

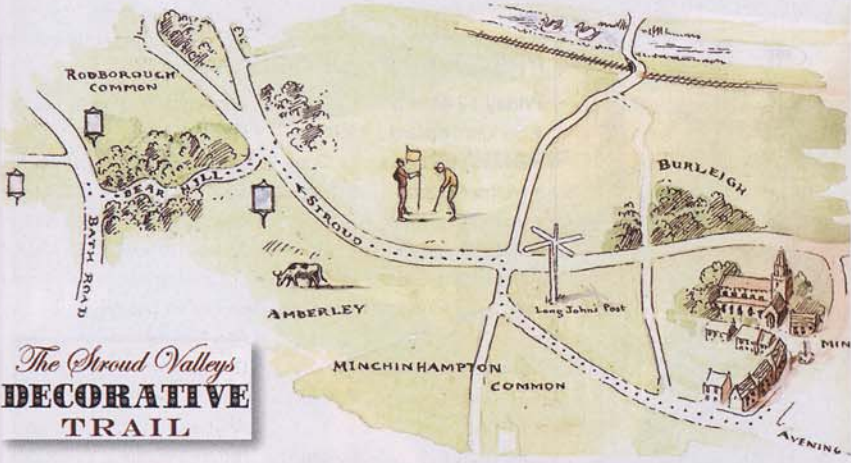


Spring exhibition: March 6-28 Oxford Art Society members show an inspired range of colourful and intriguing imagery in both traditional and modern styles. West Ox Arts Gallery, Town Hall, Market Square, Bampton OX18 2JH, tel: 01993 850137 or visit www.westoxarts.com

WATCH OUT FOR...

The Stroud Valleys Decorative Trail

On the trail of interior design



The Stroud Valleys
DECORATIVE TRAIL

Within the beautiful Cotswold area around of the Stroud valleys there has always been a wealth of creative talent. It has also recently emerged as home to a collection of both interesting and practical shops that offer everything anyone could want for the home – from fabric and wallpaper to flooring, paints, bathroom and kitchen designers as well as decorative and reclaimed furniture and fittings. The trail is designed to



bring together a group of local companies and attract people who are interested in interiors in every shape and form to this three-mile triangle for a great day out. The stylishly designed brochure which has details of all the participating companies as well as recommendations for pubs and restaurants in the area

can be picked up at participating shops and showrooms as well as hotels, estate agents and restaurants in Gloucestershire. For more details and to download the specially commissioned brochure by artist and engraver Andrew Davidson visit www.strouddecorativetrail.co.uk

Warwick Castle: March 27-April 18

Medieval mayhem at Warwick

Warwick Castle is getting medieval this Easter, as the lid is lifted on its vast history, bringing to life some of its most famous characters, legends and battles.



Easter weekend (April 2-5) will see the River Island transformed into a Medieval Battle Scene, recreating the famous Battle of Barnet. Re-enactors will spend four days eating, sleeping and living the conditions of a real battle. Castle visitors will be able to tour the site and see how an encamped army would live, cook, amuse themselves with arts and crafts and prepare their weapons for battle.

As the re-enactors take up arms to defend the Castle, Warwick's siege machine, the mighty Trebuchet, will launch a flaming fireball and treat guests to a spectacular display of mediaeval firepower. It's not just battles that will be coming to life this Easter. From March 27, visitors wandering the Castle grounds are advised to look

out for some legendary guests, from Queen Elizabeth I and King Henry VIII, to Robin Hood and King Arthur. The Dragon Slayer will be taking up temporary residence, while the Warwick Warriors will showcase their weapons arsenal and teach the art of medieval battle. And if that's all a little too butch for you, The Princess Tower will be playing host to enchanting mirrors, magical princesses and a huge dressing-up box. Visit the website at www.warwick-castle.com or call 0871 265 2000.

eavesdropper

Overheard during the last month...

- 'Prince Charles' painting sold on Devezes market stall.' The watercolour painting of a Cotswold landscape by the Prince of Wales, given to his designer at Highgrove House, was sold for just £60 – thisiswiltshire.co.uk
- 'When she was about five or six she used to run around the table with a red jacket on her pretending to be Michael Schumacher.' The grandfather of Chipping Norton schoolgirl Alice Powell, who looks destined for Formula One greatness, recalls her early ambitions – BBC News
- 'Laughing policemen in trouble for sledging – using a riot shield.'

the car's engine when it was being converted to run on biofuel are being melted down to create 200 pairs of cufflinks to raise funds for The Prince's Trust – *The Telegraph*

• 'There are three entrances and locked points into this building. All the enclosures are locked, and we have laminated glass on the front of all of them...' This must come as a relief to neighbours of Shaun Foggett and his 23 crocodiles and one alligator kept in his Witney back garden – BBC News

• '...he was always waxing lyrical about the West Country. He knew the novelist Laurie Lee and he loved that area. We've ended up five minutes from his old stomping ground in the Slad valley.'

A group of officers from Thames Valley police get their knuckles rapped after a video of their improvised sledging down Boars Hill in Oxfordshire while on duty is posted on YouTube – *The Guardian*

• 'I've had some great beef from Elizabeth Hurley.' Restaurateur John Torode sings the praises of Elizabeth's Dexter beef in *The Observer Magazine*

Singer Sade recalls her grandfather, whose parents were part of the Whiteway utopian community – *The Sunday Times*

• 'Back in 1935, no-one knew there was going to be a war in 1939. I feel that we are in a 1935 situation here. We need to be making preparations in order to live through what is coming.'

- 'Years ago I had a bed linen range called 'Pure Sex' and I was in a department store in Ireland standing behind two nuns who were buying it and getting very giggly about it.' Our very own naughty interior designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen knows how to make the girls blush – Wales Online
- 'Tewkesbury-based food artist Prudence Staite puts the finishing touches to her edible sculpture of Dita Von Teese, made entirely from cheese...' The edible Dita Von 'Cheese' appears alongside Cheryl 'Chedda' Cole at an exhibition in London's Kings Road Gallery – BBC News
- 'Old pistons from Prince Charles's prized DB6 Volante are being made into cufflinks to raise money for charity.'

Chris Jones prepares for any eventuality on a survivalist course in Gloucestershire – BBC Radio 4

• 'Inspired by her recent visit to Kate Moss's farm in the Cotswolds, it is rumoured that Liv enjoyed her time so much there that she is now considering investing in property in the Gloucestershire area to act as a private retreat when she is away from the set.' Fancy having stunning Hollywood actress Liv Tyler as a neighbour? – Property Mentor

• 'I'm not doing a lot at the moment except buying animals. I've just bought a cat and I'm about to buy two pigs. I might even buy three pigs.' Keith Allen is enjoying living the good life in Gloucestershire – thisisgloucestershire.com

Six pistons that came from