

Secret Cottage Guided-Tours. What a beautiful tower in the Cotswold village of Blockley

On our Cotswolds Tours we find all sorts of amazing places that we love to share with our visitors. Today we visited Blockley which you'll find about 3 miles from Moreton-in-Marsh. It's quite different in character to other North Cotswolds villages; so much so it's been called one of the Cotswold's best kept secrets.

Blockley is rarely mentioned in many guides to the area, which is strange considering what a lovely village it is. There are none of the tourist related shops here that spoil a lot of Cotswold villages.

Nestling in its secluded valley, and with the mill stream winding its way through the bottom of the valley, it's the perfect place to visit. With around 2000 residents Blockley has retained its charm over the past few hundred years.

Fifty years ago the village had 22 shops and banks, which have all been converted to residential use. The last remaining shop, which also housed the post office, closed in 2008. In 2007, the Blockley Save Our Shop Committee launched a long-term plan for a community-owned resource and their new Shop, Café and Community Hub is now located in the heart of the village.

Despite having a small residency, the village is well catered for.

As well as its successful community hub you'll find plenty of places to eat and stay from self catering cottages to bed and breakfast to hotels and restaurants.

Residents enjoy regular meetings for bingo, bridge, bowling,

various choirs, a brass band, toddler group, a discussion group, Picture Playhouse and a Heritage society. Not only that but you'll find an allotment association, art club, amateur dramatics, a WI, an environment action group and a ramblers association!

If you need to hold a meeting, want somewhere to hold a presentation or have something to celebrate you won't be disappointed by your choice of venues:

The Little Village Hall has spectacular views of the surrounding countryside and is bright, light and well equipped. With original works of art by local artists on the walls, it's been fully restored and maintained. Being fully licensed, the Little Village Hall is ideal for everything from small wedding receptions to exhibitions, classes and demonstrations.

Meanwhile, the Jubilee Hall seats around 80 people and has a kitchen and great parking facilities so is perfect for parties, meetings and workshops.

And if that's not enough, St George's Hall is another fully licensed hall with seating capacity of 160 people. So you won't be short of somewhere to hold a celebration in Blockley!

If you just want to soak up the atmosphere of this peaceful village you could enjoy a picnic on its attractive village green which overlooks the bowling green and Norman Church. Look at this fantastic tower of St Peter and St Paul peering above the village. The church of St Peter and St Paul was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The architecture is a mix of Norman and Early English and the tower dates from 1180.

And here's a claim to fame for Blockley! A local company were commissioned to provide seven custom-built three wheelers for the film Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows Part One. Harry is seen flying through the air before crashing into a lake! Who knows, you might need to duck to let Harry past when you

take one of our Cotswolds Tours!