



BACK ROADS THROUGH MIDDLE ENGLAND

**From Dorset to the Humber
along the Jurassic stone belt**

ANDREW BIBBY

Andrew Bibby Literary tour

Andrew Bibby is currently half-way through a series of engagements at literary festivals, linked to his recent title *Back Roads through Middle England*.

His book, which uses the narrative device of a cycle ride made along the belt of Jurassic limestone (sometimes described as cotswold stone) from west Dorset to north Lincolnshire, delves deep into the landscapes of 'middle England'.

In the process Andrew turns to a wide range of disciplines, including social history, economics, and literature, to help him try to communicate why the countryside looks the way it does – and whether the landscape can offer any insights into what 'Englishness' might mean in these troubled times of political change.

So far this year Andrew has spoken to well-attended events in Halifax, Wellingborough and – most recently – at the Lowdham Literary Festival in Nottinghamshire. His forthcoming engagements are:

Sat Sep 15 Durlston Country Park, near Swanage, Dorset

Fri Sep 21 Oundle Book Festival, Oundle, Northants

Thu Oct 4 Ilkley Literature Festival, Ilkley, W Yorks

Wed Nov 21 Todmorden Book Festival, Todmorden, W Yorks

Andrew has given the title of his talk *How to Read the English Landscape*. He features in the talk three particular villages: Steeple Barton (where WG Hoskins wrote his seminal book *The Making of the English Landscape*), Juniper Hill (the real-life Lark Rise, written about by Flora Thompson) and Charterville near Minster Lovell, a working-class land community from the 1840s which remains distinctively different today.

Back Roads through Middle England is published by Gritstone Publishing at £13.95. Trade distribution is by Cordee. For review copies, contact the publisher at info@gritstone.coop.

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