

Herefordshire & Wye Valley Life

April 2011 £2.50

www.herefordshire.greatbritishlife.co.uk

Incorporating
Monmouthshire & Powys

2011
Festival
Guide

William & Kate

- Their Harewood home
- Why Ross is right for Royal newly-weds

20 centuries
of life in
Newport

The Parson & Publican
visit
Kilpeck

To Monnow
with our
canine ramblers

Horrible history of
**Mortimer
Country**

Turnastone
Tiny place with a
big story to tell

Young Farmers
Fun & friendship



When the Nazis invaded Monmouthshire
Exclusive: On the set of the new
blockbuster movie

Hampton Court hosts
the Great Spring
Gardening Event



FESTIVAL!

From celebrities to scarecrows, beer to boating, poetry to pop, there's a celebration for every taste in Catherine Every's guide to great days out

ACROSS Herefordshire and the Wye Valley throughout the coming months, you will find a wealth of festivals celebrating an array of different subjects. There are events that mark Herefordshire's heritage, such as the Broome Farm Cider Festival and Bromyard's brand new Hop Festival, and internationally renowned gatherings including Hay International Literature Festival and Ledbury Poetry Festival. Enjoy planning which ones you'll attend and here's to a festive and fun-filled summer.

SAINT GEORGE'S DAY

April 23

The Sun Inn, Leintwardine

www.suninn-leintwardine.co.uk

See St George riding through the village and slaying the dragon then enjoy Leintwardine's town crier, the Crooked Steeple Morris Dancers and a mini beer

festival. For children there's a drawing competition and penny whistle whittling.

BRITISH RED CROSS GREAT SPRING GARDENING EVENT

May 5

**Hampton Court Palace, Hope under
Dinmore. Tel: 01432 373020**

A must for enthusiasts of gardening, the great outdoors and country living. Eighty stalls in stunning surroundings ranging from specialist nurseries and garden designers to gifts, accessories and fine foods.

HAY INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

May 26-June 5

www.hayfestival.com

This year's headline guests include Hypnotic Brass Ensemble, Nigella Lawson, Sarah Brown on maternal health and life at No. 10,

Nobel Peace Laureate and weapons inspector Mohamed ElBaradei, Howard Jacobson on his Booker winner, ecologist Bjørn Lomborg and Sue Perkins and Sandi Toksvig.

BROMYARD SPRING FESTIVAL May 27-30

Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

Tel: Sylvia Silver on 01885 483034

Highlights include poetry and music with Gordon White and Dave and Francis on the Friday evening, a book signing with local authors on the Saturday and a literary luncheon with Brian Viner on the Sunday.

SCARECROW FESTIVAL June 11-12

Bromyard town centre

Tel: Mike Cresswell on 01885 483964

This year's nursery rhyme-themed festival starts with a scarecrow parade on



Above left to right Ledbury Poetry Festival;
The Three Counties Show Left St George's
Day in Leintwardine Below Herefordshire
Walking Festival



Friday. On Saturday, you can admire the mile of pennies while trying to crack the cryptic clues to identify the scarecrows then on Sunday there's a duck race.

THREE COUNTIES SHOW

June 17-19

The Three Counties Showground

www.threecounties.co.uk

This year's highlights include farming, equestrian, regional food, country pursuits, motoring, gardening, country living and community villages. Forestry makes a return and there's a new education trail for schools and a discovery zone. Plus there's a packed main arena schedule.

HEREFORDSHIRE SUMMER WALKING FESTIVAL

June 18-26

Throughout Herefordshire

www.walkingfestival.com

Celebrating its tenth year the festival combines enthusiastic, knowledgeable leaders with the peaceful beauty of our countryside. With more than 50 programmed walks to choose from, the decisions won't be easy.

ST WEONARDS FLOWER AND CRAFT FESTIVAL

June 18-19

Church and Village Hall, St Weonards

Email: n158@btinternet.com

See wedding and christening gowns ►

from the 1940s onwards in the flower-filled church, then climb the tower to see the views. Visit stalls of Herefordshire crafts and see a local wood carver at work.

SHOBDON FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL
June 25-26

Church grounds and cricket pitch, Shobdon

www.shobdonfestival.co.uk

With more than 60 food stalls this is a must visit for anyone interested in food. Together with over 30 craft stalls and live music this is a fun weekend for all.

DORE ABBEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

June 24-26

Dore Abbey, Abbey Dore

www.doreabbey.co.uk

A Friday night piano concert with the celebrated John Lill CBE is followed by the Concert for Craswell with Mozart's Gran Partita for Thirteen Instruments and Bruckner's Mass in G on Saturday.

LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL

July 1-10

Throughout Ledbury

www.poetry-festival.com

Highlights include Jackie Kay,

performance poet Matt Harvey, Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, Stuart Maconie and Penelope Shuttle. Free street events and family workshops bring poetry to all the family.

BROMYARD GALA

July 2-3

Gala Field, Bromyard

Tel: Elizabeth Huffer on 01531

640325

Now in its 43rd year, you'll find displays of vintage vehicles, Hereford cattle and heavy horses plus a craft marquee, food stalls and a bandstand.

BEER ON THE WYE VII

July 8-10

On the banks of the River Wye next to Hereford Rowing Club

Email: richardatross@tiscali.co.uk

More than 130 beers and 99 Herefordshire ciders and perries, plus delicious food. A family-friendly festival down by the river and only a 20 minute walk from Hereford rail and bus stations.

MUCH MARCLE STEAM RALLY

July 16-17

Rye Meadows, Much Marcle

www.muchmarclesteamrally.com

See Emma, the 1920s road roller restored by Herefordshire College of Technology, together with over 150 steam traction engines and vintage tractors, commercial vehicles, motorcycles and cars.

NOZSTOCK: THE HIDDEN VALLEY

July 29-31

Rowden Paddocks, Bromyard

www.nozstock.com

Comedian Russell Howard described Nozstock as, "a rural slice of English eccentricity". It describes itself as a curious amalgamation of performance, art, electronic supersounds and good old-fashioned guitar-strumming and drum-bashing.

THE BIG CHILL

August 4-7

Eastnor Castle Deer Park

www.bigchill.net/festival

The original boutique festival promises to be as unique as ever. The mix of up



The Big Chill at Eastnor Castle



Above left to right Broome Farm Cider Festival; Nozstock The Hidden Valley; Leintwardine Beer Festival. Right Dore Abbey Music Festival. Below Hay International Literature Festival



and coming acts and big name artists creates an eclectic sound while the whole festival is known for its fantastical and escapist atmosphere.

BROMYARD MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 19-21

Falcon Hotel, Bromyard

www.siralandrums.co.uk

Midlands music legend "Sir" Alan Buckley is hosting a three-day homage to jazz and other types of music. The weekend will include Lamarotte a New Orleans-style marching parade from Holland on the Saturday and a service at St Peter's Church on the Sunday.

SIXTH ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL

August 28

The Sun Inn, Leintwardine

www.suninn-leintwardine.co.uk

More than 20 local real ales and food supplied by the local butcher create a uniquely Herefordshire event. Music from Ludlow's Big String Band adds to the lively festival atmosphere.

HEREFORD RIVER WYE FESTIVAL

August 29

www.wyeduckrace.co.uk

Charity dragon boat racing on Saturday and a duck race on the Sunday mean lots of fun for all. Contact Rob Soutar at r.soutar@virgin.net about dragon boat sponsorship.

BROOME FARM CIDER FESTIVAL

September 2-4

Broome Farm, Peterstow

www.rosscider.com

A celebration of all things cider, including Meet the cider makers, plus local produce and good music. Book early, because last year's event sold out.

BROMYARD HOP FESTIVAL

September 3

Bromyard Town Green

Email: ian@imcron.co.uk

Highlights of this new festival include a horse-drawn vehicle parade, a hop pocket race and old time amusements including swing boats, dobbie-horses and a coconut shy. Help celebrate Herefordshire's hop heritage.

BROMYARD FOLK FESTIVAL

September 9-11

Bromyard

www.bromyard-folk-festival.org.uk

More than 170 hours of entertainment. Outstanding local, national and international traditional folk musicians perform in concerts, ceillidhs and displays. Last year's event was a sell-out, so book early.

KINGTON SHOW

September 10

The Ovals Farm, Kington

www.kingtonshow.co.uk

A traditional country show. Livestock and poultry displays, trade stands, food and craft and horticultural marquees, a dog show and free circus workshops. Special guests: the Royal Signal Display team.

H.ART

September 10-18

Venues across Herefordshire

www.h-art.org.uk

Now in its 11th year, h.Art is a wonderfully unique opportunity to admire, learn and buy direct from artists, designers and makers in their studios and workshops, as well as at exhibitions and galleries. Last year 111 venues were involved last year with more than 200 artists. ■