

The daffs are out at Rock Lodge, catkins blooming, lambs on the way and frogs up to their springtime business (frogspawn in abundance) – do come and enjoy the Forest coming back to life.



**Our News:** Trying to keep fit and active! I took up rowing on the Wye (that's me coxing – we didn't hit anything!). Darren signed up for a big walk around The Gower – so you may see him out in the Forest training.

### Events (this is merely a sample):

- 4 April Easter Market at Ross-on-Wye
- 6 April Coleford Motor Festival
- 11 April Sherlock Holmes and The Twisted Key – murder mystery on a steam train, with 2 course meal
- 17 April on Guided walks of Roman Gloucester. Most Fridays until 18 September
- 25 April Live Fire Dining Popup @ The Apple Barn
- 2-3 May Ross Beer and Cider Festival
- 21 May Evening horse-racing at Chepstow Racecourse
- 23-24 May Monmouth Rowing Club regatta
- 24 May Spring Food Festival in Speech House grounds, with some amazing music including old school reggae, RnB and Funk from Onika Venus Trio
- 31 May Experience early morning bird song out with Ed and Liz Drewitt
- 1-30 June Nightjar Safaris with Forest Wildlife Safaris team
- 5 – 7 June Sausage and Cider Festival, The Rising Sun at Bream
- 7 June Fiddle Fair, Coleford
- 14 June Vegan market in Ross-on-Wye
- 28 June Summer Garden Party, Old Court Hotel at Symonds Yat West
- 30 July Pizza & Pottery Experience at Hot Pot Pottery (other dates for potting available)
- 30-31 August Ross-on-Wye Regatta
- 27 Sept Forest of Dean Half Marathon on forest trails with no road crossings – register by 13 Sept
- 20 Sept Pedal Wye Valley – cycling for charity over 25, 57 and 82 mile routes through Forest of Dean and Wye Valley



### **Activities News:**

Goodrich Castle announced an amazing technicoloured wall painting discovery. It is also one of the sites of a 'bonding bench'. Launched just in time for Easter in the castle café – Hot Cross Scones, how can you resist?!

Dog friendly cycling experience available with Pedalabikeaway – from £50 for adult leisure bike and a trailer for your pooch.

### **Food and Drink News:**

Simply Wild in Coleford deservedly won three AA rosettes – do give them a try, it is really special food and the tasting menu is worth every penny.

Make your own gin at Silver Circle Distillery (on Kate Humble's farm – with excellent burgers next door at The Pig and Apple). They also do Bloody Mary in a soup can – an excellent gift.

Forest Deli tasting counter allows you to sample their excellent cheeses, perhaps accompanied by some of their homemade chutneys from produce grown on site.

The Forest Brewery, tucked away behind Taurus Crafts, is worth a visit just for the beers and atmosphere. But every Thursday to Saturday night (5-8pm) there is also food by Stuff that Tastes Good (you should have seen the bavette steaks they did last month!)

### **Filming and Publishing News:**

Out this month is *An A to Z of the Forest of Dean* by local author David Elder. He uncovers histories of buildings, the people (famous and infamous) and legends of this separate, almost secret, part of Gloucestershire.

*Werewolf* was being filmed in Puzzlewood at the beginning of the year. The movie, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Lily-Rose Depp and Willem Dafoe, is due out in December.

Much of the outdoor and forest shoots in *Hamnet* were filmed at our own Lydney Park, including the birth tree. The estate is open through April, May and early June. Amazing rhododendron displays and their own Roman temple. (Dogs welcome, feel free to picnic).



*Young Sherlock*, Guy Ritchie's new series now showing on Amazon Prime, took over Monmouth's Beaufort Court and transformed it into an Oxford market square. Claire and Bob's tea shop provided interiors and Shire Hall's court room appears in the opening 5 minutes. Do visit beautiful Llanvihangel Hall and its ancient guardhouse if you get the chance, this was used as the family home and feels almost untouched by time.

Hope to see you soon, Claire and Darren

We are on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

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