

CORSHAM WALKING FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 9th – 11th JUNE

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Booking opened on 3rd April 2017. You can book:

- Using: www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk/2017-festivalwalks/
- Phone: The Pound Arts Centre Box Office on 01249 701628
- Visit: The Pound Arts Centre, Pound Pill, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9HX, Box Office opening hours: Mon-Fri, 10.00-18.00; Sat 10.00-16.00.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque (payable to 'The Pound Arts Trust Ltd') or most major credit/debit cards. £1 transaction charge applies when paying by card or £0.95p on-line.

Paper tickets will not be issued; confirmation of payment for the relevant walk will be provided during the booking process.

All enquires to be directed to The Pound Arts Centre Box Office on 01249 701628.

Places are limited on all walks, so **advance booking is strongly advised**.

N.B. Booking will close at 12.00pm the day before a relevant walk.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The walk leaders are in charge of the walk. Their decision on participation is final. You need to choose a walk suitable for your ability. The walk leaders are experienced but have to take your word that you are sufficiently fit for the grade of walk you have chosen.
- In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, the Corsham Walking Festival reserves the right to change or cancel a walk without prior notice.
- Booking fees are non-refundable.
- Dogs (other than assistance dogs) are regrettably not allowed on walks.
- A responsible adult must accompany vulnerable people, including young people under 18.
- You are responsible for your own personal safety (or must be accompanied by an adult who is). Whilst we endeavour to make all our walks as safe and as enjoyable as possible, any event attended is done so at your own risk. Due care has been exercised in organising the Walking Festival, however the Committee and sponsors accept no liability for loss, accident or injury caused to any person during the festival. You are advised to check your own personal accident cover before taking part.

- Appropriate footwear and clothing must be worn.
- Bring your own food and drinks and packed lunches for longer walks
- Photos will be taken throughout the festival weekend (with the exception of the Children's Treasure Hunt) and may be used for publicity purposes.
- By making your booking you are agreeing to the above terms & conditions

GRADINGS

- Easy: Mostly level terrain; suitable for most walkers
- Moderate: Some short steep gradients or rough terrain; some stiles
- Challenging: Requires fitness and stamina; steep gradients, stiles

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Parking is free at the Springfield Community Campus, SN13 9DN
- All walkers are to register prior to the start of a walk
- All walks will start promptly. Walking durations are approximate
- All walks are suitable for adults and children (under 18's to be accompanied by an adult) unless otherwise indicated
- When taking part in the Festival please car share and use public transport when possible to help protect our beautiful North Wiltshire environment
- GR = Grid Reference

FESTIVAL OPENING

Everyone is welcome to the Corsham Walking Festival Opening Ceremony between 13:15 and 13:30 pm on Friday 9th June, to see the walkers off at 13:30pm.

The event will be held at our Headquarters at The Springfield Community Campus, Beechfield Road, Corsham, SN13 9DN.

WALKS on FRIDAY 9th JUNE

MORNING

Walk FRI1: Canals, Lacock and the Ladbrook

8.5 miles, Moderate, 6 hrs duration, 11:00 from Gladstone Road, Chippenham, at entrance to Borough Parade Car Park, nr. River Avon Bridge. GR ST920734, Finish at the Springfield Community Campus, £5 includes donation to Lacock History Group and Wilts and Berks Canal Trust, 16+

This is an interesting and attractive linear walk, partly along the towpath of the Wilts and Berks Canal that is undergoing restoration. At the remarkable Pewsham Locks we will be met by an expert from the Canal Restoration Society who will give a short talk and then accompany us to the Double Bridge, another interesting feature of this stretch of canal. On reaching the renowned National Trust village of Lacock we will

pause for a lunch break and then do short tour of the village, including the church and Tithe Barn. We will then follow the Ladbrook stream for some of its course as we make our way to Corsham through delightful countryside.

Additional information: Public toilets are available in Lacock. Bring a packed lunch

Note: Public transport is via the frequent bus X31 service between Corsham and Chippenham. X31 timetable is [here](#).

AFTERNOON (following official Opening Ceremony)

Walk FRI2: Hartham Unwrapped and Weavern

6 miles, Moderate, 4 hrs duration, 13:30 from the Springfield Community Campus, £5 includes donation to the charity Asthma UK, 12+

By kind permission of Hartham Park, the walk offers a unique opportunity to see this historic country estate, not normally open to the public. We approach along the 1760's old Brickers Barn Turnpike Road for a guided tour of Hartham Park and grounds. The 18th century Georgian mansion with its 50 acres of beautiful grounds and parkland, landscaped by Harold Peto, has one of only three remaining functional stické tennis courts in the world (the other two being at Knightshayes Court, Tiverton, Devon and the former Viceroy of India's summer palace in Simla, India). Whilst under the ownership of Baron Islington, Winston Churchill was a frequent visitor to Hartham. Later, during World War 11 the upper floors of the house were used as dormitories for the WAAF serving with RAF No 10 Group based at Rudloe Manor.

Hartham Park has now been redeveloped into a prestigious business park, with a new café open for all in spring 2017.

With permission of Church Farm, we pass through their fields to Weavern before ascending via beautiful lush old woodland towards Rudloe Manor and Corsham.

Additional Information. Dogs are not permitted in Hartham Park grounds.

Sponsored by [Hartham Park](#), and [Church Farm B&B](#)

Walk FRI3: Corsham Quarry Tramways

5 miles, Easy, 3.5 hrs duration, 14:30 from car park outside former MOD site, Monks Lane, Corsham SN13 9PH. GR ST878686, Finishes at Monks Lane, £5, 12+

This walk will be of particular interest to those who enjoy learning about local history and industrial archaeology from a local enthusiast, with an added bonus of attractive countryside and some good views from the Ridge. High quality limestone from around Corsham was used for the building of Bath in the early 18th century. With the construction of the Kennet and Avon Canal and the Great Western Railway in the 19th century it became easier and cheaper to transport so-called 'Bath stone' further afield.

To get the stone from the many small quarries around Corsham narrow gauge railways (known as tramways) were built leading to the railway station (sadly closed by Dr Beeching in the 1960s). The walk will be on footpaths, fields and minor roads, enabling you to explore the remains of the system of Quarry Tramways in the Ridge area of Corsham, taking in some of the former sites for quarrying (or more often mining) the local stone.

WALKS AND EVENING ENTERTAINMENT ON **SATURDAY 10th JUNE**

MORNING

Walk SAT1: Over the Hills and Far Away

19 miles, Challenging, 9 hrs duration, 08:30 from the Springfield Community Campus, £4, 16+

From Corsham we pass through the villages of Slaughterford, Ford and Long Dean picking up the national trail known as the Macmillan Way. This follows the route of the By Brook to Castle Combe, once voted the prettiest village in England and notable as the set for several well-known films.

Following a short break we leave the Macmillan Way and head towards Nettleton, from where we start our return journey via the unspoilt village of North Wraxall, towards Thickwood (near Colerne). After approx. 1 mile there is a sharp descent to the derelict Weavern Farm in its beautiful valley. The trail then rises back to Corsham via Pickwick Lodge Farm. The walk covers varied terrain with spectacular views.

Additional Information: This walk is suitable for those who have previously walked hilly routes of at least fifteen miles.

Sponsored by [The Carl Todd Clinic](#)

Walk SAT2: Exploring a Wildflower Meadow

3.4 miles, Easy, 3 hrs duration, 09:30 from the Quarryman's Arms Pub, Box Hill, SN13 8HN, See below for parking information, £5 includes donation to the charity Plantlife

This walk with a wildflower enthusiast provides the opportunity to explore a beautiful summer meadow that is a home to many plant and insect species. Discover the folklore and significance of these plants to our ancestors, as well as their botanical features and curious names. Hazelbury Common is a treasured local patch of increasingly rare unimproved calcareous grassland.

This area is not ploughed, but cut and managed as a hay meadow, allowing perennial wildflowers to thrive, along with the insect and butterfly species that depend upon them. Wiltshire has important areas of this ecosystem and the Cotswold AONB has 50% of the UK's unimproved limestone grassland.

In the UK 97% of our meadows have been lost since WW2, and they are still being destroyed. Apart from nature reserves, true hay meadows are now only found in large numbers on the Somerset Levels and the Pennine Dales.

Additional information – Bring a hand lens and wildflower book if possible. Optional group lunch at the Quarryman's Arms is not included in the walk price. The small pub car park is **ONLY** for those of us having lunch or refreshments there after the walk. Plenty of on street parking is available alongside Box Common.

Walk SAT3: Hidden Valleys, Woods and Panoramas

10.4 miles, Challenging, 5.5 hrs duration, 10:00 from the Springfield Community Campus, £4, 16+

This circular walk is from Corsham to Colerne passing through the beautiful Weavern Valley, past Euridge and Widdenham. A hilly cross-country walk with excellent views. Sturdy footwear and suitable clothing for changeable weather required. A hilly cross-country walk with excellent views, using rights of way across farmland, numerous stiles, through old woodlands and along quiet country lanes. A walking pole is recommended. Toilets are available half way through the walk.

Additional information: Bring picnic lunch and adequate water.

Sponsored by [BCH Camping](#)

Walk SAT4: Mindfulness

2.25 miles, Easy, 1.5 hrs duration, plus optional 45 minutes for tea, cake and discussion, 10:30 from the Springfield Community Campus, finishing at Church House, Church Street, SN13 0BY, £5 includes a donation to Mindfulness Generation, 16+

Beginning from the Campus, the walk passes through alleys and along paths to the Avenue, which leads towards Corsham Court. Here we pause for an introduction to Mindful Walking. We will continue our walk in silence, noticing the sounds and colours of Corsham Court. We will walk to the lake without hurrying, paying attention to our breathing, body sensations and the experience of walking. The walk finishes at Church House where there will be time for a cup of tea and questions about Mindfulness

Additional information: No meditation experience is required.

Sponsored by [People Business Psychology](#)

Walk SAT5: God's Wonderful Railway, Brunel and Box Tunnels

6.5 miles, Moderate, 4.5 hrs duration, 11:00 from the Springfield Community Campus, £5 this includes a donation to the Box Methodist Church Organ Appeal. This linear walk leads west towards the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with glorious views of the valley of the By Brook and the city of Bath beyond.

The group will stop for a picnic lunch on Box Hill Common, near the Quarryman's Arms Pub, overlooking the scenic valley.

We will be joined by rail enthusiast Michael Rumsey who will give us an informative talk about Box Tunnel, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and GWR during our descent into the valley. The route takes us on top of Box Tunnel and its little Middle Hill companion before finishing the walk in the centre of Box village.

Additional Information: Bring packed lunch.

Note. Please make own transport arrangements from Box back to Corsham. The X31 bus provides a frequent service - timetable is [here](#).

AFTERNOON

Walk SAT6: Neston Paths Less Travelled

5 miles, Moderate. 2.5 hrs duration, 14:30 from Church Rise, outside Neston Primary School, SN13 9SX, £4

This interesting and attractive circular walk, starting from the School. It's mainly level, crosses over Neston Ridge and later affords wide open views on the way out, looking towards Westbury, and crossing what was once a Roman Road.

On the way back we cross a little bourne or brook, via a curious small stone walkway. We then use farm field paths to enter a woodland track taking us back past part remains of the quarrying and stone mining industry, emerging at an interesting group of cottages, Baker's Corner, before taking a footpath back to the School.

Opportunity at The Neston Country Inn for refreshments at the end of the walk.

Walk SAT7: Children's Treasure Hunt

1.5 miles, Easy, 1 hr duration, Start time anywhere between 14:30 – 15:30 from the Springfield Community Campus, **FREE but please register in advance**

A short walk with a Treasure Hunt to encourage young people to discover Corsham in a novel and enjoyable way, along with their family and friends. Follow simple instructions to Corsham Town Centre and return to the Campus, where all children will be rewarded with a Certificate and a gift.

Additional Information: Children to be accompanied by a responsible adult. There is staggered start between 14.30 and 15.30 at the Campus to allow groups to set off when ready. Please bring a clipboard or something to rest on and adequate water. Suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Though the walk is free, you need to book a ticket, as numbers of participating children are limited, parents and families of child taking part welcome on the Treasure Hunt.

Parents are encouraged to take photos of **their own** children taking part in the Treasure Hunt. Your best photos can be emailed to Haine & Smith.

Sponsored by [Haine & Smith](#), Opticians, Corsham

Walk SAT8: Corsham Quest

3 miles, Easy, 1.5 hrs duration, Hourly start between 09:00 – 14:00 from the Springfield Community Campus, £5 per Team (also takes place on Sunday see SUN7)

A self-guided walk around Corsham Town Centre and Corsham Park for teams of 2 – 4 people. An opportunity for all the family to enjoy learning about Corsham and its open spaces. A map and questions are provided to each team and you can walk at your own pace – although you must finish by 16:30. Answer sheets will be sent out after the weekend. Prizes kindly donated by Automattic Comics and Toys of Corsham for the highest scoring team.

Sponsored by [Methuen Arms](#)

SATURDAY EVENING QUIZ, LIVE MUSIC by AKRAT AND BUFFET SUPPER

From 19:00 – 23:00. Springfield Community Campus, Corsham, £12

Fun quiz open to walkers and non-walkers.

Maximum of 6 to a team, bring your own team or join a team on the night to compete for The Golden Boots and many great prizes donated by local businesses. Music will be provided by Akrat, a four piece jazz band from Corsham School.

Price includes delicious buffet supper by award-winning [Elior Catering](#).

Paying bar available.

Special dietary needs catered for - please notify in advance.

Tickets £12. Book through the Festival website or direct with The Pound Arts Centre.

Last years event was a sellout with all participants thoroughly enjoying the evening. An ideal opportunity to socialise after a full day's walk and meet like-minded people.

A short film will be shown made by students of The Corsham School and Bath College, who won a national competition with their documentary film Up and Under.

Friends Jacob Bacon, Josh Stone and Charlotte Nind created their film for the Kendal Mountain Festival's Film Active competition where they they won the 16 to 18-year-old category. The three friends filmed at Brown's Folly in Bathford where they scaled the towering rockface of the old quarry and squeezed through tiny caves.

WALKS ON SUNDAY 11th JUNE

MORNING

Walk SUN1: Climbing Up on Solsbury Hill

20 miles, Challenging, 9.5 hrs duration, 08:45 from the Springfield Community Campus, £4, 16+

This lovely long 20-mile circular walk takes us through varied and beautiful Wiltshire countryside with impressive views from hilltops and ridges. The terrain includes meadow, woodland, hills, fields, riverside paths and even some of the Kennet and Avon Canal. There is some walking on quiet roads too.

We walk from Corsham to Little Solsbury Hill north east of Bath (made famous by local singer-songwriter, musician and founder of Box-based Real World Studios, Peter Gabriel). Climbing Little Solsbury and also Bannerdown - the total ascent is approximately 600m. We pass through the villages of Westwells, Chapel Plaister, Henley, Kingsdown, Bathford, Batheaston, Middlehill, and Box.

Additional Information: This walk is suitable for those who have previously walked hilly routes of at least fifteen miles.

Sponsored by [Airbus](#)

Walk SUN2: Explorer and Medieval Pilgrims

8 miles, Moderate, 5.5 hrs duration, 09:15 from the Springfield Community Campus, £5 includes a donation to the Box Parish PCC, 16+

The start of the walk takes in the western fringes of Corsham and goes to Neston, then on to Lower Wadswick, where walkers pause at the memorial to Captain J.H. Speke to learn of his exploits during two expeditions to Africa seeking the source of the Nile. From there the walk goes to the tiny 13th century Pilgrims' Chapel at Chapel Plaister for a short guided tour and presentation on its fascinating history. The walk returns to the Campus via a different route. It is a beautiful country walk, through fields and tracks, with occasional far reaching views, provides an excellent opportunity to understand some unique local history

Additional instructions: Bring packed lunch

Walk SUN3: The Hidden Quarries of Box Hill

7.5 miles, Challenging, 6 hrs duration including a 1-hour talk, 09:45 from the Springfield Community Campus, £5 includes donation to Wiltshire Air Ambulance, 16+

This walk goes from Corsham to Box Hill and back. The outward-bound journey from Corsham passes along Pockeridge Drive and Spring Lane to Westwells and across fields and quiet lanes to Box Hill.

At Box Common, near to the top of Quarry Hill, the group meets with Martin Burton, an expert on the history of the Box Hill mines and an experienced mine guide. Martin will give his popular, fascinating and informative talk on the history of the mines during their working life and since closure. At Box Hill there are excellent views down the valley to Batheaston.

After the talk and lunch/refreshments, walkers cross the A4 to follow a path towards the old RAF Rudloe Manor Site where there are excellent views across the By Brook Valley towards Colerne.

The return journey via wood and farmland paths goes through Rudloe Wood, then a steep descent and climb through the Larches and then uphill towards Pickwick Lodge. The remainder of the walk goes along farm tracks and quiet lanes towards Corsham via Middlewick and Pickwick, returning to the Campus.

Additional Information: Bring packed lunch

Sponsored by [Airbus](#)

Walk SUN4: Castle Combe's Babbling Brooks and Reserve Revealed

8 miles, Moderate, 5.5 hrs duration, 10:00 from Castle Combe Upper Car Park (Free), GR ST 846777, £5 includes donation to Cotswold Voluntary Wardens, 16+

The circular walk starts from the picturesque village of Castle Combe and, accompanied by a Cotswold Voluntary Warden, it makes for an interesting day and a unique opportunity to visit a nature reserve not normally open to the public. The ramble continues along the wooded valley of the Burton Brook, past Gatcombe and Goulter's mills and then to the hamlets of Nettleton and West Kington.

The return follows the Broadmead Brook and beside a delightful clapper-style bridge, past Nettleton Mill and then back to Castle Combe.

Additional Information: Bring packed lunch

Walk SUN5: The Folly of Rocks and Fossils

7.3 miles, Challenging, 4.5 hrs duration, 10:30 from The Selwyn Hall Car Park, Valens Terrace, Box, SN13 8NT. GR ST824686, £5 includes a donation to the Bath Geological Society, 16+

The circular walk leaves the picturesque village of Box via the St Thomas à Becket church. After this, comes the most challenging part of the walk as we head uphill for approximately 1 mile taking in the stunning views towards Colerne. At Kingsdown golf course the walk levels out towards Brown's Folly via Monkton Farleigh.

Brown's Folly is a nature reserve covering almost 100 acres. It sits high on the skyline above Bath allowing spectacular views towards the city. Today the Folly is owned by the Avon Wildlife Trust and has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest

(SSSI) due to its wildlife, plants and geology. We stop here for lunch where an eminent geologist, who will talk about the area and guide us around some of the sites, will join us.

Our return journey via Bathford takes us through woodland and fields and then crosses the main London to Bristol railway line to Shockerwick. Here we follow the By Brook back to Box.

Additional Information: Bring packed lunch

Note. Free parking at Selwyn Hall car park and toilets at Box Pavilion.

Sponsored by [BCH Camping](#)

AFTERNOON

Walk SUN6: Historic Corsham

1 miles, Easy, 1.25 hrs duration, 14:00 from the Springfield Community Campus, £4

This is the well-established and popular Heritage Tour of the historic town centre.

After meeting at the Campus, walkers will be led to Saint Bartholomew's Church Car Park where the tour begins with a talk on Corsham's early history. We then walk to the High Street, taking in the Town's oldest known building, the Charles Mayo Memorial Fountain and several other buildings which make up part of Corsham's fascinating history.

The tour moves on to the 17th century Almshouses and then into the grounds of Corsham Court, before returning to the Campus, which will itself play a significant part in the present and future of the Town.

Additional information: There are public toilets at the start and finish of the walk and en route, and refreshments can be purchased at start/finish and en route.

Note. A fully accessible walk suitable for all, wheelchair friendly – Carers are free.

Sponsored by [David Ingram Residential](#)

Walk SUN7: Corsham Quest

3 miles, Easy, 1.5 hrs duration, Hourly start between 09:00 – 14:00 from the Springfield Community Campus, £5 per Team (also takes place on Saturday see SAT8)

A self-guided walk around Corsham Town Centre and Corsham Park for teams of 2 – 4 people. An opportunity for all the family to enjoy learning about Corsham and its open spaces. A map and questions are provided to each team and you can walk at your own pace – although you must finish by 16:30. Answer sheets will be sent out after the weekend. Prizes kindly donated by Automattic Comics and Toys of Corsham for the highest scoring team. Sponsored by [Methuen Arms](#)