Test Valley. Hampakine See inside for details Visitor Guide.







Set in the heart of Romsey, The White Horse has been a coaching inn for almost 600 years.

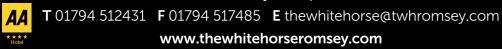
The 2 AA rosette awarded Brasserie & Grill is a wonderful place to enjoy every occasion from a romantic dinner for two to a robust family lunch, during the summer months the courtyard offers a perfect retreat for al fresco dining. A stay here with us is a time to unwind – relax in one of our individually designed bedrooms, enjoy a cocktail in our delightful bar or even sample one of our delicious afternoon teas in the historic Tudor or Palmerston lounges. The hotel is also fully licensed for wedding ceremonies and offers the most romantic and intimate venue for your wedding day.

Historic charm meets modern classic chic.

Market Place, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8ZJ

www.thewhitehorseromsey.com









Welcome to the Test Valley Visitor Guide



So whether you are here for the day, a short break, or longer, this guide captures the best places to visit to make the most of your time. Explore quintessentially English villages; take in lively market towns; visit the area's magnificent gardens and marvel at ancient history, forts and country houses. Walk through breathtaking landscapes; taste treats from local producers and relish in the beauty and serenity of the River Test... but don't just take our word for it - come and discover it for yourself.

Romsey, each with their unique identity and all offering a warm Test Valley welcome.

We hope you enjoy visiting this beautiful area of southern England.

Contents

vents in 20175	
A step back in time6	
Oown by the river8	
Countryside exploration10)
Valk this way11	
Blorious gardens14	ŀ
xciting days out for all16	
An inspirational backdrop for raft and design20	0
Best seats in the house2	2
A toast to Test Valley24	4
aste the Test sensation20	6
Aarket town of Romsey30	0
Velcome to Andover31	
Velcome to Stockbridge3	
welcoming reception32	2

Top reasons to #Visit TestValley

- Fascinating history and heritage dating back to the Iron Age
- Stunning countryside walks
- A haven for foodies and local producers
- Named as one of the top 50 places to live in the UK in 2015

Where to find out more

The Tourist Information Centre in Romsey and eight tourist information points across the borough offer a wide range of promotional guides to help you enjoy your stay in Test Valley and plan fantastic days out.

TIC staff will be pleased to help you plan your visit and provide advice. Please telephone or call in for current information.

Tourist Information Centre 13 Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8BT Tel: 01794 512987

Email: romseytic@testvalley.gov.uk

f Romsey Tourist Information Centre

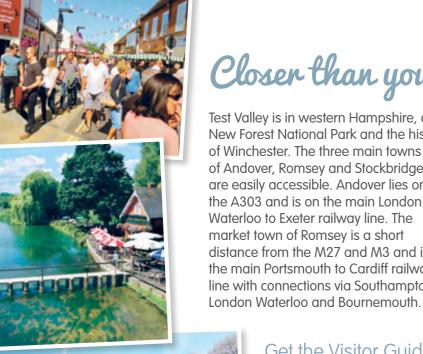
@moreRomsey



Test Valley Borough Council does not endorse any of the products or services presented in this guide, and cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience incurred as a result of changes to advertised information. Always check details before making arrangements. To find out more about advertising in the guide contact: dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk





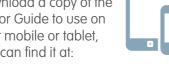


Closer than you think...

New Forest National Park and the historic city of Winchester. The three main towns of Andover, Romsey and Stockbridge are easily accessible. Andover lies on the A303 and is on the main London Waterloo to Exeter railway line. The market town of Romsey is a short distance from the M27 and M3 and is on the main Portsmouth to Cardiff railway line with connections via Southampton to



If you would like to download a copy of the Visitor Guide to use on your mobile or tablet, vou can find it at:



www.testvalley.gov.uk/visitorguide



Don't wing it



Compare trips by bike, public transport, on foot and car to save time and money. Plan your next journey here.

www.myjourneyhampshire.com







Visit the beautiful Test Valley area with hourly South West **Trains or Great Western Trains** to Romsey, Mottisfont and **Dunbridge or Dean stations.**

In summer, a Sunday rail bus service operates from Romsey and Mottisfont and Dunbridge Stations to link up with major local tourism attractions

including Romsey Abbey, Mottisfont House, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Houghton Lodge and Gardens, Stockbridge and more!

For information visit

www.threeriversrail.com www.facebook.com/threeriversrail or www.twitter.com/threeriversrail

Alternatively, contact info@threeriversrail.com or call **07900 103296** for more details about visiting the Test Valley area by train.

Events in 2017

Rex Whistler: More than Murals

Saturday 14 January to Sunday 23

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

Owls by Moonlight

Held on selected Saturdays during the spring and autumn www.hawk-conservancy.org

Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 8 to Sunday 23 April www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

Daffodil Run Sunday 30 April

Discovering Britain: the Shell Heritage Art Collection

Saturday 6 May to Sunday 2 July www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

Saturday 13 May

www.hawk-conservancy.org

Wartime Wallop Family Fun Day The Museum of Army Flying Monday 29 May

www.armyflying.com

Sunday 25 June

Romsey Festival

Station Walks

Saturday 1 July to Sunday 17 July www.romseyfestival.org

Romsey Inside Out Art Trail

Sunday 2 July

Celebrating Romsey Festival
- Cider with Rosie – Open-air
RAODS Theres: Sunday 2 July, 7pm to 9pm

www.hilliergardens.org.uk

Beggars Fair Saturday 8 July www.beggarsfair.org.uk the Gardens Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Saturday 15 July www.hilliergardens.org.uk

The Gruffalo and Friends: the Art

Saturday 15 July to Sunday 3 September

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

Andover Carnival Sunday 16 July

www.andovercarnival.org Summer Soul Garden Party Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

Saturday 22 July www.hilliergardens.org.uk

Romsey Carnival Parade

Sunday 23 July www.romseycarnival.co.uk

The Vineyards of Hampshire

Sunday 23 July www.vineyardsofhampshire.co.uk

Stockbridge Open Gardens

Saturday 29 to Sunday 30 July

Sunday 6 August www.tnastockbridge.co.uk

Family Summer's End Picnic with

Saturday 26 August www.hilliergardens.org.uk

Romsey Food Festival and Farmers' Market

Sunday 3 September www.romsevfoodfest.co.uk

Andover: Proms in the Park Viao Road Recreation Ground Saturday 9 September, 6pm www.andoverproms.co.uk

Saturday 9 September www.romseyshow.co.uk Market days in Test Valley

Hampshire Farmers' Market in Romsey

5 Feb; 5 Mar; 2 Apr; 7 May; 4 June; 2 Jul; 6 Aug; 3 Sept; 1 Oct; 5 Nov; 3 Dec

Every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday (except 8 July and 26 December)

Farmers' and Crafts Markets in

19 Feb; 19 March; 21 May; 18 June; 16 July; 20 Aug; 17 Sept; 15 Oct; 19 Nov;

Stockbridge Country Market Stockbridge Town Hall. Every Thursday morning 9.30 to 11.45am (closed in January)

Romsey Film Festival Saturday 7 October to Saturday 30 September

www.romseyfestival.org/home/

Owl-O-Ween
The Hawk Conservancy Trust **Saturday 28 October** www.hawk-conservancy.org

Andover Christmas Lights Switch On Friday 17 November

Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair The Museum of Army Flying

Sunday 19 November www.armyflying.com

Romsey Christmas Lights Switch On Saturday 25 November www.romseychristmaslights.org.uk

Stockbridge Christmas Lights Switch On

Friday 1 December

Friday 8 December www.romseylanternparade.org.uk

Carols in Romsey Market Place Monday 18 December

www.romseychristmaslights.org.uk

Carols and Owls by Moonlight

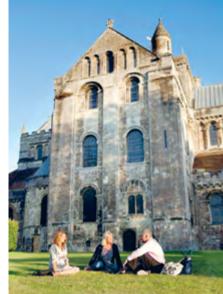
Friday 22 and Saturday 23 December www.hawk-conservancy.org

Sunday 24 December

www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk









A step back in time

Test Valley is steeped in captivating stories of times gone by. Boasting an abundance of historic architecture, it has more Iron Age forts than anywhere else in Hampshire. The earliest record of Andover's watermills dates back to the Domesday Book. Its long and fascinating heritage attracts visitors and historians from far and wide...step back in time and discover it for yourself.

Start your historic journey in one of Romsey's oldest thoroughfares at King **John's House** and **Heritage and Visitor Centre**, where you can uncover 750 years of history in just one day. Explore the home of King John with its 14th century graffiti and rare bone floor, the Tudor Cottage complete with traditional tearoom and the Victorian Heritage Centre with its recreated gun shop and parlour.

If you are searching for Norman architecture, **Romsey Abbey** is one of the finest examples in southern England. Today, it's an active parish church and venue for many music events and organ recitals, so perhaps catch a concert while you are here.

In **Romsey's War Memorial Park** you will find a statue of a horse and its rider. In World War I there was a large remount camp on Pauncefoot Hill just outside Romsey. In just over three years, the camp prepared 120,000 horses and mules for war service. Created by local sculptor, Amy Goodman, the War Horse statue commemorates the thousands of horses who were shipped into battle from Romsey.

Andover Museum and **Museum of the Iron Age** uncovers the town's fascinating past and the events and tales that put it on the map. It tells the story of Weyhill Fair where Hardy's "The Mayor of Casterbridge" sold his wife, as well as the scandal of the Andover Workhouse. It also unveils what life was like for those who farmed, fought and died at Danebury Hill Fort, built 2,500 years ago. The view from the top of the hill fort is simply magnificent - a picture-perfect snapshot of the beautiful surrounding countryside.

Visitors will be amazed how much history is hidden within Test Valley!

Did you know?

- Florence Nightingale was buried in the small church of St Margaret's in East Wellow near Romsey.
- Reg Presley of The Troggs is commemorated with a blue heritage plague in Andover High Street
- At the time of the Domesday Book, Andover had six watermills, which ground grain to flour to make bread for the villagers.
- Stockbridge was the scene of the capture of Robert of Gloucester by William of Ypres in 1141.
- F. M. Halford, the man said to have established dry fly fishing as a sport, fished here at the height of his fame in the late 1800s.

Discover stories of creativity, conflict, love and loss at Mottisfont Abbey house and gardens. Now a National Trust property, this former medieval priory became the place for artists to come and relax to create spectacular works of art. In addition to its famous rose garden, it now hosts exhibitions all year round, which help to bring Mottisfont to life.

The region's history doesn't end at ground level as **The Museum of Army Flying** in Middle Wallop celebrates the lives of the British Army's soldiers in the air. Walk around the aviation hangers adorned with artefacts, trophies, simulators and aircraft. It's a great day out for all the family as well as budding historians.

And your historic journey wouldn't be complete without visiting the final resting place of Florence Nightingale.

The small church of **St Margaret's** in East Wellow is the perfect shrine to the memory of The Lady with the Lamp.

There are many stunning churches to be explored in Test Valley, with incredible architecture, intriguing histories and fascinatina links with famous characters. Look out for the Parish Churches of Test Valley leaflet for more information.



King John's House & Heritage Centre

Medieval house with 14th century graffiti and rare bone floor, Tudor cottage and Victorian museum, beautiful period gardens. Special events/exhibitions and children's activities. Available for private hire.











Senior Citizen £3.00

Children £1.00

13 Church Street, Romsey,

Hampshire SO51 8BT

Email: annerhc@aol.com

www.kingjohnshouse.org.uk

King John's House 10am to 4pm.

Museum all year round. Monday to

Tel: 01794 512200



Romsey Signal Box



Romsey Signal Box is the centre of a unique working museum in Romsey, open to the public twice a month. The box originally opened around 1870 and then closed in 1982 when it was saved and moved down to its own dedicated site. The signal box has been restored to operational order with various signals connected to some of the levers, which you are encouraged to pull. See demonstrations of the signal box in operation, and, if you are an enthusiast, you can operate the signal box to a full timetable as if doing it for real. The site also features many other working exhibits, a small museum, a café and toilet facilities. The landscaped site in Brick Lane is easily accessible from Winchester Road, the town centre, the railway station and the old canal towpath.

The Signal Box is open to the public from 12pm to 4pm, on the first Sunday of the month from February to December and the third Saturday of the month from January to November. The site is also open on other special dates. See the website for more details. A small entrance fee is charged for adults. Enquiries: **01794 500523**

www.romseysignalbox.org.uk



Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017 Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017

Down by the river



Otters are widespread in Test Valley

the River Test and its tributaries. They

and can often be seen throughout

are well suited to life in the water,

feeding mainly on fish from lakes

and rivers. Otters have webbed feet

and dense fur so are well adapted

Although predominantly nocturnal,

river, but very occasionally they have

been seen in Andover's High Street and along the Test in Romsey.

Image on front cover kindly provided

by Grant Auton, www.facebook.

com/GrantAutonPhotography

Grant also belongs to The Anton

(TARCA). TARCA is a voluntary group

set up in the Test Valley region with

manage the River Anton and related

the aim to conserve, improve and

wildlife in the area

River Conservation Association

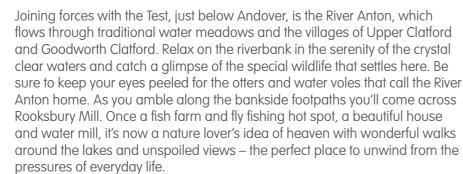
otters can be seen around dawn and dusk on secluded stretches of

to their semi-aquatic lifestyle.

Test Valley is an outstandingly beautiful area and the idyllic setting for a riverside amble or picnic on the riverbank. It's also an angler's paradise; famous for its clear chalk

streams the tranquil River Test is one of the most renowned fly fishing rivers in the world.

This 40 mile stretch of water is an extremely fertile environment for salmon, trout and grayling as well as 22 species of mayfly. It was on these banks that F. M. Halford invented modern day dry fly fishing and the area is home to one of the most exclusive clubs you could ever hope to join. Houghton Fishing Club is the oldest private fishing club in Britain dating back to 1822 and has an exclusive and restricted membership of just 25. Now that's testament to the quality catch you will find swimming here.



And when by the river, you have to sample the local catch. Choose from the selection of smoked fish products sourced from the river at the unique River Test Smokery at Chilbolton, or take a seat at one of the many eateries with fresh fish and Test Valley trout on their menus. Perhaps you could sample the hot and cold smoked River Test trout at The Rockingham Arms in West Wellow or a trout speciality at Keats Restaurant in Ampfield – it's sure to be some of the freshest fish you will ever taste.

Enjoy the charms of riverside living along this beautiful stretch of Hampshire

The River Test has an ecosystem like no other!

washed with water from the

River Test - at Laverstoke,

near Whitchurch.

Did you know the Test has at least nine tributaries including the Anton, Blackwater, Bourne Rivulet, Dever, Dun, Pilhill Brook, Wallop Brook, **Dever and Swift.**

Living weaving heritage Did you know? The Bank of England bank notes were made of paper

Whitchurch Silk Mill is part of Test Valley's industrial heritage. This working museum still uses original Victorian machinery, including a number of power looms.

On arriving at Whitchurch Silk Mill and touring its grounds and interior, you will see the magnificent building in its equally magnificent setting and the beautiful fabrics that are still produced inside. Here it is not only theatrical costumes that are made, but also wall hangings for Winchester Cathedral, silks for Hampshire Air Ambulance, and the exquisite scarves and ties available to buy in the mill's shop.

Built in 1814 and having been run by various owners, the mill has woven ribbons, serge, silk linings in 22 colours for Burberry and silk for insulating cables during World War Two. Later, the mill wove black ottoman and satin for lining legal gowns.

The Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust was established in 1990 so that the people of Whitchurch could manage its future and ensure that it continues to produce some of the finest fabric that the country has to offer.

Sumptuous silks are still produced by hand, using traditional methods on original machines. They are so authentic that they adorn some of our finest actors and actresses working in television, films and theatre.

Visitors to the mill can view the original mill wheel and Victorian machinery, including looms still active and full of fabulous fabrics. Take in the Victorian history that's etched in the mill and treat yourself to some of the stunning silk products produced at the mill and available to buy in the shop.

A visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill promises a delightful day out. Sit and enjoy lunch and refreshments at the Riverside Mill Café. If you're lucky you may even spot a kingfisher flash past you on the peaceful banks of the River

Open all year round from 10.30am to 5pm, Tuesdays to Sundays and bank holidays. Call 01256 892065 for more details. There's no entrance fee required to visit the Riverside Mill Café or the shop.

Please note the Mill will be closing for restoration and improvements in 2017, please check the website before you make a journey.

www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk Whitchurch Silk Mill 28 Winchester Street Whitchurch

Tel: 01256 892065

RG28 7AL











Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017



Family fun in the great outdoors

- Fly a kite on the open green space of Botley Road and Whitenap in Romsey
- Venture into the wilderness and hunt for animal tracks on a woodland walk in Valley Park
- Pack your pencil case and go in search of a scene you can recreate on paper
- Take your camera and go on a photography adventure in Harewood Forest
- · Have a sunset picnic on Stockbridge Downs
- Go bird watching at Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve

Countryside exploration

A green and pleasant land

The beauty of having such wonderful landscapes means there is no end of outdoor fun to be had in Test Valley. It can often be the simple pleasures that make for a great family day out and the open spaces and lush countryside provide the perfect playground to do just that.

On two wheels

If you like to ride your bike then pedal your way around the stunning Test Valley woodlands and winding country roads. There are plenty of routes to choose from of varying length. So, whether it's a leisurely ride along the tranquil riverbank or an energetic ramble through Mottisfont on the Michelmersh Circular Walk, there's a route to suit. For more information on walking routes, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/communityandleisure/cyclingwalking/cycling.

Down to a tee

Test Valley is home to a number of golf courses including Ampfield Golf and Country Club, which was founded in the early 1960s and was the original 18-hole, par three course in the country. Wellow Golf Club is set in more than 200 acres of picturesque parkland surrounding Embley Park, which was the former home of Florence Nightingale. At Paultons Golf Centre, you can choose to play on a nine or 18-hole course through rolling woodland plus a 24-bay floodlit driving range.

Saddle up

Whether you are a novice rider or a galloping pro, the landscapes offer many miles of bridleway through the tranquil scenery of Stockbridge Down, Chilbolton Common and Danebury Hill. There are many riding schools and stables offering superb equestrian facilities including five star livery services, top class tuition and horse trekking experiences perfect for those with a sense of adventure.



View over Somborne from Stockbridge Down, photograph by Andrew Coombes, www.flickr.co

Picture-perfect parks

Test Valley is proud of its outside space and Romsey War Memorial Park, Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve in Chandlers Ford and Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve in Andover are considered some of the very best in the UK having received the prestigious Green Flag Award.

There are play parks aplenty which offer something for every age, with playgrounds, skate ramps, teen zones and tennis courts. Even the parents will want a go on the swings! To find out where they are, visit www. testvalley.gov.uk/resident/communityandleisure/parksandgreenspaces/playgrounds.

And rest...

After a day out in the fresh air, the parents and grandparents among you deserve to relax, so kick off your boots and enjoy a nice local pint or glass of Test Valley sparkling wine in one of the area's many village pubs, before retreating to your B&B, cottage or hotel.

Walk this way

Walking really is the ideal way to take in the beautiful villages that Test Valley has to offer. With the backdrop of chalk downlands and wooded hills of the North Wessex Downs, the landscapes are connected by hundreds of miles of public rights of way. There are walks of varying lengths catering for all abilities from imposing woodland, riverside strolls or rambling hillsides...all you have to do is choose which route to take. Rest assured there will be a cosy pub or two along the way so you can recharge before heading off on the next part of your adventure

Itinerary 1:

Long distance ramble

www.hants.gov.uk/longdistance.htm
The Test Way long distance footpath
runs for 44 miles from the Coombe
Gibbet in the north down through
the valley to Eling Tide Mill on
Southampton Water. It's divided
into eight, well signposted sections.
Along the way you may come
across a fisherman waiting patiently
for their next catch from the river,
and you won't be able to miss the
distinctive fishermen's huts! Choose
a route to suit and you'll find the
perfect spot for a riverbank picnic
along the way.

Itinerary 2: For little footsteps

If you are taking the younger members out for a family saunter, try the Rooksbury Mill Park walk. Close to Andover town centre, the 2.5-mile walk offers plenty of interesting things to keep the little ones amused along the way. Spot for otters in the lakes, let the children loose in the playpark and discover the charming wooden animals on the water vole trail.

Itinerary 3: Take the lead

For a dog-friendly route, why not try the Test Way at King's Somborne. The former railway track runs alongside open farmland, through the river valley. A warm welcome awaits you all - the dog included - at the thatched Crown Inn, which offers traditional pub food and a nice, chilled pint.

Itinerary 4: For nature lovers

Starting at The Lights in Andover, this circular walk follows footpaths to the stunning setting of Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve - the source of the River Anton. Ideal for those with a love of flora and fauna, its natural beauty is simply breathtaking - water meadows, cattle-grazed grass chalkland and fields of watercress.

Itinerary 5:Challenge yourself

www.hants.gov.uk/longdistance.htm
Hardy ramblers might like to try one
of the more challenging routes. The
24-mile Clarendon Way joins the two
cities of Winchester and Salisbury,
crossing Test Valley between King's
Somborne and Houghton. It starts
beside the waters of the Itchen in the
heart of Winchester and ends near
the Avon at Salisbury Cathedral,
providing a splendid variety of
scenery along the way.

Itinerary 6: Step back in time

Ladies Walk offers great views across Andover. The path forms part of the pre-Roman track known as the Mark Way where 121 trees were planted to commemorate the wedding of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales - who later became King Edward VII - to Princess Alexandra of Denmark in 1863. Of the original trees, horse chestnut, beech, oak and sycamore still remain.

Itinerary 7:Picture perfect village

www.wherwell.net/walking

Wherwell near Stockbridge has to be one of the most attractive villages in Test Valley, with a large number of thatched properties. This easy, four-mile walk reveals a village which was once renowned for it Abbey, relics of which can still be seen alongside the present Victorian Church. Make sure you take your camera, it really is a picture-perfect village.

Itinerary 8: Sprat and Winkle

Explore the path of the Sprat and Winkle Line, which used to run through Wherwell as part of the original South Western Railway. The unusual name may have come

about due to the close proximity of the southern part of the line to the coast where the winkle may be found - although the Sprat and Winkle leaflet gives two other explanations!



For more walking inspiration, pick up a copy of inspiration, pick up a copy of the Get Out and Walk guide from Romsey Tourist Information Centre

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Find us at Longstock Park Hursery, Longstock, Stockbridge, SO20 6EH

Leckford.farm.shop@waitrose.co.uk Longstock.park.nursery@waitrose.co.uk

01264 810270 01264 810894

The Waitrose farm Teckford Estate



Find refreshment, relaxation and inspiration at Mottisfont

Ancient trees, bubbling brooks and rolling lawns frame this lovely old house. Crafted from a medieval priory, it is full of surprises, with art that intrigues and delights.

Call 01794 340757 for details nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

When you visit, donate, volunteer or join the National Trust, your support helps us to look after special places such as Mottisfont for ever, for everyone.

National Trust 2016. The National Trust is an





tel: 01794 369318







As well as the breathtaking natural beauty, Test Valley includes four outstanding gardens which are all unique and well worth a visit. So whether you are a keen, green-fingered gardener, someone who admires and enjoys the beauty of blooms, or are perhaps simply looking for somewhere stunning to walk – the gardens are waiting to be discovered, no matter the season.

Discover the 180 acres of gardens, woodlands and walks of the **Sir Harold Hillier Gardens**, with its acclaimed water garden and collection of 42,000 plants from around the world, including 13 national plant collections and the largest winter garden in Europe. Year-round events include the Art in the Garden sculpture exhibition running from May to October. Children will love the regular trails around the gardens, tree house and flying carpet swing.







Visit the famous walled rose garden at National Trust property, **Mottisfont Abbey**, which includes more than 500 varieties of stunning roses. The picturesque grounds have much to excite visitors all year round, along with a jam-packed programme of events and exhibitions.

Houghton Lodge Gardens near Stockbridge is a hidden gem and is recognised as one of the finest gardens in Hampshire. Enjoy the Walled Garden with stunning peony walk and rose arbour, themed herb garden and ancient orchard of fruit trees.

Voted the finest water garden in the world by the International Water Lily Society, Longstock Park Water Gardens is open on the first and third Sunday of each month from April to September. A beautiful haven for wildlife and glorious planting, the gardens also include the national collections of Buddleja.



Woodlands and nature conservation

Test Valley's woodlands provide a cool canopy for walkers and cyclists on a hot summer's day, and those such as the ancient Harewood Forest lie at the heart of the borough. Council staff and volunteers manage many of the area's woodlands and nature conservation areas. If you are interested in any of the year-round volunteering opportunities, contact the countryside officers at Test Valley Borough Council on **01264 368811** or email **leisure@testvalley.gov.uk**

Other volunteering opportunities at local nature reserves can be found at **www.woodlandtrust.org.uk**



An 18th century Grade II* listed Gothic Cottage Orné idyllically set above the tranquil River Test. Explore 14 acres of picturesque countryside, riverside walks, charming Alpacas, Topiary Dragon & Peacock Garden. Enchanting Walled Garden with chalk cob walls, traditional kitchen garden, peony walk, rose arbour & orchid house.

Tea Room for light refreshments & homemade cakes.

Open: Daily 10am - 5pm (1st Apr - 31st Sept) £6.50 Adults, £3.00 Children, Under 3 FREE

Near Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6LQ Tel: 01264 810502

www.houghtonlodge.co.uk

Blooming marvellous

- March: Spring bulbs and camellias at Sir Harold Hiller Gardens.
- April: Espaliered pear trees and ancient apple trees in blossom at Houghton Lodge Gardens.
- May: Azaleas and Rhododendrons at Sir Harold Hiller Gardens and Iris at Longstock Water Gardens.
- June: Peony walk at Houghton Lodge Gardens and the Walled Rose Garden at Mottisfont. More than 40 types of water lily at Longstock Water Gardens.
- **July:** Rose arbour walk at Houghton Lodge Gardens.
- **August:** Hydrangea walk at Sir Harold Hiller Gardens.
- **September:** Heather Garden at Sir Harold Hiller Gardens.
- October / November: Autumn colours across the gardens.
- **December:** Four acres of Winter Garden at Sir Harold Hiller Gardens.

Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017 Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017



Exciting days out for all

As well as history and culture, glorious gardens and stunning landscapes, amazing restaurants and local breweries, Test Valley provides a fantastic range of attractions, so you won't struggle to find things to do to keep the family amused!

If the little ones want to get closer to animals, there is a world of fun at **Finkley Down Farm**. Activities run each day offering the chance to cuddle a rabbit, groom a pony, feed the goats or even get closer to reptiles. There are go-carts, mini ride-on tractors, sandpits and trampolines to burn off their energy and an indoor play barn for those inclement days. It's open all year round with a great diary of special events, so pack a picnic or choose to dine in the tearoom and enjoy the whole day here.

Another opportunity to get friendly with the animals is at **Cholderton Charlie's Farm**. Talk to the animals, feed them or just admire their unique characters. You can even adopt them! Appealing to all ages, there is a 500-foot long, 32-foot high tree top trail, treehouse, zip-line and nest swing to let the kids go wild on.

But if it's feathered friends you prefer, prepare yourselves for a truly unique day out at **The Hawk Conservancy Trust**. Set among 22 acres of stunning woodlands, this conservation charity has more than 150 birds of prey on view in their aviaries and magnificent flying displays set to music. For anyone interested in birds or those with a love of photography, this will be a spellbinding trip.





Whatever you choose to do, you'll be sure to have a memorable day out in Test Valley



Paultons Park is the great value family theme park with more than 60 wonderful rides and attractions. Set in the New Forest National Park, Paultons is also home of Peppa Pig World, with seven fabulous Peppa-themed rides! For further information and to book discounted tickets visit www.paultonspark.co.uk

Are you looking for a splashing good time? Fancy being a pirate on board the Jolly Roger? Then take the family to **Romsey Rapids** with its three pools, a 75-metre flume, water cannons, bubble seats, tipping bucket pirate ship, cascade pool, sunken pirate mast and not forgetting the rapids themselves, you'll have a wave of a time!



With special term time and school holiday activities at **Andover Museum** and **Museum of the Iron Age**, children will have fun tracing the history of Andover from pre-historic times to the present day.



Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017 Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017

The Museum of **Army Flying**

Tucked away in northwest Hampshire is one of Test Valley's hidden gems - the Museum of Army Flying. The museum sits next to the busy Army Air Corps Airfield at Middle Wallop and two large hangars house the journey of British soldiers in the air. From the pioneering days of balloons to World War Two Glider Pilot Regiments to the modern chapter of helicopter operations, there is much to be enjoyed. Likened to the Tardis, visitors are in awe at the volume of artefacts and more than forty fixed wing and rotary aircraft hidden inside. Imaginative displays with clever use of interactives and video provide an insight into the role of the British military in the air.

For front row seats to watch these aircraft in action, look no further than the museum's Apache Café. Overlooking the active airfield and open daily with no need for a ticket, this is the spot to enjoy a bite to eat and watch aircraft. Whether it's an Apache thundering overhead or Lynx pilot leaning out wave at the visitors to the café or play park below, this is where the action is! Good food, friendly staff and a great view make this a popular haunt among those in the know.

Devoted to the story of British Army Flying, the museum delivers easy access and affordability to visitors. Plus if you Gift Aid your admission you receive



free entry to the museum for a year! Keep an eye on the monthly events calendar too. With events ranging from specialist lectures to fantastic days out there is something for everyone.

The Museum of Army Flying is open daily from 10am to 4.30pm. It is accessible from the M3 and A303 on the A343 between Andover and Salisbury. The Apache Café is open daily and museum entry is not required to access the café.

For more information, call 01264 784421 or visit the website at www.armyflying.com

Try the newest Olympic sport in 2017!

If you're looking to introduce the kids to an adventurous new sport, want to enjoy a fun family activity while on a short break or would like an hour of individual climbing, then you are always welcome at Golden Gecko Climbing in Romsey.

Whether you have climbing experience or it is your first time, Golden Gecko has climbing fun to suit your ability.

The Go Challenge Wall is suitable for total beginners from five years and up. It is an exciting roped climb to a height of six metres equipped with 10 auto belays, with more than 30 routes of varying difficulty to try. Go Challenge sessions last one hour and can be supervised or unsupervised, with prices ranging from £12 to £15 per person. The sessions get busy quickly so booking is recommended.

For experienced climbers, Golden Gecko Climbing also has 150m² of bouldering up to a maximum height of 4.5m, in addition to 190m² of climbing on the Tower and Challenge Wall. Inductions and refreshers are available.

The friendly staff have a wealth of experience, so whether you're climbing for the first time, scared of heights or a confident and experienced climber, the team at Golden Gecko will keep you motivated and safe while you challenge yourself. If you would prefer to just watch, the Energy Bar is open to all and offers barista coffee abd other hot and cold drinks and a selection of hot and cold food. There is also a toddler play area for those too young to climb.

Parties, schools and other groups are very welcome at the centre. Sessions can be arranged and tailored to suit the group depending on age and size.









The Hawk Conservancy Trust

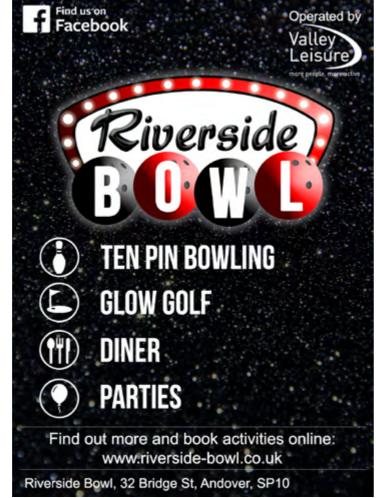
The Hawk Conservancy Trust is a conservation charity and visitor centre set in 22 acres of woodland and wildflower meadow. There are daily world-class flying demonstrations, over 150 birds of prey on view and every visitor can meet a bird of prey. Arrive early, it's a full day out! Location: Sarson Lane, Weyhill, Andover, Hampshire SP11 8DY Tel: 01264 773850

Email: info@hawkconservancy.org www.hawkconservancy.org

Open seven days a week. (Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day and closed 4 January 2017 – 3 February 2017 inclusive)







Aim high with

For more information or to book your climbing session, please visit

www.ggclimbing.com, email info@ggclimbing.com or call 01794 590022

In the trees of Harewood Forest, just off the A303 near Andover, is the UK's most exciting high ropes course.

The Treerunners giant obstacle course can be found 30 feet up in the forest canopy and is perfect for kids, families and grown ups alike for a heart thumping adventure!

Treerunners has two courses: one for kids (six years and above) and one for adults (10 years and above). Because they use state-of-the-art safety equipment it is impossible to unclip from the safety line, so adults do not have to go up with children and they can relax with a coffee in the chill out area.

The courses are inventive with tarzan swings, a bicycle, zip lines and even snowboards to take you from tree to tree. There really is no other high ropes course like it!

Whatever your ability and bravery level, there's a course for you.

The experience can be enjoyed by families or groups of friends, and is a fantastic activity for a children's party or school trips.

From start to finish you will be in for a treat; whether you're swinging among the trees or relaxing in the purposebuilt chill out area, Treerunners is a place where the highs and lows are both a great experience.

An inspirational backdrop for craft and design

With the beautiful backdrop of the river, it is no surprise that Test Valley provides areat inspiration for the talented community of artists that live here.

Test Valley is a stunning place to visit for those attracted to art, craft and design. Trace the grea's rich history through the selection of works in the galleries and set your



Iconic paintings and tales of the Iron Age are relived on the walls of the many galleries. The Wykeham **Gallery** in Stockbridge displays works of well-known British artists and the gallery at **Mottisfont Abbey** is not to be missed. Mottisfont Abbey inspired a 1930s dream of creativity, where artists would come to relax and create works of art and it has been a place of inspiration to many an artist ever since. It exhibits a substantial collection of 20th century pieces and hosts a series of changing exhibitions.

For lovers of art and four-leggedfriends, **Stockbridge Gallery** is a sanctuary of art, gifts and treats of all things canine related.

If ever there was a place to inspire you to put your brush to canvas, or admire others who have, Test Valley is it - creativity exudes here!

But if you want to create your very own Test Valley masterpiece, there are plenty of places to do just that. The beautiful rural setting occupied by **Yew Tree Arts** in Romsey is an idyllic location complete with artists' studio, while **Chapel Arts Studios** in Andover delivers creative education through residencies, workshops and art projects. Watch the craftsmen at work at the **Fairground Craft and Design Centre** and visit the **Sheep Shed Gallery** at Weyhill where you can get hands-on or simply soak up the creativity with a coffee in the tearoom.

Project Workshops is a vibrant centre for visual arts in Quarley, iust outside Andover. It's home to a number of artists who create unique and stunning art, from ceramics and glass to sculpture and furniture. Visitors are welcome by appointment or make a note of their open studio weekend found at www.project-workshop.co.uk, where you are guaranteed to be impressed and inspired.



A wonderful reminder of one of the oldest crafts is presented at Whitchurch Silk Mill. The oldest working silk mill in the UK, it continues to weave silk using 19th century machinery and highlights Test Valley's industrial heritage. Pop in to see the magic for yourself or browse the handcrafted gifts in the shop.



If contemporary art is more your style, a visit to Rum's Eq in Romsey is a must! Spread over three floors, this community-based art and craft gallery allows you to admire the work of others and offers an extensive selection of workshops. During 2017, the range of creative workshops on offer will be expanding; choose from a wide range of activities including acrylics painting, making your own cards, woven basket-making for Easter, modern mosaics, crafting your own jewellery or learning the age old skills of leather-making. The classes take place upstairs above the Gallery and Café, so why not add in a light lunch and make a day of it.

Sheep Shed Gallery







Weyhill, Andover, Hampshire SP11 0QN Tel: 01264 773838

Email: sheepshedgallery@gmail.com www.facebook.com/sheepshedgallery www.sheepshedgallery.co.uk

For truly unique craft gifts and original artworks visit the Sheep Shed Gallery, at the Fairground Craft Centre, at Weyhill on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border.



GALLERY • CAFÉ • WORKSHOPS

Homewares Beautiful Cards Creative workshops

open every day for coffee, cakes & pastries and lunches



Rum's Eg, 27 Bell Street, Romsey SO51 8GY t: 01794 511220 info@hampshireartandcraft.org www.hampshireartandcraft.org Open: Monday - Saturday: 10 - 5. Sundays: 10.30 - 4.30

2017 exhibitions include:

Life's Rich Tapestry 1 March to 8 April An exhibition of paintings, mosaics and textiles with abstract and oriental influences.

Microbial Worlds 28 June to 30 July Garden Sculpture Exhibition in the South Garth walled garden at Romsey Abbey.

Part of Romsey Festival (1-16 July).

Including a 'Microbial Worlds' sculptural installation created in a local schools Arts and Science Project, led by Two Circles Design and supported by NADFAS and HA&C CIC.

Family Arts/Science workshops in the South Garth:

'Microbial Worlds' with Two Circles Design artists -Sunday 2 July 2pm to 5pm (part of Romsey Art Trail) Making and Flying Kites with John Browning - Saturday 8 July 2pm to 5pm (part of Beggars Fair).

For more details and full list of exhibitions and workshop programme and year round events at Rum's Eg visit www.hampshireartandcraft.org

21





The best seats in the house

Lovers of live music, laugh-a-minute comedy, open-air productions and fabulous theatre will not be disappointed by a trip to Test Valley.

How about taking the stage outside? Make the most of a balmy summer's evening and enjoy a production in the open air at various attractions and locations. Visit **www.visit-hampshire.co.uk/whats-on** for more information.

Pack a picnic hamper, bring your friends and family and enjoy the array of plays and productions on offer...given the unpredictability of the British weather, perhaps pack an umbrella too!

Whatever your taste, Test Valley provides a variety of entertainment for an exhilarating night out.





Be dazzled by the lights of the stage and let the first act begin...

'Great nights out in Andover' is the mantra of The Lights, the hub of the town's entertainment, theatrical and arts performances.

Enjoy live music, top class comedy, thought-provoking theatre, fabulous tribute shows and stunning dance ensembles, which make a visit to The Lights thoroughly entertaining.



Each season's programme is packed with top names such as Al Murray, Midge Ure, The Three Degrees, Jon Richardson, and Finally...Phil Collins, together with visiting professional companies such as the Oddsocks Theatre Company and the Vienna Festival Ballet. The venue features a fully raked auditorium, an arena for more informal shows and events, a fully equipped business suite, mirrored dance studio and spacious craft studio, all of which are available for hire.

Throughout the year the Arena Café Bar is open all day for drinks and food and makes a great place to meet friends and colleagues or enjoy a pretheatre tipple. During the warmer months the outside decking area is the perfect place to relax with coffee.

You can follow The Lights on Facebook or Twitter and full programme details can be found at: **www.thelights.org.uk**







The Plaza in Romsey

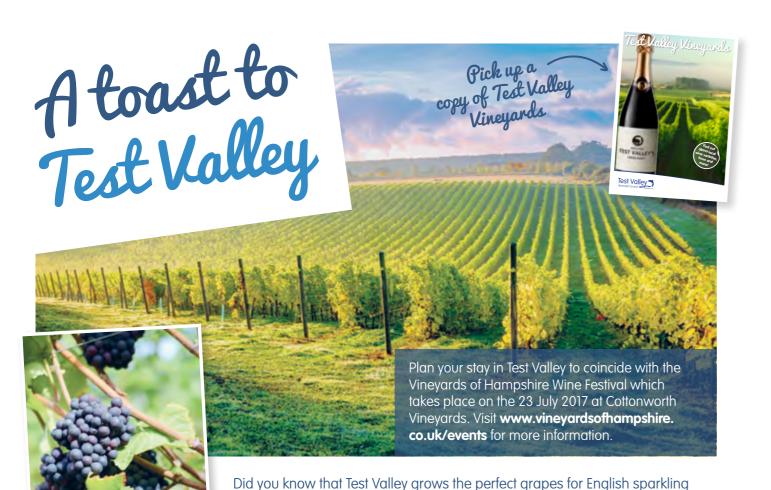
Eighty-six years ago the first Highway Code was issued, Les Dawson and Diana Dors were born and the Plaza Cinema opened in Romsey. Fast-forward to the present day and this lovely art deco building is now a thriving theatre. Owned and managed by one of the most active amateur theatre groups in the country, Romsey Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, the Plaza offers a different play or musical every month, as well as performances from amateur and professional acts – from puppets to choirs, rock bands to Barry Cryer!

You are guaranteed a warm welcome from the 400 volunteers who run this unique venue.

To plan your night out at The Plaza, visit **www.plazatheatre.com**

The Plaza Theatre 40 Winchester Road, Romsey SO51 8JA 01794 523054

Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017 Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017 Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017 23



Whether your chosen tipple is sparkling, rosé or still wine, there's a vineyard for every taste in Test Valley. Why not start your journey with a wine-tasting tour at **Cottonworth Vineyard** where you'll celebrate the role played by the underlying chalk bedrock of the River Test and learn the importance of the region's perfect geology, topography and climate in the award-winning winemaking process.

Danebury Vineyard near Stockbridge, named after one of the most famous Iron Age hill forts in the country, covers seven acres of sheltered south facing fields on chalk and flint soil and produces another awardwinning sparkling and still white wine. And if you prefer a glass of rosé on a hot summer's day, the Somborne Valley Vineyard is for you. Lying on the Hoplands Estate, it has become renowned for its rich, creamy sparkling and delicate still rosé.

You may recognise the name attached to **The Leckford Estate** as it's owned by the John Lewis Partnership. In 2014 alone it produced 57 tonnes of grapes from its 17,000 vines - enough to fill 37,000 bottles! The estate includes a farm shop, café and plant nursery, which you can explore.

For those who prefer something with a bit more bite, you'll love the biscuit hues of the hops at **Flack Manor Brewery** in Romsey with their distinctive rich golden summer ales, full flavour classic bitters and smooth ruby-coloured beers.

Danebury Vineyards

wine, using "the holy trinity" of Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir and

you have a nose for fine wine or want to discover the flavour of the local brew,

the region is ripe with vineyards and breweries. Come and taste it for yourself!

is also home to breweries producing award-winning beers and real ales? If

For something a little more delicate, Danebury Vineyards near Stockbridge produces award-winning English sparkling and still wines, from their vineyard on the paddocks of what was a famous 19th century racehorse training yard. Step inside one of the local pubs or restaurants and they are sure to be serving a Danebury Schönburger, Madeleine Angevine, Reserve

or a sparkling Cossack. Not open for visits.

Danebury Vineyards Nether Wallop Stockbridge Hampshire SO20 6JX Tel: 01264 781 851

www.danebury.com Twitter: @daneburyfizz



Test Valley devotes over 250 acres to wine growing - more than anywhere else in Hampshire



There's no better place to sample such local delights than in one of the many quaint country pubs dotted around the area. A little off the beaten track, The Hawk **Inn** at Amport is a hidden gem and the perfect place to sit beside a roaring fire in the winter months or on the terrace on a summer's day. If you fancy a spot on the river, The Mayfly offers unspoilt views over the world famous River Test and boasts an extensive wine list of almost 30 different varieties. And if you're looking for award-winning food and a good pint, reserve a table at The Three Tuns. This Grade II listed building, nestled deep in the heart of Romsey, offers an abundance of character and charm. Standing proud on Stockbridge High Street is **The Greyhound on the Test**. This lovingly-restored 15th century inn not only serves the very best of the locally produced wines and ales but it has also received a medley of awards for its food including The Sunday Times Pub of the Year 2015.

Take the taste of the Test Valley away with you by purchasing a bottle (or case!) from the on-site shops.

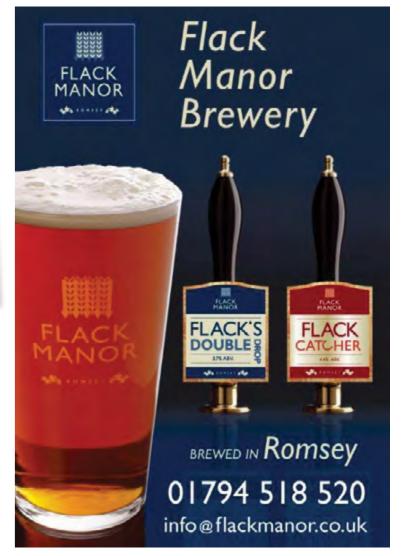
Betteridge's Brewery

Betteridge's Brewery in Hurstbourne Tarrant produces award-winning ales in bottles and casks. It is a microbrewery providing for pubs, retail outlets, festivals large and small, and food fairs. For more information about their beers and the stocklists visit

www.betteridgesbrewery.co.uk











Tours and Tastings available from May - end August. includes wine maker's lunch.

To book call 07825664936 or hughliddell@cottonworth.co.uk

JUST OPENED!

An exciting new boutique shop at the Vineyard, selling wine gadgets and other luxury products.

WWW.COTTONWORTH.CO.UK

Taste the Test sensation

Anyone spending time in Test Valley is sure to be impressed by the stunning scenery and the growing reputation this area has for fabulous food and drink.

If you have an appetite for locally grown, mouth-watering food, fine wines and casked ales, you're going to enjoy a taste sensation. From honey to chilli oils, watercress to water buffalo, pasture raised beef and artisan cakes – there's plenty on offer for tasting, not forgetting trout from the famous chalk streams of the River Test.

There is a huge variety of pubs, cafes and restaurants serving food from a host of local producers, helping to put local food on the map.

Information on all the top producers and where to buy locally produced food is available in the A Taste of Test Valley leaflet, which can be found at Tourist Information Points and Romsey Tourist Information Centre.

Broughton Water Buffalo



Buy naturally farmed, 100 percent grass fed water buffalo meat at the farm's on-site shop or online. Host your special event on the farm in the stunning surroundings of Hampshire's rolling chalk downs. Have a Buffalo Kitchen mouth-watering feast cooked up by the on-site and mobile catering teams!

Manor Farm, Broughton, Hampshire, SO20 8AN 01794 301031

tania@water-buffalo.co.uk www.broughtonwaterbuffalo.co.uk Facebook: @broughtonwaterbuffalo Twitter: @BWBbuffalo

Events:

Spring Party at the Buffalo Farm! - Saturday 18 March Open Farm Sunday - Sunday 11 June Farm Walks and BBQ - Saturday 1 July



What's on the menu

Just some of the things you will find here:

A range of locally sourced smoked fish products, pâtés and soups at River Test Smokery, Chilbolton Using traditional methods and no artificial additives, this smokery can smoke your catch for you or you can sample their own smoked delicacies.

Iconic Hildon represents the best quality English Natural Mineral Water

Hildon is bottled at source and comes from deep beneath Test valley in the chalk hills.

High quality handmade truffles and chocolate treats by My Chocolate Gallery, Romsey Handcrafted chocolates using quality, locally sourced ingredients where possible.

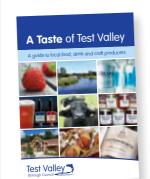
The freshest rainbow trout from the River Test and River Itchen

This delicious fish is sourced and prepared by Chalk Stream Foods and then delivered to restaurants, pubs and tea rooms across Hampshire and beyond. If you wish to take some home with you after your visit, their trout is available in a number of co-ops and farm shops across Test Valley or you can visit their online shop.

Artisan handmade cakes freshly made by The Daisy Cake Company, Romsey

Everyday cakes to eat in or take-away and bespoke celebration cakes.

Becky's Beezzzs honey bee farmers, Andover Honey and honey bee products are made from more than 100 honey bee colonies sited in apiaries across Hampshire and Berkshire.



And what better place to sample this and much, much more, than in a cosy country pub, quaint tearoom, delightful deli or an award-winning restaurant in Test Valley.

Pick up a copy
of A Taste
of Test Valley!

Parsonage Farm

Parsonage Farm produces award-winning charcuterie using meat from the farm's livestock.



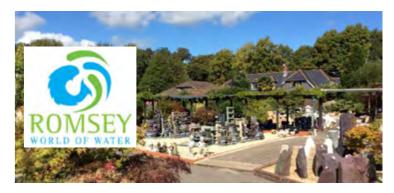
Charcuterie Workshops

Come and join a workshop to make sausages, salami or butcher a pig and cure it! Small groups, hands on, fun learning.

Bespoke course can be arranged.

Parsonage Farm Charcuterie

01264 736208 www.parsonage-farm.co.uk





~ 5 acres of show gardens ~ ~ ornamental lakes ~ tea rooms ~

~ FREE WiFi ~ large FREE car park ~ ~ disabled access ~ groups & coach parties welcome ~

~ all dietary needs catered for ~

~ aquatic centre with display aquariums ~ indoor/outdoor aquatic products & livestock ~ ~ suitable for all ages ~

Find us at 93 Greatbridge Road, Romsey, SO51 0HB 01794 515923

www.romseyworldofwater.co.uk

Please see our website for opening times and upcoming events



Keats Restaurant

Keats Restaurant has earned a stellar reputation for sourcing local produce and turning it in to amazingly creative and delicious dishes. Restaurant chef and owner, Martin Aslin, is a willing slave to seasonality, and believes provenance is the key to delivering top notch food. Martin's food is creatively tweaked to reflect the region's best seasonal meat, fish, fruit and vegetables.

Cuisine is predominately modern British and you can expect a selection of succulent meat, enticing vegetarian dishes, vibrant fresh fish and a scrumptious array of desserts. There's also a nod to the restaurant's 40-year heritage as an Italian eatery, with a repertoire of heavenly home-made pasta dishes.

Keats delivers to those who want a light bite of something fresh and zingy, such as seared sea bass with tingling lemon sauce and soft broccoli purée. Then there are diners who want to immerse themselves in rich sauces and satisfying indulgence. Think luscious beef fillet with a peppery watercress purée, pea salsa

verde and rich tarragon beurre blanc, or delicately spiced butternut squash, sweet potatoes and crunchy almonds with halloumi crammed inside tubes of fresh cannelloni. There are of course simple meals for younger diners to enjoy.

For celebrations, groups and coaches, Keats has a private function room. For guests with food intolerances who would like to indulge safely, Keats will do their very best to create a meal just for you.

The food at Keats matches the restaurant's setting. The atmosphere is unpretentious, staff are welcoming, friendly and offer a good knowledge of the menu and diverse wine list.

Expect deliciousness and you won't be disappointed.

www.keatsrestaurant.co.uk

Facebook / Twitter @keatsrestaurant

The MayflyThe perfect place to relax...

Set in the heart of Test Valley, The Mayfly is a countryside inn with glorious views over the world famous River Test trout stream. The inn is a haven for walkers, cyclists and those who prefer simply to relax in beautiful surroundings while enjoying a drink from the well stocked cellar and a delicious meal.

The Mayfly is renowned for its extensive wine list, with almost 30 varieties picking the best that the Old World and New World have to offer. All wines are available by the glass, allowing you to sample the varied delights of Burgundy, Rioja, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and many more.

The food ranges from heartwarming traditional fare to the more exotic, and is available all day long from 11.30am to

The proprietors, Barry and Julie Lane, have been welcoming visitors to their beautiful riverside pub for more than 30 years. So if you want to sip a Pimms on the riverside terrace in the summer, or drink a glass of red wine by one of the wood burning stoves in the cosy bar in the winter, then The Mayfly is a refreshment stop to add to your itinerary.

www.themayfly.co.uk





Surrounded by beautiful countryside, including the neighbouring Broadlands Country Estate, The Cromwell Arms makes the ideal base for country pursuits. Enjoy a day's fishing or a walk along the River Test, then head to the pub to warm up next to the log burner or enjoy the sunshine in its beautiful courtyard. The Cromwell Arms has direct access to a stunning part of the River Test and is able to arrange an exclusive day's fishing rate for guests staying in its accommodation.

With ten unique bedrooms, each blending traditional style with modern convenience, The Cromwell Arms promises some of the finest accommodation in Romsey and the surrounding area. Being just a short 15-minute drive from the centre of Southampton, The Cromwell Arms is the perfect escape from the city and often a welcome retreat for their corporate clients who frequent the hotel. Special corporate rates are available for businesses that use the hotel regularly - and The Cromwell Arms is definitely somewhere you would want to return to! Located just five minutes from Paultons Park, the hotel is the perfect spot for families over the holiday periods too!

Enjoy a blissful night's sleep and wake up to a brilliant home-cooked breakfast. The venue's chefs know you can only make great food with the best ingredients, so they demand that seasonal, local produce is delivered fresh every day. That's their chefs' commitment to your food and one of the reasons they put their signature on every menu.

The Cromwell Arms is proud to boast a luxury 200 seater marquee in its grounds, which is the perfect venue for a wedding, private party or corporate event. There are lots of different options to choose from and The Cromwell Arms aims to tailor-make each event to suit the guests' requirements. The marquee is erected at the beginning of April and remains within the stunning grounds of The Cromwell Arms until the end of October. With their own wedding and event coordinator, organising a celebration couldn't be easier!

In February 2017, The Cromwell Arms will undergo extensive refurbishment which will include the pub, its gardens and substantial enhancements to the marquee. With 50 extra covers outside in the garden and an additional 30 covers inside the pub, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for a reopening date to come and try their new menu and see the incredible new look.







cromwellarms@fullers.co.uk www.thecromwellarms.com

Market town of Romsey



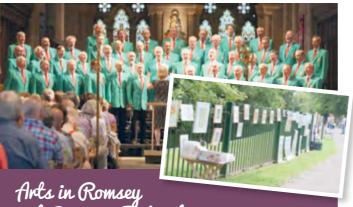
The ancient market town of Romsev sits on the banks of the River Test. Florence Nightingale and Reverend Wilbert Awdry, the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine, both lived in this timeless English market town. Pretty medieval streets surround the Abbey, which is one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in England.

Romsey Market is an example of the town's impressive heritage. Enjoy wandering among the stalls on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Visit on the first Sunday of the month and you can enjoy one of Hampshire's busiest Farmers' Markets and the opportunity to buy top quality products grown or made in the local area.

The Market Place is a reminder of days gone by with the statue of Lord Palmerston, former Foreign Secretary, Prime Minister in the 1800s, and famous for his "gun boat diplomacy". The Victorian town hall first opened its doors in 1866. In Church Street you'll find King John's House and Heritage and Visitor Centre, which is a Tudor cottage in a former Victorian gun shop and a wonderful tea room in a cottage garden.

Within this historic town there is an excellent range of shops, from small independents to high street names, as well as the family owned department store, **Bradbeers**, which has been serving the town for many years.

After all that shopping you'll no doubt need to stop for refreshments. There is an abundance of cafés. restaurants and pubs to choose from. Relax in a cosy country pub for some traditional pub grub, experience some of the finest food in Romsey's two AA Rosette brasseries or enjoy excellent food in a period settina. Sample seasonal delights from the deli or share a pot of tea for two in a family run tea room, or a slice of cake in a gallery café where you will not only find the perfect slice but also works of art by many local artists.



and Romsey Festival

Visitors to the market town of Romsey will be amazed at the variety of entertainment available throughout the year as part of Arts in Romsey, including music, drama and the visual arts.

A major event in the calendar is the Romsey Festival in July 2017, which will showcase the amazing artistic, dramatic and musical talents that flow through the veins of this historic market town. The festival will bring culture and creativity to life, with churches, halls, pubs and the War Memorial Park holding innovative events dedicated to the arts.

At the heart of it all, Romsey Abbey will play host to a wide range of music and the internationally renowned Romsey Quilters' exhibition. There is much on offer for everyone to enjoy.

For more information on the year's events, including Romsey Festival in particular, go to

www.romseyfestival.org or pick up the Arts in Romsey and Romsey Festival brochures from local tourist information centres. Tickets for many of the events can be purchased in advance online, through the Romsey Tourist Information Centre, or on the door. However many of the Romsey Festival events are free to enter, with donations to a good cause invited.

Ali Rosen - physio/THAW Sports and Remedial Therapy



Based in central Romsey with parking close by, Ali Rosen has more than 10 years' experience. She offers a range of customised sports, remedial and deep tissue massage treatments. Ali also offers soft tissue therapy, dry needling/acupuncture, life and lifestyle coaching to provide the best solution to your ailment or condition. Tel: 01794-501519 Info@alirosen.co.uk

www.alirosen.co.uk

Romsey Abbey



Historic, beautiful and tranquil, Romsey Abbey boasts many interesting features, including the Saxon Rood, the original Bill of Sale signed by Henry VIII and Earl Mountbatten's tomb. Guided tours are available. Contact Canon Tim Sledge on

01794 513125 or visit www.romseyabbey.org.uk

Welcome to Andover

As well as being mentioned as far back as the Domesday Book, Andover owes much of its character to its prominence as an important 18th century coaching town, with many of the buildings maintaining their charming style and features from this period. Most notable among these are the imposing Grade II listed Georgian Guildhall and the Star and Garter Hotel.

Modern day Andover has a compact and bustling town centre, with a very pleasant pedestrian environment boasting more than 250 retailers, from high street favourites to an array of specialist independent shops and boutiques.

The town has a fantastic street scene with more than 30 pubs, restaurants, cafés and coffee shops, some of which sit alongside the tranquil River Anton as it weaves through the town centre. The range of boutique coffee shops, appetising restaurants, traditional hostelries and tempting eateries make it the ideal place to relax and meet with friends.

With a twice-weekly market, a monthly Farmers' and Crafts Market, regular events, annual carnival and many other activities, Andover has a real buzz throughout the year.

Conveniently located off the A303, the town has great road links to the M3 and M4 motorways and a direct fast rail link to central London. The town centre is also served by more than 2,000 car parking spaces and plays host to Andover Leisure Centre, The Lights Theatre, Chantry Centre shopping mall and The Museum of the Iron Age.



The nearby Pizza Express is well worth a visit,

where lots of Troggs memorabilia can be seen

Welcome to Stockbridge

Lying at the heart of Test Valley,

Stockbridge's picturesque Georgian High Street reflects its early role on a drovers' road where it was common to see flocks of sheep or herds of cattle being driven through the town en route from Wales. Seek out the Drovers House and you can still spot a sign in Welsh.

Today, Stockbridge High Street offers a wide variety of shops from an art gallery, interior design studio and boutiques to specialist food shops, including a fishmonger, greengrocer and butcher.

Tea rooms, pubs and hotels offer local fare to suit every taste. Stockbridge's link with the River Test, and in particular the brown trout, is celebrated at the Trout 'n About festival, which takes place every August. Voted Britain's Best Foodie Street, local produce is all part of the visitor experience, be it beer from nearby Romsey, trout from the River Test or buffalo burgers from Broughton Down.

Broughton Crafts



A long-established craft and gift shop crammed with a huge variety of wonderful goodies. Ceramics, glass, toys, jewellery, bathroom treats, cards, mugs, wooden birds, silk flowers and much more..

High Street, Stockbridge Tel: 01264 810 513 www.broughtoncrafts.co.uk

Wykeham Gallery



Founded in 1985, The Wykeham Gallery is a contemporary art gallery exhibiting pictures, sculptures and ceramics. The Gallery shows outstanding work by many well established artists, as well as exhibiting the work of some very exciting new artists.

High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE Tel: 01264 810364 www.wykehamgallery.co.uk enquiries@wykehamgallery.co.uk

River Dental



A caring and professional dental practice in a fantastic location alongside the River Test. We offer you dental care where your choice and requirements are paramount. River Dental, 1 Clarendon Terrace, High Street, Stockbridge SO20 6EY

www.river.dental Email: kinafisher@river.dental Tel: 01264 810818

A welcoming reception

When it comes to choosing where to stay during your visit, you'll be spoilt for choice. There are smart country house hotels, inviting pubs, ancient coaching inns, fully serviced campsites, welcoming B&Bs, and converted barns. Set vourself in idvllic countryside where you'll open your curtains to breathtaking views of the South Downs and rose scented gardens, or opt to stay in the heart of the bustling market towns with local shops, restaurants, museums and attractions on the doorstep.

You'll find a charming place to stay in Test Valley

B&Bs offer that homely feel as well as a delicious breakfast on the table each morning. Snuggle up in a cosy 17th century cottage, book a charming 16th century listed farm house or relax in tranquil Georgian houses - the B&Bs in Test Valley have their own piece of history on the doorstep and provide great value for money.

Church Mews B&B is a Grade II listed, early Elizabethan galleried town house and one of Andover's oldest private dwellings. Most likely to have been a Tudor manor house, parts of the current house have been in existence since early in the 16th century. Standing at the head of the medieval upper High Street, it includes historic features such as exposed oak beamed ceilings and original crook frame wall timbers. Church Mews is remembered by many local residents as being a stone mason's for more than 100 years, and you will see evidence of this in the dining room which was the original show room.

Yew Cottage in Longparish is a charming and characterful brick and flint thatched B&B in the heart of Test Valley. The Grade II listed building was built in the 17th century and is likely to be more than 400 years old. It still has original architectural features and styling, which add to its overall ambience. Its comfortable and well-appointed bedrooms provide bed and breakfast in rooms full of character for a memorable stay.

Formerly known as The Wessex Guest House, The Palmerston Rooms B&B in Romsey is a Grade II listed building that dates back to the early 18th century. The building used to be two separate houses and has been used as a B&B for at least 50 years and is nestled in the heart of this historic market town.

Wanting to make your trip a little special? Sink into the luxuries of one of the fine country house hotels, complete with serene landscaped gardens and all the facilities you need to recharge after a busy time of exploration. One thing you can be sure of is that the accommodation is just as wide ranging and welcoming as Test Valley itself.

Where to stay

Prices are correct at time of going to press, but it is essential to check when making a reservation. Quoted hotel and bed and breakfast prices are per room, per night including breakfast, unless otherwise stated. Prices for self-catering establishments and holiday parks are per unit per week. Short breaks may be available; please call to enquire. All prices include VAT but prices may be subject to change. Some establishments accept Euros and this is indicated by the € symbol.

Ratings You Can Trust

VisitBritain and the AA assess hotels and guest accommodation (including B&Bs) to the same criteria and award one to five stars. The star ratings reflect the overall quality of the experience. For serviced accommodation (hotels and guest accommodation) there are two separate schemes.



The following descriptions of what to expect apply to all types of accommodation. Use the ratings as a general guide.

- ★ = Simple, practical, no frills.
- * * = Well presented and well run.
- $\star\star\star=$ Good level of quality and comfort.
- * * * * = Excellent standard throughout.
- $\star\star\star\star\star$ = Exceptional with a degree of luxury.



VisitBritain Gold and Silver Awards

Places that go the extra mile to make your stay a special one will be awarded a high star rating, and hotels and guest accommodation may achieve a Gold or Silver award.



AA Yellow Stars (for guest accommodation only) These are awarded for the highest quality within each star level for all aspects of quest accommodation.



All the accommodation featured in this guide has been quality assessed by either VisitBritain or the AA, or has recently applied for a rating and is

awaiting assessment. Please be aware that ratings may change

Working with Visit England and Quality in Tourism, Test Valley Borough Council has created an entry level assessment scheme for B&Bs which meets regulatory standards and provides reassurance for customers.



Walking and Cycling Friendly

These accommodation establishments are designated walking and cycling friendly. This means they provide services especially for walkers and cyclists such as

packed lunches, a drying area for wet clothes, a safe place to store bikes and boots and local route information.

Keys to Symbols

B&B Bed & Breakfast







Non accommodation

- Car park & Wheelchair access/facilities
- Guided tours available ■ Café
- Gift shop Licensed
- Children's indoor play area Restaurant service
- Baby changing facilities Outdoor play area
- **∠** Accommodation
- ∠EZ Credit cards accepted **★** Bar meal

Yegetarian dishes Accommodation

- No smoking establishment
- Swimming pool on site/nearby Credit cards accepted
- Ground floor bedrooms TV in room
- Central heating throughout Off street parking

- Children welcome (min age) • Tea/coffee making facilities
- Lounge for residents & Access for disabled
- Garden
- Games room ★ Pets welcome
- WIFI Internet or WIFI
- Railway station within five miles Dishwasher
- Clothes washing facilities Linen and towels provided or for hire
- M[®] Microwave Cot available for hire
- X Café or restaurant • Electrical hook-up
- Chemical toilet disposal Washing and ironing facilities
- Shop or mobile shop Hot showers
- Car parking beside tent/caravan/unit ← Children's play area
- € Euros accepted

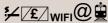
Church Mews

Church Mews is an Elizabethan galleried town house and one of Andover's oldest dwellings. At the head of the medieval High Street it combines a wealth of historic features with warm and comfortable modern living.

2 Chantry Street, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1DE Tel: 01264 324323 Fax: 01264 332820 Email: guesthouse@churchmews. co.uk www.churchmews.co.uk

Rooms: 1 Single, 1 Double/Twin, 1 Family, 2 Shared Bathrooms Single from: £40-£45 Double from: £55-£65







Yew Cottage B&B

Yew Cottage, Longparish, Andover, Hampshire SP11 6QE Tel: 01264 720325

Contact: Rosie Lowry rosie@yewcottagelongparish.com



Cosy 17th Century cottage accommodation with annexe in a beautiful village on the River Test. Good pubs and shop nearby.

Rooms: 1 twin ensuite and 2 single Single from: £40.00

Double from: £80.00 ¥₽ WB



Packridge Apartments and B&B $\star \star \star \star$

17th century licensed B&B and self-catering apartments, set in 10 acres of gardens and grounds. Located just off the M27 giving easy access to Southampton, Romsey, Paulton's Park and the New Forest. Cruise, park and stay packages available through our on-site ABTA travel agency. Facilities

include a games room, outdoor pool and Hot Tub. Dog friendly.

Packridge Farm, Packridge Lane, Toothill, Romsey S051 9LL Tel: 02380 733073 Fax: 02380 733073

Email: info@packridgeestate.com www.packridgeestate.com

Open: All Year Rooms: 2 Doubles, 2 Family, (All En-suite) Single occupancy from: £56 Double from: £74 2 Self - Catering, Sleeps 4 max, Low Season (min): £299





The Palmerston Rooms B&B

3-5 Palmerston Street. Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8GF Tel:01794 840105

Email:info@thepalmerstonrooms.com www.thepalmerstonrooms.com 4 Double, 1 Family, 1 Single, 2 Twin Single from:



Situated in the heart of Romsey Town Centre, The Palmerston Rooms is a beautiful Grade 2 listed town house. Newly re-furbished to the highest standard, offering 7 en-suite letting rooms. Within an easy walk of train & bus stations. You will always be sure of a warm and friendly welcome from





The Chalet Guest House



105 Botley Road, Whitenap, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 5RQ Tel: 01794 517299 Mobile: 07922 662933

Email: thechalet@hotmail.co.uk 2 Double, 1 Family, 3 Ensuite Single from: £45 Double from:



Small family run B&B approx. 1 mile from Romsey centre and train station. Private parking, ensuite facilities, tea/coffee making, TV, central heating. Ideally situated for New Forest, Salisbury, Winchester and Southampton. A warm friendly welcome.



Our restaurant serves seasonal, freshly cooked and local food throughout the day

We offer a large choice of real ales, lagers and a carefully chosen wine list.



Stay the night in one of our 53 bedrooms, and we also offer complimentary wifi and car park for all our guests.

We have 3 large event rooms as well as smaller conference rooms so we can organise most events for up to 200 guests

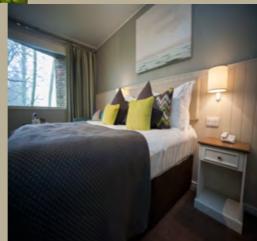


The Potters Heron

Winchester Road Ampfield **ROMSEY** SO51 9ZF

02380 277 800

www.potters-heron.co.uk reception@potters-heron.co.uk



Say"I Do" DoubleTree

BEST WESTERN Chilworth Manor Hotel

Located on the outskirts of Southampton in 12 acres of beautiful gardens, Email: Best Western Chilworth Manor Hotel provides an ideal base in a convenient location to explore the city and surrounding areas. Recently refurbished. Chilworth Manor offers excellent leisure and dining facilities should you prefer to relax and unwind.

Best Western Chilworth Manor, Chilworth, Southampton SO16 7PT Tel: 023 8076 7333

www.chilworth-manor.co.uk 97 bedrooms - includes 4 Suites

Rates are seasonal, advance purchase discounted rates

PINA & hwifi



prize draw entry to win an overnight stay in Test Valley

Complete the visitor questionnaire below to assist Test Valley Borough Council with future marketing and publications and be entered into a FREE prize draw to win an overnight stay for two, including dinner bed and breakfast for two at the Potters Heron Hotel. Simply complete the questionnaire below and return it to: Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017, Estates and Economic Development Service, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ.

Have you visited Test Valley in the st 12 months? Yes No	7. What attractions did you visit in Test Valley?
When you last came to the area, w long did you stay? Day trip only Overnight	8. Where did you pick up a copy of the Test Valley Visitor Guide?
What made you visit Test Valley? Family day out Holiday Visiting friends/relatives Special Occasion Short break Other When you last visited, where did u stay? My own home Hotel/inn/lodge With friends/relatives Self catering B&B/guest house	9. Which elements have you most enjoyed reading about in the guide? 10. Are there any elements that you think we could improve on? I am happy to receive information from the Potters Heron Hotel I am happy to receive information from Test Valley Borough Council
Campsite Please state where you stayed	NameAddress
	Postcode
How did you find a place to stay? Visitor Guide	Telephone Email
Internet search engine Test Valley Borough Council website Personal recommendation Other	How Test Valley Borough Council will use information about: We may share your information with tourism/ leisure businesses for use in marketing. We would like to send you information about our
During your visit to Test Valley, nat did you do? Dining out Shopping Sightseeing Walking Leisure cruising/sailing	own services as well as those of selected third parties by post, telephone, email and SMS. If you agree to being contacted in this way, please tick the relevant boxes Post Phone Email SMS We would also like to share your information with other companies so that they may send
Visited local villages and towns Attended a local event	you information about their products by post, telephone email and SMS. If you agree to your information being shared in this way, please tick the box.
rm and Conditions: prize includes dinner, bed and breakfast for two adults at the Potters on Hotel in Ampfield. The prize will be valid until the end of November of and is subject to availability (excluding The Southampton Boat Show, of A February 2018 and excluding December 2018). The dates of your must be negotiated and pre-booked with the accommodation provider. Iicants must be over 18 years old. By entering the prize drow you agree your name, region and publicity photos may be required. Closing date intries is 30 November 2017. Only one entry per person; the winner be the first name drown at random from all entries and notified by 31	If you need any further information please write to the Council at Estates and Economic Development Service, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ or email dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk
ember 2017. Additional beverages, meals, snacks and extra facilities	Customer signature

are not included in the prize package. Prizes are non-transferable and

no cash alternative is offered. No purchase necessary. Employees of the Potters Heron Hotel or Test Valley Borough Council are not eligible to enter. For further details please write to: Test Valley Visitor Guide 2017, Estates and Economic Development Service, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ.

Museum of Army Flying One child goes free

Sin Harold Hillier Gardens **Buy one get one HALF price***

Keats Restaurant 2 for the price of 1 at Keats

Mollisfont Two adults entry for the price of one

Andover Museum Buy one hot drink get a second free

One free drink per voucher. Not to be used in one need alink per voocine. Not no be osed in conjunction with any other offer. No cash alternati Please bring this voucher and present at the ticket desk at the attraction. Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 31 December 2017.

Golden Gecko Climbing

Cholderton Charlies Half price family admission

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership Station Walks Guide 20% off the £5 cover price

Romsey World of Water FREE cup of tea or coffee

With this voucher, one person may claim one standard cup of tea or coffee at the Water Garder Café at Romsey World of Water. One voucher ma

