

## GOING OUT

suggestions for guests at **The Copse, Mill Lane, Kidmore End, Reading RG4 9HA**

### LONDON

London Paddington is 25 minutes by non stop train from Reading. Trains go every 15 minutes, so just turn up, park and go.

You can book tickets online using [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) and this is usually much cheaper...

If you drive, do remember that there is a CONGESTION CHARGE in place in central London. If you phone congestion charge london ( you can pay over the phone on the day and it is £8. If you forget you can pay £10 the next day, but if you forget again the penalty notice will arrive and it is £60.

There is an NCP car park on the Marylebone Road, which is a continuation of the M40 and Westway. Driving out of the rush hour can be the most convenient.

### OXFORD, HENLEY, READING

These towns are very close by, Oxford 25 minutes, Henley 15 minutes and Reading 10 minutes. These are some suggestions:

[www.hobbs-of-henley.com](http://www.hobbs-of-henley.com) hires boats on the river at Henley and also have special cruises featuring for example jazz, wildlife talks, poetry reading...

Mapledurham House is just moments from The Copse and the gardens and watermill are well worth a visit. Open at the weekends after April, but good to explore any time as masses of footpaths. Turn left out of our gate then left out of Mill Lane, then immediately right down the lane opposite and keep going for 200 yards and the sign for Mapledurham will be on the cross roads. Look on the website and see if they are offering the river cruise cream teas...yummy.

Oxford College Walking Tour is really fun if you get a good guide, and most of them are good. Try [www.oxford-on-foot.com](http://www.oxford-on-foot.com) and [www.oxfordcityguide.com](http://www.oxfordcityguide.com) or hire a punt on the river.

[www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk) for long walk in spring among the snowdrops and daffodils or drive up the A4074 to the wonderful Arboretum - turn left out of our gate, right out of Mill Lane and keep going towards Oxford and after about 20 minutes you will come to Nuneham Courtenay and the arboretum is on the left before the village.

National Trust Properties:

One of my favourite local places is the National Trust property at Greys Court. Located just between us and Henley, you will pass it on the left. Previous home to the Brunner family, but a gorgeous garden, tea shop, interesting house and worthwhile if you are National Trust members, otherwise you pay about £20....

On a grand scale is [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com) where Winston Churchill was born and is now home to the Duke of Malborough. Thousands of acres for walks and fishing. About 35 minutes from the house and a wonderful stately home.

There is masses happening in Oxford, Henley and Reading at all times of year. Theatres, cinemas, festivals. There is also a quaint theatre where you can also have dinner at Sonning. Look at [www.themillatsonning.com](http://www.themillatsonning.com) or the most excellent Newbury theatre [www.thewatermill.org.uk](http://www.thewatermill.org.uk) which often has pre West End quality shows.

Ask us if you want to book golf or horse riding locally, or if you would like us to find you theatre tickets. Very happy to help.

THE COTSWOLDS, BATH, STONEHENGE, HIGHGROVE, WINDSOR

These all seem to be real favourites with guests. The Cotswold villages of Burford (beyond Blenheim Palace), and Chipping Norton are charming. [www.tourthecotswolds.co.uk](http://www.tourthecotswolds.co.uk) is a private car and driver hire, but there are also mini buses and drivers, or use sat nav to get you there.

Also in the Cotswolds is Highgrove, home to Prince Charles and his family. At certain times of year it is possible to visit the gardens and be taken around by the Prince's head gardener. This is a very, very special treat and well worth trying to organise if you are interested in our Royal Family or gardens or both. Go on the Highgrove website and ask for alerts when you can book. You will need to plan this 3 or 4 months ahead.

Of course Windsor Castle and Windsor Great Park is much easier to visit and is down the M4 towards London and perhaps 45 minutes from the house. If you are in the park, try [www.ascotcarriages.co.uk](http://www.ascotcarriages.co.uk) for a horse drawn ride.

Look out for evening horse racing at Windsor Race Course, [www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk) is the site and you can even arrive by boat.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

These are too numerous to mention, but are listed in our local weekly paper The Henley Standard, ask us if you would like a copy as we have one every week and also have maps and guides to borrow.

If you are here in November, there is the fabulous Hennessy Gold Cup race at Newbury Racecourse, which is a fun occasion.  
Of course in June there are the races at Ascot. World famous for the fashion and hats and the presence of the Royal Family who drive up the course in open carriages.

July is the world famous Henley Regatta – and the excellent Music Festival. Fireworks, acrobats, riverside dining, international performers on a stage floating on the Thames. Try [www.visithenley-on-thames.co.uk](http://www.visithenley-on-thames.co.uk)

## ORGANISING AN EVENT AT THE COPSE

You might wish to laze at the house and if you are a hen group, having a pamper session is popular. [www.bodyandsole-therapies.co.uk](http://www.bodyandsole-therapies.co.uk) or 01189477563 is highly recommended by previous hens.

Also Jean Harper will come and teach your group some new dance steps...01189476196 or website [www.alljazzedup.com](http://www.alljazzedup.com)

Jane Miller is the lady for manicures, pedicures and spraytanning at [janesmiller@btinternet.com](mailto:janesmiller@btinternet.com) or 01491 628883

I also have details of a licensed wine taster....