

Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival Programme

1st – 9th May 2010

Saturday May 1st

10.30 South Telford Heritage Trail.

12 mile circular walk taking in the heritage sites of South Telford.

Departing: Toll House Tourist Information Centre, Ironbridge

Notes: Bring a packed lunch. Spectacular views, good photo opportunities.

Duration: 5 – 6 hours

Walk Leader: Crawford Douglas

Grade A

Starting Point: 2

14.00 Wild Garlic Walk and Coalbrookdale Arboretum

Departing: Green Wood Centre, Station Rd, Coalbrookdale.

Duration: 2.5 hrs

Walk Leader: Judy Walker, Green Wood Centre

Grade C

Starting Point: 1

Sunday May 2nd

10.30 Circular Tour of "The Jitties"

Departing: Maws Craft Centre

Duration: 2 hours

Walk Leader: Alistair Craib

Grade: C

Starting Point: 11

14.00 'The Gorge's Transport History'

A guided tour of the waterways, roads and railways between Coalbrookdale and Coalport.

Departing Dale End Car Park.

Duration 2 1/2 - 3 hours.

Walk Leader: Neil Clarke

Grade: B

Starting Point: 12

Monday 3rd May

10.30 Broseley Heritage

Departing: Maws Craft Centre, Jackfield.

Duration: 2 – 3 hours

Walk Leader: Sheila Keenan of Severn Strollers

Grade B:

Starting Point: 11

18.00 Pub Walk

A tour of six historic hostelries in and around the Gorge.

Departing: Blists Hill Victorian Town Car Park

Duration: 2 hours

Walker Leader: Crawford Douglas

Grade C

Starting Point: 8

14.00 Geology of the Gorge

A loop walk exploring the fascinating geology of the Gorge.

Departing: Toll House Tourist Information Centre, Ironbridge

Duration: 2 hours

Walk Leader: Liz Etheridge, Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Grade: C

Starting Point: 2

Tuesday 4th May

10.30 Lloyds Coppice

A loop walk of Lloyds Coppice and Madeley Wood, looking at the woodland wildlife and heritage of these fascinating sites.

Notes: bring money for optional pub lunch at end

Departing: Robin Hood Car Park, Waterloo Road, Ironbridge.

Duration: 2 hours

Walk Leader: Alec Connah, South Telford Rights of Way Partnership.

Grade: B

Starting Point: 4

10.30 Wrekin to Ironbridge

Following the Shropshire Way from the old Forest Glen site over the Wrekin Hill and down to the Iron Bridge.

Departing: Forest Glen Car Park, The Wrekin.

Duration: 4-5 hours

Walk Leader: Pete Lambert, Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Grade: A

Starting Point: 10

14.00 Before the Roads

Departing: Museum of Iron Car Park, Coalbrookdale

Tracing the pack horse trails and inclined planes of 18th Century Coalbrookdale.

Duration: 1 hour

Walk Leader: Harriet Devlin

Grade B

Starting Point: 3

Wednesday 5th May

10.30 South Telford Heritage Trail

Departing: Toll House Tourist Information Centre, Ironbridge
12 mile circular walk taking in the heritage sites of South Telford.

Notes: Bring a packed lunch.

Duration: 5 – 6 hours

Walk Leader: Crawford Douglas

Grade A

Starting Point: 2

13.00 Coalbrookdale Walkabout Wrekin (www.whi.org.uk)

Natural England Walking for Health.

Enjoy the local history and countryside under the guidance of trained and knowledgeable walk leaders.

Departing: Coalbrookdale Community Centre (free car park) Darby Road.

Duration: 1 – 1.5 hrs

Grade: C

Starting Point: 13

14.00 Flora and Fauna of the Gorge

An exploration of the fascinating flora and fauna of the Gorge.

Departing: the Toll House Tourist Information Centre, Ironbridge

Duration: 2-3 hours

Walk Leader: John Hughes, Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Grade: B

Starting Point: 2

Thursday 6th May

10.30 – 12.00 Wheelchair and Pushchair friendly Walk

An all-ability walk, with a commentary on local natural and cultural heritage.

Departing: Meet at Bridge Car Park, Ironbridge 'Charge for Parking.'

Duration: 1.5 hrs approx .

Walk Leader: Alec Connah

Grade: D.

Starting Point: 2

14.00 Looking for Clay

Looking for the components of bricks, coal and clay. An industrial look at a familiar landscape.

Departing: Museum of Iron Car Park, Coalbrookdale

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Walk Leader: Harriet Devlin – Ironbridge Institute

Grade: B

Starting Point: 3

Friday 7th May

10.30 Subsidence in the Gorge

A fascinating insight into the problems of dealing with subsidence in the area.

Departing: Toll House Tourist Information Centre, Ironbridge

Duration: 2 hours

Walk Leader: Neil Rushton – Telford & Wrekin Council

Grade: C

Starting Point: 2

10.30 Nature and Heritage

Taking in Corbett's Dingle, Haycop Industrial Site and Wildlife Centre, Broseley Pipe Museum and Ironbridge.

Notes: Great for photo opportunities.

Departing: Maws Craft Centre, Jackfield

Duration: 3 hours

Walk Leader: Sheila Keenan, Severn Strollers

Grade: B

Starting Point: 11

14.00 History and Ecology of Madeley Court

Covering the fascinating story of Madeley Court and the part it has played in the development of the Gorge.

Notes: Some parts can be boggy after rain, stout shoes recommended.

Departing: Madeley Court Hotel Car Park

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Walk Leader; Shelagh Lewis

Grade: C

Starting Point: 5

Saturday 8th May

05.30 Dawn Chorus

An expert guide to birdlife in the Gorge, taking in Benthall Edge.

Departing: Toll House Tourist Information Centre, Ironbridge

Duration: 3 hours

Notes: Bring a flask and snack, binoculars useful. No dogs sorry.

Walk Leader: Glenn Bishton

Grade: B

Starting Point: 2

10.30 Exploring the Woodlands and Meadows of the Gorge

Meet the staff from the Seven Gorge Countryside Trust and find out how they manage the woodlands and meadows in the Wold Heritage Site. The 4 mile walk visits some popular sites and lesser known ones.

Notes: Sturdy boots and waterproofs essential. Bring a packed lunch.

Departing: Coalbrookdale Community Centre

Duration: 2 – 3 hours

Walk Leader: Alec Connah

Grade: D – child friendly

Starting Point: 13

14.00 Treasure Hunt.

Meet Linda at 13.30 to collect clues. Suitable for all ages and fun!

Notes: Wear Suitable footwear and clothing

Departing: Green Wood Centre, Station Road, Coalbrookdale

Duration: 2 hours

Walk Leader: Linda Dalziel

Grade: B

Starting Point: 1

14.00 Devil's Dingle

A short walk offering a opportunity to see the old ash disposal site at Devil's Dingle and hear about the restoration work that E.ON is carrying out on site in partnership with local conservation organisations. Good views across the Severn Valley and towards the Wrekin.

Sorry no dogs.

Notes: Can be exposed and chilly!

Departing: Abbey Club Car Park, off the Much Wenlock Road

Duration: 2-2½ hours

Walk Leader: Mary Thornton, E.ON

Grade B

Sunday 9th May

10.30 Benthall Edge and Beyond

4 miles around the Benthall Edge, avoiding the 400 steps.

Notes: Going can be steep and slippy in places.

Departing: Bridge Car Park, Ironbridge

Duration: 2 – 2 ½ hours

Walk Leader: Louise Lomax

Grade: B

Starting Point: 7

14.00 Maws, Jackfield, Coalford, Ironbridge and Coalport.

A circular tour of these areas including the woodlands.

Departing: Maws Craft Centre, Jackfield

Duration: 2 hours

Walk Leader: Margo Manuel Severn Strollers

Grade: C

Starting Point: 11

GRADING:

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| A | Long, strenuous, steep climbs, gates, stiles, rough going. |
| B | Moderate to strenuous, some steep climbs or gates and some rough tracks. |
| C | Moderate to easy gentle climbs, good tracks |
| D | easy Walking, good tracks, no steep climbs |

Disclaimer:

The organising agencies have checked the routes and identified hazards: it is the responsibility of the individual to check that the walk is suitable for their walking ability and that they attend at the start of the walk for the induction.

It is strongly advised that everyone attending the walks should wear suitable footwear and clothing. Some of the walks are on steep hills and near potential hazards. The organisers accept no responsibility for accidents caused by inappropriate footwear or behaviour. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome except where indicated on the programme.

BOOKING:

- The maximum capacity of each walk is 15 to 20 people (according to route) so pre booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.

To book telephone 01952 435857 or e.mail events@greenwoodcentre.org.uk