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COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF
OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



AUTUMN & WINTER 2016/17
ISSUE 35

A bird's eye view of the Cotswolds in its golden anniversary year



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**Through the
Lens of History**



Creative Cotswolds



**Cycling
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**Cotswolds Landscape
Photographer
of the
Year**





Photography Workshops

at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre



Mike Read, an experienced Cotswolds photographer, is hosting a new series of workshops designed for people wanting to take better photographs either on their digital cameras or on their iPhones and iPads.

Wednesday 12 October, 1-4pm

Basic Photography Workshop

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Thursday 20 October, 1-4pm

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For the more experienced photographer who has a good digital camera. The session will focus on ways to improve the composition of shots. £30.

Saturday 12 November, 1-4pm

Photography Workshop for iPhone & iPad

This workshop is designed to get the best out of your phone or tablet. These devices have great cameras with many advanced features, there is much to learn. £30.

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

For more information, including how to book, go to
www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

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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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When you have finished with this magazine please pass it on or recycle it.

Front cover image:
Winter sunrise at the Rollright Stones.
Taken by Nick Turner.

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

WELCOME TO THE COTSWOLD LION



The Cotswolds golden anniversary – get inspired!



Sampling the 50th anniversary Cotswold Lion by Hook Norton Brewery

When the idea came up to redesign the Cotswold Lion into a magazine we knew it would be popular, but we didn't quite realise how popular it would be!

The new look magazine has been well received by all and this latest issue continues to inspire with fascinating stories and features, so that you can go out and explore the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) this autumn and winter!

This is the 50th anniversary

year since the Cotswolds was designated as a protected landscape. It's Britain's largest AONB and one of the country's finest landscapes, and a place to be looked after for future generations. Throughout the year so far, the Cotswolds Conservation Board has been holding celebration events – and there are more events to come, which you will find detailed throughout the magazine.

The Cotswolds has long been a creative hotspot for writers and painters. Sián Ellis visits Whichford Pottery (page 6) meeting founder Jim Keeling who enjoys working with the raw elements – earth, water and fire. Jim's work might inspire you to submit your own work into the 'Cotswolds Inspired – Art Exhibition' (page 7).

We take to the skies on page 10 to fly like a bird over the Cotswolds taking in some of the views featured in the stunning new Cotswolds AONB book.

And Andrea Mynard completes our 50 ways to eat the Cotswold landscape (page 12) for some inspiration of what to eat and drink this autumn and winter!

Chris

Chris Brant, Editor

Win a two course meal for two at the Ebrington Arms

To celebrate the Ebrington Arms joining the Cotswolds Visitor Giving scheme we are giving readers the chance to win a two course meal for two at the award-winning north Cotswolds pub. To enter simply email cotswoldlion@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk your name, address, telephone number and where you picked up the magazine. **Deadline 31 March 2017.**



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The Cotswolds landscape through the lens

A changing landscape

A new community project to record what you feel is special about the Cotswolds AONB landscape, and how it has changed over the last 50 years.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Cotswolds being designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Cotswolds Conservation Board has launched a new community project designed to celebrate the rich history of the region's landscape.

'Cotswolds Landscape Through the Lens' hopes to build a comprehensive picture of the landscape change across the AONB in the last 50 years and enable a better understanding of how societal change has influenced that. The aim is to have a clearer vision for the Cotswolds to include in future Landscape Strategy and Guidelines, local and neighbourhood plans.

The aim is to establish an online interactive archive that will allow residents and visitors to the AONB to submit their own photographs and stories, to then be placed upon a digital map.

We invite you to share snippets about life and landscape in the Cotswolds AONB since the 1960s. You can help to create this archive. It's easy to add something!



How to get involved

If you have a photograph, video or even an old film clip that features the Cotswold landscape from the past 50 years or beyond, then visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/throughthelens

Project coordinators would like to build a comprehensive picture of this nationally significant landscape since the sixties. You can send in digital items of all kinds. For example this could be a scanned image or digital photograph, a word document, a digital sound recording or a mini film made on your mobile phone.

If you don't have access to a scanner then don't worry as the project team will be touring the Cotswolds visiting village halls and community events throughout the autumn and winter with a digital scanner.

Go on, have a search for something and send it in! However trivial it may seem to you, it will be an important part of the 50th anniversary Cotswolds AONB archive.





Rolling forward to the next 50 years

MPs, local authority leaders and businesses from across the Cotswolds AONB came together in the summer to pledge their support and ideas for the next 50 years.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board, the organisation that looks after the AONB is working to advance the following pledges:

Recognise the quality of the AONB landscape and secure the Cotswolds as a dark sky reserve.

The dark skies of the Cotswolds have been acknowledged to be of national importance by Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the research highlights where remedial action could be undertaken to make our dark skies even better.

Make the Cotswolds the best landscape for the visitor to explore by public transport.

Building upon the partnership with Great Western Railway, Pulhams, Stagecoach and other local bus companies to develop the Cotswolds Discoverer rail and bus ticket and improve the ease with which the visitor can travel.

Make the Cotswolds the walking and exploring capital of England.

The Thames Path starts in the Cotswolds, the Cotswold Way hugs the escarpment and there are a wealth of other named walking, riding and cycling routes across the area. They all offer fantastic opportunities to get out and explore the countryside.

Make the very best use of the Cotswolds as a Natural Health Service.

The health benefits of exercise are now well known and supported by extensive evidence. Our network of paths offers

the most cost effective and enjoyable means of getting fit – better than any gym pass. Our own wardens are a fantastic advert for voluntary effort, amounting to 46,000 hours a year, whilst their conservation work keeps people active and healthy, which no doubt saves NHS queues and expense.

Develop the programme and support young people to advance their skills by offering a range of traineeships and apprenticeships, to help keep the Cotswolds special.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board's rural skills programme includes dry stone walling, blacksmithing, hedgelaying and thatching, with over 430 people, young and old, participating in 'just have a go' courses through to accredited training each year. Its 'stepping stones' element enables young people to progress from training to professional contractor.

Develop our understanding of the full range of benefits that the Cotswolds AONB provides to society and business.

Our natural environment offers us a lot of qualities. Its natural beauty underpins the tourism industry, its landscapes refresh our minds and spirits, its seasons inspire designers and artists. It also supplies a variety of wider goods and services that we take for granted and don't fully recognise.

Get Involved

For information about how you could get involved and pledge your support visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



CREATIVE COTSWOLDS

The Cotswolds has long been a creative hotspot, whether as a focal point for the Arts and Crafts movement or a gathering place of writers and painters. We caught up with two of today's leading talents.

"I think with my hands," says Jim Keeling who, with his wife Dominique, founded Whichford Pottery in the Warwickshire Cotswolds in 1976 specialising in handmade frostproof flowerpots (www.whichfordpottery.com). "It's fantastic being a craftsman because you do get in touch with the basic forces of nature. At the pottery we work with the raw elements – earth, water and fire."

Raised in Surrey, where from the age of six he would play in a clay pit in a Saxon ditch, Jim took a pottery apprenticeship and learned to make flowerpots in the traditional country way. Moving to Whichford, he brought the skills passed down to him through four generations of master potters as well as a traditional, communal way of working. His eldest son, two daughters, and around 50 local people are employed in the business.

"Whichford is a particularly lovely valley, with a slightly back-of-beyond feel and I find that very conducive to doing good work," Jim says.

Challenges have been diverse: from making 97,500 of the ceramic poppies that filled the Tower of London's moat to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One, to statues of Mozart, Verdi and Wagner for Longborough Festival Opera. Day in, day out the team hand makes flowerpots and planters, including a William Morris range ("I'm very influenced by William Morris"). This year, coinciding with the pottery's 40th anniversary, there is an RHS Wildflower Collection showcasing the beauty of British wildflowers.

Visitors can tour the workshop (Mondays to Thursdays are best) and learn about the hand-thrown, hand-pressed methods used in making Whichford flowerpots.

"The majority of our clay comes from Blockley," Jim says, adding that while the concept of throwing a pot may be simple it is very difficult to master in practice. "Our technique has been honed by many generations, it doesn't waste any time or effort, and that is why we can survive [as hand makers] in a highly competitive global market."

Valley in the glass

Meanwhile, Amanda Lawrence works in glass, creating vessels, sculptures and wall pieces inspired by her surroundings in the Slad Valley (www.amandalawrenceglass.com). She specialises in engraved glass and kiln-formed glass, often combining the two.

“The lovely thing about glass is that you can freeze a sense of movement,” she says. “When you heat it up glass moves in certain ways and then you can open the kiln door, turn the temperature down and freeze that moment. The kind of art I’m interested in has to do with shapes and movement, particularly in wildlife.”

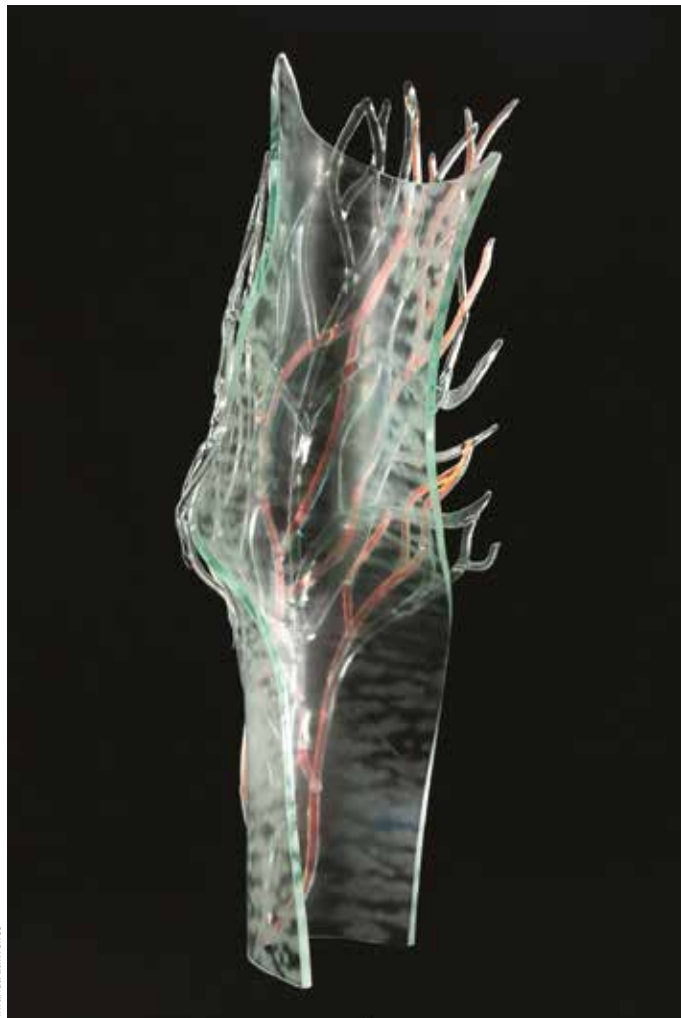
Amanda was a lawyer but retrained and changed careers after her husband gave her a glass engraving kit as a present 28 years ago. Her fascination has never waned and in 2011 she began a project exploring the beauty of the Slad Valley,

producing a series of works inspired by views, trees, buzzards, river and stream. Now the second part of the project, The Valley in the Glass, looks at changes there. Featuring glass pieces complimented by sound recordings with local people, it is being exhibited at Nature in Art Gallery and Museum, near Gloucester (22 Nov–18 Dec).

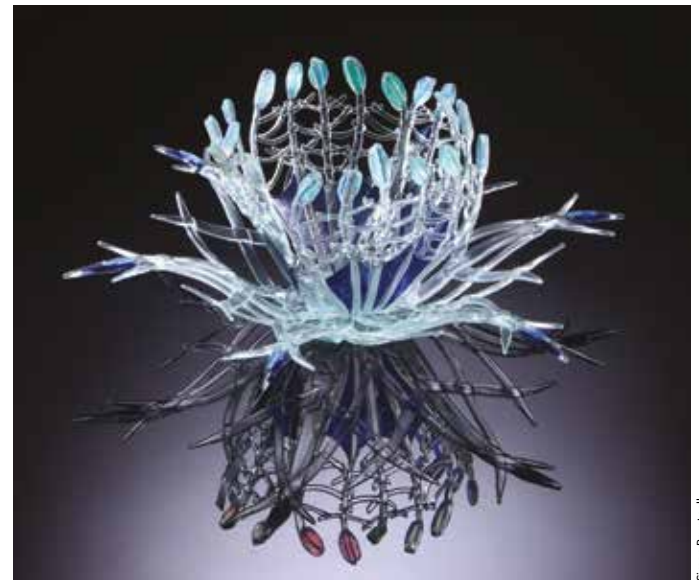
“I called it The Valley in the Glass because it’s like holding up a mirror to the valley and the way we interact with it,” Amanda says. Sculptures of glow worms and grassland are among pieces that highlight changes: how some creatures and landscapes are vanishing, and how other features, like trees, have increased.

“The Slad Valley is a very special place and I wanted to get people to think about what is involved in keeping it that way,” Amanda says. “There are a lot of issues to balance but I feel there is also a lot of goodwill to look after our countryside.”

“The lovely thing about glass is that you can freeze a sense of movement”



Amanda Lawrence



Simon Bruntnell

Opposite page: Jim Keeling in his studio

This page, pieces by Amanda Lawrence, clockwise from left: Ivy Tree, Wild Carrot 2, Wrong Sort of Dark for Glow Worms, Winter Canopy, Right Sort of Dark for Glow Worms



Amanda Lawrence



Amanda Lawrence



Simon Bruntnell

Cotswolds Inspired Art Exhibition

To crown the golden anniversary celebrations of the AONB, the Cotswolds Conservation Board is hosting a public art exhibition at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester (13 Jan–5 Feb 2017). Open to amateur and professional artists from within and beyond the Cotswolds, the exhibition showcases work in a variety of mediums and genres inspired by the Cotswold landscape. Why not submit your work! Find out more at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/inspired



Top 10 season's treats

As autumn and winter draw in, there are lots of fabulous reasons to get out and about in the fresh air!

Gold rush

Crunch and crackle through autumn leaves as our famous beechwoods erupt into heart-warming oranges, gold and copper. Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve is among many super places to scuffle, www.naturalengland.org.uk



Park adventures

Share oodles of adventures on night-time bat walks, and toddler and family nature trails, exploring the 'wild side' of Dyrham Park. See the deer up close in their winter coats on special deer feeding experiences, www.nationaltrust.org.uk



James Curwen

Fungi foraging

Spot mysterious fungi sprouting at Foxholes Nature Reserve near Burford, or join experts from Cotswold Fungus Group on October forays at Westonbirt and Batsford arboretums, www.cotswoldfungusgroup.com



Spooktacular fun

Ghost tours, magic shows, witches, and a bugs and creepy crawlies roadshow are among strange goings-on at Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, during Halloweek (24–30 Oct). Dare you! www.sudeleycastle.co.uk



Have a bluster

You can't beat a bracing walk to put a glow in your cheeks, so blow away your cares on the commons at Cleeve, Minchinhampton, Rodborough or Selsley. Maybe reward yourself afterwards with a pub lunch.



The wildlife side

Who's for seasonal I-spy? Head for Browne's Folly Nature Reserve, Bathford, and look for animal footprints in the mud, Old Man's Beard, berries, maybe a sparrowhawk or deer, www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

On your bike

Frozen ground is ideal for off-road cycling – muddy is fun too! Breeze around Brailes Hill, skirt the scarp, swoop and loop around valleys. Find route ideas at www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk



Stars in your eyes

Crisp, dark winter skies are just perfect for stargazing. Why not join your local astronomy group: www.cnaag.com www.cotswoldas.org.uk www.bathastronomers.co.uk www.wasnet.org.uk



Festive glow

Singing trees, a scented Fire Garden, the lake aglow with boats – explore the magical after-dark trail of lights around gardens and grounds during 'Christmas at Blenheim' (25 Nov–2 Jan), www.blenheimpalace.com



Let it snow – drops

Feel your heart leap at the sight of glorious drifts of snowdrops cascading around Painswick Rococo Garden, beginning in January and peaking in February. Spring is on its way! www.rococogarden.org.uk



Nick Turner

CYCLING IN THE COTSWOLDS

ANDREA MYNARD CYCLES THE COTSWOLDS BY EBIKE

An autumn bike ride in the Cotswolds can be a great way to savour the season's mellow fruitfulness. Especially if you're lucky enough to set off across Cotswold hills just as the sun has broken through those ethereal mists that hang low over the fields. You'll pass hedgerows rich in berries and orchards with their coppery, golden and amber hues, maybe dipping into pretty villages with wisps of wood-smoke rising enticingly from chimneys.

The byways, minor roads, and cycle paths that criss-cross the Cotswolds offer some of the finest cycling in the UK and are a great way of exploring many secret corners and really feeling that you're part of our glorious surroundings. There are of course some tempting coffee-shops, teashops and pubs for well-earned sustenance that will be enjoyed all the more after the challenge of a long ride and some steep hill climbs.

Our rolling Cotswold hills may be easy on the eye, and are perfect for



Tour de Cotswolds by ebike

honeyed villages to nestle below, but unless you're an experienced cyclist however, some of them may be less kind to the legs. Recognising that tackling unfamiliar, hilly terrain on a conventional bike deters many, Peter Hill at Cotswold Electric Bike Tours decided to offer an alternative.

Having tackled Dover's Hill near Chipping Campden on a bike and made it to the top in a state that meant I was more focused on calming my rasping lungs and soothing shaking legs than enjoying the awesome views, I can see the appeal. According to Peter, any active individual who can manage a 4-5 mile walk will comfortably complete and enjoy one of his tours. A keen cyclist himself, Peter has got to know many great circuits within the Cotswolds that take in some of our most interesting villages and stunning vistas but use the quietest lanes where cars are rare. He runs tours of about 30 miles each (typically taking around 6 hours) from Bourton-on-the-Water, Broadway, Burford, Chipping Campden, Moreton-in-Marsh and the Cotswolds Discovery Centre at Northleach. Private groups of

up to eight can also arrange their own tailored day tour from a location of their choice.

Whether on a conventional or electric bike, an autumn ride around the Cotswolds AONB is surely good for both body and soul – healthy pedalling while savouring the diversity of scenery and richness of our towns and villages.

See www.windrushcycletours.co.uk
www.cotswoldelectricbiketours.co.uk

For general cycling info see www.britishcycling.org.uk



Escape to the Cotswolds with an ebike



Cyclists on a day's tour by ebike

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

OF THE COTSWOLDS

Wouldn't it be thrilling to fly like a bird over the Cotswolds and see the landscape laid out below?

While Stroud-based photographer Nick Turner hasn't grown feathers, he has flown a drone over some of our most iconic sites to take aerial pictures. From the winding River Eye to Belas Knap long barrow and Great Witcombe Roman Villa, they are among stunning images in a brand new book published to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

"Looking down from a high vantage point enables you to get the bigger picture, and to appreciate the scale and context of historic sites, especially those that appear in the landscape as earthworks," Nick says.

"Suddenly, you can grasp the overall structure of Kemerton Camp Iron Age hill fort on the summit of Bredon Hill, for example, its manmade double ditches thrown into sharp relief by the sun low in the sky. You can see why it was chosen as a defensive site, and the full drama of its position atop the escarpment edge."

So, too, the naturally commanding position of long, flat-topped Uley Bury Iron Age hill fort 750ft (229m) up on a spur of the escarpment appears in its dominant glory. And capturing the circular nature of the Rollright Stones near Chipping

Norton (see front cover)—a difficult challenge at ground level — becomes a magical possibility flying a drone at dawn in midwinter.

"I could finally see the entire circle, with the sun ideally positioned to throw beautiful long shadows from the stones, it was a really satisfying moment," Nick says.

His evocative image of the Rollrights may not tell us why our Neolithic forebears gathered here, or what ceremonies took place, but it conveys a fresh intimacy between the circle and its landscape. The shadows even add a spine-tingling suggestion of truth to the legend that the stones are really a king's men petrified by a witch!

If you aren't qualified to fly a drone to take pictures like Nick, there are other excellent opportunities for bird's eye views of the landscape from a hot air balloon (the main ballooning season is from March to the end of October). Companies launch from a variety of Cotswold sites including Cirencester, Stroud, Bourton-on-the-Water and Bath.

Or soar high up in a glider on a trial lesson with Cotswold Gliding Club, which launches from Aston Down Airfield

"Looking down from a high vantage point enables you to get the bigger picture, and to appreciate the scale and context of historic sites, especially those that appear in the landscape as earthworks"



Aerial view of Uley Bury Iron Age hill fort on the Cotswold escarpment, Gloucestershire



Belas Knap long barrow, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire

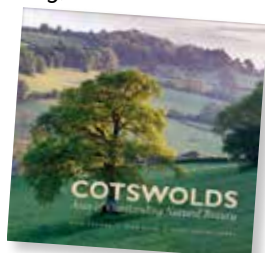
(www.cotswoldgliding.co.uk). Bristol and Gloucestershire Gliding Club at Nympsfield (www.bggc.co.uk) also offers trial lessons and both clubs fly through the year.

Keeping your feet on the ground, there are lots of superb elevated vantage points to get the next best thing to bird's eye views, especially along the western escarpment, looking over the Severn and Avon vales. Nick suggests climbing the Tyndale Monument at North Nibley for 360-degree panoramic views, or Broadway Tower gazing over patchwork fields to the Welsh mountains or Buckinghamshire.

Further 'lofty suggestions' include getting permission to climb a church tower for a striking perspective – as the winner of our Cotswolds AONB photo competition this year did (see box below).

"The Bath Skyline walk also offers some fantastic long-distance views of the Georgian city, including a great one shown in the AONB anniversary book," Nick says. Fresh air, exercise and memorable images to take home – what could be better?

The Cotswolds – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, photographed by Nick Turner, written by Siân Ellis and designed by Nick Darien-Jones (Darien-Jones Publishing, hardback £14.99) is available from the Cotswolds Discovery Centre, Northleach, tourist information centres, and selected shops. Also available (£14.99 plus p+p) from the Cotswolds AONB online shop www.cotswolds-aonb.org.uk/shop or www.darien-jones.co.uk



Nick Turner

The Tyndale Monument, North Nibley, Gloucestershire

Photo competition

Earlier this year, amateur photographer Peter Llewellyn was overall winner of our competition to take a picture that captured the beauty and uniqueness of the Cotswolds AONB, with his image 'Cotswold Views' taken from the top of St Mary's Church, Painswick.

Turn to page 28 for a brand new competition to find the 'Cotswolds Landscape Photographer of the Year'.



Edible Cotswolds

CONCLUDING PART OF 50 WAYS TO EAT THE COTSWOLDS LANDSCAPE

Whether you're sat snug next to a crackling fire in a village pub or cosily cooking in the warmth of your own kitchen, autumn and winter is a great time to enjoy some of the richer flavours of the Cotswolds. Within the AONB there's a great variety of locally produced meat, cheese, fruit and vegetables to choose from. Farmers and artisan producers are doing a great job of preserving yet keeping alive our wonderful landscape; scoffing delicious food from our local area is surely a great way of supporting them.

Food may lead intrepid foragers further into our landscape, lured by all those hedgerows rich with juicy blackberries, dusky purple sloes and damsons. Or tracking down a delicious artisan loaf of bread may prompt exploration of a picturesque Cotswold town. Below are some edible ways to explore the AONB:

1. Gloucester Old Spot Pork – traditionally grazers of our orchards, Old Spot Pigs love snuffling for windfalls and provide wonderful meat.



2. Hook Norton – Hooky is a fabulous Cotswold pint plus there are seasonal tipples such as Copper Head, a warming beer to be savoured by a log fire www.hooky.co.uk
3. Woodland mushrooms – head on a Cotswold fungus foraging foray with www.cotswoldfungusgroup.com
4. Cotswold Preserves – artisan made, often from local and foraged ingredients including wild plums, blackberries and sloes. www.theartisanskitchen.co.uk

5. Pheasants, wood pigeons and partridges – healthy, free-range meat from our fields and woodlands.
6. FWP Matthews Flour – offers flour milled from blends of locally grown wheat. Perfect for wintry baking. www.fwpmatthews.co.uk



Bertinet artisan bakery



Jonathan Crump cheese

7. Hogget & Mutton – a tasty feature of our ancestors' diets, wonderful in slow cooked wintry dishes and playing its part in our landscape again at Windrush Farm, Cold Aston www.windrushfarm.co.uk
8. Bread from Bertinet artisan bakery Bath www.bertinet.com
9. Single and Double Gloucester Cheese from Jonathan Crump.
10. Chutney – award-winning pickles from www.relishthetaste.co.uk
11. Cake from Beau's Bakehouse in Frampton-on-Severn – sumptuous cakes, all free from artificial flavourings www.beausbakehouse.co.uk
12. Tasty Veggies – delicious vegetarian and vegan food from The Parsnipship www.theparsnipship.co.uk
13. Sloe Gin – make your own from the hedgerows.



Beau's Bakehouse



Cotswold Butter



Gloucester Services

- 14. Cotswold Butter www.cotswoldbutter.com double churned, creamy butter with sea salt.
- 15. Damson Ice Cream – the perfect winter ice cream using damsons from the garden or hedgerows.
- 16. Venison – delicious, wildly free-range and healthy too.
- 17. Rosehip jelly and cordial – these bright red fruit are rich in vitamin C and the jelly is great with local game.
- 18. Holmleigh Dairy – Jersey and Guernsey milk and cream from a small Cotswold Farm www.holmleighdairy.com
- 19. Cerney Cheese – award-winning hand-made local goats cheese www.cerneycheese.co.uk

- 24. Lamb – autumn braises and slow cooked shanks are perfect with Cotswold reared meat.
- 25. Gloucester Services – a Foodie Services with a difference, founded on great ethics and a wonderful place to sample local Cotswold produce www.gloucesterservices.com



Cerney Cheese



Muddy Wellies



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- 21. Cotswold Charcuterie – autumn is the perfect time to cure your own chorizo or air-dried ham from local pork.
- 22. Muddy Wellies – social enterprise brewers from students at the Royal Agricultural University Cirencester www.muddywellies.org.uk
- 23. Great Farm Fairford poultry www.greatfarm.co.uk

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



The Ebrington Arms
Nr. Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire, GL55 6NH
t: 01386 593 223

www.theebringtonarms.co.uk



WALKING FOR HEALTH IN THE COTSWOLDS

An autumn walk through Cotswold woodland, relishing the crunch of russet coloured leaves beneath our feet is revitalizing to the mind and body – particularly after the inevitability in our modern lives of spending too much time inactive in front of a screen. While a bracing winter walk, across a windswept common or following an icy stream down a hillside can be incredibly invigorating. For many people, taking up walking can also be life-changing.



Your GP can help you decide what type of activity will suit you

In the last issue of the Cotswold Lion we explored the health benefits of walking our wolds – how just walking 2 miles per day can reduce the risk of heart attack by 28%, while a ramble can also reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, osteoporosis, arthritis and some cancers. The benefits to our mental health are incredible too of course and walking with friends or rambling groups may transform your social life.

Sean White, who's involved in leading the healthy walks organised by www.walkingforhealth.org.uk in the Cheltenham area, including Winchcombe and Cox's Meadow, says that he's seen many examples of the social and health benefits:

"One lady joined the walks two years ago – she'd lived in the UK when she was younger then went to the USA for a couple of years and returned to Cheltenham 42 years later. Having lost contact with friends, she found walking in a group to be a great way to meet new people while getting exercise too. She's made new friends who she now sees outside of walks too."

Another lady was GP-referred to the walks: "Her doctor said she had high blood pressure and that more

exercise would be good in preventing health problems. She joined our walks, was very slow when she started but always finished the walk. Now she walks from three different locations and walks to each of these rather than driving to the start. Each walk is about 45 minutes plus she walks for 15 minutes to the starting point – she's enjoying walking while the health benefits are numerous."

The walks are volunteer led and completed at a steady pace, suitable for people of all ages and abilities, while some are suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Sean, aged 21 himself, says that the mix of people is one of the pleasures of group health walks:

"I'm just starting out on my working life, many of the people I walk with are retired and it's a brilliant eye opener for me."

For further information on the health benefits of walking and for ideas of walking routes, guided walks and group walks see:

www.ramblers.org.uk

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk

'Strolling in Stroud' and other health walks visit
www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder





Daniel Greenwood

Seed sieving with Countryfile's Ellie Harrison

Magnificent Meadows

"It's really important to use local seed in restoring our wildflower meadows, to suit the limestone soil, and preserve the local identity and genetic diversity of the grassland," Magnificent Meadows Conservation Officer Eleanor Reast said when we caught up with her out and about collecting wildflower seed with a brush harvester in the summer.

Aside from diverse delights like cowslip, sainfoin, scabious, knapweed and orchids, yellow rattle seed in particular brought a glint to her eye:

"It's a hemi-parasite that suppresses grass growth, particularly the more competitive species, thinning out and opening up the sward so there is more light and more space for the more delicate wildflowers to come through. We have had real success with it flowering on our sites we seeded last autumn."

Once widespread throughout the UK, wildflower-rich grasslands have seriously declined – just 2% of meadows that existed in the 1930s remain – largely due to changed land management practices. Yet the habitat they provide for pollinators and the bugs and beetles that feed many birds and mammals is a crucial part of a biodiverse, healthy countryside.

Species-rich sites have now become so fragmented that bringing back what

has been lost can't always be left to natural re-colonisation by wildflowers.

The launch in 2014 of the three-year Heritage Lottery funded national Save our Magnificent Meadows project (www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk) aims in the Cotswolds to restore up to 1,125ha (2,780 acres) of wildflower-rich limestone grasslands. The AONB already boasts 3,000ha (7,413 acres) – over 50% – of the UK's Jurassic unimproved limestone grassland.

Eleanor and her team have been working on many fronts, with re-seeding activities mainly focused on the scarp and river valleys. Last year, they harvested wildflower seed from six large species-rich donor sites and broadcast it on 35ha (86.5 acres) at 11 nearby receptor sites. Following harvesting at seven sites this year, the aim is to distribute seed on at least a further 11 sites.

"The brush harvester, pulled slowly behind a Landrover, has rotating brushes to pick up any ripe seed, and brushes can be adjusted to collect seed at different heights," Eleanor explains. Seed and chaff are then emptied from the hopper onto a tarpaulin and raked over until fully dry. Harvested in July and August, the seed is bagged ready to be spread on suitable sites in the autumn or spring.

Wildflower seed donor sites have included Whittington Lodge Farm (www.whittingtonlodgefarm.com) where wildflower meadows are integral to Ian Boyd's holistic approach to farming pasture-fed organic pedigree Hereford cattle. Meadows at Bannerdown Common near Bath have also provided wildflower seed, which will be broadcast on further areas of the Common, with some also used in a nearby quarry and on a local farm.

Bannerdown Common has been the focus of much activity in recent years, including scrub clearing and careful grazing, in order to enhance biodiversity (www.batheastoncommons.co.uk).

"The diversity and coverage of flora, particularly things like orchids, yellow rattle, St John's Wort and cowslips, are increasing year on year," says Rob Kendall, Secretary of the Batheaston Freeholders Association, guardians of the Common.

Turning to autumn, Eleanor welcomes volunteers to help broadcast seed by hand this September and October. "Because there is chaff in the mix, it won't go through farm machinery, so we broadcast by hand, walking over a field in a line with a bucket or bag of seed. It's quite genteel and people love doing it!"

To volunteer email
eleanor.reast@cotswoldsaoib.org.uk

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

EVENT GUIDE

Your guide to upcoming events across the Cotswolds. Autumn & Winter 2016/17.



Paul Groom

Autumn Family Trail at Westonbirt

Thursday 1 September –
Wednesday 30 November

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8QS
A family trail in Silk Wood (dog-friendly) and the Old Arboretum (dog-free). Find out all about the science behind autumn's inspiring colour!
www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt
0300 067 4890

OCTOBER



Illustrated talk: New Cotswold Birds of Prey

Thursday 13 October, 2:30 pm

Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH
Andy Lewis of the North Cotswold Ornithological Society looks at four birds of prey that have recently moved into the Cotswolds - Red Kite, Peregrine, Goshawk and the recovering Barn Owl. £5.
01451 862035
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre

Dursley Walking Festival

Thursday 6 – Sunday 9 October

Dursley, Gloucestershire
Dursley Welcomes Walkers will host a Festival of 20+ walks from a health walk to a day walk of 12 miles and several special interest walks. Non-walking events also available. For further information: email dursleywaw@gmail.com or telephone 07743 307686. See www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk for full programme.

Wool Weekend

Saturday 8 – Sunday 9 October

Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire GL54 5JD

The venue, near Winchcombe, is celebrating wool week and visitors are invited to its exhibition of rare and valuable textiles. Wool Week is hosted by the Campaign For Wool, which was initiated by The Prince of Wales, in order to raise awareness amongst consumers about the benefits offered by the fibre.

www.sudeleycastle.co.uk

Rock & Fossil Roadshow

Thursday 27 October, 10am – 4pm

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

Half term fun for children and adults alike. Learn about the rocks and fossils – and dinosaurs! – of the Cotswolds. Free drop-in workshop with lots of hands-on activities and crafts. Free half term activity!
01451 862035
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre



GWR Halloween 'Steam & Scream' Special

Saturday 29 October

The Railway Station, Toddington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 5DT

All the fun of Halloween on the railway – come and see what surprises await you on this journey between Cheltenham Race Course Station and Winchcombe Station.
www.gwsr.com

NOVEMBER

Christmas Willow Crafts

Sunday 27 November, 10am – 4pm

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

On this enjoyable and informative one day course you'll have the opportunity to make your own Christmas

decorations; choose from garlands, hearts, stars, wands, Christmas trees, spheres, mince pie platters or even an angel! You will be using different varieties of willow and learning a little about the history and folklore of willow and well as learning basic weaving techniques.

01451 862035

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre



DECEMBER



Cotswold Food & Craft Christmas Market

Saturday 3 December, 10am – 4pm

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

An annual Christmas food and craft market held at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre in Northleach. The market offers specialist crafts and artisan food from the Cotswolds AONB. With more than 20 stands, including craft demonstrations, handmade Christmas gifts. It's a great day out for all the family. Free entry.
01451 862035
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre

JANUARY

Cotswolds Inspired – Art Exhibition

Friday 13 January – Sunday 5 February

Corinium Museum, Park Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 2BX
The 50th anniversary of the Cotswolds AONB will culminate in a public art exhibition open to amateur and professional artists from within and beyond the Cotswolds. The exhibition will showcase art work in a variety of mediums and genres inspired by the Cotswolds landscape. Free entry.
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/inspired
01451 862000

FEBRUARY

Snowdrops

February – March

Snowdrops at Colesbourne Park, Newark Park and Painswick Rococo Garden.

MARCH

Illustrated talk: Birdsong in the Cotswolds

Thursday 9 March, 2:30pm

Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH
Andy Lewis of the North Cotswold Ornithological Society looks at why birds sing, and plays example of common and less common Cotswold species. £5.
01451 862035
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre

Stars & Supper

Late March

An astronomical evening with the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group. After a hearty supper, 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. Booking is essential, ring 01451 861563.
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre

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

Discover the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Enjoy the great outdoors in the magical Cotswolds landscape. There is so much to see and do in this area, from walking, cycling or riding across the hills, to exploring one of the many gardens, heritage sites or nature reserves.



Farmers Markets in the Cotswolds

Bath

Every Saturday

Banbury

First Friday of the month

Bourton-on-the-Water

Fourth Sunday in the month

Charlbury

Second Saturday quarterly

Cheltenham

Second and last Friday in the month

Chipping Norton

Third Saturday in the month

Cirencester

Second and fourth Saturday in the month

Dursley

Second Saturday of the month

Gloucester

Every Friday

Nailsworth

Fourth Saturday in the month

Stratford upon Avon

First and third Saturday of the month

Stow-on-the-Wold

Second Thursday of the month

Stroud

Every Saturday

Tewkesbury

Second Saturday of the month

Winchcombe

Third Saturday in the month

Witney

Fourth Friday of every month

Woodstock

First Saturday in the month

Dates of farmers markets may alter from time to time, particularly during December and January due to Bank Holidays.



Forging a Future

the craft of blacksmithing in the AONB

Since the Iron Age, the blacksmith has been a key part of rural communities, and in the Cotswolds where farming and horses have been inextricably linked with the landscape for centuries, this craft has been vital.

At its most basic, rocks were heated by the coals of a hot fire to yield iron which was crudely crafted to produce the basic necessities for hunting and cooking. Gradually this craft developed and tongs were used to handle lumps of raw iron over an anvil, where they would be hammered and folded repeatedly to become 'wrought iron' before being skilfully manipulated into all sorts of useful forms.

In the days before tractors, when farmers relied upon the horse, the blacksmith was crucial: his forge would produce and service a vast range of agricultural tools while the blacksmith also carried out farrier tasks. Often the blacksmith would not only make the plough but shoe the horses that pulled it. Back in the farmhouse and in the cottages of farm labourers, examples of the blacksmith's craft would have been plentiful too, with ironwork producing many of the cooking implements and tools used daily.

Over time blacksmiths honed their skills, with many items in everyday use being beautifully crafted, often as aesthetically pleasing as they were practical. Farming became increasingly sophisticated too of course and the need for blacksmiths in our rural community changed dramatically.

Nowadays, although we no longer have a blacksmith in every Cotswold village, this ancient craft is still thriving.

It's no longer solely about producing functional



Julia Naysmith started her exciting career aged just 15 with a sculpted horse head made from scrap found in her father's workshop

items for agriculture; a number of artisans throughout the AONB are creating ornamental and functional objects (from splendid wrought iron gates for Cotswold country houses to simple, beautifully useful toasting forks) by applying traditional and modern specialist techniques to steel, iron, copper and brass.

Many blacksmiths are emerging as artists. Julia Naysmith, who works with her father near Edge Hill in the north east of the AONB, has combined her passion for horses with her skill as a blacksmith and produced an amazing sculpture of a life-size horse using only scrap metals. Taking inspiration from her love of nature and animals in her local countryside, Julia has created a series of sculpted commissions featuring wild animals.

For those inspired to find out more about blacksmithing or perhaps interested in learning this artisan skill themselves, The Old Blacksmith Forge at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre in Northleach opened in May 2016 and offers a range of courses:

28 – 29 September

**Blacksmithing – Improvers
(Make Your Own Tongs!) £185.**

30 October

Blacksmithing – Taster Day £99.

20 November

Blacksmithing – Taster Day £99.

For further information, see

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

*For further information on Julia Naysmith,
Artist/Blacksmith/Sculptor see*

www.julianaysmith.co.uk

Other Cotswold Blacksmiths:

www.wrightwroughtiron.co.uk

(based near Shipston-on-Stour – gates, railings, curtain poles)

www.birdyblacksmith.co.uk *(gates, gazebos, candleholders)*

www.donkeywellforge.co.uk *(traditional/contemporary ironwork)*



Cotswold Walks Guide

Autumn & Winter 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 autumn and winter!

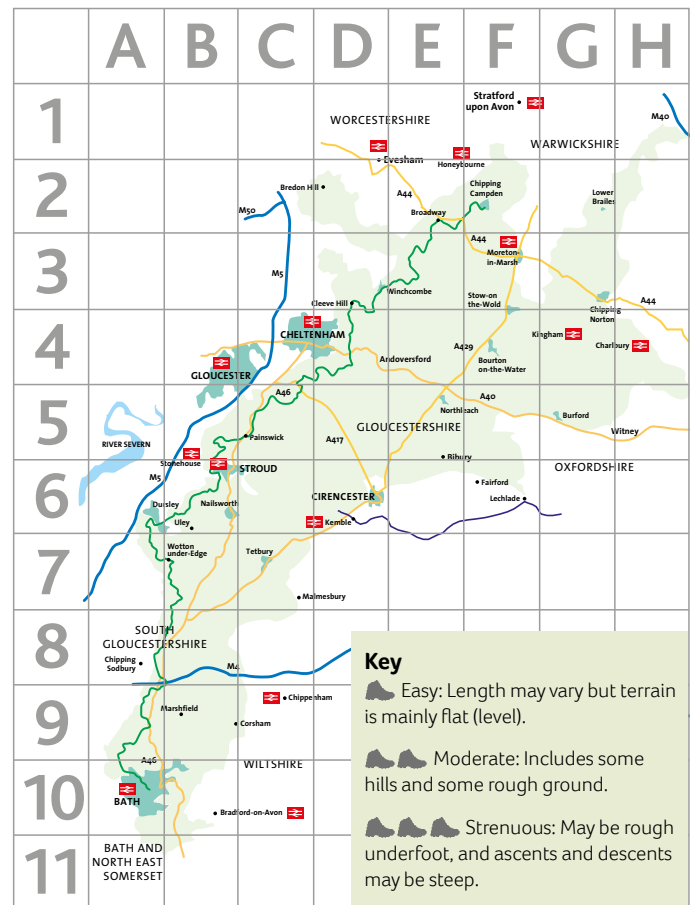
The majority of walks here are led by our Cotswold Voluntary Wardens therefore you can be assured of an informative and entertaining walk in the Cotswolds. We recommend you always wear appropriate footwear as some walks may be muddy in places. Sorry, but only assistance dogs are allowed on the walks.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

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.

October

Tuesday 4 October 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

Saturday 8 October 9:30am Crocodile Springs

5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

Join us on a scenic walk in the high wolds in Vestey country, visiting several quaint Cotswold Villages en route.

Start: Hangman's Stone Layby (tarmac), layby lies to the west of Northleach between Hampnett and Yanworth on a minor road off the A40. SP 088 151. Map square E5.

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

TEXT 'COTS01 £3' TO 70070 TO DONATE £3

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



Saturday 8 October 10:00am Swineford, Up to the Races

5.5 hours • 10 miles

A steep restored path up to North Stoke, then around the contour from Prospect stile with views towards Woolley, before crossing the battlefield and returning by a different route from North Stoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Start: Swineford picnic site. ST 691 692. Map square A10.

Leaders: John Bartram & Rob Morley



Saturday 8 October 1:30pm
Scarp, Bottom and Beechwoods (Dursley Walking Festival)

3 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk from Stinchcombe Hill taking in the glorious beechwoods overlooking Dursley, the secluded valley of Waterley Bottom and the hamlets of Forthay and Stancombe. Wonderful views in the valleys and from the Cotswold escarpment.

Start: Stinchcombe Hill public car park (not golf club car park). Please note 1:30 start time. ST 744 983. Map square A6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furnidge

Sunday 9 October 10:00am
Hiking Through History – Life in the Stone Age Cotswolds

6 hours • 11.5 miles

The first of a series of history themed walks. Discover the Stone Age on this walk to the Rollright Stones. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Hook Norton – considerably on the roadside near the Pear Tree. SP 351 332. Map square H3.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday 9 October 10:00am
Dursley Sculpture Trail. (Dursley Walking Festival)

2.5 hours • 3.5 miles

A steep ascent to Twinberrow Wood and the Sculpture Trail before descending through Dursley Wood and back around Highfields.

Start: Dursley Market House. Parking opposite the Old Spot Inn, Dursley. ST 756 981. Map square A6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & David Ashby

Tuesday 11 October 10:00am
A Walk in the Hills Around Hillesley

3 hours • 5 miles

The walk follows the Cotswold Way and the Monarch's Way, taking in the Somerset Monument, Splatt's Wood, the attractive Kilcote Valley and the village of Alderley. Splendid views, weather permitting. Lunch and refreshments available at the Inn after the walk, if required.

Start: Car park at the Fleece Inn, Hillesley, by arrangement. Or in the car park adjacent to the village sports field. ST 772 897. Map square B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hilderley & Les Jones

TEXT 'COTS01 £3' TO 70070 TO DONATE £3



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

Tuesday 11 October 10:00am
Bourton's Lakes and Rivers

4 hours • 6 miles

This circular walk takes in the lakes of Greystones Nature Reserve and crosses the Windrush and Dikler rivers. We visit two historic churches at Little Rissington and Clapton. Both are situated on hilltops affording stunning views across the Cotswolds. Bring drinks and snacks. Lunch available at Bourton.

Start: Bourton-on-the-Water, Station car park pay and display. SP 169 208. Map square F4.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Wednesday 12 October 10:00am
Ambling through the woods around Cranham

2.7 hours • 4.25 miles

An energetic ramble with a number of climbs and descents through woodland to the south of Cranham, hopefully with some autumn colour. Lunch options at Black Horse in Cranham or at the nearby Royal William on A46.

Start: Roadside near Cranham School. SO 894 125. Map square E5.

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

Thursday 13 October 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'North from Newark'

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30 bringing us first us to Newark's near neighbour Ozleworth Park, before descending to the secluded Ozleworth Valley. We walk through the beautiful Bagpath Valley to Ashcroft House with its fascinating history. Lunch available locally after the walk.

Start: Newark Park National Trust car park, by arrangement. ST 781 931. Map square B7.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Chris Gill

Saturday 15 October 10:00am
Four Hamlets and a Canal

4.5 hours • 9 miles

This circular walk explores the historic relationship of the hamlets of Avoncliff, Conkwell, Murhill and Turleigh with the Kennet and Avon canal. We follow the canal, then turn uphill through the woods and quiet country lanes. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Avoncliff car park. ST 804 599. Map square B10.

Leaders: Glyn Williams & Fred Dugan

THE GATEWAY TO EXPLORE THE COTSWOLDS



EVENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre

Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH Tel: 01451 861563

CotswoldsDiscoveryCentre @OldPrison



Tuesday 18 October 10:00am
Isbourne Way 4 (Wormington to Sedgeberrow)

3 hours • 6 miles

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

Start: Outside St. Katherine's Church in Wormington WR12 7NL. Please park in the farmyard to the left of the church (£1 contribution to church funds for parking and use of toilets). SP 038 364. Map square D3.

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Smith & John Pearson

Tuesday 18 October 10:00am
Rodborough Common & Kingscourt

2.5 hours • 4 miles

A walk enjoying views from the Common across the Stroud valleys and noting significant local sites.

Start: National Trust public car park on roadside of Rodborough Common. SO 851 035. Map square B6.

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Derrick Hilderley

Saturday 22 October 10:00am
Cotswold Heroines: Dorothy Hodgkin

6 hours • 10 miles

This circular walk from Mickleton around Meon Hill to Ilmington and back to Mickleton celebrates the life of scientist and communist Dorothy Hodgkin who lived in Ilmington. Pub lunch is available. Walk includes one sharp ascent of the Cotswold Edge.

Start: Mickleton, outside St Lawrence church, off B4632. SP161 435. Map square F2.

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Saturday 22 October 22 10:00am
Under Wychwood

5 hours • 9 miles


A linear walk exploring the Evenlode Valley and the history of the Wychwood Forest. Starts after the arrival of the 9:24am train from Oxford. If coming by car park at Charlbury station and catch the 9:41am to Kingham as walk finishes in Charlbury. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Kingham Railway Station. SP 256 226. Map square G4.

Leader: Dave Scott

Saturday 22 October 10:30am

Dyrham: Park and Countryside


 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A walk from Dyrham Park (National Trust) through nearby farmland and along part of the Cotswold Way, passing points of interest along the way. No park admission fees for those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs. Good views hopefully! Start: Visitor Reception, Dyrham Park. ST 748 757. Map square A9

Leaders: Rob Morley & Fred Dugan

Sunday 23 October 10:00am

Four Fords (or is it Five?)


 6 hours • 10 miles

A circular walk from Bradford on Avon to Westwood, Hungerford Castle, Iford, Freshford and along the Kennet and Avon canal. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Start: Station car park, Bradford on Avon. ST 824 607. Map square B10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sunday 23 October 10:00am

This Little Piggy Went to (New)market


 5 hours • 8.5 miles

A walk to Newmarket passing Owlpen Manor and through beech woodlands. We return along Mirey Brook to Nympsfield and back to Uley through Toney Wood. Please bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drinks only.

Start: Uley village green. Please park considerably in the village. ST 792 987. Map square B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Alan Hooper

Tuesday 25 October 10:30am Marshfield: Town and 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

Wednesday 26 October 10:00am

Glimpses of the past on Cleeve Hill


 3.5 hours • 7 miles

A classic walk around the beautiful, unspoilt expanse of Cleeve Common passing structures 200, 400 and 6,000 years old. An essential walk if you are new to the area or if you need reminding of the assets close at hand. Start: Cleeve Common Golf Club (Quarry car park). SO 989 271. Map square D3.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

Wednesday 26 October 10:00am

The Cotswolds at War

 5.5 hours • 10 miles


Another walk examining the influence of war on the Cotswold communities, this time focusing mainly on the First World War. We will start at Ebrington, taking in Foxcote, Hidcote and Mickleton. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Ebrington Village Hall (Voluntary contribution of £1 per car). SP 184 402. Map square F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Ali Clifton-Barnard

Thursday 27 October 10:00am

The Battle of Edgehill – 23rd October 1642


 4 hours • 7 miles

On 22nd August 1642 Charles I raised his standard in Nottingham and the English Civil War began. The Battle of Edgehill on 23rd October 1642 was the first major encounter and both sides claimed victory. This walk goes over part of the battlefield. Late pub lunch available at end.

Start: Ratley Village Hall car park OX15 6DS. SP 381 474. Map square H1. Leader: Anne Martis

Friday 28 October 10:00am

A Shab(by) Hill and a Chic Manor


 3 hours • 5.75 miles

Through Cowley Woods to Stockwell and Shab Hill and back via the Gloucestershire Way.

Start: Car park of the Green Dragon Cockleford. SO 968 141. Map square D5. Leaders: B Chilvers, T Hester & P Clukey

Saturday 29 October 10:00am

Family Walk – North Leigh Common and Roman Villa

 4 hours • 2 miles

The walk starts with a tree trail on North Leigh Common. After a walk of 2 miles we arrive at a Roman Villa and have a quiz trail to find out about the people who once lived here.

Please bring a packed lunch. Some car sharing – please refer to website.

Start: North Leigh Common car park. SP 399 138. Map square G5.


Leader: Mandy Warwick



Anthony Walsh

Sunday 30 October 10:00am

National Coppice Day

 3.5 hours • 5 miles


From Ford we walk to Slaughterford and Weavern farm to enter Colerne Wood where Wardens have coppiced areas over many years. A small demonstration may be possible, weather permitting, and you will see deer fencing around the most recent work. Please bring drinks. Return via Thickwood. Pub lunch available afterwards.

Start: The White Hart, Ford. From the A420, turn down left past the White Hart, cross the bridge and the car park is on the right. ST 841 747. Map square B10.

Leaders: John Bartram & David Colbourne

Monday 31 October 10:00am

Stinchcombe, Stancombe and The Hill

 3 hours • 5 miles

A hilly walk with wonderful views, taking in Stinchcombe Hill, Stancombe and Stinchcombe village. Lunch available locally after the walk, if required.


Start: Stinchcombe Hill public car park (not golf club car park). ST 744 983. Map square A6.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

November

Tuesday 1 November 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

Thursday 3 November 10:00am

Survival on the Scarp

 3 hours • 6 miles


A look at the lovely countryside around Winchcombe as much of the natural world closes down for winter. Pub lunch available after the walk.

Start: Winchcombe, Back Lane car park (pay and display £1). SP 023 285. Map square D3.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Saturday 5 November 10:00am

Doynton to Hanging Hill

 4 hours • 7.5 miles


A steepening climb up Toghill before crossing Freezing Hill lane and dropping down to the Cotswold Way below Hamswell house. We follow the Cotswold Way to Hanging Hill before dropping down to Wick and return along the River Boyd. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: By Doynton Church. ST 720 741. Map square A9.

Leaders: John Bartram & Glyn Williams

Saturday 5 November 10:00am

Three Churches and a River

 3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Walk with views over the Evenlode Valley to Shorthampton Church with wall paintings. Then over the Evenlode to Spelsbury church with memorials to the Lee family. Return via Coldron Mill and Dean Grove to Charlbury which has a 12th century church. Carry a snack, lunch opportunities after walk in Charlbury.

Start: Spendlove car park, Charlbury OX7 3PQ. SP 358 196. Map square H4.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

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



Winter walkers

Sunday 6 November 10:00am
Autumn Colours
Around Uley

5 hours • 8 miles

A walk via Nymphsfield down into Uley valley and then up to Uley Bury and back along the Cotswold Way. A couple of steep ascents. Bring a packed lunch. Pub stop for drink only. Start: Coaley Peak car park. SO 794 015. Map square B6.

Leaders: Hilary Paveley, Nigel Meredith & Helen Furnidge

Tuesday 8 November 10:00am
Westward Ho!

2.5 hours • 5 miles

The walk passes the historic church in Avening and continues on a gentle climb which offers a fine view of Gatcombe and the surrounding valleys. From West End, the walk leads on to an old road, through woodland tracks before returning to the village. Start: Avening Social Club car park, Woodstock Lane, Avening. ST 882 978. Map square B7.

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper

Tuesday 8 November 10:00am
The Saltway and
Ditchley Park

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk exploring the Eastern border of the Cotswolds AONB and part of Ditchley Park, the wartime retreat of Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Start: Ditchley Model Farm. Meet at Ditchley Park Gate, reached from Charlbury via Ditchley Road. SP 379 206. Map square H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

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TO 70070
TO DONATE £3



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

Wednesday 9 November 10:00am
Old manors and lost
villages

3.5 hours • 6.5 hours

A walk that includes Whittington, Sevenhampton and Brockhampton featuring old manors and lost villages.

Start: Wardens Wood car park (West Down). SP 010 236. Map square E4.

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

Thursday 10 November 10:00am
Cotswold Heroines:
Jane Austen

3.5 hours • 6 miles

The walk takes us over the fields via Chastleton to Adlestrop where author Victoria Huxley will tell us about Jane Austen's many visits to the village to stay with friends. We return via a route of little-known paths. Lunch at pub available.

Start: Little Compton, Red Lion pub, park in pub car park if having lunch there, otherwise considerably along the road. SP 257 302. Map square G3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Saturday 12 November 10:00am
Exploring hidden
valleys and woodlands
the Romans may have
known

5 hours • 8 miles

An autumnal walk through a varied landscape offering woodlands hopefully at their best and open vistas which the Romans may have known. Remembering a local hero and heroine along the way. Pub lunch or bring a packed lunch.

Start: Near to Birdlip village school along the disused road. SO 929 142. Map square C5.

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

Saturday 12 November 9:30am
A Way with Water

6 hours • 11 miles

A walk touching on the influences of water in bygone times on the way of life in the Cotswold Hills. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Temple Guiting Village Hall car park (next to primary school). SP 090 279. Map square E3.

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook



Saturday 12 November 10:00am
Up Hill and Down Dale

5 hours • 10 miles

Up and over Margetts Hill, Whichford hill and Green Hill via Cherington, Long Compton, Whichford and Sutton under Brailes. Plenty of up and some down, with good views from the hills. Pub stop available at lunch and after the walk, but please bring some food just in case!

Start: Cherington Arms, Cherington. SP 293 369. Map square G2.

Leader: Janet Deller

Monday 14 November 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk
No. 2, 'Boxing Clever'

4 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10:00 for coffee. The walk starts at 10:30 with a steep climb to the attractive village of Box. We descend to Nailsworth and Horsley, then return to the start via Shipton Grave Lane and Hazel Wood. Food available at the garden centre, local pub and in Nailsworth.

Start: Wyevale Garden Centre, Avening Road, Nailsworth. ST 857 995. Map square B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Tuesday 15 November 10:00am
Hill Forts and
Monuments Along
the Cotswold Edge

3 hours • 4 miles

A relatively short walk designed for all ages. The walk through Westridge Woods offers superb views from the Cotswold Edge, passing an iron age hill fort and visits the Tyndale Monument. It is advised to bring a morning snack. Lunch available in Wotton Under Edge 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 754 943. Map square B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Les Jones

Tuesday 15 November 10:00am
Isbourne Way 5

4 hours • 8.5 miles

This is the last in a series of five circular walks which will incorporate the whole of the new Isbourne Way, from the source of the Isbourne River on Cleeve Common to its confluence with the Avon near Evesham. Bring packed lunch.

Start: Sedgeberrow. Meet outside at the public footpath sign at the junction of the B4078 and the Old Cheltenham Road. Please park considerably along the Old Cheltenham Road. SP 025 387. Map square D2.

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Smith & John Pearson

Wednesday 16 November 10:00am
Ascott Has More Than
Just Two T's

3 hours • 4 miles

The village of Ascott has lots of fascinating stories of the past, some very old indeed, and yet some interesting more recent evidence of a thriving community. Ascott punches well above its weight for such a small village.

Start: Ascott Village Green. SP 300 188. Map square G3

Leader: Gerald Simper

Friday 18 November 9:30am
Northwest of Guiting

5 hours • 10 miles

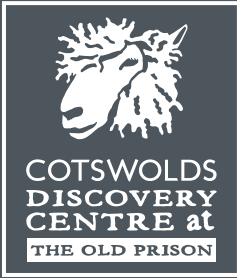
A chance to see Guiting Wood and the scarp on the eastern side of Winchcombe. Starting in Guiting Power we walk northwest through Guiting Wood and onto Farmcote, then south to Kineton and the Windrush before returning to Guiting. Bring packed lunch.

Start: Guiting Power Village Hall. Donation box at the car park for the village hall upkeep. SP 095 246. Map square E4.

Leaders: Allan Allcock & Andy Briars



Walkers on Windmill Hill at Upper Tysoe



Lechlade Craft Barn Workshops at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre

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

Get Creative in the Cotswolds Learn to Crochet
Saturday 15 October

Christmas Rag Wreaths
Saturday 26 November

Vintage Paper Christmas Wreath & Handmade Decorations
Thursday 8 December

Workshop fee: £40 includes lunch, refreshments and materials. 10am to 3pm.
For more information, including how to book call 01367 253116/01367 700350
Book online www.lechladecraftbarn.com

Saturday 19 November 10:00am Over Charmy Down to Ramscombe Bottom

5.5 hours • 10 miles

Leaving Marshfield going South we ascend to Charmy Down from St. Catherine's valley. Then descend via Ramscombe Bottom to join the Limestone link heading North via Oakfield lane climbing steeply to Ashwicke. Then mostly flat to Marshfield. Please bring packed lunch.
Start: Lay-By off the A420, West of Marshfield. ST 772 738. Map square B9.
Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Fred Dugan

Sunday 20 November 10:00am Jason's Objective

4.5 hours • 8 miles

The walk takes us through Wortley to Tresham and descends an attractive valley to lunch at Hillesley. We return through Nind nature reserve and Kingswood. Pub stop for drink only.
Start: Chipping car park, Wotton Under Edge. ST 756 931. Map square C6.
Leaders: David Harrowin & Chris Gill

Wednesday 23 November 10:00am Around Chedworth Villa

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Meadows, streams, woods and shallow valleys. Following the Monarch's way to Yanworth Mill. Through Chedworth Woods to Chedworth village to pick up the Monarch's way again to return to the Roman Villa.
Start: Chedworth Roman Villa (NT). SP 055 135. Map square E5.
Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Friday 25 November 10:00am Secluded villages Miserden to Duntisbourne

3.25 hours • 6 miles

Walking from Miserden through Duntisbourne and Winston, exploring the villages and countryside with secluded valleys returning through Miserden Estate. Two moderate climbs.
Start: Carpenters Arms Miserden. SO 937 088. Map square C5.
Leaders: Phil Cluley, T Hester & B Chilvers

Friday 25 November 10:00am Never a Bridge Too Far with the Cotswold Wardens!

4 hours • 5.5 miles

Following millstreams and lesser known paths, this walk runs through secluded copses and valleys centring on one of the most picturesque villages in the Southern Cotswolds. An early lunch stop is possible at the Gibb on the Fosse way. To be flexible it is recommended you bring a packed lunch.

Start: Castle Combe upper car park (Off B4039). ST 845 777. Map square B9.
Leaders: David Le Lohe & Rob Morley

Saturday 26 November 9:30am There's an Old Mill by a Stream...

5.5 hours • 10.5 miles

What did Ashbee say to Guild members when he invited them to join him in setting up his new Guild of Handicrafts? Join us as we look at this key moment in the Arts and Crafts Movement. Bring packed lunch.

Start: Chipping Campden, Dovers Hill NT car park. SP 137 396. Map square F2.
Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Sunday 27 November 10:00am Autumn Warmer

6 hours • 9 miles

Starting in the town centre the walk proceeds via Shortwood, Wallow green and Horsley and Hay lane to Longford for lunch. Return via Box village and Watledge to the start. Picnic lunch with lunch stop.

Start: Nailsworth town centre, free car park. ST 849 997. Map square B6.
Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

December

Tuesday 6 December 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

Wednesday 7 December 10:00am Roman Footsteps

2.75 hours • 4.5 miles

Park alongside the River Coln in the village. Down the scenic Coln Valley to Ash Copse and Roman Akeman Street. Back via a dewpond. Lunch available at pubs in the village
Start: Bibury Church. SP 118 065.
Map square E5.
Leaders: Pippa Burgon, John Shaw & Graham Saunders

Thursday 8 December 10:00am A Brailles Trio

3 hours • 5.5 miles

This is a delightful walk in the Warwickshire area of the Cotswolds AONB with far reaching views across a patchwork of farmland. Optional pub lunch at the end of the walk.
Start: The George Lower Brailles OX15 5HN. SP 314 392. Map square G2.
Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 9 December 9:30am Two (!) Lovely Longborough Loops

6 hours • 11 miles

Glorious distant views, villages, houses and maybe a battlefield. Terrain not too taxing but come prepared for some mud and stiles. If using Food Store car park please give your custom before or after the walk. Stock up for the day's packed lunch or refreshments maybe?
Start: Longborough, Cotswold Food Store and Cafe on A424. SP 172 292.
Map square F3.
Leaders: Julie Downing, Allan Allcock & Andy Briars

Saturday 10 December 10:00am Cotswold Heroines: Miserden – Pat Smythe

4 hours • 7 miles

Long morning to sudgrove; Duntisbourne Abbots; Winston and Miserden park bring a snack.
Start: Miserden Church of England School car park (by permission). SO 933 089. Map square C5.
Leaders: Sue Clark, Jill Stuart, Tim Sugru & Ted Currier

Monday 12 December 10:00am Two Villages and Two Ways

3.5 hours • 6 miles


A brisk walk along the Kilcote Valley precedes a stiff ascent on the Monarch's Way to Tresham. The route down to Alderley offers great views before following the Cotswold Way back to Hillesley. Lunch and refreshments available after the walk at the Inn, if required.
Start: Car park at the Fleece Inn, Hillesley, by arrangement. Or in the car park adjacent to the village sports field. ST 772 897. Map square B7.
Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Les Jones

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Tuesday 13 December 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk
No. 3, 'Know Your
Boundaries'


 3.5 Hours • 5 miles

Meet at 10:00 for coffee. The walk starts at 10:30, heading south to Woodchester. We circumnavigate the National Trust owned Boundary Court, before returning to the start via Dingle Wood and Selsley Common. Food available at the Inn after the walk.

Start: The Bell Inn, Selsley, approximately one mile south of Stroud on the B4066. SO 836 039. Map square B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown, Derrick Hildersley & John Graham

Thursday 15 December 10:00am
A Circuit of Stow

 3 hours • 6 miles


A walk through historic Stow and some of the nearby villages/hamlets, the precise route depending on the weather and underfoot conditions.

Start: Stow-on-the-Wold town car park adjoining Tesco. SP 191 262.

Map square F3.

Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday 30 December 10:00am
Race Horses and
Golfers at Foxcote

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A stroll along the edge of Foxcote Hill then across the horse gallops at Thorndale Farm and Shipton Golf Course returning through Foxcote village.


Start: Kilkenny View point car park. SP 040 186. Map square D4.

Leaders: Phil Cluley, T Hester & B Chilvers

January

Sunday 1 January 10.00am

Over the Hill to
Coberley

 3 hours • 6 miles

Visiting Charlton Kings Common, Hartley, Coberley, Barber Wood, and Leckhampton Hill Postcode for start location GL53 9QG.

Start: Daisy Bank Road car park on minor road East off Leckhampton hill (bottom end). SO 949 188. Map square C4.

Leaders: John Heathcott, Ken Buckle & John Woodland

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View looking on to Edge Hill near Warmington

Sunday 1 January 10:00am
Hills and Valleys
around Combe Hay!

 3 hours • 6 miles


A New Year's Day walk to Upper Midford, Combe Hay village and walking part of the disused Somersetshire Coal Canal. Coffee stop only. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Cross Keys Pub, South Stoke Road, Combe Down. ST 748 619.

Map square A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Tuesday 3 January 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,

Friday 6 January 10:00am
Short in Distance –
High in Interest

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

The pleasant village of Churchill is tucked away in the far west of Oxfordshire not far from Chipping Norton. The village was home to two famous people who have left their mark in different ways.


A lovely interesting walk and weather permitting far reaching views of the Evenlode valley.

Start: Churchill Church – Please park tidily on the verge. OL 282 241.

Map square G4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Tuesday 10 January 10:00am
The Rollright Stones


 4.5 hours • 7 miles

The Rollright Stones, located on a prehistoric trackway, were a sacred place for our ancestors from around 3,000BC. The purpose of the King's Stone still eludes us but The King's Men stone circle is thought to have been a meeting place. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Little Compton – tidily on the roadside near the Manor. SP 261 301. Map square G3.

Leader: Anne Martis

Friday 13 January 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk
No. 4, 'A Haul Around
Hawkesbury'


 4 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30, descending to the historic St Mary's church in Hawkesbury, and on to Lower Kilcote via Hillesley. We return to the start using the Macmillan Way. Lunch available at the pub after the walk, if required.

Start: Beaufort Arms pub, Hawkesbury Upton. ST 777 869. Map square B8.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Chris Gill

Sunday 15 January 10:00am
Eight 'Ways' round
Winchcombe


 4.5 hours • 8 miles

This walk uses 8 'Ways' – the Cotswold, Isbourne, Gloucestershire, Salt, Winchcombe, St Kenelm, Warden's and Windrush. From Winchcombe, we climb steeply up Fluke's Hill then across to St Kenelm's Well. We pass Parks Farm and stop for lunch at Waterhatch before walking along the Sudeley valley back to Winchcombe.

Start: Winchcombe, Back Lane car park (pay and display £1). SP 025 283. Map square D3.

Leaders: Sheila & Rob Talbot

Tuesday 17 January 10:00am
The Ebrington
Boundary Stones


 4.5 hours • 8 miles

A second walk taking in some of the boundary stones installed by the Ebrington Diamond Jubilee Committee marking where each adjoining parish meets Ebrington parish. This time we will see the stones at Stretton-on-Fosse and Blockley. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Ebrington Village Hall (Voluntary contribution of £1 per car). SP 184 402. Map square F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Vivienne McGhee

Wednesday 18 January 10:00am
Huddinknoll Hill


 2.75 hours • 5 miles

From Painswick up to the edge of the escarpment at Huddinknoll. Then onwards to join the Cotswold way and back into Painswick along the stream. Car park in Stammages lane (P&D).

Start: Church yard opposite the Falcon Inn on A46. SO 866 096. Map square C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

Friday 20 January 10:00am
Into the Valley and
out again


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Starting on the High Street, this walk drops into a typical Cotswold Combe that comprises St Catherine's valley before taking upland paths back to Marshfield via woodlands and hidden houses. A late pub lunch available afterwards at the Catherine Wheel, Marshfield. (01225 892220 to book).

Start: Market Place, Marshfield. ST 781 736. Map square B9.


Leaders: David Le Lohe & Rob Morley

Friday 20 January 9:30am
Guided from Guiting

 6 hours • 12 miles


We will be following various valleys, high ground and woodland of this secluded part of the Cotswolds. Ancient settlements, tobacco plantations and Estates feature in our route. Bring packed lunch.
Start: Guiting Power village hall car park (donations). SP 096 245. Map square E3.
Leaders: Andy Briars & Allan Allcock

Tuesday 24 January 10:00am
Dipping into the Campdens' Arts and Crafts (1)

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


Continuing our interest in the Arts and Crafts movement we will walk to Broad Campden and see some of the buildings redesigned by craftsmen in the early C 20th. Our route takes in a loop before returning via the Old Silk Mill in Chipping Campden, the original workshop of the craftsmen.
Start: Chipping Campden Market Hall, High Street. SP 151 391. Map square F2.
Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Wednesday 25 January 10:00am
A Visit to Wolf Hall Mr Rochester?

 5 hours • 10 miles

From Adelstrop to Chastleton, Oakham Hill and Salford, returning via Cornwell and Daylesford Hill Farm. With literary and TV connections, an historic house and architectural interest. Possible pub stop at lunch but please bring a packed lunch.
Start: Adelstrop Village Hall [£1 donation]. SP 242 273. Map square F3.
Leader: Janet Deller


Friday 27 January 10:00am
Windrush and Slaughters Waterways

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk along the Windrush River, then over the ridge to the beautiful Upper and Lower Slaughter villages, where the walk turns to follow the River Eye. The Wardens Way takes the walk back to Bourton, a good location for lunch.
Start: Bourton-on-the-Water Station Road car park (pay and display). SP 169 208. Map square F4.
Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas




Friday 27 January 10:00am
Ampney Crucis and four Churches

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


From Ampney Crucis across country to Ampney St Peter, across Ampney Brook to Driffield past the Manor House at Harnhill.
Start: Car park of the Crown of Crucis. SP 067 017. Map square E6.
Leaders: T Hester, P Cluley & B Chilvers

Saturday 28 January 10:00am
Around Avoncliff

 5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk around the Westwoods, Iford, and Bradford on Avon. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs
Start: Avoncliff car park. ST 804 599. Map square B10.
Leader: Glyn Williams


Sunday 29 January 9:30am
Hiking Through History – Life in the Neolithic Cotswolds

 6 hours • 12 miles

Discover the Neolithic on this walk in the Evenlode Valley. Please bring a packed lunch.
Start: Ascott under Wychwood – village green. SP 320 188. Map square G4.
Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires


February

Wednesday 1 February 10:00am
Ways West of Northleach


 3 hours • 6 miles

Walking through Yanworth to Yanworth Mill and back through, Stowell Park estate and Hampnett.
Start: Hangman's Stone Layby about 1 or 2 miles west of Northleach on the old road towards Compton Abdale and Cheltenham. SP 088 151. Map square E5.
Leaders: Graham Saunders, John Shaw, Pippa Burgon & Steve Pascoe

Saturday 4 February 9:30am
Scary Tales on Bredon Hill

 6.5 hours • 11 miles

This is a figure of eight walk, 7 miles to the top of Bredon Hill in the morning and 4 miles in the afternoon to Dumbleton Woods and back, leaving the Beckford Arms not before 1:45pm. Pub lunch available.
Start: Beckford Inn car park on A46 north of Teddington Hands Roundabout. OS 982 353. Map square D3.
Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood



COTSWOLD WALKING WEEKENDS


Cotswold Walking Weekends at Three Ways House are unique and fun, starting off with a meeting of the sweetest club in the world – **The Pudding Club** – where you will be invited to Dig In! The walks over the weekend are led by Cotswold Wardens through beautiful scenery, rates start at £250 per person, sharing a double room, and include two nights dinner, bed and breakfast, packed lunches, guides and VAT @ 20%.

Come and join us for one of these popular weekends. Well behaved dogs welcome. Call 01386 438429. Mention Cotswold Lion on booking and receive a free copy of the AA Guide to Walking in the Cotswolds


14-16 October 2016, 10-12 February, 31 March-2 April 2017

HOME OF
THE PUDDING CLUB
EST. 1985

Three Ways House Hotel
Mickleton, Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire GL55 6SB
www.threewayshousehotel.com




Tuesday 7 February 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

Wednesday 8 February 10:00am
Exploring the Upper Coln Valley

 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk around the upper reaches of the Coln Valley. We will take a meander from Shipton to Withington via Foxcote Hill and return following the Coln before climbing out of the valley to reach Shipton.
Start: Shipton Oliffe Church, park considerately in village. SP 036 185. Map square D4.
Leaders: Martin & Linda Blackwell

Thursday 9 February 10:00am
Coffee Morning Walk No. 5, 'Frocester Barn Find'

 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet at 10:00 for coffee. The walk starts at 10:30, taking us first to Leonard Stanley and on via Silver Street to Frocester Court, with its 13th century tithe barn and the possibility of new born lambs in the adjacent farm buildings. Food available at the George after the walk.
Start: The George Inn, Frocester. Please park considerately at the roadside or as directed by the walk leader. SO 785 032. Map square B6.
Leaders: Eric Brown, Derrick Hildersley & John Graham

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Sunday 12 February 10:00am

A Nature Reserve and a Quarry

3 hours • 5 miles

We walk through Wick Quarry to Golden Valley Nature Reserve and then have fine views of the Cotswold escarpment on crossing fields back to the start. Please bring a snack. Pub lunch afterwards maybe? Not suitable for push chairs.

Start: By Doynton Church. ST 720 741. Map square A9.

Leaders: John Bartram & Fred Dugan

Tuesday 14 February 10:30am Marshfield: Town and 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

Wednesday 15 February 10:00am A perambulation around the true source of the Thames

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A brief walk along part of the existing Cotswold Way with extensive views, followed by pleasant farmland. Spy a historic house and leave your heart in a historic church before traversing an abandoned section of the Cotswold Way. In the event of adverse weather please check website www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/walking
Start: Brownstone Quarry, Hartley Lane, Leckhampton Hill. SO 951 180. Map square D4.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

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Sunday 19 February 10:00am

Snowdrops at Newark

3.5 hours • 5 miles

Coffee available from 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30. with a gentle descent through the grounds of Newark Park to Ozleworth Bottom, thence to the village of Alderley where we join the Cotswold Way to complete our walk. Refreshments available after the walk at Newark or in local pubs.

Start: Newark Park National Trust car park, by arrangement. ST 781 931. Map square B7.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Hilary Paveley

Tuesday 21 February 10:00am Be There Witches Here?

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk exploring the hills around the village of Long Compton which include some steep ascents and descents. Optional pub lunch at the end of the walk.

Start: The Red Lion Inn, Long Compton CV36 5JS. SP 288 327. Map square G3.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Friday 24 February 9.30am Countryside and Villages around Bourton-on-the-water

6 hours • 11 miles

Starting from the scenic village of Bourton-on-the-Water this circular walk goes cross-country to the villages of Clapton-on-the-Hill and Cold Aston. The walk returns to Bourton along the Windrush river.

Start: Bourton-on-the-Water, car park near Co-op supermarket, Station road. SP 170 211. Map square F4.

Leaders: Andy Briars & Alan Thomas

Friday 24 February 10:00am Bibury and the river Coln

3 hours • 6 miles

Through Arlington Row up to Coneygar Wood towards Quenington, skirting Coln St Aldwyns and following the river back to Bibury.

Start: Car park of the Catherine Wheel. SP 111 066. Map square E5.

Leaders: T Hester, P Cluley & B Chilvers

Saturday 25 February 10:00am

Upton Inn Circular

3.5 hours • 6 miles

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

Start: Upton Inn car park. ST 692 698. Map square B9.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Sid Gould

March

Wednesday 1 March 10:00am Routes ancient and modern – Withington

3 hours • 6 miles

Postcombe, Withington Woods, Withington, along the River Coln and back via Chedworth Nature Reserve

Start: Old airfield at Chedworth. SP 038 132. Map square E5.

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

Friday 3 March 10:00am Revival on the Scarp

3 hours • 6 miles

A look at the lovely countryside around Winchcombe as spring starts to arrive. Pub lunch available after the walk.

Start: Winchcombe, Back Lane car park (pay and display £1). SP 023 284. Map square D3.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Sunday 5 March 10:00am Hiking Through History – Life in the Iron Age Cotswolds

6 hours • 11.5 miles

Discover the Iron Age on this walk to Chastleton Hill Fort. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Bledington – village green by the Kings Head Inn. SP 244 227. Map square G4.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Tuesday 7 March 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

Thursday 9 March 10:00am

From Neolith to Nouveau Riche

3 hours • 6 miles

A walk across the centuries where we see an ancient cattle enclosure, very modern equestrian facilities and everything in between! The walk on the whole is on good tracks and field paths. Pub lunch available at the end of the walk.

Start: Greedy Goose pub on A44. SP 269 289. Map square G3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Thursday 9 March 10:00am Quiet Paths, busy Ways

3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

An early spring walk to the north of Bourton. We will take some little known paths to Hyde Mill before returning on the well-known Ways.

Start: Bourton-on-the-Water War Memorial. SP 167 207. Map square F4.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Saturday 11 March 10:00am The Boyd Valley and Cotswold Escarpment

4 hours • 5 miles

We follow the river Boyd towards the M4 and then pass through Hinton and ascend to Hinton Hill Fort before following the Cotswold Way through Dyrham village to Dyrham Wood. Good views of Doynton on the descent back to the start. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: By Doynton Church. ST 720 741. Map square A9.

Leaders: John Bartram & Fred Dugan

Sunday 12 March 10:00am Rodmorton Round

6 hours • 9 miles

A walk from Rodmorton via Tarlton and Coates to the Tunnel House Inn, and Hazelton Manor. Little known ways and villages, taking in the Severn Thames Canal. Packed lunch, pub stop for drink only.

Start: Rodmorton Village, near the church. Please park considerately in the village. ST 943 981. Map square C7.

Leaders: Hilary Paveley, Helen Furnidge & Nigel Meredith



John Tashier





Monday 13 March 10:00am Monday Meander – Tetbury to Westonbirt

3.5 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk from Tetbury passing Highgrove House and Westonbirt School, the former home of the Holford family. We stop at Westonbirt golf course for a break and return to Tetbury via a bridleway, passing Doughton Manor. Refreshments available after the walk in the town, if required.

Start: Tetbury Tourist Information Office. Suggested free parking at the Old Railway Station Yard car park. ST 890 930. Map square C7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

Tuesday 14 March 10:00am Stones and Ditches

4 hours • 8 miles

Walk along the Oxfordshire Way to Stonesfield with views over the Evenlode. Then through Kingswood joining Shakespeare's Way to Ditchley Park with views of the house. Return route to Charlbury via Grim's Ditch. Packed lunch can be eaten in the Rose and Crown Charlbury.

Start: Spendlove Centre, Charlbury OX7 3PQ. SP 358 196. Map square H4.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Wednesday 15 March 10:00am The Haunted House & Laurie Lee

2.75 hours • 5.25 miles

From Painswick over the Frith to Slad. Return via Juniper hill and Sheephouse. Car park in Stammages lane (P&D).

Start: Church yard opposite the Falcon Inn on A46. SO 866 096. Map square C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

Thursday 16 March 10:00am Stanway Watermill and Tures

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

A varied walk exploring the Stanway estate looking at how water is used and managed, including a visit to the working flourmill (admission charge £3). Climbing up through the woods we will see restored tures and how the famous fountain gets its supply of water. Return to Stanton.

Start: Stanton Car Park (free). SP 067 344. Map square E3.

Leaders: Barry Roberts & Mary Roberts

Sunday 19 March 10:00am Sauce for Moggie

5 hours • 9 miles

The walk follows the Avon through Pinkney Park and Easton Grey to lunch at Shipton Moyne. We return through parkland and the village of Westonbirt. Pub stop for drink only.

Start: Sherston High Street. ST 853 858. Map square C7.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Trish Iliadou

Tuesday 21 March 10:00am The Rake and the Highwayman

3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk through Dean and Chadlington including part of the route dedicated to highwayman Claude Duval. Lunches available in Charlbury pubs or the "Deli and Cafe" after the walk.

Start: Spelsbury. Please park tidily near the church. SP 349 215. Map square H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Thursday 23 March 10:00am This Compton may be Little but the Views are definitely Long

3 hours • 6 miles

A walk to Chastleton and then along the Macmillan Way with far reaching views. The return is via Wheelbarrow Castle with more distant views.

Start: Little Compton, Church of St Denys, Church Lane. Please park considerably in the village. SP 262 303. Map square G3.

Leaders: Bob Fisher, Stewart Rainbow & Rodney Langman

Friday 24 March 10:00am Coffee Morning Walk No. 6, 'Hills Around Uley'

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30 to Elcombe, followed by climbs to Cam Peak, the fine ridge walk of Cam Long Down and the magnificent hill fort of Uley Bury, before descending to the start point. Lunch available at the café and at the Crown Inn.

Start: Prema café, Uley, 2 miles east of Dursley. The café 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 & Helen Furmidge

Saturday 25 March 10:00am Cotswold Heroines: Oakridge – Mabel Dearmer

5 hours • 7.5 hours

Thames and Severn canal; Frampton Wood; Sapperton; Hen and Dorvel Woods; Daneway Banks; Far Oakridge; Iles Green. Pub available or bring a packed lunch.

Start: Oakridge Recreational Ground roadside parking near village hall. SO 917 037. Map square C6.

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

Sunday 26 March 10:00am

Crossing County Borders

5.5 hours • 10 miles

We walk to Monkton Combe, Midford, Pipehouse, Iford, Upper Westwood, Freshford and Limpley Stoke, returning along the Kennet and Avon canal. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Dundas Marina car park. ST 784 626. Map square A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando.

Sunday 26 March 10:00am

Panorama

6 hours • 9 miles

Starting in the village the walk proceeds via Leonard Stanley to the Cotswold Way via Coaley Peak to Uley Bury and Nymphsfield for lunch. Return via Buckholt Wood and Stanley Wood to the start. Packed lunch with lunch stop.

Start: Kings Stanley village free car park. SO 813 034. map square B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Tuesday 28 March 10:00am

Wychwood – A Royal Forest

4 hours • 8 miles

Following the Norman conquest in 1066, William the Conqueror introduced the very un-English concept that all of the land ultimately belonged to the Crown. We will walk through what remains of the Wychwood Forest and discuss its colourful past and its future prospects. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Spendlove car park Charlbury OX7 3PQ. SP 357 196. Map square H4.

Leader: Anne Martis

Friday 31 March 10:00am

A Ring Around the Common

2.75 hours • 5.3 miles

A walk around the edge of Cleeve Common via Postlip Hall and Barn, Wontley, and the radio masts. Refreshments available at the Golf Clubhouse.

Start: Golf Club car park on Cleeve Common via Postlip Hall and Barn, Wontley, and the radio masts. Refreshments available at the Golf Clubhouse.

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

PHOTO CALL!



Could you become Cotswolds Landscape Photographer of the Year 2016?
Enter our new competition, open to amateurs of all ages, and find out.

Calling all amateur photographers! Get out your cameras and enter our new 'Cotswolds Landscape Photographer of the Year 2016' competition – you could win some great prizes.

As part of ongoing celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cotswolds AONB, we are looking for the most captivating local landscape images. All pictures must feature a landscape within the AONB, but apart from that there are no boundaries to your creativity.

Iconic landscapes viewed under blue or stormy skies; an unusual angle on well-known countryside or a favourite vista known just to you – what will make you 'Cotswolds Landscape Photographer of the Year 2016'?

The competition is open to amateurs of all ages and we've three superb prizes.



As sponsor of the competition, award-winning boutique hotel Dormy House on the Farncombe Estate is offering a first prize of an overnight stay for two, to include dinner in the potting shed, use of Dormy House spa and full English breakfast. (www.dormyhouse.co.uk).

Winner of the second prize will enjoy an overnight bed & breakfast stay for two in a Cosy Luxe room at The Fish Hotel, the back-to-nature bolthole also on the Farncombe Estate (www.thefishhotel.co.uk).

Winner of the third prize receives a place on a one-day Image Seen Cotswolds landscape photography group workshop with Cotswolds-

based landscape photographer Sarah Howard. Or, if they choose, the winner gets a voucher to the value of £140 to use on another group workshop taking place around the country (www.imageseen.co.uk).

To be in with a chance to win, simply submit up to two digital images by 11 December (see 'How to Enter' panel).



Seeking inspiration?

If you are after photographic inspiration – or just love the Cotswolds – why not dip into our anniversary book, *The Cotswolds – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* (Darien-Jones publishing, hardback £14.99).

Full of stunning images by Nick Turner (one of our competition judges), written by Siân Ellis and designed by Nick Darien-Jones, the book is available from the Cotswolds Discovery Centre, Northleach, tourist information centres and selected shops.

Also available (£14.99 plus p&p) from the Cotswolds AONB online shop www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/shop or www.darien-jones.co.uk



Winners are announced mid-December – the perfect Christmas present!

“The Cotswolds is an expansive, beautiful place that is renowned for being one of the most quintessentially English and unspoiled regions of the UK,” says Andrew Grahame, CEO, Farncombe Estate. “Its hillsides, river valleys and charming honey-coloured villages offer so much for the photographer. We are fortunate that Dormy House enjoys some of these spectacular Cotswolds views – above the village of Broadway and over the Vale of Evesham and Welsh Hills – so we are delighted to partner with the Cotswolds AONB to sponsor ‘Cotswolds Landscape Photographer of the Year 2016’. Happy snapping and good luck to everyone who enters!”

Sarah Howard, whose work is widely published in magazines and online, offers ten top tips for landscape photography on her website (www.imageseen.co.uk), covering topics from light and skies to telling a story with your picture – maybe you will find some tips to help inspire you before entering our competition. Sarah adds:

“One of the joys of landscape photography is to be outside, to breathe fresh air, and, in the process of taking a photograph, to slow down, soak up the scenery around us, and to appreciate all its beauty.”

What better reason to grab the camera right now and enter our ‘Cotswolds Landscape Photographer of the Year 2016’ competition!



Dormy House



How to enter

The ‘Cotswolds Landscape Photographer of the Year 2016’ competition, run by the Cotswolds Conservation Board and sponsored by Dormy House, is open to amateur photographers of all ages.

Submit: up to two digital images recently taken by you, including a sentence with each identifying when/ where it was shot. Each image must feature a landscape within the Cotswolds AONB and be submitted via www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/photography

Closing date: entries must be received by 5pm on 11 December 2016.

First prize: overnight stay for two people at Dormy House to include dinner in the potting shed (a £25 allocation per person), use of Dormy House spa and full English breakfast.* The winning image will be displayed at the ‘Cotswolds Inspired’ public art exhibition, hosted by the Cotswolds Conservation Board at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester, 13 January–5 February 2017.

Second prize: overnight bed & breakfast stay for two people in a Cosy Luxe room at The Fish Hotel.*

(*Prize is for a midweek [Sunday–Thursday] stay only and is subject to availability. Prize is not valid on Bank Holidays or between 23–31 December, 14 February 2017, or Cheltenham Gold Cup week 2017.)

Third prize: a place on a one-day Image Seen Cotswolds landscape photography group workshop, or a voucher to the value of £140 to be used on an alternative group workshop (not including Westonbirt or post-processing).

Judges: Andrew Grahame (CEO – Farncombe Estate, Dormy House Hotel & Spa, Foxhill Manor, The Fish Hotel); Nick Holliday (Vice Chair, Cotswolds Conservation Board); Sarah Howard (landscape photographer); Nicky Price from BBC Radio Gloucestershire and Nick Turner (photographer/filmmaker)

For full terms and conditions, visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/photography

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 autumn and winter, the Cotswolds Conservation Board will be holding celebration events to mark the occasion and to encourage everyone to help protect this beautiful landscape. Visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/50 to find out more.



Cotswolds Inspired – Art Exhibition

To crown golden anniversary celebrations of the Cotswolds AONB the Board is hosting a public art exhibition at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester from 13 January to 5 February 2017.

Open to amateur and professional artists from within and beyond the Cotswolds, the exhibition showcases works in a variety of mediums and genres inspired by the Cotswold landscape.

We welcome paintings, sculpture, photography, textiles, ceramics, glass, mosaics and digital art.

To find out more information and to submit your work visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/inspired Deadline for submissions is 18 November 2016 at 5pm.



Board publishes Annual Review

Training over 430 people in rural skills, engaging over 300 young people participating in countryside learning and supporting over £450,000 worth of local community projects – these are just some of the highlights included in the recently published Annual Review 2015/16 by the Board. You can download your copy from the Board's website.

Anniversary Reception at the Palace of Westminster

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP hosted a reception at the Palace of Westminster in June to mark the golden anniversary of the Cotswolds AONB.

Rory Stewart MP, at the time the Minister for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) spoke about the purpose and importance of designating the Cotswolds as an AONB in swinging 1960s to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. He went on to say: "The Cotswolds AONB is a memorable landscape and one that will long continue".

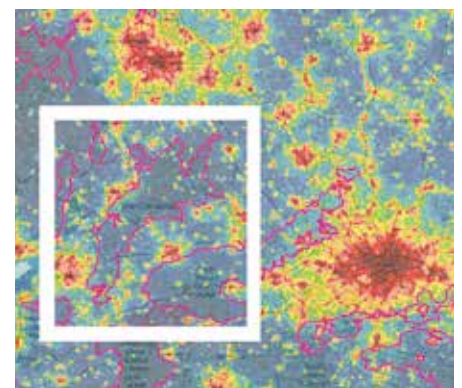


One of the darkest areas in southern England

The most detailed ever satellite maps of England's light pollution and dark skies, released by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), have shown that parts of the AONB are ranked 13th in terms of the darkest skies in England.

The maps were produced using satellite images captured at 1.30am throughout September 2015. This research comes at a time of increasing awareness of the harmful effects light pollution can have on the health of people and wildlife. That these skies were monitored at 1.30am illustrates the scale of light pollution spills out of the Cotswolds AONB.

The Board has been considering whether parts of the Cotswolds AONB could be awarded Dark Sky status by the International Dark-Sky Association. The Rollright Stones near Chipping Norton already has Dark Sky Discovery Status.



Interested in becoming a Board Member?

Please visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk and click on vacancies.

For more news visit:

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



Cotswolds Rural Skills Courses

Ever wanted to try your hand at dry-stone walling, lay a thatched roof or see if you can stand the heat of a blacksmith's forge?

With our courses you can! With a wide range of traditional rural skills courses at locations across the Cotswolds, we're bound to have something that sparks your interest.

Why not learn a new skill this autumn/winter with one of the Cotswolds Conservation Board's rural skills courses? Our courses are designed to offer a practical, hands on experience of these historic Cotswold crafts, so whether you have a project in mind or just a passing interest, our courses will show you how it's done. Courses are available at a variety of locations across the Cotswolds, no experience is necessary and all tools and equipment are provided.

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk
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Friday 13 January - Sunday 5 February 2017
Corinium Museum, Cirencester

Public art exhibition showcasing work in a variety of mediums and genres inspired by the Cotswold landscape in the 50th anniversary year of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

#CotswoldsInspired

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/inspired

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EXHIBITION