



# CUMMINGS' GOINGS

with broadcaster, author and man-about-Gloucestershire **Mark Cummings**

## Four exciting and challenging *summer days out*



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Harry Potter setting,  
Gloucester Cathedral Cloisters

## Day One: Summer screen test

**T**his summer, treat yourself by exploring the Cotswolds film and TV locations. There's nothing like the thrill of walking into the real-life film set of a Hollywood movie or classic British sitcom and this is how to find them.

The ultimate test would be to complete the following route in a single day starting in Snowhill. Imagine trying to create a classic Christmas scene here in July – that's what the production company had to do when filming *Bridget Jones's Diary*. The iconic scenes when Bridget visits her parents at Christmas were filmed across the parish. The whole village was covered in fake snow and flowers

had to be cut off plants. Take a short hop to Northleach and see if you can spot where the classic scenes of the 'mockumentary' *This Country* were filmed before heading to Arlington Row in Bibury where the film *Stardust* starring Sienna Miller and Claire Danes was filmed. Time now for lunch in Cheltenham and the chance to eat a quick sandwich in Hatherley Park. Find a comfy bench to enjoy the view with a friend and you'll be recreating Ria and Leonard's secret assignments in Carla Lane's *Butterflies*.

A quick trip to Gloucester on the A40 will take you past where the Crossroads Motel exterior shots were filmed at the end of the

Golden Valley Bypass. Once in Gloucester enjoy *Harry Potter* film locations in the Cathedral Cloisters and then go to Gloucester Docks where Disney filmed the sequel to Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*. The production of *Alice Through the Looking Glass* starring Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter took over the Docks for a week.

With the clock ticking, time now for *Star Wars* and *Doctor Who* fans to head to the Forest of Dean. End your epic day in the magical world of Puzzlewood where the eleventh Doctor, Matt Smith, filmed both his first and final episodes and *Star Wars: Episode VII: The Force Awakens* was filmed.



Hetty Pegler's Tump

## Day Two: Quirky placename treasure hunt

Your challenge is to find the following places all in one day: Granny's Pumps, Cockadilly, Bow Wow, Northpole Lane, Paradise, The Heavens, Waterley Bottom and Hetty Pegler's Tump. Here are some clues to help you on your way. I think you should start your mission with a bacon sandwich and steaming hot cup of tea from a roadside snack van. The perfect way to find this 'breakfast from the gods' is to head north on the A417 from Cirencester to Gloucester and look for the huge lay-by just past The Highwayman Pub. This is called Granny's Pumps and it apparently gets its name from a petrol station which was run there by an elderly woman up until the early 1960s. The pumps were hand-

operated and she would be there through thick and thin to fill up for motorists on their journey north.

Fuelled up for the day, it's time now to head towards the Nymphsfield Turbine and try to locate the hamlet of Cockadilly. You need to head to the Cotswold Water Park and into South Cerney to locate the elusive Bow Wow.

Gorsley at the other end of Gloucestershire will provide you with a chilly Northpole Lane and you'll need to head towards Painswick in search of Paradise. Visit Brimscombe near Stroud, look up and you'll find The Heavens. A trip to North Nibley will introduce you to Waterley Bottom and head north out of Uley for a sight of Hetty Pegler's Tump.

### DAY THREE: ICE ICE BABY

Wait for a long, hot, cloudless day and take my ice cream tour of the Cotswolds. This has never been done before so you might say it's a bit of a scoop. Start in Bourton-on-the-Water and look out for my mate Allan Hymers on his tricycle wearing a stripy jacket and a boater hat. Flag him down and tuck into the most delicious ice cream you have ever tasted. Then you must visit Minchinhampton Common and find the Winstone's van by the reservoir and enjoy heavenly treats with an even more heavenly view. It is then time for a pilgrimage to the 'Wall's Roundabout' in Gloucester to pay homage to the company who make 200 Viennettas every minute and 4 million Cornettos every week.

While in the vicinity check out two award winning companies – Cherry Moo and Wholly Gelato. Apologies to the hundreds of other brilliant local producers not mentioned here, we are so lucky to have a deep heritage and a bright future with this dreamy, decadent, delicious delight.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

## Day Four: Messing about by the water



My easiest challenge for you is to simply spend a lazy day by the River Severn. I find *Sabrina* (her Latin name) calming, soulful and mesmerising. Here are a few suggestions for a cheap and easy few hours of relaxing water therapy. Head to the Old Passage at Arlingham and sit on the bank among the reeds staring across at May Hill. Enjoy the gentle charm of Lydney Docks by treating yourself at the newly opened café and watching the world go by.

My final suggestion is to spend some time at the mysterious and majestic Purton Hulks (left). These are a collection of old barges deliberately beached to prevent bank erosion and protect the Sharpness Canal. Look out across the river and see if you can spot the wrecks of the two tanker barges that collided with the bridge in fog in 1960 prompting the Severn Railway Bridge disaster. The eerie remains of the *Wastdale* and the *Arkendale* can be seen at low tide. ●