

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE DAFFODIL WEEKEND 2022



19th and 20th March



26th and 27th March

Event Funded by the Build Back Better Market Town's Fund



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Celebration of the New Decade in the Golden Triangle.

Welcome to the Golden Triangle as we tackle the challenges of the Decade the “twenty-twenties” or for short the ‘20s.



The 20's is the decade when our very existence has been rocked by the COVID-19 virus. Yet as we seek to find solutions an even bigger challenge remains to be tackled. It seems that everyone is talking about climate change post the global conference COP 26 which was held in Glasgow in late 2021. It can feel very scary seeing the images of burning bush fires destroying peoples' homes in Australia, the walls of dust engulfing towns, golf ball sized hail stones destroying cars and buildings or, in the UK, catastrophic storms or "rain bombs" flooding peoples' homes. The tragic images of dying animals in Australia also highlight another global trend. Not only are we seeing the effects of climate change but we are also losing wildlife at a devastating pace. One million species are on track for extinction in the coming decades unless we make drastic changes.

Here in the Golden Triangle we too are not immune to the effects of climate change and we are determined that our beautiful villages and the wildlife you have come to see, are given every chance to survive and thrive.

We need to continue to highlight local efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and to increase our local biodiversity as well as providing you with all the information you will need to have a successful visit to the "Golden Triangle".

Our local County, District and Parish Council have joined many to declare a **CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**. A dozen parishes in the Golden Triangle have endorsed a Biodiversity Resolution to promote and cooperate on the Management of the countryside within our special landscape. We are backing this up with action at both an individual and community level. We hope you will see some of these activities as you walk around our community and we thought it would be fun to give you a quiz to keep the kids busy and get you looking for signs of change – so here we go!

<input type="radio"/>	1. To avoid the worst of climate change we need to limit the increase in global temperatures to:		
<input type="radio"/>	Degrees centigrade		
<input type="radio"/>	5.5	2.5	1.5
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>	2. Current levels of carbon dioxide gas in our air are:		
<input type="radio"/>	Parts per million		
<input type="radio"/>	280	411	550
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>	3. The hottest winter temperatures ever recorded in Britain were measured in 2019.		
<input type="radio"/>	Degrees centigrade		
<input type="radio"/>	10.1	20.2	30
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>	4. If the ice melts in Antarctica and the Greenland Sea, ocean levels will rise by:		
<input type="radio"/>	Metres		
<input type="radio"/>	10	30	65
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>	Would your house be flooded?		
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>	5. UK homes are installing solar energy in growing numbers. Solar panels turn sunlight into electricity and heat. We have 25 million homes in the UK, how many currently have solar energy:		
<input type="radio"/>	Millions		
<input type="radio"/>	1	5	10
<input type="radio"/>		
<input type="radio"/>	See how many solar panels you can count on your visit		
<input type="radio"/>		

6. The UK has set a net zero target for carbon from transport. We currently have 31.5 million cars on the roads in the UK. How many cars are electric or hybrid (petrol/electric) on our roads today: Thousands

10,000 100,000 200,000

Count how many electric/hybrid cars you can see on your visit, how many diesel (the most polluting) and how many petrol.

.....

7. It is now possible to turn apple cores, orange and banana skins into jet fuel:

Yes No

Strange as it may seem this is true and the UK's first plant is currently being built to turn food waste into jet fuel by British Airways. Locally we are seeing our first farms installing equipment to turn plant and animal waste into power. One of our walks will go passed the site. Another has installed our first wind turbine. See if you can spot the turbine on your walks.

Answers at the foot of this page

Finally please visit our Centenary Glade project (located just 300m from the Forestry England car park in Queens Wood). It is a tangible indication of how our positive action will benefit wildlife and ensure that the wild daffodils expand and develop in the Golden Triangle. A joint effort between Forestry England and the Dymock Forest Rural Action Group (DyFRA), the project has seen local people and volunteers plant more than 600 trees and shrubs to transform a forest glade into an area of wild plants flowering and fruiting to help bees, butterflies and other insects. Local schools planted 100 wild service trees in a secret spiral maze, plants grown from the seeds of five conserved mature specimens.

You can join our 2pm Kempley walk, which will take you to The Centenary Glade, and ask questions about the details of this project. Local Climate Change Pioneers are taking action to reduce our local carbon footprint. We also highlight in the programme two landowners and their work to enhance biodiversity. Ask questions from your guides so we can point out some of the changes taking place. We hope we can inspire you to follow their lead. We can de-carbonise our lifestyles and we can protect our unique countryside whilst still producing the food we need. Each year predicting when the famous flowers will be at their best remains a problem as our climate changes. But with our expert guides we will take you and show you the best daffodil displays at the time of your visit. Finish off your visit with luscious Daffodil Lunches or Teas and indulge in delicious homemade cakes at Kempley Village hall and in Dymock at St Mary's Church or the Village hall.

Parking is available at all the main venues. Whether you are a regular visitor or you will be joining us for the first time, we look forward to seeing you in the **GOLDEN TRIANGLE** and hope you may stay for a few days and sample our hospitality.

All walks will be led by an experienced local guide. Starting times and locations are shown in the individual event details in this programme. All walks will leave on time so do not be late.

Walkers be prepared

This year we will be organising several walks of 3-5 miles. At this time of year the weather can be very variable. If you are coming to join a walk please bring appropriate clothing including: -

- Walking boots & a rucksack containing light food and drink;
- Warm clothing including hats and gloves;
- Spare warm clothes such as a jacket or fleece; and
- Waterproof clothing.



Events in the Golden Triangle 2022

Date	Event	Time & Location
Monday 7th March	Lunch Time Concert	Local Musicians from 1-1.30pm St Mary's Church Dymock (GL18 2AQ)
Monday 14th March	Lunch Time Concert	Local Musicians from 1-1.30pm St Mary's Church Dymock (GL18 2AQ)
Saturday & Sunday 19-20th March	Kempley Daffodil Weekend 3 Guided walks each day at 9.45am, 10.15am & 2pm	All Walks Start from St Edward's Church Tea and coffee from 09.30 (GL18 2BP)
Saturday & Sunday 19th-20th March	Kempley Daffodil Weekend Refreshments	From 10.30am – 4.30pm Kempley Village Hall (GL18 2BP) www.daffs.org.uk
Monday 21st March	Lunch Time Concert	Local Musicians from 1-1.30pm St Mary's Church Dymock (GL18 2AQ)
Saturday & Sunday 26-27th March	Dymock Daffodil Weekend & Spring Fayre	From 11am till 5pm Dymock Village Hall (GL18 2AQ) Guided walks during the afternoon – ring 01531 890453 for details
Monday 28th March	Lunch Time Concert	Local Musicians from 1-1.30pm St Mary's Church Dymock (GL18 2AQ)

Kempley Daffodil Weekend

GL18 2BP | March 19th & 20th | 9.30am – 5pm

St Edward's Church-Walks and hot drinks
from 09.30am Village Hall - food served
from 10.30am – 4.30pm

Village Hall

Food Served: 10.30am – 4.30pm

Homemade food, soup, rolls,
cakes, tea and coffee

Stalls: 10.30am – 5pm

Plant stall & Raffle

Free 'Daff & Ride' bus

to view the area at roughly 45-minute intervals

St Edward's Church

Open to visitors

St Mary's Church

Norman church built on Kempley Brook amongst
the wild daffodils & the 12th Century Medieval
Frescoes & Wall Paintings

St Edward's Church Free Guided Walks & Drinks

09.30 to 2pm - Both days - Bring good walking shoes!

09.45am Secret Valley walk

A guided walk will take place across farmland and woodland meadows, through Dymock Woods and finally into the secret valley with drifts of wild daffodils. You will need to be fit enough to cross at least 8 stiles

5
Miles

10.15am Churches, Orchards and Daffodil Meadows Walk

A guided walk will take place through farmland, old cider orchards, daffodil meadows and a visit to St Mary's Church where you will see the best frescoes in England. The walk also includes a visit to Awnells Farm where you can see a fine pedigree herd of Hereford Cattle and ancient perry and cider orchards. A local expert will be able to answer all your questions on the history and life of this area. You must be fit enough to cross at least 7 stiles.

5
Miles

2pm The Centenary Glade Walk (1.2 miles/40 mins if you walk - or take the shuttlebus at 1.45pm from the Village Hall) Easy family walk to see our volunteers work restoring an Ancient Woodland site with its planting of trees for moths and butterflies, and newly seeded Daffodil Meadow. Walk returns to village hall via the Centenary Stone memorial and i-kiosk on the green.

1.2
Miles

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WETLANDS

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1980's

The decade we established our wetlands to filter our waste water



Kempley Village - Old & New

Welcome to Kempley and your visit to see our wild daffodils. We are a small community of just under 300 people. Our village is spread out over the hamlets of Fishpool, Kempley and Kempley Green. We are a vibrant village, with our Kempley Village Hall (www.kempleyvillagehall.org.uk) where events are staged all year, including our Pop up Pub. The latest project has seen the development of a Mobile Market www.facebook.com/-markettoyourdoor/ calling on the 3rd Saturday of every month. A real community project selling local food, with minimum plastic packaging and refill options between 10.00 – 12.00. You can also get light refreshments in the village hall. Reduce your reliance on supermarkets, lower your food miles, reduce your plastic consumption, support local business and have a good time.

We are also pioneering changes to reduce our carbon footprint and protect our unique wildlife. Read about some of the work on our Parish Council website www.kempleyparishcouncil.org/environment. We understand our carbon footprint as a community and the work that needs to be undertaken to achieve the carbon reduction outlined in Glasgow at COP26. We believe small rural communities can drive change.

See if you can spot farms where the owners have installed wind turbines to produce their own power, or anaerobic digestion systems to turn animal manure into energy, and materials to be used to improve soil quality. Look for properties where people have installed solar power, air source heat pumps or have switched to hybrid and electric cars. Find electric recharging points and see the village's first zero energy cost home. Our own Grand Design self-built Passivhaus, here in Kempley - learn more at www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/what_is_passivhaus.php. A house that needs hardly any heating and secures most of its electricity from renewable sources. Imagine spending almost nothing on home energy costs, refuelling your car at home from solar energy and at the same time reducing carbon emissions. This is now a reality for pioneers in Kempley, a real win for everyone! If you want any more information on any of the case examples to reduce carbon emissions simply place a question on the Kempley Daffodil Weekend website www.daffs.org.uk. Also let us know what you are doing to reduce your carbon footprint – we would love to hear.



Kempley in the Autumn

Enjoy your visit, join the organised walks. This year our Parish Council, supported by our local councillor Gill Moseley, has been working with Gloucester County Public Rights of Way, to improve stiles and signage on our public rights of way and with our landowners to replace stiles with kissing gates to make it easier for you to enjoy our classic walks. On your walks, please respect the countryside code, stick to the public paths, keep any dogs on leads, take your litter home with you and leave gates as you find them. We depend on our farming community to produce the food we eat, and to manage our countryside, so please remember you are walking on operational farms.



Drone Photo of Kempley Village Green

Now enjoy our history at two of the finest rural churches in the county.

St Mary's Church Kempley

Built around 1100 AD, the open-roof timbers are the oldest of its type in the UK. The Norman Church retains the most complete cycle of Romanesque wall paintings anywhere in Northern Europe consisting of 12th C frescoes in the vaulted Chancel together with 14th C tempera wall paintings in the Nave. The Tower was added in the 13th C as a defence against the Celts. The window over the altar is by Charles E Kempe and dates from c. 1876. The redundant Church is now in the guardianship of English Heritage and managed by The Friends of Kempley Churches.



St Edward's Church Kempley

Built in 1903 as a 'Chapel of Ease', the Church was not consecrated until 1934. The Church was funded by the Earl Beauchamp, designed by Randall Wells, and built by local craftsmen using locally sourced materials. The Church is important in architectural history for both the design and internal ornament. The Church is an unique monument to the Arts and Craft Movement. The Church of St Edward the Confessor became the parish church in 1975 when St. Mary's was declared redundant.



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You can also register your enquiry by visiting our website
www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com/forms/turnastone-lodge-enquiry-form

TURNASTONE COURT FARM LODGE



A Countryside Restoration Trust Property

Awnells Farm and Turnastone Court Farm

The Countryside Restoration Trust is a champion of biodiversity, regenerating farming landscapes and woodlands for wildlife for the benefit of the countryside and its communities. Our holistic approach links food production with restoring the land. We support a living, working countryside, advocating for wildlife-friendly farming that reverses the decline in biodiversity. We have 19 properties across England and our tenant farmers work with wildlife monitoring officers and volunteers so that the farms are the best they can be for wildlife.

The CRT is the proud owner of two farms in Herefordshire – Awnells Farm and Turnastone Court Farm. Awnells is home to rare-breed, prize-winning Hereford cattle, as well as a traditional cider orchard. Unlike many modern orchards, the trees at Awnells are ancient, ranging from 400 to 80 years old. They have been given the time and space to grow old and rot, which means that rare species of fungus like the orchard tooth fungus have been able to fruit. The certified-organic orchard also provides excellent pasture for livestock, as the traditional Hereford cattle graze in and around the trees, maintaining the grass swards for part of the year. In turn, their dung provides an excellent additional habitat from which a diversity of fungus can grow.

The CRT's Herefordshire Wildlife Monitoring Officer Ruth Moss has recorded an exceptional year for fungus at our properties. Ruth has found examples of the glutinous waxcap and parrot waxcap, which live on decaying wood, as well as the pleated inkcap, characteristic of unimproved grass meadows where few chemical fertilizers or herbicides have been used. During a guided public walk in early October, Ruth also spotted the ruby bolete, white spindles (commonly referred to as fairy fingers), snowy inkcaps, and the prickly-looking common puffball. At the heart of the CRT is our mission to connect local communities with farming, wildlife and food, and by opening up our farms with these guided walks, we demonstrate the impact that conservation-led farming can have on flora, fauna and fungi.



*Parrot Waxcaps,
Turnastone*



Ruby Bolete

Turnastone Court Farm is also home to an orchard, and pasture for cattle and sheep. The CRT's tenant farmers adopt sensitive approaches to their livestock farming that encourage an abundance of wildlife onto the farm while maintaining a high standard of welfare for their herd. Sustainable practices such as rotational grazing and giving pasture time to recover achieve this. Avoiding the use of artificial fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides on the pasture, Ruth has been able to uncover twenty desirable herbaceous species within the farm's hay meadows, including Lesser and Greater Bird's-foot-Trefoil, common Cat's-ear, and Selfheal. These plants benefit the livestock who gain the nutritional and occasionally anti-parasitic advantages from the hay.

As with many farms in the modern world, the CRT is diversifying its income streams, and we are delighted to be opening the doors to Turnastone Lodge, a beautiful holiday accommodation situated next to the farm's orchard and on the banks of the peaceful river Dore. Staying at the lodge is the perfect opportunity for people of all backgrounds to get up close and personal with farming and wildlife.

If you would like to support the work of the CRT, please give a donation today online at www.countryside restoration trust.com/donate or call **01223 262999**.



*White Spindles
at Awnells*



*Prize winning
Hereford cattle*



Awnells Buttercup Orchard Sep 2021

The Countryside Restoration Trust (CRT) is the UK's leading charity promoting wildlife-friendly farming, working together to restore a living, working countryside. The CRT is a champion of biodiversity, regenerating farming landscapes and woodlands for wildlife for the benefit of the countryside and its communities.



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Three Choirs Mission Statement

Climate Change & Our Carbon Footprint

At Three Choirs we are concerned about climate change and are doing what we can to reduce our carbon footprint. We can pride ourselves with the following areas of continual improvement:

In the vineyard:

1. Eliminating herbicide use in the vineyard and a reduction of over 50% on crop sprays over the last 3 years.
2. We are founder members of the Wine GB Sustainability group and one of the first Wineries in the country to successfully pass the audit.
3. We aim to be carbon neutral as a business by 2030.
4. We have improved the quality of cardboard to allow for cartons to be reused.
5. Grape skins all taken from site to use as biofuel.

These may seem small steps, however every little thing we can do helps in the fight against climate change. We pledge to keep looking for ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint and help make the planet a great place for generations to come.

In hospitality:

1. Chef carefully manages ingredients & production of menus to minimise food waste. All Food waste is sent for digestion which is turned into gas that goes into the National Grid.
2. We have strict recycling procedures ensuring minimal waste goes to landfill.
3. Our bar is stocked with products that are canned rather than bottled where possible.
4. We have invested in an all-induction kitchen and have replaced bulbs with LED light bulbs across the site, all reducing our energy consumption. We aim to convert to 100% green electricity in the next 2 years.
5. Our REN skincare products in guest bathrooms are refillable & cartons are recyclable – we no longer provide single use products.
6. Educating and encouraging our staff to be mindful of excess waste, efficient recycling and using resources responsibly.





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Diary of a Newcomer

I write this between Christmas and New Year's Eve, surrounded by the comforting evergreens of holly, ivy, and mistletoe. We bring these garlands into our homes not only to decorate, but also to celebrate that promise of Spring that will see us through the darkest months. This is a universal experience across the country, but for those of us who have the enormous privilege of living in or near the Golden Triangle, this promise holds a magical expectation.

Clemmie and I bought our little farm at auction, deep in the restrictions of 2020. A chance internet search on a sleepless night led us to a visit and we were smitten at first sight. The farm was broken into multiple lots comprising a burned down farmhouse, ancient orchards, un-'improved' grazing and a recently planted woodland surrounding a lake.

The moment the hammer went down in the socially distanced car park of the Ledbury auctioneers, we were overwhelmed with the joy of securing what we would now build into our family home for life. But even in this euphoric atmosphere, two things stand out:

The first was the unreserved warmth of all our new neighbours as they came to congratulate and

welcome us. The second, were the words which rang in our ears from one otherwise very quiet and reserved farmer:

“ *It's a very special place you have there and when the daffodils come up you will weep because they are so beautiful.* ”

We may be new here, but my wife and I were both brought up in the countryside, Clemmie is a farmer's daughter from Symonds Yat, who knew this to be far from the hyperbole it may seem in any other context.



We could sense the relief that a young couple had kept the farm whole as it had been since the Middle Ages and out of the hands of those who would do it ill. But with this, as any landowner knows, also came a timeless responsibility to the land, not to be treated as an asset, but to be the guardian of what will always be for others in the future. Our farm is special not just because of the wonderful orchards and spectacular daffodils, but because of the generations of backbreaking hard work and care, even love, that has ensured that it is the place it is.

My entire career I have worked in Sustainability, helping corporations and investors to thrive and be profitable tomorrow not just today. We are now hopefully putting this into practice and heeding my own advice. This last year has been unprecedented in the profile of the challenge that humankind faces. Climate change, habitat degradation, and biodiversity decline are all symptoms of short-term thinking and our unwillingness and/or inability to work with nature rather than against it. We are so excited about the opportunity to take this precious gem and evolve it with all these challenges absolutely front of mind, but it must also, at some point, wash its face, or it is inherently unsustainable. This is a challenge felt by farmers across the whole country who have for generations been forced to reconcile conflicting legislation, which has pushed for short term productivity at the cost of the long term very viability of our soil.

Clemmie and I have quite a full year ahead of us as we replace all the long-lost hedges, graft the rarest of our fruit trees to take the orchards back to their former glory, create a partnership to graze our pasture in the most sustainable way and to draw up a management plan for the woodland.



On top of all this, we have a farmhouse to design and build that both resonates with the farm's 500-year history and is fit for the future. But through all this chaos we will keep that guiding light set out to us on the very first day of what a special place this is, particularly when the daffodils come up. Above all we want our six-month-old son to feel the same for the rest of his life.

*Felix, Clemmie, and Alfred Gummer
Saycells Farm*



Much Marcle

Leominster

Ledbury

Windcross
Paths Group



Friars Meadow



Little Eddies

Old Rock Orchard

DYMOCK

B4216



ST MARY'S CHURCH



Allens Grove

SSSI

Haind Park Wood



St Mary's



KEMPLEY

Hidden Valley



FISHPOOL



Queens Wood



Murrels

Dymock Wood



Betty Daws Wood



FOUR OAKS



ST EDWARDS CHURCH
KEMPLEY
1903

Shaw Common



Gwen & Vera's Field

M50



Hay Wood



Newent

Gorsley

Jn3 to Ross-on-Wye



Local Action to Curb Climate Change in the Golden Triangle

It is hoped that this year sees a great change in the way Government supports land management. As existing subsidy schemes are withdrawn, the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) will be the only remaining mechanism designed to support landowners and farmers.

Across the Golden Triangle working landscape, we have a strong legacy of conserving biodiversity and restoring natural systems across the catchment area of the River Leadon which feeds into the Wye and Severn rivers.

For three decades and more, all sectors of our community have raised the local sustainability agenda around conserving the iconic native daffodils habitat. Sadly the 'voluntary' sector has fallen victim of the pandemic. It has restricted our capacity to fundraise, hold work parties on Public Estate land, and has side-lined our lobbying role of the media agenda. This 2022 brochure re-launches our determination to springboard from the COP26 into climate change action.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) has been authorised by DEFRA to run a *Test and Trial* for the proposed new ELMS farms, promoted as the **Landscape Recovery Grants** programme. Our neighbourhood's involvement at this early stage recognises a real opportunity to shape the design and operation of this new scheme, dubbed *Public Goods for Public Monies* as described in the Government's 25 year Environment Plan.

The core principles are: clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reducing environmental hazards such as flooding and drought, mitigating and adapting to climate change and enhancing the beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Through our partnership with Forestry England managing the community woodland, The Centenary Glade, which is one of this year's guided walks, we are contributing to *Severn Treescapes* - an exemplar project promoting climate warming solutions. The area between the lower Wye Valley and the Wyre Forest spans some of the largest areas of semi-natural ancient woodland and historic hunting forest in England. However, there is a large break in connectivity between the Forest of Dean and Malvern Hills. This is where a mosaic of farmland, wetland, grassland, heathland and joined up areas of woodland is needed to create a functioning ecosystem better suited to support nature and people in the long term. At the nexus of this landscape is the 1000 year old Dymock Forest straddling the M50 and the Gloucestershire / Herefordshire boundary, with its catchments flowing into the rivers Wye and Severn.

The established national footpaths of the Daffodil Way and the Poets' Paths, combined with work by the Newent Cycle Loop, has integrated public access to the countryside along with landscape heritage. The value to local people for exercise, health and wellbeing is now truly appreciated.

However, these routes need consistent management to be maintained as corridors for nature; this has rightly become an issue of the public purse if we are to reduce the carbon deficit of our settlements.

Dymock Forest Rural Action (DyFRA) continues to survey woodland areas across the Golden Triangle, within a strategy to connect up the century-old orchards and copses to the 'Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) owned by Forestry England.

We have gained the support of the north Forest of Dean and South Herefordshire parish councils, which border these Ancient Woodland reserves. The need is to expand the forest edge with new planting, as for example 'woodland pasture', and develop the regenerative farming and forestry practice to store carbon naturally.

The underpinning ecological focus is to restore the soil health along the catchment of the River Leadon and help mitigate flooding in the Leadon Vale. Soils hold 65% of the carbon we can lock away from escaping into the atmosphere with a further 25% assigned to maturing timber crops. Forest management as carbon 'sinks' is vital in our short-term plans and therefore as part of the overall forest management, it is vital that we continue coppicing the existing forests. It is the managing of the landscape as an entire ecosystem, not separated by political and economic boundaries, that will augment our community efforts to reduce our carbon generating lifestyles.

Chris Bligh, Programme Director, DyFRA

dyfradaffs@gn.apc.org
www.theMomentpress



To help you on your walks in Daffodil and Dymock Poets' country the local **Windcross Paths Group** publishes a series of detailed walk descriptions with lovely artwork by Barbara Davis.

Choose from *The Daffodil Way*; *Poets' Path 1*; *Poets' Path 2*;
Dymock Poets' Cottages Walk;
Centenary Walks in Dymock Forest
At £1.50 each they make excellent walk companions
and a good souvenir.

The leaflets are on sale at many local outlets
e.g. *Ledbury Heritage Centre*, *Great Malvern TIC*, *Dymock church and shop*,
the *Golden Triangle 2022 Daffodil Weekends*.



Ledbury Naturalists' Field Club

Every Thursday in autumn to spring we carry out volunteer work - coppicing and enhancing butterfly and insect habitats.

You are most welcome to join this supervised band of woodlanders...

Please contact Kate Wollen, Forestry England Conservation Officer for info

E: katewollen@forestryengland.co.uk
T: 0300 048 4800
WWW: Ledburynaturalists.co.uk



Forestry England

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Please look at our website for more information about our school

<https://www.anncam.gloucs.sch.uk>

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Little Daffodils

At Ann Cam Primary School



Chrissy and Michael Bentley came to Castle Fruit Farm in 2002 and over the last 20 years have maintained their long term commitment to sustainable agriculture.

The farm grows plums, apples and pears and is split between the parishes of Oxenhall and Dymock. Soils on the farm vary from sandy on the Oxenhall side, reasonable for plums, to a heavier clay loam on the Dymock side, better suited to apples and pears.

The farmhouse, built in 1829, sits on the ruins of a black and white farmhouse, which in turn occupied the site of a manorial castle.

The farm has a wind turbine built by Lancaster Burnes in the 1920's, which provided electricity until the early nineteen fifties when the area

received mains electricity. People from far and wide visit this unusual feature.

The farm employs 4 full-time staff, and in harvesting season a further 36 people for picking and packing the fruit. Most of the seasonal workforce come from Bulgaria as it is not possible to recruit enough staff locally for the four month harvest period.

Fruit production has gone through significant changes over the last two decades including rising labour costs and availability of labour, competition from imports, price pressure, demand for the





perfect fruit meaning wastage. In the context of a very competitive retail environment this has meant many fruit farms have gone out of business.

New growing systems have been adopted to optimise yields and maximise the quality of the fruit. The challenge is to be commercially viable at the same time as farming sustainably and increasing biodiversity. Fruit production and all operations at Castle Fruit Farm are carried out with consideration for the sustainable use of all resources on the farm including soil, water, air, wildlife habitats and landscape.

All our audits place considerable emphasis on these elements. All land that is not used for crop production is managed to encourage habitats capable of supporting the widest range of wildlife. For example, hedges are only trimmed in late spring one year in three, grass margins and a proportion of the tree alleyways are allowed to grow to provide cover for beetles and beneficial insects. "Bug hotels" have been added all round the farm to encourage insects, particularly pollinators who are vital unpaid workers! Beehives have been added for honeybees and solitary mason bees are encouraged as they are exceptionally good workers, rain or shine!

We were pleased that studies have confirmed that there are great numbers of bees and hoverflies on the farm and we observe that pollination in our orchards is always good!

In the orchards, the soil nutrient status is monitored by soil analysis and nutrients applied to the soil. In some orchards mulch is applied under the trees using green waste compost or spent coir – a by-product of strawberry growers. All the dessert apple, pear and plum orchards now have trickle irrigation installed so that efficient use of water is optimised.

To reduce electricity use, solar panels have been installed on the barn roofs to benefit the farm and farmhouse. Solar thermal panels have been installed for hot water heating to the showers for the worker accommodation. Water and sewage from the accommodation is treated by a biodisc and reedbed system.

Michael and Chrissy have been awarded the Farming and Wildlife Group Silver Pintail Award "in recognition of their long term commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and wildlife protection". They plan to develop this work as a priority; for example new ponds, willow beds, pollen and nectar rich grassland areas etc, all to link with neighbouring farms and environmental features.



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Caplor Energy's commitment to Renewable Energy

From our base at Caplor Farm in the beautiful Wye Valley where we are proud to have contributed to the local rural economy since 1923, we are acutely aware of the effects of climate change on our environment. Today, the team at Caplor Energy are passionate advocates of renewable energy, with a mission to inspire businesses, communities and home-owners to install renewable energy systems to deliver a zero carbon future that will conserve and enhance the long term social and environmental future of our planet.

At Caplor Energy, we have been committed to renewable energy for almost 15 years and are an award-winning company that leads by example with many renewable energy installations at Caplor Farm in Herefordshire such as solar PV, solar thermal, battery storage, heat pumps, electric vehicle charging and wind power. Even now, all Caplor renewable technologies are still first tested at the farm, which gives us the ideal opportunity to pass on first-hand information to our customers and show them how the systems operate.

As one of the first renewable energy businesses established and accredited with the MCS (a quality certification scheme), Caplor Energy now have many years' experience of specialising in the design, installation and maintenance of a wide range of renewable energy systems across the UK. Our aim is to support all our customers through knowledgeable, unbiased advice, quality products and reliable service in our quest for a greener, more sustainable economy that will provide a better environment for our future generations.

Today, we can see major trends in new technology and demand for electric vehicles, renewable heating solutions such as heat pumps and solar power combined with battery storage for cheaper energy at all times of the day. Our products and range of services have continually developed to address these trends and we can now offer a wide range of options to suit all requirements for domestic, agricultural, commercial and community-based customers.

We'd love to hear from you, please get in touch with our fantastic team at, info@caplor.co.uk visit: www.caplor.co.uk, call: **01432 860644**.

Dymock Daffodils

GL18 2AQ | March 26th - 27th

Dymock Church

The Daffodil Cafe is open every day between March 1st to April 14th
with refreshments available between 11 – 4pm

Tea and Cake £4, Ploughmans lunches £6 are available if pre ordered. There are also Lent lunches served on Mondays costing £6. Please tel. 01531 890676 to order or for more details.

The church has a full range of self-guided maps and guides to the daffodils in the Dymock area for purchase together with postcards, books and souvenirs.

The church hosts an attractive and detailed multi media exhibition on the **Dymock Poets** who found inspiration in the area for writing some well known poems about daffodils and the local countryside. Maps are available for walks to the cottages where they once lived and also an App is available for download.

There is also a guide to a six-mile circular walk to some of the lesser known beautiful wild daffodil areas and to the poets **Garland Hut** which contains fascinating local history and information related to the Poets, footpaths and local wildlife reserves. There are also detailed guides to exploring the daffodils by **cycle routes including Ledbury and Newent Loops and the Masefield Trail**.

There will be an **informal lunch-time concert in the church** between 1–1.30pm every Monday during March presented by a variety of local musicians. Time your lunch break to enjoy some live musical performances!

The Beauchamp Arms

Situated in the heart of the village and provides light lunches and evening meals plus a choice of real ales. This welcoming community pub is featured in The Good Beer Guide and warmly welcomes walking groups.

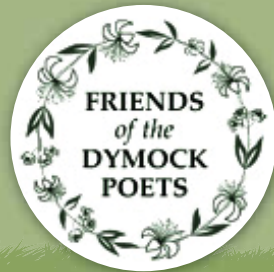
Booking is advised. **E:** matthill1974@yahoo.co.uk **T:** 01531 890266

The Dymock Daffodil Weekend and Spring Fayre

will take place in Dymock Parish Hall on Saturday & Sunday, March 26th & 27th between 10am– 5pm. In addition to refreshments including bacon baps and the popular cream scones there will be trading tables selling a variety of goods and craft stalls. There will be guided walks from 2pm each day to areas where the wild daffodils are most prolific.

Further information and enquiries available by contacting 01531 890453

Dymock Daffodil Heritage



Welcome to Dymock situated on an ancient Roman road from Gloucestershire towards Hereford and Leominster. This route was chosen for a canal which was opened in 1798 and then replaced by a railway in 1885. This linked Gloucester and Ledbury and became known as the "Daffodil Line" when the local wild daffodils provided a seasonal crop and were picked to be sent to London and Birmingham.

Here is a short account from one such young daffodil picker, Glenis Coates who continues to enjoy living in our community.

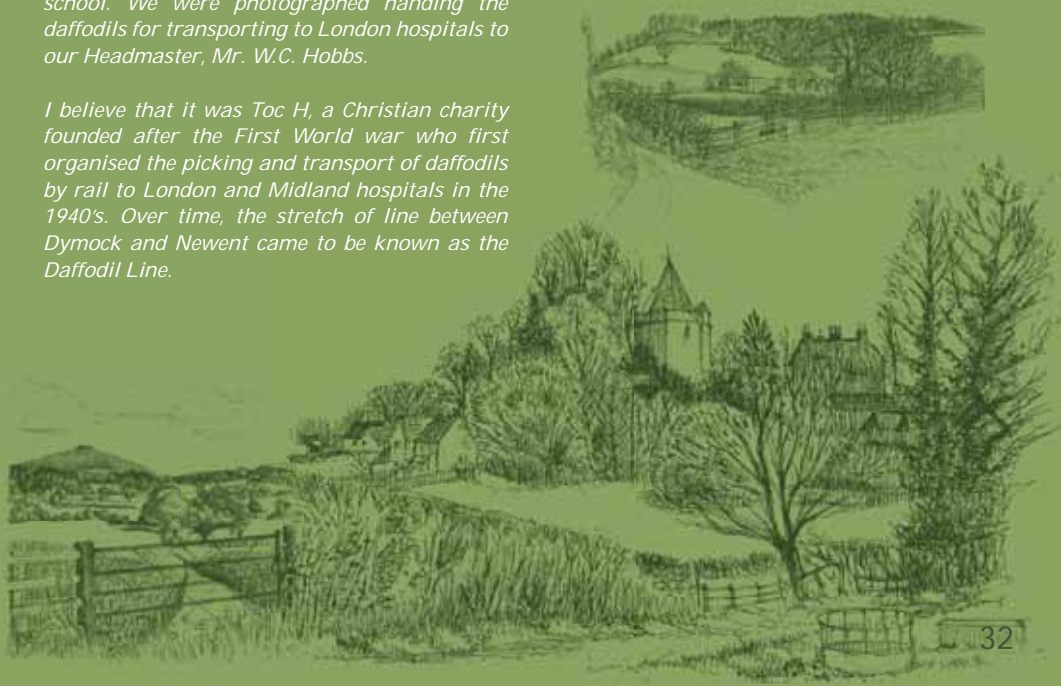
“ I first became aware of the importance of our local wild daffodils as a pupil at Ann Cam C of E School in the 1950's. I was 8 years of age in 1954 when the BBC Newsreel programme filmed pupils picking the flowers in a field close to our school. We were photographed handing the daffodils for transporting to London hospitals to our Headmaster, Mr. W.C. Hobbs.

I believe that it was Toc H, a Christian charity founded after the First World war who first organised the picking and transport of daffodils by rail to London and Midland hospitals in the 1940's. Over time, the stretch of line between Dymock and Newent came to be known as the Daffodil Line.

In common with many local children, I picked and "bunched" daffodils for sale at the gate and roadside – 50 blooms per bunch for 6d ! We gathered the blooms from the hedgerows and orchards, venturing into nearby woods until the Forestry Commission introduced a charge for a permit to pick daffodils.

Later of course, picking any wild flowers for financial gain was frowned upon and eventually became illegal. So today, villages in the Golden Triangle of Dymock, Kempley and Oxenhall lead guided walks to allow visitors to enjoy our daffodils in their natural setting. ”

The six Dymock Poets were all inspired by the countryside around Dymock and especially the carpets of the Springtime wild daffodils.





Accompany **John Drinkwater** as he welcomes the brave daffodils that
"bring colour and savour of Spring..."

You can explore Dymock Woods where **Robert Frost**
 was inspired to write "The Road Not Taken"
"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood..."



You can wander through meadows and orchards where **Edward Thomas** walked with **Robert Frost**
"The sun used to shine while we two walked..."



Lascelles Abercrombie, the focus of the group, wrote of Dymock wild daffodils
*"and all the miles and miles of meadowland,
 the spring makes golden ways lead here..."*

and when **Wilfrid Gibson** was far from Dymock and
 waiting pensively before action in WW1, he wrote
*"I dream of daffodils that blow
 and lambs that frisk and bleat..."*



and **Rupert Brooke** nostalgically reflects upon the
 rich landscape enjoyed in the company of others here
*"Laughter, learnt of friends, and gentleness
 in hearts at peace, under an English Heaven"*

Come and visit the exhibition in St Mary's Church, Dymock where you will find detailed maps and information about the poets. The exhibition includes information boards, audio visual presentations, displays, children's resources and education packs. There are numerous maps, books postcards and posters for sale as well as beautifully illustrated guides to the Poets Paths 1 & 2.

Dymock Poets Cottages Walk

For a shorter two or three mile walk, take a look at the Dymock Poets Cottages Walk and enjoy some fine views as you pass some of the poets cottages. There is also an app available (search Cottages Walk on Google Play.)



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Contacts

Kempley Daffodil Weekend: kempley.daffodil.teas@mail.com
or martin.brocklehurst@me.com Mobile: 07500 043485

Kempley Daffodil Weekend Website: www.daffs.org.uk

Kempley Parochial Church Council: kempleyparishcouncil@gmail.com
Chairman: Reg Billings Tel: 01989 565518

Dymock St.Mary's Church events: www.dymockchurch.net
bobjmay@yahoo.com Tel: 01531 890676

Friends of Kempley Churches: www.kempleytardis.org.uk
Chairman: Howell Rees: chairman.fokc@kempleytardis.org.uk

The Countryside Restoration Trust: www.countrysiderestorationtrust.com
rmoss@countrysiderestorationtrust.com Tel: 01223 262999

Windcross Paths Group: www.windcrosspaths.org.uk
Chairman: Mike Townsend

Dymock Forest Rural Action: dyfradaffs@gn.apc.org
Project Director: Tim Rickard: timrickard@orpheusmail.co.uk

Ledbury Naturalists: katewollen@forestryengland.uk



Come and enjoy a free day out & contribute what you can

All proceeds at Kempley go to St Edward's Church Fabric Fund & Kempley Village Hall Restoration Fund; at Dymock they go to the upkeep of the Village Hall and St Mary's Church and at Awnells & Turnastone Court Farms, they go to the Countryside Restoration Trust.

Parking, entry to all village events & trips on the 'Daff & Ride' bus are free, but donations are welcome.

Daffodil Teas, started in 1975 when four ladies of Kempley organised teas on a specific weekend to raise money for the local churches to coincide with the native daffodils that bloom in the locality.

The event is organised by local Committees in Kempley and Dymock and by The Countryside Restoration Trust, with villagers helping in various roles to provide a welcome to our visitors.

COVID 19 PANDEMIC

In the event that the Government maintain and / or re-introduce restrictions and safety measures in respect of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Kempley Daffodil Weekend organisers will ensure full compliance with all such restrictions and safety measures.

The measures may include the wearing of face masks in confined indoor spaces, including the courtesy mini-bus, together with the ventilation of all indoor areas.

In specific locations such measures may also include the showing of Covid 19 certificates / passports.

All such Government measures will be implemented for the benefit and protection of each and everyone of us to ensure a safe and enjoyable Kempley Daffodil Weekend.

The Kempley Daffodil Weekend Organising Committee.

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