

1. The Redesdale Hall. Exhibition venue.

2. The Four Shire Stone (Three Farthing Stone). Situated on the A44, 1½ miles south of Moreton-in-Marsh, this monument marks the old meeting place of four counties (Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire) however the county boundaries were changed many years ago. Worcestershire has been moved further north and only Three Shires now meet here. The Three Farthing Stone as mentioned in The Shire records (*The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*) marked a central point in Tolkien's Shire and on the maps drawn by Christopher Tolkien the Farthing boundaries bear a remarkable resemblance to the current county boundaries. This is on a direct route from Oxford to Evesham which JRR Tolkien used to take. "There was the unforgettable occasion in 1932 when Tolkien bought his first car, a Morris Cowley that was nicknamed 'Jo' after the first two letters of its registration. After learning to drive he took the entire family by car to visit his brother Hilary at his Evesham fruit farm. At various times during the journey 'Jo' sustained two punctures and knocked down part of a dry-stone wall near Chipping Norton." (extract from 'JRR Tolkien A Biography' by Humphrey Carpenter).

3. The Rollright Stones (The Barrow Downs). At a high point above the South Warwickshire village of Long Compton (off the A3400) the views over the "Shire" back towards Moreton in Marsh are dramatic. Here are Tolkien's Barrow Downs. There are long barrows on the tops of these hills. The slopes are often shrouded in fog. This is Tolkiens "Fog on the Barrow Downs". Just as described in his story, this fog can appear and disappear rapidly. A neolithic monument (Henge or Stone circle) at the high point, is the Rollright Stones. According to Professor Shippey's *Road to Middle Earth*, p75, when Tolkien refers to Standing Stones, Rollright is probably the place he is thinking of. Tolkien's phrase "jagged teeth out of green gums" is also a good description of the stones here at Rollright. Those hills were crowned with green mounds and on some were standing stones pointing upwards like jagged teeth out of green gums. There stood a single stone standing tall under the sun above. The Rollright Stones are on the direct route from Oxford to Evesham, frequently travelled by Tolkien

4.The Cotswold falconry centre. Batsford Park Moreton-in-Marsh. With Gwaihir the Eagle attending the exhibition this is a wonderful place to visit, 1 mile north of Moreton in Marsh on the A44, The Falconry centre has regular display throughout the day. See all the eagles in action. This is ideal for visiting the Batsford Arboretum with splendid panoramic views across the Shire.

5. Broadway Tower. Broadway Tower is situated off the A44 west of Moreton-in-Marsh, one mile south-east of the village of Broadway. Built on an ancient beacon site, Broadway Tower has a colourful history as, amongst others, home to the renowned printing press of Sir Thomas Phillips, country retreat for Pre-Raphaelite artists, notably the artist, designer, writer, craftsman, and socialist William Morris, location for the studies of the distinguished archeologist Sir Arthur Evans, and farmhouse. Today the Tower houses exhibitions connected with its past and the surrounding area. Broadway Tower is one of England's outstanding viewpoints. It is possible to survey an area which includes as many as thirteen counties. The views encompass the Vales of Evesham and Gloucester. On a clear day you may also see across the Severn Valley as far as the Welsh mountains and beyond. With these magnificent views this could be "Amon Hen" or possibly one of the Two Towers! The Tower is open to visitors daily. The views from the top are just stunning and covers all the sites in this guide. "The world seemed to have shrunk and fallen silent. He was sitting upon the seat of seeing, on Amon Hen, the hill of the Eye of the Men of Númenor. Eastward he looked into wide uncharted lands, nameless plains, and forests unexplored. Northward he looked, and the Great River lay like a ribbon beneath him, and the Misty Mountains stood small and hard as broken teeth. Westward he looked and saw the broad pastures of Rohan."

6. The Red Lion, High Street, Chipping Campden. Some 5 miles north of Moreton-in-Marsh lies the beautiful North Cotswolds town of Chipping Campden. In letters written by Tolkien it is clear that this was one of his favourite hotels, he booked in here many time with his son Michael and even signed copies of *The Lord of the Rings* for the owner in the late 1950's. Well worth a visit.

7. Dormston (Bag-End). In a letter to K Jackson Esq 1968 "In the case of Bag-End, I did not invent it, it was in fact the local name for a house an aunt (Jayne Neave) lived in, in Worcestershire: an old tumbledown manor house at the end of an untidy lane that led nowhere else." The village of Dormston lies north of Evesham near Inkberrow just off the A422. This is little changed from the times when Tolkien visited his Aunt Jayne Neave, an important influence through Tolkien's early life and relationship with Edith, also Jayne Neave was instrumental in

suggesting a book with Tom Bombadil as the central character. As you come into Dormston (right turn off A422 if coming from Inkberrow) Bag-End can be seen on the right, if you go past the main gate and turn sharp right you will come into the "untidy lane". From here you can also see across the fields a Tall Victorian brick built Water Tower (Stonepit Lane Inkberrow) across the fields.

8. Malvern Hills. Tolkien found inspiration in the Malvern landscape. He was introduced to the area by CS Lewis, who had brought him here to meet George Sayer, the Head of English at Malvern College. Sayer had been a student of Lewis, and became his biographer, and together with them Tolkien would walk the hills. *The Lord of the Rings* was first recorded in Malvern, at the home of George Sayer. From *Recollections of JRR Tolkien* by George Sayer (1992 Centenary Conference) "Lewis invited me to have some beer with them at a pub called The Unicorn. There he asked me which were the best walks in the area, and then if I could join them for the next few days, acting as their guide. Lewis then drew me on one side and said that they would be extremely grateful if I would be willing to walk much of the time with Tolkien, while they went on ahead...Tolkien seemed glad to be left behind by the Lewis brothers, whom he described as 'ruthless walkers, very ruthless indeed'...He also liked to stop to look at trees, flowers, birds and insects that we passed. He would not have suited anyone who, like the Lewis brothers, walked partly for health, in order to get vigorous exercise. But it delighted me. He talked so well that I was happy to do nothing but listen."

9. St Mary's Immaculate, Warwick. Coming into Warwick (from the M40) along the A429, St Mary's Immaculate Church is on the right just before the West Gate. He was married to Edith Bratt at St Mary's Immaculate church in Warwick on 22 March, 1916. JRR Tolkien and his wife Edith loved Warwick although Edith only lived there for a short time. A visit to the town and it's castle is highly recommended, and the circular structures of the castle walls has overtones of Isengard.

10. Wolvercote Cemetary, Oxford. Edith Tolkien died on 22 November 1971. Tolkien died on 2 September 1973. They are both buried in Wolvercote cemetery, Oxford.

11. The Eagle and Child (Bird and Baby), St Giles, Oxford. The famous meeting place of The Inklings where JRR Tolkien, CS Lewis, Charles Williams, Owen Barfield, etc met in fellowship and debated their literary works. A wonderful nostalgic building with lovely little "Snugs" and serving traditional Ale and good food. Well worth a visit, just around the corner from the Ashmolean museum. This building dates from the sixteenth century and is Grade II listed. It is popularly known as "the Bird & Baby", and has been a pub since 1650. Wellington Place runs along the north side of the building, and Eagle & Child Passage runs through the pub itself on the south side. The pub belonged to University College from the sixteenth century until 2003, when it was put up for sale. In 2004 it was bought by St John's College (who also own the Lamb & Flag on the other side of the road).

12. Sandfield Road, Oxford. 76 Sandfield Road, Headington, was the home of JRR Tolkien from 1953 to 1968. Tolkien wrote part of The Lord of the Rings here. The plaque over its door commemorates his years in this house.

13. Northmoor Road, Oxford. "In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit." So begins one of the most famous books of the 20th century, *The Hobbit*, published in 1937. The study: where Tolkien read *The Hobbit* to his children. The description of Bilbo Baggins's burrow is short: "Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole and that means comfort." And so began the author, John Ronald Reuel (JRR) Tolkien, as he read to his three sons, seated on the floor of the study at 20 Northmoor Road, Oxford, at the start of an evening of family entertainment. When Tolkien took up the professorship of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford University in 1925, he looked for a comfortable home for his wife, Edith, and three sons, John, Michael and Christopher. In 1926, the family moved into 22 Northmoor Road in leafy north Oxford. Tolkien became a familiar figure cycling along the Banbury Road, travelling between home and Pembroke College on his extraordinarily high-seated bicycle while wearing cap and voluminous gown. The family was to spend 20 years in Northmoor Road, but not all at number 22. Basil Blackwell, the famous bookseller, had built the house next door, number 20, in 1926. In 1929, the Blackwells moved out and, as John and Priscilla Tolkien relate in their book, *The Tolkien Family Album* (HarperCollins, London, 1992), the Tolkiens "decided to move in over the fence". They became "deeply attached to this house, which was our home for 17 years". Priscilla, the Tolkiens' only daughter and fourth child, was born in 1929 and was to spend her entire childhood there.

Visions of a Lost Realm

The Tolkien Art of Ted Nasmith

with Ruth Lacon

Special Guest Alan Lee

Illustrator of The Children of Hurin

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The Redesdale Hall, Moreton in Marsh



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of JRR Tolkien related sites

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