm up in after a particularly bracing paddle, the Cotswolds offer plenty of

tempting spots to dangle your feet.

Deborah Devonshire's account of learning to swim in the Cotswolds as a child in her memoirs is particularly enticing:

"...the smell of newly cut grass, cow parsley, thrushes ...takes me back to our stretch of the Windrush. No health, no safety, no handrail on the single planks that were our bridges as we crossed and recrossed over the river. It was paradise and I knew it."

Daniel Start's brilliant 'Wild Swimming' book is full of enthusiasm for, paddling and h in our rivers, with great tips for where to go. According to Daniel:

"The Cotswolds are a wonderful place for clear streams and babbling brooks. I love the Windrush, it has such a bucolic name and is lined with reeds and bullrushes which rustle in the breeze. There are many lovely spots to take a dip on a hot summer day, such as at Minster Lovell, Asthall and Burford common.

Or you can dip in the Evenlode,

near where some of the first dinosaur fossils were found, at Stonesfield. Here there is a lovely grassy meadow with a footbridge, perfect for Pooh sticks."

Enough to have me packing a towel, a picnic and heading for a river-bank. For info:

Wild Swimming:
300 hidden dips in the rivers, lakes and waterfalls of Britain
by Daniel Start (Wild Things Publishing)
www.wildswimming.co.uk

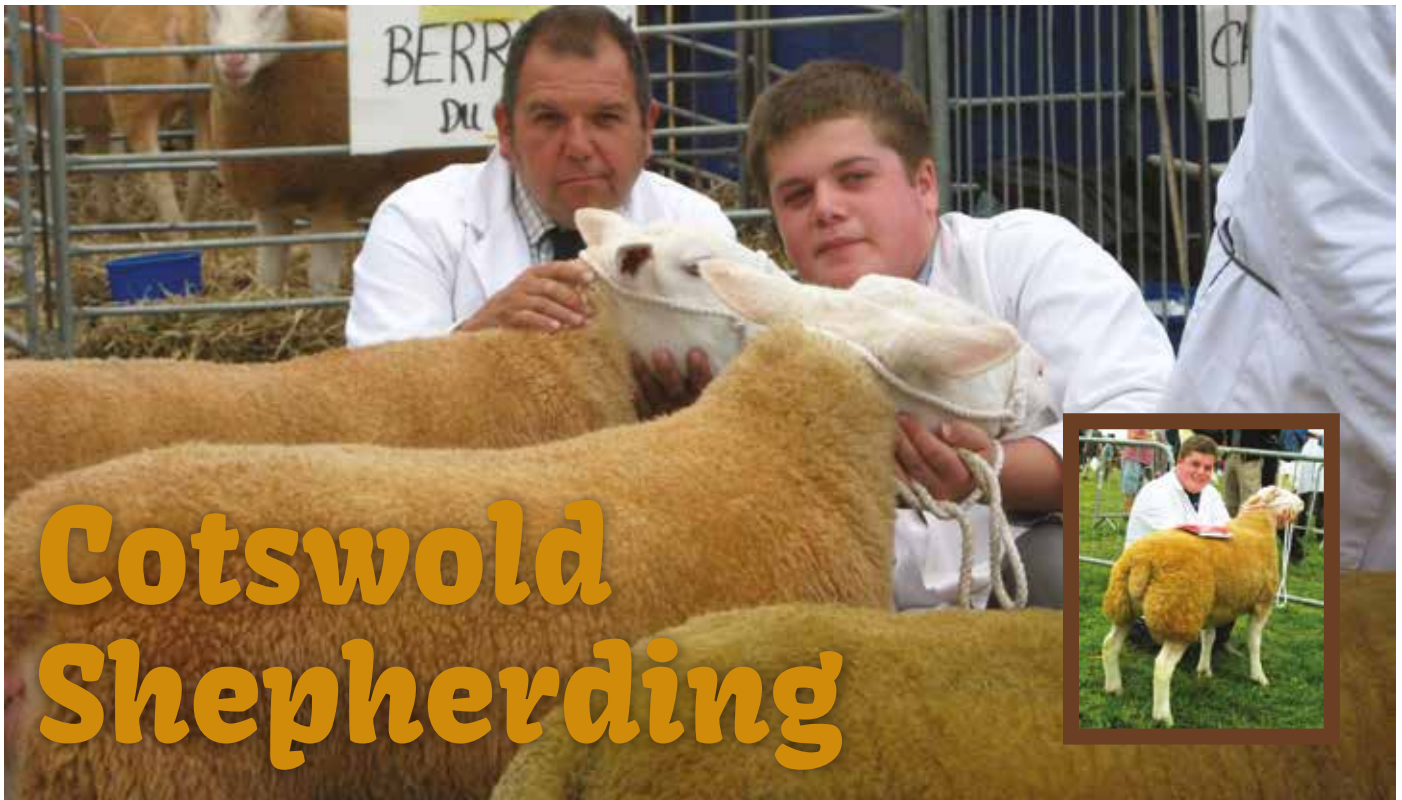


Tips for messing about by water:

- Stay safe and legal. There are no automatic rights to access all our waterways, you're relying on owner's goodwill and established rights in certain spots. If in doubt, see www.riversaccess.org or www.ukriversguidebook.co.uk
- Check it's clean. It's not infallible but if the water looks appealing it probably is, if it looks scummy, your instincts to keep away are probably right. If in doubt check www.environment-agency.gov.uk before leaving home.
- Check currents and depth of water – currents are likely to be stronger after higher rainfall.
- Acclimatise to cold water gradually and always take warm clothes to put on afterwards.
- Taking children's fishing nets, buckets and a picnic rug will ensure you can set up camp for a full day in the summer.



Enjoying the summer sunshine by the river



Cotswold Shepherding

Sheep have been a key feature of the Cotswolds landscape since Roman times, when the Cotswold breed was introduced to the UK. Known as the 'Cotswold Lion' its 'Golden Fleece' played a major part in the prosperity of our area and the breed gave its name to the hills upon which it grazed.

Times have changed and although still inextricably linked with our countryside, the Cotswold breed of sheep is now a rare breed.

To find out how sheep farming and shepherding has changed during the last 50 years, we spoke to third generation shepherd/sheep farmer Ben Stayt whose family have lived in Church Westcote since 1690. Ben breeds and rears quality pedigree breeding sheep at Windrush Farm, near Cold Aston, with about 50 or 60 breeding females; his grandfather who farmed sheep at Church Westcote (producing predominantly lamb for meat) had 350 breeding females.

By the time Ben's father was sheep farming, partly because Cotswold sheep farmers were competing with

cheap meat imports, there was a need to combine another trade with shepherding in order to earn a living – in his case, dry stone walling. Ben supplements his own living as a shepherd with an online business selling showing products for sheep.

A shift in our attitude towards local food has been key to this change. Ben notes that in his grandfather's day, "good meat was a treat and people paid a fair price for it – now we spend money on a new gadget for a treat and food is often more about convenience and quickness." The other factor is the dwindling value of wool: "The cost of shearing means that the fleece hardly pays for it."

Technology has obviously improved over the last 50 years and an increasing amount of Windrush Farm's business is now online plus artificial insemination and embryo transfer between females has revolutionised pedigree breeding. Sheep farming is still very much about people though and Ben clearly enjoys his work:

"The Cotswolds lends itself to sheep farming. And there's nothing more satisfying than winning a show with an animal you've looked after."

Hopefully the renewed interest in traditional breeds and quality, means locally sourced food will continue, helping to sustain the sheep-farming tradition that's so intertwined with our Cotswold landscape.

Other Rural Skills that have shaped the Cotswolds:

Dry stone walling and hedge-laying.

Horse Logging – A low-impact way of managing woodland areas, recently enjoying a revival.

Blacksmithing – A vital part in Cotswold communities for centuries, making and servicing farming implements and tools and shoeing horses.

Thatching – a highly skilled job that is still alive in our Cotswold villages.

For artisan skills courses see www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk & roadshow demonstrations at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

For specialist sheep supplies see www.show-box.co.uk

For more information on Windrush Farm pedigree sheep see www.windrushfarm.co.uk



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

EVENT GUIDE

Your guide to upcoming events across the Cotswolds. Spring/Summer 2016.

APRIL



Flowering Cherries in Full Bloom at Batsford Arboretum

From Saturday 9 April
Open daily until 5pm

Batsford Arboretum is blossom-tastic as their beautiful National Collection of Japanese Flowering Cherries take over as the stars of the show. A riot of every shade of pink you can think of, they should be at their blooming best from mid-April.

Please call for an update on
01386 701441
www.batsarb.co.uk

Stars & Supper

Saturday 16 April, 6 – 10pm

Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Fosse Way Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JL
An astronomical evening with the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group. After a delicious 2 course meal, let these stargazers guide you through the night sky, and look through a wide range of powerful telescopes to observe the moon, planets and stars in the atmospheric setting of the Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison. £20.
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre
01451 861563



Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park

Bemborough Farm, Kineton, nr Cheltenham, Gloucester GL54 5UG
Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park has a busy events timetable for the 2016 season. The schedule is designed to entice visitors of all ages and includes Cart Horse Weekend, Falconry Week, Shearing Week, Countryside Skills Week and even Story Telling Week. See the website for more information.
www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk



Also in April:

Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations, Chipping Norton Literary Festival and the Cotswolds AONB Roadshows in Painswick and in Broadway.

MAY



Nick Turner

Cotswold Sheep & Wool Day

Bank Holiday Monday 2 May,
10am – 4pm

Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Fosse Way Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JL
A family fun day to celebrate the Cotswold Lion sheep and all things woolly! Free.
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre
01451 861563



Calling all Cotswold Wine Lovers!

Saturday 14 May, Cheltenham Town Football Club, 12noon – 5pm

Cotswold wine merchants are to exhibit at the Cheltenham Wine Festival to provide an unmissable fine wine experience for all wine lovers. Featuring a Charity Grand Tasting and 20 merchants. Top wine merchants from Chipping Campden, Broadway, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Cirencester & Tetbury are among those showcasing over 250 wines to taste, enjoy and discover, from some of the world's best wine regions.

Festival Director Dr John Parr says: "All wine lovers from beginners to enthusiasts will enjoy a great day out in the relaxed and informal atmosphere of the walk-around tasting" Tickets include a complimentary wine glass, and all wine tasting samples.

Grand Tasting Tickets at £20, in advance only, are available from www.cheltenhamwinefestival.com

Cotswold Festival of Steam Gala

Saturday 28 – Monday 30 May
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway
Celebrating steam locomotives built in Swindon. Admission by ticket only.
Book online at www.gwsr.com

Winchcombe Walking Festival

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 May
Across Winchcombe
As the first town in the Cotswolds to gain 'Walkers are Welcome' status, Winchcombe is deservedly proud of the quality of its walks. Come and celebrate with them at this three day festival.
www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/festival

Also in May:

Giffords Circus 'The Painted Wagon Tour', Blenheim Palace Food Festival and Bath Music Festival.

JUNE

Medieval Pardoner Re-enactment

Saturday 4 June, 10:30am – 4pm

Come and experience life in medieval times when a pardoner and his apprentice will be setting up camp in the courtyard at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre. Find out about everyday living, food, drink & fun! Learn about the wondrous holy relics of Gloucestershire and then try your hand at writing with a quill pen! Free.
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre
01451 862035

Cotswold Grassland Week

Saturday 11 – Sunday 19 June

Across the Cotswolds

Discover the fabulous wildflower grasslands of the Cotswolds during a week of walks, talks and open days. Explore and have fun! You will find the walks in the Walks Guide section on page 24.

The Folklore & Medicinal Properties of Plants

Saturday 11 June, 2pm – 3:30pm

Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Fosse Way Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JL
An hour's talk, with time for questions, looking at a variety of plants and discussing their medicinal virtues and folklore. Free, please book.
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre
01451 862035





Nick Turner

Cleeve Hill Discovery Day

Sunday 12 June, 2pm – 5pm

Cleeve Hill, near Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL54 4EU

A family discovery day of tractor rides, bug hunts, and fun amongst the flowers of Cleeve Hill.

Free, please book.

conservators@cleevecommon.org.uk

Managing Grasslands for Wildlife

Thursday 16 June, 2pm – 4pm

Cotswolds Discovery Centre
at the Old Prison, Fosse Way,
Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JL

An illustrated talk exploring our amazing wildflower grasslands and their ecology and management.

Free, please book.

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre
01451 862035

Fun and Flowers on the Hill

Saturday 18 June, 11am – 2pm

Leckhampton Hill (parking at Salterley Quarry car park) nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9QW

Join us on Leckhampton Hill for storytelling, face painting, and bug hunts amongst the flowers. Bring a picnic & rug! Free.

www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk
01242 262626

Corsham Walking Festival

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 June

Corsham, Wiltshire

An amazing weekend with a variety of walk themes such as Brunel's railway, quarry tramways, geology, wildflowers, treasure hunt and dog walk, plus evening supper and quiz.

www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk

Also in June:

Wychwood Festival, Forest Live at Westonbirt Arboretum and the 'Brewery to Distillery' Guided Tour.

JULY

National Meadows Day & Bioblitz at Dyrham Park

Saturday 2 July, 11am – 4pm

Dyrham Park, Gloucestershire SN14 8ER

Dyrham Park will be hosting a real-life wildlife expedition, searching for and documenting all of the weird and

wonderful species in our wildflower meadow. Join us in Whitefield, our wildflower meadow, to celebrate all things meadows! Get your face painted and take part in our bioblitz with lots of experts on hand! Meet our bee keeper, take part in craft activities, photography, watch some scything action and learn all about wildflowers and meadow grasses. You can even make some wildflower seed bombs, bee hotels and flower crowns with us. Free event but normal admission charges apply.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyrham-park

Cornbury Music Festival

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 July

Great Tew Park, Nr Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

Cornbury Music Festival's classic line-up this year is packed with true legends, rising stars, must-sees, original rockers, awesome live performers – a lot of big hitters. Set in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

www.cornburymusicfestival.com/tickets 0844 338 0000

Also in July:

Tewkesbury Medieval Festival and The Cotswold Show.

AUGUST

Wind in the Willows Outdoor Theatre

Friday 26 August, 3pm

Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH

Sunday 28 August, 2:30pm, 6:30pm
Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick, Gloucestershire GL6 6TH

Join Ratty, Mole and Badger as they explore the riverbank and try to contain the excitable Toad. Expect animals, adventure, swashbuckling and motor-cars. Adapted from the classic novel by Kenneth Grahame, five actors play a variety of characters in this brilliant, hilarious and breathtaking story presented by IK Productions. Booking is through the Box Office at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham.

www.everymantheatre.org.uk
Box Office: 01242 572573



Neil Morgan Design

Also in August:
Wilderness Festival, The Big Festival and Football in the River in Bourton-on-the-Water.

SEPTEMBER

Cotswolds Living Landscape Festival

Sunday 18 September, 10:30am – 4pm

National Trust's Lodge Park,
Aldsworth, nr Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL54 3PP

A great day out for the whole family to enjoy the very best of the Cotswolds landscape. Visit the Cotswold Food & Drink Marketplace, see rural crafts being made and take a ride on the new Cotswold Electric Bikes! Watch livestock displays, a dry stone walling competition, local music and dance

performances and if you still have some energy left why not join the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens on a short guided walk. For those who would like to take it a little easier then why not take a trip on the Go Cotswolds minibus on a short scenic tour or have tea and cake at the Cotswold Lion Café. Free parking. Entrance to the festival: Adults £4, Children £1 (entry fee also applies to National Trust members).

www.cotswoldsaoib.org.uk/festival
01451 862003

Also in September:

Moreton-in-Marsh Show and Heritage Open Days.

Find more events online at
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk



CHEL TENHAM WINE FESTIVAL

Grand Wine Tasting
Saturday 14 May 2016

Top Wine Merchants | 250 Wines
Cheltenham Town FC | 12noon-5pm

Tickets £20 in advance only
Visit CheltenhamWineFestival.com



In association with:

In aid of local charities and:

BULLETIN

Top stories from the Cotswolds Conservation Board



A golden anniversary year

It's a big year for the Cotswolds as we celebrate 50 years of being designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Throughout the year, the Cotswolds Conservation Board will be holding celebration events to mark the occasion and to encourage everyone and protect this beautiful landscape. Visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50 to find out more.

New rural grants programme



A programme to boost jobs and growth for rural businesses and communities in the Cotswolds with nearly £2m

of funding has opened for business. The Cotswolds LEADER programme provides grants to small businesses, farmers, foresters and communities for projects that create jobs and grow the rural economy. Find out more and how to apply for funding by visiting www.cotswoldsleader.org.uk

Visitor payback scheme raises new funds for conservation projects

The Cotswolds Visitor Giving scheme continues to raise substantial funds for conservation projects across the AONB. In the second round of pay outs, the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway Trust received £2,500 towards a new railway halt connecting walks to Hailes Abbey. The North Cotswolds Deer Management Group received £1,481 to purchase eight stealth trail cams to monitor and count the population of wild deer.

Go Cotswolds guided tours and Cotswold Electric Bike Tours are the latest businesses to sign up to the scheme. A new round of funding will open at Easter. Find out more at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visitingiving

Funding drive for the Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison

The Cotswolds Conservation Board working with the Friends of the Cotswolds learnt in January that their Heritage Lottery Fund bid has been unsuccessful. The bid was for significant enhancements to the Old Prison visitor centre in Northleach, including an all weather gallery to better display the important agricultural collection. Work will continue to apply for other funding opportunities.

The winning pictures

Keen amateur photographers of all ages were offered the opportunity to capture what they felt sums up the beauty and uniqueness of the Cotswolds AONB.

Peter Llewellyn from Painswick was the overall winner with his photo 'Cotswold Views' taken from the top of St Mary's Church in Painswick. Runners up were: Nicole Marina from Kingham with her photo of a little girl running through the countryside near Daylesford and Mary Nelson from Cheltenham with her capture of Cleeve Hill. In the under 16's category Tom Cross aged 14 from Malmesbury in Wiltshire won with his photo of a Cotswold sunrise.

For more news visit:

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/news or watch updates on YouTube by searching 'Cotswolds AONB Update'.

The Magnificent Meadows Diary with Eleanor Reast

The Save Our Magnificent Meadows team have been working with landowners and farmers across the Cotswolds AONB to reintroduce native wildflowers to land that has lost its botanical interest. Last summer our brush harvester was out on sunny days harvesting wildflower seed from six large sites across the Cotswolds. Bad weather hampered efforts which meant a number of sites were not harvested but they will be used as donors this coming summer. The seed has been broadcast across approximately 35 hectares on 11 different sites, all local to each seed source. New sites are now being lined up for harvesting and broadcasting this coming summer.

Over the winter volunteers have been opening up areas of grassland

by clearing scrub from sites across the AONB. One site holds a good population of the rare Marsh Fritillary butterfly but feeding and breeding areas were being lost to encroaching ash and bramble. A few hours of help from volunteers has opened up this valuable piece of grassland allowing cattle to move freely through the site and keep on top of the more competitive grasses, allowing more species to flourish this summer.

If you'd like to know more about the project and how you can help then please email me eleanor.reast@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Cotswold Walks Guide

Spring/Summer 2016

Discover the beautiful Cotswolds AONB with our free walks guide. Exploring in the fresh air is a great way for you, your family and friends to enjoy the spring and summer!

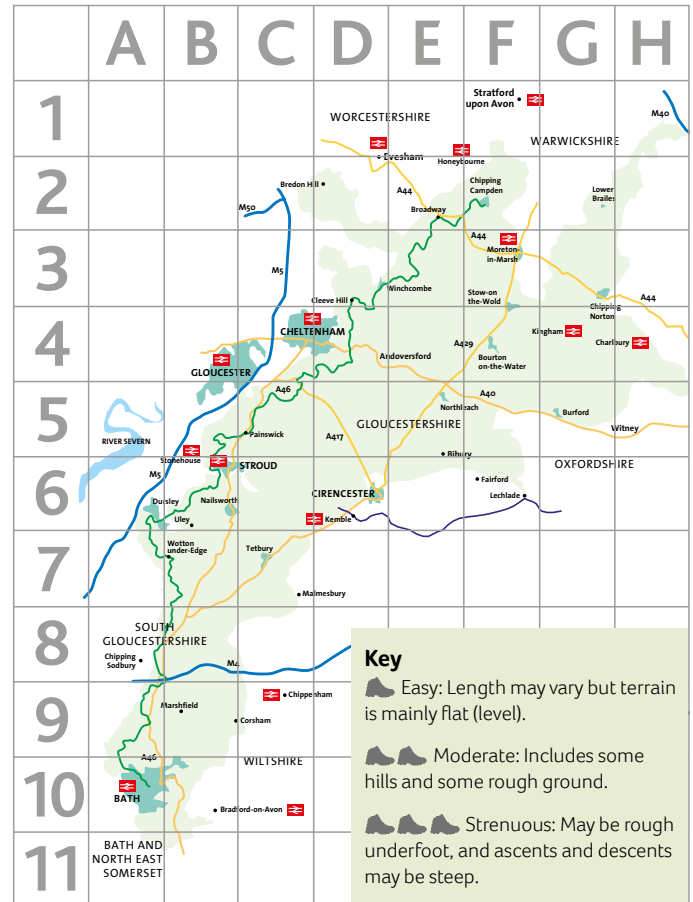
The majority of walks here are led by our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens therefore you can be assured of an informative and entertaining walk in the Cotswolds. We recommend you always wear appropriate footwear as some walks may be muddy in places. Sorry, but only assistance dogs are allowed on the walks. 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.

#CotswoldsWalks

Don't forget to use #CotswoldsWalks and share your pictures on social media when out walking and we will share them!

Walks Guide online

For further details of all walks 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 861711 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

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.

Visiting the Countryside

Chalara dieback of ash trees has now been confirmed in the Cotswolds. It is one of a growing number of potentially damaging diseases affecting our landscape. So, when visiting the countryside, please help to reduce the spread of these diseases by ensuring that no plant material is removed and that all footwear and outdoor equipment are cleaned.

April

Sunday 3 April 10:00am Springtime in Two Timeless Valleys

6 hours • 9.5 miles

Quiet paths and byways from Hunters Hall via Marlees brook to Ozleworth Park. From here we head to Newark Park and Tyley Bottom, returning via Ashcroft road to the start. May be muddy in places Please bring a packed lunch. Start: Hunters Hall Inn, Kingscote. Park in pub car park if using pub afterwards, otherwise considerably in road opposite. ST 815 960. Map square B7.

Leaders: Hilary Paveley & David Harrowin

Tuesday 5 April 10:00am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

Start: Fox & Hounds, Colerne ST 818 711. Map square B9.

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould, Richard & Shirley Willcox

Friday 8 April 2:00pm

Dyrham Park Wild Flower Walk

1 hour • 1.5 miles

Park by visitor reception and make your way down to the house [10 min walk or use the bus]. Similar walks will take place at approximately fortnightly intervals until July for National Trust Members [Not June 3rd but June 5th for NGS weekend]. For details see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyrham-park, or AONB website.

Start: Courtyard between the shop and cafe, by the House. ST 742 758. Map square A9.


Leaders: Pauline & Richard Wilson

TEXT 'COTS01 £3 TO 70070 TO DONATE £3




and help support the Cotswolds Conservation Board in Caring for the Cotswolds

Friday 8 April 10:00am
Friday Foray
Oakridge Lynch & Bournes Green

 2.75 hours • 5.5 miles

Circular walk mainly on field paths and tracks from Oakridge Lynch to Waterlane and Bournes Green and back via Oldhills Wood. Lunch available at the Butcher's Arms, Oakridge Lynch at the end of the walk. Start: Butcher's Arms, Oakridge Lynch GL6 7NZ. SO 915 037. Map square C5. Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Colin Dickinson & Ken Buckle


Sunday 10 April 10:00am
Heythrop Park & the Upper Glyme Valley

 5 hours • 9 miles

The Hoar Stone, the remains of a Neolithic burial chamber, is near the start of the walk which continues along the Upper Glyme Valley past two deserted medieval villages. Return route via Church Enstone through Heythrop Park with its landscaped lakes and majestic, mature trees. Please bring a packed lunch. Start: Enstone Sports and Social Club Cox's Lane OX7 5YA. SP 378 237. Map square H4.

Leader: Anne Martis

Tuesday 12 April 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'Hills & Woods'


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10.30am, visiting Owlpen and South Lodge. We pass through Hobbs Hole Wood on our return route to Uley. Lunch available after the walk at the café and at the Crown Inn, if required.

Start: Prema cafe, Uley. The cafe is situated down a signposted street opposite the village shop. Please park considerably in the village. ST 792 984. Map square B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Wednesday 13 April 10:00am
Dowdeswell Parish Patrol

 3 hours • 6 miles


Starting at the Kilkenny Viewpoint car park. A walk around footpaths of the civil parish of Dowdeswell. Visiting Upper and Lower Dowdeswell and then back up and around to St Paul's Apostle. Large climb back up to top. Crossing A436 twice.

Start: Kilkenny Viewpoint just off A436. SP 005 186. Map square D4.

Leaders: Graham Saunders & Steve Pascoe



Wednesday 13 April 10:00am
A Quartet of Counties from Adlestrop


 6 hours • 11 miles

Ninety years ago this walk would have passed through four counties - today it only touches three. From Adlestrop, we walk to Little Compton and then on to Kitebrook. Our next stop is Evenlode, and we return to Adlestrop via Chastleton House & the Diamond Way. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Adlestrop Village Hall car park - donation. SP 241 272. Map square G3.

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow, Rodney Langman & Bob Fisher

Sunday 17 April 10:30am
Dyrham: Park & Countryside


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

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

Start: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. ST 748 757. Map square A9.

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Sunday 17 April 10:00am
Characteristics of the Farmed Landscape of the Cotswolds

 6 hours • 12 miles

A walk towards the Rollright ridge in this quiet corner of Oxfordshire. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Chipping Norton Town Hall. SP 313 270. Map square G3.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday 19 April 10:00am
Ancient Woodland, a Holy Well & Possibly Bluebells

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

The ancient Wychwood Forest once covered much of West Oxfordshire. There are still considerable parts accessible and on this walk we will hopefully be blessed with a stunning display of bluebells. Pub lunch available at the end of the walk.


Start: Royal Oak at Ramsden OX7 3AU. SP 356 152. Map square H4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Cotswold Walking Weekends

April 8-10, May 20-22, July 22-24
Three Ways House Hotel, Mickleton
Two night inclusive walking breaks through the Cotswold countryside starting off with a meeting of The Pudding Club, followed by 2 days of walking with a Cotswold Warden. Breakfasts, Lunches & dinners included, a great way to spend a weekend. Rates from £245 per person. To book, call 01386 438429 or email reception@puddingclub.com

Tuesday 19 April 6:00pm
Coaley Peak Walk with King's Stanley Brownies


 1.5 hours • 2.5 miles

Linear walk with the King's Stanley Brownie Pack, from Coaley Peak descending to King's Stanley, along part of the Cotswold Way, taking in Buckholt Wood and a variety of field and woodland paths. Final destination, King's Stanley Village Hall. Other children welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult.

Start: Coaley Peak Viewpoint car park South-west of Stroud on B4066 between Stroud and Uley. Please note 6:00pm start time. SO 794 014. Map square B6.

Leaders: Trish Iliadou & David Owen

Tuesday 19 April 10:00am
Early Birds

 4 hours • 8 miles

A beautiful and varied circular walk from St Mary's, taking in the hamlet of Farmcote and a section through Guiting Wood. We will walk through varied habitats and hope to see common farm land birds and early summer visitors. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: St Mary's Church, Temple Guiting. Park at Temple Guiting Village Hall. SP 090 279. Map square E3.

Leaders: Ali Clifton Barnard & David Russell

Friday 22 April 10:00am
Take a Silver Pipe of Tobacco on a National Trails Plateau Walk


 4 hours • 7.5 miles

Largely on the Macmillan and Palladian Way long distance paths, this circular walk is on high ground from Kingsdown via the Wraxalls and Monkton Farleigh back to Kingsdown. Bring a packed lunch but optional refreshment stop at King's Arms bar/pub in Monkton Farleigh. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Blue Vein layby (Off Longsplatt), Kingsdown. ST 828 672. Map square B10.

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday 22 April 9:30am
East of Adlestrop


 5 hours • 10 miles

A chance to see the eastern side of the Cotswolds. Starting in Adlestrop we walk northwards to Chastleton and then east towards the Rollright hillside, then through Salford and Cornwell, returning via Daylesford to Adlestrop. Please bring a packed lunch/refreshments.

Start: Adlestrop Village Hall car park - donation. SP 241 272. Map square G3.

Leaders: Allan Allcock & Andy Briars

Saturday 23 April 10:00am
Burford, the Windrush Valley & Two Churches


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk starting in the beautiful Cotswold town of Burford. The walk will include the medieval church of St Oswald. May be muddy in parts if there has been heavy rain. There are many places to enjoy lunch in Burford after the walk.

Start: Burford - outside the church. SP 252 123. Map square G5.

Leader: Amanda Warwick

Saturday 23 April 10:00am
A Foray to Forthay from Stinchcombe Hill


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

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

Start: Stinchcombe Hill Public car park (Not the golf club car park). ST 744 983. Map square A6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furnidge

Sunday 24 April 10:00am
From a Down to a Combe Across to a Stoke


 5 hours • 8.5 miles

A circular walk from Combe Down to Monkton Combe and Limpley Stoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Parking by kind permission of Wessex Water.

Start: Wessex Water car park, Claverton Down, Bath. ST 778 630. Map square A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando, Pauline Vincent & Dave Jennings

Tuesday 26 April 10:00am
In & Around Charlbury


 3 hours • 5 miles

A morning walk starting in Charlbury and taking in the peaceful villages of Taston and Spelsbury before returning along the Evenlode Valley. Lunch opportunities in Charlbury at the end of the walk.

Start: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury. SP 358 196. Map square H4.

Leader: Anne Martis

Wednesday 27 April 10:00am
It's Bluebell Time! (maybe)

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

Good views of the Vale before descending to Stratford Farm then climbing to Standish Wood and bluebells (maybe).

Start: Cripplegate NT car park. SO 831 085. Map square B5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Friday 29 April 10:00am

3 Cotswold Churches

3.25 hours • 6.5 miles

A walk around 3 Cotswold Churches in Northleach, Farmington, and Hampnett. A longer walk with moderate climbs but can be more strenuous if wet underfoot. Good lunch options in Northleach.

Start: The Old Prison Northleach. SP 109 149. Map square E5.

Leaders: B Chilvers, T Hester & P Cluley

Saturday 30 April 10:30am

We Have Nothing Like This

4.5 hours • 6 miles

There is much to talk about in Blenheim park, of both pre and post Brown [Capability that is]. Trees play a major part in his palette and there are some fine examples at Blenheim to see and discuss in this tercentenary of his birth. Picnic lunch or cafe in grounds.

Start: The Green, Combe SP 412 158. Map square H4.

Leader: Ian Gourlay

Saturday 30 April 9:30am

On Track

5.5 hours • 10 miles

We follow an ancient track as we explore the Cotswold hills and valleys. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Didbrook. Meet outside the church; park considerately in village. SP 055 314. Map square E3.

Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

May

Tuesday 3 May 10:00am

Bluebells in Fox Holes

4 hours • 7 miles

Starting from Shipton under Wychwood, the walk passes through Bruern woods reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where masses of bluebells should be in flower. We return by woodland and field paths which may be muddy if there has been heavy rain. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: The New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood. SP 278 181. Map square G4.

Leader: Gerald Simper

Tuesday 3 May 10:00am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

Start: Fox & Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square B9.

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould, Richard & Shirley Willcox

Tuesday 3 May 10:00am

Winchcombe Rollercoaster

5 hours • 9 miles

This walk involves two hills, and around 1500 ft of ascent, as the title suggests. We first climb to Belas Knap, and then descend to Waterhatch, ascending again through steep fields before returning via Parks Farm and the Wardens Way. Wonderful views all the way. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Back Lane car park, Winchcombe, Pay and Display. SP 024 285. Map square D3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Thursday 5 May 10:00am

Historic Villages on the Cotswold Edge

4.5 hours • 7 miles

A varied walk through picture-postcard Cotswold villages, beginning at Stanton, following the foot of the scarp to Laverton and Buckland and climbing to Snowhill. The return to Stanton is via National Trust-owned Littleworth Wood. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Stanton Village Hall, free car park. SP 067 344. Map square E3.

Leaders: Mary & Barry Roberts & Maureen Shears

Friday 6 May 2:00pm

After Lunch & Evening: Craven Arms

5 hours • 10 miles

An After Lunch to Evening walk starting and ending at a pub. This time it's the Craven Arms, in Brockhampton. Passing Syreford, Whittington, Puckham Scrubs and Charlton Pool. The pub has let us park in their car park if you are patronising the excellent pub. (01242 820410).

Start: Craven Arms, Brockhampton. SP 036 223. Map square D4.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Ken Buckle & Alistair McKenzie

Friday 6 May 10:00am

Racing for Light

3 hours • 6 miles

A look at the woodland flora in its dash to get to sunshine before the tree canopy closes. We visit several woods and see the different strategies of a variety of plants trying to win the race.

Start: Stanton Village, free car park. SP 067 344. Map square E3.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatrat



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Saturday 7 May 10:30am

A Prime Brownian Landscape

4.5 hours • 6 miles

There is much to talk about in Blenheim park, of both pre and post Brown [Capability that is]. Trees play a major part in his palette and there are some fine examples at Blenheim to see and discuss in this tercentenary of his birth. Picnic lunch or cafe in grounds.

Start: The Green at Combe. SP 412 158. Map square H4.

Leader: Ian Gourlay

Saturday 7 May 9:30am

Painswick Figure Of Eight Two Walks in One

5.5 hours • 11 miles

Figure of 8 morning walk of 7 miles 3.5 hours. To Sheephouse, Pincot, Wickridge Hill, The Vatch, Steanbridge. 2.00 afternoon walk of 4 miles 2 hours. To Washbrook, Edge Hill, Parkhurst, Edge Farms pub lunch/picnic if attending both walks.

Start: Main Car Park on Stroud Road in Painswick Charge £2 All Day. SO 865 095. Map square C5.

Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Tim Sugrue & Ted Currier

Saturday 7 May 9:30am

A Church Apart

6 hours • 11 miles

We dip our toes into four local parishes around Bledington, focusing upon Lower Oddington with its church of St Nicholas. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Bledington. Meet at village green near maypole. Park with consideration. SP 244 227. Map square G4.

Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

Tuesday 10 May 10:00am

Purple & Yellow DV

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.

Start: Amberley Inn, Amberley. Not the Inn car park please. SO 850 013. Map square B6.


Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Bulley

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Tuesday 10 May 10:00am
The Secrets of the Wychwood Forest


 5 hours • 8 miles

This walk reaches parts others don't! A circular walk partly off Rights of Way in the Wychwood Forest, returning through Cornbury Deer Park. By kind permission of Lord Rotherwick. Please bring a packed lunch to be consumed "somewhere in the Forest".

Start: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury. SP 358 196. Map square H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Wednesday 11 May 10:00am
Woods & Meadows around Cowley


 3.25 hours • 6.25 miles

A good country walk through flower meadows and woodland. Short stretches of road walking. Lunch available at Royal George Birdlip, Air Balloon Crickley Hill or Star Bistro Ullenwood.

Start: Barrow Wake Viewpoint car park. SO 931 153. Map square D4.

Leaders: John Shaw, Graham Saunders, Pippa Burgon & Steve Pascoe

Friday 13 May 10:00am
Friday Foray
The Three Cs


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk starting from Cockleford, then through the villages of Coberley and Cowley. Taking in Ward's and Cowley Woods, Coldwell Bottom, Coberley Court and Church, with views of Cowley Manor. Pub lunches can be ordered at the start from The Green Dragon.

Start: The Green Dragon at Cockleford GL53 9NW. SO 969 141. Map square D5.

Leaders: Colin Dickinson, Ken Buckle & Helen Watkinson

Saturday 14 May 10:00am
Celebrating the AONB: Thoughts of JB Priestley


 6.5 hours • 10 miles

A circular walk through some of the villages of the North Edge of the Cotswolds. This is an area that inspired JB Priestley to recommend setting up the AONB. Pub lunch available.

Start: Fish Hill car park. SP 120 369. Map square E2.

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sunday 15 May 10:30am
Dyrham: Park & Countryside


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

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

Start: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. ST 748 757. Map square A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Sid Gould

Monday 16 May 10:00am
Chavenage, Beverston & the Hermits Cave


 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 and Chavenage House.

Start: Chavenage Green 0.5 miles north west of Chavenage House. Chavenage House is signposted from the A46, 2.5 miles south of Nailsworth. ST 865 957. Map square C7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

Wednesday 18 May 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk No. 2, 'Valleys Around Kingscote'


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10.30am, passing Kingscote Park and Upper Hazlecote Farm to Tilpots End. We return via Hartley Bridge and Congyre Wood. Full range of meals available at the inn after the walk, if required.

Start: Hunters Hall Inn car park, Kingscote, by arrangement. ST 815 960. Map square B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Hilary Paveley

Saturday 21 May 10:00am
The Very First


 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

A walk from the village of Church Enstone along the Glyme Valley to the grounds of Kiddington Hall. This was the first Landscape project of Capability Brown completed in 1760. Lunch available at The Crown after the walk.

Start: The Crown Inn, Mill Lane Church Enstone OX7 4NN. SP 379 251. Map square H4.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Sunday 22 May 10:00am
Bath Outer Circuit
Walk Stage 1 Cold Ashton to Browne's Folly


 6 hours • 11 miles

The first stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the City in the landscape. Car share to take you to Cold Ashton for the start of the walk. Down the Limestone link, before climbing to Bannerdown, descending to cross the By-Brook, a climb to Monkton Farleigh and down to Bathford.

Start: Bathford – Junction of High Street and Dover's Lane. ST 792 669. Map square B10.

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Tuesday 24 May 6:00pm
Selsley Walk with King's Stanley Brownies


 1.5 hours • 2 miles

Linear walk with the King's Stanley Brownie Pack, over Selsley Common, down woodland tracks and field footpaths, incorporating activities relevant to Badge work. The walk will terminate at King's Stanley Village Hall. Other children welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult.

Start: Main parking area, Selsley Common. The Common is on the B4066 between Stroud and Dursley. Please note 6:00pm start time. SO 827 026. Map square B6.

Leaders: Trish Iliadou & David Owen

Wednesday 25 May 10:00am
Brimpsfield Highlights


 3.5 hours • 7 miles

Down the Frome valley to Caudle Green and then back to Brimpsfield to visit the (absent) 12th C castle and (present) 12th C church. Pleasant wooded valleys and some open farmland, may be muddy after rain. No major ascents.

Start: Old A417, east of Birdlip village. SO 931 142. Map square D4.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams


Thursday 26 May 10:00am
Hillesley Village Full Circle

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

The walk offers splendid views, weather permitting. The route uses parts of the Cotswold Way and the Civil War, WW2 and the Cold War. Please bring a packed lunch. Start: Chipping Campden School, Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden. SP 154 395. Map square F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears, Mary & Barry Roberts

Friday 27 May 10:00am
A Hidden Church, the Devil's Chimney & the Real Source of the Thames


 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk via the Devil's Chimney along edge of Leckhampton Hill to the source of the Thames and then on to Coberley Court and back by Hartley Bottom. The car park for the start is on Hartley Lane a left turn off Leckhampton Hill going towards the Air Balloon.

Start: Car park at the top of Leckhampton Hill. SO 950 179. Map square D4.

Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & T Hester

Sunday 29 May 10:00am
The Bath Skyline


 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.

Start: Wessex Water car park, Claverton Down, Bath. ST 778 630. Map square A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent, Wilf Dando & Dave Jennings

Tuesday 31 May 10:00am
Marshfield: Town & Country

 2.75 hours • 4.5 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). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop.

Start: Market Place, Marshfield. ST 781 737. Map square B9.

Leader: David Colbourne

June

Wednesday 1 June 10:00am
The Cotswolds at War

 6 hours • 11 miles

A walk from Chipping Campden to Broadway Tower to discover the part played by the Cotswolds in the Civil War, WW2 and the Cold War. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Chipping Campden School, Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden. SP 154 395. Map square F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears, Mary & Barry Roberts



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Saturday 4 June 10:00am

The Milk Story Family Walk

4 Hours • 2.5 miles

This family walk and tractor and trailer ride links two farms; one is where young cattle graze and the other where the cows are milked – by a robot! Some car sharing – see website. Please bring a picnic. Numbers limited so please telephone 01993 831810 to secure a place.

Start: College Farm, Salford OX7 5YW. SP 289 282. Map square F2.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Saturday 4 June 10:00am

Dowdeswell Manors & Lineover Wood

5 hours • 8 miles

History and Wildlife along the Chelt Valley. Passing Dowdeswell Manor, Sandywell Park, Dowdeswell Court, Rossley Manor and Pegglesworth and walking around ancient Lineover Wood and over Ravensgate Hill.

Bring a picnic lunch

Start: Kilkenny View Point off A436. SP 004 186. Map square D4.

Leaders: John Heathcott, Mike Dunning & John Woodland



© Malachy Shields

Tuesday 7 June 10:00am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

Start: Fox & Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square B9.

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould, Richard & Shirley Willcox

Tuesday 7 June 10:00am

Odds & Ends

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

An exploration of settlements in the village and parish of Horsley.

Start: Shortwood AFC car park, 1 mile south west of Nailsworth. ST 836 992. Map square B6.

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper

Wednesday 8 June 10:00am

Commons & Valleys in Summer

3 hours • 5.5 miles

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

Start: Minchinhampton Common, Reservoir car park. SO 855 013. Map square B6.

Leaders: Graham Batemen & Hilary Paveley

Wednesday 8 June 10:00am

Intimate Valleys & A Nature Reserve

3.5 hours • 6 miles

Taking in Dorvel Wood and Daneway Banks nature reserve. Remote paths lead us to Tunley Farm and then back via Pinbury Park. Walk includes a number of stiles and steep climbs. Please park considerably in the village or use the 54 Cotswold Green bus. Check Escape site for Daneway Pub opening.

Start: Sapperton Church. SO 948 033. Map square D6.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, John Shaw Graham Saunders & Steve Pascoe

Thursday 9 June 10:00am

Three Ways & A Railway from Notgrove

6 hours • 10 miles

We take the Diamond Way NE from Notgrove to Aylworth where we pick up the Windrush Way to Hawling. We turn S to the hamlet of Salperton, crossing the disused Banbury & Cheltenham railway. Our return to Notgrove makes use of the Gloucestershire and Diamond Ways. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Notgrove Village Hall car park (donation). SP 109 203. Map square E4.

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow, Rodney Langman & Bob Fisher

Friday 10 June 10:00am

Green Oases within the City

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.

Start: Royal Avenue Bath, in front of the Bandstand. ST 744 652. Map square A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando


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Friday 10 June 10:00am

Friday Foray Duntisbourne Abbots & Woodmancote

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


A circular route on tracks, quiet roads and fields passing through the village of Woodmancote. GL7 7JR

Start: On old A417 behind Duntisbourne Abbots services. GL7 7JR. SO 978 093. Map square D5.

Leaders: Ken Buckle, Helen Watkinson & Colin Dickinson

Saturday 11 June 10:00am

Cotswold Grassland Week Walk: Up, Down & Around Two Nature Reserves

 5 hours • 7.5 miles

We rise to Charmy Down before dropping down into the delightful St Catherine valley before climbing to Bannerdown Common where events connected with Wild Flower meadows are planned. After lunch, return via Wessex Water Nature Reserve in Chilcombe Bottom. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for push chairs.

Start: Slip road for Swainswick, East of A46, 3.3 Miles from Cold Ashton roundabout at the A46/A420 junction. ST 762 683. Map square B10.

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Sunday 12 June 10:00am

The Wild West

 6 hours • 10 miles


The walk progresses gently south to Oldbury on the Hill then West to Starveall. We drop sharply down the escarpment to join the Cotswold Way via Upper Kilcote to Hillesley. The walk returns up the escarpment via the Monarch's Way and Tresham. Picnic lunch with a pub stop.

Start: Leighterton, 5 miles south of Nailsworth on the A46. Meet at the church, please park considerably in the village. ST 824 910. Map square B7.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Tuesday 14 June 10:00am

Haymaking & Merrymaking

 3 hours • 6 miles

Bledington is a typical Cotswold village with a green, church, school and a pub. Ducks waddling beside the stream complete this rural idyll. This easy walk on field paths and tracks has a hint of nostalgia, and hopefully we will catch a glimpse of orchids. Picnic or pub at end.


Start: Bledington Village Green. SP 243 227. Map square G4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Grassland Walk Week events

Tuesday 14 June 10:00am

Meadows Walk

 2 hours • 3 miles


A very, very leisurely amble over wildflower rich grasslands. Plenty of time for the enthusiast to discover the wide floral diversity that the Cotswolds offers.

Start: Coaley Peak Picnic Site, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO 794 014. Map square B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Helen Furnidge

Wednesday 15 June 10:00am

Glyme Valley Walk

 2.5 hours • 4 miles


As part of 'Cotswold Grassland Week' programme we will be exploring the wonderful species-rich limestone grasslands of Glyme Farm.

Start: Meet outside Chipping Norton Town Hall. SP 313 270. Map square: H4.

Leader: Craig Blackwell

Thursday 16 June 10:00am

Castlett Wood, Kineton, A brook & A River

 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles


A circular walk from Guiting Power which follows the Castlett Brook through Castlett Wood before passing through the hamlet of Kineton where the walk briefly runs alongside the River Windrush and then returns to Guiting Power.

Start: Guiting Power Village Hall car park – donations. SP 095 246. Map square E3.

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Friday 17 June 10:00am

Living on the Edge

 3 hours • 4 miles


Limestone grassland and woods on the Cotswold scarp are tough places for plants but the perfect home for some specialised and spectacular plant species. As part of Save our Magnificent Meadows project we will be looking at the very important (and very threatened) habitat.

Start: Stanton Village car park – free. SP 067 344. Map square E3

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Saturday 18 June 11:30am

The Magnificent Meadows of Leckhampton Hill

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


A walk along the Cotswold scarp with views over Cheltenham, down to the lime kilns and return via cowslip meadow. Bring a packed lunch or a picnic! This walk complements the Save our Magnificent Meadows event on the hill at the same time and explores some of the nature.

Start: Brown Stones Quarry – on top of Hartley Hill. SO 951 179. Map square D4.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue & Peter Niblett

Saturday 18 June 10:00am

Cotswold Grassland Week Walk: Coppicing & Wild Flowers

 5 hours • 8 miles


Along the plateau before descending through woods and meadows to Colerne Park to view Warden's Coppicing work and other wild flower meadows. Return via Thickwood and a climb from Slaughterford. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Biddestone village pond. ST 864 736. Map square B9.

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Saturday 18 June 9:30am

Grounds for Pleasure

 5.5 hours • 10 miles


The walk takes advantage of two great local pleasure grounds, Sherborne and Barrington Parks. Join us in our exploration of the two. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Ewepen Buildings, Sherborne Park, NT car park. SP 158 143. Map square F5.

Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

Sunday 19 June 10:00am

A Stroll Through the Woods & Along the Cotswold Edge

 2.5 hours • 4 miles


A gentle walk through Westridge Woods passing the impressive earthworks of Brackenbury Iron age fort. Hopefully, there will be wild flowers along the way and fine views from the Cotswold Edge, leading up to the Tyndale Monument at North Nibley. Lunch available in Wotton after the walk, if required.

Start: Wotton Under Edge, at the top of the hill on the Old London Road, leading from Wotton to the B4058. Parking on the roadside at the top or further along by the scout camp. ST 755 943. Map square B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Les Jones

Tuesday 21 June 6:00pm

A Short Walk on the Longest Day! Up to a Down

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

From Bathampton we walk along the towpath of the Kennet and Avon canal, then up to the Downs with lovely views over the Avon valley. Not suitable for pushchairs.


Start: George Inn car park, Bathampton, nearest the railway. ST 777 666. Map square A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando, Pauline Vincent & Dave Jennings



Tuesday 21 June 10:00am

Contrived to Please

 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles


A pleasant stroll through the grounds of Blenheim Park with fine views of the house and the lake. The landscaping around the house was carried out by Capability Brown in 1764. Lunch available at The Duke of Marlborough after the walk.

Start: Duke of Marlborough OX20 1HT. SP 429 190. Map square H4.

Leaders: Harriet Baldwin & Tony Merry

Wednesday 22 June 10:00am

Trees in Trust

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles


A walk through Workman Woods around Sheepscombe, taking in the meadows above the village, returning via Overtown. The walk is along footpaths and forestry clearance trails and includes two significant gradients. Ebworth Centre is off B4070 about 500m north of Fostons Ash Pub.

Start: National Trust car park at Ebworth Centre. SO 900 113. Map square C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Tony Duffin, Mike Williams & Chris Davidson

Wednesday 22 June 6:00pm

Golden Views over Broadway

 2 hours • 4 miles


Celebrate the AONB's 50th anniversary (Golden) with this early evening walk to Broadway Tower. Leaving the Green, we walk to Coneegree Lane and ascend Broadway Hill, stopping at the top to admire the views. We return to Broadway via the Cotswold Way. Pubs available in Broadway for refreshment.

Start: Broadway Green, pay-and-display car parking available in Broadway. SP 095 375. Map square E2.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Friday 24 June 10:00am

In the Steps of The Bard

 3 hours • 5 miles

A Midsummer's Day walk along the Shakespeare Way to the Rollright Stones is what dreams are made of. Did Shakespeare actually tread this track? Was he influenced by this very special place? Carry a drink and snack to enjoy at the ancient site and a picnic to enjoy afterwards.

Start: Salford, near the Village Hall OX7 5YW. SP 289 282. Map square F2.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

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Friday 24 June 10:00am Stowell Park along The Monarch's & Macmillan Way

3 hours • 5.7 miles

The walk passes through the picturesque village of Yanworth and Stowell Park Estate to Yanworth Mill returning via the charming village of Hampnett. Pubs and cafes at Northleach and Puesdown nearby for lunch afterwards.

Start: Hangmans Stone layby 1 mile west of Northleach on unclassified road. SP 088 151. Map square E5.

Leaders: Philip Cluley, Brian Chilvers & Tony Hester

Friday 24 June 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 3, 'Frocester & the Stroudwater Canal

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10.30am, passing Osborne House en route to Ocean Bridge on the Stroudwater Canal. The return route follows part of the Cotswold Way via Stanley Downton. Lunch available at the George after the walk, if required.

Start: The George Inn, Frocester. Please park considerably at the roadside or as directed by the walk leader. SO 785 032. Map square B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & John Graham

Saturday 25 June 10:30am Butterflies & their Habitat on Stinchcombe Hill Summer Species

2.5 hours • 3 miles

A walk around Stinchcombe Hill with Chris Wiltshire, the Gloucestershire County Butterfly Recorder. Learn about the summer butterfly species, such as Chalk Hill Blue and Dark Green Fritillary, which inhabit this unique landscape and witness examples, weather and climate change permitting. Suitable for families, but not buggies or pushchairs.

Start: Stinchcombe Hill public car park (not golf club car park). Please note 10:30 start time. ST 744 983. Map square A6.

Leaders: Helen Furmidge & Nigel Meredith

Saturday 25 June 10:00am

Miserden Figure Of Eight Two Walks in One

6 hours • 11.75 miles

Figure of 8 10.00am morning walk of 5.5 miles 3 hours. To Henley, Fishbank, Caudle Green, Syde, Winstone Wood. 2.00pm afternoon walk of 6 miles 3 hours. To Dunstisbourne Abbots, Winstone, Miserden Park. Pub lunch or picnic if attending both walks.

Start: Miserden Church Of England School car park (by Permission). SO 933 089. Map square C5.

Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Tim Sugrue & Ted Currier

Sunday 26 June 10:00am

Bath Outer Circuit Walk Stage 2. Browne's Folly to Odd Down P&R

6 hours • 10 miles

The second stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the setting of the City in the landscape. Car share to take you to Browne's Folly for the start of the walk. Please bring a packed lunch. Down to Dundas Aqueduct, then mostly along the Somerset Coal Canal towpath.

Start: Odd Down P&R. ST 733 615. Map square B10.

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Sunday 26 June 10:00am

Characteristics of the High Wold Landscapes of the Cotswolds

6 hours • 12 miles

A walk towards Shipton under Wychwood with expansive views of the Evenlode Valley. Please park considerably on the roadside in the village and bring a packed lunch.

Start: Leafield outside the school OX29 9NP. SP 316 153. Map square G5.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

July

Saturday 2 July 11:30am, 2pm National Meadows Day Walks & Events

1 hour • 1.5 miles

Wild Flower walks will go round Whitefield and other parts of Dyrham Park to identify the many species which grow there. 11.30am and 2pm

Start: Visitor Reception Dyrham Park. ST 748 757. Map square A9.

Leaders: Pauline & Richard Wilson & many others!



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Saturday 2 July 10:00am
Celebrating the AONB: Influence of Arts & Crafts


 6.5 hours • 11 miles

The second circular walk in a series celebrating the Cotswolds AONB, its formation and development in the Northern area. We will walk from Chipping Camden to Ilmington returning via Ebrington. En route we will learn how members of the Arts and Crafts Movement influenced the establishment of the AONB.

Start: Chipping Campden Market Hall. SP 151 391. Map square F2.

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sunday 3 July 10:00am
Royal Tee & Custard


 5.5 hours • 8 miles

A level walk along the Monarch's Way to Westonbirt school, Shipton Moyne and Estcourt Park. Open fields, fine views and history to boot. May be muddy in places. Please bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drink only.

Start: Tetbury – Free long stay car park at old railway station, Cirencester Road. ST 893 933. Map square B7.

Leaders: Hilary Paveley & David Harrowin

Tuesday 5 July 10:00am
Tuesday Tramp


 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Start: Fox & Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square B9.

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould, Richard & Shirley Willcox

Wednesday 6 July 10:00am
Five Mile 6-Miler


 3 hours • 6 miles

Walk through Duntisbourne Abbots, Miserden Park, and Winstone. One steep climb and some stiles, a little road walking. Park on Old road N of A417 dual carriage way. Near 5 Mile House Inn (closed at time of printing).

Start: Old road parallel to A417 near Five Mile House Inn (closed). SO 977 090. Map square D5.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Steve Pascoe & Pippa Burgon

Wednesday 6 July 10:00am
A Windrush Valley Wander


 6 hours • 11 miles

A tour of the Windrush Valley from Burford visiting Shilton, Asthall, Swinbrook, Widley Copse and Fulbrook. We see the famous Fettiplace Monuments, hear about the Mitford sisters and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Windrush Valley.

Start: Main car park in Burford. SP 254 122. Map square G5.

Leader: Janet Deller

Friday 8 July 9:30am
There is an E in Browne's Folly and 'tea' in Bathford Community Cafe


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

A ramble up through the Browne's Folly SSSI, down into Sally-in-the-Woods, returning via Pinkney Green and Monkton Farleigh. Lunch and informal chat with local historian afterwards at the community shop café. (Booking for hot £5 lunch to 01225 859186 otherwise soup/sandwiches). Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Bathford Community Shop and Café, corner of Bathford Hill and Church Street. ST 791 669. Map square B10.

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday 8 July 10:00am
Friday Foray Miserden & Caudle Green


 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Circular walk from Miserden to Caudle Green and back via Whiteway, Wishanger and Honeycombe. Lunch available at the Carpenters Arms in Miserden at the end of the walk. GL6 7JA Walk through undulating terrain, mainly on field paths and tracks. Some stiles en route.

Start: Miserden car park next to school GL6 7JA. SO 933 089. Map square C5.

Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Colin Dickinson & Ken Buckle

Friday 8 July 10:00
2016 Flower Foray


 5 hours • 5 miles

Join our annual flower foray through both Cleeve Common and nearby butterfly reserves in the company of Ellie Phillips, Cleeve Common Conservation Officer. Please wear sturdy footwear – route may be steep/muddy in places. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Cleeve Hill Quarry car park – turn off the B4632 at the summit, signposted to the Golf Club, down narrow track over cattle grid, left and right into car park. SO 989 272. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatrat

Monday 11 July 10:00am
Hampton, The Airfield & Golf Links

 3.5 hours • 6 miles

From the 'Hub' we go through Tobacconist farm towards the Aston Down airfield. Skirting Cherington village we climb to Minchinhampton Golf Club and onto Hampton Fields. We cross Tetbury Road into Gatcombe then through last valley to start point. Lunch available in the village after the walk, if required.

Start: The Market House. Recommended parking off Bell Lane, Minchinhampton, alongside the Common behind the church. SO 872 007. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Alan Bulley

Thursday 14 July 10:00am
Where the Windrush Flows


 6 hours • 10 miles

A mid-summer walk through the water meadows formed by the River Windrush, where we will stop to look and listen for interesting wildlife. We continue through the villages of Great and Little Rissington with lovely view over the Windrush valley. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Northfield Barn NT car park (1 km north of Sherborne on Clapton road). SP 176 154. Map square: F5.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Friday 15 July 10:00am
Castle Combe to West Kington Circular


 3.5 hours • 7.5 miles

Crossing the Golf Course and with permission entering the Nature Reserve we follow the Burton Brook to Goulter's mill. Passing Nettleton Green we reach West Kington via the Church. Return is via the Broadmead Brook and Nettleton Mill. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Castle Combe Free Public car park. ST 845 777. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Sid Gould

Friday 15 July 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk No. 4, 'In the Mire Along the Mirey Brook'


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30 and explores the north westerly environs of Horsley, visiting Tickmorend, and returning via Wallow Green. Lunch available at village pub or in Nailsworth after the walk, if required.

Start: Village shop Horsley. Shop signposted from main road in village. ST 838 979. Map square B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown, Alan Bulley & Chris Gill

Tuesday 19 July 10:00am
A Remote and Beautiful Valley


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk 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.

Start: Hinchwick Hamlet. Please park tidily on the grass verge. SP 145 301. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams


Wednesday 20 July 10:00am
A Miserden Ramble

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Through Miserden Park, up Winstone Hill to the outskirts of Winstone, returning back the Miserden estate via Caudle Green. A mixture of footpaths, tracks and some lanes, involving a couple of short but stiff climbs, one steep, potentially muddy, descent and some stiles. Refreshments afterwards at the Carpenter's Arms in the village. Start: Miserden Village, roadside parking on outskirts of village close to school or opposite the church. SO 936 089. Map square D5.

Leaders: Chris Davidson, Royden Hayles, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

Wednesday 20 July 10:00am
A Circuit of the Escarpment from Snowhill


 5 hours • 8.5 miles

On leaving Snowhill we will walk up to the Cotswold Way and visit Stanton and Stanway, with a lunch stop at The Mount before returning along part of the Cotswold way. The views on this walk should be excellent if the weather behaves.

Start: Snowhill public car park. SP 097 340. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday 22 July 10:00am
Siston Court Circular

 6 hours • 9.5 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.

Start: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Glyn Williams

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Saturday 23 July 10:00am
Withington 6 or 6 or 12

5.5 hours • 12 miles

Two walks in one day. Do one or both. 6miles before and after lunch. Pre-order lunch with pub at start of walk (eta 12:45) or picnic lunch. Part 1: Shipton Part 2: (start 13:20-13:40) Withington woods + Roman Villa start at the pub for both walks. Start: car park of The Mill Inn at Withington. SP 032 154. Map square: E5. Leaders: Graham Saunders, Alistair McKenzie & John Shaw

Friday 29 July 10:00am
Woodland, Water & Romans

3 hours • 5.8 miles

A walk with wonderful views from the edge of Witcombe Woods plus the birdlife on the reservoirs and the Roman Villa. A fair climb but on good tracks and worth it for the view. Start: 12 Bells (Premier Inn) car park Little Witcombe. SO 904 156. Map square C4. Leaders: B Chilvers, T Hester & P Cluley

Sunday 31 July 10:00am
Walking the Line!

4.5 hours • 8 miles

The Ups and downs! Up from Wellow, Down to Combe Hay, On to a disused railway line, then along to Midford, up onto the viaduct and return along the Somerset and Dorset line to Wellow. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but fine for families. Start: Wellow free Old Station car park. ST 735 581. Map square: A10. Leaders: Wilf Dando, Dave Jennings & Pauline Vincent

August

Tuesday 2 August 10:00am
What's in the Wychwoods?

5 hours • 8 miles

This walk passes through three Wychwood villages and we discover the charm of these well kept places as well as revealing some of their amazing history. Pub lunch available or bring a packed lunch. Start: New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton under Wychwood. SP 278 181. Map square G4. Leader: Gerald Simper

Tuesday 2 August 10:00am
Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

A walk around the various footpaths of Colerne Parish. Lunch available at the Fox and Hounds. Bring a mid morning munchie. Parking at the pub or adjacent Constitutional Club. Not suitable for pushchairs. Start: Fox & Hounds, Colerne. ST 818 711. Map square: B9. Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould, Richard & Shirley Willcox

Wednesday 3 August 10:00am
A Gentle Stroll by a River

2 hours • 4 miles

An easy walk around Eastleach and on to Southrop down the Leach valley. Includes watermeadows and a church visit to see a finely carved Norman Font. Several stiles. The font in the Norman Church at Southrop was described by Pevsner as "One of the greatest treasures of the Cotswold churches". Start: Near the Victoria Pub, Eastleach Turville. SP 198 052. Map square: F6. Leaders: Pippa Burgon John Shaw & Graham Saunders

Saturday 6 August 10:00am
Up the Churn & Down the Dunt

7 hours • 12 miles

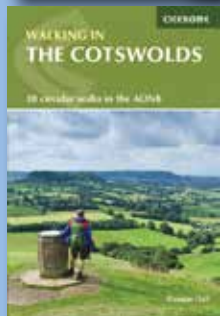
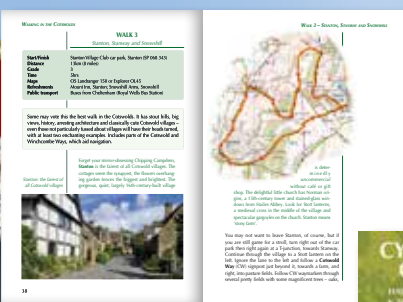
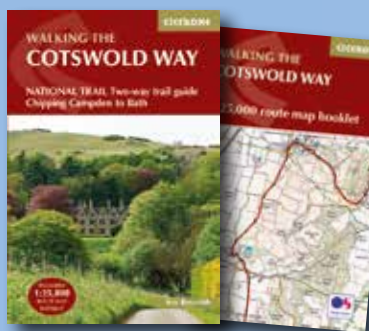
A long walk through the land of the Dobunni, along quiet valleys and by ancient villages to Cirencester. Calling at Bagendon, Baunton, Cirencester, Daglingworth and the Duntisbournes pub or picnic lunch. Start: On road to Five Mile House. East of A417 at Duntisbourne Abbots turning. SO 978 090. Map square: D5. Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland & Ken Buckle

Sunday 7 August 10:00am
Bath Outer Circuit Walk Stage 3. Odd Down P&R to Saltford

6 hours • 10 miles

The third stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the setting of the City in the landscape. Car share to take you to Odd Down P&R for the start of the walk. Please bring a packed lunch. Start: The Shallows car park, Saltford. ST 687 672. Map square: B10. Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

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Tuesday 9 August 10:00am A Tale of Three Churches

5.5 hours • 9 miles

A walk through beautiful rolling hills and along the Valley of the Boars. We will explore the historic churches of Hazleton, Hampnett and Turkdean. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Northleach: at war memorial. Parking on main road. SP 114 147. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Thursday 11 August 10:00am The Ilmington Downs from Chipping Campden

6 hours • 11 miles

We leave Chipping Campden on the Monarch's Way, passing through Hidcote Bartrim and following the Cotswold scarp NE to Adminton Lane. We then pick up the Centenary Way, briefly visit Ilmington, and return to Chipping Campden via Foxcote House and the Diamond Way. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Chipping Campden school car park, Cider Mill Lane, Chipping Campden. SP 154 395. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Stewart Rainbow, Rodney Langman & Bob Fisher

Friday 12 August 10:00am Around the White Hart at Ford

2.5 hours • 5 miles

This walk is a delightful mix of old coach roads, woodland and valley paths before joining the Macmillan way at Slaughterford. Lunch at 16th century inn afterwards by the By-Brook at White Hart, Ford. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: White Hart Inn lower car park (West of Slaughterford Road). ST 841 747. Map square: B9.

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday 12 August 10:00am Friday Foray Cranham & Painswick Beacon

3 hours • 5.25 miles

Circular walk starting in Buckholt Wood, then taking in Painswick Beacon, Paradise, Tocknells Court, Mann's Court and Cranham Common. Then enjoy a winding riverside ramble through Laurie Lee country. 10 stiles, 700 feet ascent and descent.

Start: Cranham, 2 miles north of Painswick, off the A46. Car park in the woods by 30mph sign. GL4 8HP. SO 893 130. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Colin Dickinson, Ken Buckle & Helen Watkinson

Saturday 13 August 10:00am The Broadmead Brook: Castle Combe to Dyrham

6 hours • 10 miles

We will make a prompt 10am start and car share to Castle Combe for the start of the walk. After descending to the village, we cross the golf course to Nettleton Mill and follow the Broadmead Brook back to Dyrham via West Kington. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Glyn Williams

Sunday 14 August 2:30pm Long Day, Short Day, Moreday & Muffittie

1.5 Hours • 2 miles

A Sunday afternoon stroll around the village of Stonesfield; once a centre for the production of characteristic Cotswold roofing slates. This walk is suitable for families but some short, steep and uneven sections are difficult for buggies and wheelchair users.

Start: Stonesfield. SP 393 171. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Sunday 14 August 10:00am Amble to Avening

5 hours • 9 miles

The walk follows open country via Hazelwood to Barton End and on to Avening for lunch. We return through Avening Park and Ledgemore Bottom. Please bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drink only.

Start: Chavenage Green 0.5 miles north west of Chavenage House. Chavenage House is signposted from the A46, 2.5 miles south of Nailsworth. ST 865 957. Map square: C7.

Leaders: David Harrowin & David Collings

Wednesday 17 August 10:00am Up & Down the Painswick Valley

3 hours • 6 miles

A walk over varied terrain through woods and fields up one side of the Painswick Valley to Pitchcombe and back down the other.

Start: Stroud Leisure Centre Stratford Park. SO 844 057. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 18 August 10:00am Changing Climate, Changing Cleeve

3.5 hours • 5 miles

Grass growing at Christmas, daffodils in December – how does this impact the biodiversity of Cleeve Common? There are strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, but it isn't easy. Ellie, Cleeve Conservation Officer, will join us to explain how Cleeve is rising to the challenge. Please wear sturdy footwear.

Start: Cleeve Hill Quarry car park – turn off the B4632 at the summit, signposted to the Golf Club, down narrow track over cattle grid, left and right into car park. SO 989 271. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Thursday 18 August 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 5, 'Is it Sundae?'

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30 and descends from the Common to the Thames & Severn Canal and along the canal to Brimscombe. We return via Hyde and Burleigh for a well deserved ice cream.

Start: Winston's Ice-cream Parlour, Rodborough Common. The Common lies to the east of the A46 between Stroud and Nailsworth. Bear Hill is the nearest access point from the A46. SO 855 029. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown, David Collings & Les Jones

Saturday 20 August 10:00am Marshfield: Town & Country

2.75 hours • 4.5 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). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop. Stay to enjoy Marshfield Village Day procession (2.00pm) and Show.

Start: Market Place, Marshfield. ST 781 737. Map square: B9.

Leader: David Colbourne

Saturday 20 August 10:00am Oakridge Figure Of Eight Two Walks in One

5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

Figure of 8 10.00am morning walk of 6 miles 3 hours to Waterlane and Severn & Thames Canal. 2.15pm afternoon walk of 4.5 miles 2.5 hours through Old Hills Wood, France Lynch & Bournes Green. Pub lunch or picnic if attending both walks.

Start: Roadside Parking Next To Oakridge Recreational Ground. SO 917 037. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Tim Sugrue & Ted Currier

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Monday 22 August 10:00am Sherston (or was it Scorstan) & Easton Grey

3.5 hours • 6 miles

This rural walk follows the River Avon via Pinkney Park to the attractive village of Easton Grey. A stretch of the Fosse Way leads us to pasture land and we encounter a horse gallop on our way to our start point! Lunch available locally if required.

Start: Carpenters Arms pub, Easton Town. The pub is 0.25 miles east of Sherston High Street on the B4040. Park in the High Street then follow the road eastward to the Carpenters Arms on the right. ST 856 862. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

Thursday 25 August 10:00am Stone & Rome

4.5 hours • 9 miles

Explore Roman remains and the Cotswolds slate industry in this linear walk along the Evenlode Valley from Hanborough to Charlbury. Catch the 0924 train from Oxford to Hanborough or park at Charlbury Station and catch the 0942 train to Hanborough. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Hanborough Railway Station. SP 433 143. Map square: H4

Leader: Dave Scott

Thursday 25 August 10:00am Fifield Loops

5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

We explore two delightful loops either side of the A424 which contrast sharply in terrain and visuals, nudging up to everything from an airfield to a former abbey. At the easy end of moderate with just a few stiles. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Fifield, St John's Church. NB Limited parking in village itself. Alternatives are on long layby on A424 and use rights of way across fields to village or similarly at Merrydown Inn. If parking at the Inn please ensure you give them your custom. SP 239 187. Map square: G4.

Leaders: Julie Downing & Andy Briars

Friday 26 August 10:00am A Countryside View of the City

3 hours • 4.5 miles

A circular walk from Bath's Pulteney Bridge via Alexandra Park, Lyncombe Vale and Sydney Gardens. Coffee stop only. Start only 10 mins. from Bus/Railway station. Not suitable for pushchairs [Steps!]

Start: Pulteney Bridge, Bath (Opposite Victoria Art Gallery). ST 752 649.

Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Friday 26 August 10:00am Salperton & Hazelton

3 hours • 6 miles

A walk through the village of Hazelton and the grounds of Salperton Park returning through typical Cotswold countryside near Turkdean and return via Hazelton. Pubs and cafes at Northleach or Puesdown afterwards.

Start: Puesdown Inn (The Garniche at Puesdown). SP 075 171. Map square: E4.

Leaders: Philip Cluley, Tony Hester & Brian Chilvers

Friday 26 August 1:30pm After Lunch & Evening: Bathurst Arms

5.5 hours • 11.5 miles

An After Lunch to Evening walk starting and ending at a pub. This time it's the Bathurst Arms, in North Cerney. Calling at Woodmancote, Duntisbourne Rouse, Bagendon. If you wish to eat at the pub either before or after the walk please consider booking in advance (Tel: 01285 832181).

Start: Bathurst Arms car park, North Cerney on A435. SP 019 079. Map square: D5.

Leaders: Graham Saunders & Ken Buckle

Saturday 27 August 10:00am The Deep South

6 hours • 10 miles

We take the Monarch's Way to the east before turning south to Long Newton and into the valley of the Avon (Tetbury branch). We continue south to Brokenborough via Shipton Mill and the Fosse Way. The walk returns via Shipton Moyne and Estcourt Park. Picnic lunch with pub stop.

Start: Tetbury – Free long stay car park at old railway station, Cirencester Road. ST 894 933. Map square: C7.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou



Tuesday 30 August 10:00am Blenheim Estate of Kings, Queens & Heroes

2 hours • 3.5 miles

This short walk around the Blenheim Estate looks for traces of its historic past. During the 12th Century Henry II kept his mistress in the manor house and 300 years later Princess Elizabeth was imprisoned there. In 1704 the estate passed to John Churchill who built the magnificent palace.

Start: Combe Lodge, Park Road, Combe. SP 426 158. Map square: H4.

Leader: Anne Martis

September

Friday 2 September 10:00am Off to the Ocean

4 hours • 6 miles

The walk crosses a railway, busy roads, farmland with livestock & stiles to the Stroudwater Canal. We encounter buildings of architectural & industrial interest and an area of ancient woodland. Bring refreshments and be prepared for wet ground.

Start: King's Head pub, King's Stanley. 14 bus route from Stroud, railway stations in Stroud & Stonehouse. Free car parking opposite the King's Head by village hall or in council car park. SO 811 034.

Map square: B6.

Leaders: John Graham & Derrick Hildersley

Saturday 3 September 10:00am Following in Shakespeare's Footsteps – Maybe!

6 hours • 12 miles

From Chipping Norton to Salford and Long Compton to pick up the Shakespeare's Way and return via Little Rollright, visiting the lovely unspoilt church there and Salford [again!] A varied walk with hills and views. Please bring a packed lunch although there is a possible pub lunch.

Start: New Street car park, Chipping Norton. SP 312 270. Map square G3.

Leader: Janet Deller

Monday 5 September 10:00am Tetbury to Long Newton Airfield

3 hours • 5 miles

This mainly level walk first takes us to Wiltshire Bridge. We pass an impressive tithe barn, then follow the Monarch's Way to a disused WW1 airfield. We pause at Long Newton Church before returning to Tetbury. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.

Start: Tetbury – Free long stay car park at old railway station, Cirencester Road. ST 890 930. Map square: C6.


Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

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Tuesday 6 September 10:00am Tuesday Tramp


 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Start: Fox & Hounds, Colerne.
ST 818 711. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould, Richard & Shirley Willcox

Wednesday 7 September 10:00am Over the Hills to Farmington


 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

The walk takes us across several wide valleys with sweeping views, past two dovecotes, and close to an Iron Age Hill Fort and Roman Villa site. It includes a church visit and a number of stiles. Lunch available at the Old Prison after the walk, or at a Northleach pub.

Start: The Old Prison Northleach.
SP 109 149. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon John Shaw
Graham Saunders & Steve Pascoe

Friday 9 September 9:30am Two Greats, One Little & a River


 5 hours • 10 miles

From Great Rissington the route goes south, picking up the Windrush and walking along to its namesake village, then to Barrington before heading home via Little Rissington. A mix of meadow and high arable fields and paths, little road walking. Possible pub stop, but packed lunch preferred.

Start: Great Rissington Church.
SP 196 171. Map square: F5.

Leaders: Andy Briars & Julie Downing

Friday 9 September 10:00am Views of Dyrham & the Cotswold's Scarp from the West

 5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk through the old deer park, along the Cotswold Way, around Dyrham wood to Doynton and Wick Quarry, before picking up the Monarch's way and returning on the old Bristol-London Turnpike, now just a footpath! Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.


Start: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park.
ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Sid Gould



© Marilyn Parker

Friday 9 September 10:00am Friday Foray Seven Springs & Cowley


 3 hours • 5 miles

A circular route on tracks, quiet roads and fields passing through the villages of Upper Coberley, Cowley and Coberley.

Start: Seven Springs lay-by opposite Hungry Horse Pub GL53 9NG.
SO 968 170. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Ken Buckle, Helen Watkinson & Sue Proctor

Saturday 10 September 10:00am Celebrating the AONB: Boundary Changes


 6.5 hours • 11 miles

In this final circular walk celebrating the Cotswolds AONB, we consider how the boundaries have been changed since its formation. We start outside the AONB, climbing Bredon Hill looking down over villages that were included or excluded in extending the boundaries. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Bredon Village Hall. SO 930 368.
Map square: D2.

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Sunday 11 September 10:00am Bath Outer Circuit Walk Stage 4: Salford to Cold Ashton


 6 hours • 9 miles

The fourth stage of a 40 mile walk around Bath showing the setting of the City in the landscape. Car share to take you to Salford for the start of the walk. Salford, Upton Cheney, South Stoke and Cotswold Way back to Cold Ashton. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Walker's car park, Cold Ashton Village hall. ST 748 726.
Map square: B10.

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker

Wednesday 14 September 10:00am Heaven on Earth


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

"Heaven on Earth" was how William Morris described Kelmescott, a hidden corner of the Cotswolds, where he spent the final 25 years of his life. An easy walk across fields and along the Thames Path. Lunch afterwards in the village or at the Manor which is open.

Start: Kelmescott, car park GL7 3HJ.
SP 250 991. Map square: F6.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 16 September 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 6, 'Wotton & the Cotswold Way'


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30. The Cotswold Way leads us along the escarpment to the village of Wortley and our return route to Wotton. The walk offers splendid views over the Severn Vale, weather permitting. Lunch available in Wotton after the walk, if required.

Start: Swan Hotel, Wotton Under Edge.
ST 757 934. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Derrick Hildersley

Sunday 18 September 10:00am Characteristics of the Limestone Edge Landscapes of the Cotswolds


 5 hours • 10 miles

A walk towards Radley and Ratley along the scarp edge. Please park considerably on the roadside in the village and bring a packed lunch.

Start: Middle Tysoe Church CV35 0TE.
SP 341 442. Map square: H2.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Friday 23 September 10:00am A Walk in the Woods


 3 hours • 6 miles

A pleasant woodland walk which takes in Lynch's Wood and Weston Park. Although not a long walk, there are three fairly steep ascents.

Start: Dovers Hill NT car park.
SP 137 395. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears,
Mary & Barry Roberts

Sunday 25 September 10:00am From a Low to a High!


 3.5 hours • 6 miles

From Wellow, outward climb to Hinton Charterhouse, walking through three small woods, Hankley, Twinhoford and Clive, and returning via Upper Bagridge farm. Please bring a drink and snack.

Start: Wellow Old station free car park.
ST 735 581. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando, Pauline Vincent & Dave Jennings

Wednesday 28 September 10:00am Hills & Mills


 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk along the Painswick valley past five mills. Returning via Painswick Beacon along the Cotswold Way in Painswick car parking is available at Stammages lane car park (Pay & Display).

Start: Painswick church yard opposite the Falcon. SO 866 095. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Tony Duffin & Mike Williams

Wednesday 28 September 10:00am Wandering along the Windrush


 5.5 hours • 10 miles

We walk along the River Windrush to Widford and then to Swinbrook church to see the Fettiplace Effigies and the Mitford family graves. Continuing along the Windrush we arrive at Asthall to see one of the Mitford family homes before returning via Fulbrook. Packed lunch and possible refreshments en route.

Start: Burford town car park. SP 254 123.
Map square: G5.

Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday 30 September 10:00am There was an Old Mill by the Stream


 5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

This walk takes the Macmillan Way along the By-Brook valley to explore the old mills towards Slaughterford and Ford. After lunch the return climbs out of the valley to take the high ground towards Colerne. Please bring a packed lunch or use the Inn at Ford. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Selwyn Hall car park, Box. Off the A4. ST 823 686. Map square: B9.

Leaders: David Le Lohé & Rob Morley

Friday 30 September 10:00am A Walk Along the Leach with a Side of Macaroni


 2.75 hours • 5.6 miles

A gentle walk alongside the disappearing river Leach and back over the downs. A lovely walk through a beautiful village and great Cotswold landscapes.

Start: Around the village of Eastleach and by the Victoria Inn. SP 198 053.
Map square: F6.

Leaders: T Hester, B Chilvers & P Cluley

Friday 30 September 10:00am The Battle of Stow

 4 hours • 7 miles

When the Royalist army of 300 troops marched from Worcester towards Oxford in 1646 they were confronted by an army of Parliamentarians near to Stow on the Wold. More of this battle, and the toll it took, on the walk. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Longborough, by the water fountain on the High Street GL56 0QC.
SP 178 293. Map square: E3.

Leader: Anne Martis



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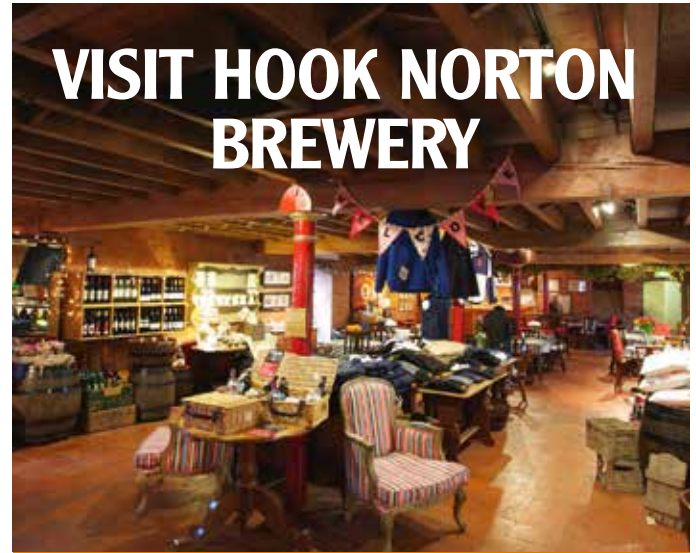
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