

Knighton

Visitor Guide

Updated

Heart of Offa's Dyke Country



www.visitknighton.co.uk



Welcome to Knighton

As you'll discover, Knighton (or Tref-y-Clawdd to give it its Welsh name) is a small friendly town nestling in the beautiful yet gentle countryside of the Welsh Marches. It makes an excellent base for exploring the great outdoors – with superb walking in particular – and also for touring the many castles, churches, stately homes, gardens and other market towns within easy reach. It is also a surprisingly good place for shopping, with specialist shops to explore as well as those supplying everyday needs. And there are great places to eat, drink and generally unwind amid the slower pace of life in this part of the world. This guide will help you to discover the delights on offer.

History

The area has a long history, going back in the mists of time to the late Stone Age and Bronze Age. But it is the Iron Age that left its early mark, with many hill forts scattered around this part of the Border – the nearest being at Caer Caradoc (north of Knighton near Chapel Lawn) and Coxall Knoll (east of Knighton near Bucknell). Both are linked in legend with the last stand of the Celtic Prince Caractacus against the Roman invaders. Speaking of legends, it is also said that Knucklas Castle (northwest of Knighton) was the haunt of King Arthur and Guinevere. More widely known is Offa's Dyke, built by King Offa who ruled the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia in the



Derek Price, fourth generation Knighton Town Crier



Knighton is twinned with Varades, France



late 8th Century. The great linear earthwork of the Dyke runs for much of the length of the border between England and Wales, though it is unclear whether it was a boundary marker or had a defensive purpose. Knighton sits at the middle point of the Dyke and some of the most impressive surviving sections of Dyke run through the hills to the north and south of the town.

The Marches, as this border country is known, has a long history of trouble and conflict ranging from small raids to pitched battles: it was definitely the 'Wild West' of the Middle Ages! Evidence remains throughout



the district in the form of 'mottes' – defensive earth mounds topped with a wooden palisade – introduced by the Normans. One, built by William de Braose in the 12th Century, can be seen in the town at Bryn-y-Castell (to the rear of the Community Centre and football ground) and another is located on private land at the highest point in the town above The Narrows (officially the High Street). This one later became a small stone castle

and formed the administrative centre of the town under the control of the Mortimers of Wigmore, one of the great noble families of the Middle Ages. Knighton had a chequered career as a frontier town, being sacked and burnt by the Welsh a number of times, the last recorded sacking being by Owain Glyndwr at the time of his victory over an English army led by Sir Edmund Mortimer at the nearby Battle of Pilleth in June 1402.

Knighton then settled down to a quieter time as a market town and commercial centre for this part of Radnorshire. The English Civil War largely passed it by, though there was a small Royalist garrison in the town and just a few miles away there were violent sieges of Parliamentary castles at Bampton Bryan and Hopton Castle.

The railway arrived in Knighton in 1861 and is still here today! The town is served by the charming Heart of Wales line which runs all the way from Shrewsbury to Swansea. See www.heart-of-wales.co.uk for more details.



50ađ

defeat of Caractacus (Caradoc)
by the Romans near Knighton

Places to stay, places to eat



Milebrook House Hotel

Beautiful Country House Hotel situated in the Teme Valley about a mile and a half to the east of Knighton, with four acres of gardens with riverside walks, croquet lawn, wildlife pond. A productive kitchen garden provides many of the vegetables served in our award winning restaurant.

Restaurant open to non residents.

*Open for lunch and dinner
(closed Monday lunch)*

WTB 3 Star Country House Hotel

AA 3 Star - 2 AA Rosettes

Milebrook House Hotel, Knighton,
Powys, LD7 1LT

Telephone: 01547 528 632

Email: hotel@milebrookhouse.co.uk

www.milebrookhouse.co.uk



The Horse & Jockey Inn

Restaurant

Bars

En-Suite Rooms

Wylcwm Place

Knighton

Powys LD7 1AE

01547 520062

mail@thehorseandjockeyinn.co.uk

www.thehorseandjockeyinn.co.uk



Award winning holiday cottage near Knighton www.rosecottagedutlas.com

A comfortable and well-equipped riverside cottage in a quiet valley; within easy reach of major tourist sites and the sea. Relaxing and peaceful; excellent for watching wildlife. Sleeps 4, pet friendly. WiFi available.

Call Marje on 01547 510028



5000ad marriage of the Legendary king arthur
and queen guinevere at knucklas castle



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The perfect stop for a relaxing break whether walking, or visiting the area.

Families and Pets welcome. Small parties catered for.

Justin, Helen and Ieuan welcome you, Croeso Cynnes i Bawb.

www.thegeorgeknighton.co.uk justinrees@tiscali.co.uk

4 Broad Street, Knighton, LD7 1BL 01547 528532



Saffron

Contemporary Indian Restaurant & Takeaway

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6 Bridge Street, Knighton, Powys.

Tel: 01547 528510



Pilleth Oaks B&B

A country house purpose built to provide top quality B&B accommodation. Situated in beautiful Radnorshire countryside with stunning views. Guest lounge. Evening meals by arrangement.

Contact Heather or Peter Hood

Pilleth Oaks, Whitton, Knighton, Powys LD7 1NP

Tel: 01547 560272;

E-mail: hoods@pillethoaks.co.uk;

Web: www.pillethoaks.co.uk



The Knighton Hotel

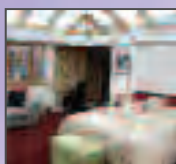
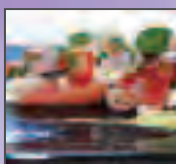
... so many reasons to visit

Independently owned, privately run award-winning hotel. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Welsh Marches and glorious Offa's Dyke countryside.



Pop in to enjoy a drink in one of our comfortable bars, or sample the delights of our executive chef, Paul Webber.

- King Offa's Restaurant
- Norton and Lounge Bars
- 15 ensuite boutique bedrooms
- Large, period function room
Dating back to the 1880's with mezzanine level and capacity for up to 200 people



Why not include a visit to our nearby sister hotel, The Radnorshire Arms, in Presteigne. A historic setting with modern comforts. Please call for details.

The Knighton Hotel

Broad Street, Knighton, Powys LD7 1BL

T: 01547 520 530

E: info@theknighton.com

www.theknighton.com



1230að knighton becomes a borough with
a market charter



Cosy Cottage, Knighton

On Offa's Dyke & Glyndwr's Way. Sleeps 2.

Double bed-roomed cottage with bathroom and shower, offering well appointed self-contained accommodation with a substantial breakfast basket for your first night.

Open all year for single nights or longer stays.

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Phone: 01547 520569 Mobile: 07817 518655

Email: cosycottage.knighton@gmail.com

www.cosycottage-knighton.co.uk



Plough Hotel Olde Worlde Pub

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Knighton, LD7 1BL

Tel: 01547 528218



Laurel Cottage – Knighton

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Contemporary art and crafts from
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art and craft materials, fairtrade gifts and
clothes, vintage rugs; books by local authors



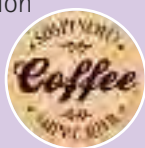
and at the INDIA & CHINA TEA COMPANY?
We're sorry – the Wi-Fi is iffy and mobile phone
reception is really lousy. However, we do have:

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Over 30 different leaf teas and infusions
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Tower House Gallery
29 High Street, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1AT
01547 529530
<http://towerhousegallery.blogspot.co.uk>



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Our flowers are of the highest quality to match the personal
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sympathy or just a quick and reasonably priced bunch of
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1402að owain glynðwr sacks knighton and
defeats engLish at pilLeth, near whitton



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Email: Sales@princeandpugh.co.uk
www.princeandpugh.co.uk

Where to shop



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www.sofasonthenet.co.uk
e-mail: thomasclough@btconnect.com



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Tel: (01547) 520202 or 529520
e-mail: bridalworkshop@btinternet.com

Things to do



Knighton Golf Club

Designed by Harry Vardon, the 9 hole course is
set in undulating and wooded Welsh border
countryside with magnificent panoramic views.
Visiting club golfers welcome. Society
meetings welcome by appointment.
The Frydd, Knighton, Powys LD7 1DG
Tel: 01547 528646
www.knightongolfclub.co.uk



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Tel 01597 851890

info@underhillridingstables.co.uk

www.underhillridingstables.co.uk



The Spaceguard Centre

A working astronomical observatory in a stunning location above Knighton. Find out about the threat that asteroids and comets pose to our planet.

We offer the opportunity to come and find out about the possibility of a real "Deep Impact" and what we can do to prevent one.

Open year round for tours; 2pm & 4pm Wed - Sun inc.

Additional tour; 10.30am May - Sept

Call to check availability as numbers are limited.

Tel: 01547 520247 www.spaceguarduk.com

Dark Skies The Universe from Knighton

With half of the world's population now living in cities, many urban dwellers have never experienced the wonderment of pristinely dark skies and maybe never will. Light pollution is obscuring people's long-standing natural heritage to view stars.

From a city centre location you might see about 100 stars with your naked eyes, and the further away from the streetlights you go, the better the view becomes. Under a really dark sky you can see over 1,000 stars. You can even see our own galaxy, The Milky Way, stretching across the sky.

The UK has some of the largest areas of dark sky in Europe, and the hills around Knighton are wonderful examples of dark observing sites, with the convenience of the town nestling below in the valley. So dark are the skies around Knighton that the area was selected for the Spaceguard Centre, the only astronomical observatory in Europe to be developed specifically to study Near Earth Objects.

Why not take advantage of Knighton's 'Dark Skies' and make time for night sky observations during your stay in the town?

1645ad king Charles I passes through knighton
after the battle of naseby

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walkers' delight, your own ability and a fantastic. Cymru, cardigan
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Walkers are Welcome



Situated as it is on two national trails, it is not surprising that Knighton is one of 60+ towns and villages with the national designation "Walkers are Welcome".

However, Knighton and the upper Teme valley are not just for long-distance footpath walkers. The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty may stop officially at the Radnorshire border but, of course, the stunning landscape doesn't. In fact some say it just gets better!

This traditional and unspoilt market town attracts many day walkers with its well way-marked footpaths and bridleways. There is an active Ramblers' Cymru Group who welcome visitors on their walks and publish local circular walks pamphlets. See www.powysramblers.org.uk/?page_id=9.



1842að Last wife 'soLð at a rope's enð' (i.e. divorcēð)
ON THE SITE OF KNIGHTON CLOCKTOWER



MedlicottSnows Solicitors *General Country Practice Lawyers*

Specialising in: Commercial and Residential
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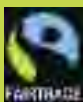
Tel: (01547) 528303 or 07970 550192

www.privatehireknighton.co.uk

e-mail: owensmotors@btconnect.com

Lots to do...

There are plenty of other things for the visitor to do too, including wildlife watching, fishing, horse riding, motor biking and visiting heritage sites. For those who want even more excitement, there is a top rally driving school a few miles out of town near Llangunllo. The area is also rich in talented artists and crafts people and, in addition to local galleries, there are frequent exhibitions and events, including the annual 'h Art' week in mid September each year which focuses on Herefordshire but spills over the border into this part of Powys and Shropshire. Those with younger visitors should visit the area behind the Offa's Dyke Centre in West Street. Not only is there a very good children's play area, but there is also a new professionally designed and built skateboard and BMX bike park where teens (of all ages!) can hone their skills.



'Knighton became the first Fairtrade town in Radnorshire, and the third in Powys in 2006. Since then nearly all of our local shops continue to stock an ever increasing range of Fairtrade goods.

Knighton has an impressively large Community Centre which hosts a wide variety of events throughout the year. It is also the home of a twice-monthly local food and craft market, held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, which is well worth a visit.

Knighton lies in the beautiful Teme Valley, cushioned by the green hills of Powys and Shropshire. The overall feeling is one of rural tranquility and a slower pace of life than you might find in other parts of the country. The wooded hills, rivers and streams, and pasture land with the occasional cornfield or two, offer marvelous opportunities for visitors to enjoy the outdoors. It is an ideal centre for walking, being located on both the Offa's Dyke Path (running north-south for 180 miles along the border) and Glyndwr's Way, which starts at Knighton and runs in a giant horseshoe across to Machynlleth and back to Welshpool, covering about 130 miles in total. The 30 mile Mortimer Trail also runs nearby at Aymestrey and Lingen. There are also, of course, plenty of shorter walks and rambles to suit everyone.

With quiet roads and lovely countryside this is also a good place for cyclists, whether your preference is for mountain biking in the forests, long distance touring or leisure cycling along country lanes. For those who like a challenge, Knighton is part of the Radnor Ring, a 86 mile scenic ride which links the town with Presteigne, Llandrindod Wells and Rhayader.

With its good value places to stay and eat, Knighton and its local area makes a great base for exploring the Marches. Apart from the many attractions closer to hand, here's a taste of what's within easy reach.

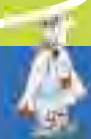
Within 20 or so minutes drive: the impressive remains of Clun Castle, beautifully set Hopton Castle, the gem that is Stokesay Castle, and the ruins of the once mighty Mortimer stronghold at Wigmore Castle.

Within 30 or so minutes drive: the delightful market towns of Ludlow and Leominster, both full of quaint old buildings, lovely churches and known for good food. Ludlow also has its massive castle remains, a setting for famous food fairs and Shakespearean plays.

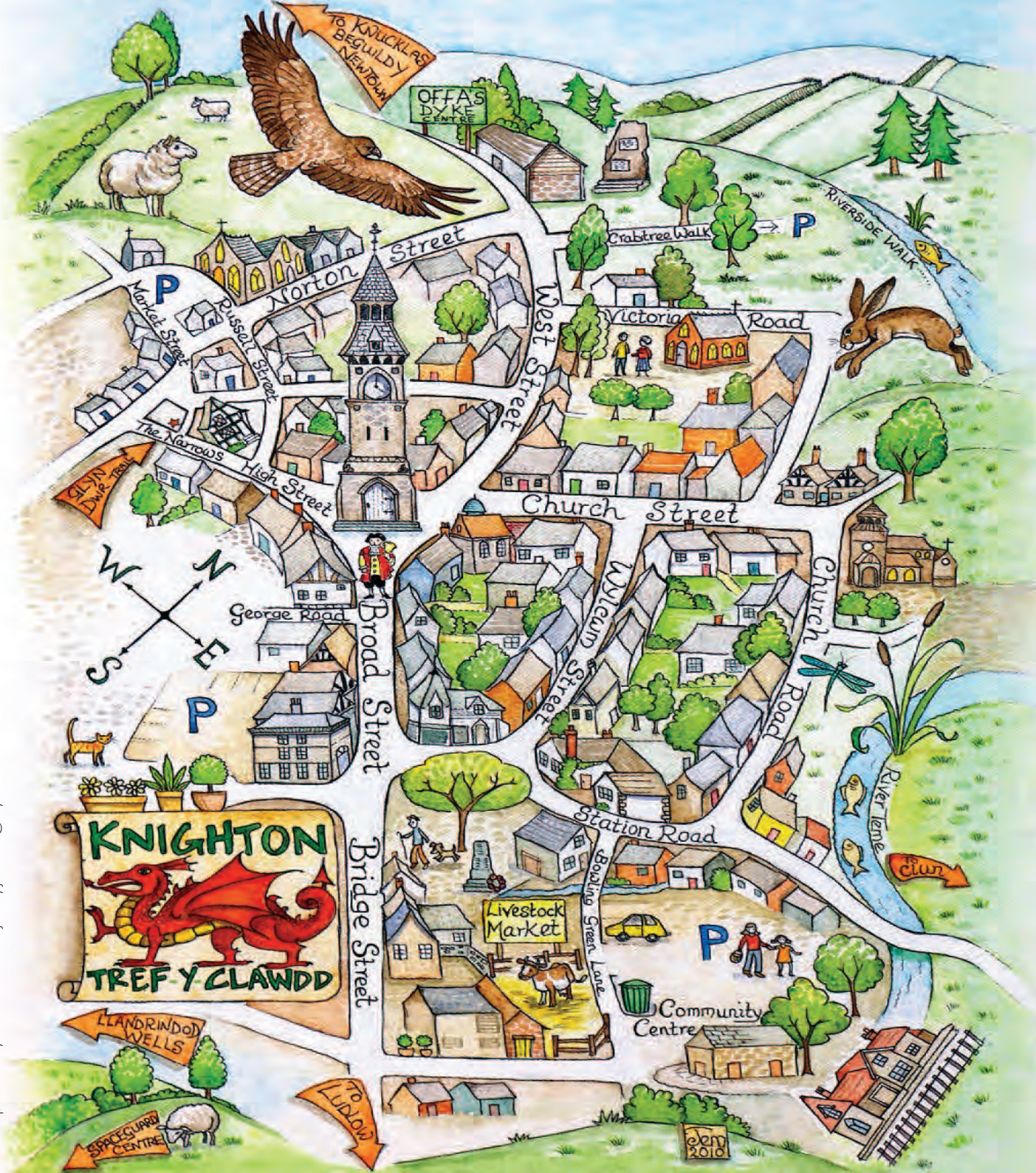
Within 30 or so minutes drive: the attractive National Trust houses and grounds at Berrington Hall (think Jane Austen elegance) and Croft Castle (which has great walks and fantastic views from the Iron Age Hill Fort at Croft Ambrey).

Within 40 or so minutes drive: the stunning lakes and dams of the Elan Valley, the Royal Welsh Showground (agricultural shows, antiques fairs etc.) just outside Builth Wells, and the fascinating 'book town' of Hay on Wye, with its international Literary Festival.

Within 40 or so minutes drive: great walking on the Long Mynd and its secret valleys, the pretty town of Montgomery with its ruined castle dramatically perched above the town and, a little further on, the impressive castle and beautiful gardens of Powis Castle (National Trust).



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next to knighton showgrouND



Knighton

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Heart of offa's dyke country

Key contacts for visitors



Visitor Information: Offa's Dyke Centre,
West Street, Knighton (01547) 528753

Doctors

The Meadows Surgery, Penybont Road, Knighton (01547) 528330
Wylcwm Street Surgery, Wylcwm Street, Knighton (01547) 528523
Out of Hours Doctors Service 08444 06 8888

Chemist (Pharmacy)

Boots the Chemist, 5 Wylcwm Place, Knighton (01547) 528313

Dentists

Denticare, 3 Wylcwm Place, Knighton (01547) 520129
Orchard Corner, Ffrydd Rd, Knighton (01547) 520396

Optician

Evans & Jones, 14 Broad Street, Knighton (01547) 528656

Police (non-emergency)

101 (within Wales)

Taxis & Minibus Hire

Knighton Taxis	(01547) 528165
Owens Motors	(01547) 528303
Access Taxis	(01544) 267739

Vets

Ashburn Veterinary Centre, Station House, Knighton (01547) 529600
Radnor Vets, Ludlow Road, Knighton (01547) 528292

Hospital A & E

There is no accident and emergencies unit in Knighton. The nearest minor injuries units are at Llandrindod Wells Hospital or Ludlow Hospital. The nearest major hospital is at Hereford.

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Local Events

Here's a selection of the events held annually in and around Knighton, plus a few larger events within easy reach of the town.

Event	Timing
Teme Valley Vintage Tractor Run, Knighton	April
Green Man Festival, Clun	1st Bank Hol in May
Knighton May Fair	Mid May
Knighton Races	May
Hay Festival, Hay on Wye	Late May – Early June
Leominster Festival	Early June
Ludlow Festival	Late June – Early July
Mortimer Country Food Fair, Brampton Bryan	Early July
ENDURO Motocross Event, Knighton	July
Scarecrow Sunday, Brampton Bryan	Late July – Early August
Clun Carnival & Show	Early August
'Llanfair Wakes' Village Show	Mid August
Knighton Town Criers' Festival	3rd Saturday in August
Victorian Festival, Llandrindod Wells	Last week of August
Music Festival, Presteigne	Late August
Knighton Show & Carnival	Last Saturday in August
Ludlow Food Festival	Early September
Kington Show	Mid September
EPIC Cycling Event, Knighton	Early October
Vintage Sports Car Club Hill Climb Trials, Whitton	Early October
Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre	Late November

This leaflet has been produced in partnership between the Knighton Chamber of Trade and the Knighton & District Tourism Group. We wish to acknowledge the generous support of our advertisers, Knighton Town Council and Knighton Town Crier.



Knighton or Tref-y-Clawdd to give it its Welsh name
(which translates as 'the town on the dyke')

www.visitknighton.co.uk

ockpooldesign.co.uk

