

The evenings are drawing in. Check out our night skies with Dark Sky experts; forage for autumnal goodies; canoe the tranquil Wye without all the summer hordes and make the most of our glorious walks and cosy pubs.

VisitWyeDean have put together some suggested itineraries including Crafty Wye, activities, hidden gems, and the Delicious Dean. <https://www.visitdeanwye.co.uk/gofindfreedom>



Events:

- Autumn Equinox Fair at The Dean Heritage Centre. Free entry to the whole site plus produce and craft stalls, live music and artists. 22 September.
- Open Doors across Wales CADW sites for September. Includes Caerwent Roman town on 22 September.
- Ross Walking Festival: 28 guided walks around town, river and countryside to suit different abilities. 27-29 September.
- Live Fire Dining & Beer Pairing Event. A three-course feast with 2 expertly curated beers per course at Harts Barn Cookery School (charcoal roasted lemon tart for desert sounds intriguing). Followed by live music and the chance to dance. 29 September.
- Dark Sky Photography Classes with David Broadbent and Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Photography School. Group or Masterclass. 1-17 October.
- Forest Showcase Food Festival at The Speech House. 6 October.
- Mosaic Taster session, with prosecco / gin and make your own coasters! Inspiring Creativity at Lydney Park. 13 October.
- Shadows of Tintern. Light projections, fire and sound bring Tintern Abby to life. Autumnal food and drink from local suppliers. Look out for me doing visitor evaluation at the gate! 18-19 October.
- Taurus Crafts Christmas Market. Stalls, music and tasty food and drink in their lovely (and dog-friendly) site. 30 Nov-1 Dec, 7-8 Dec, 14-15 Dec.

And lots of other Christmas fairs and markets in gorgeous places to inspire present choices and indulge yourselves:

Hay-on-Wye
Llanvihangel Court
Ross-on-Wye
Rolls Manor
Hereford Cathedral
Malvern
Hellens Manor, Much Marcle
St Briavels
Dean Heritage Centre

Activities News:

Many of our local pubs have regular music nights, and dogs are welcome at most. Check out The Boat at Penallt; The Dog and Muffler in Berry Hill and The Dog House in Coleford for starters.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localmusiceventsforestofdean/>

You can spend a day (or more) at Elton Farm Leisure. They offer Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting, the famous Maize Mazes, Outdoor Laser Tag, adventure golf, bike trails and jumps at Shredhill and catfish and carp fishing if you need to relax after all that activity!

Hot Pot Pottery have reopened in the gorgeous new venue for you to have a go at potting and pottery painting, and Katie has even more lovely creations on sale as well.



Food and Drink News:

I have been foraging for my jam making. Elderberry is a new one this year. For sale in the honesty basket in our laundry.

Hive Mind Meadery have been selected as a Rising Star by Speciality Food Magazine, recognised as one of the UK's most innovative and exciting. Do pop over to their Caldicot site for some tasting, one of their evening events or to make your own mead.

16 year old Arianna launched Berries Unlocked and now has three sites for her soft fruit vending machines. The closest is the Symonds Yat turning off the A40 (HR9 6DF).



Filming and Publishing News:

Caldicot Castle was the location of the military camp throughout the Sanditon series, and you can visit for free! (Closes end of October and reopens at Easter). You also have Dewstow grotto gardens and Caerwent roman town within 2 miles.

The Change – Channel 4's sharp comedy series, all filmed in the Forest – is set to return, this time directed by Mackenzie Crook.

National Geographic declared that the ancient Forest of Dean 'an overlooked nook' should be your next UK destination.

[Forest of Dean article](#)

Puzzlewood was locked down by Netflix for filming of season 4 of *The Witcher*, now starring Liam Hemsworth. We are still awaiting a release date.

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

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