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COTSWOLD LION

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE COTSWOLDS AREA OF
OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY



Cotswolds
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

JANUARY – JUNE 2018
ISSUE 38

So much more than a view



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

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

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Front cover image:
Cotswold Wardens walk on Crickley Hill by Nick Turner.

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WELCOME TO THE COTSWOLD LION



Hares, landscape legends and the secret people of the Cotswolds



Chris Brant

Welcome to the January – June 2018 edition of the Cotswold Lion, your go to magazine for the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Inside this issue, we report on the return of the popular Cotswolds Hare Trail with a new supporter and theme for 2018 –

the Cotswolds Conservation Board is supporting the trail to raise greater awareness and funds for the Cotswolds AONB. The Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail will feature the much loved 5ft hare sculptures in a moongazing design along with a growing number of leverets. It will run from 22 May to 9 September and hares will be dotted in and around the Cotswolds AONB (page 16).

Where there's a tump there's a tale and ancient stones hold secrets: people have always woven stories to make sense of the landscape, as we discover (page 4). Stretch your legs and imagination with ideas for walks!

The 'Secret People of the Cotswolds', the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens are an important part of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, who work hard throughout the year to enhance and maintain the areas that they live in and around. The 400-strong group are celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2018, marking half a decade of dedication to conserving the Cotswolds landscape (page 10).

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

Chris

Chris Brant, *Editor*

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Enjoy a free day out to the Cotswold Farm Park near Guiting Power, Gloucestershire. Meet the farm animals and see the stunning landscape around the park. Based on 2 adults and 2 children.

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Deadline 1 June 2018.



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Belas Knap, once thought to house fairies

Nick Turner

Where there's a tump there's a tale and ancient stones hold secrets: people have always woven stories to make sense of the landscape. Why not take your imagination for a stroll?

While scientists may say that Meon Hill in Warwickshire became detached from the Cotswold escarpment through millennia of erosion, legend has another colourful explanation. On a walk when the skies turn dark and thunder threatens, it is easy to picture the scene: that the Devil, furious at the 8th-century founding of Evesham Abbey, hurled a giant clod of earth to destroy it. But proving the power of prayer, St Egwin deflected the missile, which landed to make Meon Hill.

There's something deeply appealing about folk tales woven around Cotswold landmarks and (super)natural phenomena: a shared sense of wonder and magic that connects us

imaginatively as well as physically with our surroundings. As winter mists dissolve familiar landscapes before your eyes, or spring and summer sun plays tricks with shadows, let the stories roll with your rambles.

Devil in the detail

The Devil is certainly in the detail of our landscapes! Two more westerly 'outliers', Cam Long Down and Cam Peak, are also claimed to be the handiwork of Old Nick, who planned to dam the River Severn and drown all the pious people in the Vale below. Unable to find the river, and outwitted by a canny cobbler who suggested he would wear out countless boots if he kept on searching, the Devil gave up and dumped his giant barrow load of earth where he stood.

Another dark deed is commemorated by the Devil's Chimney on Leckhampton Hill, where Old Nick once sat lobbing stones at the churchgoing faithful below. As the Evil One wrestled a particularly heavy rock from the earth, it set an avalanche tumbling down to bury him – the curious Devil's Chimney limestone outcrop marking the spot. Others may say the pillar derives from quarrying operations, but whatever the truth, Leckhampton Hill is a great place to picnic while enjoying panoramic views.



Meon Hill, Warwickshire



Evesham Abbey Bell Tower

Walking with witches

With your mindset still on myths, take a wander along the Cotswold Way above Winchcombe to Belas Knap, believed in medieval times to house fairies. Later excavations, of course, revealed that the big, brooding Neolithic long barrow in fact contained skeletal remains of several dozen people.

It's not the only ancient manmade monument that has puzzled later generations. The funerary bowl barrow known as Nan Tow's Tump, beside the A46 road at Oldbury on the Hill, was said to be the resting place of a witch, Nan Tow, who was buried standing upright inside.

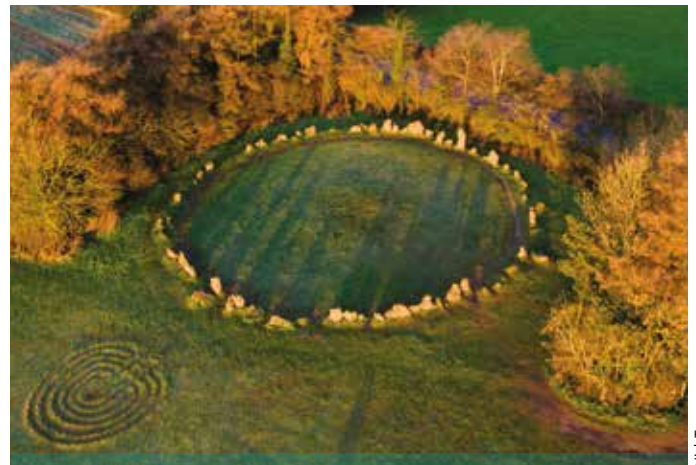
Most spellbinding of all is the tale that the eerie, lichen-covered Neolithic/Bronze Age Rollright Stones near Chipping Norton, far from being a prehistoric ritual site, are none other than a king and his men turned to stone after a witch tricked the unfortunate ruler in a wager:

"Seven long strides shalt thou take, And if Long Compton thou canst see, King of all England thou shalt be." On the noble's seventh stride the ground rose up to hide the view and the cackling hag cast her spell.



Devil's Chimney – where Old Nick got buried?

Nick Turner



Rollright Stones – ritual site or bewitched king's men?

Nick Turner

Fighting and phantoms

Talking of kings, we have Charles I to thank for naming Paradise near Painswick. Weary from Civil War, he reputedly climbed Painswick Beacon, gazed down on the beautiful valley and sighed: "This must be paradise". And so valley and hamlet have been known ever since.

Indeed, it seems the King and his Cavaliers have been reluctant to leave the Cotswolds, which witnessed numerous Civil War battles. Phantom sightings over the years have ranged from a headless King Charles at Chavenage House, Tetbury, to a Cavalier at the bar of The White Hart Royal Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh.

It has even been claimed there are more ghosts per acre in the Cotswolds than anywhere else in the country with, curiously, many to be found in pubs. But that's another story. Jokes about 'spirits' aside, relaxing over refreshments in a cosy inn after a walk through legendary Cotswold landscapes is the perfect end to a day out.



Painswick Beacon

Christopher Hargreaves



Chavenage House

Trails with tales

Stretch your legs and imagination following walks downloadable from www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk, including: The Magic of the Rollright Stones for tales of the witch and the king (5.25 miles); Ilmington and the Roof of Warwickshire for the story of the 'healing well' that could have turned Ilmington into a spa (3.75 miles).

Rambles along the Cotswold Way include the 5.25-mile circular Winchcombe and Belas Knap Walk, www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way.

Green Walking

Three classic Cotswolds strolls easily reached via public transport (consult recommended maps and/or guidebook below for more detailed route descriptions).



The King's Men Stone Circle – count the stones and make a wish!

Long Compton and the Rollright Stones

Distance/time 11km (7 miles), 4hrs (plus 1km/20min detour to Stones). Catch a bus to Long Compton from Banbury, Barton-on-the-Heath, Chipping Norton, Stratford-upon-Avon, Shipston-on-Stour (but do check ahead as services are limited). Maps OS Landranger 151, Explorer 191.

Valleys at the northern edge of the Cotswolds are broader than classic V-shapes elsewhere. But the area has an agreeable character of its own, and more compellingly, the Cotswolds' most impressive stone circle, a place of mystery and legend. A circuit from Long Compton of these three ancient stone arrangements includes plenty of field walking and one sustained climb. But there are good views and navigation is mostly easy.

The Whispering Knights Burial Chamber dates to the early Neolithic era, around 4,000–3,000BC. There are similar examples in Cornwall, Wales and

Ireland and it seems it was designed to impress. Bones were deposited here well into the Bronze Age and legend has it the stones were knights plotting against their king, so a witch turned them all into stone.

The King's Men Stone Circle is the highlight of the history and mystery tour of the Cotswolds and the ceremonial circle probably dates from the late Neolithic period. The pitted stones are irregularly spaced around a 30m diameter and some of the lichens are thought to be 400–800 years old. It's the easternmost stone circle in Britain and there are similar circles in the Lake District, Ireland and Wales. There are around 70 stones – it's thought originally there were 105 – and if you can count them three times in a row and get the same total you're the lucky recipient of... a wish. The age of the large, lonely King Stone nearby is unclear, as is its purpose. However it's probably from the middle Bronze Age. Like Stonehenge's Hele Stone it points towards the rising sun.

Painswick, Edge and Painswick Beacon

Distance/time 12km (7.5 miles), 4hrs. Regular buses from Stroud and Cheltenham. Maps OS Landranger 162, Explorer 179.

A circuit of Painswick, Edge and Painswick Beacon features two charming, quiet valleys – including possibly the friendliest in the Cotswolds (Holcombe) – before an assault on spectacular Painswick Beacon. The summit offers full 360-degree views and dramatic remains of Iron Age fortifications, arguably the finest in the region. The route incorporates lanes, field walking and quite a few hills, mostly short and sharp.

Painswick, mentioned in the Domesday Book, the whitest of all oolitic limestone villages, prospered from both wool and cloth with at least 25 mills in the valley. Today it's full of stylish 17th-century buildings, while the churchyard is famous for the tabletombs, iron village stocks and its manicured, lollipop yew trees, planted in 1792. Legend says there are 99 and if a hundredth one is planted it, or another one, dies. Victorian poet Sydney Dobell is buried here and the church has Civil War scars from fire and canon balls. Each September there's a clipping (from the Saxon word



Painswick Beacon



The view to Painswick



‘ycleping’) ceremony where locals join hands around the church singing hymns. Painswick Beacon is home to the enthralling remains of Kimsbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort dating from around 400BC to AD43. Two, maybe three lines of ramparts and ditches can still be clearly seen, while the interior was living quarters. The vantage point was also used as a camp in 1052 by Earl Godwyn, a Saxon leader fighting the Earl of Mercia, and again in 1643 by retreating Royalist forces after the Siege of Gloucester. Despite the Romans possibly having quarried stone here to build Gloucester, and a golf course having been idiotically built here too, this is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Site of Special Scientific Interest due

to the unfarmed limestone grasslands. Look out for wildflowers, including musk orchids, and butterflies, such as marbled white, chalkhill blue, brown argus and grizzled skipper.

Bath Skyline

Distance 9.5km (6 miles), 3hrs.

Trains to Bath from Bristol and London; City Sightseeing bus from Bath Spa station (alight American Museum), or City Centre to Bath University; cycle 1 mile from Bath city centre. Maps OS Landranger 172, Explorer 155.

Walks near cities that make you feel nowhere near a city are walks to be treasured. But when views of brick and tarmac are unavoidable, there’s not

a more handsome city in England to have to look at than World Heritage-listed Bath. The Georgian city’s tasteful terraces and bountiful syrupy goodness sit in a natural bowl of seven hills, rather like Rome, and this stroll offers gorgeous views of it all (well, if you ignore the ugly giant gasometer), plus wildflower-dotted meadows, quiet woods, little hidden valleys and a fake castle. It’s very well signposted (look for circular white markers), with a few short sharp hills. Look for wild cowslip and knapweed – which attracts the black and white wings of the marbled white butterfly.

*Damian Hall (www.damianhall.info) is an outdoor journalist and author of *Walking in the Cotswolds: 30 Classic Hill and Valley Routes* (Cicerone).*



It’s well worth the climb to enjoy gorgeous views of the World Heritage City of Bath

Save our Magnificent Meadows



The three-year Save our Magnificent Meadows project may have ended but its legacies are set to continue.



Deborah Roberts



© Daniel Greenwood



© Eleanor Reast

Eleanor Reast, Magnificent Meadows Conservation Officer, recalls a scene right at the beginning of the project when a farmer from a village near Stroud offered wildflower seed to be harvested from his meadow, to be broadcast on four nearby sites:

“The grandchildren of one of the landowners had come to help and I watched them playing, sinking their hands into the seed that had just been harvested. I knew that in a couple of months’ time they would also be helping to scatter the seed on their grandparents’ field. There was such a great community feeling.”

It was a good omen for how the project, launched in 2014, would capture imaginations. In just three years 854ha of grassland have been restored throughout the Cotswolds, while 156ha have been brought back into management. Connections have been made with more than 260 landowners and farmers, and volunteers have clocked up nearly 5,000 hours.

“The project has been really successful nationally and locally,” Eleanor says. “We’ve exceeded a lot of our targets.”

Inspiring landowners and volunteers

Primarily Heritage Lottery Funded, the £3m Save our Magnificent Meadows (SoMM) national project was launched to counteract the decline of wildflower-rich grasslands: since the 1930s, 97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost, a result largely of changes in land management practices. Yet the habitat such grasslands provides for pollinators, and for the bugs and beetles that feed many birds and mammals, is a crucial part of a biodiverse, healthy landscape.

Even in the Cotswolds, which has over half of the country’s flower-rich Jurassic limestone grassland, sites are fragmented and so wildlife can’t move between them. Working with landowners and farmers, particularly along the scarp edge and river valleys (including the Evenlode and Windrush), the SoMM team has sought to boost connectivity, harvesting 11 donor sites to seed 20 further sites.

Eleanor has been truly heartened by “the inspiring farmers and landowners I have met along the way that are totally committed to increasing the biodiversity of their land.”

Nine landowner workshops on grassland management best practice drew 154 participants and, after a talk by Eleanor, landowners near Bath were so galvanised that they immediately formed a local wildflower meadow support group. “It was brilliant, it made my week,” she recalls.

Hundreds of people have enjoyed guided walks and talks, and there have been 19 training courses for volunteers, with 186 attendees. Volunteers have got stuck into activities ranging from scrub management to botanical surveys and scything.

Community Champions have also impressed Eleanor with their efforts, whether hosting a photography exhibition to raise awareness of the importance of limestone grassland in the area, or creating a bumblebee-friendly border at the health centre in Chipping Norton that has provided a template for people to follow in their gardens.



Continuing the work

Three years is a very short time in the life of a meadow and patience is needed in waiting to see results on sites that have been reseeded. Nevertheless, signs are encouraging, Eleanor says. Yellow rattle, which suppresses grass growth and helps to open up sward for more delicate wildflowers to come through, is showing well, and meadow delights like pink sainfoin have been appearing too.

A key objective has been to ensure that work continues beyond the three-year funding of SoMM. "There are now three Landowner Champions and four Community Champions

to help take things forward, and we have trained 12 botanical recorders to feed species information back to landowners and the Cotswolds Conservation Board," Eleanor says.

"The seed harvester can be rented out for a nominal fee, and we've trained up a number of Cotswold Voluntary Wardens in scything.

"Landowners can get lots of best practice advice from the SoMM national website and we have also encouraged people to volunteer with local wildlife trusts or take an interest in Back from the Brink limestone grasslands project [helping to bring the Large Blue and Marsh Fritillary butterflies to new Cotswold sites].

"National Meadows Day, on the first Saturday of July, has been a great success, and we hope that will continue too."

While Eleanor's role with SoMM has presently ended, she is determined to keep in touch with future efforts. "So much has been achieved already and so many people have been enthused to keep things going."

For further information, visit Save our Magnificent Meadows www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk or Visit the Cotswolds Conservation Board website at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

What's next...

Glorious Grassland is a new project seeking new funding opportunities to continue the work of SoMM. If you are an organisation and would like to support this new project please email Mark.Connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



Working hard behind the scenes of the Cotswolds for 50 years

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty hasn't got its name for nothing, but it's a little known fact that there is a special force working to keep it so stunningly attractive. Sometimes called 'the Secret People of the Cotswolds', the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens are an important part of the Cotswolds Conservation Board who work hard throughout the year to enhance and maintain the areas that they live in and around. The 400-strong group are celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2018, marking half a decade of dedication to the landscape and wildlife of the wonderful Cotswold countryside.

The Cotswolds were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1966 and Major Ray Clarke was appointed as Head Warden of a newly formed Voluntary Warden Service in 1968. The group launched with an aim – 'a desire that the Cotswolds be preserved from all forms of physical damage and their beauty left unspoilt by the thoughtlessness of man' – which still remains firmly at the heart of Wardens' activities today. The Cotswolds

Conservation Board's Volunteer co-ordinator Rebecca Jones, who has worked closely with the Wardens since 1994, has witnessed the group's enthusiasm for their project first hand.

"Last year the group gave over 48,000 hours of their time. They led 330 guided walks, worked with schools to involve the next generation in caring for the area, improved rights of way and created stile-free routes and self-guided walks so people can enjoy the countryside.

They have improved scheduled ancient monuments such as Iron Age hillforts and barrows, cleared limestone grasslands of scrub, coppiced woodland and planted trees. There is at least one work party going out somewhere in the Cotswolds almost every day of the week, and Wardens work with local parishes and act as a contact, walking the paths and feeding back any potential projects locally needed."

Anyone can join the Wardens, with



Nick Turner



Nick Turner



Nick Turner



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Join in on a special
50th anniversary Cotswold Voluntary
Warden's walk – see page 19.

no more qualification needed than an enthusiasm for the Cotswolds and a willingness to roll up your sleeves and put some time in to keeping the Cotswolds special, which has attracted a wide variety of volunteers over the years. In return for their commitment to the group, Wardens are rewarded with training, talks, events, travel expenses and a sense of achievement and belonging.

"I have worked with the Wardens since 1994 and so have worked with many people during this time," says Rebecca. "I have had the privilege of working in the early days with Wardens who fought in World War 2 and survived as the rear gunner of a Lancaster Bomber and as prisoners of war. Whatever their background, whether as teachers, engineers or managing directors, all volunteers work towards the common goal of looking after the Cotswolds, plus the social and health benefits of

volunteering are huge."

With more members than ever before, the Wardens certainly have plenty to celebrate and this will be reflected in the 50th anniversary events that will be taking place throughout 2018. "The focus for the anniversary

"Last year the group gave over 48,000 hours of their time. They led 330 guided walks, worked with schools to involve the next generation in caring for the area..."

is education," says Rebecca. "Wardens will be contacting local primary schools to introduce them to a new folder of activities, and a local artist will visit ten schools to work with them on the natural environment. Wardens will be celebrating their skills and ethos with everything from the creation of an 8-mile route for Trampers (a type of off-road mobility scooter) to the interpretation of an Iron Age hillfort. On June 23rd they will honour their

achievements at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester with some of the founding members from the 60s and 70s including Barbara Blatchley, Jill Simmons and Fred Wood."

With so much Cotswold countryside to look after and share with the public, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens always have an eye on the future, however much they are devoted to preserving the past, and new members are very

welcome. The team are particularly keen to recruit more guided walk leaders, parish wardens and people interested in education, to introduce a whole new generation to the delights of the Cotswolds AONB and make sure the next 50 years are as fruitful as the last.

For more information take a look at the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or email Rebecca on Rebecca.Jones@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.



A FIELD TO FORK FEAST IN THE COTSWOLDS

Oolitic sedimentary rock may not sound particularly promising for a foodie feast but our flower rich limestone grasslands underpin many a fine meal. Cattle, deer, lamb and pigs thrive on our Wolds' grazing and forage, while chefs gain inspiration from the wonderfully varied produce our landscape provides. From Gloucester Old Spot pork to Cotswold lamb and game, and apples and plums from our orchards, there are many delicious temptations.

A field to fork feasting day across the Cotswolds AONB offers copious tasty options; luckily there are plenty of great walks in between our cafés, breweries, pop-ups, distilleries, restaurants and gastro-pubs, so there's chance to generate a healthy appetite – and an excuse to stop off at a deli or farm shop for picnic supplies!

The golden yolks of CackleBean eggs (from rare-breed, very free-range flocks near Stow-on-the-Wold) feature on many of the best breakfast menus as do local pork sausage. The Jolly Nice

Café, complete with Airstream caravan and cosy yurts is a lovely breakfast pit-stop run by third generation farmers (their own livestock graze the meadow behind the café), produce from other local farmers and young innovative entrepreneurs are also championed here. The breakfast butties and coffee are wonderful and Minchinhampton Common is just up the road to walk off that rare-breed bacon.

Strolling across the common you may see cattle grazing – it is one of the few remaining areas of the UK that

is still registered common land and grazing animals are an intrinsic part of the ancient grassland management. Afterwards, you can sample fabulous dairy produce from the area in the Woefulthane Organic dairy café in Minchinhampton's Market Square. Creamy milk in churns, award winning cheeses, scrummy yoghurt and rich butter are all family produced from cow to counter; Dad Jon milks the Jersey and Dairy Shorthorn cows three miles away, Mum Melissa makes the scrumptious organic cheese and son Henry runs the café/shop.

For a picnic lunch, some of the farmer's markets across the Cotswolds, including Winchcombe, Stroud and Stow-on-the-Wold, are a great places to chat to producers while picking up freshly harvested or cooked food. There's an eclectic range including meat, preserves, honey, maybe Hobbs House bread, local cider and cheese.

Farm shops and delis abound for picnic provisions too – try Fillet & Bone in Chipping Campden for Cotswold charcuterie including Salt Pig salami and fabulous Bertinet bread. The field to fork philosophy here combined with impeccable taste means you'll be tempted by St Eadburgha cheese (as creamily delectable as any French cheese but made near Broadway), locally made meat and pork pies, pickles and seasonal fruit/veggies. A fruit & vegetable exchange scheme encourages locals to swap garden



Field, fillet to folk



Cotswolds Distillery - from an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

gluts for deli vouchers. Local farmers Drinkwaters supply fruit and vegetables – their own farm shop/café, Vegetable Matters at Ebrington is also worth a stop, perhaps for a bowl of home-made soup while enjoying the view across rolling farmland.

Now it's lunchtime and we're in Ebrington, it would be rude not to pop into the cosy Ebrington Arms for a pint of Yubby at the Sunday Times top village pub 2017.

Heading east past Shipston-on-Stour, the Cotswolds Distillery offers great gin tasting tours all in a cosy Cotswold cottage/barn. Gin is suddenly ubiquitous and there are numerous varieties to choose from but Cotswold gin is uniquely delicious. Now the first casks

of whisky are mature – all made from local, organic barley and with a Whisky Harvest festival held to celebrate.

Nearby at Hook Norton the brewery always offers tours with the chance to learn about its history and hear how 'Hooky' beer is made.

If afternoon tea is more your thing, Dormy House above Broadway offers a gorgeous variety, in a setting which manages to be both cosy and stylishly civilised.

You'll definitely want more outdoor exercise to work up an appetite for dinner; whether heading for a gastro-pub or restaurant, you'll find there are many innovative Cotswold chefs who are still letting our local ingredients shine. At Wild Garlic in Nailsworth everything is

made on the premises, from the pasta to the organic bread. The Feathered Nest Inn at Nether Westcote has an inventive menu, featuring wild local ingredients including damsons, wild boar or roe deer with juniper. Or you could head to The Wild Rabbit at Kingham, where organic ingredients from Daylesford's farm and kitchen garden (courgettes with their flowers or dry aged beef cooked over charcoal) are cooked superbly.

In late spring, supper could be enjoyed under the stars. Scoff locally sourced food under canvas at Gifford Circus' magical Circus Sauce. Or munch wood-fired pizzas from the open kitchen at Thistledown Farm's Fieldfare café, with dusk views over the Woodchester valley to round off a Cotswold foodie day.



Grown at Daylesford, served at the Wild Rabbit

HART OF TRADITION



Hart Silversmiths, off Sheep Street, is exactly the sort of business you dream of finding in a Cotswold town like Chipping Campden: a workshop scarcely altered since 1902; pitted wooden benches and racks festooned with tools; decades-old invoices hanging from hooks in the beamed ceiling.



Keeping traditions alive

Paul Felix

“The family has worked here for over 100 years, using the same tools, techniques and traditions that have always been used,” says fourth generation silversmith William Hart.

The workshop is the last operating remnant of the Guild of Handicraft established in 1888 by C R Ashbee, a devotee of William Morris. Like the wider Arts & Crafts movement, the Guild aimed to revive ideals of hand-working that had fallen by the wayside following the Industrial Revolution. And like Morris, Ashbee believed the fresh air and rural beauty of the Cotswolds (and plentiful cheap if dilapidated housing) offered perfect conditions for such craftsmanship to thrive.

“They called Ashbee a romantic socialist,” William says. “He was very much into looking after his workers and he decided the grime of London [where he had initially set up] wasn’t a good environment for making things, so he uprooted the Guild.” Some 150 people, silversmiths to jewellers and cabinetmakers and their families,

descended on Chipping Campden.

While Ashbee and others would later drift away, George Hart stayed, running the gold and silversmith workshop and passing his skills to his son Henry; who taught his son David, who taught his son William (who joined the business in 1990). Today David, William and his cousin Julian Hart, and Derek Elliott work here.

The team specialises in handcrafted domestic silverware, including cutlery and tea services. They also design and make ecclesiastical and civic silver. “Every day is different,” William says.

Visitors are welcome to watch them working: from the cutting of sheets of sterling silver, to hand-raising and hammering shapes according to designs agreed with customers. The silver is frequently heated over a flame.

“Every time you hammer the silver it hardens, so if you don’t heat it up it will crack,” William says. “If I’m making a teapot, I might heat it up red hot about 30 times to soften it, each time letting it cool naturally before I can hammer it again – we’ve around 100 different hammers. It takes six or seven days to make a teapot. You need a good eye and lots of patience.”

‘Planishing’ creates hand-hammered, shimmering facets on a teapot, before it is stamped GofH (Guild of Handicraft), hallmarked (at the Assay Office London) and given a final polish.

“There aren’t many places that haven’t changed in more than 100 years and have been run by the same family for four generations,” William says. “It is something that is unique.”

www.hartsilversmiths.co.uk



William ensconced in Hart’s atmospheric workshop

Paul Felix



PIECE BY PIECE

BUILDING WALLS

Why learning dry stone walling techniques is more popular than ever.

Like a huge silvery-grey spider web, 4,000 miles (6,437km) of dry stone walls crisscross the Cotswolds AONB. Their manner of construction, using the very same limestone you'd find in the ground beneath them, dates all the way back to 3,000BC.

The earliest known Cotswold dry stone walling is at Belas Knap, near Winchcombe, built by our Neolithic ancestors. Mostly though, the region's signature walls were built in the 18th and 19th centuries, when large tracts of land were controversially enclosed.

Serving primarily as boundary markers and stock barriers, dry stone walls also double as wildlife corridors. Slow worms, bees, wasps, wrens, wheatears and little owls all thrive in them. Mosses, lichens, pennywort, cranesbill all grow in them.

Naturally, over time many walls have fallen into disrepair, while the skills for making and maintaining them have also tumbled by the wayside. The good news is that Cotswolds AONB dry stone walling courses, for both beginners and improvers, are more popular than ever.

"Dry stone walling offers the opportunity to learn a traditional skill," says Edward Bonn, the Cotswolds

Conservation Board's Rural Skills and Grants Officer.

As much art as science, building a dry stone wall without mortar relies on the careful placement of stones. Done well, a wall will stand for 100 years or more. "Participants have the chance to restore these landscape features, using the skills learnt during the course," says Edward. "Learning these techniques also deepens appreciation of the landscape."

The basic techniques for restoring a straightforward field wall can be taught over a weekend. "However, there's a huge range of more advanced techniques to learn."

Participants can achieve professional qualifications in dry stone walling through the Cotswolds AONB's dry stone walling academy and there

is currently a high demand for professional wallers.

"A number of participants complete walling courses and become professional dry stone wallers," says Edward. "One of our instructors started in this manner, and now runs a successful walling business."

For more on dry stone walling and other rural skills courses, visit www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

As much art as science, building a dry stone wall without mortar relies on the careful placement of stones. Done well, a wall will stand for 100 years or more.

WALKING & EXPLORING EVENT GUIDE

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



Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail

Across the Cotswolds AONB

22 May – 9 September

The 2018 Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail will feature the much loved 5ft sculptures in the popular moongazing design along with a growing number of leverets. The hares will be dotted in and around the whole of the Cotswolds AONB. They will be decorated to celebrate the 'Living Landscapes of the Cotswolds' and feature work by many local artists both amateur and professional. This highly popular event will introduce visitors to hidden corners of the Cotswolds as they search out the hares.

Passports will be available so you can spot them all – will you be a selfie winner this summer? This year organisers will be inviting 'harers' to write a blog of their searches and how they've got on.

Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail Showcase 1

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

Tuesday 27 March

The hares will be previewed at this special showcase event when you will get a glimpse of them for the very first time. Watch out for details of this and the launch event on 22 May, and keep an eye on social media and our website for regular updates.

www.cotswoldsharetrail.org.uk



FEBRUARY

Snowdrops 2

February – March

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



MARCH

Stars & Supper 3

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

Late March

An astronomical evening with the Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group. After a hearty supper, let these stargazers guide you through the night sky, and look through a wide range of powerful telescopes to observe the moon, planets and stars in the atmospheric setting of the Cotswolds Discovery Centre.

Booking is essential, ring 01451 861563. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

APRIL

Chipping Norton 4 Literary Festival

Thursday 26 – Sunday 29 April

Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

Lively and intimate, this is a little festival that attracts big names.

www.chiplitfest.com



Cotswolds Sheep 6 & Wool Day

Bank Holiday Monday 7 May
10:30am – 4pm

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

A family fun day to celebrate the Cotswold lion sheep; the ancient breed that brought wealth to the Cotswolds. Come along to meet the sheep and try your hand at spinning wool. There will be live music, local food and drink, and plenty of activities for children. No booking required. £2 for adults and £1 for children. www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

MAY

Cotswolds AONB Hare Trail 5

22 May – 9 September

Across the Cotswolds AONB

Start of the popular hare trail across the Cotswolds AONB.

www.cotswoldsharetrail.org.uk



Winchcombe Cotswolds 7 Walking Festival

Friday 18 – Sunday 20 May
Winchcombe, Gloucestershire
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 this three day walking festival!
www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com

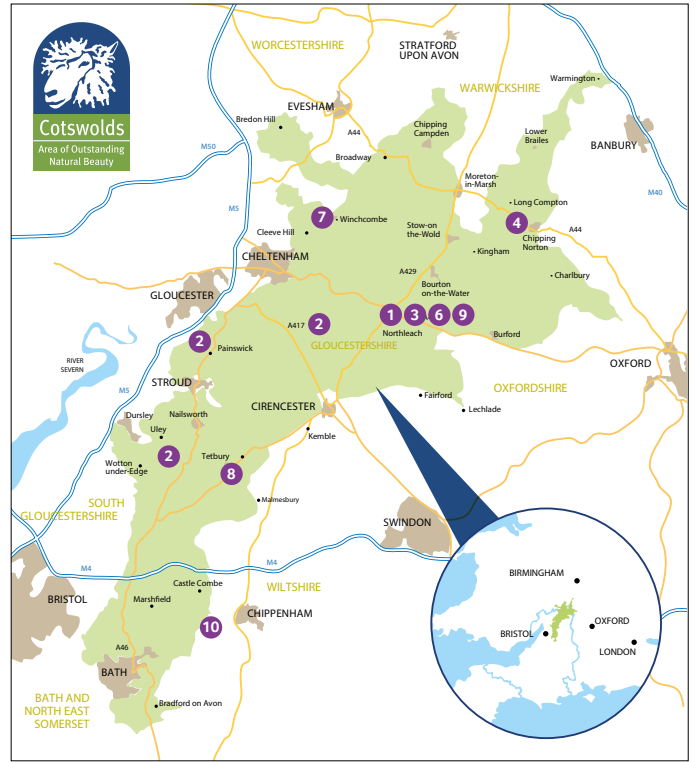
Tetbury Woolsack Race 8

Bank Holiday Monday 28 May
Tetbury, Gloucestershire
Tetbury celebrates the Cotswolds' historic sheep with an annual event to raise money for local charities. Competitors race up a hill carrying a sack of wool – a tall call given the gradient. Meantime the town is in festive mode, with street stalls, bands and more.
www.tetburywoolsack.co.uk

JUNE

The Really Wild Cotswolds 9 Camp Out

Friday 1 June, 4.30pm – 9.30am
(Saturday 2 June)
Cotswolds Discovery Centre at the Old Prison, Fosse Way, Northleach, Gloucestershire GL54 3JH
Join the team for a really wild camp out. Learn how to track bats, catch and identify moths, and do some star gazing (cloud permitting). Eat your tea around the camp fire and have your breakfast before you pack up your tent on the Saturday morning.
£55 per pitch, plus booking fee.
Book your pitch at www.cotswoldsaoanb.org.uk



Corsham Walking Festival 10

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 June
Corsham, Wiltshire
There are 18 walks planned over the three days of the festival, many of them themed and with talks given by experts. Walks will include: Historic Corsham, Railways, Tramways and Wildflowers. Longer circular walks will include visits to Castle Combe, Colerne and Little Solsbury Hill, with opportunities to view countless hidden valleys, woods and panoramas.
Further details at www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk



LEAF Open Farm

Sunday 10 June
Across the Cotswolds AONB LEAF Open Farm Sunday, managed by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), is one of the farming industry's biggest success stories. Since the first Open Farm Sunday in 2006, over 1,000 farmers across the UK have opened their gates and welcomed people onto their farm for one Sunday each year. It is a fantastic opportunity for everyone, young and old, to discover at first-hand what it means to be a farmer and the fabulous work they do producing our food and managing the countryside.
Search for farms in the Cotswolds at www.farmsunday.org



25th - 27th May 2018
100+ Bands
Burlesque
Comedy
& more!
KIDS GO FREE!
Scouting For Girls
From The Jam
Doctor & The Medics
3 Days
3 Nights
4 Stages
Lechlade
MUSIC
FESTIVAL 2018
www.lecladefestival.co.uk
Best Festival in the Cotswolds

Explore the Cotswolds by Public Transport

Pick up or view online your 2018 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.cotswoldsaoanb.org.uk

BULLETIN

Top stories from the Cotswolds Conservation Board



Cotswolds AONB Management Plan Review

The Cotswolds Conservation Board has a statutory duty to produce a Management 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 drafting and publication of its 25 year plan for a healthy natural environment. Two stages of stakeholder and public consultation have taken place in 2017 and the new plan is being put forward to be adopted by the Board and endorsed by the 15 local authorities in the AONB in spring 2018.

Keep up to date with the review by visiting www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Landscape led

The Board has been working with Highways England and Mott MacDonald identifying potential route corridor options for a landscape led solution for the A417. All stakeholders have agreed to the following vision: A landscape-led highways improvement scheme that will deliver a safe and resilient free-flowing road whilst conserving and enhancing the special character of the Cotswolds AONB; reconnecting landscape and ecology; bringing about landscape, wildlife and heritage benefits, including enhanced visitors' enjoyment of the area; improving local communities' quality of life; and contributing to the health of the economy and local businesses. A public consultation is due to take place during early 2018.

See website for details.



Lucy Blyth

Cotswolds LEADER helps to fund a new farm shop and café

In July 2016 a £48,849 Cotswolds LEADER programme grant was made to Vegetable Matters towards the construction of a new farm shop and café in Ebrington, near Chipping Campden. The new business was opened in July 2017, employing three new members of staff.

The owners, Peter and Amanda Drinkwater, have a long farming heritage producing vegetables for sale regionally as wholesale. They supply a wide variety of businesses such as restaurants and hotels. The new farm shop is a natural extension to the increasing demand for fresh produce for consumers at retail level.

The building is constructed of high quality materials and is low rise. As a result, it is sympathetic and blends into the agricultural landscape. Outside, the farm shop has fantastic views from the terrace overlooking the valley where the vegetables are produced. The quality of the build has been recognised by Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). In October 2017 Vegetable Matters was one of the winners at the CPRE county awards scheme for its sustainable building design and community benefits.

Within months of opening, the original job creation forecast had been exceeded owing to the popularity of the farm shop and café. As well as creating jobs, the business is working with other local producers, stimulating the rural economy. The wider community is benefiting from the daily supply of fresh vegetables from the farm and the café is acting as a hub for the village.

Jo Burgon, Independent Chair of Cotswolds Local Action Group (LAG): "It has been most heartening to support this enterprise as one of our first LEADER projects. The passion, enthusiasm and vision of the Drinkwaters, coupled with the response of their customers, is an inspiration in how this type of grant can realise a wide range of business and social development opportunities."

For more details visit www.vegetablematters.co.uk and for information on how to apply to the Cotswolds LEADER programme visit www.cotswoldsleader.org.uk

For more news from the Cotswolds Conservation Board visit the brand new Cotswolds AONB website at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Cotswolds Guided Walks

January – June 2018

Discover the beautiful Cotswolds AONB with our free walks guide. Just turn up, no need to book!

Walking in the fresh air is a great way for you, your family and friends to explore the outstanding scenery of the Cotswolds – England’s walking and exploring capital.

Walks in this guide are led by the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and various Ramblers groups in and around the Cotswolds AONB (Ramblers walks are indicated with the logo right).

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.

Walk 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 on Cotswold Voluntary Warden walks.

Discover more on Facebook!

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

Want to find out more about the walks?

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Look out for this symbol for anniversary warden walks!



Ramblers: www.ramblers.co.uk

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|----|---|---|---|------------------|---|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | | | | WORCESTERSHIRE | | Stratford upon Avon | | WARWICKSHIRE |
| 2 | | | | Evesham | | Chipping Campden | | Lower Brails |
| 3 | | | | Bredon Hill | | Marston-in-Marsh | | |
| 4 | | | | Winchcombe | | Stow-on-the-Wold | | Chipping Norton |
| 5 | | | | Cleeve Hill | | Bourton-on-the-Water | | Charlbury |
| 6 | | | | CHELTENHAM | | Northleach | | Witney |
| 7 | | | | Andoversford | | Burford | | |
| 8 | | | | Stow-on-the-Wold | | Bibury | | OXFORDSHIRE |
| 9 | | | | Stow-on-the-Wold | | Fairford | | Lechlade |
| 10 | | | | Stow-on-the-Wold | | Bradford-on-Avon | | |
| 11 | | | | Stow-on-the-Wold | | | | |

Key

- Easy: Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level).
- Moderate: Includes some hills and some rough ground.
- Strenuous: May be rough underfoot, and ascents and descents may be steep.

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 waywalks@gmail.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.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk



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.

Walk the Cross Cotswolds Pathway

2018 is the year the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens celebrates their 50th Anniversary. One of the ways of marking this is to offer a new long distance walk – the Cross Cotswold Pathway. This 86 mile trail from Banbury to Bath passes through little known villages tucked away in quiet countryside. It is less strenuous than the Cotswold Way but is not without its challenges.

The walk will be broken into nine roughly 10 mile sections, scheduled on the second Thursday of the month, starting in March 2018. Travel by coach from Bourton-on-the-Water to each start point contact Rosemary Wilson on 01993 831810 or ros.wilson@hotmail.co.uk

Walk The Diamond Way

Join a group led by the Voluntary Wardens walking 8/10 miles of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way on the fourth Wednesday of every month from April to September. For further information and to reserve places contact Linda on 01242 604155 or waywalks@gmail.com

January

Monday 1 January 10am Hills & Valleys around Combe Hay

3 hours • 6 miles

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

Start: Cross Keys pub, Southstoke Road, Combe Down, Bath. ST 748 619. Map square A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Tuesday 2 January 10am Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russel Harding, Sid Gould & Robert Herbert

Wednesday 3 January 10am Birdlip Bus & Walk

11 miles

A route around the scarp on some less frequented tracks to lunch in a bus (hopefully) at Seven Springs. A more direct route back to suit the daylight.

Start: Birdlip School, parking nearby. SO 928 143.

Ramblers Gloucestershire Area

Sunday 7 January 9:30am Charlbury to the Glyme valley

13 miles

Charlbury to Lidstone, Enstone and Ditchley. Possible pub stop, but please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Charlbury, town car park. SP 357 196.

Ramblers West Oxfordshire

Wed 10 January 10am Painswick

10 miles

A hilly walk in the surrounding countryside. Bring a picnic.

Start: Painswick Walkers' car park off B4075. SO 867 105.

Ramblers: Gloucestershire Area

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£25 a year to receive this magazine & special offers

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/join



Nick Turner

Friday 12 January 10am Short in Distance; High in Interest

2 hours • 4 miles

The pleasant village of Churchill is tucked away in the far west of Oxfordshire, near Chipping Norton. The village was home to two famous people who have left their mark in different ways. A lovely interesting walk and weather permitting, far reaching views. Lunch opportunities after the walk.

Start: Churchill, carefully near the church. SP282241. Map square: G4.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Monday 15 January 10.30am A January Jaunt from Tetbury to Long Newton

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

From the parking area we pass the Royal Oak Inn and follow Herd Lane towards Newton Hill. We continue south, along Newton lane and then follow the Monarch's Way via Wiltshire Bridge to our starting point.

Start: Tetbury, outside the refurbished Railway Goods Building. Take the Cirencester Road from the Town Hall, driving downhill past The Chipping car park. Park free in railway yard car park on the right. ST 893 933. Map square: C7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & David Harrowin



Tuesday 16 January 10:30am Freeland Circular Walk

5 miles

An easy circular walk from Freeland to Church Hanborough and back. Joint West Oxfordshire and Vale Groups walk. An opportunity to test out walking if you have never tried it before. Pub stop at the end.

Start: Freeland, the church. SP 414 127.

Ramblers West Oxfordshire

Wednesday 17 January 10am Two Thousand Years of History in Five Miles

3 hours • 5.5 miles

The walk takes in the pre-Roman settlement at Bagendon and a 20th century engineering feat, plus two mediaeval churches, an old mill and a sheepwash. Includes some walking on quiet lanes.

Start: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney. SP 019 079. Map square: D6.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon, Graham Saunders & John Shaw

Saturday 20 January 10am Castle Combe Ford Circular

5 hours • 9 miles

The planned route takes in West Kington, North Wraxall, Ford and Long Dean but will depend on whether the By-Brook is high! A visit to the Castle may be possible. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Castle Combe upper car park (Off B4039). ST 846 777. Map square: B9.

Leaders: John Walker & Fred Dugan

Sunday 21 January 10am Little Compton Circular via Salford

8 miles

Circular walk via Salford. Pub stop at the end.

Start: Little Compton, Church Road. SP 261 302.

Ramblers Banbury & North Oxfordshire

Thursday 25 January 10am Hillesley Village in the Round

3.5 hours • 6 miles

The walk offers splendid views, weather permitting. The route uses parts of the Cotswold Way and the Monarch's Way, and takes in the Somerset Monument, Splatts Wood, the attractive Kilcott Valley and the village of Alderley. Lunch and refreshments available at the inn after the walk, if required.

Start: The Fleece Inn Hillesley. Parking available at the Inn, by arrangement, or in the car park adjacent to the sports field. ST 772 897. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Mick Thorpe

Friday 26 January 10am The Abbey, the Settlement, and the Fort

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A walk from the Abbey to the Settlement by Coopers Hill then via Pope's Wood to the Beacon and back through Prinknash Park. A shorter walk with moderate climbs but can be more strenuous if wet underfoot. Good café by the Abbey.

Start: Prinknash Abbey car park. SO 880 137. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Brian Chilvers & Tony Hester

Friday 26 January 9.30am

Winter Birds on the Cycle Path

2.5 hours • 4 miles

Leisurely walk along the cycle path from Midford to Wellow with regular stops to watch birds and wildlife. Relaxed and highly informative. Bring binoculars. Beginners welcome. Lunch available at the pub afterwards. Suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Hope and Anchor car park. ST 761 607. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Philippe Apchin & Paul Clarke

Sunday 28 January 9.30am

History of Brailes & Surrounding Area

5.5 hours • 11.5 miles

A walk exploring the history of this interesting corner of Warwickshire. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Cherington Parish Church. SP 291 364. Map square: G3.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday 28 January 10am Lower Slaughter

10 miles

A winter walk through fields at the beginning and end, with some tracks and minor roads between. Pub stop.

Start: Lower Slaughter, by the river. SP 165 225.

Ramblers Banbury & North Oxfordshire

Wednesday 31 January 10am

The Original Cheltenham Racecourse

3 hours • 5.5 miles

Blow the cobwebs away with this tour of the area south of the Common. Includes some Cotswold Way, the (almost) original Racecourse and with guaranteed mud but no fences or jumps!

Start: Cleeve Common Radio Masts. SO 994 248. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams



February

Saturday 3 February 10am

Where there's a Wills there's a Way

3 hours • 6 miles

Circular route from Miserden via Duntisbourne Abbots. This route was developed as a Margery Boughton memorial walk. Bring a snack!

Lunch is available afterwards at the Carpenters Arms or the Garden Café at the estate nursery.

Start: Miserden village shop, Miserden, Stroud GL6 7JA. Use the pub car park ONLY if you are going to use the pub afterwards. SO 934 089. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue, Alistair McKenzie & Graham Saunders

Saturday 3 February 9.30am

Celebrating Women in the North Cotswolds

7 hours • 11 miles

Continuing the series of walks about Cotswold women this one features the life of Joanna Southcott who lived for a time in Blockley. Free parking is available in Chipping Campden (apart from the Market Square). Lunch available in Blockley.

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

Leaders: Vivienne McGhee & Sue Greenwood

Saturday 3 February 10am Chipping Norton, Glyme Valley Circular

11 miles

To Church Enstone via Lidstone. Back via Heythrop Park. Picnic or Pub. Start: Chipping Norton, main car park off A44. SP 312 270.

Ramblers West Oxfordshire

Tuesday 6 February 10am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould & Robert Herbert

Saturday 10 February 9.30am

Steep, like the Cotswolds

3.5 hours • 6 miles

Challenge yourselves and Test your New Year resolutions with one of the hardest walks in the Cotswolds with 500m of ascent and descent among the hills of Combe Hay, Southstoke, Midford and Combe Hay. Lunch available at the pub afterwards. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Cross Keys pub, Southstoke road, Combe Down, Bath. ST 748 618. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Philippe Apchin & Fred Dugan

Sunday 11 February 10.30am

Snowdrops Walk

3.5 hours • 5 miles

Meet for coffee at 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30 and leads us down a gentle descent through the woodlands of Newark Park to Ozleworth Bottom, thence to Alderley. We return along the Cotswold Way. Refreshments available locally after the walk in Wotton Under Edge.

Start: Newark Park National Trust car park. Please note that a parking charge will apply for non members of the National Trust. ST 781 931.

Map square: B7.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Brian Mundy

Tuesday 13 February 10.30am

Marshfield; Town & 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, and returning through fields on footpaths (no stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop – Families welcome.

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

Leaders: David Colbourne & Keith Rawlings

Wed 14 February 10am Haresfield Beacon Circular Walk 1

10 miles

Walk from Haresfield Beacon via Harescombe and Standish. Bring a picnic.

Start: Park at National Trust Shortwood. SO 832 085.

Ramblers Gloucestershire Area

Wednesday 14 February 10am

Camps, Parks, & Pasties

3 hours • 6 miles

Starting at the excellent Denfurlong Farm Shop and Café. Fossebridge, Coln valley, Chedworth.

Start: Chedworth Farm Shop, Denfurlong, just South East of Chedworth GL54 4NQ. SP 066 105. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Graham Saunders, Pippa Burgon & John Shaw

Saturday 17 February 10am

Over Charmy Down

5.5 hours • 9.5 miles

The walk goes down into St Catherine's valley via the Green Lane, a climb then to the old airfield which is crossed to Ramscombe Bottom. A short length of the Limestone link then before climbing to Ashwicke and returning via Marshfield. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Lay-by on the A420 at the west of Marshfield. ST 772 737. Map square: B9.

Leaders: John Bartram & Barry Cox

Sunday 18 February 10am

Epwell

6 miles

Circular walk via Shenington and Alkerton across rolling Cotswold countryside Pub stop at the end. Registered Assistance Dogs only.

Start: Epwell, The Well, opposite Chandlers Arms PH. SP 354 403.

Ramblers Banbury & North Oxfordshire

Sunday 18 February 9.30am

Charlbury, Evenlode Valley

12 miles

Wilcote, Combe and Stonesfield. Possible pub stop, but please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Charlbury, town car park. SP 357 196.

Ramblers West Oxfordshire

Monday 19 February 10am

Two Parks & A Bottom

3.5 hours • 6 miles

A walk from the National Trust property at Newark Park through the unspoilt valley of Tyley Bottom to the village of Ozleworth with its Norman church. Bring a snack to eat en route.

Start: Newark Park National Trust car park. Parking charge applies for non members of the National Trust.

ST 781 931. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furrmidge

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Wed 21 February 10am Haresfield Beacon Circular Walk 2

10 miles

Walk from Haresfield Beacon via Painswick and Pitchcombe. Bring a picnic.

Start: Park at National Trust Shortwood. SO 832 085.

Ramblers Gloucestershire Area

Wednesday 21 February 9.30am A Circumnavigation of Oxenton Hill

3.5 hours • 7 miles

A moderate walk around Oxenton Hill visiting four attractive villages. Views over the Severn Vale to Tewkesbury, Malvern and beyond. Bring refreshments.

Start: Gotherington Village Hall. SO 961 296. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Linda & Martin Blackwell

Thursday 22 February 10am Thor's Stone & Rochester's Tomb

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A circular walk through varied countryside and woodland including a local nature reserve plus the villages of Taston and Spelsbury. Various lunch opportunities in Charlbury after the walk.

Start: Spendlove car park Charlbury. SP 358 196. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Friday 23 February 10am By Water, Wood, & (Elk)stone

2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A fairly gentle walk with one steady climb following the River Churn then up the hill to Elkstone and back via Cowley Wood. Good food at the Green Dragon.

Start: Green Dragon pub car park. Please park at the back of the car park. SO 968 142. Map square: D5.

Leaders: Brian Chilvers, Tony Hester & Phil Cluley

Saturday 24 February 10am Chipping Norton Circular via Lidstone, Enstone & Heythrop

11 miles

A circular walk from Chipping Norton through Lidstone, and Enstone in the River Glyme valley and back via Heythrop. Please bring picnic lunch.

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

Ramblers Bicester & Kidlington

Saturday 24 February 10am Ascott under Wychwood circular via Chadlington

10 miles

Meet near the church in Shipton Road, Ascott under Wychwood for a circular walk to Chadlington. Car share is possible from Water Eaton P&R at 09:00 (meet near the exit) but please inform the leader if this is required. This is one of the walks published in "Milestones to Millstones" by Elaine Steane (see www.milestonestomillstones.co.uk). Joint walk with OFS. Pub stop at the end. Registered Assistance Dogs only.

Start: Ascott under Wychwood, Shipton Road near the church. SP 300 187.

Ramblers Oxford

Sunday 25 February 10am Town & Country

7 hours • 10 miles

From the village of Cherington the walk progresses over open country to Tetbury where there will be a lunch & pub drink stop. The return passes through the centre of the town to Chavenage House then uses the MacMillan Way northwards via Avening. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Cherington Village centre. please park considerably. Cherington is a small village approx 3 miles SE of Nailsworth and about 1 mile east of Avening. ST 903 987. Map square: C6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Wednesday 28 February 10am On the Edge

3 hours • 6 hours

An undulating walk from Hook Norton which is just outside the AONB. With good tracks, quiet lanes and grassy paths this is an ideal winter walk in an area not so well known. Optional lunch at Hook Norton Brewery after the walk.

Start: Hook Norton Brewery OX15 5NY. SP 348 344. Map square: H3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Wed 28 February 10am There May be Snowdrops

3 hours • 6 miles

A walk through early 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 snowdrops.

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

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin

Combe Mill

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| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Sunday 18 March | Science and Engineering |
| Sunday 15 April | Oxfordshire made vehicles |
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See www.combemill.org for full details or call 01993 358694

Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe, Oxfordshire OX29 8ET

March

Thursday 1 March 10am Battles & Brewing in Stow

3 hours • 5.5 miles

The walk will take us via Broadwell to the site of the Battle of Stow, and onto the Donnington Brewery. The return is via Upper Swell to Stow where we will explore evidence of the town's brewing history. Walk is in collaboration with the Stow Civic Society.

Start: Stow-on-the-Wold village green, old stocks. SP 192 258. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Margaret Reid & Sheila Wasley

Saturday 3 March 10am Fossebridge Figure of 8 Two Walks in One

7 hours • 10.5 miles

A morning walk of 3 hours starting at Fossebridge Inn. Visiting Coln St Dennis, Saltway Barn, Oxpens Farm & Stowell Mill. Approx 2:00pm a slightly shorter walk around Chedworth. Snack lunch break at the Inn. Please pre-order before walk. Menu on website.

Start: Fossebridge Inn GL54 3JS. Parking by permission. SP 079 111. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Tim Sugrue & Alistair McKenzie

Sunday 4 March 10am History of Hornton & Surrounding Area

5 hours • 11.5 miles

A walk exploring the history of this little known area famous for its ironstone. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Shutford Parish Church. SP 385 401. Map square: H3.


Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

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Sunday 4 March 10am

The Candle in the Window

 4 hours • 7 miles

Explore sites of anarchy and the Civil War near Tetbury including Chavenage House and Beverstone Castle. Although not steep, the path may be muddy in places. Bring a picnic lunch. Note: Option to cover the first half of the walk, then return to the start along a short stretch of quiet road.

Start: Chavenage Green 0.5 miles north west of Chavenage House. Chavenage House is signposted from the A46, 2.5 miles south of Nailsworth. ST 867 955. Map square: C6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furnidge

Sunday 4 March 10am

Chipping Norton Circular

 8.5 miles


Chipping Norton is the start of a circular walk via Salford and the Rollright Stones. Please bring a picnic lunch.

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

Ramblers Bicester & Kidlington

Tuesday 6 March 10am

Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles


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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Friday 9 March 10am

The Ebrington Boundary Stones

 5.5 hours • 11 miles


The third of a series of walks based on the boundary stones erected to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This walk will visit the final stone marking the boundary between Quinton and Ebrington and revisiting others. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Mickleton Church. SP 162 435. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

Monday 12 March 10am

Sherston & Easton Grey

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


We head towards Pinkney Park. After passing through the park area we follow the River Avon to Easton Grey & Roman camp, turning south to follow the Fosse Way across pasture land and a horse gallop, and finish with a tale of a legendary battle. Lunch available locally after the walk if required.

Start: Carpenters Arms pub, Easton Town, Sherston. Meet at the pub, 0.25 miles north east of Sherston High Street, on the B4040 to Malmesbury. Parking in Sherston High Street, then proceed to the start point. ST 856 862. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Derrick Hildersley

Wednesday 14 March 10am

Cud Hill: Views & Valleys

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


A walk across the top of Spoonbed valley to Cud Hill with glorious views across the Severn Vale, then a circuit via Moerend around the headwaters of the River Twyver. A long climb back up the escarpment to Pope's Wood.

Start: Car park near Painswick Beacon on the road between the A46 and B4073. SO 867 118. Map square: C5.

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

Thursday 15 March 10am

Snowhill (the rest of it)

 3 hours • 6 miles


We know all about the Manor but there is an interesting parish around it, from Bronze Age and Iron Age remains to (relatively) modern quarrying. Bring suitable refreshment.

Start: Snowhill village car park (free), next to the NT car park for the Manor. SP 096 340. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatrat

Saturday 17 March 10am

Three Historic Houses

 5 hours • 11 miles

We cross the A46 to join Tynning lane leading to Lyegrove House. Turning North we pass Beech Copse to Roaches lane into Badminton. Crossing the Park to Little Badminton we then cross the A46 to Horton Court. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Old Sodbury Church. ST 756 817. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & John Walker

Sunday 18 March 10am

Burford

 9.5 miles

A spring walk to Fulbrook, Swinbrook and Astall, through fields and some minor roads, returning along the river and enjoying the wonderful daffodils in this area. Pub stop.

Start: Burford, car park. SP 254 123.

Ramblers Banbury & North Oxfordshire

Tuesday 20 March 10:30am

Burford to Fulbrook & Widford

 5.8 miles


A circular walk through the village of Fulbrook and the site of the medieval village of Widford returning to Burford along the Windrush. Joint West Oxfordshire and Vale Groups walk. Pub stop at the end.

Start: Burford, the church car park. SP 254 123.

Ramblers West Oxfordshire

Thursday 22 March 10am

Exploring the Evenlode Valley

 3 hours • 6 miles


Following the Oxfordshire Way along the Evenlode Valley to Shorthampton. Then returning along the ridge past the medieval village of Walcot. Various lunch opportunities in Charlbury after the walk.

Start: Spendlove car park Charlbury. SP 358 196. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Graeme

Thursday 22 March 10am

Windrush & Wardens Way Circular; Walk 1

 4.5 hours • 8 miles


This is the first in a series of four circular walks encompassing the Windrush and Wardens Ways. This walk takes us out on the Wardens Way to Roel Gate, returning via the Windrush Way. We should get wonderful views down the Sudeley valley. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Winchcombe, Back Lane car park (pay & display £1 per day). SP 094 375. Map square: D3.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Thursday 22 March 10am

Above Woodchester Mansion

 3.5 hours • 5 miles

From the approach track to the Mansion we traverse towards Selsley Common, and the Tower building before descending to Inchbrook and its vineyard. The return to our start point offers many views of the lakes in the parkland as well as the magnificent unfinished mansion. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Woodchester Park National Trust car park; please note that a parking charge applies for non members of the National Trust. Woodchester Park is brown signed from the B4066 near Coaley Peak picnic site. SO 797 015. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Chris Gill



Nick Turner





April

Monday 2 April 9.30am Countryside & Villages Around Bourton-on- the-Water

6 hours • 11 miles

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

Start: Bourton-on-the-Water, War Memorial. SP 170 211. Map square: F4.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Tuesday 3 April 10am Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding, Sid Gould & Dave Wright

Thursday 5 April 10am A Walk through History

5 hours • 10 miles

A moderate walk from Stretton-on-Fosse to Paxford, Ebrington and Compton Scorpion, with far reaching views. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Outside the Plough Inn, Stretton-on-Fosse. Park on roadside near Inn. SP 220 385. Map square: G2.

Leaders: Jenny Powls & Maureen Shears

Saturday 7 April 10am I hope it's Not Too Taxing!

6 hours • 11 miles

Circular route from Birdlip via Miserden. From Birdlip school we head towards Brimpsfield and Caudle Green following the young river Frome to Miserden. Then return approaching Winstone before returning to Birdlip. Bring a snack and a packed lunch.

Start: Birdlip village school. SO 928 142. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue, Steven Pascoe & John Shaw



Friday 23 March 10am Ampney Crucis & Four Churches

3 hours • 5.5 miles

From Ampney Crucis across country to Ampney St Peter, across Ampney Brook to Driffield past the Manor House at Harnhill.

Start: Car park of the Crown of Crucis. SP 067 017. Map square: D5.

Leaders: Tony Hester, Phil Cluley & Brian Chilvers

Saturday 24 March 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: Doynton Church. ST 720 741. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Bartram & Robert Ford

Saturday 24 March 10am Charlbury, Cornbury Park & Ascott

12 miles

Long sweep through Cornbury Park (touching Finstock). Ascott under Wychwood for lunch (pub available). Return via Shorthampton. Contact leader if taking train to Charlbury. Pub stop.

Start: Charlbury, town car park. SP 357 196.

Ramblers West Oxfordshire

Sunday 25 March 10am Crossing County Borders

5.5 hours • 10 miles

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

Start: Dundas Marina car park. ST 748 626. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sunday 25 March 9.30am Long Compton Area

13 miles

Meet at the church, going to Stourton, Sutton-under-Brailes, Upper and Lower Brailes and Wichford. Pub stop.

Start: Long Compton, the church. SP 288 330.

Ramblers West Oxfordshire

Sunday 25 March 10am Chipping Norton Circular via Upper Glyme Valley

10.5 miles

Upper Glyme valley to Dean and Chadlington. Pub stop. Registered Assistance Dogs only.

Start: Chipping Norton, car park. SP 312 270.

Ramblers Banbury & North Oxfordshire

Wednesday 28 March 10am Horsing Around in the Cotswolds

3 hours • 6 miles

Walk part of the course of Andoversford Race Course, glimpse various racing stables, and traverse a short stretch of the Gloucestershire Way.

Start: Station Road Andoversford (this is the minor road that is parallel to the A40). SP 022 198. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Tony Duffin, Royden Hales & Mike Williams

Thursday 29 March 10am Canal, Common & the Cotswold Way

3.5 hours • 7.5 miles

Easy start along to and then along the Stroudwater Canal towpath but later there is an ascent up to Selsley Common. We return along the Cotswold Way, with a descent to the start in King's Stanley. Lunch available after the walk at pubs in King's Stanley, Selsley or nearby Woodchester.

Start: King's Stanley village hall car park (the bench at the entrance to the village hall car park opposite the war memorial). SO 812 035. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Chris Gill & Brian Mundy

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Saturday 7 April 10am

Above & Below the Escarpment

5.5 hours • 9 miles

We follow the Coffin trail to Horton and then across fields to Inglestone Common before climbing to Hawkesbury Upton, with the Escarpment on our right. The Cotswold Way takes us back, keeping mostly to the high ground. Please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Beside Old Sodbury Church. ST 756 817. Map square: A8.

Leaders: John Bartram & Paul Clarke

Tuesday 10 April 10am

Spring on the Overbury Estate

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A varied walk starting from Overbury village, climbing up Bredon Hill through the Estate and parkland with good views. We will learn some of the history of the family estate and a Gothic castle built by a 17th century pirate. This walk is stile free.

Start: St Faith's Church, park on road near church, Overbury GL20 7NY. SO 957 374. Map square: C2.

Leaders: Mary & Barry Roberts

Wednesday 11 April 10am

Distant Views From dip & Scarp

3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

The walk follows the Cotswold Way along the scarp over Leckhampton Hill, with far-reaching views to the Malverns and into Wales, and takes in a mixture of woodland, common and cultivated land, and a pretty village. Lunch available after the walk at the Hungry Horse (www.hungryhorse.co.uk)

Start: The Hungry Horse, Seven Springs, at junction of A436 and A435 two miles south of Cheltenham. Please park at far end of car park. SO 968 169. Map square: D5.

Leaders: Pippa Burgon & Graham Saunders

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Thursday 12 April 10am

Windrush Wardens Way Circular; Walk 2

4.5 hours • 8 miles

A series of four circular walks encompassing the Windrush and Wardens Ways. This walk takes us out on the Wardens Way through Guiting Wood, returning on the Windrush Way via the medieval village of Hawling. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Guiting Power village hall car park (donation). SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Sheila & Robert Talbot

Thursday 12 April 10am

Walk the Woodland to Tyndale

3 hours • 5 miles

A relatively short walk through Westridge Woods passing the iron age fort at Brackenbury Ditches and on to the famed Tyndale Monument. 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 754 943.

Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Brian Mundy

Friday 13 April 10am

Friday Foray – Birdlip Circular via Witcombe Reservoirs & Roman Villa

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk down from, and back up, the Cotswold escarpment via farmland and woods, using the Cotswold Way for the return from the Roman villa (where the visit will include a look at the mosaic pavements). Lunch available at the Royal George.

Start: Car park of the Royal George Hotel, Birdlip, GL4 8JH. SO 925 144. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Brian Chapman, Sue Proctor & Helen Watkinson

Saturday 14 April 9.30am

The Solicitor & The Sexton

5.5 hours • 10 miles

The English novelist, Algernon Gissing, an erstwhile solicitor, wrote one of the first walking guides for the Cotswolds. His unlikely friendship with William Smith was the cornerstone of his writing. The walk centres on Saintbury and the surrounding area. Bring packed lunch.

Start: Chipping Campden, the Market Hall. SP 151 392. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

Sunday 15 April 10am

Little Solsbury Hill to Bath Circular

5.5 hours • 9 miles

A climb to Little Solsbury Hill before descending to Northend and Batheaston. A river/canal side walk then into Bath. We climb out of Bath via Camden Crescent to Langridge and Lansdown plateau. A steep descent to Woolley before crossing the Lam Brook back to the start. Please bring a picnic lunch

Start: The Slip Road from the A46 for Upper Swainswick, 3.3 miles from the roundabout at the A46/A420 junction. ST 762 683. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Barry Cox

Wednesday 18 April 10am

Three Churches & A River

3.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Three very different churches all in the Evenlode valley. One church has well preserved wall paintings, another has amazing family memorials and the third is the 12th Century church in Charlbury where the walk concludes. Good reasonably priced lunches can be ordered at The Bell before the walk.

Start: The Bell Inn Charlbury OX7 3PP. SP 356 195. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Merry

Friday 20 April 10am

Early Birds

3.5 hours • 7 miles

A circular walk from Temple Guiting to Guiting Power. Fairly level walking, 3 short hills and one stile. Likely to be muddy. We hope to see a range of common farmland birds and early summer visitors. Binoculars would be useful.

Start: St. Mary's church, Temple Guiting. Park at Temple Guiting village hall. SP 090 279. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Ali Clifton Barnard & David Russell

Friday 20 April 10am

Four Hamlets & A Canal

4 hours • 8.5 miles

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

Start: Car park next to Upper Westwood Park. ST 806 597. Map square: B10.

Leaders: Glyn Williams & Fred Dugan

Sunday 22 April 10am

On the Edge

4 hours • 7.5 miles

A walk along part of the Fosse Way, visiting Dunkerton, Combe Hay and South Stoke. Please bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs. Start: Cross Keys pub, Southstoke Road, Combe Down, Bath. ST 748619. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Sunday 22 April 10am

Woods, Forts & The Hunted Cleric

5 hours • 9.5 miles

Explore the local woods between Dursley and Wotton as well as an Iron Age Hillfort and the chance to learn about 'The Most Dangerous Man in England'. Will there be bluebells? Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Stinchcombe Hill public car park (Not the golf club car park). ST 743 983. Map square: A6.

Leaders: Nigel Meredith & Helen Furrmidge

Wed 25 April 10am

The Mills of Painswick

2.5 hours • 5.5 miles

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cotswold Wardens, an easy walk, based on one from the 1976 programme, along Painswick Stream and Wash Brook passing many of the mills on which the village was based. Start: Walkers car park – Painswick. SO 867 104. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Royden Hales, Mike Williams & Tony Duffin



Friday 27 April 10am

Exploring Yanworth & Hampnett

3 hours • 6 miles

The walk includes the picturesque village of Yanworth and Stowell Park Estate to Yanworth Mill returning via the charming village of Hampnett – passing three churches. Pubs and cafes at Northleach and Pusedown nearby for lunch afterwards.

Start: Hangmans Stone approx 1 mile west of Northleach on unclassified road. Parking at roadside. SP 088 151. Map square: E5.

Leaders: Philip Cluley, Brian Chilvers & Tony Hester

Saturday 28 April 10am

The Glyme Valley in Springtime

5 hours • 10.5 miles

A walk along the beautiful Glyme Valley to see the spring flowers and follow the River Glyme through Old Chalford and Lidstone. The return route will be via Dean and the Wychwood Way along Green Lane from Chadlington. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: New Street car park Chipping Norton OX7 5LJ. SP 312 271. Map square: G4.

Leaders: Janet Deller & Jenny Powls

Saturday 28 April 9.30am

Passion & Politics

5.5 hours • 10 miles

The walk focuses on Bourton-on-the-Hill, its manor house and church, and delves into the life of one of its former inhabitants. Bring packed lunch and refreshments.

Start: Longborough, near bus shelter. Please park carefully in village. SP 179 296. Map square: F3.

Leaders: Pat & Roger Cook

Saturday 28 April 10.30am

Dyrham: Park & Countryside [Battlefield]

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. Parking charges may apply – free to NT members. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Robert Ford

Sunday 29 April 10am

History of Leafeld & Surrounding Area

4 hours • 10 miles

A walk exploring the history of this area high in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Leafeld Green. SP 315 152. Map square: G4.

Leaders: Lucy & Martin Squires

Sunday 29 April 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

May

Tuesday 1 May 10am

Tuesday Tramp

3 hours • 5 miles

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

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

Leaders: Russell Harding & Sid Gould

Thursday 3 May 10am

Windrush & Wardens Way Circular; Walk 3

4 hours • 6.5 miles

A series of four circular walks encompassing the Windrush and Wardens Ways. This walk will take us out on the Windrush Way passing the medieval village of Aylworth to Naunton and returning on the Wardens Way. Bring a packed lunch. Start: Guiting Power village hall car park (donations). SP 095 246. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Sheila Wasley & Margaret Reid

Tuesday 8 May 10am

Bluebells in Foxholes

3 hours • 6 miles

Starting from Shipton under Wychwood the walk passes Bruern Abbey reaching the beautiful Foxholes Nature Reserve where hopefully we will see carpets of bluebells. We return through woodland and field paths. Village has lunch options at end of walk.

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

Leader: Gerry Simper

Tuesday 8 May 10am

A Bounty of Beautiful Bluebells (Well We Hope So!)

3 hours • 6 miles

Through woodlands, looking at the wild flowers which grow there in the middle of their race to grow and bloom before the leaf cover cuts them off from the sun. Bring suitable refreshment.

Start: Stanton Village car park, next to cricket ground. SP 067 342. Map square: E3.

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Wednesday 9 May 10am

Cranham & Buckholt Beechwoods

3 hours • 5 miles

Walk in woodland and open country north and east of Cranham, visiting Coopers Hill, Ladlecombe & Overtown, returning over Cranham Common. Lunch options: Black Horse in Cranham or Royal William at Cranham Corner, or Rococo Gardens in Painswick.

Start: Cranham School. Park on roadside. SO 894 126. Map square: E5.

Leaders: John Shaw, Pippa Burgon & Graham Saunders



Nick Turner

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Friday 11 May 10am A Royal Route

5.5 hours • 11 miles

A scenic walk from Farmington to Clapton-on-the-Hill, with lunch at Bourton-on-the-Water. Bring packed lunch.

Start: Farmington Church (park along roadside near the Church). SP 136 153. Map square: F4.

Leaders: Jenny Powls & Maureen Shears

Friday 11 May 10am Friday Foray – Historic Bisley

50

3 hours • 4.5 miles

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, this remake of a walk from 1970s includes a walk around historic Bisley with John Heathcott, followed by a short walk in the Upper Toadsmoor Valley.

Start: Bisley Churchyard by the lychgate – nearest postcode GL6 7AB. SO 903 059. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Helen Watkinson, Sue Proctor & Brian Chapman



Saturday 12 May 10am Stones & Ditches

4 hours • 8 miles

Along the Oxfordshire Way to Stonesfield, associated with roofing slates typical of the Cotswolds. Continuing through Kingswood joining The Shakespeare Way through Ditchley giving fine views of the house. Back to Charlbury near Grim's Ditch. Good reasonably priced lunch at The Bell after the walk.

Start: The Bell Inn Charlbury OX7 3PP. SP 356 195. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Merry

Saturday 12 May 10am Wash Brook, Woodlands & Whiteshill

5 hours • 9 miles

A walk across the valley of Wash Brook to Huddinknoll Hill, then Stockend and Whiteshill returning via Pitchcombe along the Painswick valley. Snack lunch available at the Star Inn Whiteshill; please pre-order before walk – see website for phone number and menu. Alternatively bring packed lunch.

Start: Walkers' car park Painswick. SO 868 105. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, John Shaw & Alistair McKenzie

Saturday 12 May 10am Cold Ashton to St Catherines

4.5 hours • 8 miles

Following the stream we head towards Marshfield to join 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 Village Hall car park. ST 748 726. Map square: B9.

Leaders: Keith Rawlings & Fred Dugan

Sunday 13 May 10am Peaks & Troughs in Isolation

4.5 hours • 6.5 miles

Visit the unspoilt Downham Hill and the hillfort of Uley Bury with its wonderful views. Lunch stop in Uley (Drinks only at pub) Packed lunch needed. We then return via Nymphsfield. Some steep climbs.

Start: Coaley Peak Picnic Site car park, on the B4066 between Uley and Selsley. SO 793 015. Map square: B6.

Leaders: Helen Furnidge & Nigel Meredith

Tuesday 15 May 10am Cotswold Hills & History

6 hours • 11 miles

This walk explores the rolling hills and valleys to the west and south of Northleach. We visit two historic churches and pass through Stowell Park estate, the home of Lord and Lady Vestey. We return via the wool town of Northleach. Bring a packed lunch.

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

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Tuesday 15 May 10am Cowslips & Orchids

2.5 hours • 4 miles

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

Start: Amberley Inn, Amberley. Not the pub car park please. SO 850 013.

Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Helen Furnidge

Friday 18 May 10am A Wander from Willersey

5.5 hours • 10 miles

A pleasant walk taking in some well-known Cotswold locations including Buckle Street, Weston-sub-Edge, Lynchwood and Broadway. Bring a packed lunch.

Start: Willersey Village Green. SP 105 395. Map square: E2.

Leaders: Maureen Shears & Jenny Powls

Friday 18 May 10.30am Dyrham: Park & Countryside [Doynton]

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. Parking charges may apply – free to NT members. Not suitable for pushchairs.

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

Leaders: John Walker & Paul Clarke

Sunday 20 May 10am From a Low to a High

3.5 hours • 6 miles

From Wellow, we climb up to Hinton Charterhouse. We walk through three small woods, Hankley, Twin Hoe Ford, and Cleeve, returning via Upper Bagridge Farm. Please bring a drink and snack.

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

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent



Monday 21 May 10am
Stinchcombe, Stancombe & The Hill

3 hours • 5 miles

From the car park we follow the Cotswold Way, with fine views over the Severn Vale and beyond. We descend to Stinchcombe village with its attractive church of St Cyr's and on to Stancombe, where the Drayway and a bridle path bring us back to our start point. Lunch available locally after the walk.

Start: Stinchcombe Hill public car park (not golf club car park). ST 744 983. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Brian Mundy & Mick Thorpe

Wednesday 23 May 10am
Ilmington Circular Walk

5 hours • 9.5 miles

A walk of interesting countryside passing two substantial country houses, Foxcote, and Hidcote with its renowned gardens. Views can be seen as far as Coventry. A long uphill section at the start but otherwise reasonably level going. Bring packed lunch or eat at Ebrington Arms.

Start: Ilmington Playing Fields car park. SP 205 417. Map square: F2.

Leaders: Bryan Clifford & Maureen Shears

Wednesday 23 May 10am
Mast Ahoy!

2.5 hours • 5 miles

From Barrow Walk the walk takes us under the Birdlip radio mast and on to Coldwell Bottom returning via Shab Hill.

Start: Barrow Wake car park. SO 931 153. Map square: D5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 24 May 10am
Mitford Country

3 hours • 5 miles

With pretty villages, a river to walk beside, far reaching views and a fascinating family connection this walk never fails to delight. Optional walk after the lunch at The Maytime.

Start: The Maytime Inn Asthall OX18 4HW. SP 289 114. Map square: G5.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Friday 25 May 10am
Painswick & Sheepscombe Valleys

3 hours • 5.5 miles

A walk across Painswick valley to Sheepscombe returning via Paradise.

Start: Walkers car park Painswick. SO 868 105. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Steven Pascoe, Brian Chilvers, Philip Cluley & Tony Hester

Saturday 26 May 10am
Up & Down! Gloucester Will be Relieved

5 hours • 10 miles

Circular route from West Down to Belas Knap, Water Hatch and Spoonley Wood, we return via Charlton Abbots. Bring a snack and a packed lunch. West Down is 2.5 miles north of Andoversford on the eastern edge of Cleeve Common.

Start: West Down car park. SP 010 236. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Tim Sugrue, John Shaw & Graham Saunders

Saturday 26 May 10am
Either Side of the By-Brook

5.5 hours • 9 miles

We follow the By-Brook upstream to Widdenham Farm before climbing to Euridge Manor and entering Monks Wood to see Spring wild flowers. The return does mean a climb to Rudloe Manor for valley views. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs but families welcome.

Start: Selwyn Hall car park, Box off the A4. ST 824 686. Map square: B10.

Leaders: John Walker & Richard Wilson

Tuesday 29 May 10am
South of Cleeve

4.5 hours • 9 miles

An airy walk away from Cleeve Hill passing the attractive houses of Whittington, Syreford, and Brockhampton with good views and wayside flowers. Bring a packed lunch. May be muddy after rain. West Down car park sometimes called 'Wardens Wood' car park.

Start: West Down car park, Cleeve Hill. SP 010 236. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Linda & Martin Blackwell


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Tuesday 29 May 10am

Marshfield; Town & Valleys

 2.5 hours • 4.5 miles

A morning walk, along the High street, then taking valley footpaths SW to the St Catherine valley and returning through fields (some stiles). Lunch choice of 2 pubs or a tea shop – families welcome.


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

Leaders: David Colbourne & Barry Cox

June

Saturday 2 June 10am

Along to Lineover

 3 hours • 4 miles


A walk around an Ancient Wood looking at its flora, its management and its history. Picnic at the viewpoint afterwards or visit the Kilkenny Inn.

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

Leaders: John Heathcott & Mike Dunning

Sunday 3 June 10am

Downham & Around

 6 hours • 8 miles


A walk through the valley landscapes of Dursley, Uley and Nympsfield to take in the sheltered beauty of the Uley valley and the dramatic views from Uley Bury. Lunchtime drink stop at Uley but please bring a picnic lunch.

Start: Cam Peak car park 1 mile north of Dursley. The car park is reached off the lane between Upper Cam and Ashmead Green and is just below Cam Peak.
ST 767 994. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Owen & Trish Iliadou

Tuesday 5 June 10am

Windrush & Wardens Way Circular; Walk 4

 5 hours • 10 miles


A series of circular walks encompassing the Windrush and Wardens Ways. This walk takes in four Cotswold Villages 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: War memorial on village green, Bourton-on-the-Water. SP 167 206.
Map square: F4.

Leaders: David Russell & Alan Thomas

Tuesday 5 June 10am

Tuesday Tramp

 3 hours • 5 miles


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

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

Leaders: Russel Harding & Sid Gould

Wednesday 6 June 10am

Prestbury: Up, Along & Down

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

From Prestbury up Cleeve Hill to the Cotswold Way, then along and down via Southam. 260 metres ascent. Hopefully some great views. Many pubs and eateries in and around Prestbury (e.g. The Plough, Royal Oak).
Start: Prestbury War Memorial – just off the High Street on 'The Bank'. Park in Mill street (GL52 5BE) or in car parks.
SO 972 239. Map square: D4.

Leaders: Graham Saunders & Steven Pascoe

Wednesday 6 June 10am

To the Abbey & Back

 4 hours • 7.5 miles


A circular walk east of Avening including Cherington and Nag's Head villages using the MacMillan Way for part of the route. Lunch available at pubs in Avening or the Garden Centre restaurant near Nailsworth after the walk.

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

Leaders: Chris Gill & Chris Wykes

Friday 8 June 10am

Friday Foray – Miserden Ancient & Modern

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


A circular walk from Miserden to Lypiatt Farm, Sandy Flats Plantation, Bull Banks and Miserden Park. Discovering some of the history of the area. A couple of steep inclines. Lunch available at the Carpenters Arms at the end of the walk.

Start: Miserden C of E Primary School car park or responsibly in the village.
GL6 7JA. SO 933 089. Map square: C5.

Leaders: Sue Proctor, Brian Chapman & Helen Watkinson

Friday 8 June 10am

Haymaking & Merrymaking

 3 hours • 5.5 miles


Dancing on the village green in nearby Bledington was a regular activity 100 years ago and the name still lives on in Morris Dancing circles. Grassland for hay would have been raked by hand in a bygone age but the flowering orchids hopefully should still be abundant.

Start: Pebbly Hill Nursery OX7 6XJ.
SP 232 226. Map square: F3.

Leader: Rosemary Wilson

Sunday 10 June 10am

The Blooming Hills & Valleys of Southstoke

 3.5 hours • 6 miles


A walk around the valleys and hills of Southstoke, through wild flower meadows, where orchids should be in flower. A drink stop only. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Odd Down Park and Ride car park.
ST 733 617. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

Tuesday 12 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 and Selsley.
SO 794 014. Map square: B6.

Leaders: David Harrowin & Helen Furrmidge

Saturday 16 June 10am

Lansdown Views & Valleys

 5.5 hours • 10 miles


We start with spectacular views from Lansdown, descend to Weston village and then back to the Lansdown ridge before descending to the delightful Swainswick Valley. Please bring a picnic lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: Lansdown Park and Ride.
ST 732 681. Map square: A10.

Leaders: John Bartram & Robert Ford

Sunday 17 June 10am

The Charlbury Circle Line

 3 hours • 5.5 miles

Walk along Mill Field between the Evenlode and a Mill Stream, through Wigwell Nature Reserve with some less known plant species and then towards Ditchley Park. Here we take an ancient Saltway before returning via some disused quarries. Lunch can be taken at The Bell after the walk.

Start: The Bell Charlbury OX7 3PP.
SP 356 195. Map square: H4.

Leader: Tony Merry



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Tuesday 19 June 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 runs first through woods above the Hinchwick Valley, descends briefly into an adjoining valley and then returns along the bottom of the dry Hinchwick Valley itself.

Start: Hinchwick hamlet. Park tidily on grass verge. Hinchwick is about 4 miles west of Moreton-in-Marsh, 4 miles south of Broadway. SP 145 301.

Map square: F3.

Leaders: Peter Mansion & Paul Adams

Wednesday 20 June 10am From Miserden to Edgeworth (& Back)

2.5 hours • 5 miles

Some typical Cotswold countryside. Rolling hills, fields, farms and woods. Walking from Miserden over fields and woodland to the village of Edgeworth. Returning through Sudgrove and Lypiatt.

Start: Miserden village shop. SO 935 091.
Map square: C5.

Leaders: Mike Williams, Royden Hales & Tony Duffin

Thursday 21 June 10am A Short Walk on the Longest Day. Up to a Down!

3 hours • 5.5 miles

From Bathampton we walk along the Kennet and Avon Canal, before climbing up to the downs. Good views across the valley to Little Solsbury Hill. Hopefully the wild flowers will be in bloom? Please bring a drink. Not suitable for pushchairs.

Start: The George car park, Bathampton [The area away from the pub]. ST 776 665. Map square: A10.

Leaders: Wilf Dando & Pauline Vincent

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Thursday 21 June 10am Trekking Around Tresham

3.5 hours • 6 miles

Take in the wonderful views from Tresham before descending from the escarpment to Ozleworth and Wortley. The walk continues via the Cotswold Way to Hillesley, followed by a stiff ascent back to Tresham. Please bring a packed lunch.

Start: Parking on the roadside in Tresham village; please park considerately.

Tresham is approximately one mile west of the A46, 7 miles south of Nailsworth and 7 miles north of M4 J18. ST 793 912. Map square: B7.

Leaders: Derrick Hildersley & Paul Clarke

Sunday 24 June 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. Parking charge applies for non members of the National Trust. ST 748 757. Map square: A9.

Leaders: John Walker & Barry Cox

Friday 29 June 10am Flower Foray On & Around Cleeve Common

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 nearby butterfly reserves. Bring packed lunch and wear study footwear for scrambling over rougher areas.

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

Leaders: Jean Booth & Simon Mallatratt

Saturday 30 June 10am Edging Along

5 hours • 10 miles

A low level walk to Arlescote via Lower Tysoe and Radway and a hilly return along the wooded ridge of Edge Hill using the Centenary Way, passing the historic site of the Battle of Edge Hill. Possible pub stop, but please bring a packed lunch.

Start: St Mary's Church, Middle Tysoe CV35 OSD. SP 341 444. Map square: H2.

Leaders: Janet Deller & Maureen Shears

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