

Many visitors come to Hartbridge to see the wonderful art galleries and museums, the beautiful buildings and the fantastic parks. Few people go outside the city, and so they miss out on experiencing the scenery and the fascinating history of this beautiful area. This brochure will tell you what you can see if you take a short bus ride out of the city.

The historic village of Camberwell was once the home of the wealthy Hugo family. They lived in a huge country house, Camberwell Court, and owned all the land in the area. The family sold their house in the 1940s, and it is now open to the public. You can spend a whole day walking around the house and gardens. There is a small exhibition about the family, a children's play area, a gift shop and a restaurant. But the village of Camberwell is also worth a visit.

Hidcot is an attractive village situated on the River Owell. Wildlife lovers should visit the Nature Park to the south of the village, where there are large numbers of rare birds and flowers. However, you will probably see plenty of wildlife from the bridge in the village centre! In Hidcot, you can take a two-hour river cruise - a great way to see the countryside and learn about the local wildlife from a guide.

The beautiful village of Tatterbridge was home to the children's writer Jane Potter, whose stories of Benjamin Bear are loved by adults and children around the world. Jane Potter's home is now a museum and tea shop, and is well worth a visit just for its wonderful gardens. It also has a gift shop where you can buy souvenirs and books.

Tatterbridge has a number of interesting shops including an excellent cake shop, and 'Wendy's Giftshop' where you can find lots of unusual gifts made by hand by local artists. Lovers of Jane Potter's books should also walk to the Green Valley woods, which have not changed since Jane Potter wrote her stories there one hundred years ago.

This old industrial village is the highest village in the area. Here in the hills, coal was found in the late eighteenth century, and people came here in great numbers to take it out of the ground and transport it to the nearby towns. Many industries grew up in the area, including a paper factory and a cotton factory.

Studies say that people nowadays have more free time than ever before. Then why doesn't it feel that way? These days, our free time is usually spent watching television, using computers or communicating on our phones. Images and information are constantly flashing into our brains, so it's no wonder we don't feel as if we have really switched off.

Think about what you want to achieve in your free time. Do you want to get fit, get creative or simply relax? Don't worry about what you ought to be doing, just think about what will make you feel more content. Plan when you are going to enjoy your free time, and treat it in the same way as anything else on your calendar.

Make sure you have everything you need to enjoy your free time in advance. If you're looking forward to a nice long bath, buy in bath oil and candles. If you want to get out in the countryside, get your boots and map ready, and don't forget to check the weather forecast. Don't let anything else encroach on your free time.