

Here comes a proper summer, when we can go out and about everywhere. Is it time to plan a short break, with some beautiful scenery, good food and a proper get away from it all?!

If you want to take it fairly easy, but also see the sights, follow fashion and hire an electric bike (and Wye Bikes have 15% off this month). Or just relax totally on a cruise on the Wye.



Events:

- Walk or run! St Michael's Hospice Big Spring Walk is a vital fundraiser (and at 2K to 16K you can chose the route that suits); or run the Forest of Dean Spring Trail Half Marathon. 20 March
- Join chef Versha Patel to create Mumbai street food at Harts Barn Cookery School. 2 April / 3 Sept.
- Vineyard tours and wine tasting in the 16th century manor house at Wythall Estate, Ross-on-Wye. Dates from 9 April (see website)
- Coleford Carnival of Transport returns! 500ish classic cars, including hot rods. 18 April.
- Ross-on-Wye Beer & Cider Festival, on the banks of the Wye. 30 Apr – 1 May.
- The new Arts Centre for the Forest of Dean opens in Cinderford with Artsjab event. 7 May.
- Make a mosaic house number. Join Rachael of Inspiring Creativity Studio for a relaxing and inspiring day at her studio near Taurus Crafts. 14 May.
- Walk the Wye for Breast Cancer Research. Choose from one of four walks in the beautiful Wye Valley. 15 May.
- Back to the Cave. Pangolin Gallery are exhibiting some exceptional sculpture from artists you have heard of in Clearwell Caves (we saw their exhibitions in Gloucester Cathedral, which were outstanding). 21 May – 17 July.
- Murder Mystery on a Steam Train. Dress up for a two-course meal and a mystery to solve on a heritage steam train with Dean Forest Railway. 21 May / 6 Aug.
- Redbrook Music Festival. A great fun, family friendly festival on the banks of the Wye. Craft beers, local food. 28 May.
- Coleford Fiddle Fair. Craft market and artisan food, live music and entertainment. 28 May / 27 Aug / 3 Dec.
- Hellen's Garden Festival. Great craft stalls, local food, music, art and local plantspeople selling, all set in magical surroundings. 11-12 June
- The Tour of Britain is back – and Gloucestershire sees a full stage as it is hosting Stage 6. Details to be released very soon. 9 Sep.

Activities News:

Imagine indulging in a beauty or spa treatment whilst looking out on our view?! [Zen Pamper](#) is a mobile spa run by Zoe. Just get in touch to book her to visit and spoil you in your apartment. She also does pamper parties, art parties and specialist cancer massage therapy.

Kennys Taxis is a very useful number to have up your sleeve. As well as standard taxis, they do walk transfers and canoe and bike carrying – so you can get dropped off and/or collected wherever you want. 07828 882 432.



Lydney Harbour: the multi-million HLF project is complete. As well as a lovely walk and lots of history and boats, there is now a great café. You can park there, or take the Dean Heritage Railway.

Hideous Histories tours of Herefordshire – a great way to explore the area, they include scavenger hunts and other challenges. Our local one (for Wye Valley) includes King Arthur's Cave and Goodrich Castle.

How lovely an idea is this?! Make your own engagement or wedding ring/s at [The Studio Jewellery School](#), Taurus Crafts. Get in touch with goldsmith Anna to book.

If you are in search of stars, the Visit Dean Wye website has a good section on famous locals – including Olly Alexander of *Years and Years* and *It's a Sin* fame. He grew up in Coleford, his first job was at Moonstones and his Mum helped start the annual Coleford Music Festival.

Fancy designing and printing your own unique framed print, or a cushion or bag, or perhaps get ahead of the game and make your own Christmas cards? Made at The Hut, near St Briavels, offers Indian block printing and lino-cut and print courses. My sister Anna is the artist and teacher, but I also have a go!

Food and Drink News:

Congrats to Forest Deli in Coleford who won gold at Taste of the West. They are amazing in their support for local producers, and their delivery service kept people going through lockdown. They also do picnics!

The Boat, Penallt have really developed their menu (utterly amazing with their tiny kitchen). It is a glorious location by the River Wye, with waterfalls in the garden! We had a massive steak and ale pie; they now also do vegan food, including a Buddha bowl with watermelon. Park in Redbrook and cross the Wye on the Victorian iron railway bridge to get there (and cross from England to Wales).

Scrumbs are a local venture (based in Berry Hill) who do graze boxes, cream teas, picnics and cakes to order for delivery. Get in touch on Facebook. Here is the allotment cake they prepared recently!



Filming News:

The Masked Singer filmed Mushroom (revealed to be Charlotte Church) at Puzzlewood. Very cute, and an amazing singer!

Please post any photos or experiences on our [Facebook](#) site and do leave reviews if you enjoyed your stay with us. We are now on [Instagram](#)