



New for 2017, the **Chilterns Walking Festival** invites people to explore the landscapes, locations and legends of The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The spring festival runs from **15 – 29 May 2017**, with an exciting programme of walks, talks and special events.

The Chiltern Society, The National Trust, Ramblers groups and a variety of other local groups and organisations are working together to deliver an exciting programme which offers plenty of choice as well as opportunities to take part in interesting walks and events, meet new people, learn about the area and gain an appreciation for the Chilterns.

The Spring festival is the first of six, being run by the Chilterns Conservation Board, made possible by funding from LEADER (www.leader-programme.org.uk/areas/chilterns.html). The festivals aim to showcase what the Chilterns have to offer to new visitors, increase visitor spend and overnight stays, as well as provide local residents with a variety of leisure activities in our beautiful countryside. Here's a taste of the events confirmed so far:

- **Henley and it's Midsomer Murders Locations - Sat 20th May & Sat 27th May**
A walk discovering Midsomer Murders filming locations & Henley history, starting and finishing at The Argyll Pub. Led by The Henley Hosts.
- **Stokenchurch and Crowell - Sun 21st May**
A short 7.5 mile route from Stokenchurch up Kingston Wood before heading down on the Oxfordshire side and back up in a circuit. Led by the Oxon & Chilterns 20s-30s Ramblers.
- **Butterflies and Blooms - Thu 18th May & Sat 20th May**
A walk around Aston Rowant Nature Reserve to explore butterflies and flora and fauna of the season. Led by Natural England.
- **Boat and Walking Tour - Tue 16th May & Tue 23rd May**
This special event combines cruising and gentle walking along the River Thames & Thames Path between Henley and Hambleden lock. Led by Hobbs of Henley and expert walk leaders.
- **Checkendon Walk & Lunch - Sat 20th May**
A pleasant circular walk exploring the woods and landscape around the attractive village of Checkendon. Led by the Chiltern Society.
- **Chalfont St Peter graveyard walk and talk - Fri 26th May**
A short circular walk around the church and St Peter's Garden, whilst hearing about some of the famous and fascinating folks who are buried there. Led by Denise Beddows, researcher & local author.
- **Discovering Wild Medicine - Sat 20th May**
A walk around The Sunnyside Trust's Hemel Food Garden, discovering what plants can be used for medicinal purposes. Led by Sunnyside Trust and Lucy Bluden, wild medicine expert.
- **The Box Moor Trust Guided Walk - Mon 15th May**
The Blue walk route, including a history of the area and information on The Bulbourne restoration project. Led by The Box Moor Trust.

And there are so many more fantastic walks and events to come! Walks are being confirmed all the time - for full information and to book, go to www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest

To get involved in the festivals, whether you have a walk to offer, a sponsorship opportunity, or would like to publicise the festival, please contact Anna Foster, Project Manager, on afoster@chilternsaonb.org or 07779 643849.