



What's new in the Cotswolds, 2019 and beyond! [www.cotswolds.com](http://www.cotswolds.com)

**The British Motor Museum** will be marking the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of the iconic British car, the Mini, with a 2-day show on 3 and 4 August 2019. The event is timed for the weekend before the international Mini meet IMM in Bristol, to attract many of the hundreds of international visitors to stop off at the Cotswolds – and the British Motor Museum during their stay. The Museum will also be running a series of mini-themed family activities. A new exhibition will also be taking place at the British Motor Museum in June/July 2019 exploring the future of personal transport. [www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk)

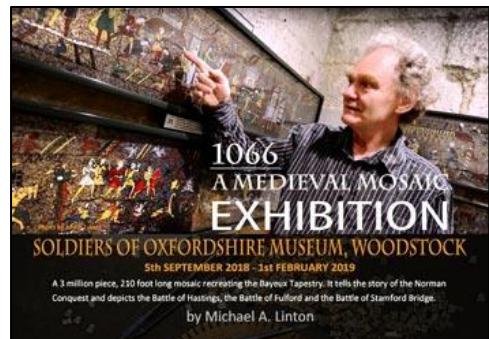


**Cogges Manor** in Witney will receive a huge makeover in 2019 thanks to a £900k Heritage Lottery Fund award. The project will reveal Cogges' untold story for visitors, schools and community groups from across the county, including improvements to buildings and spaces, new displays and a programme of activities and events to encourage people to get more involved in their local history and environment. It will culminate in the building of a Saxon roundhouse, creating opportunities for volunteers and young people to gain new skills – securing the future of Cogges. [www.cogges.org.uk/next-steps](http://www.cogges.org.uk/next-steps)



From 1 February 2019 **The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum** will be exhibiting 1066: A Medieval Mosaic – a re-creation of the Bayeux Tapestry handcrafted from 3 million pieces of spring steel. Created by Michael A. Linton, the 64 metre, 350kg mosaic took 33 years to complete and is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest of its kind. With extra sections depicting events leading up to the crowning of William the Conqueror on Christmas Day 1066, as well as the Battles of Fulford and Stamford Bridge, the mosaic will measure close to double the length of the real Bayeux Tapestry.

[www.sofo.org.uk/bayeuxtapestry](http://www.sofo.org.uk/bayeuxtapestry)



2019 sees work to restore the oldest Tudor walled gardens in England. **Thornbury Castle's** Head Gardener Katie Engler is bringing the gardens and estate back to life as a productive and historically true Tudor garden. The project has already seen the creation of a working kitchen garden producing fruit and vegetables for the hotel restaurant and the start of a three-year orchard project planting heritage fruit varieties. In 2019 she plans to transform the Howard family graveyard, create a new camellia border within the rose garden and add a Victorian finch aviary, as well as renovating the garden shop so guests can buy their own honey, eggs and produce. [www.thornburycastle.co.uk](http://www.thornburycastle.co.uk)



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**Blenheim Palace** has a whole host of new exhibitions, events, historic restoration and conservation projects and new tours for 2019. From February to April 2019, an exhibition of JMW Turner's early architectural paintings and engravings will be on show in the largest collection of his paintings ever to visit the Cotswolds. New tours include a return of the private apartment tours. And brand new for 2019 are the Twizy Tours – a fun way to explore the Capability Brown landscaped parkland from the comfort of a two-seater, electric vehicle. Popular events returning in 2019 include the Food Festival (May 25 – 27) and the Flower Show (June 21 – 23).

[www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)



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Work will continue on a major facelift for William Morris's Cotswolds home in 2019. Having received substantial HLF funding, The Society of Antiquaries plan to double visitor numbers to **Kelmscott Manor** – the former retreat of William Morris. Work includes improving the existing facilities, reinterpreting the house and wider estate and carrying out vital conservation work. [www.sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor](http://www.sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor)



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**Thyme** has undergone a year of developments, creating a beautiful new botanical spa nurturing peacefulness, stillness and beauty from within. Working with natural British brand, Aurelia Probiotic Skincare, there's a bespoke menu of Thyme treatments and a fresh spring water swimming pool using water taken from the natural underground water source flowing deep below the farm meadows. Also new to Thyme is The Lodge – with 9 bedrooms, each with its own individual character.

[www.thyme.co.uk](http://www.thyme.co.uk)



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2019 will see the full launch of a new destination for diners, golfers and those wishing to overnight in the northern Cotswolds. **Feldon Valley** launched its new bar in July 2018 and followed this up with a fine dining restaurant in September. The hotel is due for completion at the end of December which positions the business well to take full advantage of 2019. The team want to develop a reputation for perfect service in a modern, contemporary Cotswold setting and to welcome all visitors. They pride themselves on the warm atmosphere and getting the little things right! [www.feldonvalley.co.uk](http://www.feldonvalley.co.uk)



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The recently refurbished **Lygon Arms** in Broadway are taking dog-friendly to a whole new level in 2019 when they introduce their 'Delight Your Dog' package. It's the perfect package to make sure your family pet is as pampered as you during your stay, with a dedicated doggy menu, a tail-waggingly comfy bed and plenty of surrounding space to run about and explore. Dogs are also encouraged to join the family for lunch, afternoon tea or dinner in any of the property's lounges or Terrace restaurant. The hotel has also teamed up with a local high-end luxurious dog grooming service. [www.lygonarmshotel.co.uk](http://www.lygonarmshotel.co.uk)



**Slimbridge 2020** – the ground breaking three-year Heritage Lottery Fund project at WWT Slimbridge continues apace with a range of new, exciting exhibits to showcase wetland wildlife in the birthplace of modern conservation. From late summer 2019, the Living Wetland Theatre will open its doors to visitors with the opportunity to meet many of our colourful wetland species up close and see free-flight bird demonstrations! There'll also be the chance to experience the northern Arctic Russian tundra through a new immersive Tundra Zone. Open from spring 2019, visitors will be able to step inside a typical research station and participate in all sorts of family-friendly activities surrounded by migratory birds and the typical sights and sounds of the wild tundra landscape. [www.slimbridge2020.wwt.org.uk/](http://www.slimbridge2020.wwt.org.uk/)



**Giffords Circus** will return in 2019 with a brand new show touring from 3 May - 29 September. Following an acclaimed season in 2018, the circus returns with its unique homemade blend of vintage style circus acts, hand-crafted costumes, live music, breathtaking performers and mischievous fun that makes it one of the UK's most popular and stylish live shows. Giffords Circus will tour the village greens and stately homes of the Cotswolds before visiting London and the home counties throughout summer 2019. [www.giffordscircus.com](http://www.giffordscircus.com)



**The Cotswolds Distillery** hopes to open the doors to their brand new Visitor Centre in Spring 2019. Since opening in 2014, the beautiful Cotswolds attraction has been offering tours and tastings on a smaller scale, but with some 30,000 visitors annually, and a recent bronze winner in the recent Visit England Awards for Excellence, Guided Tour of the Year, more space is needed. Building work starts this autumn and the new centre will make the visitor experience much more comfortable – particularly for impromptu visitors unable to book onto one of the sold-out tours. It will feature a larger shop, café, more tasting rooms and an exhibition space, with a focus on improving the visitor experience rather than increasing visitor numbers.

[www.cotswoldsdistillery.com](http://www.cotswoldsdistillery.com)



**Heath Farm Holiday Cottages** will be marking 50 years at their Cotswolds site in 2019 with a number of new developments. Bell tents will be available to hire over the summer, decked out with proper mattresses, Egyptian cotton bedding, spring water from the farm, eco wooden cutlery, solar powered showers and LED fairy lights! New courses are also planned for enthusiasts of woodcraft, photography and yoga, and a pop-up woodland café is also planned along with new gardens for two of the self-catering cottages. [www.heathfarm.com/](http://www.heathfarm.com/)



'Ramble and Ride in the Cotswolds' is a unique 7 night tour created by **The Carter Company** for 2019, combining an enticing mix of gentle cycling and walking. Starting in the architectural marvel of Oxford, you stride out from the city's spires along the Thames and emerge in the stunning Cotswold countryside. With stays in picturesque Bourton-on-the-Water and Chipping Campden you'll pedal and amble through lavender fields, hills and green valleys staying in luxury, boutique hotels



or authentic small inns. This self-guided trip includes host briefing, bag transfers, bike hire and route notes. [www.the-carter-company.com/trip/cycling-holiday/in-the-cotswolds/ramble-and-ride-in-the-cotswolds/](http://www.the-carter-company.com/trip/cycling-holiday/in-the-cotswolds/ramble-and-ride-in-the-cotswolds/)

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A two-week excavation is set to take place in May 2019 at **Sudeley Castle** to further explore a site which experts believe could reveal one of England's last surviving Tudor gardens – hidden in the castle grounds for nearly 300 years. Further explorations of a mound, discovered in the middle of the field, could also confirm that it was once the site of a temporary banqueting house and the location of a huge celebration by Elizabeth I as part of her progress around the country to mark her victory over the Spanish Armada. Members of the public are now being invited to join a team of archaeologists from social enterprise company, DigVentures, for the excavation in May, and help uncover more of the site's secrets. This discovery ties in beautifully with the 2019 Festival of Archaeology – part of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council for British Archaeology. [www.sudeleycastle.co.uk](http://www.sudeleycastle.co.uk)



Meanwhile the UK's first Fantasy Forest will be held at **Sudeley Castle** over the weekend of 20 July and 21 2019. Dress up in your favourite costume from socplay, steampunk, fantasy, sci-fi, medieval, gothic, pirates and more! Fantasy Festival will be held throughout the castle grounds and includes fantasy-related shows, entertainment, stages, competitions, lectures, workshops, traders and more! Immerse yourself for a day or a whole weekend in another world! [www.fantasyforest.co.uk](http://www.fantasyforest.co.uk)

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**CJP Tours** will be offering a selection of private themed tours throughout 2019. The tours appeal to a range of interests, from focusing on film and TV locations, to discovering the gastronomic delights of the region or experiencing the Cotswolds arts and crafts scene, learning about the Cotswolds' literary and royal connections or exploring the exquisite gardens across the region. There's also a selection of exclusive experiences, including special access, private talks, meetings and tastings with award-winning businesses, craftsmen and producers, not otherwise available to the public. [www.cotswold-tours.com](http://www.cotswold-tours.com)

2019 sees **Winchcombe Museum** creating a much improved Heritage Centre at the site of the current museum in the heart of Winchcombe Town Centre. Planning and listed building consent has been granted and the trust hope to provide an even more welcoming place where visitors and residents can enjoy the museum environment. The plans also include an enhanced Tourist Information Centre and a dynamic retail space showcasing products from local artisans and design-led gifts to complement the museum. [www.winchcombemuseum.org.uk](http://www.winchcombemuseum.org.uk)



The **Corinium Museum, Cirencester**, has commenced "Stone Age to Corinium: Discover the Archaeology of the Cotswolds", which is a Heritage Lottery funded redevelopment project due to be completed in 2020. The project will create new interactive and modern prehistory and early Roman galleries; a new garden with seating linking to the adjacent café; a new welcome desk for all visitor enquiries; an improved visitor journey from arrival to departure; and a new Discovery Centre for a range of learning activities for public engagement.

[www.coriniummuseum.org/support-us/stone-age-to-corinium/](http://www.coriniummuseum.org/support-us/stone-age-to-corinium/)



Moreton-in-Marsh is the latest **Caravan and Motor Club** site to offer ten contemporary glamping pods. Experience Freedom gives glampers all the creature comforts like comfy bedding, en-suite bathroom and cooking equipment, but close to nature in the beautiful Cotswolds countryside. Each pod sleeps two adults

and two children and is a wonderful chance to unwind in style.

[www.experiencefreedom.co.uk/locations/regions/southern/gloucestershire/moreton-in-marsh/](http://www.experiencefreedom.co.uk/locations/regions/southern/gloucestershire/moreton-in-marsh/)

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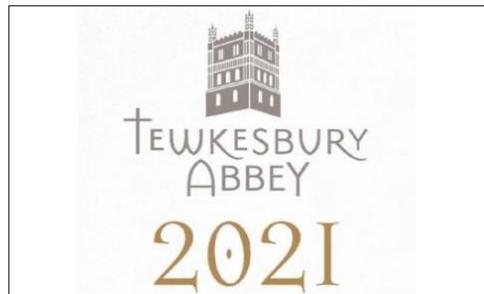
**The Archway Project** in historic Bath will convert former Victorian spa buildings close to the Roman Baths. New spaces will open in 2020, including a Clore Learning Centre, which will provide hands-on learning experiences set among Roman remains, and a World Heritage Centre, which will inspire people to explore the World Heritage City of Bath. New areas of the Roman site will also be opened up to Roman Baths visitors, including an laconicum (sauna) and exercise courtyard.

[www.romanbaths.co.uk/archway](http://www.romanbaths.co.uk/archway)



**Tewkesbury Abbey** gets ready to celebrate 900 years of the abbey. The build-up has begun for one of the largest celebrations of its kind, marking 900 years of the consecration of Tewkesbury Abbey in 2021. The year will be momentous for the market town as it also celebrates 550 years since the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471.

Email [20.21@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk](mailto:20.21@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk) for more information.



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**Dunkertons Cider** is a new cider company opened in Autumn 2018, with ambitious plans to expand over the next two years to showcase artisan local food and drink. With cider tasting tours and a shop on site, in stunning wood-clad buildings, the former Superdry owner Julian Dunkerton will no doubt be placing this site on the map. [www.dunkertonscider.co.uk](http://www.dunkertonscider.co.uk)

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**Cotswold Horse Tours** is a new business that provides small groups of horse enthusiasts with a diverse choice of horse-focused activities within a 40 mile radius of Cirencester. They arrange and guide a full itinerary of activities from the world famous racing at Cheltenham or horse trials at Gatcombe to hacking from local riding stables to a village pub for lunch or specialist tuition in polo. Seeking to keep things as local as possible, for accommodation, food and transport as well as visits to other cultural or historic attractions. Cotswold Horse Tours can meet the client's dreams and aspirations and offer authentic participation in the world famous British equestrian tradition. [www.cotswoldhorsetours.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldhorsetours.co.uk)

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For more information

**[www.cotswolds.com](http://www.cotswolds.com)**

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Cotswolds Tourism is the official Destination Management Organisation for the Cotswolds