

## Your June e-bulletin from A Forgotten Landscape



*Sunset down by the River. Never gets old.*

Summer's here! The evenings are gloriously long, the dawn choruses astonishing, insects are buzzing and chirruping and generally going about their business.

And so are we! June sees us welcoming the new sculptures created by Deborah Aguirre-Jones to Severn Beach – everyone's invited to the Severn Beach Sculpture Launch TOMMOROW (9th June), from 7pm. Come make your own flag and join the procession, or just enjoy the music and the great unveilings.

Our walking festival will run until mid-June. Then we will start the tour of our wonderful Tales of the Vale exhibition. Pop along to see what our volunteers have found out over the last two years, listen to some delightful oral histories, and take away your free book!

And may we take this opportunity to thank all our generous, capable, diligent and thoughtful volunteers who have made the last three years go by so quickly. We look forward to celebrating your contribution this month too!

So much to see and do in June.

In this edition:

- \* Our amazing volunteer opportunities
- \* Our fabulous free activities
- \* Severn Beach Sculpture Launch!
- \* Severn Fest on the way
- \* Interpretation abounds
- \* Nothing like the old cider
- \* Touring exhibition schedule announced
- \* What next for AFL?

Happy Reading!

## Our volunteer projects

At the heart of what we do – natural and cultural heritage projects you can get involved in.

Our amazing volunteer opportunities come with free and full training as standard. Try something new, follow an interest, help conserve, restore and explore your landscape!

If you see something below that interests you, more information including volunteer role descriptions and application forms are at [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/get-involved). Or contact Katie on 01454 863 043 or at [Katie.scaife@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.scaife@southglos.gov.uk).

### Event volunteers

Want to help run a range of events in your local area? Interested in helping others learn more about your community's natural or cultural heritage? Like the idea of learning how to hold your own events? Then come join our team of event volunteers. Learn useful skills you can use to run your own events!

If you're interested or have any questions please contact Emma at [emma.cross@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:emma.cross@southglos.gov.uk) or 01454 864265



*Lovely day for it! A group of happy walkers enjoying our Long Littleton Loop. Our walking festival continues til 16 June.*

## Events, talks, workshops, & activities

### Our fabulous free events

Booking may be required; if it is, it will say so in the activity details  
For full listings please go to [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events).

#### **Severn Beach Sculpture Launch!**

**Saturday 9 June, 7-10pm, Severn Beach.**

Come help us launch Severn Beach's three new stone sculptures! Flag making, procession, music, food, fire sculpture and more! Free and open to all.

#### **Severnside Walking Festival!**

Our walking festival celebrates the wonderful landscape of the Lower Severn Vale Levels. We have created 15 new walking routes in the area; help us celebrate them with special walks from 13 May – 17 June! Walks are free but you must book your place at [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events) or call 01454 864 265. Below are a few of our walks but do check the website for the full schedule. Contact us for a free pack of all our 15 great walking routes, or download them from our website after 16 June.

#### **Two Bridges Loop**

**Monday 11 June, 10am – 1pm, Aust. 10 kms**

Join the Severnside Ramblers for a walk along a thrilling stretch of the River Severn, walking from the Severn Bridge down towards the Second Severn Crossing before returning through gentle farmland. A great walk for people who love engineering, architecture, and wildlife. This walk is free but booking is essential. [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/two-bridges/](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/two-bridges/)



#### **Windbound Wander**

**Tuesday 12 June, 6:30-8:30pm, Shepperdine, 3.5 kms**

Wander along the River Severn with its scenic views and amble along quiet country lanes and public footpaths that lead you through this beautiful countryside of ancient fields, verdant hedgerows, old orchards – and a tin church! The walk is free but you must book your place at [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/windbound-wander/](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/windbound-wander/)



#### **Spanorium Skyway**

**Wed 13 June, 1-4, Easter Compton. 8.5 kms**

This walk includes far-reaching views from the top of Spanorium Hill west towards the River Severn and east over Bristol. Along the route there is an ancient church, old houses and quiet woods! This walk is free but booking is essential. [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/spanorium-skyway/](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/spanorium-skyway/)



### **Meadow Sweep**

**Sat 16 June, 10 – 12, Littleton on Severn**

Come and visit our local wildflower meadow near Littleton-on-Severn with naturalist Ed Drewitt. This little-known nature reserve is full of lots of beetles, grass bugs and colourful flowers waiting to be explored. With sweep nets and trays at hand, discover the wildlife living amongst the fields of flowers and grasses. Book your place at [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/meadow-sweep/](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/meadow-sweep/)



### **History of surnames**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 3-4pm, Thornbury Library**

Where do our surnames come from? Professor Richard Coates shares findings from UWE Bristol's 'Family Names of the United Kingdom' project, in which researchers traced the linguistic origins of surnames found in the UK. For more information visit. <http://info.uwe.ac.uk/events>

### **Introduction to running a small holding**

**Sat 23rd June, 10am-3pm, Lawrence Weston Community Farm, Saltmarsh Drive, Bristol BS11 0NJ**

This workshop is being run by our friends at Lawrence Weston Community Farm with support from A Forgotten Landscape. Topics covered: poultry keeping, growing fruit and veg, security (hedges, fences, problems with neighbours), general land management including considering whether to use hand tools or mechanization and general larger animal keeping such as sheep, pigs and goats.

You must book a place for this workshop. There is a £30 charge which will go to supporting the community farm. The workshop is for adults only.



### **Fossil Foray**

**Sun 15 July, 3-4:45, Aust**

Come to Aust and be a fossil detective with local expert Ed Drewitt. The fossil-rich rocks contain the ancient remains of sea-going animals that once lived in our region, 200 million years ago. Always a great day! Please book your free place at <https://fossilforajuly.eventbrite.co.uk> – but hurry, places go fast!



### **Exhibition Events**

In conjunction with our Tales of the Vale touring exhibition, we proudly present this series of free talks by our Tales of the Vale history research and oral history volunteers! This list will be updated; check our website for the most up-to-date listings.

#### **Two Ferry Crossings**

**Friday 22 June, 7:30pm Oldbury Memorial Hall, Oldbury-on-Severn, BS35 1PR**

A talk by local historian Eric Garrett on the two ferry crossings Aust and New Passage.

For more information and to book <https://twoferrycrossings.eventbrite.co.uk>

#### **Tales of the Vale - Littleton**

**Sunday 24 June, 10:30-11:30, Littleton Village Hall, Littleton on Severn, BS35 1NR**

Julian Baldwin, oral history volunteer, will share recorded memories from across the Severn Vale.

From fishermen and farmers to nuclear engineers and bridge builders, Julian's presentation will showcase our volunteers' interviews with local people over the last two years. Then Mary Jane Steer

will give her talk “Loose Ends – aspects of farming in the Forgotten Landscape”, sharing her research into farming in the Severn Vale. Covering aspects such as family, land ownership, markets and industrialisation, it offers something of interest to all. To book go to <https://talesofvalelitleton.eventbrite.co.uk>

#### **Tales of the Vale - Avonmouth**

**Friday 29 June, 12:30-1:30, Avonmouth Community Centre, 257 Avonmouth Rd, Bristol BS11 9EN**

John Hastings, oral history volunteer, will describe how oral history connects the present with our forgotten past, and share recorded memories from across the Severn Vale. Then hear from Liz Napier, history research volunteer and resident of Shirehampton, who became interested in local history through many years of genealogy research. She will share her fascinating research on trade and exploration in the Tudor period, exploring in particular the links to the Chester family of Knole Park, Almondsbury. The community centre will be selling bowls of tasty homemade soup before the talk! To book, go to <https://tovavonmouth.eventbrite.co.uk>

#### **Animate It!**

**8 July 10am-12pm, 12:30pm-2:30pm OR 3pm-5pm,**

**Thornbury Library St Mary St, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AA**

Angela Frankham has been teaching children and young adults the magic of stop frame animation since 2001. Join us for a short children’s workshop to create your own animated film inspired by our Tales of the Vale exhibition! These workshops are for children aged 5-12 years. To book, go to <http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events/animate-it/>

#### **Tales of the Vale – Severn Beach**

**Friday 13 July, 7pm, Severn Beach Village Hall, Ableton Ln, Severn Beach, Bristol BS35 4QE**

This talk features first the work of Adam Mead. The Bristol and South Wales Union Railway was built to connect Bristol with South Wales; Adam has researched the construction of the railway and the Severn Tunnel which replaced the ferry crossing in 1886. Then Sarah Hands will share her work on the amazing and little known history of Over Court. Over Court was a prestigious Manor House built in the village of Over near Almondsbury that had its origins in medieval times. To book, go to <https://tovsevernbeach.eventbrite.co.uk>

For more details on these & other events visit [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events)

## **NEWS!**

Here’s a round up of the latest. To see more, please visit <http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/latest-news/>

### **Severn Festival**

Back by popular demand, The Severn Festival will be happening again this year. On Saturday 14 July, 11-4, come to Severn Beach and enjoy loads of stalls, activities, a live music stage and much more.

Last year was a huge hit with over 800 people attending. It was a great start to an annual festival and it was wonderful to have so many people involved. This year the crazy bikes, circus activities and smoothie bike will all be back. We will also have train rides and an animal corner, and from 2-3pm there will be a dog show; bring you pet and enter – all welcome!



**More interpretation posts in!**

We had a bumper month in May, installing our interpretation post in Shepperdine, Oldbury, Cowhill, Aust, Severn Beach and Avonmouth.



We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors. The Bristol Port Company kindly sponsored our posts in Avonmouth – and sent two of their very game apprentices, Charlie and Harvey, along to help with the launch! Visit this site and learn about how the important shipping and the port has been to the history of Avonmouth.

South Glos’s Streetcare team kindly sponsored (and installed) our posts outside St Arilda’s church in Cowhill. Posts at this site will tell you about the legend of this local Anglo-Saxon martyr and the special habitat in the area.



Last but not least, Natural England sponsored our posts at the site on of the old ferry terminal in Aust. The stories at this site range from the Romans to Bob Dylan! There’s no end to the diversity of stories in our project area. We are very grateful to our sponsors for helping us to showcase a few of them at our selected sites.

You can find a map of all our sites on our website.

## New Soundscape

Our volunteer David Howell has created yet another beautiful soundscape combining field recordings and our oral histories. 'Nothing like the old cider' is an evocative piece recalling and celebrating the historical importance of orchards and cider-making in the area. Cider making was a small-scale but central practice of the farming community, and still holds a dear place in the hearts of residents today. Listen to this extraordinary document at [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/projects/nothing-like-old-cider/](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/projects/nothing-like-old-cider/)



## Tales of the Vale travelling exhibition



Our Tales of the Vale touring exhibition is about to hit the road! This exhibition and its accompanying book is a collection of history research and oral histories undertaken by our volunteers over the last two and a half years. Their work spans more than two millennia; please visit, and be sure to pick up your free copy of the publication and CD before you go! Our volunteers will also be presenting talks on their work at selected venues.

The tour dates so far are:

22-23 June	Oldbury Memorial Hall, Oldbury-on-Severn, BS35 1PR
24-25 June	Littleton Village Hall, Littleton on Severn, BS35 1NR
26-29 June	Avonmouth Community Centre, 257 Avonmouth Rd, Bristol BS11 9EN
2-7 July	Shirehampton Library, Station Rd, Bristol BS11 9TU
8-12 July	Thornbury Library, St Mary St, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2AA
13-14 July	Severn Beach Village Hall, Ableton Ln, Severn Beach, Bristol BS35 4QE
16 July-27 Aug	Bristol Archives, 'B' Bond Warehouse, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN
September	Gloucester Archives, Clarence Row, Gloucester GL1 3DW

PLUS at specially selected venues our volunteers will be giving special talks on the results of their research (see the event section or our website).

Tales of the Vale has been an exciting project for A Forgotten Landscape. We offered local volunteers a chance to learn how to explore the area's past in one of two ways; work with Dr Virginia Bainbridge and learn how to undertake top-quality research into the past using archives, old maps, and other sources, or work with Julia Letts and learn how to make professional oral histories, interviewing local people to record their thoughts and memories for posterity.

New dates and talks may be added as we go. For the most up-to-date information, times and talk details go to [www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events](http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/events).

## What next for AFL?

Last month we bid a fond farewell to Project Manager Rebecca Bennett. She will be missed! Rebecca was instrumental in the success of our archaeology projects, supporting our active archaeology volunteers, and so much more. She's off to a new adventure; she and her husband are welcoming two adopted children into their home and their hearts. An inspiration to us all.

We're delighted to announce that A Forgotten Landscape has funding in place for a short follow-on project. We are currently working out how best to invest this money in the project area. This

follow-on project will be substantially different from A Forgotten Landscape with a much reduced staff resource but will focus on supporting AFL's legacy especially regarding environmental improvements. More details to follow as they emerge.



**2018 Summer Walks Programme**

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 10am – Botany Walk with Dr Clive Lovatt**

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 10am – Plants, Invertebrates and Birds with Rupert Higgins**

**Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June at 10am – Foraging, Plants, and Wildlife with Steve England**

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> July at 8am – Bird Walk with Ed Drewitt**

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Aug at 10am – A Family Walk/Bug Hunt with Hayley Herridge of Urban Buzz**

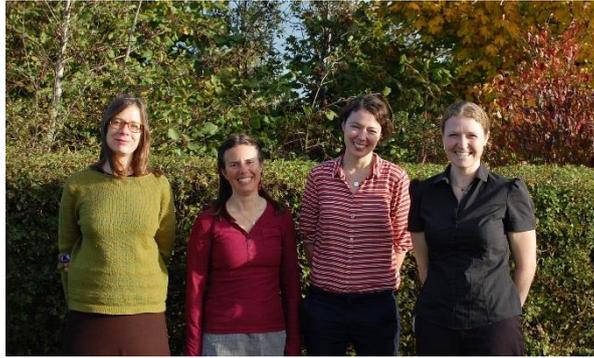
**All walks meet outside Lamplighters Pub**

To book a place, email:  
[friendsoflamplightersmarsh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflamplightersmarsh@gmail.com)

## Connect with the team!

You can contact us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or our website. Please like or follow us for updates from around the project area. If you have something you'd like to share with the team - an old photo perhaps or an anecdote, a great picture of the area or a contact you think we should make, tag your tweet or instagram photo with #aforgottenlandscape. You can email us at [afl@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:afl@southglos.gov.uk) or call us on 01454 863 043.

*Katie, Miriam, Emma, and Rebecca*



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