

# And action . . . the Cotswolds is perfect for Going on location

**W**E may not always fully appreciate it, but we Cotswold lot live in a truly beautiful part of the world.

Indeed it is so fabulous that often you can't keep celebrities and filmmakers away from the place.

The On Location - The Cotswolds tour run by the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean Tourism, took us by coach all around some of the region's best known film locations, including Berkeley Castle, Chavenage House and Stroud company Snow Business.

In case you hadn't spotted it, the Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean are pretty photogenic and the list of TV and films set around this area is long.

Period dramas and fantasy films are particularly fond of Gloucestershire, with filming for such classics as Lark Rise to Candleford, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Stardust and Dr Who going on in and around the county.

We know Gloucestershire's beautiful - and so does the film industry. Dr Who, Lark Rise, Merlin, Harry Potter are just some of the productions that have found just the right spot for filming. **HELEN BLOW** joined a tour of popular locations

Guide Anne Bartlett certainly knew her stuff and kept up an almost constant stream of fascinating insights into the area as we passed each historic spot.

Our tour began with a quick whizz around Cheltenham, which has been used in many TV programmes and films, such as the classic sitcom Butterflies, starring Geoffrey Palmer and Nicholas Lyndhurst, and the period drama The House of Eliott. Then the coach headed off towards Stroud for a fascinating tour of Snow Business, a hugely successful local company which makes artificial snow to create winter effects for film and television.

Run by the effervescent Darcey Crownshaw, the Oscar-winning company has worked on a huge number of productions, including Band of Brothers, Gladiator and The Day After Tomorrow and, more recently, Robin Hood and Clash of the Titans.

Darcey created a field of fake snow for us on the spot, and then showed us many of the different types of 'snow' and 'ice' back in his office.

There were 'oos and ahs' as he poured a jug of water into some white powder and instantly created a gorgeously tactile pile of 'snow' - this place would be fabulous for a children's party.

Next stop, Chavenage House, a grand old manor house near Tetbury, where Lark Rise and Tess were filmed.

Owner David Lowsley-Williams told us quirky stories of what has happened during filming, including his experiences of being a film extra.

He took us to Cromwell's Room, where he said the sex scene for Tess was filmed, and added: "This room hasn't seen so much action for many years."

On we travelled, across to Berkeley Castle, one of Gloucestershire's most historic buildings and the home of the Berkeley family for more than 900 years.

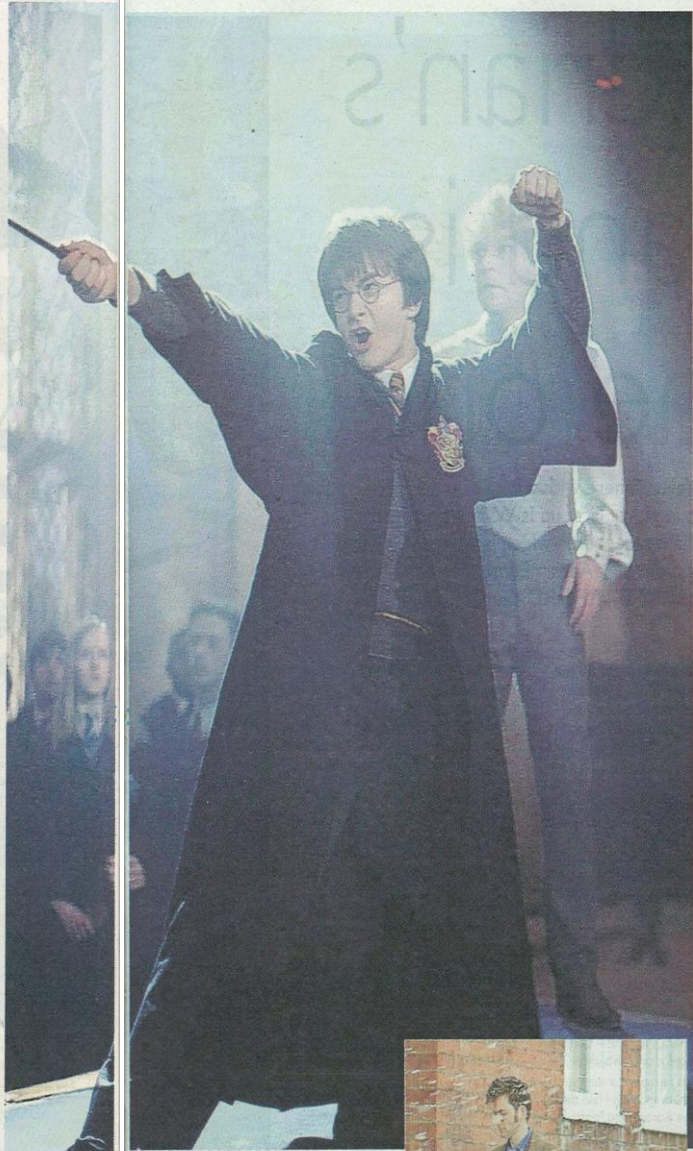
It is where history has been made - where Edward II was murdered, where the Barons of the West gathered before Magna Carta and where Queen Elizabeth I hunted and played bowls.

And more recently it has been the scene of many a period TV and film dramas, including The Other Boleyn Girl, Robin of Sherwood and Nostradamus.

Current owner Charles Berkeley spoke to us about Berkeley's role as a filming location and how important these extra sources of revenue were to its survival.

As we boarded the coach to return home to Cheltenham Film Studios, Anne reminded us this tour had just skimmed the surface of all the county had to offer. Next stop the Forest of Dean and the north of the county - but that's another story . . .

■ Contact the Cheltenham Film Desk on 01242 264118.



Harry Potter and Dr Who scenes were filmed in Gloucester Cathedral - David Tennant was caught in a snowstorm created by Snow Business, below



Berkeley Castle is a favourite choice

**THREE COUNTIES SHOW**  
June 18th-20th 2010

Fantastic Entertainment for  
Children, Parents and Grandparents

Book Tickets on 01684 584924 Or Visit [www.threecounties.co.uk/threecounties](http://www.threecounties.co.uk/threecounties)  
The Malvern Showground to find out more

**Block Paving & Driveway Specialists**

Patios Fencing Turfing Paths  
Driveways Car Parks Roadways  
Bricklaying All Groundworks. As a company we are not satisfied with the completed project until you are.

**PATTERN DRIVEWAYS**  
BLOCK PAVING & DRIVEWAYS SPECIALISTS

Call Tom Cooper for a FREE quotation  
01684 773762/07866375662  
[www.patterndriveways.co.uk](http://www.patterndriveways.co.uk)  
[info@patterndriveways.co.uk](mailto:info@patterndriveways.co.uk)