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COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF
OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



Cotswolds
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

SPRING & SUMMER 2017
ISSUE 36

England's walking & exploring capital



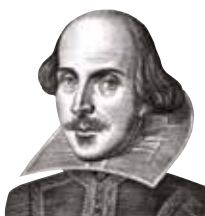
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Outdoor journalist
Damian Hall reflects on
his relationship with
the Cotswolds



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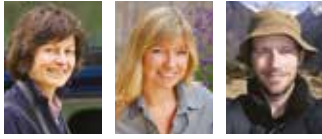
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Cotswolds Conservation Board.

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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Broadway Tower by Andrew Caley –
joint winner of 'Cotswolds Landscape
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WELCOME TO THE COTSWOLD LION



Discover England's walking & exploring capital



Chris Brant

Welcome to the spring/summer edition of the Cotswold Lion, your 'go to' walking and exploring magazine for the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

In 2016 the Cotswolds AONB marked its 50th anniversary as a protected landscape. Celebrations ranged from events to workshops across

the Cotswolds, including the popular Cotswolds Inspired Art Exhibition and the Cotswolds Living Landscape Festival which attracted over 2,000 visitors. The festival will be returning in 2018!

In this issue we welcome outdoor journalist Damian Hall, who grew up in the Cotswolds and has returned to live here; he reflects on his relationship with England's walking and exploring capital (page 4). Siân Ellis visits Conygree Farm in Aldsworth, meeting Jonny Brunyee and his wife Mel, along with their 60 rare-breed Cotswold Lion sheep (page 9). Andrea Mynard discovers some of the Cotswolds' grand designs (page 10) and takes you on a historic food tour of the Cotswolds (page 12).

In our events section (page 16) we are offering £3 discount on tickets to this year's BBC Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace – a great day out for all the family!

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine and find something to discover and explore!

Chris

Chris Brant, Editor

Win a two course meal for two at the Killingworth Castle, Woodstock

To celebrate the Killingworth Castle joining Cotswolds Visitor Giving we are offering readers the chance to win a two course meal for two at the historic Cotswold inn.

To enter visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/win

Deadline 31 July 2017.



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Looking north along the limestone escarpment from Coaley Peak towards Cam Long Down

HOME AGAIN

Outdoor journalist Damian Hall, who grew up in the Cotswolds and has returned to live here, reflects on his relationship with England's walking and exploring capital.

My parents may seem honest enough on the surface, but they're decidedly sneaky. Just before I moved back to Australia a few years ago, my mum, dad and sisters took me for a walk at Uley Bury's spectacular Iron Age hill fort, near Nailsworth, where I did most of my growing up.

It was an emotional day. I had been abroad for five years already, intended to return to the UK, but had only been back a few weeks when I was offered a tempting job in Sydney and decided to take it. I was saying goodbye to both my family and the Cotswolds, and we all knew I'd be away for several years more, perhaps permanently.

Even when I lived by the sea and under the blazing sun in Sydney, this spectacular little corner of Gloucestershire became my mental screensaver. It symbolised home.

Atmospheric Uley Bury, with its beguiling but inscrutable sense of history and drama, looking out over the almost conical Downham Hill and equally idiosyncratic Long Cam

Down, was the perfect place to allow emotions to simmer and sentiment to grow. I'm sure that was their cunning plan all along. Even when I lived by the sea and under the blazing sun in Sydney, this spectacular little corner of Gloucestershire became my mental screensaver.

It symbolised home.

When growing up in the Cotswolds I didn't think much to them really. They didn't have any good football teams and

Radiohead never played here. I hankered after noisier, more lively places. On my first trip back from Australia, after a three-year absence and now aged 29, I can still remember travelling on a bus from London to Stroud. For the first time, I clocked how brilliantly, almost glowingly green the Cotswolds are. Bushes, trees and grasses tumbled down the hillsides, like out of control waterfalls. By now I knew Australians who'd visited Britain and beelined for the Cotswolds. To them, it was quintessential England (rivalled only by 'chocolate-box pretty' as the most popular and irksome Cotswold cliché). Living away from home makes the heart grow fonder and, for the first time, I felt a weird sort of positive feeling about where I was from. I guess you might call it pride, or something.

In 2010, after seven years living and travelling abroad, I returned to the Cotswolds. I had plenty of other options. I have an Australian passport and can live there indefinitely. Even in the UK, job prospects are better elsewhere. But something pulled me back.

My parents still live in Nailsworth, which is incredibly trendy now, they assure me (it does have a good football team after all, though Radiohead still haven't played here). It's taken time for my slow mind to realise, but the Cotswolds are a very special place. We had moved a lot as I grew up, until we settled here in the late 1980s.

It's not just the clandestine hyper-green valleys and horizon-warping views from the escarpment edge that I love. It's the crafty, alt-politics and can-do attitude of places like Stroud. It's annoying that the region is so readily associated with celebrities and house prices are lamentably high. But I had to travel the world to appreciate what a wonderful place the Cotswolds is.

Since returning, it's been my mission to get to know the region much better. My first magazine story was about a walk from Uley Bury. Then I researched and wrote a walking guide to the Cotswolds, which forced me to further explore its many nooks and crannies. Indeed, I've travelled the world, but it's here in the Cotswolds that I've had some of my most memorable adventures.

After learning I was to become a father, I felt the need for a final



Damian spent his honeymoon doing the Everest Base Camp trek

escapade and I fastpacked the 102-mile Cotswold Way in November. It rained constantly and a bad boot choice led to an injury. I bailed out right after, of all places, Uley Bury – knowing Sunday dinner was being served a few miles away was too much of a temptation. I've trekked to Everest Base Camp, run the 104-mile UTMB race in the Alps and climbed 6,000m-plus peaks in the Andes. But the Cotswold hills had defeated me.

I've since become addicted to ultra-distance trail running and when I heard about the Cotswold Way Century, a continuous 102-mile race down the escarpment in September, I signed up. This time I was more fortunate with footwear and weather, and I made it to Bath in one go. It hurt like hell. I loved it so much I did it again the next year.

Each time the race went past Uley Bury I half hoped my parents would come out to cheer me on. But it was around 2am. And I guess they don't need to convince me that the Cotswolds are special anymore.

*Damian Hall is an outdoor journalist and author of **Walking in the Cotswolds: 30 Circular Walks in the AONB (Cicerone)**, see page 27. You can find more of this sort of self-aggrandising hogwash at www.damianhall.info and @damo_hall*



Damian back at his beloved Uley Bury

Literary Heroes

VisitEngland has declared 2017 the Year of Literary Heroes: the perfect excuse to get 'on the write tracks' to places that have inspired so many great authors around the Cotswolds.



Austen classics

The celebratory year marks numerous literary anniversaries, not least the bicentenary of **Jane Austen's** death. So begin with a visit to Bath on the Cotswolds' southern edge, where Jane lived from 1801 to 1806. The city became the backdrop to her novels *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, and you can learn all about the author's experiences locally at The Jane Austen Centre (www.janeausten.co.uk) as well as explore Georgian streetscapes she would have known.

Turning back the years: head north for panoramic views of the Cotswolds escarpment from the 111ft (34m) Tyndale Monument honouring **William Tyndale**, on top of Nibley Knoll (www.northnibley.org.uk). Gloucestershire-born Tyndale (c. 1494–1536) was burned as a heretic for daring to translate the Scriptures into English for the common man to understand. Uncover more about his Cotswold connections on a 2.5m (4km) walk, 'Little Sodbury and the Ploughboy's



Tyndale Monument

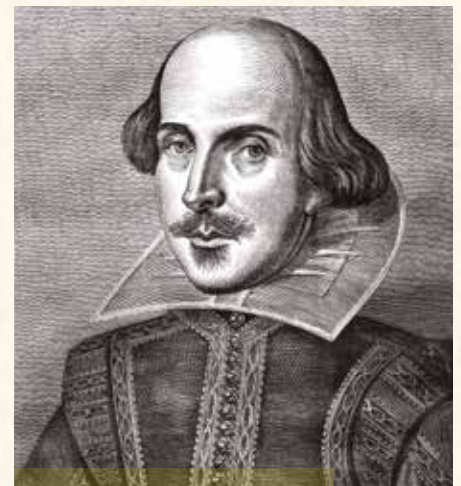
Bible' (www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/walking).

Another 16th-century wordsmith, **William Shakespeare**, is said to have spent his 'lost years' (when he vanished from Stratford-upon-Avon after being caught poaching) school teaching in the market town of Dursley – accounting for his knowledge of Gloucestershire's "high wild hills and rough uneven ways" in *Richard II*.

More certainly, contemporary poets like **Ben Jonson** were fans of Robert Dover's Cotswold Olimpicks, whose jollity they celebrated "in these dull yron Times" in *Annalia Dubrensia* (1636). Many events at the Olimpicks have since changed, but madcap contests like shin kicking continue to draw the crowds to Dover's Hill, Chipping Campden – join them on 2 June this year (www.olimpickgames.co.uk).

Lyrical landscapes

The Cotswolds' beauty has beguiled many writers. **Henry James** was among the Bohemian crowd attracted to the late 19th-century artists' colony at



William Shakespeare

Broadway, declaring the village and its surroundings to be "the perfection of the old English rural tradition". *Peter Pan* author **JM Barrie** spent summers (1923–1932) at Stanway House (www.stanwayfountain.co.uk) and, a keen cricketer, paid for Stanway's thatched cricket pavilion.

In less playful mood, **AE Housman** had used the setting of Bredon Hill – now a National Nature Reserve (NNR) – for his eponymous poem about love and loss (www.naturalengland.org.uk). And in order to counteract the traumas



Stanway's thatched cricket pavilion



Laurie Lee Wildlife Way

©WTA/Anne-Marie Randall



Sezincote



Nancy Mitford grave, Swinbrook

of trench life, WWI poet **Ivor Gurney** wrote yearningly of Cotswolds landscapes like “autumn Cranham with its boom of colour” in ‘That Centre of Old’ – savour for yourself the peace of the nearby Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods NNR (www.naturalengland.org.uk).

Then **Laurie Lee** famously captured post-war changes in village life in his lyrical memoir of the Slad Valley, *Cider with Rosie*. Adding to The Woolpack inn and other landmarks of his childhood, there’s now the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way to explore (www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk), the trees hopefully sunlit this summer “as though clogged with wild wet honey”.

Another pub, The Bell Inn at Moreton-in-Marsh (www.thebellinmoreton.co.uk), became the model for **JRR Tolkien’s** The Prancing Pony in Middle Earth, while around the same period as Lee’s memoir **Nancy Mitford** was growing up at nearby Batsford Park (www.batsarb.co.uk), then Astall and Swinbrook where

she is buried. She satirized her eccentric, upper-class childhood in *The Pursuit of Love*.

The poet **TS Eliot**, walking with a friend from Chipping Campden in the 1930s, trespassed into the then neglected garden of Burnt Norton House and used his impressions, “The unheard music hidden in the shrubbery”, in his *Four Quartets*. After another ramble, he humorously captured his experience of being chased by a cow in his children’s poem, ‘The Country Walk’.

While a student at Oxford, poet **John Betjeman** would visit Sezincote, Bourton-on-the-Hill (www.sezincote.co.uk) and described its “onion domes” in *Summoned by Bells*. Ever the champion of vernacular architecture, he affectionately highlighted the idiosyncrasies of Burford and Broadway in his satirical swipe at bureaucratic town planning, ‘The Town Clerk’s Views’.

Today, the Cotswolds continues to inspire writers, from



Jilly Cooper with her blockbuster equine romps to **Adam Horowitz** with *A Thousand Laurie Lees*, his poetic reassessment of the Slad Valley. Why not get out and about and be inspired too!

Get Creative

Meet authors and join in literary activities:

Chipping Norton Literary Festival
27–30 April, www.chiplitfest.com

Chipping Campden Literature Festival 9–14 May
www.campdenlitfest.co.uk

Jane Austen Festival
8–17 September
www.janeaustenfestivalbath.co.uk

Explore your creative side:

Hawwood College, Stroud, runs courses including ‘Creative Writing Toolkit’ (3 May–28 June) and ‘How to Create Great Fictional Characters’ (25 July), www.hawwoodcollege.co.uk

The Cotswolds' Natural Capital

You may be surprised just how many people benefit – and in how many ways – from the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

At roughly 25 miles (40km) across and 90 miles (145km) long (around 2,038 km sq in total), the Cotswolds is the largest AONB in England and Wales and one of the largest protected landscapes after the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales.

Protected status has all sorts of benefits for a wide range of people. Above all its the amount of natural capital it offers individuals, industries and institutions. Here are some of the more obvious ways we all benefit from the Cotswolds AONB:

The AONB's geology, that beautiful oolitic stone, aids water management and storage, offers building materials (used for walls and buildings not just in the Cotswolds but all over the world), educational and learning opportunities, employment

opportunities, and a base material for soil development.

The AONB's soils themselves are a huge asset too, helping in water management, the production of food, nutrient cycling, carbon storage and offering employment opportunities.

The AONB's air (light, wind and atmospheric chemicals) helps plants and animals flourish, offering light for photosynthesis, renewable energy


in the forms of solar and wind, and a recreational aid, for activities such as gliding, paragliding, kites and model aircraft flying.

The AONB's water offers education and learning opportunities, employment opportunities, undoubtedly aids our mental and physical wellbeing, is used for riparian habitats (ie riverbeds), domestic and recreational purposes, and for agriculture too – such as fish farms, bottling and in industry – plus gives spiritual inspiration and enrichment.

The AONB's woodland benefits us via the creation of woodland products; it offers opportunities for employment, recreation and tourism; helps to boost mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing; aids nutrient cycling; provides building materials, habitats for wildlife and carbon storage.

The AONB's farmland (in the forms of pasture/grassland, arable and horticulture) provides food and other products, habitats for wildlife and pollinators, carbon storage in permanent grassland, as well as a further plethora of opportunities for education, learning, employment, leisure, tourism and wellbeing.

And they're just the obvious ones. The resources offered by the AONB's natural capital is frankly staggering.



The Cotswolds AONB supplies Thames Water with an estimated 500 million litres a day – equivalent to 3.2 St Pauls Cathedrals



Leigh Cousins





On Jonty & Mel's Farm

“We work with nature to turn sunlight into Sunday dinner,” says Jonty Brunyee. A visit to organic 75ha (180-acre) Conygree Farm at Aldsworth, which he runs with his wife Mel, certainly offers a delicious summer prospect, with 60 rare-breed Cotswold Lion sheep and 12 traditional Hereford cows, permanent pasture and herb-rich leys painting a vibrant picture.

The couple sell most of their organic beef, lamb and hogget direct to customers via their website or box schemes.

“Our vision for Conygree Farm is to develop a diverse, sustainable business following holistic and regenerative principles,” Jonty elaborates. “It is low input/premium output, respecting flora, fauna, landscape, heritage, air, soil and water. Although commercially smart – the farm must be profitable – livestock numbers and crop yields do not drive the business.”

Following in family tradition, Jonty always wanted to farm. “I also knew that I didn’t want to be part of what I perceived to be a damaging industry,” he says.

After working in farm conservation, he and Mel (who previously helped to manage Norfolk nature reserves with sheep, cattle and semi-feral ponies) became tenants at Conygree Farm on the National Trust’s Sherborne Park Estate in 2004. (Jonty is also a full-time



lecturer in farm business management and agri-tourism at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester.)

“Our pasture-fed ethos [assured by the Pasture-Fed Livestock Association, of which Jonty is a director] means that our animals eat a natural diet of grass, wildflowers and herbs. Ruminants are designed to turn grasses, herbs and wildflowers into meat and milk. There is no need for grain-based diets and other high protein/energy concentrate feeds, which are an inefficient use of land and food fit for direct human consumption.”

Jonty and Mel are restoring much of their land back to native wildflower grassland to enhance biodiversity and carbon storage, and have also created

nesting/feeding habitat for farmland birds. Helped by environmental stewardship funding and working with the Cotswolds Conservation Board as part of the national Save our Magnificent Meadows project, they now have over 80 species of grass, wildflower and herb in the Conygree ‘salad bar’ for their animals to eat.

Looking ahead, Jonty says, “Brexit will be our biggest challenge. Without ongoing public support, nature-focused farms like ours will not survive. We will seek to diversify further into agri-tourism – we currently offer DIY horse livery – and add value to our meat, but will still need some form of payment, not subsidy, for the wide range of ecosystem services we provide.”

Meantime, Jonty and Mel welcome visitors to the farm to see their conservation work and rare breeds, and to buy their award-winning pasture-fed beef, lamb and hogget.

Further information,
www.conygreefarm.co.uk

Cotswolds Grand Designs

Limestone is literally the bedrock of the Cotswolds, providing a unique grassland habitat but also an abundance of the beautiful honey-coloured stone that so many of its manor houses, ancient villages and vibrant market towns are built from. Thanks partly to 'Cotswold Stone' which varies in colour from a warm gold in the north to a paler shade in the south of the Cotswolds AONB, the simple but distinctive style of architecture in this rural area has become world famous and much imitated.

If Kevin McCloud were able to take a 'Grand Designs' style Cotswolds tour through the centuries there would be a rich seam of limestone running through much of the architecture; as it was once in plentiful supply, limestone has been used for everything from stone floors in houses to roof tiles. As practical as it is attractive, our local stone can be seen in mullion window surrounds, lintels and fireplaces; Cotswold stone-masons have become adept over the centuries at carving limestone into a variety of shapes and designs for decorating ancient monuments and cathedrals, building simple cottages and using in farmhouses.

Styles may have changed over the centuries, from the



Duntisbourne Rouse church

Saxon simplicity and perfect proportions of Duntisbourne Rouse church with its herring-bone stone to the more ornate fine houses of the medieval period when wool-generated wealth went into bricks and mortar, but many typically Cotswold architectural features have been perennially popular. Prosperous wool traders left their mark in 'wool churches' and large country houses whose finely crafted features were a sign of their 'Golden Fleece' riches.

Elaborate and architecturally attractive, wool churches are almost like mini cathedrals; the church of St Peter and St Paul at Northleach is a great example with its lavishly

carved south porch. Manor houses such as Owlpen (of Tudor origin and Grade 1 listed) and Chavenage House in Tetbury similarly display a richness of ornate stone-work and architectural features including mullion windows, fabulous fireplaces



Woodchester Mansion

and fine finials.

The Banqueting Houses in Chipping Campden offer a great example of Jacobean splendour coupled with Grand Designs style jeopardy. In 1613 Sir Baptist Hicks, a self-made Gloucestershire man, designed a flamboyant house which in 1645 was burnt to the ground in the Civil War. The mansion was never repaired but its banqueting houses remained – their parapets, basket finials and twisted chimneys a reminder of Jacobean grand living, although they were inhabited more modestly in the 18th century by a fruit farmer who planted orchards in the former formal gardens.

There are some fine examples of Georgian architecture across the Cotswolds including Tetbury church and in villages such as Blockley, where six silk mills powered by its fast-flowing brook provided income that's reflected in many handsome village houses.

Regency interest in Indian architecture saw Sezincote constructed, a Mogul style palace of Cotswold stone, which is thought to have influenced the design of Brighton pavilion.



Limestone carving

Nick Turner



Miller Howard Workshop

The Old Bakehouse, Randwick

The Victorian Gothic revival, with its enthusiasm for medieval architectural features influenced Cotswold masterpieces such as Woodchester Mansion. Kevin McCloud would have a field day with Woodchester – not only does it display a wealth of carvings and have a wonderful secluded valley location, there's also plenty of drama in the building progress. A haunted shell of a house, Woodchester was, for reasons unknown, abandoned by its builders mid-construction in 1873. This extraordinary building has been saved from dereliction and has become the venue for a pioneering on-site masonry/traditional building skills programme.

The Arts and Crafts movement carried this passion for hand-crafted detail well into the 20th century; manor houses such as Rodmarton (which took 20 years to build with every fine detail carefully created by local craftsmen) and more modest but still exquisitely crafted buildings such as Sapperton Village Hall are a testament to this enthusiasm.

A walk along many of the high streets in our market towns (such as the lovely shallow arc of Chipping Campden with its succession of ancient houses) will demonstrate many of the unique styles that each century has brought to Cotswold building design.



Chipping Campden

But just like the honey-coloured stone, a rich seam of common features also runs throughout Cotswold architectural style – prominent chimneys, abundant dormer windows and arched doorways.

This traditional Cotswold vernacular architecture can be seen in contemporary design. Just as 20th century Arts and Crafts buildings such as Bowley Almshouses in Cirencester echo medieval features, so many new developments follow the local building style but have modern design details, utilising renewable technology. Arlington Fields in Bibury is a great example of this type of building

development – 11 cottages designed to be suitable and affordable for all generations have been built with a view to ensuring a healthy future for the local community. Air source heat pumps coupled with similar traditional building materials as those used centuries ago in the nearby weavers' cottages at Arlington Row make perfect sustainable sense.

Partly because of the good use made of local stone, Cotswold architecture has always sat well within the landscape. Many contemporary architects are particularly focused on designing buildings that blend seamlessly with the stunning countryside around them. The Old Bakehouse near Randwick reflects the needs of a contemporary lifestyle. The exterior elevations are a contemporary take on the local vernacular of Cotswold cottages and historic industrial heritage of the nearby mills.

Great to see some contemporary innovation within the Cotswolds but looking at our richness of architecture through the centuries, it's little wonder that current architectural styles often echo the past too.



Mike Smith

Cottages at Arlington Row





Historic Cotswold Food

Reducing food miles and a ‘back to basics’ approach to cooking with good, fresh ingredients may now be trendy in the UK – luckily, in the fertile Cotswolds, sourcing great local produce has been a pleasure for years. Artisan produced food, from farmhouse cheeses to cured meats, are enjoying a resurgence of interest but many of these edible goodies have a long history in the area. The Cotswold traditional foodie treats below have all been produced in our villages and farmhouse kitchens for centuries, with secret recipes passed down through generations. Picnic on a crumbly chunk of Single Gloucester, eaten with a fruity Banbury Cake and perhaps washed down with a local ale and it’s easy to understand why.



Banbury Cakes

Banbury Cakes – spiced, currant-filled pastries, still baked in their namesake town as they have been for 500 years. Similar to an Eccles cake but more oval in shape, these traditional feast-day cakes have been around since medieval times. Lovely for a tea-time treat with a cuppa or try with a crumbly Cotswold cheese.

Single Gloucester – full-fat hard cheese made with Old Gloucester cow’s milk, this mild cheese is lovely washed down with a glass of local perry. Single Gloucester has a lower fat content than a Double Gloucester (hence the name) and was awarded Protected Designation of Origin status in 1994. It

originated on Gloucestershire farms over 200 years ago and was traditionally eaten at home, while the Double Gloucester was sold to provide income.

Double Gloucester Cheese – stronger tasting,



a more savoury and less crumbly version. Unlike Single Gloucester, it isn’t restricted to the Cotswolds but is the only cheese in England to feature in the annual sport of cheese-rolling held at Cooper’s Hill near Brockworth. See www.charlesmartell.com for delicious Single & Double Gloucester.

Gloucestershire Squab Pie – mutton and apples encased in short-crust pastry, although as the name suggests this was probably originally made with young pigeons. The richness of mutton (or lamb) is balanced by sharp cooking apple and spices (usually allspice and nutmeg) and there’s normally a layer of cooked onion.

Saucer Batters – made by fruit pickers to sustain them while working in the orchard-rich countryside around the Vale of Evesham/Worcestershire side of the Cotswolds, these also make great use of freshly picked seasonal fruit. A thick batter is made by beating egg yolks and a little milk into sieved flour then folding in whisked, stiff egg whites. The batter is baked for 20 minutes in saucers; the batter puddings are lovely filled with fruit, fresh or cooked with a little sugar.

Old Hooky Beer – handcrafted beer produced within the Cotswold Hills from a family brewery with a long history in the area. The Cotswolds has a great supply of cosy pubs to enjoy a pint of this tawny ale; the Hook Norton Victorian tower brewery with visitor centre is worth a trip too. www.hooky.co.uk

Gloucester Old Spot Pork Sausages – the Gloucester Old Spot is also known as “the Orchard Pig” and is a slow-growing, traditional





Gloucester Old Spot Sausages



Tewkesbury Mustard

breed that's well suited to free-range, outdoor living. A blend of herbs and apple are added to Gloucester Old Spot pork in the Gloucester Sausage Company's famous sausages. Five generations have been involved in this family run farm/butchers – their own Old Spot pork is used in the delicious Original Gloucester sausages and there are some interesting new varieties of sausage too.

www.thegloucestersausagecompany.co.uk

Tewkesbury mustard – dating back to the 16th century and mentioned in Shakespeare's Henry IV, this was originally made in mustard balls. Now it comes a tad more conveniently in a jar and is delicious with Gloucester Old Spot Sausage. Traditionally, the women of Tewkesbury gathered the ingredients (including mustard grain and tangy horseradish) from nearby fields and riverbanks to pound and combine with local cider vinegar.

Cotswold Cider – visit the gorgeous Slad Valley (a copy of

Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie* in hand) and who could resist a tipple from our lovely old orchards. Great varieties from www.cotswoldciderco.com founded by Rory Souter due to his passion for our diverse native apple varieties.

Painswick Pork in Cider – a lovely dish using the above (a dry variety) along with locally reared bacon chops or gammon. Cook the pork in the oven with dry cider and mustard.

Stinking Bishop Cheese – the rind of this cheese is traditionally washed in perry from Gloucestershire perry pears and one of these varieties is The Stinking Bishop pear.



The Ebrington Arms

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2 COURSE SET MENU only £11.95

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

www.theebringtonarms.co.uk



Cotswold Cider

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





Corsham



Bath



Winchcombe

MAKING FOOTSTEPS

Walkers are Welcome towns and villages in the Cotswolds are busy organising walking festivals.

The Cotswolds' Walkers are Welcome towns and villages are gearing up for a busy year. Bradford on Avon, Charlbury, Corsham, Dursley, Longborough, Stroud and Winchcombe all have Walkers are Welcome status and several are currently organising their popular walking festivals.

The original Cotswold Walkers are Welcome town, Winchcombe, hosts its eighth walking festival in May (19-21). Event chair Sheila Talbot promises the historic town's festival will be "bigger and better than ever". As well as the self-guided, 21-mile Winchcombe Way Challenge, 23 organised walks will range from three to 14 miles.

"It's always very popular," says Sheila. "The Winchcombe Walkers Festival is a bit different. We do take bookings and charge for some things that might be free elsewhere, but that enables us to be more organised and arrange events that are more social. We hire a hall, put up bunting, offer free tea; there's a dinner on Friday night, a quiz and other evening events. There's definitely a festival atmosphere. We try and bring people together."

At the other end of the Cotswolds,

the fourth Corsham Walking Festival takes place in June (9-11). Eighteen varied walks promise to offer "something for everyone", ranging from 1.5 to 19 miles, including one around historic Corsham, a treasure hunt, Corsham tramways, wildflower and mindfulness walks, hidden quarries, neighbouring Box, Browne's Folly, plus longer walks to Little Solsbury Hill (of Peter Gabriel fame) and North Wraxall. There will also be evening entertainment.

Nearby, the inaugural Bathscape Walking Festival has just been announced for September (16-24). The new festival links to the Somer Valley Walking Festival (16-17 September) and will end with Julian House's Circuit of Bath Walk on 24 September. "[It enables] all to discover, enjoy and celebrate the area's heritage," say the Bath and North East Somerset Council. "Bathscape Landscape Partnership scheme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, aims to reconnect people and communities with Bath's unique landscape setting in ways that benefit people, communities and heritage." It's a pilot walking festival, but is

intended to become an annual event.

Dursley also plans a walking festival, in October (see www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk for more information).

Walkers are Welcome (www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk) is a non-profit national network of towns and villages that have good infrastructure, well maintained and signposted trails, and information available for hikers – and have local councils onboard to promote all things walking.

"Walkers Are Welcome has grown at an astonishing pace," says Kate Ashbrook, Walkers Are Welcome patron and Ramblers vice-president. "Now walkers know that, if they see the friendly footprint logo, they are assured of a warm welcome throughout the town, and a good path network and waymarked walks round about. So everyone benefits – visitors, residents and the local economy."

Cotswold Walking Festivals

Winchcombe Walking Festival

19-21 May, www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com

Corsham Walking Festival

9-11 June
www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk

Bathscape Walking Festival

16-24 September
www.bathscape.co.uk

Dursley Walking Festival

5-10 October
www.dursleywelcomeswalkers.org.uk

ENJOYING LIFE AS A VOLUNTARY WARDEN

Last year Cotswold Voluntary Wardens clocked up more than 45,000 hours of conservation work helping to look after the AONB. We spoke to Mike Cripps about some of the challenges and rewards volunteering brings.

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, the voluntary arm of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, were formed in 1968 and today number some 350 members. Anyone can join.

Mike Cripps, who retired in 2013 after many years in the police force and then event management, became a warden working in Avon Valley District in 2014.

“I was keen to explore new adventures,” he says. He had already undertaken courses in hedgelaying, drystone walling and coppicing run by the Board and decided to put his newly acquired rural skills to good use as a warden!

Since becoming a warden, Mike has gone on brush-cutter and chainsaw courses and picked up other skills “on the job”, also learning from fellow wardens – they come from all backgrounds and age groups – who have

experience in horticulture, engineering, carpentry and wildlife. “We never stop learning,” he says.

Wardens’ activities are varied: scrub clearing, hedgelaying, coppicing; installing kissing gates; patrolling parish footpaths; educational visits to schools. Mike is also on the Wardens Social Media Group, promoting their work via Facebook and Twitter.

Recent projects include “clearing scrub trees from Solsbury Hill Fort, for Historic England, to restore the area to limestone grassland. For the same organisation we are clearing trees from the motte and bailey castle at Castle Combe to allow them to carry out a full survey.” Other notable achievements have been the restoration of an old bridge at Castle Combe and opening up a wall entrance at Dyrham Park.



Mike pauses for photo out on a walk

Some of the wardens also lead popular public walks throughout the AONB – see page 19 for upcoming summer dates. “Our guided walks are free but we welcome donations which go into the Countryside Fund,” Mike explains. This helps to fund projects in the AONB.

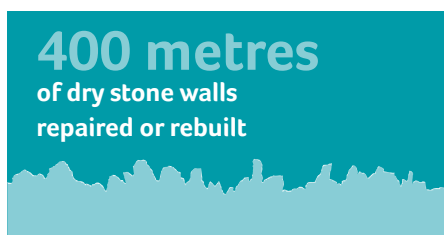
Camaraderie, getting fitter in the fresh air, a sense of satisfaction – all are among the rewards of becoming

a voluntary warden, Mike says. “Those that join have a great time with some friendly colleagues in one of the most beautiful areas in the country, and above all we are helping to leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren.”

Would you like to become a voluntary warden? Avon Valley and Oxfordshire areas are keen to recruit! Find out more at www.cotwoldsaonb.org.uk

Go figure

Voluntary wardens’ conservation activities across the AONB last year included:



WALKING & EXPLORING EVENT GUIDE

Your events guide to enjoying the great outdoors across the Cotswolds.



APRIL

Cotswold Hare Trail 1

Saturday 25 March 2017 –
Sunday 10 September

Cirencester and across the Cotswolds New for 2017 the Cirencester March Hare Festival is running a Cotswold Hare Trail, sending its famous hares further afield! A fantastic opportunity to explore the far corners of the Cotswolds in your search for the hares, visiting towns and villages you may never have visited before. Go off the beaten track and follow the hares on foot, by bike and public transport with special maps outlining a variety of short and long trails around the region.
www.cirencestermarchharefestival.org.uk

Spring into Gardening 2

Thursday 6 April, 6:45pm – 10pm
Royal Agricultural University,
Cirencester

An unforgettable evening of gardening inspiration and style. Go behind the scenes at Chelsea with an illustrated talk from Chelsea gold-medallist Olivia Kirk and get tips on how to design an award-winning garden. £10 per person.
www.wellchild.org.uk/events

MAY

Cotswolds Sheep & Wool Day 3

Bank Holiday Monday 1 May,
10am – 4pm

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

A family fun day to celebrate the Cotswolds Lion Sheep; the ancient breed that brought wealth to the Cotswolds. Come along to meet the sheep and try your hand at spinning wool. We will have music, BBQ and plenty of activities for children. No booking required, £2 for adults and £1 for children.
www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre



Nick Turner



Winchcombe Walking Festival 4

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 May

Across Winchcombe

As the first town in the Cotswolds to gain 'Walkers are Welcome' status, Winchcombe is deservedly proud of the quality of its walks. Come and celebrate with them at this three day festival.

Stroud Nature 2017 5

Saturday 27 May – Monday 28 August

Three months of events – walks, talks, exhibitions and more. Exploring and celebrating the natural world and the environment around us.
www.stroudnature.co.uk

JUNE

Corsham Walking Festival 6

Friday 9 – Sunday 11 June

Corsham, Wiltshire

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



LEAF Open Farm Day

Sunday 11 June

- A Washbrook Farm GL55 6NW
 - B Guiting Manor Farm GL54 5UX
 - C Overbury Farm GL20 7NR
- www.farmsunday.org



www.farmsunday.org

COTSWOLD HARE TRAIL

March 25 to September 10

Follow the Trail across over 20 towns & villages to find the 80 giant decorated hares and upload your photos on our social media pages!

Fun, Free and Family friendly!
Hares Unite the Cotswolds!

www.cirencestermarchharefestival.org.uk



'The Best Festival In The Cotswolds!'

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Kids go FREE! 16 & under

80+ Bands!

HOOSIERS

DR FEELGOOD

Burlesque, comedy & more!

Lechlade MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017

3 Days, 3 Nights, 3 Stages

www.lechladefestival.co.uk

JULY

National Meadows Day 7

Saturday 1 July, 11am – 3pm

Museum in the Park, Stratford Park, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 4AF
Celebrate National Meadows Day at the launch of Deborah Roberts' grasslands photography exhibition with activities run by the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Magnificent Meadows team, including bug hunts and quizzes to test your observational skills. Suitable for both adults and children.

Contact Eleanor Reast on 01451 862036

Stow Cotswold Festival 8

Saturday 15 July, 11am – 11pm

Stow Square, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AB

A wonderful display and celebration of Cotswold life, crafts and heritage showcasing local crafts, produce and skills will occupy the whole of Stow Town Square. Craft market stalls and demonstrations. Live music and entertainment, street performers, town crier and more throughout the day and 'til late. A great family fun day out. Free entry.

www.stowcotswoldfestival.com

AUGUST

BBC Countryfile Live 9

Thursday 3 – Sunday 6 August

Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

Returning for a second year, set in 100 acres of Blenheim Palace's beautiful parkland, Countryfile Live brings together the best of the British countryside for you to enjoy over four glorious days. Readers of the Cotswolds Lion magazine can receive a discount on tickets, see our special offer below for details.

www.countryfilelive.com



Nick Turner

The Really Wild Cotswolds Camp Out! 10

Friday 18 August, from 4:30pm

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

Join the team at the Cotswolds Discovery Centre for a really wild camp out! An entertaining evening of wildlife adventures and trails, food and fun!

Booking essential. £45 for a pitch. www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk/discoverycentre

Alice in Wonderland – Outdoor Theatre 11

Friday 25 August, 2:30pm

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

Alice makes a trip to the Cotswolds this summer to visit the historic prison courtyard of the Cotswolds Discovery Centre in this new family outdoor theatre production!

Tickets booked in advance through the Everyman Theatre website. www.everymantheatre.org.uk

Three Men in a Boat – Outdoor Theatre 12

Friday 25 August, 6:30pm

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

New for this year, an evening performance of *Three Men in a Boat*. Tickets booked in advance through the Everyman Theatre website www.everymantheatre.org.uk



SEPTEMBER

Bradford on Avon Walking Festival 13

Friday 1 – Sunday 3 September

Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

Set in the beautiful Bristol Avon Valley and on the edge of the Cotswold AONB, the historic town of Bradford-on-Avon is the perfect place to explore during the festival weekend with between 10 and 12 designated walks for all to enjoy!

www.walkbradfordonavon.org



Bathscape Walking Festival 14

Saturday 16 – Sunday 24 September

The Bathscape area is a unique, inspiring landscape encompassing the City of Bath World Heritage Site and its setting. The walking festival links to the Somer Valley Walking Festival (16/17 Sept) and will end with Julian House's 'Circuit of Bath Walk' on 24 September. It is intended that this pilot walking festival will become an annual event enabling all to discover, enjoy and celebrate the area's heritage.

www.bathscape.co.uk



Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport

Pick up or view online your 2017 guide to exploring the Cotswolds car free! Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport Guide is an invaluable information resource to travelling in and around the Cotswolds by bus, bike and train.



Available from Visitor Information Centres across the Cotswolds and online at www.escapetotheCotswolds.org.uk

BBC
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BBC Countryfile Live are delighted to offer all Cotswold Lion readers a discount of £3 off advance tickets to the 2017 event, so just £24 for an adult. Visit www.countryfilelive.com, and select the promotion 'Cotswold Lion', entering the code LION when booking to take advantage of this special offer.

Review of the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan

Work has started in reviewing the current Cotswolds AONB Management Plan. AONBs have a statutory duty to produce a plan under the CRoW Act 2000. The review of the Cotswolds AONB Management Plan covers the period 2018-2023. Management Plans are used to be the single articulation of the public agenda for the protected landscape, integrating national and local policies. The review process coincides with the Government's approval to support the Natural Capital Committee's emerging 25 year plan for a healthy natural economy. Keep up to date with the review by visiting www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Ebrington Arms

Cotswolds Visitor Giving keeps on giving

Three new businesses in the Cotswolds have recently joined the scheme where visitors voluntarily support conservation by donating a small amount of money via their bill or fees.

The Ebrington Arms near Chipping Campden, The Killingworth Castle near Woodstock and Cotswolds Guided Tours are the latest businesses to join the visitor pay back scheme.

You can find out more by visiting www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Cotswolds Inspired – the winner

"I am happiest doing what I did when I was four – being very messy, making stuff that makes me and others feel something (hopefully uplifting), which is what art is all about, isn't it?"

So says Cheltenham-based artist Toby Moate, and the rich colours and flowing landscape of his acrylic painting, *View To Severn Vale From Crickley Hill*, certainly made judges "feel something" in the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Cotswolds Inspired public art exhibition – they awarded the work first place.



Winner Toby Moate with his painting

thepicturemaker.co.uk

Crowning golden anniversary celebrations of the Cotswolds AONB, the competition attracted 70 pieces of work from 40 professional and amateur artists, with 45 pieces making the final exhibition at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester at the start of the year. Submissions ranged from paint and sculpture to glass, pottery, textiles and photography, all created in response to the AONB's landscape.

Toby painted his acrylic *View To Severn Vale From Crickley Hill* especially for Cotswolds Inspired. "It is a landscape with huge views that I know well, which I often drive past and where I walked my dogs years ago. So one sunny autumn evening I took some photos of it, although I began the painting using my memory without looking at the photos – that way you paint without becoming obsessed with detail; the view has been recreated in your head as you want it to be, pleasing and positive, the sun setting on a lovely afternoon."

£260,000 awarded to rural businesses across the Cotswolds

The Cotswolds LEADER programme has approved grants worth over £260,000 to rural businesses across the Cotswolds since its launch in November 2015. Successful beneficiaries include farm shops, a wood fuel supplier, a meat curing company and a farm diversifying into holiday accommodation. These are just a few businesses that have recently benefited from the grant funding scheme, which is run by the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Cotswolds LEADER is one of 80 LEADER areas which deliver the programme across rural England. LEADER is an economic programme that

aims to create jobs and grow businesses. The Cotswolds LEADER programme will consider grants between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects that will create jobs in the following investment themes:

- Micro and Small Enterprises and farm diversification
- Rural Tourism
- Farm Productivity
- Forestry Productivity
- Culture & Heritage
- Rural Services

To find out more and the grant funding programme visit www.cotswoldsleader.org.uk

Cotswolds Guided Walks

Spring & Summer 2017. Just turn up, no need to book

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

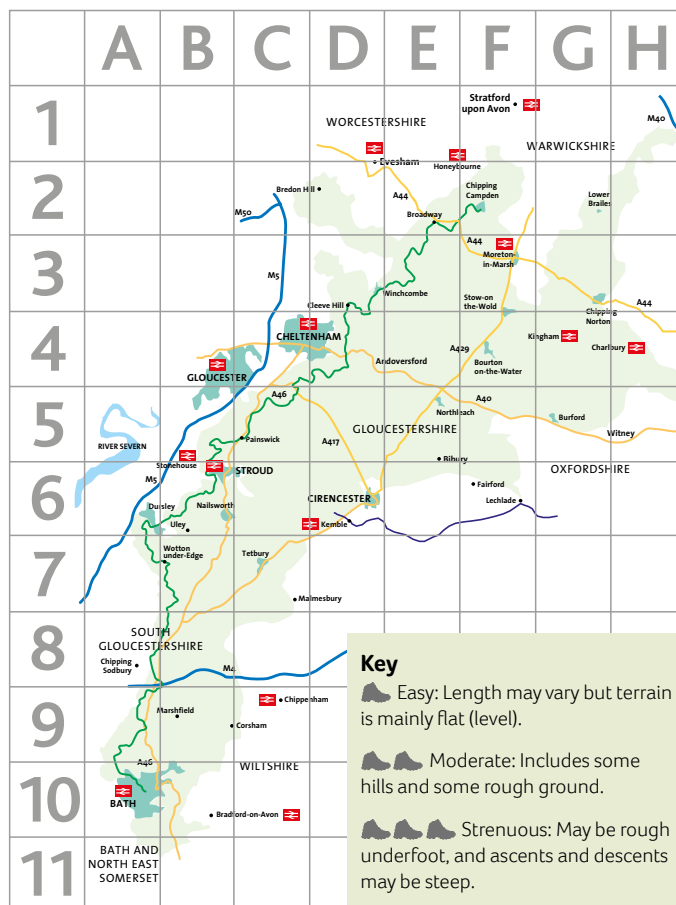
The majority of walks here are led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens therefore you can be assured of an informative and entertaining walk in the Cotswolds. We recommend you always wear appropriate footwear as some walks may be muddy in places. Sorry, but only assistance dogs are allowed on the walks.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

Discover more on Facebook! 

Share your photos when out on a guided walk and find other walks by following www.facebook.com/groups/cotswoldwardens

Walks Guide online

For further details of all walks in the Cotswolds, please visit www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk. Please do check this website before setting off – in case of any changes or cancellations to walks.



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 Linda on 01242 604155 or lblackwell58@icloud.com. Alternatively to travel by coach from near Bath and walk from N to S, contact John on 0117 9374561 or woodlandsbarn@btinternet.com

Tailor-Made Walks in the Cotswolds

As well as the guided walks programme, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens will consider requests from groups for tailor-made walks within the Cotswolds AONB, subject to the availability of walk leaders. For further walks information, or to make an enquiry visit www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk/walking



Visiting the Countryside

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

April

Sunday 2 April 10:30am
Dyrham: Park and Countryside

2.5 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Rob Morley & Philippe Apchin

Tuesday 4 April 6pm
Blenheim Estate: Of Kings, Queens & Heroes

2 hours • 4 miles

This short walk on public rights of way around the Blenheim Estate looks for traces of its historic past. From Henry II and his mistress to Princess Elizabeth 1st, the Dukes of Marlborough & more Recently Sir Winston Churchill.

Start: Hensington Road Free car park, Woodstock OX20 1JL. SP 448 168.

Map square: H4.

Leader: Anne Martis

Tuesday 4 April 10am
Tuesday Tramp


3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould & Philippe Apchin


Friday 7 April 10am Friday Foray – Lesser Walked Ways Of The Toadsmoor Valley

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Circular walk along the Toadsmoor Valley using lesser walked paths in woodland and farm land. Some potentially slippery short descents and a number of stiles. Walking poles recommended. Lunch available at the Lamb Inn on return. Satnav GL6 7DN
Start: The Lamb Inn, Eastcombe with permission from the landlord. SO 890 044. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Sue Proctor, Brian Chapman & Steve Pascoe


Friday 7 April 10am Round and About With The Romans

 5 hours • 10 miles

Starting in one of the most picturesque villages in the Southern Cotswolds then climbing gently to circle sites of Roman villas and settlements to the west. Not suitable for Pushchairs. Bring a packed lunch. A later drink stop is planned at the Old House at Home, Burton.

Start: Castle Combe upper car park (Off B4039). ST 846 777. Map square: B9.
Leaders: David Le lohe & Rob Morley

Wednesday 12 April 10am Prestbury: Up and Round The Course


 3 hours • 6 miles

From Prestbury up the side of Cleeve Hill then round & down via Southam. Many pubs and eateries in and around Prestbury. (The Plough, Royal Oak, Rising Sun, Apple Tree). Park in the "Free" car park (in Idsall Drive) or in Mill Street.

Start: Prestbury War Memorial. Just off the High Street. SO 972 239.
Map square: D4.

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

Saturday 15 April 10am A Tite Circle

 2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk from the Tite Inn going to Dean and Spelsbury and along part of the Oxfordshire Way. Lunch available at The Tite Inn after the walk.
Start: The Tite Inn car park. OX7 3NY. SP 324 225. Map square: H5.


Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

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

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



Tuesday 18 April 10am Swalcliffe, Epwell and The Macmillan Way


 5 hours • 10 miles

This circular walk through North Oxfordshire takes in the attractive ironstone villages of Swalcliffe and Epwell. It follows part of the MacMillan Way to Traitors Ford, where maybe a traitor was hung following the battle of nearby Edgehill. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: St Peter and St Pauls Church, Swalcliffe OX15 5EH. SP 378 378.
Map square: F2.

Leader: Anne Martis

Wednesday 19 April 10am Coffee Morning Walk No. 1, 'Along The Lanes In Poldark Country'


 3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30, taking us to Chavenage Green via Barton Lane and Longlength Lane. After viewing the front of Chavenage House we return to Horsley via Ledgemore Lane and Hay Lane. Snack lunches available afterwards at the shop. More substantial meals at nearby inn.

Start: Village shop Horsley. Shop signposted from main road in village. ST 839 981. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Derrick Hildersley

Friday 21 April 10am Box To Bath? A Country Route, Not The A4!


 4.5 hours • 7.5 miles

A linear walk returning by the frequent bus service. Bring your bus pass if applicable. A gentle walk on the meadows beside the Bybrook before climbing to Kingsdown, Monkton Farleigh, and Browne's Folly. Down to Bathford and we follow the Kennet and Avon canal into Bath. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Selwyn Hall car park, Box on the A4 East of Bath. ST 824 686.
Map square: A10.

Leaders: John Walker & Anne Martis

Friday 21 April 10am Early Birds


 4 hours • 7.5 miles

A beautiful and varied circular walk from Temple Guiting, taking in the hamlets of Farmcote and Cutsdean. We hope to see a range of common farmland birds and early summer visitors. Bring a packed lunch. Binoculars would be useful.

Start: Temple Guiting, park at Temple Guiting village hall GL54 5RS. SP 089 277. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Ali Clifton Barnard & David Russell

Saturday 22 April 9:30am Easter Rising

 5 hours • 9.5 miles


The church warden at St. Andrews, Cold Aston, has agreed to talk about this old and fascinating church, especially its Easter Sepulchre. The remaining walk is stile-free, using lanes, bridleways and byways. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Cold Aston; park near pub with consideration. SP 129 197.

Map square: E4.

Leaders: Roger & Pat Cook

Saturday 22 April 10am Marshfield – Town and Valleys


 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk along the High street, then taking valley footpaths SW to St Catherine's valley and returning through the fields (Some stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs and a tea shop. or stay & visit the scarecrow trail and a garden opened for the Wardens (tea and cake available).

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

Leaders: David Colbourne & Sid Gould

Saturday 22 April 10am Bisley and Back, & Don't Dilly Dally


 6.5 hours • 11 miles

From Bisley to the upper Dilly valley, back via Snows Farm. Bring a picnic lunch. Visiting Rough Bank and Snows farm reserves this walk offers lots of unimproved grassland to see.

Start: George St, Bisley, Stroud GL6 7BQ. Use the Bear car park if you are going to use the pub afterwards. SO 903 061.
Map square: C5.

Leaders: Ted Currier & Tim Sugrue


Sunday 23 April 10am From A Down To A Combe Across To A Stoke

 5 hours • 8.5 miles

A circular walk from Claverton Down to Monkton Combe and Limpley Stoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for Pushchairs. Parking by kind permission of Wessex Water.
Start: Wessex Water car park, Claverton Down, Bath. ST 778 630.
Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Wednesday 26 April 10am There Maybe Bluebells


 3 hours • 6 miles

A walk through spring woodlands of Haresfield, Pitchcombe and Stockend linked by views of the Painswick valley, Malvern hills and the river Severn. If we are lucky there will be the added pleasure of bluebells.

Start: Cripplegate (Shortwood) NT car park. SO 832 084. Map square: B5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

Thursday 27 April 10am Back Through Buckland


 3 hours • 5 miles

A gentle morning stroll (but with one short but steep hill!) around the history of one of the less frequented parishes of the Cotswolds.

Start: Stanton village car park (free). SP 067 343. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth

Friday 28 April 10am Bibury Through Ablington


 3.5 hours • 6.4 miles

A walk through Bibury, Arlington and Ablington following for a while the river Coln, then across country back down to the Swan Hotel. Lunch is available at the Hotel or pubs in the locality.

Start: The Swan Hotel Bibury. SP 115 068. Map square: E5.

Leaders: T Hester, B Chilvers & P Cluley

Saturday 29 April 10am High Wolds Villages


 6 hours • 10 miles

Rolling countryside but no steep climbs. Visiting the Shiptons, Hampen, Hawling, Salperton and Sevenhampton. Bring a packed lunch.
Start: Bus Stop, Station Road, Andoversford. SP 023 198.
Map square: D4.

Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland & Mike Dunning

May

Tuesday 2 May 10am Tuesday Tramp


 3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Thursday 4 May 10am Woods, Wolds & Warblers

 5.5 hours • 10 miles

A lovely spring walk through woods & over the hills looking and listening for warblers and other birds. The route takes us up through Spoonley and West woods before descending via the Breakheart Plantation. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Winchcombe Back Lane car park £1.00/day. SP 024 285. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid



Friday 5 May 10am Bath's Civil Engineering Heritage Trail

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

Bath is known for its Georgian architecture but this urban walk tours some of the sites of its fascinating civil engineering and industrial heritage that "underpins" its existence. A coffee/drink stop is planned; café lunch together afterwards if you wish. Start: Green Park Station Foyer. ST 746 648. Map square: A10. Leaders: David Le Lohe & Rob Morley

Saturday 6 May 10am Celebrating Women Of The North Cotswolds

6 hours • 11 miles

This walk continues the series of walks about Women in the Cotswolds considering the lives of Mary Anderson, American actress and hostess, and Janet Ashbee, writer, thinker and wife of CR Ashbee. Lunch will be in Broadway where there is a range of eateries or bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Chipping Campden, Market Hall in the High Street, parking along High Street. SP 151 391. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Saturday 6 May 10am Walking With Budding

6 hours • 10 miles

From Selsley Common the walk descends into the Nailsworth Valley via Woodchester then climbs to Rodborough Common. It descends again into the Golden valley via Bagpath to Thrupp and Stroud Brewery for a picnic lunch stop. The walk returns via the Stroudwater canal towpath to see the restoration works. Start: Selsley Common free car park, adjacent to the B4066 from Stroud to Uley, 1.2 miles south of the Dudbridge (Sainsbury's) roundabout. SO 830 027. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Saturday 6 May 10am 100 Years 1000 Years & 2000 Years. & I Feel Old!

6.5 hours • 11 miles

From Hangman's stone through Hampnett, Stowell Grove to Chedworth wood, return via Yanworth. Please bring a Picnic Lunch. Two churches with splendid paintings, passing the extraordinary Chedworth Roman Villa. Bluebells if still in Bloom! Start: Hangman's Stone layby. South of the A40 between Northleach & Shipton. SP 088 151. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Ted Currier, Tim Sugrue & John Shaw

Tuesday 9 May 10am Will There Be Orchids?

2.5 hours • 4 miles

A leisurely walk around two wild flower rich commons with scenic views of two valleys. Lunch available at the inn after the walk if required.

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

Leaders: David Harrowin & Helen Furmidge

Wednesday 10 May 10am Celebrating Cotswold Women: Katherine Parr and Emma Dent

5.5 hours • 10 miles

A walk using mainly the Windrush and the Wardens Ways with good views of Sudeley Castle whose famous inhabitants include Katherine Parr and Emma Dent. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Winchcombe Back Lane car park £1.00/day. SP 024 285 Map square: D3.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Janet Deller

Wednesday 10 May 10am

Pretty Valley & Goats' Cheese

3 hours • 5 miles

Scenic walk to Rendcomb, returning via the Monarch's Way and open downland with wide-reaching views. Includes visit to makers of Cerney Goats' Cheese. Opportunity to purchase cheese. Several stiles. Hourly 51 bus from Cheltenham or Cirencester Lunch available at Bathurst Arms.

Start: Bathurst Arms North Cerney. SP 019 079. Map square: D5.

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

Thursday 11 May 10am Bluebells In Fox Holes

3 hours • 6 miles

Starting from Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes by Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where the bluebells should be in flower. We return by woodland and field paths. Lunch options in village at the end of the walk.

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

Leader: Gerald Simper

Friday 12 May 10am Friday Foray – Philanthropy, Pigs and Popular Church Music

3 hours • 5 miles

A walk to the north of Eastleach, starting in the Victoria Inn car park, mainly through the Hatherop Estate and extending up to Eastleach Down Farm. Two short inclines and a maximum of 8 stiles. Lunch is available at the pub after the walk. Start: Eastleach, parking at The Victoria Inn, with kind permission of the landlady. Additional parking available in the village. SP 198 052. Map square: F5.

Leaders: Sue Proctor, Brian Chapman, Steve Pascoe & Helen Watkinson

Friday 12 May 10am Siston Court Circular

6 hours • 9.5 miles

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

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

Leaders: John Walker & Sid Gould

Saturday 13 May 10am

Three Houses, Two Valleys

3 hours • 5.5 miles

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

Start: Newark Park National Trust car park, by arrangement. ST 782 931. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furmidge

Sunday 14 May 10am Hiking Through History – Life In Roman Oxfordshire 1

5 hours • 11.5 miles

Discover the Roman influences on this part of the Cotswolds, including a Roman Villa and a Roman road. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Stonesfield Parish Church, OX29 8PP. SP 393 171. Map square: H4.

Leaders: Martin & Lucy Squires

Tuesday 16 May 10am Old Roads & Pack Horse Routes

3 hours • 4.5 miles

A loop to the west of Aveing along paths, old roads and tracks that linked local communities.

Start: Aveing Social Club Car Park, Woodstock Lane, Aveing. Woodstock Lane is on the right entering the village on the B4014 from Nailsworth. ST 882 978. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Mike Brinkworth & Alan Hooper

Friday 19 May 10am Coffee Morning Walk No. 2, 'Woods & Valleys Around Kingscote'

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles


Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30, taking us via Ozleworth Bottom and Marlees Brook to the secluded Bagpath Valley. We ascend gently to Bagpath village and across fields back to the start. Lunch available at the inn after the walk, if required.

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

Leaders: Eric Brown & Chris Gill



Saturday 20 May 10am Painswick Merry Go Round


 5 hours • 10 miles

A circle anticlockwise, skirting around Painswick, from the Beacon to Pitchcombe and back. Some ups and downs. 600m total ascent. Visiting Holcombe, Edge, Pitchcombe, Sheephouse, Brockhouse mill, Damsell's, Oliver's and Paradise. Picnic Lunch.

Start: Beacon car park near Catbrain Quarry (2km North of Painswick). SO 867 117. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Alistair McKenzie & John Shaw

Sunday 21 May 10am Two Railways & A Canal!


 5.5 hours • 8.5 miles

A linear walk into Bath. We follow the Titfield thunderbolt/Somerset Coal Canal down to Tucking Mill then through Combe Down tunnel (1 mile), over Beechen Cliff and Alexandra Park to pick up the P&R bus back to the start. Bring bus pass if applicable. Please bring a Picnic lunch.

Start: Odd Down Park & Ride. ST 733 617. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Wednesday 24 May 10am The Flowers That Bloom In The Spring


 2.5 hours • 6 miles

A Spring walk through the attractive village of Oakridge and open fields to Siccaridge Wood. Continuing through the wood to Sapperton and returning via the Thames and Severn Canal. A fairly relaxed walk admiring the springtime flowers in wood, meadow and canal side.

Start: Oakridge School. Park carefully around the village green. SO 913 035 Map square: C6.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 25 May 10am In The Shadow Of Woodchester Mansion


 3.5 hours • 5 miles

We start on the approach track to the Mansion, before traversing the hillside towards Selsley Common. The walk descends towards Inchbrook passing the convent and long barrow. We return past the magnificent incomplete mansion, where light refreshments may be available. However, it is advisable to bring a packed lunch.

Start: Woodchester Mansion National Trust car park, 'Brown signed' from the B4066 towards Nympsfield, near the gliding club and Coaley Peak picnic site. SO 797 015. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Les Jones

Friday 26 May 10am A Ford A Court & A Mill Near Syreford


 3 hours • 5.3 miles

A pleasant stroll along the beginning of the River Coln by Syreford Mill & Whittington Court returning via Sevenhampton Church to Brockhampton. The car park at The Craven Arms is provided by The Licensee on the understanding that users kindly patronise her establishment. Pub Food at The Craven Arms.

Start: The Craven Arms, Brockhampton. SP 035 222. Map square: D4.

Leaders: P.Cluley, T.Hester & B.Chilvers

Saturday 27 May 10am The Milk Story – Family Walk


 4 hours • 2.5 miles

This family walk and tractor and trailer ride links two farms; one is where young cattle graze and the other where the cows are milked. by a robot! Some car sharing. See website. Please bring a picnic.

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

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Saturday 27 May 10:30am Marshfield – Town and Country


 2.5 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 through the fields on footpaths (no stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a teashop. or stay and visit Open Gardens for lunch and/or a cream tea.

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

Leaders: David Colbourne & Sid Gould

Sunday 28 May 10am Lineover & Ravensgate

 3 hours • 4 miles


A meandering climb among the wild flowers and diverse trees of an ancient wood and across the grassland of an ancient common.

Start: North entrance to Lineover Wood. Parking area is up track South of A40, 1 mile East of Charlton Kings. SO 986 196. Map square: D4.

Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland & Mike Dunning

June

Thursday 1 June 6:30pm A Summer Evening Stroll


 2 hours • 3.7 miles

Date for this walk will be fixed nearer the time, and posted on the Escape website. Please check back later. A gentle stroll around Foxcote and the Coln Valley with only moderate climbs but some uneven paths, The Royal Oak or Kilkenny Arms at the end for a drink or meal.

Start: Station Rd, Please park around the village; Station Road is usually good. SP 023 198. Map square: D4.

Leaders: B Chilvers & A N Other

Saturday 3 June 10am Wychwood To Bould Wood

 5 hours • 10 miles

Follow the Oxfordshire Way from Sipton under Wychwood to Bruern Abbey and Foxholes Nature Reserve, returning via Bould Wood and the villages of Idbury, Fifield and Milton under Wychwood. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Dog Kennel Lane, Sipton under Wychwood OX7 6DB. SP 276 174. Map square: G5.


Leader: Janet Deller

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Sunday 4 June 10am The Bath Skyline

 3 hours • 6 miles

A circular walk on National Trust land South of Bath at Claverton Down with fine views overlooking the City and passing old quarry workings at "ampton rocks". Not suitable for pushchairs. Coffee stop only. Parking by kind permission of Wessex Water. Start: Wessex Water car park, Claverton Down, Bath. ST 778 630. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Monday 5 June 10am Ghosts, Hermits & A Roundabout


 3.5 hours • 7.5 miles

A roundabout walk from a small queen in Avening via a haunted house looking out for the hermit's cave and passing a roundabout. Lunch available at pubs in Avening after the walk.

Start: Avening Village by the Queen Matilda Tavern (junction of 3 roads from Tetbury, Minchinhampton & Nailsworth). Please park considerably on road nearby. ST 885 979. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Chris Gill & Brian Mundy


Tuesday 6 June 6pm Sunset Views Over Broadway

 2 hours • 4 miles

It's worth the walk up to Broadway Tower to see the views. Leaving the Green, we walk to Coneygree Lane and ascend the hill, stopping at the top to look west to the setting sun. We return to Broadway via the Cotswold Way. Pub food available. Start: The Green at Broadway, several pay & display car parks in Broadway. SP 094 375. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley


Tuesday 6 June 10am Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Wednesday 7 June 10am Slad Valley & Swift Hill

 3 hours • 5.4 miles

A walk to Swift's Hill, with glorious views over the Slad valley, through Snows Farm and Catswood and returning via Steanbridge and Down Hill.

Start: Bulls Cross on B4070 1 mile N of Slad. SO 878 088. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Graham Saunders & John Shaw



Painswick Beacon, Christopher Hargreaves

Thursday 8 June 10am
Walking The Ways

 5 hours • 10 miles

This circular walk takes in four Cotswold villages (Bourton-on-the-Water, Upper and Lower Slaughter and Naunton) and provides great views from the Wardens Way. The return via the Windrush Way includes sheltered valleys, pleasant woodland and views of the river Windrush. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Bourton Link Road, off Meadow Way, Bourton Industrial Estate. SP 168 218. Map square: F4.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Friday 9 June 9:45am
Friday Foray – Colesbourne Circular, Via Upper Coberley & Cockleford


 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Generally good, wide tracks, uphill on outward route, down on return. The A435 has to be crossed twice. care will be needed. Access to nearby businesses must be kept clear. Parking with permission of Sir Henry Elwes. Car sharing helpful. Satnav GL53 9NP. More info on website.

Start: Near Colesbourne Inn on A435. Lane beside Filling Station. SP 001 133. Map square: D5.

Leaders: Brian Chapman, Steve Pascoe, Sue Proctor & Helen Watkinson

Saturday 10 June 10am
Up To Kelston Clump From Saltford


 4 hours • 6 miles

We cross the Avon by the cycle path & then use Warden restored paths to Kelston before climbing up to Kelston Clump. On to Prospect stile and down hill from then! At North Stoke, view Warden's work repairing the churchyard wall. Wonderful views. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: The Shallows car park, Saltford BS31 3EY. ST 687 673. Map square: A10.

Leaders: John Walker & Fred Dugan

Tuesday 13 June 10am
Meadows Walk


 2 hours • 3 miles

A very, very leisurely amble over wildflower rich grassland. Plenty of time for the enthusiast to discover the wide floral diversity that the Cotswolds offers. Lunch available at local pub after the walk if required.

Start: Coaley Peak picnic site on the B4066 between Uley & Selsley. SO 794 014. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Derrick Hildersley

Tuesday 13 June 10am
Saxon Villages & Georgian Racecourses

 4 hours • 7 miles


This is a circular walk across Cleeve Common. On the outward journey we follow the escarpment to West Down car park. Returning via Wontley Farm, we pick up the Winchcombe Way. This walk is undulating, though predominantly flat, and should provide wonderful views.

Bring a packed lunch.

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

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Pearson & John Smith

Wednesday 14 June 9:30am
Conservation Around Charlbury


 3.5 hours • 5.6 miles

An opportunity to see some of the landscape and nature conservation work carried out by Cotswold Voluntary Wardens in this part of the Evenlode Valley.

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

Leader: Dave Scott

Thursday 15 June 10am
Castlett Wood, Kineton, A Brook & A River


 2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk from Guiting Power which follows the Castlett brook through Castlett wood before passing through the hamlet of Kineton where the walk briefly runs along side the river Windrush, and then returns to Guiting Power.

Start: Guiting Power Village Hall car park (voluntary contribution). SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Thursday 15 June 10am
Charlbury Mill Field Circular Walk

 1.5 hours • 2 miles

The walk goes along the Mill Field beside the River Evenlode with views of the expansive valley. Return to Charlbury via Wigwell Nature Reserve along a recently restored path.

Start: Spendlove car park OX7 3PQ. SP 358 196. Map square: H5.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin



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Saturday 17 June 10am
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 picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: John Bartram & John Walker



Saturday 17 June 10am
Figure Of 8 – The High Points Around Charlton Kings


 7 hours • 11 miles

Two walks in one. Hilly figure of eight partly using Cheltenham Circular Walk route. Climbing to Ravensgate, Dowdeswell, Ham, Leckhampton. Total ascent 600m. Join for it all, or choose the morning at 10 or the afternoon at 1.30. Lunch options at two pubs plus cafes and take-aways. B Bus from Cheltenham.

Start: Charlton Kings Church opposite the Royal Inn. SO 964 204. Map square: D4.

Leaders: John Shaw, Jennifer Shaw & Tim Sugrue

Saturday 17 June 10am
Charlbury Town Trail

 1.5 hours • 2 miles

A short walk around the historic market town of Charlbury, which was granted a charter in 1265AD. There are several listed buildings & facts about these will be revealed on the walk. There is also an Arts Festival being held in the town for you to enjoy.

Start: The Corner House. SP 358 196. Map square: H5.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Monday 19 June 10am
Coffee Morning Walk
No. 3, 'Going Up To
Yale'

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30, with a steep climb through Hazel Wood and then on to Avening. We return via Yale Farm and Tetbury Lane. Lunch available at the Garden Centre café, nearby pub or in Nailsworth, if required.

Start: Wyevale Garden Centre, Avening Rd., Nailsworth. ST 857 995.

Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Brian Mundy

Wednesday 21 June 6pm
A Short Walk On
The Longest Day!

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk through the valleys of Southstoke, Combe Hay and Midford taking in a beautiful flower meadow (Orchids). Not suitable for pushchairs. Start: Cross Keys, Southstoke road, Combe Down. ST 748 619.

Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Wednesday 21 June 10am
Witcombe Roman Villa

3 hours • 6 miles

Ascend the hills above Witcombe to visit the woods before descending to the Roman Villa which will be open; includes part of the Cotswold Way. Cotswold Wardens have arranged a special opening of the Villa, this morning. Please only park at the Twelve Bells if joining the walk.

Start: The Twelve Bells PH. Parking, by permission, at the far end of the Premier Lodge car park. SO 905 157. Map square: C4.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

Friday 23 June 10am
Stride Along The
Cotswold Edge To
Tyndale

3 hours • 5 miles

A relatively short walk through Westridge Woods passing the iron age fort at Brackenbury Ditches towards the Tyndale Monument and venturing down the old route of the Cotswold Way gully at North Nibley. Lunch available in Wotton after the walk if required.

Start: Wotton Under Edge, at the top of the hill on the Old London Road, leading from Wotton to the B4058. Parking on the roadside at the top or further along by the scout camp. ST 754 942. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Les Jones

Saturday 24 June 10am
The Cotswolds At War

6 hours • 11 miles

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

Start: Chipping Campden School car park (voluntary contribution). SP 154 395. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Janet Deller

Saturday 24 June 10am
Cold Ashton To
St.Catherines

5.5 hours • 8 miles

Following the stream we head towards Marshfield to join the Green Lane. Turning South we reach Ashwicke Home farm and drop to enter St Catherine's valley, passing the Court and following the brook back to Cold Ashton. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Cold Ashton Walker's Village Hall car park. ST 748 726. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Philippe Apchin

Sunday 25 June 10am
Hiking Through
History. Life In Roman
Oxfordshire 2

5 hours • 11.5 miles

Discover the Roman influence on the North Oxfordshire part of the Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Sibford Gower Primary School OX15 5RW. SP 355 378. Map square: H2.

Leaders: Martin & Lucy Squires

Friday 30 June 10am
Exploring Turkdean
& Notgrove

3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

A walk along a track to Turkdean then through undulating countryside to Notgrove returning to Cold Aston along The Gloucestershire Way. Parking around the village of Cold Aston. Pub Food at The Plough Cold Aston.

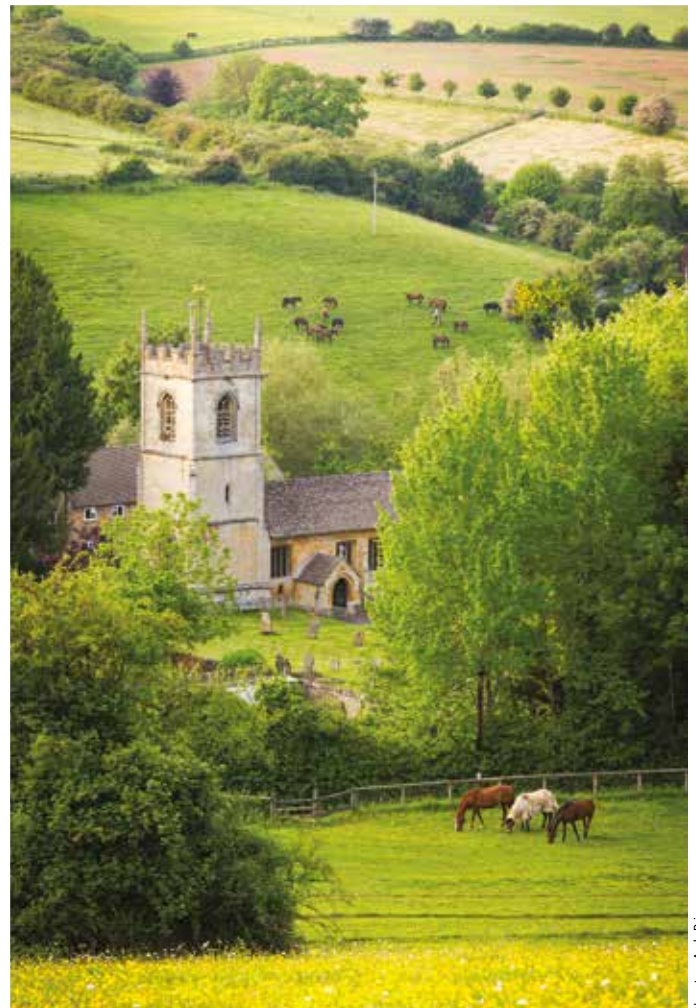
Start: Cold Aston near to The Plough Inn. SP 128 197. Map square: F4.

Leaders: P. Cluley, T.Hester & B.Chilvers

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Naunton, Andy Prior

July

Saturday 1 July 10am
National Meadows Day
- A Hidden Gem

3 hours • 4 miles

The very special environment of Clump Farm, on Broadway Hill SSSI, is owned by the National Trust & not normally open to the public. We have special permission from the Trust to take you through its magnificent floral meadows for National Meadows Day.

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

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Saturday 1 July 10am
National Meadows Day
- Ladies Bedstraw
& Rock Rose

3 hours • 4 miles

A bridleway path down to the Broadmead Brook, which is followed to a clapper bridge. Then a circular route back via Nettleton Shrub, Home woods and West Kington Church and bridge. There should be plenty of wild flowers. A number of pubs nearby for lunch afterwards.

Start: Mount Zion Baptist Chapel, West Kington. ST 808 772. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Pauline & Richard Wilson

Saturday 1 July 6:30pm
A Summer Evening
Stroll

2 hours • 4 miles

Date for this walk will be fixed nearer the time, and posted on the website. Please check back later. A gentle stroll to the West and South of Northleach with only short climbs but some uneven tracks. Plenty of pubs in Northleach to rehydrate on a summer evening.

Start: The Cotswolds Discovery Centre Northleach. SP 109 149. Map square: E5.

Leaders: B Chilvers & A N Other

Saturday 1 July 10am
Nothing To Equal This

3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

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

Start: Duke of Marlborough Hotel, OX20 1HT. SP 429 190. Map square: H5.

Leaders: Tony Merry & Harriet Baldwin

Sunday 2 July 10am
Tale Of Three Ponds

5.5 hours • 9 miles

A circular walk through Alderton and Luckington. A rare opportunity to visit two recently restored medieval fish ponds. Pub stop for drink only. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Sherston high street. ST 853 858.
Map square: B8.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Mick Thorpe

Monday 3 July 10am
A Windrush Wander

4 hours • 7.5 miles

This circular walk takes in the beautiful Cotswold villages of Great Rissington and Windrush, mostly on footpaths around the Windrush valley.

Start: Northfield Barn NT car park (1km north of Sherborne on Clapton Road). SP 175 154. Map square: F5.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas



Tuesday 4 July 10am
A Remote & Beautiful Valley

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk passing through some of the North Cotswolds' most remote and beautiful countryside. The walk first runs through woods above Hinchwich Valley, descends briefly into an adjoining valley and then returns along the bottom of the dry Hinchwich valley itself.

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

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Tuesday 4 July 10am
Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Wednesday 5 July 10am
What's The Future For The Water Vole?

3 hours • 4.5 miles

Explore Coln valley, meeting up with John Field from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust en route. Look at conservation work carried out along river to improve habitat for wildlife.

Pub lunch possible after walk in Quenington or Coln St Aldwyns.

Start: Quenington village green. SP 144 043. Map square: F6.

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

Wednesday 5 July 6pm
Chipping Norton Town Walk

2 hours • 2.5 miles

An evening walk, mostly on pavements, exploring this popular Cotswold town, known locally as "Chippy". Walking will be taken at a very leisurely pace to allow time to find out about the interesting buildings & in some cases their inhabitants. Choice of meal opportunities abound in the town afterwards.

Start: New Street car park Chipping Norton, OX7 5LJ. SP 312 271.

Map square: G3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 7 July 10am
Around Brimpsfield Parish

2.5 hours • 5.8 miles

A walk around Brimpsfield Park and the old castle & back via Climperwell Farm. Lunch options in Birdlip and Nettleton Bottom.

Start: Birdlip School. Park along the road by the school. (The old main road now a dead end). SO 932 141. Map square: C5.
Leaders: B Chilvers, T Hester & P Cluley

Friday 7 July 10am
The Introduction Of Catholicism To The Woodchester Valley

3 hours • 6 miles

Starting from Nailsworth this walk is mostly in the Nailsworth Valley passing several landmark buildings constructed under the influence, both religious and financial, of William Leigh in the mid.nineteenth century and includes a higher section above Woodchester Park. Lunch is available in Nailsworth after the walk if required.

Start: Newmarket Road car park in Nailsworth (behind the Britannia Inn in Cossack Square). If no spaces please park considerably on roads nearby. ST 848 996. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Chris Gill & David Harrowin

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Steaming Events take place each month when the steam engine and waterwheel are working - see below. Event prices in brackets

Sunday 19 Mar	Science and Engineering
Sunday 16 Apr	Steam Engines at Combe
Sunday 21 May	Natural History on the Evenlode
Sunday 18 Jun	Barn Engines, Horticultural Machinery & Tractors
Sunday 16 Jul	Vintage and Classic Wheels
Sunday 20 Aug	Model Engineering
Sunday 18 Sept	Country Crafts & Skills
Sunday 15 Oct	Woodcrafts at Combe

Adults £5 (£7.50), concessions £4 (£6), family discounts, under 5s free

See www.combemill.org for full details or call 01993 358694
Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Long Hanborough, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET

Saturday 8 July 10am From Hill To Hill

6 hours • 11 miles

This circular walk starts at Nottingham Hill and takes in Prescott, Oxenton, Dixton and Stanley Hills. It includes open countryside with good views (weather permitting) and deciduous woods as well as interesting social history. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Small car park on Nottingham Hill, near Longwood Farm. Do not confuse with car park on Cleeve Hill. SO 983 279. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

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Wednesday 12 July 10am 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 Kilcott 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 Hildersley & Les Jones



Friday 14 July 10am Flower Foray On & Around Cleeve Hill

5 hours • 5 miles

A Fabulous Flower Foray! With Conservation Officer Ellie Phillips, we hope to showcase the wonderful range of wildflowers that grow on both the Common and the nearby butterfly reserves. Bring a packed lunch and sturdy footwear for scrambling over rougher areas. Start: Cleeve Common Quarry car park, off the B4632 at the summit signposted Golf Club, down narrow track over cattle grid, left and right into car park. SO 989 272. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Friday 14 July 10am Friday Foray – Miserden & Rough Bank

3 hours • 5 miles

A circular walk across the Holy Brook to Rough Bank, a secluded side valley to the Dillay valley, with wild flower rich limestone grassland belonging to Butterfly Conservation. Lunch available at the Carpenters Arms at the end of the walk.

Start: Miserden Church of England School car park (with permission). SO 933 089. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Helen Watkinson, Sue Proctor & Brian Chapman

Saturday 15 July 10am Sherborne Estate, Sherborne Village and Beyond

3 hours • 5 miles

This walk is through woods where we will see a number of sculptures and chances to spot deer and other wildlife. We also pass through the beautiful village of Sherborne before crossing farmland on our return. Bring a packed lunch or sample the goodies at Sherborne community shop.

Start: Ewe Pen Barn car park, GL54 3PP. SP 159 143. Map square: F5.

Leader: Amanda Warwick

Saturday 15 July 10am The Broadmead Brook – Castle Combe To Dyrham

6 hours • 10 miles

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

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

Leaders: John Walker & John Bartram

Tuesday 18 July 10am Coffee Morning Walk No. 4, 'Heavens Above!'

3.5 hours • 5.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10am. The walk starts at 10:30 and descends from the Common to the Thames and Severn Canal and eastward across the canal to Thrupp, The Heavens and Nether Lypiatt. We return via Brimscombe for a well deserved ice cream.

Start: Winstone's Ice Cream Parlour, Rodborough Common. The Common lies to the east of the A46 between Stroud and Nailsworth. Bear Hill is the nearest access point from the A46. Suggest use of Winstone's web page to locate the start point more easily. SO 855 029. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Helen Furnidge

Wednesday 19 July 10am Going Back In Time

3 hours • 6 miles

Climbing from Winchcombe past Sudeley Castle and along the valley of Beesmoor Brook, then up into woods and combes, with views unfolding across the Wolds to Belas Knap. A gentle downhill return to Winchcombe.

Start: Winchcombe Back Lane car park (pay & display). SP 023 283. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 20 July 11am I Remember Adlestrop

3.5 hours • 6 miles

The walk links with the Frome Festival to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of poet Edward Thomas. The walk starts in Adlestrop with a reading of the famous poem, then along picturesque paths around the area before returning to the village, with tea available afterwards. Bring packed lunch.

Start: Adlestrop Village Hall, donation requested. SP 241 272. Map square: G3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Saturday 22 July 10am Exploring Little Known Valleys To Misarden Park

6 hours • 10 miles

Exploring this little known valley towards Caudle Green, dropping down into the Misarden Park towards the arboretum and lake. Returning via New Seal Wood and Climperwell. Pub snacks available or bring a packed lunch.

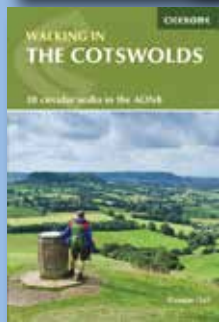
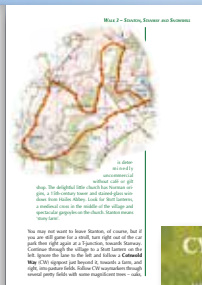
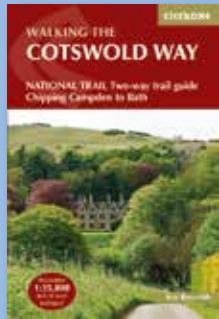
Start: Village of Birdlip. Near to the school along the disused road. East of the village. SO 931 142. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Ted Currier, Tim Sugrue & John Shaw

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Sunday 23 July 10am

On The Edge

4.5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk along part of the Fosse Way (Roman Road) visiting Dunkerton, Combe Hay and Southstoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Odd Down Park & Ride.
 ST 733 617. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Wednesday 26 July 9:30am Hills & Houses Of The Warwickshire Cotswolds

7 hours • 12 miles

A walk of varied and interesting countryside passing two substantial country houses, Foxcote, and Hidcote with its renowned gardens. Views as far as Coventry from the highest point in Warwickshire. The walk starts with a long uphill section but otherwise reasonably level. Bring sandwiches or lunch at the Ebrington Arms.

Start: Ilmington playing fields car park.
 SP 209 440. Map square: F2.

Leader: Bryan Clifford

Wednesday 26 July 10am

Mysteries, Moggies & Humbugs

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A pleasant walk starting in the interesting village of Finstock in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. The walk is along field paths, through woodland and along quiet country lanes. Possibility of mud after prolonged wet weather. Pub lunch available afterwards at the Plough Inn.

Start: The Plough Inn, Finstock OX7 3BY.
 SP 362 162. Map square: H4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 28 July 10am The South Painswick Valley

3 hours • 6 miles

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

Start: Stroud Leisure Centre car park.
 Park at the top of the car park.
 SO 847 057. Map square: B6.

Leaders: B Chilvers, P Cluley & T Hester

August

Tuesday 1 August 10am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Tuesday 1 August 6:30pm

A Summer Evening Stroll

2 hours • 3 miles

Date for this walk will be fixed nearer the time, and posted on the website. Please check back later. A gentle walk around the park with time to find out about its history (ancient and modern), the flora and fauna. Some great views with the setting sun over the valley.

Start: Outside the Café in Crickley Hill Country Park car park charge of £1 applies (as at Jan 2017). SO 929 163.
 Map square: C4.

Leaders: B Chilvers & A N Other

Wednesday 2 August 10am

Holy Brook Valleys

3 hours • 5.8 miles

A walk through the valleys of Holy Brook and its tributaries passing through Monsell Wood with a fairly steep ascent into Fox Wood to Sudgrove then back via Throgham. Walk starts in Van der Breen St which is opposite the Stirrup Cup pub. Park considerably in the village.

Start: Bisley. Van der Breen St (turn opp Stirrup Cup pub). Park at King George V field or in the village. SO 905 060.
 Map square: C5.

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





Friday 4 August 10:30am Wardens' Walk for BBC's 'Children in Need' Appeal

3 hours • 4 miles

Join us with your children for an easy walk at a slow pace in Newark park, by kind permission of the National Trust, with the option of an additional "buggy" friendly walk through quiet lanes. Picnic in the parkland in front of the house afterwards to make a day out!

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

Leaders: Eric Brown, Helen Furmidge, David Harrowin & Derrick Hildersley

Tuesday 8 August 10am Hidden Shipton Under Wychwood Exposed

3.5 hours • 4 miles

During this short walk around Shipton under Wychwood we shall discover there is more to this charming village than at first appears. Its amazing history will be revealed with a unique opportunity to visit many of its buildings and businesses on the way. Lunch options at end of walk.

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

Leader: Gerald Simper

Thursday 10 August 10am Three Hills & A Devil!

5 hours • 9 miles

We first climb up to Cam Peak and Cam Long Down for magnificent views of the Severn Vale and beyond. Visit the outstanding iron age hill fort at Uley Bury before a well earned lunch and a gentle walk back through beech woodland. Packed lunch, pub stop for drink only.

Start: Dursley Town Hall. ST 757 981. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Helen Furmidge & Nigel Meredith

Friday 11 August 9.45am Friday Foray – Northleach Circular, Via Hampnett and Yanworth

3 hours • 6 miles

Northleach, Hampnett, Yanworth, and return. A few stiles, some short steep banks in places. Otherwise generally good, wide tracks, and quiet roads Post code GL54 3JH. Car sharing helpful. Please use uphill side of car park. Opportunities for lunch in Northleach. Discount to walkers at the Old Prison Cafe.

Start: Old Prison (Cotswold Conservation Board offices), Northleach. Car sharing helpful. SP 109 149. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Brian Chapman, Steve Pascoe, Sue Proctor & Helen Watkinson

Friday 11 August 10am Romans & Cavaliers

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

From the Avon valley on the SW edge of the AONB this walk climbs via North Stoke to tour the 1643 Civil War Battle of Lansdown site. Not suitable for Pushchairs. Bring a packed lunch; later pub stop in Upton Cheyney if you wish.

Start: Swineford Picnic Area car park. ST 691 693. Map square: A10.

Leaders: David Le Lohe & Rob Morley

Sunday 13 August 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 historic points of interest along the way. No park admission fees for those participating in the walk. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: Fred Dugan & John Walker



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Fosse Way, Northleach, Glos, GL54 3JH

Sunday 13 August 2:30pm In Search of Old Mont

2.5 hours • 4 miles

A circular walk through Fulwell and Clevely visiting places associated with "Old "Mont Abbott, Enstone carter and shepherd made famous by Sheila Stewart's book "Lifting the Latch."

Start: Enstone, Please park tidily near the cemetery on the minor road to Little Tew. SP 381 251. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Monday 14 August 10am Three Villages and Two Ways

5 hours • 8.5 miles

An undulating walk from Tresham to Ozleworth and on past Newark Park to a viewpoint for a lunch stop. The walk continues via the Cotswold Way to Hillesley and returns to the start using the Cotswold Way and the Monarch's Way. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Parking on the roadside in Tresham village; please park considerately. Tresham is approximately one mile from the A46, 7 miles south of Nailsworth and 7 miles north of M4 J18. ST 793 912. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Les Jones & Derrick Hildersley

Tuesday 15 August 10am Salt, Pepper, Apples and Pears

4 hours • 7 miles

This is a circular walk from Winchcombe, gradually ascending the Cotswold Scarp and following the Winchcombe Way onto the Saltway before ascending to Hailes and returning to Winchcombe via the Cotswold Way. This is classic Cotswold walking encompassing rolling pasture, national footpaths and impressive views. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Winchcombe Back Lane car park £1.00 per day. SP 024 285. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Paul Clark, John Pearson & John Smith

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Autumn Eye of the Cotswolds by Anthony Paul Inwood

Wednesday 16 August 10am
Views Of California (Farm!)

3 hours • 6 miles

Climb to the top of the escarpment in the SE corner of Cheltenham, visit ancient Lineover Wood and enjoy extensive views of Cheltenham, the Malverns and Severn Vale. Includes one mile of residential road walking and two moderate climbs. Parking by kind permission of the school.

Start: Balcarras School, East End Road, Charlton Kings. SO 971 204.
Map square: D4.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

Thursday 17 August 10am
A Cotswold Safari

3 6 hours • 10.5 miles

An exploration of the lovely countryside & villages of Stanton and Snowhill. Our route takes us up and down the scarp, climbing 500 metres, giving spectacular views of the Malverns and over to Oxfordshire.

Start: Stanton village car park (free). SP 067 344. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Friday 18 August 10am
From Eastleach Down Through Southrop

2.5 hours • 5.4 miles

A walk around Eastleach and the churches, down through Fyfield and Southrop and back via Hammersmith Bottom Lunch options in the Victoria PH Eastleach or in Fairford.

Start: Victoria PH Eastleach Park. Parking in pub car park or nearby. SP 198 052.
Map square: F6.

Leaders: T Hester, P Cluley & B Chilvers

Friday 18 August 10am
Coffee Morning Walk No. 5, 'Good Hunting Country'

4 hours • 3.5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30, taking us to Upper Kilcote via Chuch Wood and Small Combe. We return via Lower Kilcote and the Monarch's Way Good lunches available at the pub after the walk, if required.

Start: Beaufort Arms pub, Hawkesbury Upton. The village lies to the west of the A46 close to its junction with the A433 Tetbury road. ST 777 869.
Map square: B8.

Leaders: Eric Brown & Mick Thorpe



Saturday 19 August 10am
Marshfield: Town & Country

3 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk along the High Street of this small medieval market town to the Almshouses, then taking bridleways South to Ashwicke and returning through the fields on footpaths (No stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop. Stay to enjoy Marshfield Village Day procession (2pm) and Show.

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

Leaders: David Colbourne & Sid Gould

Sunday 20 August 10:30am
A Countryside View Of The City

3 hours • 4.5 miles

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

Start: Pulteney Bridge, Bath (Opposite Victoria Art Gallery). ST 752 649.
Map square: A10.

Leaders: Pauline Vincent & Wilf Dando

Wednesday 23 August 10am
A Sibford Circuit

5 hours • 10 miles

From Sibford we go south down Ditched Lane to Traitor's Ford and then east to Swalcliffe Common and village where we take a look at the historic tithe barn. We will return to Sibford via Blenheim Farm, Chilway Farm and Burdrop. Possible pub stop but please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Holy Trinity Church, Sibford Gower OX15 5RN. SP 357 378. Map square: G2.
Leader: Janet Deller

Friday 25 August 10am
A Stroll Through Pegglesworth

3 hours • 5.7 miles

A stroll to Upper Coberley then along The Gloucestershire Way to Pegglesworth and returning along The Cotswold Way via Wistley Hill. Parking at Seven Springs Pub car park by kind permission of the Licensee, or Seven Springs lay by.

Start: The Seven Springs pub. SO 968 169. Map square: D4.

Leaders: P.Cluley, T.Hester & B.Chilvers

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Saturday 26 August 10am
Chedworth & The Coln Valley

7 hours • 11 miles

Visiting Chedworth, Coln Rogers, Coln St Dennis, Stowell Park and Chedworth Woods. A valley walk with echoes of a country at war. Pub or picnic lunch

Start: Disused Chedworth airfield, 1.5 miles NW of Chedworth on the Compton Abdale Road. SP 039 130.
Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Heathcott, John Woodland & Mike Dunning

Sunday 27 August 10am
Stroudwater Vineyards

6 hours • 10 miles

The walk descends into the Nailsworth Valley via Woodchester to see the vineyards and other places of interest then climbs up to Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons. We descend again to the Stroudwater canal towards Stonehouse and the vineyards at Doverow and return. Picnic lunch stop and pub at Amberley.

Start: Kings Stanley free car park, adjacent to the King's Head pub. SO 812 036. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Wednesday 30 August 10am
A Mystery Walk

3 hours • 6 miles

A mystery walk to mark the Bank Holiday. We will decide details nearer the time and publish on the Escape website.

Start: Please see website for update.
Leaders: John Shaw, Royden Hales & A N Other

September

Friday 1 September 10am
The Bybrook – Castle Combe To Box

7.5 hours • 7 miles

A linear walk so car share to the start from Castle Combe. An Easy walk unless it has been wet! Long Dean, Ford, and Slaughterford villages but there are some hills! Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Selwyn Hall car park, Box. ST 824 686. Map square: B10.

Leaders: John Walker & Keith Rawlings

Sunday 3 September 10am
Jason's Objective

5 hours • 9 miles

The walk takes us through Wortley to Tresham and descends an attractive valley to lunch at Hillesley. Pub stop for drink only. We return through Nind nature reserve and Kingswood to Wotton in time for an optional Town Hall Tea.

Start: Chipping car park, Wotton Under Edge. ST 756 931. Map square: C6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Chris Gill

Tuesday 5 September 10am
Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

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Friday 8 September 10am Time Travelling On Cleeve Common

3 hours • 5 miles

Cleeve Common has become the botanist's delight it is today because of centuries of human activity. This walk, with the expertise of Tim Copeland, landscape archaeologist, will show us the hidden traces of its history from the Bronze Age to World War II.

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

Leaders: Simon Mallatratt & Jean Booth

Friday 8 September 10am Friday Foray – Exploring Old Neighbourhoods

3 hours • 5.25 miles

A varied walk down through the village of Chalford into the Golden Valley, up through Oakridge Lynch and back via Bourne Green. Descent into valley is down steep steps but with handrail. There are 2 short ascents and 7 stiles. Mostly on footpaths and lanes. Lunch available at Old Neighbourhood.

Start: Old Neighbourhood Inn Chalford Hill Stroud. with permission from the landlord. SO 895 031. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Sue Proctor, Brian Chapman & Steve Pascoe

Saturday 9 September 10am 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 picnic. Some car sharing, please refer to website.

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

Leader: Mandy Warwick

Saturday 9 September 10:30am Dyrham: Park & Countryside

2.5 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: John Bartram & Philippe Apchin

Tuesday 12 September 6pm Blenheim Estate: Of Kings, Queens and Heroes

2 hours • 4 miles

This short walk on public rights of way around the Blenheim Estate looks for traces of its historic past. From Henry II & his mistress to Princess Elizabeth 1st, the Dukes of Marlborough and more Recently Sir Winston Churchill.

Start: Hensington Road free car park Woodstock OX20 1JF. SP 448 168. Map square: H4.

Leader: Anne Martis

Wednesday 13 September 10am Woodland Circuit Via Coopers Hill

3 hours • 5 miles

A stretching very scenic woodland ramble with some steeper ascents out to Coopers Hill and up to the Nature reserve. Then back along the Cotswold Way and return via Painswick stream.

Start: Cranham roadside by the school. SO 896 130. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw & Graham Saunders

Saturday 16 September 10am Rivers, Old Canals and Cotswold Hills

6 hours • 10 miles

A walk covering a varied landscape. Passing through Stroud's historic mills and restored canal system. Skirting the western Cotswolds near to Stonehouse then climbing to the hilltop villages of Randwick and Whiteshill. Pub snacks available or bring a packed lunch.

Start: Stratford Park Leisure Centre Park, (Meet at the far end). Stroud. GL5 4AF off the A46. SO 844 057. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Ted Currier, Tim Sugrue & John Shaw

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Saturday 16 September 10am Walking The Centuries

6 hours • 11 miles

A walk through the villages, inhabited and deserted, exploring life in the area across the centuries from Neolithic times to present day. Lunch available at Hailes Fruit Farm.

Start: Temple Guiting Village Hall car park. SP 090 279. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Friday 22 September 10am Railway, River, Relics and Writers

3 hours • 5.5 miles

Starting in the pleasant village of Kingham this walk rarely loses sight of the River Evenlode which inspired a couple of writers in the early 20th-century. Also on the walk is the opportunity to visit a church which features in Simon Jenkins book "Englands 1000 Best Churches."

Start: Car park in Kingham next to the school OX7 6YD. SP 261 241. Map square: G4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Saturday 23 September 9:30am Rule Britannia

6 hours • 11 miles

The walk passes through a local estate near Temple Guiting. Our focus will be on its early 19th-century listed barn, horse-engine house and farmhouse. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Temple Guiting village hall car park. SP 090 279. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

Saturday 23 September 10am Sherston To Castle Combe Along The Macmillan Way

5 hours • 8 miles

Car share to the start of the walk in Sherston. We follow one of the branches of the Bristol river Avon to Luckington and then Littleton Drew before entering the Burton Brook valley, which becomes the Bybrook at Castle Combe. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Castle Combe car park. ST 846 777. Map square: C7.

Leaders: John Walker & David Whitnell

Sunday 24 September 10am Hiking Through History. Life In The Roman Cotswolds 3

5 hours • 11.5 miles

Discover the story of the Romans in the Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Great Wolford Parish Church. SP 250 345. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday 24 September 10am Walking The Line!

4.5 hours • 8 miles

A circular walk from Wellow to Combe Hay, using the disused Camerton to Limpley Stoke line and the Somerset and Dorset line. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but fine for families.

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

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Wednesday 27 September 10am The High Road & Low Road

2.5 hours • 5 miles

A steep ascent from the Painswick valley leads to the Frith and hence along the ridge to Wickridge Hill and Hawkwood with views of both the Slad and Painswick valleys. Returning to Painswick along the river.

Start: Stammages Lane car park (Pay & Display) Painswick. SO 866 095. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Tony Duffin & Mike Williams

Wednesday 27 September 9:30am Exploring Nottingham Hill

3.5 hours • 7.5 miles

A varied walk from Cleeve Hill to discover its less visited but only slightly smaller neighbour, Nottingham Hill. This spur off the main Cotswold ridge offers fine views across the Severn Valley towards the Malverns and Wales.

Start: Cleeve Hill Quarry car park. turn off B4632 at the summit, signposted Golf Club, down narrow track over cattle grid, left and right into car park. SO 989 271. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Martin & Linda Blackwell

Friday 29 September 10am 3 Cotswold Churches

3 hours • 6.6 miles

A walk around 3 Cotswold Churches in Northleach, Farmington, and Hampnett. A longer walk with moderate climbs but can be more strenuous if wet underfoot. Good lunch options in Northleach. Discount on food for walkers in the Lion Cafe.

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

Leaders: B Chilvers, T Hester & P Cluley



Crickley Hill, Leigh Coisins

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