

Digital Editions

The *Country Living Guide to Rural England - Leicestershire and Rutland* published by Travel Publishing in conjunction with *Country Living Magazine*, is one of a series of county-based digital travel guides covering England which will be made available to readers free of charge through the *All About You* website and through Travel Publishing's own websites.

The guides are based on the popular series of Country Living Guides to Rural England published in printed form which can be purchased through the *All About You* bookshop, *Country Living Magazine*, high street bookshops, internet retailers and Travel Publishing.

This digital guide to Leicestershire and Rutland is published in PDF format which means that you can browse the guide page by page or simply search for specific villages or towns (see pages 4 and 5). You can also print off individual pages of your choice if you are planning a visit to a particular area or, alternatively, the whole of the digital guide.

If you want more information on the places to see, stay, eat, drink or shop advertised in this guide all you need to do is click on the relevant website or e-mail address contained in the advertisement.

We do hope you like using this version of the *Country Living* rural guide and that it helps you enjoy exploring Leicestershire and Rutland. We are always interested in receiving comments on places covered (or not covered) in our guides so please do not hesitate to give us your considered comments by e-mailing us on info@travelpublishing.co.uk.

For more information on other titles in the Country Living Rural Guide series or any other Travel Publishing titles (printed or digital) or to buy a printed guide please visit the *All About You* website on www.allaboutyou.com/countryliving or one of the Travel Publishing websites - www.travelpublishing.co.uk and www.findsomewhere.co.uk.

Travel Publishing

© Travel Publishing Ltd

All content within this edition is protected by the UK copyright of Travel Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved. This material may be used only for internal, informational, noncommercial purposes. You may not modify or alter the content in any way. You may not, without obtaining Travel Publishing's written permission, republish, redistribute, or otherwise make any copies except for personal use. You may not use the material in a manner that suggests an association with any of our publications or services.

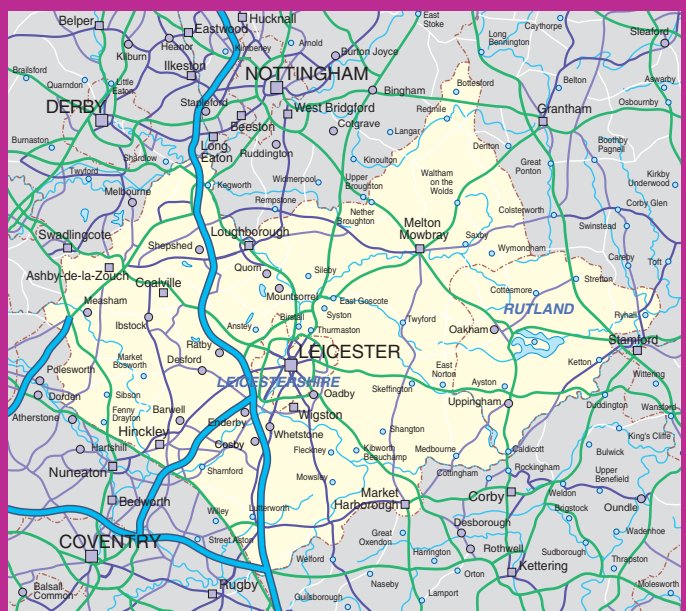
Guide to Rural England

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY

Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps



Towns and Villages

Please click on any of the towns and villages listed below for information on that location.

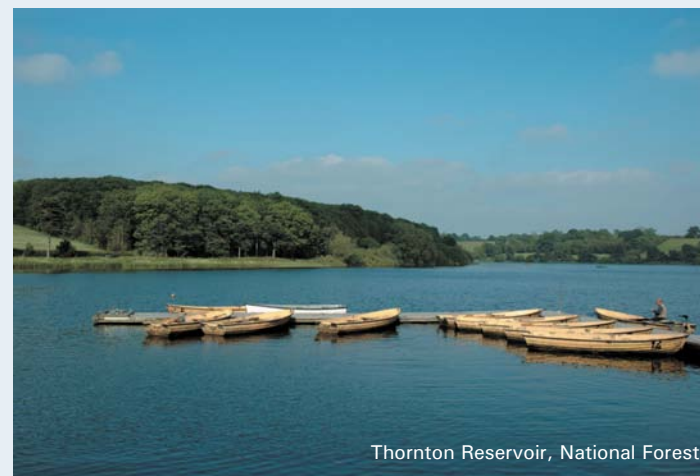
Anstey	pg 9	Kibworth Harcourt	pg 11	Rearsby	pg 10
Ashby-de-la-Zouch	pg 23	Kirby Muxloe	pg 8	Rutland Water	pg 32
Belvoir Castle	pg 32	Leicester	pg 6	Shepshed	pg 28
Burbage	pg 17	Little Casterton	pg 44	Stathern	pg 32
Burrough-on-the-Hill	pg 30	Loughborough	pg 26	Staunton Harold	pg 25
Castle Donington	pg 28	Lutterworth	pg 15	Stoke Dry	pg 35
Clipsham	pg 46	Lyddington	pg 35	Swannington	pg 22
Coalville	pg 21	Market Bosworth	pg 17	Teigh	pg 47
Cottesmore	pg 46	Market Harborough	pg 11	Tickencote	pg 44
Desford	pg 9	Measham	pg 24	Tilton-on-the-Hill	pg 30
Eastwell	pg 32	Melton Mowbray	pg 29	Twycross	pg 21
Edith Weston	pg 43	Moira	pg 24	Uppingham	pg 33
Egleton	pg 43	Mountsorrel	pg 29	Waltham on the Wolds	pg 30
Empingham	pg 44	Newtown Linford	pg 9	Wigston	pg 10
Exton	pg 44	Oadby	pg 10	Wing	pg 36
Foxton	pg 15	Oakham	pg 37	Wistow	pg 11
Grimston	pg 32	Oaks in Charnwood	pg 22	Woodhouse Eaves	pg 27
Hallaton	pg 14	Old Woodhouse	pg 27	Wymeswold	pg 29
Hinckley	pg 16	Pickworth	pg 45	Wymondham	pg 30
Ibstock	pg 22				

Leicestershire & Rutland

Leicestershire's most attractive features are shy and quiet and have to be sought out, but they amply reward the explorer. The county is divided into two almost equal parts by the River Soar, which flows northward into the Trent. It separates the east and west by a broad valley, flowing like a silver ribbon through historic Leicester in the very heart of the county. This capital town was thriving in Roman days and is one of the oldest towns in England. It has managed to retain outstanding monuments of almost every age of English history. Red Leicester cheese was made in the southern part of the county in the 1700s, but now the only genuine product is made at Melton Mowbray, which also makes Stilton and, of course, the superlative

pork pies. And every schoolchild knows the name of Bosworth Field, one of the momentous battles that changed the course of English history.

Just 20 miles across and covering a mere 150 square miles, Rutland delights in its status as England's smallest county. Its 37,800 inhabitants were incensed when the Local Government changes of 1974 stripped the county of its identity and merged it with neighbouring Leicestershire. It took more than 20 years of ceaseless campaigning before bureaucracy relented and Rutland was re-instated as a county in its own right. Rutland has villages of thatch and ironstone, clustered around their churches, and the countryside is rich in pasture where once deer were hunted.



Thornton Reservoir, National Forest

Its central feature is Rutland Water, whose 3,100 acres make it one of the largest man-made lakes in northern Europe. Started in 1971 to supply water to the East Midlands towns, it was created by damming the valley near Empingham.

Leicester

 Church of St Mary de Castro	 Guildhall
 Newarke Houses Museum	 Castle Gardens
 Jewry Wall & Museum	 Gas Museum
 National Space Centre	 Abbey Pumping Station
 New Walk Museum & Art Gallery	
 Guru Nanak Gurdwara	

Designated Britain's first Environment City in recognition of its commitment to green issues and the environment, Leicester has numerous parks and open spaces, is one of the country's top 10 shopping destinations, has a buzzing nightlife and also boasts a rich architectural heritage with no fewer than 350 listed buildings.

When the Romans built a town here in the 1st century AD they called it Ratae

Corielaevorum, and when they left 300 years later it survived in some form. It was the seat of a Christian bishop in the 7th century, and in the 9th century was conquered and settled by the Vikings along with Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby and Stamford. The city flourished in the Middle Ages when the cloth and wool trades became important, and the coming of the canals and the railways brought further prosperity. The development of road transport changed the face of the city, and modern Leicester is a thriving industrial and commercial city with superb shopping and recreational facilities, and a mixture of cultures and communities as rich and diverse as any in the land.

At the heart of Leicester's heritage is Castle Park, the old town, an area of gardens, churches, museums and other fine buildings. Here are concentrated many of the city's main

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



[Click Here for travel guidebooks](#)

visitor attractions. **Castle Gardens** was just an area of marshland by the River Soar until it was drained and opened as gardens to the public in 1926. In the gardens is a statue of Richard III who, on a sunny August day in 1485, rode out from the Blue Boar Inn to his death at the Battle of Bosworth Field. After the battle, his body was hung from the parapet of Bow Bridge before being buried at Greyfriars Church. After the Dissolution, his body was disinterred and thrown into the river, later to be recovered and buried near the bridge. Cardinal Wolsey died in Leicester after falling from his mule while on his way to London to face a treason charge. He was buried in the Lady Chapel of Leicester Abbey. The Abbey is now in ruins, and a simple memorial can be found in Abbey Park.

Castle Motte is a man-made mound built around 1070 by Leicester's first Norman lord. Like the gardens, it is open to the public during daylight hours, interpretation boards explain its history. Adjacent to the gardens is the **Church of St Mary de Castro**, founded in 1107 and still in use. The chancel, stained glass, carvings and tombstones are all well worth taking time to examine. Geoffrey Chaucer was married here and Henry VI was knighted in the church in 1426. Next to the church is the Great Hall of Leicester Castle. The Hall was built in the 12th century by Robert le Bossu and used by successive Earls of Leicester as their administrative headquarters; it is open to the public on special event days. Also in the same space is **Newarke Houses Museum**, showcasing information regarding Leicester in the 1930s/1940s, the old Leicestershire 'Tigers' regiment and the two world wars with an authentic trench as it would have been during World War I. The museum is also home to the Museum of the Royal Leicestershire

Regiment. Leicester's diverse cultural heritage is represented by the Jain Centre, the only one of its kind in the Western world, housed in a converted 19th-century Congregational chapel surmounted by a wondrously ornate facade; and the **Guru Nanak Gurdwara**, a Sikh temple and museum. Across the road from the Jain Centre is the **Jewry Wall and Museum**. It is not only the oldest surviving Roman civil building in Britain, but its wall is also the highest in the country and was part of the public baths, whose foundations are still visible. The museum chronicles the history and archaeology of the city and the county from Roman times to 1485. The adjacent St Nicholas Church dates back to Anglo-Saxon times and, despite later alterations, Saxon work and re-used Roman bricks can be seen in the

flint 'For Those Gorgeous Things in Life'

15 Rathby Road, Groby, Leicestershire LE6 0GF
Tel: 0116 2876374

e-mail: candi@flintgifts.co.uk

Two adjoining flint cottages dating back some 200 years have been reborn as a beautiful gift boutique selling a wide range of gifts large and small and ideas for the home displayed in three rooms. Owner Candi Newby chooses everything personally and with the constant turnover of stock, regular customers know that every time they visit Flint Gifts they will find a new selection of novel, unusual and stunning things to buy. The goods on display range from furniture and soft furnishings to candles, picture frames, greeting cards for every occasion and seasonal gifts. Featured brands include luxurious handbags by Mary Frances, beautiful bespoke jewellery, Terramundi money pots hand-thrown in Italy and hand-painted in London, pedal cars, tricycles and planes by Syots.

Flint Gifts is open from 10am Tuesday to Saturday.

The village of Groby lies on the southern edge of Charnwood Forest close to Bradgate Park and Groby Pool and only five miles Northwest of Leicester, with easy access from the A46, A50 and M1 (J21a).



Guildhall, Leicester

 historic building  museum  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna

 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

walls and tower. The Church of St Martin, which was in existence before 1086, was extended in the 14th and 15th centuries, restored in the 19th century and hallowed as the Cathedral of Leicester in 1927. Stained glass and carvings are impressive, and the memorial to Richard III is a highlight.

One of the very finest buildings in Leicester is the **Guildhall**, built around 1390 for the Guild of Corpus Christi and used as the Town Hall from the late 15th century to 1876. Concerts and theatrical performances are held regularly in the Great Hall. Across the road from the Cathedral is **Wygston's House**, a part timber-framed building, one of the oldest in the city, which now houses displays of fashion, textiles and crafts from around the world, along with a reconstruction of a 1920s draper's shop. This museum section also has an activity area where children are encouraged to dress up in replica historical costumes.

Leicester City Museums also include **The New Walk Museum and Art Gallery**, with displays including natural history, geology, ancient Egyptian mummies, a dinosaur skeleton more than 175 million years old, and a fine German Expressionist collection; Belgrave Hall and Gardens, a Queen Anne house whose rooms reflect Edwardian elegance and Victorian cosiness; the Abbey Pumping Station, an 1891 station with massive beam engines and several exhibitions; and the Gas Museum on Aylestone Road.

Over the past few years Leicester has had a major regeneration to transform the city. In 2008 the Highcross Shopping Centre opened with over 120 shops, bars and restaurants. The Curve Theatre, with state-of-the-art technology, also opened in 2008 and in 2009 the Phoenix Square Media Centre went live. The **National Space Centre**, opened in 2001

as part of the new millennium celebrations, is the UK's largest attraction dedicated to space. This multi-million pound project offers real rockets and satellites and capsules, interactive challenges and the most advanced space theatre in the world, transporting the audience on an awe-inspiring journey through the universe and beyond. The neighbouring **Abbey Pumping Station** is Leicester's Museum of Science and Technology, displaying Leicester's industrial, technical and scientific heritage. Between these two neighbours the story is told of nearly 200 years of science and technology, from the early days of steam to space exploration.

In 1485, King Richard III spent the night before the Battle of Bosworth Field at the Blue Boar Inn in Highcross Street. A plaque marks the site.

In Western Park, EcoHouse is an environment-friendly show home featuring energy efficiency, sustainable living and an organic garden. In Aylsetone Road in the south of the city stands the **Gas Museum**, the largest of its kind in the world, with vintage heating and washing equipment, lighting, cookers, meters, an all-gas 1920s kitchen, model gas rig and many unusual items. Open afternoons, Tuesday to Thursday.

Around Leicester

KIRBY MUXLOE

2 miles W of Leicester off the B5380

 Castle

Kirby Muxloe Castle is a picturesque ruined fortified manor house dating from 1480. Built of brick rather than the more usual stone, it was started by William, Lord Hastings, but not completed by him – he was executed by

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

Richard III. Only the great gatehouse and one of the four angle towers remain intact.

DESFORD

4 miles W of Leicester off the A47

 Tropical Birdland

Tropical Birdland, which opened its doors to the public in 1987, is a breeding centre for rare and endangered species - birds of the rainforest, 85 species, walk-through aviaries, chick room, woodland walk, koi ponds, picnic gardens, bird shop, free parking – all this adds up to one of the county's most popular attractions. Open Easter to the end of October.

NEWTOWN LINFORD

5 miles NW of Leicester off the A50

 Bradgate House  Bradgate Country Park

A picturesque village of thatched dwellings and timbered style buildings, Newtown Linford lies alongside the River Lin, which flows through the village and into **Bradgate Country Park**. This is the largest and most popular park in the county with well over a million visitors every year exploring its 850 acres. The park was created from Charnwood Forest 700 years ago as a hunting and deer park, and the scene is probably little changed since, a mixture of heath, bracken, grassy slopes, rocky outcrops and woodland – and the deer are still there. Man-made features of the park include a well-known folly called Old John Tower. Built in 1784 by the 5th Earl of Stamford in memory of a former member of his household, it stands nearly 700 feet above sea level and affords fine views.

Also here are the ruins of **Bradgate House**, built of brick at the beginning of the 16th century. This was the home of the Grey family and it was here that Lady Jane Grey

was born in 1537. Her father was the scheming and ambitious Duke of Suffolk who forced her, at the age of 16, to marry the son of the Duke of Northumberland, Regent to Edward VI. With his own eye on power, Northumberland prevailed on the dying Edward to name Jane as heir to the throne. On hearing the news, Jane fell fainting to the ground. Public opinion recognised Mary Tudor as the rightful heir and within days both Jane's father and father-in-law had deserted her. Jane spent nine days as reluctant queen and a further seven months as a prisoner in the Tower of London – before a swift death on the executioner's block on 12 February 1554. Today, the lovely rose-red ruins of Bradgate House where Jane passed much of her brief life look too benign and inviting ever to have been involved in such a murderous tale of 16th-century politics. The story is that the foresters at Bradgate cut off the heads of the oaks in the park as a mark of respect to Lady Jane; pollard oaks can still be seen here.

ANSTEY

3 miles NW of Leicester off the A46

 Packhorse Bridge

The 16th-century **Packhorse Bridge** that crosses Rothley Brook at Anstey is a particularly fine specimen: 5ft wide to give space for the horse's bulging panniers, 54ft long and supported by five low arches. In the late 18th century when the bridge was the only way to get to Leicester, some four miles distant, it would have been crossed many times by Ned Ludd, who was born in Anstey in 1811. He was apprenticed to a local weaver and one night broke two stocking frames. Groups of workers took this as a sign to rebel against the unemployment and hardship the

new equipment was causing, and set about destroying other machines in the new textile milles. They gained the name of Luddites, a term now used to describe anyone opposed to modern technology. The government's response to the damage was to swoop on six of the leaders and hang them all at Nottingham.

REARSBY

5 miles NE of Leicester on the A607

According to meticulous accounts that have survived, the lovely old bridge in Rearsby was built by six men in just nine days during the summer of 1714. The village constable's accounts showed the total cost as £11 2s 2d (£11.11p) – with the largest expense, £2 12s 6d, being for 21 quarters of lime, the smallest, a payment of 5d (2p) “to George Skillington for Nales”. The bridge was paid for by a levy of ratepayers of 8d in the pound but, according to constable Richard Harrison, he ended up “£1 11s 0½d out of Pocket”. A small consolation must have been to have the inscription on the sixth arch of his initials, RH, alongside the date 1714.

OADBY

3 miles SE of Leicester off the A6/A47

 Botanical Gardens  James Hawker

 Brocks Hill Country Park

Effectively a suburb of Leicester, Oadby nevertheless has three venues of interest to those who care for the environment. There's a treat for horticulturalists in the form of the University of Leicester's **Botanical Gardens**, which include an arboretum, herbaceous borders, water garden and glass houses that shelter tropical and temperate plants, alpiners and succulents.

In Washbrook Lane, **Brocks Hill Country Park & Environment Centre** is a remarkable

building, completely self-sufficient and needing no electricity, gas or water supplies – not even a sewer. It was built to demonstrate wind and solar power, photovoltaics, rainwater re-cycling and sewage composting. The centre stands in 67 acres of recently planted Country Park with woodland, meadowland, community orchard and arboretum. There's an Exhibition Area, café and classroom facilities.

In Oadby graveyard is the tombstone of **James Hawker**, one of the most engaging rogues of all time. In his entertaining autobiography, *James Hawker's Journal*, he reveals that he found his vocation when he was 18 years old and poached his first bird. That was in 1844, and from then until his death in 1921, he honoured his declaration that “I will poach ‘till I die”. He was only caught once and on that charge, he indignantly claims, he was innocent – “They knew me and seized the occasion to punish my earlier misdemeanours”. In later life James combined a respectable daytime career as a parish councillor and member of the school board with a nocturnal pastime of depleting his aristocratic neighbour's lands of their edible game. For 60 years his grave remained unmarked until EMMA Theatre Company, which had performed a play about his life, erected a simple monument bearing as epitaph his defiant, and true, claim:

“I will poach ‘till I die”.

WIGSTON

4 miles S of Leicester on the b582

 Wigston Frameknitters Museum

Wigston Frameknitters Museum is an 18th-century Master hosier's house and 1890 workshop with eight original frames. Visitors can take a tour of the old machinery and have a go themselves. Call 0116 288 3396 for opening times.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for travel guidebooks

WISTOW

6 miles SE of Leicester off the A6

Only two churches in the country are dedicated to St Wistan, a Christian prince of Mercia who was murdered by his wicked uncle Brifardus near this tiny hamlet in AD849. Wistow's Church of St Wistan was largely remodelled in 1746, so its interior has mainly Georgian fittings including box pews and ironwork communion rails. There are striking memorials to members of the Halford family of nearby Wistow Hall (private) where they lived continuously from 1603 to 1896. Their most distinguished visitor, albeit in some distress, was Charles I who stopped here briefly to change horses on his flight from the Battle of Naseby. In their haste, the king and his party left their battle horses with their saddles and other gear still in place. Charles even left his sword behind. Many years later it was given to George IV by Sir Henry Halford, physician to George III, George IV and William IV. The saddles and other equipment are now held by the New Walk Museum in Leicester. A popular family

attraction is the Wistow Maze, comprising eight acres of maize and sunflowers, with a quiz trail amid the three miles of paths designed by the famous maze expert Adrian Fisher. It stands opposite Wistow Rural Centre.

KIBWORTH HARCOURT

8 miles SE of Leicester on the A6

The earliest type of windmill used in the county was the post mill, where the whole wooden body complete with the machinery was positioned on a post and could be turned so that the sails faced the wind. The only surviving one – dating from the early 18th century – is here.

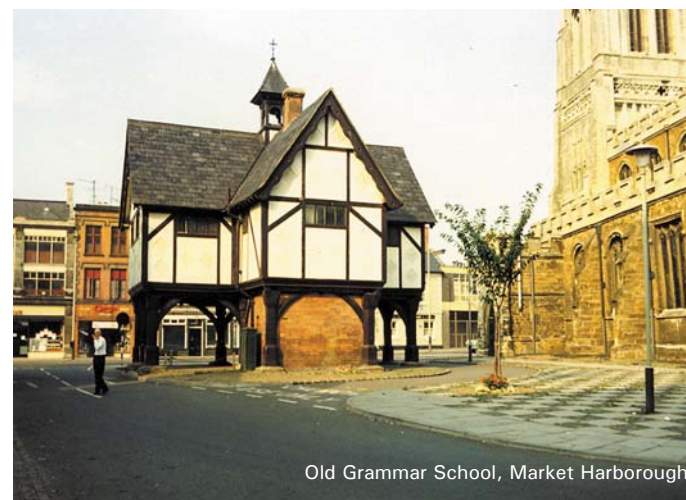
Market Harborough

 Church of St Dionysius  Old Grammar School

 Museum

Halfway between Leicester and Northampton at a crossing point of the River Welland, Market Harborough was created as a planned market town in the mid 12th century. The

booths that filled its market place were gradually replaced by permanent buildings, and many of these, along with the courts that led off the High Street, still stand. In 1645, Charles I made Market Harborough his headquarters and held a council of war here before the Battle of Naseby. The development



Old Grammar School, Market Harborough

FARNDON FIELDS FARM SHOP

Farndon Fields Farm, Farndon Road,
Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE6 9NP
Tel: 01858 464838
e-mail: office@farndonfields.co.uk
website: www.farndonfieldsfarmshop.co.uk

The Farma National Awards recognise excellence in a number of categories related to farm retailing and direct sales. One of the main awards is Farm Retailer of the Year, which was won in 2008 by **Farndon Fields Farm Shop**. This particular award recognises outstanding farm retailers who combine vision with a passion for farming and a mind and feeling for retail. Kevin and Milly Stokes have been selling the produce of Farndon Fields to the public since 1983, initially from the farmhouse garage, then, from 1988, in purpose-built premises across the yard. Continued success has seen the rapid expansion of the business – and its premises – and farming has remained at the heart of the enterprise throughout its growth.

Farndon Fields Farm produces some 40 varieties of vegetables, including up to seven types of potato, as well as soft fruit. Visitors to the shop can be confident that the farm produce is as fresh as can be, with zero food miles an obvious bonus. Farming is Kevin's responsibility, while the shop is in the care of Milly, who puts her skills as a professional shop designer to excellent use.

The shop is bright, spacious and inviting, with a pleasing touch of rusticity, and the wow factor starts with the home-grown sunflowers and gladioli that adorn the glass-covered entrance in the summer months. In the butchery and the bakery, Kevin and Milly work closely with their butcher and a local baker to ensure that the homegrown element is present in every department of the shop. Meat comes from local farms – again guaranteeing minimum food miles. Among the butchery's specialities are a variety of superb sausages, while the bakers, whose premises are only a short walk away, have developed a range of recipes some of which incorporate the farm's produce.

That produce is the basis of much of the menu in the café, which specialises in farmhouse-style meals, snacks and cream teas. As well as its own produce, the meats and the baking, the shop sells a selection of top-quality goods from local sources, including chilled and frozen meals, red Leicester and Stilton cheese, milk, pies, wine, beer and juices. From outside the area come jams, pickles, oils, olives and Loch Fyne smoked goods. The quality of the produce and the passion of the owners and staff guarantee the ongoing success of this superb place, which lies a short drive south of Market Harborough centre on the road to East Farndon.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Bagel&Griff

6/7 Church Square, Market Harborough,
Leicestershire LE16 7NB
Tel: 01858 468764 Fax: 01858 535457
e-mail: shop@bagelandgriff.com
website: www.bagelandgriff.com

After a successful career in fashion, Helene Inchmore opened her own Interiors shop in 2005. Bagel&Griff is located close to the church in the centre of the historic old town of Market Harborough & offers an extensive range of natural products made from wood, slate, basket, stone and neutral ceramics. Black, white and naturals that would blend in with any home décor from a loft apartment to a cottage. You will find an excellent choice of bed linen, bathroom accessories, ceramics, glass, home items such as chairs, rugs, cushions, clocks, candles and lamps. There are also many unique pieces, statement pots and unusual framed prints and fabrics.

For the children, or their nostalgic parents, there's a choice of knitted and cotton soft toys, vintage sari animals, tin cars and beautifully packaged old fashioned games and gadgets.

The website www.bagelandgriff.com carries a similar range to the shop, clear product pictures and easy online ordering make this a great online one stop shop.



of turnpike roads - the motorways of their day - led to prosperity and the establishment of coaching inns in the town, many of them still in business. The canals and the railways transformed communications and manufacturing industry became established, the most notable company being RW & H Symington, creators of the liberty bodice.

The town trail takes in the major buildings, including the 14th-century parish **Church of St Dionysius** with its superb limestone broach. The church has no graveyard because it was, until the early 1900s, a daughter church of St Mary in Arden with the status of a chapel. The **Old Grammar School** is a timber-framed building with an open ground floor; built in 1614 to serve the weekly butter market and "to keepe the market people drye in time of fowle weather", it later became a school, a role that it sustained until 1892. The

factory of the Symington Company, which grew from a cottage industry of staymakers to a considerable economic force in the town, now houses the Council offices, the library, the information centre and the **Harborough Museum**, which was relaunched in 2009 and contains some of the collection of the Hallaton Treasures.

Among the town's distinguished past residents are William Bragg, whose nephew and son shared the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915; Jack Gardner, who was British Empire and European Heavyweight boxing champion between 1950 and 1952; and Thomas Cook, who spent 10 years of his life here and was married in the town. While travelling one day by road to Leicester he conceived the idea of an outing using the then newly opened railway. He organised the excursion from Leicester to Loughborough on 7 July 1841; the fare of a

COUNTY CRAFTS**UNIQUE CARDS & GIFTS. GALLERY & FRAMERS**

24/25 High Street, Market Harborough,
Leicestershire LE16 7NJ
Tel: 01858 432939

County Crafts situated on the corner of High Street and Abbey Street, this beautiful craft shop has been catering for a discerning clientele for 20 years with a reliable source of gifts and goods to grace the home. Products include Moorcroft pottery, the Border Fine Arts range of figures, toiletries by Crabtree & Evelyn, & Floris and unusual gifts for men, including the exclusive Dalvey range.

The Gallery caters for a wide range of originals and limited edition prints, and also offers a complete framing service. Shop hours are 10 to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday for both craft and jewellery shop.

**COUNTY JEWELLERS**

56 High Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7AF
Tel: 01858 462773

County Jewellers also sells a selection of hand-made jewellery in gold, silver and platinum, some pieces set with diamonds. The shop accepts commissions for bespoke pieces and undertakes repairs and restoration. Also stockist of large range of silver jewellery including Lovelinks, Petite and Blog.



shilling (5p) included afternoon tea. Cook later moved to Leicester, where he is buried at Welford Road cemetery.

Around Market Harborough

HALLATON

6 miles NE of Market Harborough off the B664

Hare-Pie Scrambling & Bottle-Kicking contest

Village Museum

On the village green of this picturesque village in the rich grazing lands of the Welland Valley stands an unusual conical butter cross.

Hallaton is renowned for one of the country's many bizarre British folk customs, the **Hare-Pie Scrambling & Bottle-Kicking contest**. The contest is a free-for-all struggle between

the neighbouring villages of Hallaton and Medbourne to get two out of three bottles of ale across the village boundary by whatever means possible. (The 'bottles' are actually small oak casks.) As many as 400 players may be milling around in the scrum



Hallaton

historic building museum historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

MEDBOURNE GRANGE

Nevill Holt, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 8EF
Tel: 01858 565249 Fax: 01858 565257
e-mail: sallybeaty@googlemail.com
website: www.medbournegrange.co.uk

Medbourne Grange is a friendly farmhouse B&B establishment on a working farm off the B664, halfway between Market Harborough and Uppingham. The location, on the edge of the attractive village of Nevill Holt, is one of the most beautiful, unspoilt areas of Leicestershire, with glorious views in all directions. The house dates from the mid-19th century, and the décor and furnishings are in complete harmony with the age of the property. The guest accommodation offered by owner Sally Beaty comprises three rooms – two doubles and a twin – with en suite facilities, TV, radio, hot drinks tray and hairdryer. Central heating keeps things cosy at any time of year, and guests have ample off-road parking for their cars. A traditional farmhouse breakfast with local produce and home-made preserves starts the day, and the lounge is supplied with plenty of local information and maps for planning the day's activities.

The house is an ideal base for a walking, cycling or touring holiday. Rockingham Castle, Burghley House and Boughton House are within easy reach, as are the market towns of Market Harborough, Uppingham and Stamford. And Rutland Water, also an easy drive away, offers a wide variety of activities, including sailing, fishing and bird-watching.



and the battle has been known to continue for eight or nine hours. The day's events begin with a procession to Hare Pie Bank where pieces of a huge hare pie are thrown to the crowd. The antiquarian Charles Bilson believed the custom was a relic of a time when the hare was worshipped as a divine animal, but he has no explanation for the origins of the bottle-kicking contest. A display of this curious event is on show in the **Hallaton Village Museum**, along with relics from the motte and bailey castle, some unusual agricultural items and rituals, hoards and helmets, with coins and other artefacts making up the renowned Hallaton Treasure.

FOXTON

2 miles NW of Market Harborough off the A6

Locks & Canal Museum

The most famous site on the county's canals is

the **Flight of Ten Locks** on the Grand Union Canal, one of the great engineer Thomas Telford's most impressive constructions. Alongside the 10 locks are the remains of a remarkable inclined plane. This was built to bypass the locks by moving boats in steel tanks to a different level. Halfway down the flight is the **Canal Museum** in the rebuilt home of the incline plane boat lift. There are several other buildings and bridges of interest (including a swing-bridge) in this pretty village.

LUTTERWORTH

12 miles W of Market Harborough
on the A4304

Stanford Hall Museum

John Wycliffe was made Rector here under the tutelage of John of Gaunt as a reward for his diplomatic services. His instigation of an

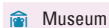
stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

English translation of the Bible into English caused huge dissent. He died in 1384 and was buried in the church here, but when he was excommunicated in 1428 his body was exhumed and burned and his ashes scattered in the River Swift. Most of his Bibles were destroyed by the Church and the Latin versions continued to be used until William Tynedale produced an English Bible during the reign of Henry VIII. Close to the church, **Lutterworth Museum** and Historical Society contains a wealth of local history from Roman times to World War II.

About three miles southeast of Lutterworth and set in meadows beside the River Avon, **Stanford Hall** has been the home of the Cave family since 1430. The present house – pleasantly-proportioned, dignified and serene was built by the celebrated architect William Smith of Warwick in the 1690s. A superb staircase was added around 1730, one of very few structural alterations to the house in its 300-year history. One other was the Ballroom which contains paintings that once belonged to Bonnie Prince Charlie's younger brother, Henry Stuart. They include the last major portrait of the middle-aged Bonnie Prince Charlie, two of James III – the Old Pretender – and a particularly fine portrait of Charles II by Sir Peter Lely. The Cave family became Barons and it was the 6th Baron, Adrian, whose fascination with motor-cars is perpetuated in Stanford's collection of cycle-cars and motor cycles. Adrian was also closely associated with the pioneer aviator, Percy Pilcher who, in 1895, accomplished the first controlled flight in Britain.

Pilcher made several experimental flights in Stanford Park but a flight in his glider, The Hawk, on 30 September 1899 ended in disaster when a bamboo strut in the tail fractured, the machine turned on its back and crashed. In the stable block at Stanford there's a fascinating full-size replica of The Hawk "with its innumerable wires like the ribs of an umbrella". Lutterworth has another, more successful connection with aviation: it was the home of Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine.

Hinckley



Few of the old timbered houses still stand in the town of Hinckley, whose Fair is mentioned in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. Now a thriving industrial and market town, Hinckley was already an established community in Saxon times. When the Domesday Book was compiled, Hinckley had 60 families – four times as many as in contemporary Birmingham. The turning point in its fortunes came in 1640 when William Illife set up the first stocking frame in the town and so initiated the hosiery and knitwear industry that has made it known internationally. A surviving example of 17th-century cottages

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

once used for framework knitting still stand in Lower Bond Street and are home to **Hinckley & District Museum**. The Museum illustrates the history of town and district, and includes among its hosiery exhibits a stocking frame of 1740.

It was in 1727 that gossip across the county told of a tombstone in Hinckley churchyard that drips blood. Richard Smith, a young man of 20, was killed in Market Place by an army recruitment sergeant he had offended by some trifling joke. The tombstone, though moved from its original location when St Mary's Church was enlarged in the 19th century, is reputed to 'sweat blood' at midnight on the anniversary of his murder.

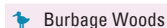
Ghostly visitations have been reported at several places around the town, including The Union Inn in the Borough, The Barley Sheaf in Lower Bond Street and the Concordia Theatre in Stockwell Head. The theatre, housed in the former Britannia Hosiery Works, hosts a wide variety of dramatic and musical entertainment.

In Regent Street, Joseph Hansom invented his cab and drove it along Watling Street.

Around Hinckley

BURBAGE

1 mile E of Hinckley on the B4668

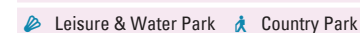


The village was originally called Burbach, a name that came from the burr thistles that grew in profusion in the fields. The 9th Earl of Kent was an early incumbent, being rector here for 50 years at the Church of St Catherine, whose spire is a landmark for miles around. **Burbage Woods** are nationally important because of the spectacular ground

flora, and Burbage Common is one the largest areas of natural grassland in the locality. For the visitor, there's a network of footpaths, bird observation hide, picnic tables and a visitor centre.

MARKET BOSWORTH

5 miles N of Hinckley off the A447



This market town is most famous as the battle site for the turning point in the Wars of the Roses - Richard III (Duke of York White Rose county) was routed here in 1485 by Red Rose forces (Henry Tudor, later Henry VII) and killed. This was the battle immortalised in Shakespeare's play *Richard III*, where the desperate king is heard to cry, "My kingdom for a horse". Richard's defeat led to the accession of the Tudor dynasty, Shakespeare's patrons and perhaps, therefore, the impetus behind his less-than-complimentary portrayal of Richard, which is disputed by historians to this day. The Visitor Centre gives a detailed insight into medieval times with the aid of models, replicas and a film theatre. Also on site are a picnic area, a country park and a battle trail - a self-guided trail of 1¼ miles that takes the visitor round the field of battle, passing the command posts of Richard and Henry. Huge flags are frequently flown from these sites, adding colour and poignancy to the scene. Visitors can see the well where Richard drank during the battle, and pause at the memorial stone on the spot where Richard died. Call 01455 290429 for details of visits, events, etc.

The Battlefield is on the route of the Ashby Canal, whose towpath offers delightful walks through beautiful countryside. Opened in 1804, this lock-free canal connects Hinckley,

Market Bosworth Country Park

Distance: 4.0 miles (6.4 kilometres)

Typical time: 120 mins

Height gain: 10 metres

Map: Explorer 232, Landranger 140

Walk: www.walkingworld.com ID:1505

Contributor: Roy Davenport

ACCESS INFORMATION:

Served by buses from Leicester, Hinckley and Coalville. Car parking is in the Country Park situated on the B585 between Market Bosworth and the A447 Hinckley to Ashby Road.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Refreshments are available at several different places in Market Bosworth and also at the Royal Arms and Hercules public houses in Sutton Cheney and sometimes at the almshouses. Toilets are available in the Country Park and in the town. Gift shops and craft shops can be found in Market Bosworth. Almost flat throughout an easy walk. Good views across the Leicestershire borders into Warwickshire.

DESCRIPTION:

Market Bosworth is a small and pretty town in Leicestershire. This walk commences in the Bosworth Country Park a large area of parkland with a lake, and a variety of ducks, swans, moorhens and an abundance of wild birds.

The park also contains an Arboretum with many of the trees marked to show their

individual species. The park is an ideal place for picnics and playing games with the children.

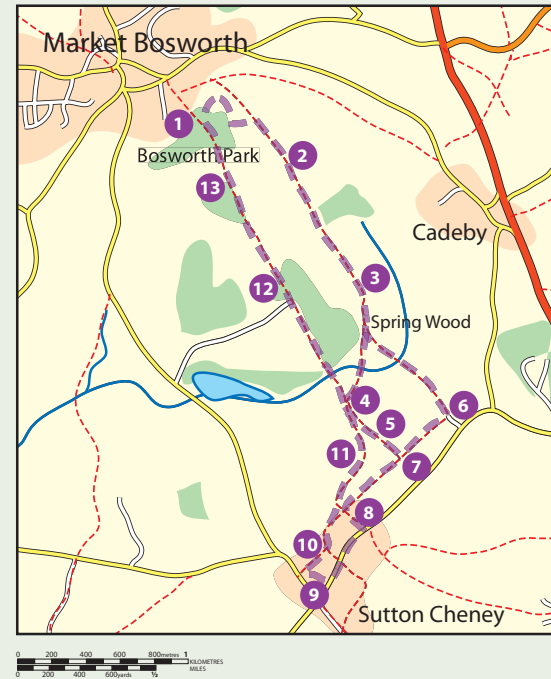
This walk leaves the park via fields and makes it way to Sutton Cheney, a small Leicestershire village. This village is close to the Bosworth Battlefield and contains the lovely little Battlefield church, where King Richard III heard mass on the morning of the battle. In the church there are battle emblems and a commemorative plaque.

Here too you will see the picturesque almshouses as you make your way up the church path. You will then return via more fields and an avenue of trees to pass through the arboretum and back to the lake in the park.

Depending on the height of crops, you may see three memorials. One is a giant stone pillar bearing the figure of Hercules, which may have been put up originally by the 4th or 5th Baronet of Bosworth Park and could be 200 years old. Also two memorial stones over a pit where three horses are buried. The sandstone plaques are now almost unreadable. The larger one refers to "Trumps", charger of Captain Norton Legge ARC. The smaller one reads "In memory of "Scots Grey" 10 seasons without a fall. Born 1876 died 1892. A trusty steed a faithful friend makes good the journey to the end". Sadly no public path actually allows access to the memorials.

FEATURES:

Lake/Loch, Pub, Toilets, Play Area, Church, Wildlife, Birds, Flowers, Great Views, Butterflies, Cafe, Gift Shop, Food Shop, Good for Kids, Mostly Flat, Public Transport, Restaurant, Tea Shop, Woodland, Ancient Monument.



WALK DIRECTIONS:

- 1 | Walk across to the lake called Bow Pool, and facing the lake turn left. Ignore the first footpath right alongside the boathouse and find the next footpath to the right on the edge of the wood signposted Woodland Walk. Follow this path until you reach a T junction with another footpath with a wooden fence on the far side. Turn left and exit the wood. Turn immediate right to pass a wooden bench. Continue forward in almost a straight line into and through a small plantation passing three more benches on the way and exit into a clearing.
- 2 | Bear left to a marker post in front of a wood and turn right going forward to the gate in the hedgerow. From the gate make your way forward keeping the hedgerow on your left. Continue along the edge of a small wood, after that again continue

forward between the hedge and a storage barn to the next stile. The way marker shows two footpaths one straight ahead and one angling to the right.

3 | The gate after this has a sign stating No Dogs so dog walkers follow the Divert Route and rejoin at waymark 7.

3 | **Divert Route** - Follow right hand marker going close to corner of wood and forward to stile in hedgerow, then head for gap in hedgerow ahead.

4 | On reaching the gap, ignore the path ahead and turn left to the hedgerow. Follow this with the hedge on your left.

5 | At the first corner turn right, crossing the gap keeping to the right of the hedge follow it to the end. At the end of the hedge you are at waymark 7. Turn right and follow the

main route.

3 | **Main route** - Through the gate and continue forward with the hedge on your left, then through the tree line and over the ditch. Bear slightly left and head up towards the farmhouse. The path passes between the farm on your left and a hedgerow on your right and along the farm drive. Just after the end of the farm garden and before the metal gate go through the gate on your right.

6 | Head towards the large house and on reaching the hedge turn right to follow the hedge round. At the far end of the garden and end of the conifer trees, go slightly right to the waymarker at the left hand end of the hedgerow on the right. Divert walkers rejoin at this point.

7 | The path now goes slightly left to a waymarker at the end of a hedgerow on the left. Go forward over the track and head towards the left hand telegraph

pole of the two that can be seen ahead of you. As you reach a path junction in the middle of the field opposite The Royal Arms, it's worth looking right to note the waymarker at the end of a hedgerow in front of an old tree.

8 | Through the gate and through the car park (or the bar!) to reach the road and turn right. Make your way through Sutton Cheney village to the church, passing The Square and The Old Bakery on the right and "The Hercules" pub on the left. (Pub so called because it stands in a direct line with Hercules Monument and Bosworth Park Hall.)

9 | Enter the churchyard on the right and as you pass through the second gate observe "The Old Alms Houses on the right. When you exit the church door turn right and leave the yard via the small gate next to a cottage. After the gate turn sharp right to pass between the cottages. Pass between Church Cottage and the very pretty Bumblebee Cottage. Continue forward past the gates at the entrance to the almshouses and down the grass lane ahead of you.

10 | At the next cottage (the opposite end of The Square passed earlier) go diagonally left across the corner of the field to the hedge corner between the two telegraph poles. Follow the hedge right to the next field. You will now see the paths ahead of you that you came along earlier and the Royal Arms over on the right. Ignore the direct path ahead and angle slightly left to reach the waymark at the end of the hedge you noted on your outward journey. On the photograph it's the smaller left hand path that can be seen, towards the right hand tree. Follow the hedgerow down to the right in the direction of The Leicester Round markers (black circle of arrows) to the bottom of the field.

11 | Go diagonally left across the corner of the field and head in the direction of the house that can be seen on the edge of the wood in the distance. At the bottom of the slope (divert walkers came to this point earlier on their outward journey) continue forward keeping the hedge on your left. At the end of the hedge go left and right over the stream (interesting old weir here) and with the wood on your right go up towards the house. Cross over the drive and continue forward to the stile

12 | Cross the stile and then turn left for about 50 yards and face right. Looking across to the right corner of the left wood on the brow of the slight hill you may see Hercules. Return to the stile and turn left to walk down the avenue of trees passing a pool on the left. As you approach the corner of the wood look to your right and again you may spot Hercules on his pedestal.

13 | Continuing forward at the end of the wood look through the hedgerow on your right to see the Horse Memorials in the field. Continue forward. As you approach the end of the avenue you may see:

Giant Hogweed - Do not touch

It can sting and some people are highly allergic to it.

Pass through the gate into the arboretum. After going through the gate ignore waymarkers ahead and turn left to follow the main pathway. Follow down to the bottom crossing the stream over the third bridge. Continue back up on the opposite side of the stream. At the junction of the paths continue forward, after visiting the Sensory Garden on the right continue over the bridge and back to Bow Pool. If you still have energy left why not finish with a final lap around the pool itself.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

Bosworth Battlefield, Market Bosworth, Battlefield Railway, Measham Museum and Moira Furnace.

Market Bosworth Country

Park is one of many beautiful open spaces in the area. Another is Bosworth Water Trust's **Leisure and Water Park** on the B585 west of town. This is a 50-acre leisure park with 20 acres of lakes for dinghy sailing, boardsailing and fishing. Railway nostalgia awaits at Shackerstone, three miles northwest of Market Bosworth, where the **Battlefield Line Railway** offers a steam-hauled nine-mile round trip from Shackerstone via Market Harborough to Shenton through the delightful scenery of southwest Leicestershire. The railway is the last remaining part of the former Ashby & Nuneaton Joint Railway, which opened in 1873. The steam locomotives include an ex-BR B1 4-6-0. At Shackerstone, the headquarters of the line, is an impressive museum of railway memorabilia, locomotives and rolling stock. Call 01827 880754 for timetable details.

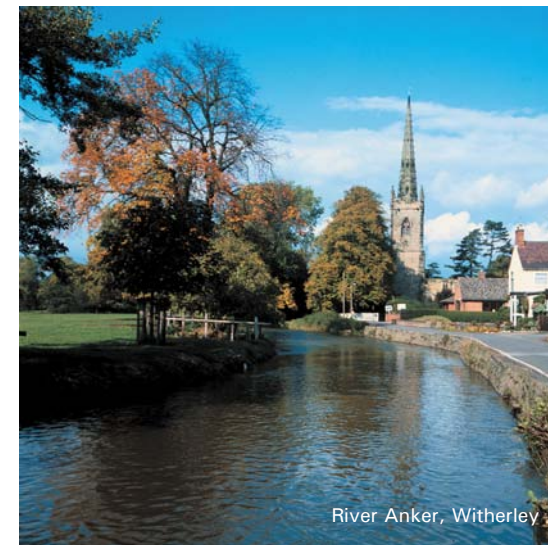
TWYXCROSS

7 miles NW of Hinckley off the A444



Zoo

Five miles northwest of Market Bosworth, on the A444 Burton-Nuneaton road, **Twycross Zoo** is an ideal family attraction, home to a wide variety of animals including gorillas, chimps, orang-utans, gibbons, marmosets, elephants, lions, giraffes, flamingos and penguins. The zoo celebrated two notable new arrivals in 2009, a baby titi monkey and a rare tufted deer named Ying Xiong (hero in



River Anker, Witherley

Chinese). Open daily throughout the year.

On a side road parallel to the A444, three miles north of Market Bosworth, lies a village with the wonderful name of Barton-in-the-Beans. The county was apparently once known as 'bean-belly' Leicestershire, on account of the large reliance on the bean crops that formed part of the staple diet in needy times. The beans were said to have been sweeter and more tender than anywhere else in the country.

Coalville



Snibston Discovery Park

Originally called Long Lane, the town sprang up on a bleak common when Whitwick Colliery was opened in 1824. The big name in the early days was George Stephenson, who not only established the railway here (in 1832) but also built the churches.

At Ashby Road, Coalville, **Snibston Discovery Park** is built on the 100-acre site

Snibston Discovery Park

Ashby Road, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3LN
Tel: 01530 278444 Fax: 01530 813301
e-mail: snibston@leics.gov.uk



One of the largest and most dynamic museums in the Midlands, **Snibston** is Leicestershire's all-weather science and industry museum. Visitors can get their 'hands-on' loads of fun in the popular Science Alive! Gallery or explore the County's rich heritage in the Transport, Extractives, Engineering and Textiles and Fashion Galleries. Other attractions include guided colliery tours, outdoor science and water playgrounds, sculptures and Nature Reserve. Open daily 10am - 5pm

of the former Snibston Colliery. Visitors can explore a unique mixture of nature, history, science and technology. Topics covered include the industrial heritage of Leicestershire, and former miners conduct a lively surface tour of the colliery. There are rides on board a diesel locomotive on the restored colliery line and the Extra Ordinary Gallery allows visitors to lift a Mini Cooper, beat a robot or make fire. You can test your strength against a pulley system in the Engineering Gallery or relax in the Grange Nature Reserve and Victorian arboretum. The Fashion Gallery houses over 1,000 items from the 1750s to the present day, the largest such collection outside London. Call 01530 278444 for opening times.

Around Coalville

OAKS IN CHARNWOOD

2 miles NE of Coalville off the B587

Mount St Bernard Abbey

In a beautiful elevated position in Charnwood Forest, **Mount St Bernard Abbey** was the first Catholic abbey to be founded in England after the Reformation. It is a Cistercian Monastery of white monks founded in 1835 as a continuation of Garendon Abbey (1133-1538).

SWANNINGTON

1 mile NW of Coalville on the A511

The Leicester & Swannington Railway, which was opened in 1833 to bring coal to the city, was one of the first railway lines in Britain to use steam engines. The incline at Swannington is now part of one of the many heritage trails in the county. Traces of some of the many shallow 'bell pits' once common in this mining area can be seen in scrubland near the windmill on Swannington Common. Three floors of the restored Swannington Mill are open to the public on Sunday afternoons between April and September.

IBSTOCK

3 miles S of Coalville off the A447

Sense Valley Forest Park

Donington Le Heath Manor House

Sense Valley Forest Park, at Heather near Ibstock, is a 150-acre site that has been transformed from an opencast mine into a woodland and wildlife haven. The site includes several large lakes and areas of conservation grassland, and the number of species of birds recorded grows each year.

Also a little way south of Coalville is **Donington Le Heath Manor House**, an

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for travel guidebooks

attractive stone manor that is one of the few of its period (1280) to remain intact. It is now a museum.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Castle St Helen's Church Museum

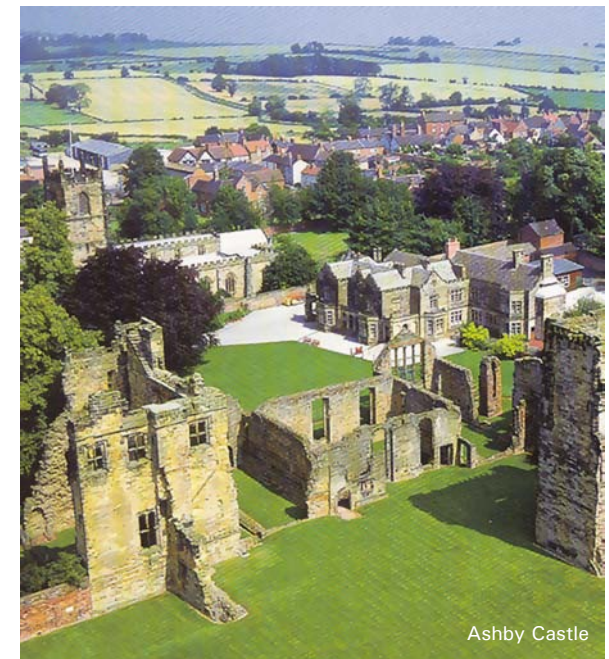
National Forest

A historic market town whose name comes from the Saxon Aesc (ash) and Byr (habitation); the ending de la Zouch was added in 1160 when a Norman nobleman Alain de Parrhoet la Zouch became lord of the manor by marriage. In the 15th century, Edward IV granted Ashby Manor to his favourite counsellor, Lord Hastings, who converted the manor house into a castle and rebuilt the nearby St Helen's Church. During the Civil War **Ashby Castle** was besieged for over a year by the Parliamentary Army until the Royalists surrendered in 1646. After the war the castle was partly destroyed to prevent its further use as a centre of resistance and almost wholly forgotten until the publication of Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* in 1820. He used the castle as the setting for the archery competition that Robin Hood won by splitting the shaft of his opponent's arrow in the bull's eye. The most striking feature of the imposing ruins is the 80ft Hastings Tower of 1464, which visitors can climb to enjoy the view. The earliest parts

predate the conversion and include parts of the hall, buttery and pantry of the 12th-century manor house.

Hard by the castle ruins stands **St Helen's Church**, built by Lord Hastings in the 1400s on the site of an 11th-century church. Restored and enlarged in 1880, it contains much of interest, including some exceptionally fine stained glass depicting the life of Christ. There are several monuments to the Hastings family and an unusual relic in the shape of a finger pillory used to punish parishioners misbehaving in church. **Ashby-de-la-Zouch Museum** contains a permanent display of Ashby history, the highlight being a model of the castle during the Civil War siege.

Ashby was for a while in the 19th century promoted as a spa town; the Ivanhoe baths were designed in 1822 by Robert Chaplin in



Ashby Castle

Grecian style and had a 150ft colonnaded front with 32 Doric columns. Nearby Georgian terraces, also by Chaplin, stand as testimony to the seriousness of the spa project, but a period of decline set in and the baths closed in the 1880s; the buildings were demolished in 1962. Yet another Chaplin building, the grand railway station, ceased to function as a station when the Leicester-Burton line was axed in the 1960s, but was restored in the 1980s for use as offices. The **National Forest** is Britain's boldest environmental project to create a new forest for the nation covering 200 square miles and spanning parts of Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire. In its first 10 years more than seven million trees have been planted.

In the Ashby Tourist Information Centre (01530 411767) visitors can pick up a copy of the National Forest & Beyond Visitor Guide - Around Ashby de la Zouch.

MEASHAM

5 miles S of Ashby off the A42

 Museum

Measham was a place of brick-making and coal-mining, with the Ashby Canal flowing past and the River Mease nearby. It was in his warehouse near the canal at Measham that Joseph Wilkes produced his double-size bricks, known as gobs or jumbies, to try to avoid the brick tax of 1784. Those bricks can still be seen in some of the buildings in the village. In the High Street, opposite St Lawrence's Church, **Measham Museum** is a small village museum with an interesting collection of artefacts, documents and illustrations preserved by a former village doctor and his father. They provide a unique personal history of a community over a period of almost 100 years. Look out for the

collection of colourful Measham Teapots, which were once very popular on canal boats. Many prehistoric artefacts have been found preserved in peat in the area, including stone hammerheads, solid wooden wheels and flint wedges bound in hazel (01530 273956).

MOIRA

2 miles SW of Ashby on the B586

 Moira Furnace  Conkers

Conkers, an award-winning attraction in the centre of the National Forest (see under Ashby-de-la-Zouch), is located off the B5003 Ashby-Overseal road, five miles from the M42 (J11). It has 120 acres of themed trails, treetop walks, trains, two licensed lakeside restaurants, shop, garden and plants centre, amphitheatre and a number of craft workshops, as well as the Discovery & Waterside Centres with over 100 interactive exhibits and an all-year programme of events and activities. The site adjoins Sarah's Wood, a 25-acre farmland site transformed into a woodland and wildlife haven, with trails and paths suitable for wheelchairs and a children's play area.

Near Donisthoke, two miles south of Ashby, Willesley Wood was one of the first National Forest planting sites and is now an attractive 100-acre area of mature woodland, a lake and meadows. One of the walks leads to Saltersford Valley, which features woodland sculptures, a lake and a picnic area.

The industrial heritage of the region is remembered in the **Moira Furnace**, an impressive, perfectly preserved blast furnace built in 1804 by the Earl of Moira. The site includes lime kilns, a casting shed and engine house, and a range of craft workshops, woodland walks, nature and industrial trails, country park and children's playground.

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

FURNACE LANE POTTERY

Unit 7, Furnace Lane, Moira,

Snadlincote DE12 6AT

Tel: 01283 552218

e-mail: louiseroe@rocketmail.com

Louise Roe has always had a creative side to her personality and in particular a passion for pottery. Back in 1991 she decided to open her own pottery **Furnace Lane Pottery**, close to the historic Moira Furnace in the village of that name. A versatile artist, Louise creates a wide variety of pieces ranging from practical items such as jugs, mugs, cups, bowls, condiment sets, egg-cups and frost-proof garden ware, to striking decorative pieces that will enhance any interior décor. Everything on sale in the shop has been hand-made by Louise who fires all her pottery in a wood-burning kiln.

A visit to the pottery can easily be combined with a look around Moira Furnace, a spectacular brick building of 1806 which now houses a fascinating hands-on exhibit explaining the process of iron-making that took place here for many years.



STAUNTON HAROLD

4 miles N of Ashby off the B587

 The Ferrers Centre  Calke Abbey

 Reservoir

Another craft centre here, with 16 craft workshops within a magnificent Georgian courtyard. Crafts at **The Ferrers Centre** include contemporary furniture, ceramics, copper-smithing and forge, picture framing and sign studio, designer clothing and textiles, automata, stained glass, china restoration, stone carving and silver jewellery. Gift shop, gallery and tearoom on site. Staunton Harold Hall and Holy Trinity Church are surrounded by the beautiful parkland and lakes of the Staunton Estate. The Palladian-style hall is not open to the public, but the church is open for afternoon visits April to September, daily except

Thursday and Friday. In the care of the National Trust, the church is one of the few to have been built during the Commonwealth period in 1653, designed by Sir Robert Shirley in defiance of Cromwell's Puritan regime. It retains the original pews, cushions and hangings, together with fine panelling and a painted ceiling.

Staunton Harold Reservoir, covering over 200 acres, has two nature reserves, fishing, sailing and a visitor centre with exhibitions and 3-D models. Footpaths and nature walks provide a link with the nearby 750-acre Calke Abbey park at Ticknall, near Melbourne. The National Trust's **Calke Abbey** is a baroque mansion built in 1701-1703 which has remained virtually unchanged since the death of the last baronet, Sir Vauncey Harpur-Crewe, in 1924.

Loughborough

 Carillon  Museums  Great Central Railway

In Loughborough's Market Place is a statue of a seated man admiring his sock. Titled *The Sock*, this whimsical piece by sculptor Shona Kinlock celebrates the town's premier industry in times past, beginning with wool, then woollen stockings and progressing to knitwear and hosiery machinery and engineering.

Another major industry since mid-Victorian times is represented by the lofty **Carillon** in Queen's Park, which was opened in 1923 as an imaginative War Memorial to the dead of World War I. The 151ft carillon tower, the first to be built in Britain, contains a unique carillon of 47 bells, covering four chromatic octaves, under the care of the borough carilloner. Carillon recitals are given on Thursday and Sunday afternoons during the summer months. Visitors who climb the 138 steps to the viewing gallery are rewarded with magnificent views of the Charnwood scenery. The **Museum of Armed Forces** in Queen's Park has displays relating to the Great War and is open seven days a week.

Loughborough's connection with bells began in 1858 when the bell foundry of John Taylor moved here from Oxford. It is still producing and restoring bells for customers all over the world. Situated alongside the working factory, the **John Taylor Bellfoundry Museum** covers all aspects of bell-founding from early times and shows the craft techniques of moulding, casting, tuning and fitting up of bells. The foundry made Great Paul, which hangs in St Paul's Cathedral. It is the biggest bell in Britain, weighing 17 tons and standing nine feet high. Open Tuesday to Friday, also some Saturdays. (01509 212241).

The **Charnwood Museum** displays the

natural and local history of Charnwood, the district around Loughborough that includes the majestic Charnwood Forest.

For many visitors to Loughborough, the most irresistible attraction is the **Great Central Railway**, Britain's only main line steam railway, established 30 years ago and run by a pool of up to 700 volunteers. Its headquarters are at Loughborough Central Station, where there is a museum, a working signal box and a collection of historic steam locomotives. The station, with its ornate canopy over the island platform, is worth a visit in its own right, and is in regular demand from film companies. It features in the film *Shadowlands* – other stars who have been filmed here include Nicole Kidman, Anthony Hopkins and Kate Winslet. The line runs eight miles from Loughborough to Birstall, just north of Leicester, crossing the Swithland Reservoir viaduct, and the service operates every weekend and Bank Holiday throughout the year, and weekdays from June to September. The line uses an impressive collection of ex-BR steam locomotives, from 4141, a GWR 2-6-2 Tank, to GWR 6990 *Witherslack Hall*, SR N15 30777 *Sir Lamie*, Stanier Balck Fives, a Bulleid Light Pacific and Britannia 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, as well as Diesel locomotives, multiple units and shunters. Call 01509 230726 for details of timetables and special events. In the Phantom & Firkin, Loughborough's only brew pub, visitors can see how traditional cask ales are made. Call 01509 262051 for details of free brewery tours.

Loughborough Market is one of the finest street markets in the country. Full of tradition and atmosphere, it is held in the market place and adjacent streets every Thursday and Saturday. November sees the annual Loughborough Fair, with stalls, shows, rides and other attractions.

 historic building  museum  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Around Loughborough

OLD WOODHOUSE

3 miles S of Loughborough on minor roads

 Beaumanor Hall

The most impressive stained-glass window in Leicestershire is to be found not in any of the county's churches, but at **Beaumanor Hall**, the seat of the Herrick family from 1595 to the 1930s. The present Tudor-style mansion was built in 1848 and it was then that the extraordinary window, 15ft high and 25ft wide, was installed by William Perry Herrick. All his life William was obsessed with his family pedigree, so each of the 21 panels in the great window features the brilliantly coloured coat-of-arms of one of his ancestors. It's a breathtaking riot of heraldry. Sadly, for a man who took such pride in his ancestry, William died without a direct heir to succeed him.

Beaumanor Hall is now a Leicestershire County Council training centre, but the window may be viewed by prior arrangement by calling 01509 890119.

WOODHOUSE EAVES

3 miles S of Loughborough on minor roads

 Long Close Gardens

 Beacon Hill Country Park

The oldest house in this attractive village is Long Close, which is thought to have once been a royal hunting lodge. Secluded behind a high wall, the five acres of **Long Close Gardens** have become known as the Secret Garden. They've also been described as "a garden of exotic trees, luxuriant rhododendrons, shiny camellias, huge magnolias, terraced lawns, lily ponds and herbaceous borders". Call 01509 890376 for visiting times.

Woodhouse Eaves takes its name from being

GIFTED

53 Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough LE12 8RY
Tel: 01509 890666
e-mail: annie-84@hotmail.co.uk
website: www.giftedgh.co.uk

Stocked with contemporary, inspirational and luxury gifts, **Gifted** is a small boutique-style gift shop located on Main Street in the charming village of Woodhouse Eaves. The shop was lovingly prepared and is stocked by the mother and daughter team of Kate and Anne-Marie Walker both of whom have a passion for fashion and creativity. Their aim is to offer customers a diverse range of gifts and home-ware which will inspire customers and, as far as possible, be exclusive. For that reason they only hold limited stocks of each item, once they are gone, it is unlikely they will re-stock with the same item. Their advice, if you like it...buy it!

In the jewellery area you will find no shortage of sparkle or statement pieces and if you like to be completely different take a look at the individually designed and handmade pieces by Anne-Marie which are exclusive to Gifted.

Currently, the shop is only open on Friday and Saturday but you can also order on line.



 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

on the edges, or eaves, of Charnwood Forest. The views are superb, especially from the summit of **Beacon Hill Country Park**, one of the highest points in Leicestershire at 818ft.

SHEPSHED

4 miles W of Loughborough on the A512

The hosiery industry was once the principal employer here with some 900 stocking frames clattering away at the peak of the town's prosperity. Shepshead still offers factory outlet shopping for knitwear and clothing as well as traditional and farmers' markets. Around the medieval marketplace are some thatched cottages, homes to framework knitters in the 1800s.

VILLAGE CHIC

*8 High Street, Sileby, Leicestershire LE12 7RX
Tel: 07971 597053*

*e-mail: sales@villagechic.co.uk
website: www.villagechic.co.uk*

Furniture – Lighting – Accessories

Fine French furniture is the main stock in trade of Village Chic, which is located in the village of Sileby, north of Leicester between the A6 and A46. This unique enterprise is owned and run by Lucretia, who has years of experience in the world of interior design and decoration. She has grown the business into a major dealer in 18th and 19th century furniture, building up stock from a variety of sources. She always has a wide range of French armoires – single, 2-, 3- or 4-door, some mirrored – and other items on display include beds and bedside tables, dining room sets, gorgeous reproduction pieces, marbled and mirrored washstands, vintage/antique pieces in original condition and a wide variety of lighting and accessories.

Though a relatively small business, Village Chic can supply anything from a single item to a container load to furnish a room or a whole house. Styles include Old French Country, Vintage Boudoir, Louis XV, renaissance and specialist painted furniture. It also offers a paint service for customers' pieces, using water-based durable paint. One of the most popular styles is a 'shabby chic' effect, lightly or heavily distressed to bring out the details of carving then overwaxed. Lucretia is always interested in buying interesting, quality furniture and also offers an interior design service. She is constantly adding new items to the stock, a selection of which can be viewed (and purchased) online. Village Chic is open from Thursday to Sunday.



CASTLE DONINGTON

7 miles NW of Loughborough off the A6

Donington Grand Prix Collection

Originally just Donington – the 'Castle' was added when the Norman castle was built to defend the River Trent crossing. It was demolished by King John to punish the owner for supporting Magna Carta and rebuilt in 1278.

The **Donington Grand Prix Collection**, in Donington Park, is the world's largest collection of single-seater racing cars. The five halls contain over 130 exhibits of motor racing. Donington is the new home of the British Formula 1 Grand Prix, taking over

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomenewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

from Silverstone for the 2010 renewal. Moving in the opposite direction is the British leg of Moto GP, which left Donington with a surprise winner in Andrea Dovizioso.

WYMESWOLD

5 miles N of Loughborough on the A6006

A large conservation village whose Georgian houses give it the air of an 18th-century market town – more than 30 of them are Grade II listed. The 14th-century parish church was restored by Pugin in 1844.

MOUNTSORREL

5 miles SE of Loughborough off the A6

Stonehurst Family Farm & Motor Museum

Peaceful since the A6 bypass was opened, Mountsorrel lies on the west bank of the Soar. Its elegant Butter Market, or Dome, lends distinction to an otherwise unremarkable little town. The Dome was built in 1793 by the eccentric Lord of the Manor, Sir John Danvers, and the town was surprised that he didn't have it painted red – almost everything else in Mountsorrel that could be painted was covered in brilliant red, a colour for which Sir John had an insatiable appetite. His clothes were predominantly red, set off by discreet touches of black: "being a broad-set man his appearance was like that of the Knave of Spades".

A great attraction in the village for the whole family is **Stonehurst Family Farm & Motor Museum**. Highlights range from baby rabbits and guinea pigs in Cuddle Corner, to all the familiar farm animals, pony rides, tractor and trailer rides, a working smithy and an impressive display of cars (Jim Clark's Lotus 25, the Flat 12 Ferrari 312B, the amazing 1936 Alfa Romeo Bimotore), motorcycles, other vehicles including Leicestershire's first motor bus, and a

fascinating collection of famous drivers' helmets. Also a restaurant, tea shop and farm shop selling home-grown organic produce.

Melton Mowbray

St Mary's Church Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe

The very name of this bustling market town makes the mouth water, being home to the pork pie, one of the most traditional of English delicacies. The Melton Hunt Cake, a rich fruit cake spiced with Jamaican rum, is another local speciality, and Stilton, "king of English cheeses", is also made here. The cheese has a long history, dating back possibly as far as the 14th century and first made in the village of Little Dalby. It is only manufactured in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Of the six producers, four are in the Vale of Belvoir and one in Melton itself. The noble cheese became nationally popular in the 1740s when Frances Pawlett of Wymondham came to an arrangement with the landlord of The Bell Inn at Stilton to market the cheese. The inn was a coaching stop on the Great North Road and travellers who sampled the noble cheese soon spread its fame. Later, Melton Mowbray became the market centre for Stilton and from 1883 to 1914 three specialist fairs were held each year – 12,672 cheeses were sold at the first. A 16lb Stilton takes 17 gallons of milk to produce and a minimum of two months to mature. The town is also known for its Red Leicester cheese.

Hand-raised pork pies have been made here since 1831 and, since 1851, in the oldest surviving bakery, **Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe**, where visitors can watch the traditional hand-raising techniques and taste the pies.

Markets have long been a feature of life in

Melton Mowbray, and the Domesday Book of 1086 records the town's market as the only one in Leicestershire. Large street markets are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays in the Market Place, and butter and corn crosses still stand at two of the town's former market points. The town also has regular livestock auctions and a farmer's market.

St Mary's Church, considered the largest and stateliest parish church in the whole county, dates from 1170. It has a particularly imposing tower and impressive stained-glass windows.



St Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray

Around Melton Mowbray

BURROUGH-ON-THE-HILL

5 miles S of Melton off the B6047

Burrough Hill is an Iron Age fort rising to almost 700ft overlooking the Wreake Valley. There are grand views from its flat summit that was used for horse racing in Victorian times.

TILTON-ON-THE-HILL

7 miles S of Melton on the B6047

Owston Woods

The highest habitation in the county, some 700 feet above sea level, Tilton has a charming little church with some striking Norman gargoyles and stone carvings of human heads and animals, and some impressive monuments to members of the Digby family. About three miles east of the village there's pleasant walking in the Forestry Commission's **Owston Woods** – look out for the 800-year-old lime tree, which is still in remarkably good shape.

WYMONDHAM

6 miles E of Melton off the B676

Windmill and Craft Centre

A must for visitors here is the six-sailed **Windmill** dating from 1814 and currently being restored. It is one of only four of its kind in the country and most of its massive machinery is still intact. The mill's former outbuildings have been converted into a **Craft Centre** with workshops for wrought iron work, candle-making, pine furniture, hand-made kitchens, playhouses and architectural antiques. There's a tearoom serving light lunches and home-baked cakes, a free bouncy castle and play area. Bed & Breakfast accommodation is also available.

WALTHAM ON THE WOLDS

5 miles NE of Melton on the A607

Straddling the A607, high up on the Leicestershire Wolds, Waltham is an attractive village with an excellent hostelry and a tall-spired medieval church. Roman pavements and Saxon stone coffins have been discovered here, testifying to the antiquity of the

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



[Click Here](#) for travel guidebooks

STAPLEFORD PARK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL & SPORTING ESTATE

Stapleford, nr Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2EF

Tel: 01572 787000

Fax: 01572 787001

e-mail: reservations@stapleford.co.uk

website: www.staplefordpark.com

The approach to the house through the 500-acre estate offers the first glimpse of Georgian grandeur, confirmed when guests pass under the stone arch and into the welcome, warmth and grace of a bygone era. Most of the building is late 17th century, and the long history of hospitality is maintained by impeccable (but always approachable) hosts and staff. Oak floors, panelled walls, heavy drapes, fresh flowers, fine carvings and sumptuous armchairs and sofas set the scene in the day rooms, and the bedrooms are equally striking.

The 55 bedrooms have 55 unique designers, and the easy chairs, soft settees, beautiful beds and sumptuously appointed bathrooms put them in a class of their own. Most bedrooms enjoy glorious views of the grounds designed by Capability Brown.

Dining here is also a memorable experience, the finest and freshest seasonal ingredients used to create superb dishes complemented by a superb cellar. The private dining areas make a wonderful venue for a special celebration, and modern technology is available for meetings, conferences and events.

Stapleford also excels in its sporting and leisure facilities, which range from golf and tennis to riding, shooting, falconry, archery, croquet, boules and off-road driving. The Lifestyle Club in the converted stable block has a well equipped Technogym and six treatment rooms that offer a range of Clarins Gold Spa treatments. The main house features a swimming pool, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi.



Stapleford Park
COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL & SPORTING ESTATE

settlement. The country lane that leads from Waltham to Harby is unusually wide because, it is believed, it was an ancient drovers' road leading to Nottingham.

EASTWELL

5 miles N of Melton off the A607

 Crossroads Farm Museum

Just outside the village, **Crossroads Farm Museum**, in a 17th-century barn, is a treasure trove of farming equipment and memorabilia from Victorian times to the present day.

STATHERN

7 miles N of Melton off the A607

A peaceful village nestling in the Vale of Belvoir, Stather has a medieval church with a beautifully carved 13th-century doorway, an arcaded 14th-century font, and some fine modern glass. A one-time resident here was Colonel Hacker who acted as "master of ceremonies" at the execution of Charles I. After the Restoration he, too, was dispatched by the executioner's axe.

BELVOIR CASTLE

12 miles N of Melton off the A607

 Castle  Queen's Royal Lancers Museum

The Leicestershire home of the Duke of Rutland is an imposing mock-medieval building in an equally imposing setting overlooking the pastoral Vale of Belvoir. The present **Belvoir Castle** was completed in the early 19th century after previous buildings had been destroyed during the Wars of the Roses, the Civil War and in the major fire of 1816. In the stunning interior are notable collections of furniture and porcelain, silks and tapestries, sculptures and paintings. There are works by Van Dyck, Reynolds, Hogarth and, most familiar of all, Holbein's imposing portrait of

Henry VIII. The **Queen's Royal Lancers Museum** has moved from the Castle to a new location – call 0115 957 3295 for information. The grounds are as splendid as the castle and are used for medieval jousting tournaments on certain days in the summer.

GRIMSTON

3 miles W of Melton off the A6006

Perhaps because of its unappealing name, Grimston tends to be overlooked by guide books. It is in fact one of the county's most appealing villages. At its centre is a lovely green where a set of ancient stocks stands beneath a chestnut tree. Overlooking the green are two venerable hostleries and the Church of St John the Evangelist. Here the curious custom of "bidding by candle" continued until the early 1900s.

A small stump of candle was lit and buyers would then make their bids for the item being auctioned. Whoever made the last bid before the candle guttered acquired the lot at that price.

Rutland

 Rutland Water

The motto of the county is, appropriately, *multum in parvo* (much in little). It has two delightful market towns, Oakham and Uppingham, and 52 small, unspoilt villages of thatch and ironstone cottages clustered round their churches. The county's central feature is **Rutland Water**, which extends over 3,300 acres and is the largest man-made reservoir in Europe. Started in 1971 to supply water to East Midlands towns, it was created by damming the valley near Empingham. There's good walking and cycling around its 26-mile shoreline, some great bird-watching (including

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomenewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

wild ospreys), excellent trout and pike fishing, a wide variety of watersports and a rock climbing wall. St Matthews Church on the edge of the reservoir houses a museum.

The county boasts two leading public schools, Oakham and Uppingham; one of the most striking and best-preserved Norman churches in the country, at Tickencote; a grand 12th-century Great Hall and the home of the original Tom Thumb, both in Oakham.

Curiously for such a pastoral, peaceful county, it was Rutland men who were prime movers in two of the most dangerous conspiracies in England's history. In a room over the porch of Stoke Dry church, the Gunpowder Plot was hatched with the local lord of the manor, Sir Everard Digby, as one of the ringleaders. Some 75 years later, Titus Oates and his fellow conspirators hatched the anti-Catholic Popish Plot at his home in Oakham.

ASPIDISTRA

5 Queen Street, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9QR
Tel: 01572 822757
e-mail: mikejsanderson@aol.com

Furniture Antiques Objets d'Art Collectables Gifts

Multum in Parvo, A Lot in A Little, is the motto of Rutland, which packs within its small boundaries two delightful market towns, some 50 charming villages, two distinguished public schools, one of the finest Norman churches in the country and extensive sporting and outdoor activities on Rutland Water. That motto, A Lot in A Little, could equally apply to **Aspidistra**, which Mike Sanderson established in 2004 in the centre of town and stocks with an amazing variety of giftware and lovely things to enhance the home.

Among the bigger items are tables, chairs and wardrobes, with top-quality hand-painted furniture a speciality. Pieces can be ordered, antiques and hand-painted to individual requirements and delivery can be arranged to addresses in the UK. Smaller goods include scented candles, silk flowers, mirrors, canvases, cushions and greetings cards – gifts for all occasions to suit all pockets. Mike is always on the lookout for interesting things, and with the stock changing all the time every visit is sure to uncover new surprises. Shop hours are 10 to 5 Monday to Saturday.



SARAH HARDING INTERIORS LTD

27 High Street East, Uppingham,
Rutland LE15 9PY
Tel: 01572 823389 Fax: 01572 823772
e-mail: info@sarabhardinginteriors.co.uk
website: www.sarabhardinginteriors.co.uk

In the heart of historic Uppingham, Sarah Champion and her talented team offer a feast of inspirations to give their clients' homes a refreshing new look. **Sarah Harding Interiors** has been established in Uppingham for many years, starting in modest premises and moving into this prestigious High Street East location as the business expanded.

Two floors of showrooms occupy one of the oldest buildings in Uppingham (the site dates back to the Domesday Book) and beyond the handsome small-windowed stone façade every inch of space is filled with household goods large and small, including beautiful hand-finished curtains, new and interesting designs in curtain arrangements and wallpaper combinations and a terrific selection of fabulous fabrics. Sarah and her team invite customers to browse the latest designer fabrics through a vast range of fabric books, offering help and advice in relaxed, comfortable surroundings and tailoring orders to individual budgets and requirements.

All the leading brands of fabric suppliers and importers are to be found, including Colefax & Fowler, Zoffany, GP&J Baker, Parkertex, Osborne & Little, Nina Campbell, Designers' Guild, Jane Churchill, Lorca, Casamance, Manuel Canovas, Malabar, JAB, Sheila Coombes, Larsen, Vanessa Arbuthnott, Rubelli, Pierre Frey, James Brindley, James Hare and Mulberry. A large range of top-quality lamps and lighting caters for all budgets and settings, and an equally fine variety of beautiful accessories includes cushions and throws, vases and mugs, pottery and ceramics, aprons and tea towels, children's wear and other items from the likes of top designer-producers such as Emma Bridgewater, Cath Kidston and the Designers' Guild. The shop also stocks a range of exclusive gifts from Porta Romana, a UK-based firm established for and still committed to creating objects of beauty, drawing on the finest skills of glass blowers, metal workers, sculptors and furniture makers.

The furniture section features Victorian and Edwardian and some more recent pieces, lovingly restored and covered initially with blank calico, with customers choosing their own final covering. A full interior design and consultation service is available, either in the showroom or in the customer's home, and the firm undertakes re-upholstery of individual pieces and makes loose covers to order. They are specialists in restoring and re-covering antique chairs and settees.

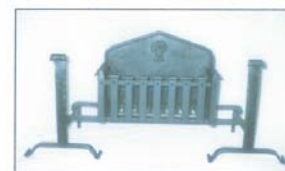


Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

J.F.SPENCE & SON Est. 1896
Architectural Blacksmiths
UPPINGHAM, RUTLAND. LE15 9TX.
Telephone 01572 822758. www.jfspence.co.uk
Traditionally made gates, railings, handrails, rose arches, windvanes,
firebaskets, tables, seats etc, restoration work undertaken.



couple of dozen sons of the local gentry. Then, in 1853, the Rev Edward Thring was appointed headmaster. During his 43-year tenure the sleepy little school was transformed.

The Old School Building still stands in the churchyard, with trilingual inscriptions around the walls in Latin, Greek and Hebrew – 'Train up a child in the way he should go' is one of them. In its place rose a magnificent complex of neo-Gothic buildings: not just the traditional classrooms and a (splendid) chapel, but also a laboratory, workshops, museum, gymnasium and the most extensive school playing fields in the country.

Dr Thring wrote extensively on educational matters, championed education for girls and founded the Headmasters Conference. When he retired in 1897, he could look back with pride on the creation of one of the country's most successful public schools, both academically and financially. Call 01572 653026 for details of visits.

church at Stoke Dry to the Digby family, particularly an engraved alabaster slab to Jaquetta Digby who died in 1496. One of her descendants, Sir Everard Digby born in the village in 1578, was to bring great shame on the family. When the Protestant James I ascended the throne, Sir Everard and his Catholic friends became involved in the conspiracy now known as the Gunpowder Plot. It was in the priest's room over the porch of St Andrew's Church that the conspirators met. After his conviction in 1609, Sir Everard endured the gruesome ordeal of death by hanging, drawing and quartering. The porch where the plotters met has another macabre story attached to it – it's said that one vicar locked a witch in the room and left her to die of starvation.

Stoke Dry overlooks Eyebrook Reservoir, a 300-acre trout fishery in an idyllic location in the Welland Valley, by the border with Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. Good bank and boat fishing from April to October.

Around Uppingham

STOKE DRY

3 miles S of Uppingham on the A6003

There are some striking monuments in the

LYDDINGTON

3 miles SE of Uppingham off the A6003

Bede House

A quiet village where English Heritage oversees **Bede House**, one of the finest

examples of Tudor domestic architecture in the country. This house of prayer beside the church was once part of a retreat for the Bishops of Lincoln and was later converted to a hospital (bede house) for 12 poor men, two women and a warden. It remained in use right up until 1930. The fine 16th-century rooms can be visited daily from April to October. The small gardens contain a notable herb garden with over 60 herbs, both culinary and medicinal, and just outside the grounds lie the fish ponds that used to supply the bishop's kitchen.

WING

2 miles NE of Uppingham off the A6003

 Maze

The little village of Wing is best known for a **Maze** in which it's impossible to get lost. The

medieval Turf Maze is made of foot-high turf banks and measures 40 feet across. Its design is identical to the mosaic patterns in the floors of Chartres Cathedral and other French cathedrals. An old tradition asserts that penitents were required to crawl around the maze on their knees, stopping at various points to say prayers. Once a fairly common



THE OLD WHITE HART

51 Main Street, Lyddington, nr Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9LR

Tel: 01572 821703 Fax: 01572 821965

e-mail: mail@oldwhitehart.co.uk

website: www.oldwhitehart.co.uk

The **Old White Hart** is a charming country inn set among sandstone cottages in the Rutland village of Lyddington. It lies off the A6003 just minutes from Uppingham and ten minutes from Corby. Stuart and Holly East's inn dates back to the 17th century, and small-paned windows, beams, stone walls, open fires, knick-knacks and prints of local interest all contribute to a delightful old-world atmosphere.

The inn has an excellent reputation for its food, with a variety of bar and restaurant menus providing plenty of choice every session except Sunday evening. The kitchen team show a combination of skill and imagination flair, highlighting prime produce in dishes such as crab & lobster terrine, salad of pigeon breast with pancetta, chard and sunblush tomatoes (starter or main), loin of lamb dauphinoise and rib-eye steak with tomato gratin and tarragon butter. Desserts like lemon meringue pie and sticky toffee pudding keep the enjoyment level high to the end, and the fine food is accompanied by real ales and a good choice of wines.

In cottages adjoining the inn are ten very well-appointed en suite bedrooms for B&B guests, one with a spiral staircase leading up from the bedroom to shower room and Jacuzzi. Pétanque is the favourite game at the Old White Hart, with regular events, tuition and convivial evenings of games followed by dinner. The Old White Hart appears in the Michelin Pub Guide, Good Pub Guide and Quality in Tourism four star.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

sight, only eight such turf mazes are known to still exist in England. They were already falling into disfavour by Shakespeare's time. In *A Midsummer Night's Dream* he wrote:

*And the quaint mazes in the wanton green
For lack of tread, are indistinguishable.*

Oakham

 Castle  All Saints Church  Museum

 Flore's House  School

Oakham is one of England's most appealing county towns, a friendly place with many old hostleries, a regular twice weekly market, a wide variety of family-owned shops, a fine church and a major public school.

Just off the Market Place with its charming market cross and stocks is **Oakham Castle**, a romantic, evocative fortified manor house built between 1180 and 1190, with the earliest

surviving example of an aisled stone hall in the country. A unique feature is a collection of over 200 horseshoes hanging all around the walls of the hall. For centuries, any peer of the realm passing through the town has been required to present a horseshoe to the castle. When this custom started isn't clear, although one plausible story says that it began in the days of William the Conqueror when his farrier lived here. (The farrier's descendants, the Ferrers family, later built the Great Hall.) This unusual tax is still being imposed – amongst the hundreds of horseshoes of every size, some ornately gilded, others rusty, is one presented by Queen Elizabeth II.

All Saints Church is the spiritual centre of town, a fine parish church with a 14th-century tower. On the capitals in the nave are striking carvings of traditional subjects, including

ANGELS CAFÉ/BISTRO

2 Burley Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6DH

Tel: 01572 755853

e-mail: gaynor-dean@hotmail.co.uk

website: www.angelsrestaurant.co.uk

Angels Café/Bistro occupies a double-fronted building just off the main street in Oakham, between the B640 and B668. Since opening here in 2006, Dean and Gaynor poole have built up a loyal band of regulars with their authentic English cuisine with a personal twist. In stylish contemporary surroundings that include beams, carpets and a brick-fronted service counter, fresh ingredients are handled with skill and flair, with the layering of each constituent of main courses demonstrating cooking and presentation at a high level. It's a great place to visit at any time of day, whether it's for a snack and a cup of coffee, a sandwich, a pastry or a full meal.

The menu includes breakfast (all appetites catered for), sandwiches made to order on granary, farmhouse white or ciabatta bread, freshly made salads, stone-baked pizza, jacket potatoes, daily fish specials, scampi, burgers, scones, teacakes and always vegetarian main dishes like courgette and broccoli crumble. The re's a good choice of beer, wine, soft drinks, teas and coffees to accompany the excellent food.



dragons, the Green Man, Adam and Eve, and Reynard the Fox.

Rutland County Museum, housed in a splendid 18th-century riding school in Catmose Street, has displays of farm equipment, machinery and wagons, domestic collections and local archaeology. The riding school belonged to the Rutland Fencibles, a volunteer cavalry regiment raised in 1794 and now remembered in a gallery in the museum.

Flore's House is one of the oldest buildings in the town. It dates from the late 1300s and was built by William Flore and his son Roger, who was a wealthy merchant and four times Speaker of the House of Commons.

Notable natives of Oakham include the infamous conspirator Titus Oates who was born here in 1649 and lived in Mill Street. A minor cleric, he played the leading role in fabricating the Popish Plot of 1678. Oates

claimed to have uncovered a secret Jesuit plot to assassinate Charles II and return the Catholic Church to power. Many innocent Catholics were killed as a result of this alarm, but Oates, when the truth was discovered, did not escape lightly. He was sentenced to yearly whippings and was not freed until 1688; he died in obscurity in 1705.

Another Oakham man involved in Titus Oates' conspiracy was the famed midget Jeffery Hudson, "the smallest man from the smallest county in England". He lived in a thatched cottage that still stands on Melton Road opposite the White Lion pub. By the age of nine, Jeffery stood a mere 18 inches high and he never grew to more than 3ft 6in. His father, who was above average height, worked on the Duke of Buckingham's estate at nearby Burley on the Hill, a couple of miles northeast of Oakham. The duchess took a fancy to the

ELIZABETH STANHOPE INTERIORS

27 Mill Street, Oakham,
Rutland LE15 6EA
Tel: 01572 722345 Fax: 01572 722616
e-mail: showroom@elizabethstanhope.co.uk
website: www.elizabethstanhope.co.uk

Elizabeth Stanhope Interiors is based in the Rutland market town of Oakham. The main showroom, an old fire station, houses thousands of metres of discounted designer fabrics on the roll at rock bottom bargain prices, hundreds of fabric, wallpaper, trimming and paint books for items to order, and an ever changing mix of furniture, lighting, tableware and cushions.

Company's include: Colefax and Fowler, Jane Churchill, Nina Campbell, Osborne and Little, Mulberry, Designers Guild, Sanderson, Farrow and Ball and many more.

A very welcoming team of professionals are always on hand to assist in any decision making, and will gladly supply you with cuttings from the fabric in stock to take away and try at home. An extensive Interior design and project management service is available, along with a full making up, loose cover and re-upholstery service.

The Emporium next door is a heavenly mix of bed and bath; beautiful scents, towels, bedding and nightwear. You will also find the most delicious children's clothing, bedding, playhouses and much more, alongside a mother and baby section and an array of gifts, cards and wrapping paper. Patio doors onto a lavender lined garden lead to garden furniture, Indian garden parasols and outdoor accessories.



HEIDI KJELDSSEN

5 The Maltings, Mill Street, Oakham,
Rutland LE15 6EA
Tel: 01572 722666
e-mail: heidikjeldsen@heidikjeldsen.com
website: www.heidikjeldsen.com

Amongst Oakham's charming boutiques, antique shops and haute couture shops in Mill Street sits fine jewellers **Heidi Kjeldsen**. In a quaint listed building Heidi Kjeldsen has been designing and making beautiful jewellery here since 1998, greatly influenced by her Danish connections and her love and extensive knowledge of Diamonds and coloured Gemstones and all varieties of pearls.

Heidi's collection includes rings, necklaces, pendants, earrings, bangles and bracelets, brooches, cufflinks, handmade silver gifts and loose Gemstones. Her designs are classical in concept but with a contemporary twist which makes their desirability truly timeless. Heidi Kjeldsen's collection ranges from the simplest of handmade sterling silver bangles to stunning Diamond-set jewellery, multi-coloured Sapphires, rare Emeralds, true pigeon's blood red Rubies and many other unusual Gemstones. The jewellery settings are handcrafted, to a very high standard, and all the Diamonds, Gemstones and Pearls are carefully selected for their exceptional quality. To the best of Heidi's knowledge, with written guarantees, the provenance of all the materials and Gemstones is conflict-free and ethically sourced. All pendants can be sold separately from their chains as the choice of chain lengths and designs is limitless and any ideas you have can be included in the final piece.

Heidi offers a model-making service and also a computer aided design process that allows all bespoke pieces to be viewed and if necessary altered prior to the final manufacturing process. Heidi's website- www.heidikjeldsen.com shows new pieces being added all the time and gives a snapshot of what stock is available to purchase online or in the shop. Apart from the pieces made here the website also includes the Picchiotti range of very exclusive handmade Italian jewellery which Heidi is privileged to stock.

Heidi and her team are always ready to help and advise, and they are happy to discuss designing and crafting individual pieces to your special requirements.

The charming county town of Oakham has much to attract the visitor and a visit to Heidi's shop should definitely be high on the agenda. Opening times are 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday.



CAVELLS

16 Mill Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6EA
Tel: 01572 770372
e-mail: info@cavells.co.uk website: www.cavells.co.uk

Founded in 1993, **Cavells** has evolved into one of the most successful independent fashion stores in the UK providing stylish and select shopping for men and women outside London.

Located in the picturesque market town of Oakham and occupying 3,500 square feet Cavells is spacious, stylish and welcoming; a glorious retreat from everyday reality.

For ladies Cavells stock an unrivalled jeans selection including Armani, Seven and Citizens of Humanity; with formal collections from Ralph Lauren, Joseph and Marc Cain. For the more casual occasion; Oui Moments, Gant, Jackpot and Velvet. With shoes from Ash, Vic Matie and Geox and accessories from Mulberry, Paul Smith and Coccinelle.

Cavells Menswear offers an extensive range of Polo Ralph Lauren and Paul Smith including their accessories, plus heritage brands Fred Perry, Gloverall Duffle Coats and Baracuta Harrington jackets.

Cavells is renowned for a high level of service and the shop assistants are always on hand to provide unbiased advice. Cavells has a comfortable seating area with complimentary coffee, plasma screen TV, daily newspapers and magazines providing a perfect distraction for those non-shoppers.

CAVELLS OUTDOORS

The Old Mill, South Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6BG
Tel: 01572 772502
e-mail: info@cavellsoutdoors.co.uk
website: www.cavellsoutdoors.co.uk & www.cavellscountry.co.uk

Cavells Outdoors opened in August 2009 and stocks a fantastic selection of premium outdoor clothing and accessories. Cavells Outdoors is a new addition to the established and successful Cavells fashion store located just around the corner.

A contemporary feel with authentic outdoor materials and bespoke design Cavells Outdoors offers a unique shopping environment. Flooded with light and vibrant in colour you will be inspired by our collections whether travelling, walking in the countryside, trekking, skiing, climbing or just wanting to stay comfortable whatever the elements throw at you.

Cavells Outdoors brands include Icebreaker, 100% merino wool apparel from New Zealand, specialist clothing and equipment from Mountain Hardwear, Royal Robbins travel and adventure clothing and performance footwear from Keen and Brasher, to name just a few. Specialist advice is available from a team of dedicated outdoor enthusiasts.

Cavells Country is located on the first floor mezzanine of the Cavells Outdoors store and stocks an extensive selection of the finest, stylish and functional countrywear brands including Schöffel Countrywear, Barbour, Aigle, R M Williams, Really Wild Clothing, Dubarry with accessories by Marc Cain, Mulberry, Johnstons and Helen Kaminski plus many more.

**THE CHOCOLATE BAR**

49a High Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6AJ
Tel: 01572 724554
e-mail: enquiries@chocolatebar.co.uk
website: www.chocolatebar.co.uk

A very special shop on Oakham's High Street provides gifts to remember for Christmas, Easter, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Valentines Day, weddings, birthdays.....for any occasion that calls for something special. The **Chocolate Bar** was opened in 2001 by two chocoholic friends Sharon and Lesley, who transformed a modest café and chocolate shop into a haven for chocolate lovers and a vibrant place to meet for coffee, hot chocolate and something delicious to eat.

The Chocolate Bar sells a wide range of the finest Belgian chocolates available in the region, and in addition to the mouthwatering display of individual chocolates there are bars, bags, boxes of 4, 8, 12, 18 or 24 chocolates and a selection of gluten-free, sugar-free and dairy-free chocs. In the Café, a treat not to be missed is the Chocolate Bar Special – the finest hot chocolate laden with whipped cream, a smattering of marshmallows adorned with a flake and crowned with a dusting of cocoa powder. The menu also offers savoury snacks and meals as well as lots of lovely cakes. Customers can order their chocolates by phone or online for delivery anywhere in the UK.



minuscule lad, dressed him in costly silk and satin, and kept him by her as a kind of mascot. When Charles I and his Queen, Henrietta Maria, were guests at Burley, a huge cold pie was placed on the table before them and when the pie was cut open out popped Jeffery. The Queen was so delighted with the midget that she took him back to the royal court, where he became a popular figure, was knighted and had his portrait painted by Van Dyck. But Jeffery was an extremely quarrelsome character and on one occasion challenged Lord Crofts to a duel in which the latter was killed. Jeffery was banished for a time, but while travelling back to England was captured by Turkish pirates and sold as a slave. Ransomed by the Duke of Buckingham, he returned to Oakham and the house in the High Street. With his usual impetuosity he

became involved in Titus Oates' Popish Plot and was imprisoned.

Oakham School was founded in 1584 by Archdeacon Robert Johnson, who also founded Uppingham School. As at Uppingham, the original single room school building still stands, its walls inscribed with Hebrew, Latin and Greek quotations. Both schools expanded greatly in the 19th century, but while the school buildings at Uppingham dominate the little town, at Oakham they are spread across the town centre, partly hidden away off the attractive market place where the ancient butter cross still provides shelter for the town stocks. Now co-educational, Oakham School has around 1,000 pupils.

On the outskirts of town, the road to Uppingham crosses Swooning Bridge, where condemned felons going on their last journey

Hambleton Peninsula

Distance: 3.7 miles (6.0 kilometres)

Typical time: 90 mins

Height gain: 0 metres

Map: Explorer 15 Rutland Water

Walk: www.walkingworld.com ID:29

Contributor: Nicholas Rudd-Jones

ACCESS INFORMATION:

Turning off on the A606, about 8 miles from the A1 Stamford turning. Park the car at the pub (if you intend to use it later) or in the road just outside.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Rutland Water is a created lake, supplying water to the East Midlands. It is basically a huge success story, attracting lots of active visitors.

DESCRIPTION:

A very pleasant walk around the edge of the Hambleton Peninsula, which looks out in all directions over Rutland Water, a man-made success. Rutland Water has many leisure pursuits, notably sailing and cycling. It's a very good place to come with the family.

The walk itself is simple, suitable for all ages with lots to distract youngsters. The Finch Arms at the end of the walk is an excellent place for (posh) snacks and refreshment and welcomes children. It can be very muddy; cyclists can be numerous on Bank Holidays.

FEATURES:

Lake/Loch, Pub, Wildlife, Birds, Flowers, Great Views.

WALK DIRECTIONS:

1 | Cross a cattle-grid at the end of the road, and strike out along a stony track that runs east along the side of the lake. Very shortly you should turn left, pass through another cattle-grid and continue on eastwards. The walk is very straightforward, flat and passing through interesting woods. There is always a lovely view of the lake to your right. Up on the hill, on your right, you will see a splendid Victorian hunting lodge – Hambleton Hall, now a famous restaurant. After about 2km the track takes a sharp left inland and then shortly afterwards, just before hitting the road, takes a sharp right.

2 | Go north from this point along the stone track (not down the road). The path soon reaches the other side of the promontory and swings back westwards. Stay on undulating path for about 3km, until you reach the road.

3 | When you reach the road, turn left – a short walk takes you back to the pub and the car.



Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

OAKHAM ORIENTAL RUGS

6-7 The Maltings, Mill Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6EA

Tel: 01572 724441

e-mail: mail@oakhamorientalrugs.co.uk

website: www.oakhamorientalrugs.co.uk

The prestigious shopping area of Mill Street in Oakham has been called the Knightsbridge of Rutland for its wealth of high-quality retail outlets. Among the many enterprises in the modern development of The Maltings is **Oakham Oriental Rugs**, a family business established in 1993 and owned and managed by Fiona and Christian Hawker. Soon after The Maltings was opened they took the opportunity to set up a business that has built up a fine reputation for offering the widest selection of hand-knotted traditional and contemporary rugs and carpets in the region.

Each piece, from small rugs to room-size carpets, is hand chosen by the owners, who offer expert knowledge, superb value for money and a money-back guarantee of satisfaction. The array includes Persian, Afghan and Indian rugs and carpets, world-renowned names such as Aubusson and Ziegler and an exclusive selection of antiques rugs. Oakham Oriental Rugs offers a cleaning and repair service, as well as bespoke commissions from a variety of styles, patterns, weaves and colours. 'Design Your Own Rug' is an offering unique to the business. Browsers are always welcome at this delightful place, where there are rugs on the floor, rugs on the walls, even rugs tent-style on the ceiling, in a setting complemented by appropriate décor and furniture. Shop hours are 10 to 5 Tuesday to Saturday.



from the town gaol first saw, on top of a small rise called Mount Pleasant, the gallows from which they were about to be hanged.

Around Oakham

EGLETON

1 mile E of Oakham on a minor road

Birdwatch Centre

Eggleton is home to Anglian Water's **Birdwatch Centre**, located on two storeys on the west shore, with nature trails, bird hides and a Wildlife Trust shop (01572 770651).

EDITH WESTON

5 miles E of Oakham off the A6003

Normanton Church

This village takes its name from Edith, wife

and then widow of King Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), who gave her this part of the county as a gift. A peaceful spot in the heart of really lovely countryside on the south shore of Rutland Water. Near the village, off the A606 and A6121, stands Rutland's best-known landmark. **Normanton Church**, on the very edge of Rutland Water, was formerly part of the Normanton Estate and now houses a display dedicated to the construction of the reservoir by Anglian Water and a history of the area. Open April to September. The estate was the property of the big local landowner Sir Gilbert Heathcote, sometime Lord Mayor of London, who pulled down the village of Normanton to enlarge his park and moved the villagers to nearby Empingham.

EMPINGHAM*5 miles E of Oakham on the A606* **Dovecote**

This pleasant little town is dominated by the tower and spire of St Peter's Church, whose interior features include fragments of ancient glass. In a field just outside the village stands a well-preserved **Dovecote** containing 700 nests. It could have been in this very field that one of the bloodiest slaughters of the Wars of the Roses took place, on 12 March 1470 – in all, some 10,000 men were killed. This gory clash of arms became known as the Battle of Losecoat Field because the defeated Lancastrians shed their uniforms as they fled in the hope of avoiding recognition, capture and certain death.

TICKENCOTE*8 miles E of Oakham off the A1* **Church of St Peter**

Apart from Canterbury Cathedral there is nothing in England to compare with the astonishing Norman sexpartite vaulting over the chancel of the parish **Church of St Peter** in the tiny village of Tickencote. Equally breathtaking is the chancel arch, a mighty six-layered portal leading to a miniscule nave beyond. Built around 1140, each of the overlapping six arches is carved with a different design – foliage, chevrons, double zigzags, beak-head ornament or just plain round mouldings. In addition to these masterpieces of Norman architecture, St Peter's also contains a remarkably fine 13th-century font and an unusual wooden life-size effigy of a 14th-century knight.

LITTLE CASTERTON*9 miles E of Oakham via the A606/A1* **Tolethorpe Hall**

Tolethorpe Hall, just off the A1 and close to

the Lincolnshire border, is best known as the home of the Stamford Shakespeare Company, which each summer performs three different plays on an open-air stage in an idyllic woodland setting facing a 600-seat covered auditorium. 2009 sees its 33rd annual season. The old manor house has another claim to fame as the birthplace in 1550 of Robert Browne, one of the earliest congregationalists. His radical views led to his arrest and it was only through the intervention of his kinsman Lord Burghley that he was released. Browne's religious views mellowed with the passing of the years – his fiery temper did not. At the age of 80 Browne was consigned to Northampton for an assault on a constable and it was there that he died in 1633.

EXTON*5 miles NE of Oakham off the A606* **Church of St Peter & St Paul** **Barnsdale Gardens**

A charming village in one of the largest ironstone extraction areas in the country with a church set in delightful parkland. The **Church of St Peter & St Paul** is remarkable for its wealth of fine monuments, a sumptuous series commemorating members of the Noel and Harington families interred here from the early 1500s to the late 1700s. This imposing collection is dominated by a colossal memorial to Baptist Noel, 3rd Viscount Campden, who died in 1683. Sculpted in black and white marble by Grinling Gibbons, it stands 22ft high and 14ft wide, almost filling one wall of the north transept. A lengthy inscription extols Viscount Campden's many fine qualities that had "justly rendered him the admiration of his contemporaries and the imitation of posterity".

Barnsdale Gardens, in The Avenue, were

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomeWHERE.co.uk



Click Here for travel guidebooks

TABLE PLACE**FURNITURE RETAILER & BESPOKE CABINETMAKERS**

Thistleton Road, Market Overton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7PP
 Tel: 01572 767636 Fax: 01572 767932
 e-mail: oakham@tableplace.co.uk
 website: www.table-place.co.uk

Quality, reliability, service and value for money are watchwords at **Table Place**, which stands on a small industrial estate near Oakham. In Rutland for nearly 30 years, the business has built up an enviable reputation throughout the region under Managing Director Marietta King. Starting in a small way making tables for the trade, she has expanded the enterprise to direct selling of a wide range of classic English furniture – chairs, cabinets, desks, hall tables – in maple (the Mayflower range from Marietta is a great favourite), ash, beech, mahogany, oak and yew.

The expert cabinetmakers and polishers can be seen in the workshop, where no fewer than 327 different operations go into the making of a single piece of furniture, using traditional and modern methods as appropriate at each stage.

The finished pieces can be viewed in the large showrooms around and above the workshop. Marietta and her team offer a variety of services, including restoration of antiques, re-polishing, upholstery work and room planning (fabrics and furniture). They are always happy to discuss commissions for bespoke pieces. Table Place is open Thursday to Monday from 10 to 4 (from 11 Sunday, closed Bank Holiday Mondays).



made familiar to millions by the late Geoff Hamilton, who designed the gardens, on TV's *Gardeners' World*. They are now run by his son and daughter-in-law and embrace many themes, including cottage, allotment and kitchen gardens, woodland, parterre and town and country paradises. Open all year.

PICKWORTH*9 miles NE of Oakham off the A1*

Pickworth's most famous resident was John Clare, surely one of the saddest figures in the pantheon of English poets. Born in 1793 in a village near Peterborough, Clare came to

Pickworth as a young man, finding work on a nearby farm. Over the course of a year he managed to save £1 from his meagre wages and used it to publish a prospectus of his poems. The poems were eventually published, in 1820, but did not sell. Poverty, poor health and incipient madness stalked him throughout his life. His happiest years may well have been spent at Pickworth for it was here that he met 18-year-old Patty Turner whom he immortalised in one of his most charming poems:

*And I would go to Patty's cot,
 And Patty came to me,*

*Each knew the other's every thought
Under the hawthorn tree.*

*And I'll be true for Patty's sake
And she'll be true for mine,
And I this little ballad make
To be her Valentine.*

They married soon afterwards and eventually had seven children. But Clare was working beyond his strength and gradually his habitual melancholy deteriorated into madness. He spent the last 27 years of his life in asylums. His youngest son went to see him once; Patty could never bring herself to visit.

COTTESMORE

5 miles NE of Oakham on the B668

 Railway Museum

The **Rutland Railway Museum** is the big attraction here. The working steam/diesel museum is based on local quarry and



Rutland Railway Museum

industrial railways, a living museum that recreates the heyday of quarrying in the 1950s and 1960s. The open-air steam centre is home to a large collection of steam and diesel locomotives, wagons, vans and coaches, together with many related items and artefacts and a mineral railway running from the quarry to the exchange sidings. Call 01572 813203 for details of steam days and gala days. A little further along the B668 is the village of Greetham on the Viking Way, one of the three long-distance walks that converge on Oakham.

CLIPSHAM

10 miles NE of Oakham off the B668

 Yew Tree Avenue

Just to the east of this small village is one of the most extraordinary sights in the county, **Yew Tree Avenue**. In the 1870s, Amos Alexander, head forester to the Clipsham Hall

Looking for somewhere to stay, eat, drink or shop? www.findsomewhere.co.uk



Click Here for
travel guidebooks

Estate, began clipping the yew trees around his lodge into chimerical shapes – a fantastic parade of animals, chess pieces and abstract forms. The Squire of Clipsham admired them greatly and gave Amos a free hand with the 150 yew trees lining the approach to the hall. Along the 700-yard avenue appeared a dream-like succession of figures, some commemorating local or national events, others recording family events.

Amos died in the early 1900s and the trees were left untended until, in 1955, the Forestry Commission assumed responsibility for the avenue and renewed the topiary tradition. Each of the trees is between 15 and 20ft high, and each is shaped individually. An elephant looks across to a ballerina; a Spitfire takes off

towards a battleship, Diddy-men cavort near a windmill – there's even a Big Mac hamburger in there somewhere!

TEIGH

5 miles N of Oakham on a minor road

Teigh (pronounced tea) is one of the 31 Thankful Villages, those communities where all the men and women who served in World War I survived. A brass inscription in the church gives thanks for the safe return of the 11 men and two women from the village who went to war.

The Old Rectory, which stands next to the Strawberry Hill-style Gothic church, has a delightful partly-walled garden that was first laid out in the 1950s.

ADVERTISERS AND PLACES OF INTEREST

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND DRINK		HOME AND GARDEN	
Angels Cafe/Bistro, Oakham	pg 41	Aspidistra, Uppingham	pg 37
Medbourne Grange, Nevill Holt	pg 19	Bagel and Griff, Market Harborough	pg 17
The Old White Hart, Lyddington	pg 40	Elizabeth Stanhope Interiors, Oakham	pg 42
Stapleford Park Country House Hotel & Sporting Estate, Stapleford	pg 35	Flint Gifts, Groby	pg 10
		Furnace Lane Pottery, Moira	pg 29
		J F Spence & Son, Uppingham	pg 39
ARTS AND CRAFTS		Oakham Oriental Rugs, Oakham	pg 47
County Crafts, Market Harborough	pg 18	Sarah Harding Interiors Ltd, Uppingham	pg 38
		Table Place, Market Overton	pg 49
FASHIONS		Village Chic, Sileby	pg 32
Cavells, Oakham	pg 44		
Cavells Outdoors, Oakham	pg 44	JEWELLERY	
		County Jewellers, Market Harborough	pg 18
GIFTWARE		Gifted, Woodhouse Eaves	pg 31
County Crafts, Market Harborough	pg 18	Heidi Kjeldsen, Oakham	pg 43
Flint Gifts, Groby	pg 10		
Furnace Lane Pottery, Moira	pg 29	PLACES OF INTEREST	
Gifted, Woodhouse Eaves	pg 31	Snibston Discovery Park, Coalville	pg 26
		SPECIALIST FOOD AND DRINK SHOPS	
		Chocolate Bar, Oakham	pg 45
		Farndon Fields Farm Shop, Market Harborough	pg 16

Travel Publishing Order Form

To order any of our publications just fill in the payment details below and complete the order form. For orders of less than 4 copies please add £1 per book for postage and packing. Orders over 4 copies are P & P free.

Please Complete Either:

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Travel Publishing Ltd

Or:

CARD NO: EXPIRY DATE:

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL NO:

Please either send, telephone, fax or e-mail your order to:

Travel Publishing Ltd, Airport Business Centre, 10 Thornbury Road, Estover, Plymouth PL6 7PP
Tel: 01752 697280 Fax: 01752 697299 e-mail: info@travelpublishing.co.uk

	PRICE	QUANTITY		PRICE	QUANTITY
HIDDEN PLACES REGIONAL TITLES			COUNTRY LIVING RURAL GUIDES		
Cornwall	£8.99	.....	East Anglia	£10.99	.....
Devon	£8.99	.....	Heart of England	£10.99	.....
Dorset, Hants & Isle of Wight	£8.99	.....	Ireland	£11.99	.....
East Anglia	£8.99	.....	North East of England	£10.99	.....
Lake District & Cumbria	£8.99	.....	North West of England	£10.99	.....
Lancashire & Cheshire	£8.99	.....	Scotland	£11.99	.....
Northumberland & Durham	£8.99	.....	South of England	£10.99	.....
Peak District and Derbyshire	£8.99	.....	South East of England	£10.99	.....
Yorkshire	£8.99	.....	Wales	£11.99	.....
			West Country	£10.99	.....
HIDDEN PLACES NATIONAL TITLES					
England	£11.99	.....			
Ireland	£11.99	.....			
Scotland	£11.99	.....			
Wales	£11.99	.....			
OTHER TITLES					
Off The Motorway	£11.99	.....			
Garden Centres and Nurseries of Britain	£11.99	.....			
			TOTAL QUANTITY		
			TOTAL VALUE		

Looking for:

- Places to Visit?
- Places to Eat & Drink?
- Places to Shop?
- Places to Stay?

Then why not visit Travel Publishing's fully searchable website?



You'll find it very easy-to-use with:

- Informative pages on places to visit, stay, eat, drink and shop throughout the United Kingdom.
- Information on tens of thousands of places of interest as well as interesting stories, amusing anecdotes and historical facts on over 5,000 villages, towns and cities.



www.findSOMEWHERE.CO.UK