



PRESS RELEASE

## DISCOVER ART AND LITERATURE ALONG THE GREAT WEST WAY THIS AUTUMN

The Great West Way® is a new touring route between London and Bristol which offers visitors an opportunity to journey along ancient roads, indulge in picturesque landscapes, discover heritage properties and historical sites, and explore attractions that ignite the imagination of its guests.

As well as being the home of a host of attractions that explore the arts, this autumn, the Great West Way will also see some of the UK's best art and literary festivals.

During September, the world's finest musicians, writers, artists and local performers will come together to entertain audiences at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of [Windsor Festival](#). From Sunday, 15 September to Saturday, 28 September, at locations around Windsor, talks, walks, tours, exhibitions, open houses and concerts, will help celebrate Windsor's status as a Royal Town, and inspire the next generation of artistic talent and creativity.

The [Jane Austen Festival](#) is a ten-day celebration of the English novelist who for a period resided in Bath. Events taking place during the festival running from Tuesday, 13 September to Thursday, 22 September, include tours and workshops, as well as a Costume Masked Ball and Country Dance Ball.

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, [Marlborough Literature Festival](#) takes place from Thursday, 26 to Sunday, 29 September in Marlborough, Wiltshire. This year's festival offers a varied programme of nearly 40 events with special guest authors including Ian Rankin, Joanne Harris and Cressida Cowell.

Europe's largest dedicated children's literature festival, [Bath Children's Festival](#), runs from Friday, 27 September to Sunday, 6 October. Bath Children's Festival promises a world-class

line up and hands-on workshops for children and adults, including the chance to make your own clay character of Shaun of the Sheep with Aardman Animations, creators of *Wallace & Gromit* and *Early Man*.

Taking place in the grand English country house of Cliveden in Berkshire, [The Cliveden Literary Festival](#) is a two-day festival on Saturday, 28 September and Sunday, 29 September. Events include panel topics and sessions, as well as talks from notable speakers including Professor Brian Cox who will be sharing the secrets of the universe with the irrepressible Chris Evans.

[Henley Literary Festival](#) will take place in venues around Henley, starting on Saturday, 28 September to Sunday 6, October. The week-long festival features talks from popular authors including Mary Berry, The Unmumsy Mum, Jacob Rees-Mogg and Nadiya Hussain.

The Royal West of England Academy in Bristol, is hosting its [Annual Open Exhibition](#), now in its 167th year from Sunday, 29 September to Sunday, 1 December. This major exhibition provides a platform for artists to showcase painting, sculpture, print-making, photography, textile, film and installation. 1600 artists submitted 2852 works of art for this year's exhibition.

Windsor Castle is hosting a week of evening performances of immersive dance and drama, celebrating 500 years of Leonardo da Vinci, from Friday, 25 October to Sunday, 3 November. [Masterpieces of Motion](#) is a unique family event combining curation, dramatisation and dance interpretation. Featuring at the event will be six original Leonardo drawings that inspired the performances.

Expect the warmest of Bristolian welcomes, extraordinary artists and performances at [The In Between Time Summit](#), running from Friday, 11 October to Sunday, 13 October. Experience a three-day gathering of art, activism and conversation in venues across Bristol that include Arnolfini, We the Curious and Redcliffe Caves.

Along the Great West Way, you can immerse yourself in the arts all year round when visiting attractions such as [The Holburne Museum](#) in Bath, which is home to a collection of fine and decorative art, from Renaissance treasures to masterpieces by Gainsborough. The Holburne Museum offers a jam-packed calendar of events throughout the year.

A new exhibition is on offer at the [Landmark Arts Centre](#) in Teddington from Tuesday, 3 September to Wednesday, 11 September featuring work by Russell Terry.

[The Pound](#), an arts centre in Corsham, also provides a year-round programme of performances, workshops, exhibitions as well as a youth theatre. In their first exhibition of the season starting on Wednesday, 11 September, The Pound's trio of resident visual artists, Rachel Heard, Caroline Rudge and Clare Winnan highlight their joint interest in reviving traditional techniques to nourish fresh, contemporary art practices.

World-famous artist Banksy has used the city streets of London, LA and New York as his canvas, but some of his earliest work can also be found dotted around his childhood city of Bristol. To help you find his early art, embark on the [Banksy Walking Tour](#).

England's great landscape painter J.M.W Turner built a small villa in Sandycombe Lodge near the Thames at Twickenham, here the painter became an architect guided by his friend John Soane. Take the [House Director's Architectural Tour of Turner's House](#) on Sunday, 13 October at 11.00am, which will explore the diverse architectural styles Turner employed at his house.

There are many more locations along the Great West Way that champion the arts. For more information on the Great West Way, visit: [www.GreatWestWay.co.uk](http://www.GreatWestWay.co.uk)

**Note to editors:**

Follow and engage with us on our social channels Facebook [@GreatWestway](#), Instagram [@GreatWestWay](#) and Twitter [@theGreatWestWay](#)

Images for **Great West Way** can be downloaded from our Flickr gallery via this link <https://www.flickr.com/gp/129320754@N03/3g1fd7> Photos may be used in print and/or online for the promotion of tourism to the Great West Way and photos used must be credited to [www.GreatWestWay.co.uk](http://www.GreatWestWay.co.uk), unless otherwise stated in the title of the photo. Full terms and conditions can be found [here](#).

**About the Great West Way**

The Great West Way is one of a number of successful projects to receive funding from the UK Government's £40 million Discover England Fund, administered by VisitEngland. For further information go to [www.discoverenglandfund.org](http://www.discoverenglandfund.org)

The Story of the Great West Way booklet is available at:

[www.GreatWestWay.co.uk/storyoftheGreatWestWay](http://www.GreatWestWay.co.uk/storyoftheGreatWestWay)

Great West Way and England's Great West Way are registered trademarks.

**For further information contact:**

Holly Windsor, PR and Communication Manager

[Hollywindsor@GreatWestWay.co.uk](mailto:Hollywindsor@GreatWestWay.co.uk)

01722 324888/0744 601421