



wye valley

Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

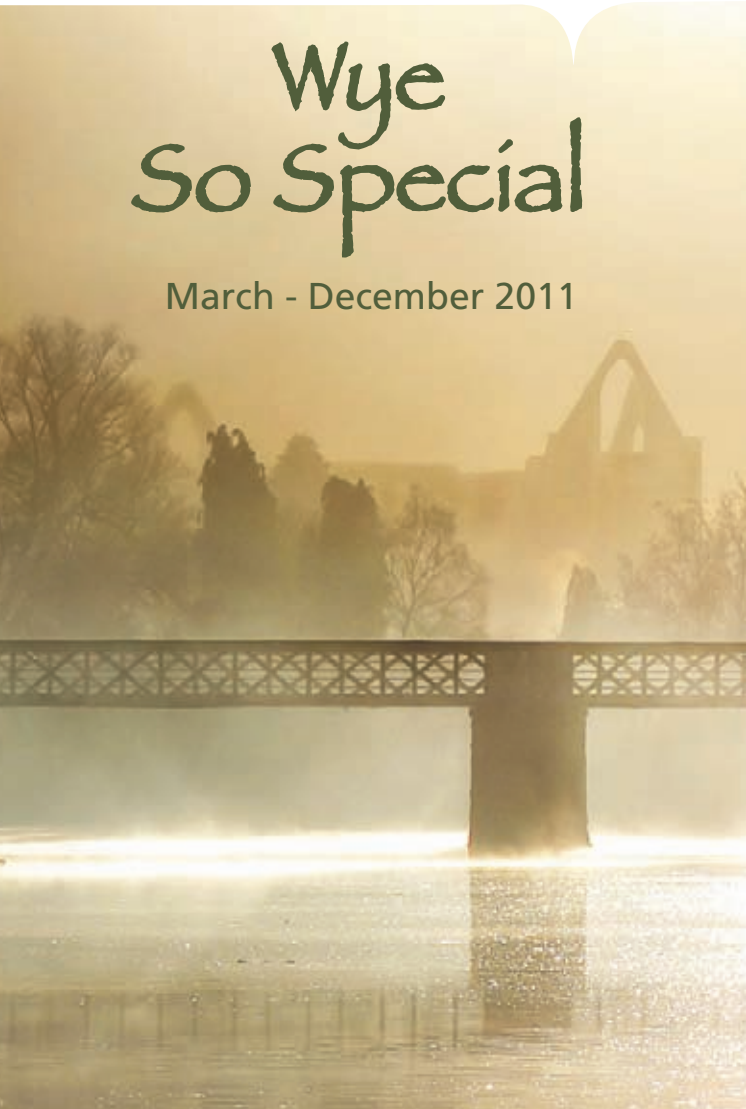
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Ardal o Harddwch
Naturiol Eithriadol

40 years on

Wye So Special

March - December 2011



a programme of events, walks and courses to increase the
appreciation and to celebrate the
40th anniversary of the
Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

40 years on

introduction

The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an internationally important protected landscape. 2011 is the 40th anniversary of the Wye Valley being designated an AONB and within this booklet we have produced events, walks and courses that allow people to celebrate this special landscape and the work within it.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty contain this country's finest landscapes and are home to some of our most exquisite and unusual wildlife species. Designated in 1971, the Wye Valley AONB is one of 47 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It covers 128 sq miles from north of Chepstow to the south of Hereford and straddles the borders between England and Wales, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire.

Recognised for its spectacular scenery, the living and working Wye Valley is steeped in history and rich in wildlife, archaeological gems and impressive geological features. The origins of tourism, industry and the Picturesque movement are held within its heart and it has been much lauded by poets, writers, painters, tourists and adventurers for over 250 years

Overlooking the Wye is a £2.8 m scheme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed through the Wye Valley AONB Partnership.

The aim is to improve and promote enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment in the landscape of the lower Wye Valley. This involves projects at over forty sites over three years.

All Wye Valley AONB events are free of charge unless indicated.

When attending events and walks, please wear appropriate clothing and strong, comfortable footwear.

Children accompanied by adults are welcome on walks.

Please check to see if dogs, (other than Guidedogs for the Blind) are acceptable .

To book on any walk or event please use the contacts below each walk description and location.

All contact information is on the inside back page of this guide.

Events, courses and walks within this booklet are correct at time of printing and contain an outline of the event.

Up to date information is also available on the Wye Valley AONB website www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk



family events

Hands on History*

Date: Sunday, April 17

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Leader: Overlooking the Wye

The first of the Wye Valley AONB 40th anniversary celebration events.

Travel through time to explore the Wye Valley's historical past from the creation of Civil War weaponry to the industrial development of the area, including paper making and metal working.

Discover the fascinating history of the Wye Valley Railway. Attractions include Civil War re-enactment, steam engines, miniature railway and family activities.

Location: Old Station Tintern

Booking: Not required

Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Old Station Tintern

Iron Age Rampage *

Date: Sunday, May 22

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Leader: Overlooking the Wye

Find out how people used to live during the Iron Age at Yat Rock and how they differed from the Romans.

Lots of family fun activities, demonstrations, iron age battles, face painting and loads and loads of fun.

Investigate archaeological evidence and bring artefacts of your own for the experts to identify.

Location: Symonds Yat Rock

Booking: Not required

Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Iron Age Hill Fort

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

family events cont.

Open Farm Sunday

Date: Sunday, June 12
Time: 12.00 am - 3:00 pm
Leader: Wye Valley AONB staff

Join us as we celebrate everything agricultural down on the farm with the reigning AONB farmer of the year, Gareth Williams. Bring your own picnic and enjoy a great family experience

Location: Caplor Farm
Booking: Not required
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Feeding Lambs

On the Way to the Wye*

Date: Saturday, June 18
Time: 10:30am - 5:00pm
Leader: Wye Valley AONB staff

A free family event celebrating the 18th century at Ross-on-Wye riverside. Walk with John Kyrle (Man of Ross), Nelson and famous people who visited the town and made it an iconic tourist destination. Meet Georgian ladies, gentlemen, musicians, sailors, soldiers, rougues and vagabonds and discover how life was lived in the age of elegance. Fun, frolics and fiddle faddle. Free parking at Wilton Road car park.

Location: Ross on Wye
Booking: Not required
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Georgian Ladies

Men are better Map Readers than women ?

Date: Wednesday, July 13
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:30pm
Leader: Nic Howes

Take part in this fun family evening to challenge and bust the map reading myth.

Location: Haugh Wood
Distance: 5 miles / 8kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Map reading

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

family events cont.

Teddy Bears Olympics

Date: Wednesday, July 27
Time: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Leader: Monmouthshire Countryside Service

"Ready, teddy, go! at the Old Station, Tintern. Get teddy ready for the teddy Olympics. Make the courses, help teddy take part in the races and make medals. Why not have a picnic with your teddy at the end? A fun filled morning for young families in the countryside.

Location: Old Station Tintern
Booking: Essential
Contact: Old Station Tintern
Cost: £1 per child



Above: Teddies at the ready

Net a Pond Monster

Date: Wednesday, August 3
Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 am
Leader: Wye Valley AONB staff

Come and join us to explore the under water world thriving in the wildlife ponds at Gadr Farm. Great fun for all the family.

Location: Gadr Farm, Monmouthshire
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Discovering newts

Natural Festivities

Date: Saturday, December 3
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Leader: Judith Hartley /Simon Johnson

Join Judith and Simon in a fun family workshop. Learn the art of weaving beautiful Christmas decorations or make a festive wreath.

Location: Puzzlewood, nr Coleford
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB
Cost: £2



Above: Christmas Decorations

* Heritage Lottery Funded event



walks

Trellech Beacon

Date: Sunday, March 6
Time: 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Leader: Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Tour Guide

This walk takes in splendid views over the River Wye and explores the village of Trellech. It uses a mixture of woodland paths, fields and little-used roads. Trellech has several interesting curiosities that we will explore including the mysterious Harold Stones, Terret Tump and the Virtuous Well.

Location: Trellech
Distance: 5.25 miles/8.5 km
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



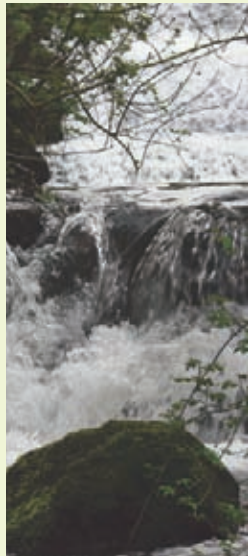
Above:Trellech

Beyond the Abbey*

Date: Saturday March 19
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00pm
Leader: Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Tour Guide

A walk to investigate Tintern's Industrial past. Explore beyond the Abbey into the Angidy Valley, where the newly conserved remains of ancient iron workings and blast furnace will be explored. There will also be a visit to the ruins of St Mary's Church overlooking the abbey site.

Location: Tintern
Distance: 3.75 miles / 6 kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above:The Angidy

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

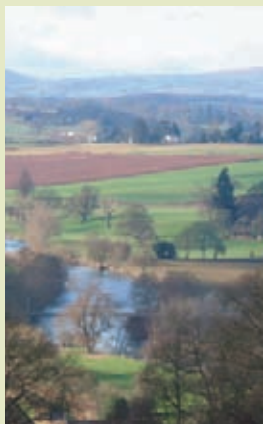
walks cont.

How Caple Court Gardens and Down to the Wye

Date: Wednesday, May 4
Time: 2.00 pm - 4.00pm
Leader: Heather Hurley

A delightful stroll from the court and its church and through parkland to the banks of the Wye. Discover the past importance of the Totnor Brook, Lords Meadow and Lyndor Wood will be revealed.

Location: How Caple Court Gardens
Distance: 2.5 miles / 4 kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above How Caple:

From the Wye to the * Deadwoman

Date: Wednesday, June 15
Time: 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm
Leader: Heather Hurley

Investigate the riverside at Ross and Wilton before exploring an ancient route to the slopes of Chase Hill. Three sites selected for interpretation by the Overlooking the Wye scheme will be featured.

Location: Ross on Wye
Distance: 4 miles / 6.5 kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Ross riverside

John Kyrle Walk With a difference

Date: Saturday, June 18
Time: 10.15 am - 12.30 pm
Leader: Sam Phillips

This walk opens the Herefordshire Walking Festival and takes place during the AONB 'On the Way to the Wye' Georgian celebration day. Follow the route of the 'John Kyrle Walk' alongside the river, returning through Ashfield.

Location: Ross on Wye
Distance: 4 miles / 6.5 kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Visit Herefordshire



Above: The Prospect, Ross

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

walks cont.

Walking through Perrystone

Date: Wednesday, June 22

Time: 1.30 -5.00pm

Leader: Wye Valley AONB

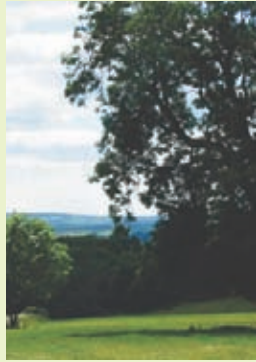
Visit this unique Herefordshire estate in the company of Adrian Hanks Head Gamekeeper and historian Heather Hurley. Part of the Herefordshire Walking Festival.

Location Perrystone, nr Ross-on-Wye

Distance: 6 miles / 9.65 kms.

Booking: Essential

Contact: Visit Herefordshire



Above Perrystone Estate:

New Weir Forge & Lords Wood *

Date: Friday, June 24

Time: 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Leader: Herefordshire Archaeology

Explore the archaeology of New Weir Forge and Lord's Wood with Herefordshire Council's Archaeology Service. New Weir Forge was in use from at least the 1590s and was known for refining iron from nearby furnaces. Some steep, slippery paths.

Location: Symonds Yat West

Distance: 5 miles / 8 kms

Booking: Essential

Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above : Archaeologists at New Weir Forge

Devil's Pulpit *

Date: Saturday, July 23

Time: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Leader: Gloucestershire Archaeology

During British Archaeology Week take a guided walk around Offa's Dyke. Stunning abbey views at the Devil's Pulpit, - a limestone rock jutting out from the cliffs from where (legend has it) the devil preached to the monks below. Some rocky sections on the footpath. Celebrate 40th anniversary of Offas Dyke Path National Trail

Location: Tidenham Chase Car Park

Distance: 4 miles / 7.2kms

Booking: Essential

Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Tintern Abbey from Devil's Pulpit

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

walks cont.

Jubilee Walk

Date: Sunday, September 4
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00pm
Leader: Forest of Dean and Wye
Valley Tour Guide

Follow in the footsteps of poet William Wordsworth through Bargain Wood to enjoy intimate views of the Sylvan Wye. William Wordsworth first visited Tintern in 1793 and returned five years later, when he wrote the (rather literally entitled) poem "Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey", saying that "no poem of mine was composed under circumstances more pleasant for me to remember than this". You will visit Cleddon falls and the Bread and Cheese viewpoint en route to the river bank at Llandogo. Return with a gradual ascent on this atmospheric circular walk.

Location: Llandogo
Distance: 3.7 miles / 6 kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Cleddon Falls

The Valley the Wye Forgot

Date: Sunday, October 2
Time: 9.30 am
Leader: Nic Howes

A walk with a geological / geomorphological theme. Heading to the south of Ross-on-Wye, taking in Coughton and Howle Hill. Great views, the landscape brought to life through geological interpretation. Three steep climbs.

Location: Ross-on-Wye
Distance: 4.3 miles / 6.5kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Chase Hill

walks cont.

Trails and Ghost Tales*

Date: Sunday, October 30
Time: 10.30 am – 2.30 pm
Leader: Forest of Dean Writers

Get in the mood for Halloween and come on a ghostly five mile walk which includes the telling of two spooky tales, written and researched by local authors.

The route will follow a steep ascent to St Briavel's Castle and includes soup and a roll at a pub.

Location: Slip Woods Car Park
Distance: 5 miles / 8kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Overlooking the Wye
Cost: £4.00 for soup and roll



Above: Ghost Tales

Brockweir and Devils Pulpit

Date: Sunday, December 4
Time: 10 am - 1:00 pm
Leader: Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Tour Guide

Starting from the village of Brockweir with its historic quay and Moravian Chapel ascend onto Offa's Dyke, to follow an elevated though level pathway to the Devil's Pulpit affording an iconic view of the Abbey below. The return leg takes in open countryside with glimpses of the Severn.

Location: Brockweir
Distance: 5 miles / 8kms
Booking: Essential
Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Brockweir

* Heritage Lottery Funded event



events

Hands on History*

Date: Sunday, April 17
Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Leader: Overlooking the Wye

The first of the free Wye Valley AONB 40th anniversary celebration events.

Travel through time to explore the Wye Valley's history from the creation of Civil War weaponry to the industrial development of the area, including paper making and metal working. Attractions include steam engines, re-enactments, miniature railway and family activities.

Location: Old Station Tintern
Booking: None required
Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Civil War weapons

Heritage Buildings Day*

Date: Saturday, April 30
Time: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm
Leader: Kate Biggs

Come and talk to the experts about building conservation and traditional building skills and learn how to look after and conserve listed buildings.

Location: Newland Church, Newland
Booking: Essential
Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Lime mortaring

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

events cont.

Mini Bus Tours of the Wye Valley

Upper Wye Valley Tour*

Date: Monday, May 16
Time: 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Leader: Overlooking the Wye

A minibus tour of some of the sites included in the Overlooking the Wye scheme to explain the historical context of the site and the conservation works completed. The route includes Symonds Yat Rock, The Kymin, Little Doward Hillfort, Goodrich Castle, New Weir Forge, Symonds Yat West Limekiln and Ross Quayside. The minibus will drive from location to location, but there will be some walking around the sites.

Location: Symonds Yat Rock Car Park
Booking: Essential
Cost: £15 (includes morning coffee break and lunch)
Contact: Overlooking the Wye

Lower Wye Valley Tour*

Date: Friday, May 20
Time: 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Leader: Overlooking the Wye

A minibus tour of some of the sites included in the Overlooking the Wye scheme to explain the historical context of the site and the conservation works completed. The route includes Tintern Limekiln, Abbey Mill, Lower Wireworks, Angidy Furnace, Whitestone, Brockweir Quay, Old Station, Eagle's Nest and The Alcove (Piercefield). The minibus will drive from location to location, but there will be some walking around the sites.

Location: Tintern Abbey Car Park
Booking: Essential
Cost: £15 (includes morning coffee break and lunch)
Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Little Doward Hillfort



Above: Eagles Nest

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

events and workshops cont.

Iron Age Rampage *

Date: Sunday, May 22

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Leader: Overlooking the Wye

Find out how people used to live during the Iron Age at Yat Rock and how they differed from the Romans. Lots of family activities, demonstrations, iron age battles, face painting and loads and loads of fun.

Investigate archaeological evidence and bring your own artefacts for the experts to identify.

Location: Symonds Yat Rock

Booking: Not required

Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Yat Rock Iron Age Hillfort

Excavation at Little Doward *

Date: Tuesday, May 3 - Sunday, May 22

Time: 8.30am - 5.00pm

Leader: Neil Rimmington,
Herefordshire Archaeology

Students/members of the public can learn about archaeological excavation procedures and survey techniques on this scheduled monument hillfort site. The excavation will be at the boundary of the larger 'oval' area with the lower rectangular 'annex' area in order to determine which one came first.

Location: Little Doward

Booking: Essential

Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Excavation at Little Doward

events cont.

On the Way to the Wye *

Date: Saturday, June 18
Time: 10:30am - 5:30pm
Leader: Wye Valley AONB staff

A free family event celebrating 18th century life in Ross-on-Wye at the Caroline Symonds Gardens. Meet John Kyrle (Man of Ross), Gilpin, Nelson and the famous artists and writers who visited the town and made it an iconic tourist destination and popularised the Picturesque. Join a progression down through Ross in the company of Heather Hurley, historian and author.

Meet 18th century ladies, gentlemen, musicians, sailors, soldiers, roustabouts and vagabonds and discover how life was lived in the age of elegance through fashion, music, fun, frolics and fiddle faddle Georgian style. Free parking at Wilton Road car park.

Location: Ross on Wye Riverside

Booking: Not required

Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Georgian Street Vendors

Tintern and the Romantics *

Date: Wednesday, July 6 - July 8
Time: 10am - 4pm
Leader: Aberystwyth University and Nottingham Trent University

This international conference – to be held on the banks of the Wye at Tintern, revisits a cultural ground that resonates with British poetry, art, aesthetic theory, picturesque tourism and political intervention. Speakers include Professor Suzanne Matheson, University of Windsor, Canada and Professor Fiona Stafford, Somerville College, Oxford.

Location: Tintern Village Hall

Booking: Essential

Cost: 3 days - £75, 1 day - £25

Contact: Aberystwyth University



Above: Turner's view of Tintern Abbey

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

events cont.

Medieval Mayhem with Overlooking the Wye *

Date: Sunday September 18

Time: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Leader: Overlooking the Wye

See how the £2.8m Heritage Lottery Fund has been used through the Overlooking the Wye scheme. Learn about work at 40 sites with multiple partners and enjoy some family medieval fun. One of Cadw's Open Doors events at Chepstow Castle.

Location: Chepstow Castle

Booking: Not required

Contact: Overlooking the Wye



Above: Chepstow Castle

Fungal Foray

Date: Sunday, October 23

Time: 10:00 am - 3.00pm

Leader: Herefordshire Fungus Survey Group

Join a team of mycological experts and comb Coppett Hill to explore the fascinating world of fungi. After a 2 hour foray returning to Goodrich Village Hall for lunch and fungi identification workshop.

Location: Goodrich

Distance: 4 miles / 7.2 kms

Booking: Essential

Cost: £3.00 for soup and roll

Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Honey Fungus

The Hidden Past of Chase Hill

Date: Wednesday, November 16

Time: 7.30 pm

Leader: Heather Hurley

An illustrated presentation to discover the history, tales and legends of Chase Hill from Prehistoric to Victorian times with local author and historian Heather Hurley.

Location: Goodrich Village Hall

Booking: Essential

Cost: £2

Contact: Wye Valley AONB



Above: Looking to Chase Hill

* Heritage Lottery Funded event



Basket Weaving

Date: Saturday March 19 and Sunday March 20

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm each day

Leader: Judith Hartley

Learn the skills of making baskets with willow. You will be able to produce a finished basket within the two day period and learn techniques for making other basketry items. Please bring secateurs and an old towel. Tea and coffee included .

Location: Tintern

Cost: £50

Booking: Essential

Contact: Wye Valley AONB

Stone walling

Date: Saturday April 2 and Sunday April 3

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm each day

Leader: Chris Hodges

A practical introduction to drystone walling. Learn the basics of walling with expert Chris Hodges. Please bring gloves, steel toe capped boots, waterproofs and a packed lunch.

Location: Catbrook

Cost: £50

Booking: Essential

Contact: Wye Valley AONB

The History of Millstone Extraction*

Date: Saturday, April 30

Time: 11.00 am - 2.30pm

Leader: Bob Trett

A talk on the millstone extraction in the Penallt area at Pentwyn Farm. This will be followed by a walk through Prisk Wood examining many features and old quarries within the landscape.

Location: Pentwyn Farm and Prisk Wood

Cost: £5.00.

Booking: Essential as places will be limited

Contact: Gwent Wildlife Trust

* Heritage Lottery Funded event

courses cont..

Paper Making (Adults)*

Date: Sunday, May 8

Time: 3hr workshops 10.00 am - 1.00 pm, 2pm-5pm

Leader: Julie Roberts

Paper making was one of the industries that took advantage of the rapid streams that flow into the Wye Valley. The clear, soft water of Whitebrook was ideal for the four paper mills that produced paper there in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Here is the opportunity to try out making hand made paper with artist Julie Roberts and create your own Wye Valley papers incorporating plant materials from the valley.

Location: Drill Hall, Lower Church Street, Chepstow, NP16 5HJ

Cost: £7.50

Booking: Essential as places will be limited

Contact: Chepstow Museum

Lime Mortaring*

Date: Saturday, May 14

Time: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Leader: Ty mawr Lime

A practical introduction to lime mortaring. See an example of historical lime use and learn about the composition and application of lime mortar. Please bring gloves, steel toe capped boots or wellies, waterproofs and a packed lunch.

Location: Brockweir Village shop

Cost: £20

Booking: Essential

Contact: Overlooking the Wye

Charcoal Making *

Date: Wednesday, May 18

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Leader: Jan Kinchington

Charcoal has a multitude of uses from firing BBQs to a useful artist's medium. Historically it also had many other uses and is an important component of the industrial revolution. This course will teach you all about charcoal and activities will include stacking a kiln, controlling a burn and unloading the finished product. This is a popular course so early booking is advisable.

Location: Croes Robert Nature Reserve

Cost: £5

Booking: Essential

Contact: Gwent Wildlife Trust

* Heritage Lottery Funded event



courses cont..

Paper Making (Families)*

Date: Friday, June 3

Time: 9.30 am-11.00 am, 11.30 am-1.00pm, 2pm-3.30pm

Leader: Julie Roberts

Family workshop sessions learning to make paper with Julie Roberts

Location: Drill Hall, Lower Church Street,
Chepstow, NP16 5HJ

Cost: £2.50 per child (all children must be accompanied
max 3 children per adult) Minimum age 4+

Booking: Essential as places will be limited

Contact: Chepstow Museum

Hidden Industry Dayschool *

Date: Saturday, September 10

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

When the Wye Valley became popular with tourists two hundred and fifty years ago it was already well established as an area of industrial importance and the river was a busy highway shipping goods and materials in and out. Just as well that the tourists relished the sounds of hammers, the fire and smoke of furnaces, the sails of boats on the river! The Wye's tributaries supplied the water power and the woods the charcoal that fuelled the works. But the Wye Valley is more special – the sites of the first water-powered wire works in Britain and the first brass to be made, at Tintern; the first smelting of copper using coal at Redbrook, place it at the forefront of early industrial developments. A day of talks by historians and archaeologists who have worked on aspects of the Valley's astonishing industrial past

Location: Chepstow Drill Hall

Cost: £7.50, £4.00 concession

Booking: Essential

Contact: Chepstow Museum



* Heritage Lottery Funded event



Contact Information

Wye Valley AONB Unit

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email: community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

Overlooking the Wye

Julie Godfrey, Finance and Administration Officer

tel: 01600 891527

email: julie@overlookingthewye.org.uk

Gwent Wildlife Trust

tel: 01600 740600

email: info@gwentwildlife.org

Chepstow Museum

tel: 01291 625981

email: chepstowmuseum@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Monmouthshire Countryside Service/ Old Station Tintern

tel: 01291 689566

Aberystwyth University

email: Stephanie.Churms@scc09@aber.ac.uk

Gloucestershire Archaeology

tel: 01452 425705

email: anna.morris@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Herefordshire Walking Festival

Book online at www.walkingfestival.com or through the Discover Herefordshire Centre, 1 King Street, Hereford HR4 9BW

tel: 01432 268430

email: walking@discoverheritage.co.uk

For up to date walks, courses and events access our website **www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk**

All information contained within this leaflet was correct at time of publication.

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Overlooking
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Dros Ddyffryn Gwy



The Wye Valley AONB is supported by Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England, Forest of Dean District Council, Herefordshire Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Monmouthshire County Council