

# Chilterns Walking Festival Summary

## 15 – 30 October 2022

An initiative of the Chilterns Conservation Board

- The Festival featured **53 events over 15 days**
- Guided walks took place throughout the Chilterns
- We worked with **over 30 organisations** and **volunteer walk leaders** across the Chilterns
- We had **439 participants on bookable walks** plus additional bookings on third party walks.
- **53%** of respondents **visited at least one or more local business**
- **46%** discovered new parts of the Chilterns during the Festival
- **34%** of respondents came from outside the **Chilterns**, many from nearby urban areas
- 57% had attended previous festivals – we have some very loyal customers who book on multiple walks



# Chilterns Walking Festival

[www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest](http://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest)

BOOK ONLINE

HEALTH & WELLBEING  
events

TASTER sessions  
and outdoor learning

WALKS for ALL

CHILTERNS  
WALKING Festival





**An exciting and varied programme led by knowledgeable guides...**  
*Nature walks, family-friendly, arts and crafts experiences, after dark exploration, wellness and mindfulness, orienteering, nature spotting, heritage and history walks...*





## Supporting businesses through the Walking Festival

- 24 businesses were directly involved in the Walking Festival
- Many more businesses benefited from additional footfall to the area and from media coverage

### Walk on the Dark Side!



Friday 21



7.30pm



4 miles

Walk (1002)

Wrap up warm and experience an exhilarating 'Walk on the Dark Side' in the Chiltern Hills! Our after dark exploration starts out from the Bottle & Glass Inn at Binfield Heath to discover the night-time world of Bones Wood and Crowsley Park. We will take time to tune into the sights and sounds of the night. Return to the pub for a hot drink in the garden and some shooting stargazing (weather permitting).

### Butties, Birds and Beautiful Views - A walk from The Alford Arms



Saturday 22



9.30am



4.5 miles

Walk (0401)

Join us for a bacon butty and cuppa (on the house) at The Alford Arms before venturing out into the lovely Gade Valley. The walk starts out along a Roman Road, passes a Buddhist monastery and through the water meadows beside the River Gade. Along the way there are outstanding views over the valley and the opportunity to spot local wildlife.

### Chinnor Hill, Old Kiln Lakes and Steam on the Ridgeway



Thursday 27



11am



5 miles

Walk (0201)

Discover Chinnor Hill nature reserve with its wide ranging views and a great place to see red kites. Return via the Ridgeway national trail and the historic Donkey Lane to explore Old Kiln Lakes. Here we see former chalk quarries which are now managed as wildlife lakes, and also a rare example of an early 20th century beehive kiln. At the end of the walk you will have a chance to relax with a return steam train ride along the preserved Icknield Line railway to Princes Risborough.



Pipsticks  
WALKS



# Promoting the Chilterns Walking Festival



**Panoramic views and Prime Ministers' Haunts**  
 Saturday 15 8.30am 5.5 miles Walk (1002)

We start with a steady climb up Cosmo Hill to panoramic views over the Aylesbury Vale. We then drop down to the 12th Century church of Ellesborough, through ancient box woodlands and around the edge of Chequer, the 16th Century manor and home to prime ministers since 1921. We stop off at Backmoorland Farm safe for refreshments.

**Walk to the WW1 Trenches at Marlow Common**  
 Saturday 15 9.30am 2 miles Walk (2202)

Join us for tea and coffee (on the house) in the Teepee at The Royal

**Practical map reading and walk planning**  
 (Princes Risborough)  
 Saturday 15 1pm 4.5 miles Walk (1601)

On this half day course we will navigate ourselves around a scenic 4.5 mile walk, through typical Chilterns terrain of fields and woodland, using common navigation techniques. You will learn about the useful bits of information a map can give and this will help you plan your own walks. During the walk we will also introduce some compass techniques.

**Navigation Essentials - find your way in a day!**  
 Sunday 16 10am 6 miles Walk (1501)

**5,000 festival programmes distributed to libraries, cafes, pubs, tourist attractions etc**

**Plus social media campaign and Press activity....**

**Promoting the Festivals and Chilterns experiences at Marylebone Station – with Dave Willis Bushcraft and Martin Pounce (Midsomer on the Misbourne guided walks)**

# Press Coverage

## 10th Chilterns Walking Festival

The Festival will take place from 15 - 30 October. There are over 50 walks and events throughout the Chilterns including some in Prestwood and areas nearby. It's a chance to enjoy the autumn splendour, the golden beech trees, and hedgerows bursting with colour. Full listings at: [www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest](http://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest) Here is a flavour of what's on offer locally:

### Saturday 15 October, 10am

Great Missenden and The Lee were used as filming locations for Painted in Blood and seven other episodes of Midsomer Murders. Follow in the steps of DCI Barnaby fighting crime in the deadly county of Midsomer. The walk goes through woods and across fields to The Lee with its charming village green where amateur artist Ruth Fairfax was brutally murdered at her easel. This is the village of Badgers Drift which appeared in the 1997 pilot and in subsequent episodes. Then a different way back to the Misbourne valley and Great Missenden.

### Sunday 30 October 11am-12.30pm

As part of the Chilterns Walking Festival PN will play host to another walk. It is a 3-mile figure of eight walk through the woods to the Hampden monument and back, via Kiln Common Orchard. The meeting point will be at the Prestwood Car Park near the Co-op.



Walking in the Chilterns

## Chilterns Walking Festival October highlights

Liz Nicholls

OCTOBER 4, 2022



The tenth Chilterns Walking Festival features a programme of more than 50 walks and local events to help you enjoy the autumn splendour, the golden beech trees and hedgerows bursting with colour.

Highlights include Pinsticks walks on the day before All Hallows Eve for a spooky walk along the River Thames and lots of ghostly tales from the riverbank! Or take a Walk on the Dark Side with an exhilarating stroll through Bones Wood and Crowsley Park, tuning into the sounds and signs of the night, and ending at the pub for hot chocolate.

### 50 walks and local events to help you enjoy the autumn splendour



There's also a *foraging* walk among the magnificent sweet chestnut trees to learn about and enjoy the beautiful autumn fruits of the forest. Library walk discovering in south Oxfordshire including the house where he once lived.

Discover and walk some of the *ancient* routes which criss-cross the Chilterns, exploring Drovers routes and the Slow Ways historic routes. There's a *nature* walk at Aston Rowant to celebrate the 70th anniversary of National Nature Reserves. Join the rangers to see the wildlife that makes them so special, finishing with tea & cake.

Your guide Bobbie Lister will take you on a guided walk around historic Marlow, followed by a hands-on face-making experience and a delicious afternoon tea. Plus there are map reading courses, pub walks, local produce tasting, historic garden tours and much more.

## Chilterns Walking Festival 2022



With over 50 guided countryside walks and new immersive experiences and tours, the festival has something for all to enjoy.

Get booking now for the Chilterns Walking Festival, taking place from 15th to 30th October. There are more than 50 guided countryside walks, activities and events which include routes through hill forts, churches, filming locations, nature reserves and farms. Your knowledgeable guide will show you what this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has to offer. There's photography, map reading, mindfulness, after dark walks and so much more. Explore [the full programme here](#)

### THE CHILTERN WALKING FESTIVAL IS BACK THIS OCTOBER

Sep 29, 2022 | Days Out, Explore, Local Life, School Holidays | 0 | ★★★★★



The 10th Chilterns Walking Festival taking place 15th -30th October will feature a programme of over 50 walks & events throughout the Chilterns, offering a chance to enjoy the autumn splendour, the golden beech trees and hedgerows bursting with colour. There are a number of new walking experiences on offer, celebrating autumn in the Chilterns,

# Social Media

**Chilterns Walking Festival**  
22 September · 🌐

The 10th Chilterns Walking Festival starts 15 October for two weeks! It will feature a programme of over 50 walks throughout the Chilterns. A chance to enjoy the autumn splendour, the golden beech trees and hedgerows bursting with colour. We have a number of new walking experiences on offer including a night walk in the woods finishing with hot chocolate in a cosy pub, a foraging walk to collect sweet chestnuts, literary walk exploring George Orwell's 'golden country', specia... [See more](#)



Chilterns Walking Festival  
October 11, 2022 · 🌐

- 1.9K CWF Facebook followers (up from 1.6K last year)
- Further activity on Chilterns AONB facebook
- Good levels of engagement on Chilterns AONB twitter

**Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**  
6 October · 🌐

Have you booked your tickets for the Chilterns Walking Festival yet? Today's recommendation is our Practical Map Reading sessions! Learn a new skill as you walk in some stunning scenery this Autumn!

In Great Britain we have some of the best maps for navigation in the world! In the Chilterns we also enjoy the most extensive network of footpaths found anywhere in England. Our practical map reading sessions involve a 4.5 mile walk learning about the information that maps give, ... [See more](#)



Becky Selebury and 79 others · 9 comments · 51 shares  
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Write a comment...  
Veronica Rogers  
I've been on a number of these walks at past festivals and they're brilliant!

**Chilterns Walking Festival**  
October 10, 2022 · 🌐

Join the rangers at Aston Rowant Nature Reserve on Friday 21 October to explore the rolling chalk grassland, spectacular views and precious habitats of this special site. Find out how they manage the reserve, and the important role played by sheep, meadow ants and juniper! The walk will finish with tea and cake overlooking the magnificent Oxfordshire Vale. This event is free of charge but spaces are limited, prebooking essential. <https://bit.ly/3CIX1UT>  
Chilterns Area of Out... [See more](#)



**Worried about getting lost?**  
Practical map reading sessions will keep you on track!

**History walks with Amersham Museum:**

- Arts and Crafts Architecture
- Chalfont to Amersham history walk
- Amersham Drover's Walk



## Sample of feedback from Participants

*Beautiful area to walk in. A very patient Guide who knew his subject well and included many points of geographical interest indicated on the map and then reflected in the landscape.*

**Re: Practical Map Reading and Walk Planning (Chenies) (1605)**



*Hilary from the Sunrise walk was enthusiastic with a range of experiences to bring to the walk - yoga in particular. Inspiring, positive and good fun.*

**Re: Sunrise walk - a celebration of Nature as the clocks turn back again (2301)**

*Stuart was excellent - he ran the walk well catering for all ages and abilities. I learned a lot about map reading too*

**Re: Practical Map Reading and Walk Planning (Princes Risborough) (1601)**

*We do sometimes walk here but never at night - it was amazing, thank you!*

**Re: Walk on the Darkside! (1002)**

*We really enjoyed ourselves and would recommend this experience to others.*



## **Sample of feedback from Walk Leaders**

*You have pretty much nailed it I would say.*

**Willie Reid (Road, Rail, River and Riots (1702) Re: the festival in general**

*[Participants] enjoyed the slower pace and noticed more aspects of nature they wouldn't otherwise have. One participant said she's not generally interested in poetry but loved the poetry they shared because of its connection with the natural features*

**Andy Shipley, Re: Sunrise walk (2301)**

*One participant said how wonderful the festival was and that during half-term, they try and do as many walks as they can. Another said that next year, she will take a whole week off work and do more.*

**Isabelle Brough, Re: Foraging walk (0904)**

*It was a magical walk through the woods and park - we experienced owls, deer, ghostly mushrooms, the Hound of the Baskervilles, Jupiter and Dr Who!*

**Philippa Sanders, Pipsticks Walks Re: Walk on the Dark Side! (1002)**

*One participant can only go on walks which can be accessed by train or bus from Stoke Mandeville, so he was pleased to find this one started at Chalfont & Latimer station.*

**Martin Pounce, Amersham Museum, Re: Where two major drovers' routes cross (2103)**

*Most participants didn't know this walk area at all, & said they would definitely come back to visit Ashridge, &, in particular the lovely Bakehouse cafe with friends*

**Hilary Warrell, Re: Sunrise walk (2301)**

*Cannot wait till next May*

**Michael Hyde, Marlow Museum**