WELCOME TO THIRLESTAINIE PARK
An exclusive, gated development of luxury homes in a secluded, landscaped setting

The Berkeley Difference
Just what is it that makes a Berkeley home so special and so desirable?

Things to do and places to go!
Your guide to the best that Cheltenham has to offer in shopping, sporting and country pursuits
STYLE

CONTEMPORA
An exclusive gated development of 60 luxury homes in a secluded landscaped setting on the historic grounds of Thirlestaine Hall, located within walking distance of the beautiful Regency town of Cheltenham.

Offering 1, 2 and 3 bedroom luxury apartments and an exclusive collection of just 3 & 4 bedroom houses, all featuring beautifully proportioned interiors and a deluxe specification, Thirlestaine Park is one of the finest new addresses in Cheltenham.
CONTENTS

6 MAGNIFICENT CRAFTSMANSHIP
Combining Victorian architecture with modern interiors for perfect living

14 THE BERKELEY QUALITY
Building beautiful homes for life

18 WELCOME TO CHELTENHAM
Discover England’s most complete Regency town

24 FASHIONABLE FOR CENTURIES
21st Century shopping at its finest

28 TABLE TALK
Tempt your tastebuds with the vast array of eateries on offer

32 THE ART OF COOKING
Interview with a Michelin starred chef

38 FUN, FUNKY SOUND & FESTIVALS
Embrace the Arts in all its forms

44 LEISURE AND THE COTSWOLDS
Explore a landscape that naturally lends itself to enjoyment all year round
GROUNDS TO BE IMPRESSED BY
A magnificent landmark dating back to the early 19th Century and set in exquisite rolling lawns, The Grand Hall at Thirlestaine Park was originally built as a luxury mansion for a prosperous textile businessman and his family. Berkeley has lovingly restored the Hall into seven superbly well-appointed 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, presenting a beautiful balance of traditional character, retaining the beautiful original Victorian features of the era, paired with up-to-the-minute style and specification. The new homes within the development all take design inspiration from the Hall, sympathetically reflecting the Georgian architectural style and detailing. Both the apartments and houses at Thirlestaine Park are perfect for spacious modern day living, including designer fitted kitchens and luxury features such as en-suite and dressing area to the master bedrooms in many of the homes.
BERKELEY HAS BUILT A REPUTATION FOR CREATING HOMES THAT SURPASS EXPECTATIONS IN
In your beautiful Berkeley living space, you are surrounded by quality. We build homes for life, with a commitment to a high specification and an attention to detail rarely found in new homes today. Stylish designed kitchens include premium top rated brands and A rated energy efficient appliances. Bedrooms may incorporate walk-in dressing rooms complete with energy saving sensor activated lighting and some ensuites feature a free-standing bath, floor-mounted mixer tap, and chrome heated towel rail on selected plots. Every bathroom is styled for contemporary living and features designer ceramic tiling, with additional elements such as inset mirrored cabinets and under-lit vanity units.

We also understand you will want to make your home reflect your own individual style. As a result we offer a choice of interior finishes personally selected by our own interior designer. This means that if you reserve your home early enough, there is the opportunity to bring together the colours, finishes, textures and final details that create your own bespoke look.*

*Availability of choice depends on the stage of construction at reservation. Our sales team will be pleased to confirm which options are available and/or advise on the pre-selected finishes. Specification may vary and is subject to change. Photography depicts previous Berkeley Showhomes and is indicative only.

QUALITY

TERMS OF DESIGN, QUALITY OF CONSTRUCTION, AND OUR VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
FROM THE STYLISH ADDITIONS YOU SEE TO THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES YOU DON’T, IT ADDS UP TO A HOME THAT DELIVERS IT ALL.
In every room, careful thought together with quality build and finish, produce living space that not only looks good, it feels wonderful too. That feeling comes not just from the quality of the windows and doors, flooring materials and lighting, but from those elements you cannot see. Each home comes with a generous number of TV/FM and satellite points as well as a video door entry system to every apartment and the facility to install a wireless alarm system for that extra peace of mind.
WELCOME TO CHELTENHAM...

...ENGLAND’S MOST COMPLETE REGENCY TOWN

BERKELEY
Laying at the foot of Cleeve Hill, the highest point in the Cotswolds and above the vale of the River Severn, Cheltenham is known as ‘The Western Gateway to the Cotswolds’. From humble beginnings as a modest market town, it was established as a Spa in 1716, when pigeons were found to be pecking at what turned out to be salt crystals at a natural spring. Cheltenham has since become one of the most fashionable spa resorts in the country, with handsome Regency architecture, broad avenues and fine parks. The pigeons are still remembered for their importance to this day by appearing on the Cheltenham coat of arms.

THIRLESTAIN PARK
More than just an historic spa town with a Royal pedigree, Cheltenham cherishes its past yet looks confidentially towards its future.
SPECIAL PLACE
Think of Cheltenham and you think of that select group of towns known for that accident of geology that gave them fame as spa towns, attracting genteel visitors many years ago to 'take the waters'. As English spa towns go, Cheltenham remains of the most elegant and appealing. Unsurprisingly the town has been described as ‘the most complete Regency town’ in the UK.

It was the discovery of mineral springs in the early 18th Century that really put the place on the map, as Cheltenham fast gained a reputation as a health and holiday resort. There was nothing like the prospect of waters that promised to revive, restore and relax to attract the well connected and wealthy – names that over the years included Handel, Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. In the 19th Century the Duke of Wellington apparently found relief for his liver, recommending the waters to his officers and their families.

Of course, as many a high street fashion chain today knows well, there is also nothing like royal patronage to add a sense of excitement to what you are offering, and the visit by King George III and Queen Charlotte in 1788 had given it real status, continuing the town’s rise in becoming a place to see and be seen by members of society. Local entrepreneurs continued to develop the town and provide the sort of environment the wealthy would require, places to stroll and shop, places for amusement from ballrooms to billiard rooms. In turn, the riches brought to the town provided plenty of funds and a willingness to invest in some of the most splendid Regency architecture. Talented architects of the day could be afforded and were commissioned to design beautiful buildings of golden stone, pleasing squares and promenades, wide tree-lined streets, terraces and crescents lined with townhouses with intricate ironwork balconies and decorative painted facades. It is still remarkably impressive to this day.

Today, history and present merge seamlessly. The town is home to several large scale organisations and companies, while the spa waters still flow at Pittville Pump Room. The Cheltenham Science Festival brings together some of the world’s most future thinking scientists advancing knowledge in the 21st Century.

Symbolically too, Cheltenham merges traditional and contemporary architecture, in a town that cherishes its past yet also looks confidently forward. Check out the exciting redevelopment of the Art Gallery & Museum, www.cheltenhammuseum.org.uk.
The Regency Era, the years between 1811, when King George III was deemed unfit to rule and his son ruled as Prince Regent, and 1820, when the Regent became George IV, (though some argue the era is 1790-1820 or 1895-1837), was an exciting time. It saw new trends in everything from architecture and literature to fashion and culture, and was renowned for its elegant style and busy social scene. Ladies might possess morning gowns, visiting gowns and walking gowns, whilst male clothing accentuated the width of the shoulders and narrowness of the waist.
CHELTENHAM FASHIONABLE FOR CENTURIES
Amble at leisure with friends or family, in Cheltenham it’s always undeniably with style.

Cheltenham’s centre is also a rich fabric of shopping districts with their own distinct character. At Thirlestaine Park, the local shops on Old Bath Road link the development to the town centre, which is within walking distance. One of the largest areas of local shopping in Cheltenham, it features independent shops, boutiques and specialist shops, sandwich bars, coffee shops and watering holes.

Indeed the origins of the Promenade in Cheltenham go right back to the late 18th and early 19th Century, when it was designed as a tree lined carriage-drive from the High Street. In 1826, Thomas Clark and William Debenham opened a Cheltenham branch of their London draper’s business near the capital’s Cavendish Square, with the new branch given the name Cavendish House. Today it is still a flagship department store in the town, while the Promenade has been called ‘the Bond Street of the West’. The timeline of the town’s past can be seen not just in its buildings, but in businesses still trading whose histories date back centuries. Cheltenham, however, is not stuck in the past, as the decidedly modern art sculpture, Minotaur and Hare, in the Promenade and new chic centres like The Brewery show.

Markets are a key feature of the town’s shopping. As far back as the 13th Century Cheltenham was known for its fairs and markets. Today, there is a general market every Thursday, with regular Farmers’ Markets, and Continental markets flagging up produce from France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain, and at Christmas time continental style wooden chalets sell bratwurst, mulled wine and traditional wooden Nutcrackers and toys.

English style, continental chic
Cheltenham merges quintessential English spa town elegance with continental ambiance. The flower gardens of the Long Garden include the Neptune Fountain, reputedly modeled on Rome’s Trevi Fountain. Montpellier quarter itself owes its name to continental connections and is home to high quality and specialist shops giving it a definite continental feel, with a dash of bohemia. The shop keepers sell fine china and cut glass; high class outfitters and purveyors of all things luxury to cater for clientele and visitors. When its villas and terraces were laid out, they established the setting that is still much in evidence today in Montpellier Walk, with its classical figures, and the Suffolks with its interior shops and studios selling jewellery crafted by goldsmiths and artisans.

The café culture, chic bars, brasseries and bistros add to the continental flavour, with newer hub The Courtyard featuring a sunken piazza.
In the kitchen in her shop Twinkle, Twinkle Chocolate Bar boutique, chocolatier Jo Hazlett dreams up and then turns into reality her ideas, creating new recipes and shaping chocolate into chocolate treats and experiences.

"I'm always looking for new ideas and they can come from anywhere," says Jo, who draws inspiration from the flavours and tastes of worldwide cuisines too, France and Italy, and far-flung locations like Thailand and Hawaii.

"It's when I make truffles that I get to use lots of different flavours. Flavours from South Asia such as ginger and mixed spice, and citrus flavours from Italy are very popular. I use flavours such as Sicilian lemon and orange extract, whilst the mixed spice includes ingredients like cinnamon, coriander seed, caraway, nutmeg, ginger and cloves."

The mixed spice truffles, says Jo, "taste like Christmas in a truffle. All the truffles are coated in our Belgian chocolate, so you get a lovely crunch, then you taste the smooth truffle centre."

Jo's work also allows her to get really creative when it comes to molding chocolate into shapes, from gorgeous dark chocolate cherubs to white chocolate butterflies and milk chocolate flowers. There are even beautifully fashioned chocolate roses on a stem.

Does Jo have her favourites? "I must admit I do love the chocolate shoes - what girl wouldn't - whether it's the big stiletto, the bow shoe and purse or the lovely small shoe."

"What makes me most proud is having the ability to make something really beautiful out of chocolate. My favourite thing is when a customer comes in and asks for a bespoke piece, I love the challenge of trying to create whatever they have asked for."

The combination of high quality chocolate, whether white, milk, or dark, together with artisanal techniques and a real passion are a winning combination. "Chocolate is an amazing treat. The possibilities with chocolate are endless. You only have to put a small piece in your mouth and you can't help but smile."
Chocolate gravy anyone?

Some chocolate experts say we are missing a trick by not using chocolate in savoury dishes too. How about chocolate risotto, venison served with a chocolate gravy, or a barbecue sauce made with dark chocolate? Willie Harcourt-Cooze of Channel 4’s Willie’s Wonky Chocolate Factory series says that chocolate is far more versatile than we imagine, and while we don’t think of chocolate as a savoury thing, a bit of cacao added to a dish can give a full bodied flavour.

Check out www.allchocolate.com and www.williescacao.com for recipes and ideas.
From traditional English high teas and the roast beef of Old England to tastes from across the globe, Cheltenham is a feast for the taste-buds. Every year the Cheltenham Food and Drink Festival sets up its stalls and holds tastings, talks and open-air kitchens to showcase the many talented chefs, working in restaurants, hotels and inns across the area. Enjoy a wealth of restaurants and bistros, café-deli and tea rooms on offer in and around the town in its characterful quarters. Here are ten eateries to give you a flavour of the sheer diversity on offer. We hope these mouth watering ideas will tempt you to try these and the many more just waiting to be discovered...

Let's talk dining - from pubs, quaint tea rooms and even a Michelin Starred restaurant
**Red Pepper - Modern European**

A coffee lounge and bistro, you can drop in for a quick snack, lunch, evening meal or pre-theatre dinner. The venue endeavours to source local produce where possible in the restaurant, like roast chump of Cotswold lamb served with a red wine jus and redcurrants. On sale in the delicatessen are hand-made Evesham sausages, ice-cream made from Cotswold dairies, and smoked meats from local smokers.

Red Pepper, 13 Regent St, Cheltenham GL50 1HE  
t: 01242 253 900.

**The Daffodil - Modern English**

The building used to be an art deco cinema, and it still possesses its dramatic sweeping staircase as well as features like original mosaic tiles, and even the original projectors. The bustling kitchen is where the old screen used to be, serving up dishes like honey glazed slow-cooked pork belly with savoy cabbage and mustard sauce or seared Madgett’s Farm duck breast with rösti potato, smoked bacon, broad beans and a shallot purée. A chic cocktail bar now occupies the original circle balcony, an ideal spot to enjoy the live jazz evenings and lunch-time sessions.

The Daffodil, 18-20 Suffolk Parade, Cheltenham GL50 2AE  
t: 01242 700 055.

**Zizzi - Italian**

Zizzi is a national chain that combines chic with informal, and always choosing unique locations for its restaurants and no less in Cheltenham, where a restored church complete with the original stained glass windows creates a heavenly setting and the special space only a former church can offer. You will find Italian favourites like pizza and tender chicken dishes, or opt for Salsicci - part pizza and part calzone, with hot n’Duja sausage and mascarpone on the pizza and cotto ham, pesto and rocket in the pocket. There is dining on the ground floor and an upstairs bar.

Zizzi, St James Church, 3 Suffolk Square, Cheltenham GL50 2DR  
t: 01242 252 493.

**Svea - Swedish**

Find some Scandinavian cool in this small, charming restaurant that is a café by day, serving coffee and kanelbullar (cinnamon buns) and attracting the lunch crowd who grab a traditional open sandwich or heartier dish like Fröllunda (meatballs in a creamy sauce with mash and lingonberry jam). Dine out in the evening on specialties like Luisa, a whole trout filled with mushrooms and white wine sauce, or go the traditional smörgåsbord route with gravadlax, herring, falukorv sausage, half eggs with caviar, beetroot salad, skagen and much more.

Svea, 24 Rodney Road, Cheltenham GL50 1JJ  
t: 01242 238 134.

**Well Walk Tea Room - Traditional English**

Located next to an historic church, if you love your traditional English Tea, which has experienced a huge revival in recent years you can indulge in a setting full of antiques and textiles. From jam and cream scones to sumptuous Victoria sponge, all washed down with pots of hot, strong tea, you can experience home-made baking traditional style. Something different is their courgette cake, a twist on carrot cake, filled with home made raspberry jam. There are also savoury bites that would make Billy Bunter’s mouth water, like Gentleman’s Relish on toast.

Well Walk Tea room, 5-6 Well Walk, Cheltenham GL50 3JX  
t: 01242 574 546.
288 Bar & Wok - Chinese
When you think of locally grown vegetables you probably don’t think of pak choi, that essential ingredient in many Chinese dishes. But growing them and picking them fresh for their menu is what the family owning 288 have done for some 30 years on their farm in the Vale of Evesham. They also use other local ingredients wherever possible, and whatever dishes you choose you can wash it down with a selection of locally brewed ales.
288 Bar & Wok, 288 High Street, Cheltenham GL50 3HQ
Tel: 01242 582 346.

Curry Corner - Bangladeshi and Indian
There are curry houses and then there is Curry Corner. Michael Palin, who has eaten his fair share of global cuisine, described its curry as ‘the best from pole to pole’, whilst singer Jamie Cullum says it is ‘the best reason to come to Cheltenham’. It specializes in real Bangladeshi home-cooking inspired by Hindoostan, and uses spices that the owners roast, toast and grind fresh at the restaurant every morning. You can find plenty of favourites on the extensive menu and the restaurant also offers less well known regional dishes.
Curry Corner, 133 Fair View Road, Cheltenham GL52 2EX
Tel: 01242 528 449.

Storyteller - West Coast US
Storyteller prides itself on being one of Cheltenham’s most exciting and unusual restaurants, serving lunch and dinner, with adventurous menus and events. The concept takes the casual style of California cooking as its motif, a cuisine that unites several other cuisines so it really is fusion food par excellence, with Southwest America, Mediterranean and Pacific Rim influences. High quality local produce, and as many organic foods as possible make it the place to go if you are California dreaming.
Storyteller, 11 North Place, Cheltenham GL50 4DW
Tel: 01242 250 343.

Vanilla - International
Vanilla restaurant and bar in the heart of Cheltenham combines a stylish interior and contemporary style with an à la carte menu of an international flavour. Expect to find everything from breast of chicken Yakitori with sesame potato cake and Teriyaki sauce, to steak and Guinness pie with creamed mash, while there is always a selection of daily specials. The emphasis is on fresh produce, stocks and sauces with speciality breads baked fresh in the kitchens. You can also sip cocktails at the bar or take coffee in the courtyard.
Vanilla, 9-10 Cambray Place, Cheltenham GL50 1JS
Tel: 01242 228 228.

Moran’s Eating House - Modern Fusion
Moran’s Eating House is a family owned restaurant and wine bar on the Bath Road that opened over twenty years ago. The menu has diverse influences from Greek to British and Italian, like the marinated chicken breast, prosciutto and taleggio with tomato confit, buttered linguine with fresh herb oil, and don’t miss the truly decadent desserts from white and dark chocolate brownie with golden syrup, sultana sauce and clotted cream, to amaretti and Baileys cheesecake with espresso syrup. The wine bar serves morning coffee and homemade cakes, tea and coffee and tapas lunches.
Moran’s Eating House, 123-129 Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LS
Tel: 01242 581 411.
THE ART OF COOKING

David Everitt-Matthias, Cheltenham’s two starred Michelin restauranter, lets us into his kitchen for a taste.
David and his wife Helen have been running their restaurant since 1987 and those years have seen a wealth of accolades, including Catey Chef of the Year, Egon Ronay Dessert Chef of the Year and many, many more. The icing on the cake, however, has been the highly coveted award of two stars in the Michelin Red Guide. We found out a little more about what inspires and fires the imagination of this highly respected chef.

The residents of the town must be delighted you came to be here, but what first brought you to Cheltenham?
“Well Helen and I started looking around England for a restaurant. Our thought was to get somewhere by the seaside, walking our dogs in the afternoon on the beach, foraging for sea-plants, and generally living a less hectic life. But as we looked at properties in Dorset and other places, we quickly realised the food we were doing wouldn’t have been supported in those days. Their idea of French food was snails and frog legs! So we sent off for other properties, and the Cheltenham one had just come on the market. We came down to take a look and fell in love with the town.”

Did you always want to cook?
“I was 7 years old when I first said I wanted to be a chef. I had a fantastic aunt, Aunt Pat, who was a great hedgerow cook. She used to take me wild food picking and then cook some wonderful food. I always used to help her when I went to visit. The only two other potential career options were money-broking and playing cricket professionally, but cooking was the one that was in my heart.”

Who else were the biggest influences on your style?
“In addition to Aunt Pat, professionally there was Pierre Koffmann from La Tante Claire. I was sent there for a time from the Four Seasons Hotel where the chef was Jean Michel Bonin. In terms of cookery writers it would be Jane Grigson. She was very much a ‘jolly cook’, and always seemed really passionate in her writing and on television.”

Your restaurant reviews always talk of the relaxed ambiance of your restaurant – is that something that is important to the dining experience you offer?
“Gone are the days when the food was the only factor. Now the welcome, good service, the interior and atmosphere all play just as an important role in the whole evening. It is a total package people want. We try to achieve all of these things.”

How important is sourcing local ingredients and the terroir [the unique taste and characteristics a region’s soil, climate etc. gives to what grows there] to you?
“Our menu changes seasonally so great care is taken in sourcing local ingredients which is very important to us. I try to source as much as I can from the locality, baby parsnips from Stroud, asparagus from Evesham, local beetroot, game, trout, crayfish - plus of course the foraged ingredients, mushrooms, plants, acorns, crab apples, greengages etc. The terroir is in the boldness and concentration of flavours I achieve and the local foraged ingredients and earthy combinations I put together.”

When did the Michelin stars come along – and can you remember how you felt?
“It was 1995 for the first star, I was obviously very proud and it gave me encouragement to aim for the second star, which came along in 2000. This was a major achievement and I was close to tears and very excited at the same time. I don’t think I stopped smiling for a week!”

Your cooking has been described as a cross between ‘the terroir and modern French with original touches’ 25 years on, are you still experimenting?
“Yes, I have a naturally inquisitive mind and I am always getting inspired from things around me. Even walking down a high street I may go into an Asian supermarket and look at the different ingredients they have there, and if there’s one I don’t know, it’s in the bag to experiment with later. Eating out in restaurants and at friends’ houses, reading, shopping and walking in the countryside, my palette for cooking is ever increasing.”

You can cook David’s recipes with his books Dessert, Essence, and the newest, Beyond Essence, which can be ordered via the websites www.lechampignonsauvage.co.uk and www.absolutepress.co.uk.
RAISE YOUR GLASS

A Rolling Stone once drank there, now visitors gather for good beer and food, The Wheatsheaf Inn is a delightful English pub just a short stroll away from Thirlestaine Park – discover your new local.
It is a true British institution, but what makes a good local pub? Well for most people it is that elusive mix of a warm welcome, a cheerful atmosphere, and of course good ales and freshly-made and imaginative food.

We spoke to Gabriela Garcia Veintimilla of The Wheatsheaf Inn in Leckhampton about balancing all those factors in their quest to make The Wheatsheaf ‘what the quintessential English Inn should be’.

Gabriela has been in the UK for over six years, and has been working in a pub for five of those. “Both front of house and in the kitchen, I really enjoy both”. Back in Ecuador, where Gabriela comes from, she studied Gastronomy and Hotel and Tourism Management at University, so she brings first-class training in modern hospitality to this long established pub dating from Victorian times.

“The Wheatsheaf was built around 1880, and is still a beautiful village pub. Because it has been in the area for many years, we have a lot of locals coming in who have loved it for many years, and of course, there are always new people discovering it,” says Gabriela.

The Wheatsheaf stocks real ales, including locally brewed ones as well as guest ales. They also see the food on offer as a key part of what The Wheatsheaf, and all good inns, should be about: using locally produced ingredients, from Gloucester Old Spot bacon and sausages to local fillet, sirloin, and venison.

“It’s very important for us to use local products in our meals,” says Gabriela. “So for example we buy our meat from Burley Farm just a mile away. It is not a fast-food pub, and all our meals are freshly prepared and home-made.”

During the racing season The Wheatsheaf serves their special Racing Breakfasts, a freshly cooked full English (or something lighter) washed down with champagne.

“There is a different buzz during race weeks. It’s a really busy time for everybody of course, but it’s a fantastic atmosphere, and we love making sure we keep everybody well-fed and entertained, sending them off with a good breakfast, reviving them with a good meal when they get back after what was hopefully a successful day!”

The Wheatsheaf Inn is also close to the beautiful and picturesque surroundings of the Leckhampton Hills, and has become very popular with those who have worked up a thirst and an appetite after a day in the open air.

“Given our location we do get a lot of walkers here, as well as mountain bikers, whether it’s to come in and get warm in the winter or to sit outdoors in the garden in the summer, well when the sun shines,” says Gabriela, who has been in the country long enough to realise that the British summer can usually be relied on to be unpredictable!

Whatever the weather though, Gabriela says she and her team have a passion for making sure customers feel welcome and have a good time. “I’ve come from far way, but I absolutely love working in a typical English pub. There’s nothing quite like it.”
The Pudding Club aims to champion the pudding in its many forms - do you have a favourite yourself? 

“My favourite pudding for warmer months is summer pudding (when I make it at home I use cassis to give it a lift!). In the winter I like Lord Randall’s pudding, a steamed sponge pudding, because it’s not too sweet and contains apricots and marmalade, two of my favourite things!”

So do you think we have seen a resurgence of interest in the traditional British pudding?

“I would say that we have been instrumental in keeping the tradition alive. Over the last 27 years The Pudding Club has served hundreds of thousands of pudding lovers, and that must have had a big influence. Also the global media coverage of The Pudding Club has been influential.”

What is the most popular pudding at the Club?

“The most consistent winner at Pudding Club meetings is sticky toffee and date pudding.”

Do you think today’s puddings offer a much needed feel-good factor that is very reassuring?

“I think you’re absolutely right. Proper puddings are perceived as being a bit naughty but very nice. We have noticed during the recession that people are still flocking to Pudding Club meetings in their droves! There is something very comforting about a proper pudding with custard.”
Cheltenham Pudding - Serves 4-6

2 tablespoons golden syrup
4 ounces (120 grams) butter
4 ounces (120 grams) soft brown sugar
2 beaten eggs
6 ounces (180 grams) self-raising flour
2 tablespoons milk
2 pears or 2 small cooking apples
2 ounces (120 grams) mixed dried fruit
2 ounces (120 grams) demerara sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Butter a 2 pint pudding basin and pour in the syrup.

In another bowl, beat the butter with the soft brown sugar and add eggs gradually, followed by the flour and milk.

Peel and chop the fresh fruit and in a third bowl mix with the demerara sugar and cinnamon.

Layer these two mixtures over the syrup, beginning and ending with the pudding mix.

Cover and steam for two hours.

Turn out and enjoy with lashings of custard!

Cheltenham has its very own Pudding, a steamed sponge pudding traditionally made with suet, currants and spices, typically ginger, with a mid-layer of fruit, it has been known since at least the 19th Century. Below is the Pudding Club’s own modern version.

Have any newer puddings themselves become established as classics?

“I would say that sticky toffee pudding is now the new established classic. It was introduced in the 1960’s by Francis Coulson at Sharrow Bay in the Lake District.”

Does the Pudding Club introduce new puddings or reinterpret puddings for modern tastes?

“Both. We are sent pudding recipes from time to time by pudding lovers, some we test and include within our repertoire, others we test and choose not to include! The recipe for Lord Randall’s pudding was sent from a lady in Cheltenham many years ago and became my favourite. We also modify traditional recipes, lemon curd roly poly or chocolate bread and butter pudding spring to mind.”

You can find more Pudding Club recipes, over 140 of them! From old favourites and school dinner traditions like Manchester Tart and jam roly poly, to forgotten names like Poor Knights of Windsor and gorgeous sounding creations like chocolate and chestnut pudding and hot mocha pudding. You’ll find puddings for all seasons too, from peach melba in summer to autumn pears poached in mulled wine and figgy pudding for cold winter nights. ‘The Great British Pudding’ published by Ebury Press, price £18.99, can be ordered through the hotel.

Be inspired, moved, amused, entertained – this is a town that truly loves the arts in all its forms.
fun, funky sounds, and festivals

Cheltenham has long been a hub of the arts and culture, and that vibrant buzz is as strong as ever. All year round venues offer a packed calendar of everything from concerts and comedy to drama and dance, and Cheltenham’s festival repertoire provides fabulous concentrated bursts of all things cultural. Whether you like serious drama, side-splitting comedy, enjoy your dancing strictly ballroom or madly Latin, Cheltenham has it all in its theatres, Town Hall and venues like PAC (Parabola Arts Centre), built for Cheltenham Ladies’ College and used by the wider community, and in the elegant Regency Pittville Pump Room where salsa sessions would have made a Regency lady turn pale.

Tragedy and comedy

Cheltenham’s theatres, The Everyman, Playhouse and Bacon, are home to shows, plays, concerts and pantomime, with big names from the world of entertainment, tribute bands, stirring Italian opera and more while at the Bacon’s Tuckwell Amphitheatre you can enjoy everything from Shakespeare tragedies to jazz on summer evenings and cinema under the stars.

The Tuckwell hosts the Open-Air Theatre Festival giving music lovers, drama fans, film buffs and families the chance to bring picnic hampers and rugs and enjoy music, theatre productions and local drama on, ideally balmy, summer evenings. The Open-Air Festival is one of many events that Cheltenham is becoming known as ‘the capital of festivals’ for.

The Literature Festival is an established date on the calendar for many in the town and far beyond. There is also a Cheltenham Poetry Festival, while the Cheltenham Comedy Festival attracts some of the biggest names in the business and emerging new talent.

Music and all that jazz

With British music composer Gustav Holst, composer of many choral pieces, song cycles, operas and the orchestral suite The Planets, as well as a Rolling Stone born in Cheltenham, unsurprisingly music in all its forms features highly on the calendar.

The Town Hall is home to concerts, and the Cheltenham Concert Series, where you are spoilt for choice of superlative orchestras and the finest soloists and conductors in the country and it also rocks with sounds of the Big Bopper and Buddy Holly and iconic bands like 10CC. April sees the town’s International Jazz Festival, and July the Cheltenham International Festival of Music, featuring some of the world’s finest musicians and a range of music that spans 800 years, all performed in beautiful venues across the town.

But if classical music isn’t your thing, there is the Fringe, a fun festival that runs alongside the Festival of Music. You can salsa and merengue your way along the town’s Promenade, enjoy Fringe gigs with tribute bands like Bootleg Beatles, folk stars and funky Latin rhythms, soul, steel and Swing bands, jump-jive and jazz. There is a Young Fun Day with entertainment for little ones including circus skills and face-painting, with a Fringe Picnic in the Park and spectacular fireworks finale.

Cheltenham also holds the Wychwood Festival of folk and world music, known for its family friendly atmosphere and nominated Best Family Festival in the UK since it started in 2005. The Cheltenham Festival of the Performing Arts is Cheltenham’s oldest festival and offers some three hundred performance competitions, while Cheltenham Film Festival screens everything from silent classics, to world and contemporary cinema and features celebrated film industry actors, screen-writers and directors talking about their work.

Cheltenham has long attracted its share of artists. Buildings in the centre of town today were once occupied by fashionable English portrait and miniature portrait painters, and today Cheltenham has a thriving community of artists working in a vast range of styles, as well as a packed calendar of events and exhibitions that show their work. We talked to one of the town’s artists, Katharine Dove, about her work whose subjects encompass everything from street scenes of the town to still life, and what inspires her.

You often capture little streetscapes and corners of the town, were you born in Cheltenham?

“I moved to Cheltenham from London in my late 20s and whilst I missed London initially, all the buzz and people-watching, I soon felt that Cheltenham was a great alternative to London as it’s not just a lovely town but has great countryside on the doorstep.”

What is it about the place that inspires you?

“I feel very inspired by the part of Cheltenham I live in, Montpellier I think because it feels very much like a village, and there is lots of colour. It almost feels café society when the sun shines! On my walks through Cheltenham I frequently discover new angles on familiar scenes, and walking my dog through the countryside inspires me to capture Cotswold scenes, cottages, seasonal woods and meadows.”

When did you start to know painting was what you wanted to do? You often paint buildings too so were there other careers calling you, architecture perhaps?

“I have been an artist for eight years and became a full time professional artist quite recently. I did do A level art and at the time I fancied doing an art degree but my father persuaded me to go down a more academic route. I don’t regret this as art is a great thing to take up in middle age and many of our greatest artists are ‘getting on’ a bit!”

From still life to bustling street scenes, each of Cheltenham’s talented artists interprets what surrounds them in their own unique way.
I read that your pictures are generally painted on large canvases, why do you like to paint on that scale?

“I do sometimes paint small, but I end up feeling somewhat constrained. I like a big blank canvas so that I can cover it with large brush strokes. A lot of the techniques I have developed work best on a large scale.”

Tell me a little about why ‘texture’ is so important to you, and you sometimes work in mixed media - what might that include?

“Painting freely I use colour and texture to capture the essence of my subjects. I like pictures to have lots of depth and so I use a lot of paint and often texture gel so that the painting comes off the canvas. Other mixed media includes various oil based inks and most recently I have started to collage. I’m working on a body of Cornwall works and my sailing yachts have sailing charts incorporated into their sails.”

How does a scene, from a landscape, street scene to a flower, become a subject you feel you really have to paint?

“Well I have hundreds of unpainted pictures in my mind just waiting for the time to be painted, and like most artists I’m never 100% satisfied with what I paint, and that’s what keeps me going, trying new things. I feel I’m just about there when what I paint has the feel or essence of my subject with flowers, meadows, buildings or more recently seascapes. I also love to paint animals, particularly dogs and horses.”

Cheltenham is not Shoreditch or an edgy New York neighbourhood yet there seems to be a dynamic artist scene. Is it a good place to be as an artist and why?

“I do think it is a good place to be an artist. I mix with a wide network of artists, some professional, some local. It’s always great to work with other artists during exhibitions and I’m always amazed by how differently we each approach the same subjects. I think that I’m particularly lucky as I live in a really lively part of town. I’m able to watch my subjects change from day to day as shop displays are changed and different people are seen outside of the bars and restaurants. Painting simply gives me freedom, and allows me to express myself.”

Cheltenham is home to various artist groups, check these out to discover more about the work of local artists, workshops, exhibitions and events.

Cheltenham Open Studios is a network run by artists, aiming to raise the profile of visual arts in the area, make people aware of the diversity of talent on their doorstep, and to inspire and encourage local artistic talent. Events range from a children’s freestyle graffiti workshop at the Jazz Festival to the Open Studios Event held every two years when around 200 artists open their homes and studios to the public.

www.cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

Cheltenham-art.com showcases the work of a cooperative of affiliated artists working and/or exhibiting in Gloucestershire, with news of upcoming exhibitions and events and information on the work of individual artists.

www.cheltenham-art.com

The Cheltenham Group aims to bring together local professional artists and holds joint exhibitions of their work, and to promote an interest in and understanding of contemporary visual arts through a regular programme of exhibitions and educational activities.

www.cheltenhamgroupartists.org

Art in the Park is an exciting four week event in the Summer, with different artists exhibiting their work each week. Every event is organised and run by the artists themselves. It’s the place to discover the next new artistic talent, or simply snap up your own original work of art that you simply fall in love with!

Katharine Dove
Studio at Rosehill Parabola Road, Cheltenham
 t: 07809 405 510
e: kate@katharinedove.co.uk
www.katharinedove.co.uk
ENJOY A DAY AT THE RACES

It is the sport of kings and the favourite pastime and passion of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The fast-paced action, fashion parade and elaborate fascinators, as well as the sheer fun of racing means a day at the races is now, more than ever, on the calendar for many of us.

According to the history records there were organised flat race meetings in Cheltenham as far back as the early 19th Century, a century which also saw the appeal and popularity rise rapidly, at least for the rich and leisured.

The present racecourse has long been established at its current venue, Prestbury Park, a stunning setting, and a natural amphitheatre below the Cotswold escarpment.

Each year the calendar follows a familiar form. The Showcase in October starts the new season, followed by the Open in November, a major highlight of the British Racing Calendar. Its Countryside Day offers a unique country fair atmosphere with plenty of displays and demonstrations encompassing all things equine as well as many other country pursuits, while Open Sunday is highly popular with families, and the Open Hurdle showcases up and coming stars of the hurdling world.

December sees The International with one of the most valuable hurdle races of the entire season, and New Year’s Day is now firmly established as a family favourite. This day is also a highlight for Pony Club members and their families, who get the chance to take a look behind the scenes in special racecourse tours.

However it is the Festival in March that is seen as the jewel in Jump racing’s crown, bringing four days of what the racecourse describes as ‘magic, madness...
and magnificence’. Set on a stunning stage framed by the breath-taking vista of the Cotswold Hills, and gathering together some of the most renowned names in terms of jockeys, horses and their trainers, this is one of racing’s true history making events. From Champion Day and Ladies Day to St Patrick’s Thursday, and finally the climax, Cheltenham Gold Cup Day, the race that is arguably the most prestigious of all National Hunt events.

The Festival also sees Cheltenham’s Cross Country Course in use as the horses and riders race and weave around the centre of the course and over obstacles of banks, hedges and ditches. It is certainly thirsty work for the participating horses and riders, and for spectators. Festival drinkers get through some 18,000 bottles of Champagne and 214,000 pints of Guinness!

There is more racing in April in the springtime air and sunshine, while May sees the Hunter Chase Evening which marks the end of the season. Amateur jockeys get the chance to take centre stage at racing’s own theatre of dreams, with Hunter Chases, in what is a highly popular fixture.

While the horse racing action might then be over for a few months, Cheltenham Racecourse is home all year round to hundreds of events, from live concerts to comedy nights, attracting top names from the world of entertainment from John Bishop and Jools Holland to Russell Watson. There are Sunday markets and specialist fairs of all sorts and even firework displays, while the racecourse is also home to several groups from Archery and Angling.

Find out more or to book tickets go to www.cheltenham.co.uk
LEISURE AND THE
COTSWOLDS
At Thirlestaine Park you are perfectly placed to enjoy superb town living and the surrounding countryside with its limitless opportunities to enjoy some of the more renowned scenery in the country. The Cotswolds comes from the old Anglo-Saxon name for the range of hills, combining the words for sheep (cote) and uncultivated open land (wolds). They became an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty several decades ago so it is protected for future generations. Discover the huge number of ways to enjoy a very special landscape on your doorstep or make a day of it by venturing further afield.

Game on
Each year Cheltenham Cricket Festival features Gloucestershire County Cricket Club on the green pitches of Cheltenham College for a fortnight of top cricket action. Gloucestershire County Cricket Club has been playing in Cheltenham for over 135 years, and the cricket festival is now one of the most successful in the world, attracting thousands of spectators who watch world class cricket on the pitch, while youngsters can try out their cricket skills, get coaching, and take part in competitions.

Close to home, the Leckhampton Cricket Club plays at the Burrows Playing Field. Cheltenham Cricket Club offers competitive and social cricket for all ages and competes at the highest level in the West with an impressive record for both men and junior cricket.

The Cotswolds landscape makes for some great golfing. Lilley Brook Golf Club is Cheltenham’s premier golf course set in the magnificent Cotswold hills. The rolling parkland course enjoys a shared heritage with the renowned Augusta National, home of the US Masters, both designed by Alister Mackenzie, and offers stunning views over the Vale of Cheltenham to the Malverns and the Black Hills.

Cotswold Hills Golf Club course is regarded as one of Gloucestershire’s premier courses, set in an outstanding Cotswold landscape. A superb, gently undulating Cotswold country course, the tree-lined course has open fairways and its greens are renowned to be among the best in the country. The venue has hosted the prestigious ‘Cotswold Gold Vase’ and county championships, with the club motto ‘Golf and Good Fellowship’. Or head to Cleeve Hill Golf Club, a municipal 18-hole course with spectacular views and professional golf tuition.

EXPLORE A LANDSCAPE THAT NATURALLY LENDS ITSELF TO ENJOYMENT ALL YEAR ROUND

At Thirlestaine Park you are perfectly placed to enjoy superb town living and the surrounding countryside with its limitless opportunities to enjoy some of the more renowned scenery in the country. The Cotswolds comes from the old Anglo-Saxon name for the range of hills, combining the words for sheep (cote) and uncultivated open land (wolds). They became an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty several decades ago so it is protected for future generations. Discover the huge number of ways to enjoy a very special landscape on your doorstep or make a day of it by venturing further afield.

Game on
Each year Cheltenham Cricket Festival features Gloucestershire County Cricket Club on the green pitches of Cheltenham College for a fortnight of top cricket action. Gloucestershire County Cricket Club has been playing in Cheltenham for over 135 years, and the cricket festival is now one of the most successful in the world, attracting thousands of spectators who watch world class cricket on the pitch, while youngsters can try out their cricket skills, get coaching, and take part in competitions.

Close to home, the Leckhampton Cricket Club plays at the Burrows Playing Field. Cheltenham Cricket Club offers competitive and social cricket for all ages and competes at the highest level in the West with an impressive record for both men and junior cricket.

The Cotswolds landscape makes for some great golfing. Lilley Brook Golf Club is Cheltenham’s premier golf course set in the magnificent Cotswold hills. The rolling parkland course enjoys a shared heritage with the renowned Augusta National, home of the US Masters, both designed by Alister Mackenzie, and offers stunning views over the Vale of Cheltenham to the Malverns and the Black Hills.

Cotswold Hills Golf Club course is regarded as one of Gloucestershire’s premier courses, set in an outstanding Cotswold landscape. A superb, gently undulating Cotswold country course, the tree-lined course has open fairways and its greens are renowned to be among the best in the country. The venue has hosted the prestigious ‘Cotswold Gold Vase’ and county championships, with the club motto ‘Golf and Good Fellowship’. Or head to Cleeve Hill Golf Club, a municipal 18-hole course with spectacular views and professional golf tuition.

EXPLORE A LANDSCAPE THAT NATURALLY LENDS ITSELF TO ENJOYMENT ALL YEAR ROUND

At Thirlestaine Park you are perfectly placed to enjoy superb town living and the surrounding countryside with its limitless opportunities to enjoy some of the more renowned scenery in the country. The Cotswolds comes from the old Anglo-Saxon name for the range of hills, combining the words for sheep (cote) and uncultivated open land (wolds). They became an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty several decades ago so it is protected for future generations. Discover the huge number of ways to enjoy a very special landscape on your doorstep or make a day of it by venturing further afield.

Game on
Each year Cheltenham Cricket Festival features Gloucestershire County Cricket Club on the green pitches of Cheltenham College for a fortnight of top cricket action. Gloucestershire County Cricket Club has been playing in Cheltenham for over 135 years, and the cricket festival is now one of the most successful in the world, attracting thousands of spectators who watch world class cricket on the pitch, while youngsters can try out their cricket skills, get coaching, and take part in competitions.

Close to home, the Leckhampton Cricket Club plays at the Burrows Playing Field. Cheltenham Cricket Club offers competitive and social cricket for all ages and competes at the highest level in the West with an impressive record for both men and junior cricket.

The Cotswolds landscape makes for some great golfing. Lilley Brook Golf Club is Cheltenham’s premier golf course set in the magnificent Cotswold hills. The rolling parkland course enjoys a shared heritage with the renowned Augusta National, home of the US Masters, both designed by Alister Mackenzie, and offers stunning views over the Vale of Cheltenham to the Malverns and the Black Hills.

Cotswold Hills Golf Club course is regarded as one of Gloucestershire’s premier courses, set in an outstanding Cotswold landscape. A superb, gently undulating Cotswold country course, the tree-lined course has open fairways and its greens are renowned to be among the best in the country. The venue has hosted the prestigious ‘Cotswold Gold Vase’ and county championships, with the club motto ‘Golf and Good Fellowship’. Or head to Cleeve Hill Golf Club, a municipal 18-hole course with spectacular views and professional golf tuition.
Take it slowly
Nearby Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve is on the site of the old Kingham railway line that once ran through Leckhampton between Cheltenham and Banbury, and closed in the 1960s. It offers a lovely place to stroll throughout the changing seasons as well as providing different habitats for birds and wildlife. Work is underway to open up the tree canopy creating a grassland habitat to encourage butterflies, and to protect and enhance its wildlife corridors and bat flyways.

The Cotswold Way encircles Cheltenham, a Long Distance Path launched as a National Trail in 2007. The designation is a very special one as very few other Trails in England receive this special grading. Around Cheltenham the walk follows Cleeve Hill with beautiful views over Prestbury and the Cheltenham Racecourse, goes past the Dowsdell Reservoir and through Charlton Kings Common over Wistley Hill to Seven Springs, where the source of the River Thames can be seen.

For the budding Bear Grylls
When it comes to active life and adventure, the Cotswolds offer the opportunity to experience the outdoors in a whole new way. You can find centres offering everything from woodcraft and bushcraft, nature awareness, archery and canoeing instruction from qualified tutors, learning new skills and developing a greater awareness of the natural world. You will find family activities and summer holiday activities for kids.

For example, discover the Adventure Zone at Waterland Outdoor Pursuits in the Cotswold Water Park. On the 44-acre lake you can participate in activities from RYA Sailing Courses, Windsurfing, Raftbuilding, Kayaking and Canoeing, as well as land activities including Archery, Low Ropes, Bushcraft and Survival, and many more.

Life at a gallop
The Cotswolds is an ideal location for anyone with an interest in horses. You will find riding centres for both the experienced and novice rider, run by British Horse Society qualified instructors teaching riding, dressage and jumping. Enjoy the freedom of off-road hacks, Leckhampton Hill is one of the favoured locations for hacking, or rides from slow-paced trail riding for beginners to faster-paced hacks, pub rides, gallops and picnic rides for the more advanced through scenic countryside and woods with open fields and miles of bridleways. The area is also home to children’s show jumping and dressage competitions, Pony Clubs, School Holiday programmes and summer camps.
Take to two wheels
The Cotswolds offer a fantastic opportunity for cycling. A varied terrain, from rolling hills to steep scarps along the north western edge, where you can cycle at a gentle pace alone, with a partner or as a family group, bring out your inner Bradley Wiggins, or hurtle down the slopes on your mountain bike.

Cheltenham and County Cycling Club is the premier cycling club in Cheltenham and the surrounding area, and welcomes cyclists of all ages interested in road, mountain bike, time-trialling, cyclo-cross or downhill. There are Leisure Rides, and for road riders there are regular Club Runs all year round with winter training rides November to March. On the racing side there are club time trials series as well as Open Time Trials. The club promotes the Youth Circuit Race Series every June at Cheltenham Racecourse, and Cyclo-cross riders will find summer and autumn races in Pitville Park, while there is a full programme of runs for off-road riders.

Downloadable maps show networks of quiet country lanes, which interconnect with market towns and villages as well as to railway stations, and provide some great ideas of how to get around the Cotswolds by bike. There are 6 circular routes available, and you can download them from: www.cotswold.gov.uk.

Great places to visit:

1. Who hasn't been inspired by Bradley Wiggins? Whether you want to get seriously sporty or enjoy quality time as a family, it's time to pump up the tyres and get your helmet on. Check out www.cc-cc.co.uk for organised rides and meet-ups. The Cotswold Water Park also has a 12 mile, half off-road, circuit around the lakes - see www.waterpark.org.

2. Dressage and jumping, horse riding lessons and hacks, it's all in the Cotswolds. Check out www.ullenwoodriding.co.uk and www.homefarmquestriancentre.co.uk, while the Upcote Cross Country Course offers over 40 obstacles on a six mile course at Withington, near Cheltenham, 01242 890 250.

3. Let your adventurous side run free with fast paced activities that allow youngsters to let off steam and have good old-fashioned fun in a safe environment. www.wildconnections.co.uk and www.adventure-zone.co.uk.

4. A relaxing afternoon watching the teams bat in their pristine whites. See www.lockhampton.play-cricket.com and www.cheltenhamcc.co.uk for upcoming matches. Just take cucumber sandwiches and flask, and enjoy.

5. Take off and explore miles of footpaths, tracks, and bridleways that criss-cross the Cotswold landscape. Short of ideas? Find suggested routes at www.walkscene.co.uk and www.nationaltrail.co.uk.

6. The sport of princes. Spend a day at the most historic polo club in the UK, set in 3,000 acres of parkland and woodland located on one of the UK’s most beautiful estates www.cirencesterpolo.co.uk.


8. Check out what the Romans did for us. Bathhouses, latrines and underfloor heating, and experience life in a grand Roman villa at Yanworth, near Cheltenham, with some of the most spectacular mosaics in Britain, www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chedworth-roman-villa.


10. See the Cotswolds from a new perspective and drift slowly with the wind over a stunning landscape and enjoy the unique combination of exhilaration and serenity on a Hot Air Balloon Flight - www.ballooninginthecotswolds.co.uk.