

SPECIAL 'FLOOD RECOVERY' OFFER:

2 nights from £160 (additional nights £40). Week from £360.

From now until 26 March.

Quote 'NEWS320'

Hello, the floods have been the big news here recently. We are far too high above the river for it to affect us, but some local pubs and attractions have had to undertake major clean-ups, including:

- Saracens Head
- Butterfly Zoo
- Dean Heritage Centre
- The Boat Inn

So, we have a special offer for the next few weeks to encourage you to come and stay, and have a pint or a visit to support these local businesses.

Events:

- Lovely exhibition on the Mari Llwyd (the grey horse that is part of Morris and New Year traditions) at Chepstow Museum until 31 March.
- Ring workshop and afternoon tea. Make your own silver ring at Tudor Farmhouse, Clearwell. 7 March.
- It is 250 years since the World's first ever tourist guidebook was produced: 'Observations on the River Wye' by William Gilpin. To celebrate this the book is being relaunched as the start of a year of celebration. St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye. 12 March.
- Irish Dance evening to celebrate St Patrick's Day. National Diving Centre, Chepstow. 14 March.
- Try your hand at Japanese Cookery with Harts Barn Cookery School. 21 March.
- Mother's Day Pottery Afternoon at Hot Pot Pottery, Christchurch. 21 March (and Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on 22 March)
- Kempley Daffodil Weekend. 21-22 March.
- Dymock Daffodil Weekend and Spring Fayre plus Oxenhall Daffodil Weekend. 28-29 March.
- Lydney Park Spring Gardens – they only open when the rhododendrons are in full show. 5 April – 14 June.
- Make a dragonfly using recycled materials. Made in Ross, Ross-on-Wye. 11 April.
- Beer and Bubbles Big Breakfast at Hillside Brewery. 18 April.
- The Royal Forester Evening Dining Car. Silver service experience on Dean Forest Railway heritage trains. 19 April.
- Warrior Mud Run, Forest of Dean, 25 April. Forest Warrior ultimate obstacle race, 26 April.
- Faddle Fair, Coleford. 10 May.



Activities News:

The Savoy Theatre in Monmouth – a charming independent theatre and cinema and reputedly Wales’ oldest – won best theatre in Wales.

The Agincourt Wales Trail gives a lovely route through the Brecon Beacons, Monmouthshire and into the Forest.

Nature:

Wye and Usk Foundation work very hard to keep our rivers clean and the wildlife happy. They recently launched a fundraising programme including getting personalised commemorative stones put in the river – a lovely idea for people who love/have loved the area,

Make the most of our fabulous countryside – Visit Wye Valley and Forest of Dean website had details of 16 highly recommended picnic and viewing spots. And if you want a more personalised or focussed trip, try Ed Drewitt who is a local wildlife expert and photographer who can show you around. Here are some of his pictures:



Food and Drink News:

Kelsmor Dairy make ice cream from their own cows (and use the ‘Happy Cow’ logo). Their flavours include Old Grove Cider.

Silver Circle Distillery now make artisan gin near Tintern using local spring water and wild botanicals from the area. You can book in for a tasting session. There is also a nice café and shop.

Filming News:

‘Sex Education’: did you spot the Monmouth gaming shop Pegasus in the last series? There is more detailed information on film locations on the Visit Wye Valley and Forest of Dean website.

A Day Out (tested by us):

The Monmouthshire Triangle (just invented that title!). Start with coffee at the award-winning Angel Hotel in Abergavenny and a meander around the fabulous foodie shops and market. Head to Monmouth for the unique Monnow Bridge, the world-famous Nelson Museum and discover the world’s first Wikipedia town. Next, to Chepstow via Tintern Abbey, picking up some local beers from Kingstone Brewery on the way past. Finish off in Chepstow with the superb castle and dinner at one of the nice restaurants and bars down by the river or a great Welsh pizza from the easily missed Stonerock (toppings include ‘The Wye Valley’).



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