

Little Cotswold Walks



Lockdown Allsorts



RR Gordon

A series of short, circular walks around the Cotswolds – a mixed bag of walks specially written for a strange time

You can also download other booklets in the series from www.rrgordon.com including 1. Birdlip & Beyond, 2. Painswick Valley, 3. Toadsmoor Valley, 4. Frome Valley, 5. The Falcon, Painswick, 6. Stroud & Surrounds, 7. Stroud Brewery, 8. Windrush West, 9. Windrush East

Issue 3
Cowley & Coberley
added

Little Cotswold Walks
Book 11. Lockdown Allsorts 2020 Edition
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Introduction.

Over the last couple of months we've had so many emails saying how our walks booklets have been useful during these strange Lockdown times – so we thought we'd quickly pull together another little booklet. There are **seven walks in Issue 3**. I doubt we'll ever get it printed – and in the interests of time I've skipped the maps, but maybe we'll come back and do those in the future.

So, this booklet is a mixture of a few of our own local favourites and some from a little further away, a hotch-potch pick-and-mix of walks which never quite made it into the other booklets, mainly for lack of a theme.

Normally when we put our walks booklets together, we look for a cracking walk with a cracking pub at the end. But right now, we're looking for walks which have a nice place to sit at the halfway point so that we can eat the sandwiches which we've taken with us!

To construct these walks, we've explored around, then written out the instructions and then re-walked the walks to make sure they are correct – with my wife Nicky acting as independent QA. She is the queen of fastidiousness, grammar and attention to detail. Furthermore Daisy absolutely insists that if you spot any errors then you should let us know – all three of us will be mortified and will correct the error immediately and re-publish on www.rrgordon.com

Rod Gordon, Aug 2020
rod@rrgordon.com

We are very grateful to Garden Solutions for their extremely generous sponsorship over the years – without them it might not have been possible to continue with the printing of our booklets. If you have anything that needs doing around the outside of your house then it would be great if you could send the work their way!



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"we were delighted with the work that you have done"

1. Brimpsfield to Syde and back

Rod's Rating	 <p>This walk leads from Brimpsfield down the early stages of the River Frome. This stretch is known in our family as The Cal Log Walk – when our son Callum was four or five years old he dropped a chunky stick in the stream and proceeded to follow it down most of the way down to the end near Caudle Green, almost a couple of miles. Occasionally the log would get caught and he employed a longer stick to free it and encourage it on its way. It took a long time to walk a short distance but it was a lovely sunny day ...</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>This is pheasant country and Brimpsfield Park aren't keen on dogs roaming free, but Daisy loves jumping in the stream for a drink and a splash about. And then she's let off the lead a little on the return leg. Can't complain.</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes, pretty much
How long did it take?	1 hour 45 mins to 2 hours

DIRECTIONS/WHERE TO PARK:

There is free parking at Brimpsfield Village Hall. The post code GL4 8LD will get you to Brimpsfield. The village hall is on the Birdlip side of the village.

*An alternative place to start this walk is Syde village green. Look for this around the halfway point of the instructions below – but you will probably want to skip the section where you walk up into Brimpsfield. I'm sure you can work it out, but the three asterisks *** below will give you a bit of a clue!*

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Turn left** out of the village hall car park, then wiggle left and right to walk up past the war memorial and the phone box on your right, walk slightly uphill through Brimpsfield village
 - **Turn left** at the first left turn; this is a tarmac drive leading down to Brimpsfield Park and is signposted to Plum Pudding; there is also a public footpath sign
 - Continue past Plum Pudding house on your right and through a gateway; the road continues more steeply downhill along the tree-lined road
 - **Turn right** on reaching Brimpsfield Park, which is a cluster of farm buildings; go to the right of the first barn on the right hand side following public footpath sign
 - Follow stone track (flat at first & then downhill); Brimpsfield Park main house is on left through the trees
 - Follow stone track to the bottom of the valley until you get to a small lake
- You will now follow the River Frome downstream for a couple of miles (it's just a small stream at this stage)*
- The stone track merges with another track and heads to the right going downstream, lake on left
 - Go through a gateway, downhill for a few yards and then **turn right** on another stone track (do not go straight on up the hill – you will come back that way later! Remember this place!!!) ***
 - Go through a gateway (or over the stile) and follow the stone farm track as it leads along the flat-bottomed valley floor; the stream is on your right and trees on both sides up the valley sides
 - The track curves to the left for a while, then bends a little to the right, then you cross the stream over a concrete bridge (sort of); turn left to keep following the stream and then ...
 - Go through a small wooden gate which opens out into a field (there are often sheep in this field or the next); the stream is on your left; follow the grass-covered valley as it bends to the right

- Go through a metal side gate to the left of a farm gate
- Walk up & over small rise – and then down to cross stream at a concrete bridge; keep following stream
- Go through a metal gate to the left of a farm gate and keep following the stream (on your right)
- At the top of the hillside to the left is the hamlet of Syde which is your next destination
- Opposite a wooden footbridge **fork left** heading diagonally uphill; look for a waist-high wooden marker post initially – then unfortunately the path is a little unclear but head uphill as best you can; aim to the left of a telegraph pole and across the top of a small brook where it emerges from underground; up, up, up!!!!
- Head up a small cutting and follow a dry stone wall on your left up to some farm buildings
- Go thru metal farm gate, walk twenty paces and then thru a small metal side gate to left of main gate
- **Turn left** and follow the tarmac road around to the left

*You will now head back up the right hand side of the valley, back in the direction of Brimpsfield; for the next mile or two the valley will be to your left, but you are staying up top; NB before you start the return leg, you might want to sit on the **BENCH** on the small village green to your right; see Something Interesting below.*

- Head out of the hamlet of Syde past some houses on your left, some farm buildings on your right & then an old disused tennis court covered in moss (nice spot for a tennis court!); the tarmac becomes a farm track
- Follow this farm track for about a mile; there are no landmarks unfortunately, but the track continues on the same level broadly speaking
- Eventually you come to a metal farm gate which marks return to Brimpsfield Park; however you need to **turn right** here, over a stile between the two gates, and walk along left side of field heading towards A417
- When you reach the layby on the A417, go through a gate and turn immediately left back on yourself, go through another gate and walk back down the other side of the wall you've just walked up! (sorry!)
- Head gently down this lovely shallow valley, with Brimpsfield on the opposite hillside in the distance; go through two gates and then eventually you will diverge from the wall on your left and walk more steeply downhill on a stone farm track; you are now heading back down to the bottom of the valley
- The farm track then bends to the right and you will find yourself back at the intersection of tracks mentioned earlier (where you turned left – which was actually right back then, if you see what I mean!) ***
- Continue straight ahead and through the gate, follow the stream back to the small lake
- At the lake, fork left to go back up the track you came down earlier; up, up, up!!!
- The track leads back up to the small tarmac road which leads to Brimpsfield Park
- At the tarmac road **turn left** to walk back up to Brimpsfield; still up, up, up!!
- Go past Plum Pudding and you are back into Brimpsfield; **turn right** at the T-junction and walk back down to the village hall; maybe sit on the wall near the phone box for a breather – while looking at the pigs!

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)



SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Did you sit on the bench on Syde village green? I would like to take a moment to celebrate the immense achievement of the man mentioned on the plaque on this bench. Frederick Sanger OM CH CBE FRS FAA (13 August 1918 – 19 November 2013) – known as Fred – was a British biochemist who twice won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, one of only two people to have done so in the same category. The first prize in 1958 was for uncovering the complete structure of insulin, and the second in 1980 was for developing the knowhow for sequencing DNA. Here is an excerpt from a paper from The Royal Society:

“The impact of Frederick Sanger’s work was enormous. He opened up the field of protein chemistry in the 1950s, stimulating studies of the sequence, structure and function of many proteins and enzymes. In 1977 he devised an ingenious DNA sequencing method that has revolutionized molecular biology and made it possible to completely sequence the 3 × 10⁹ nucleotides of the human genome. Fred Sanger was a modest, reserved man but to his colleagues and friends he always had vision. He was a pioneer and a leader.”

Fred was born in Rendcomb and married his wife Joan in Syde in 1940, but spent most of his academic career in Cambridge. In the seventies he turned down a knighthood as he didn’t want to be referred to as “sir”.

2. Colesbourne

Rod's Rating	 I first discovered this route when I wanted a walk to & from the wonderful Colesbourne Inn. However it's a great walk to take a sandwich for a little picnic on the bench at the top of the walk – which has great views.
Daisy's Rating	 Daisy was a big fan of this walk – lots of places to roam around off the lead, with woods to sniff around in.
Is it a circular walk?	Yes. Well, sort of a lollipop shape.
Pub	The Colesbourne Inn , Colesbourne, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 9NP www.thecolesbourneinn.co.uk
How long did it take?	1 hour 30 minutes, 6km, 150m of up/down

WHERE TO PARK:

If you're not able to park in the pub car park, then you should be able to park either on the small road alongside it or, more likely, the small road alongside the petrol station. See address & postcode above.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Go down the small road to the right of the pub (and to the left of The Old Rectory restaurant)
 - Cross over the stream, the River Churn, and continue up the road past a house on the left
 - Continue straight ahead, uphill with fence on the left and trees on the right
 - At the top of the field on the left, walk 5 paces to the right through a gateway, following public bridleway sign, and turn left to go up the left side of a field
 - At top of field the path curves to the **left** and into the woods
 - When you reach a road (at a big black metal gate) go **straight across** (this is the Colesbourne to Hillcot road)
 - Follow stone track straight ahead, over a weird stile for horses (next to a gate) and continue straight ahead; woods are on right and field & valley on left; go past a barn on the right
 - Field on left ends and becomes woods; woods on right end and becomes a field!
 - Continue straight ahead, slightly uphill, following the track all the way along the side of this very long field on right
 - Ignore fork left thru wooden 5 bar gate and follow field up to the top right corner
 - Turn sharp right immediately after a house, at a T-junction of footpaths
- You will now walk back along the top edge of the same very long field, along a gentle tree-lined ridge with views on both sides*
- Go through a gate – or around it
 - Follow path along top edge of field with **BENCH** halfway along
 - At the end of the very large field follow path round to the right
 - At bottom of the track turn left to re-join original path and re-trace your steps back to the pub
 - Go past barn and cross the road at the big black metal gate
 - Go through the woods and turn right, to walk down the right edge of the field

- Halfway down the field (opposite a copse of trees in the middle of the field on your left), go right and left through a gate to return to the footpath on the other side of the trees, and then past the house
- Walk down the path until it becomes a tarmac road
- Walk over the stream (River Churn) and return to the pub

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The River Churn is the first tributary river of the River Thames. Approximately 25 kilometres (16 m) long, it rises in the Cotswolds at Seven Springs and flows south, joining the Thames in Cricklade. Its length from source to confluence with the Thames is considerably greater than that of the Thames from Thames Head, though the Churn is regarded as a tributary historically and therefore by most geography guides. The name Churn is ancient, certainly pre-Roman, and probably has its origins in the Celtic language. The river flows through Cirencester and it is thought that the town takes its name from the river.



Colesbourne Park, behind and to the right of the pub, is a country house with 30 acres of garden and an arboretum, which was home to the botanist and author Henry John Elwes (1846 – 1922). The park is significant for its display of 250 cultivars of snowdrops, particularly *Galanthus elwesii* which was identified by and named after Elwes. The house is reputed to be England's finest snowdrop garden and attracts many visitors in early spring each year.

The estate was purchased in 1789 by John Elwes, son of the celebrated miser John Elwes, purported to be one of the models for the character of Scrooge in Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol.

The snowdrop gardens at Colesbourne Park:



3. Lower & Upper Slaughter

Rod's Rating	 <p>An idyllic walk between two classic Cotswold villages – and not too much up and down! The first stretch is alongside the River Eye (a tributary of the Windrush) following Warden's Way which is a popular route used by most walks booklets, but the return route is a little quieter.</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Daisy loved it. She must have jumped into the river a dozen times.</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes, triangular in fact.
Pub	The Slaughters Country Inn, Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire GL54 2HS www.theslaughtersinn.co.uk
How long did it take?	1 hour

WHERE TO PARK:

Park at the car park of the Slaughters Country Inn (see above). If you are not planning to use the pub then you might prefer to park at the less busy Upper Slaughter and join the walk halfway round.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Go straight ahead out of the Slaughters Country Inn car park and cross the River Eye
- **Turn left** to walk upstream between the houses and the river, in the direction of The Mill
- Follow the path round to the **right**, walk past the front of The Mill tea-room and **turn left** just afterwards at a Public Footpath signpost for Warden's Way (*see Something Interesting on Naunton walk*)
- Go through 2 gates and follow the river again (it is wider here as it collects into a millpool for The Mill)
- Go through a gate and **bear diagonally right** across a field
- Go through a gate and go straight ahead across the field to a gate by a big tree (the river is on your left)
- Go through the gate and follow footpath straight ahead (not the path that forks to the right); you will see the Lords Of The Manor hotel on your left on the other side of the river
- Walk down to the stream, go through a kissing gate and cross the small stone footbridge
- Follow the path upwards, with metal fence on your left
- **Turn left** at the road; *you are now in Upper Slaughter*
- Follow the road slightly uphill & just after entrance to Lords Of The Manor hotel **turn right** to walk around the right hand edge of The Square; *you might like to visit St Peters church on other side of The Square*
- Walk past phone box and continue to follow the road downhill back towards the river; **BENCH** on left
- Cross the river at the footbridge next to the ford and **turn right** to go through gate and follow the footpath alongside the river, now heading downstream; *we are now heading back towards Lower Slaughter*
- Go through a gate, past a **BENCH** & **turn left** onto road by the bridge with white railings
- Follow the road slightly uphill past an old Cotswold stone house with new extension (The Vineyards) and just past the gate to the house, go through a wide metal 6-bar gate with 2 Public Footpath signs
- Take the **left path** and head diagonally left slight uphill; *NB. This is the same field you were in earlier – if you prefer to return by the same route then head diagonally right, slightly downhill*
- Go through metal 6-bar gate and head towards **top left** of the far side of the field

- Go through metal 6-bar gate and, once again, head towards **top left** corner of the far side of the field
- Go through metal gate and **go straight across** the road into Copse Hill Walk; *this is a local manor house who have opened some of their grounds for walks – you might like to extend this walk by climbing the hill!*
- Follow the right edge of the field, following the road
- At the far corner go through the wooden gate and **go straight across** the road; follow the Public Footpath sign opposite by going through a wooden kissing gate and bearing left
- Walk a few yards and then go over a low stile, follow path between fence on left and hedge on right
- Go through a black gate, between a few trees and through a gate
- **Turn right** onto the road and follow the road into Lower Slaughter
- Continue past cricket pitch on left
- Just after the road bends, **turn right** into a residential road; there is no street name, but go past houses such as Faru, Mole End, Parkfield, Apple Tree Cottage
- The road narrows to a path at the end and goes past The Mill; *pop in for a cup of tea? the tea room garden overlooks the millpool – a beautiful spot on a sunny day*
- Follow the path round to the left and back to the pub

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The names of the village of Lower & Upper Slaughter stem from the old English name for a wet land 'slough' or 'slothre' (meaning muddy place) upon which they lie. Records exist showing that Lower Slaughter has been inhabited for over 1000 years. The Domesday Book entry has the village name as "Sclostre". It further notes that in 1066 and 1086 that the manor was in the sheriff's hands.

Upper Slaughter was identified by author Arthur Mee as one of 32 Thankful Villages, although more recent work suggests a total of 52. This term referred to the small number of villages in England and Wales which had lost no men in World War I, and was popularised by Mee in the 1930s. In *Enchanted Land* (1936), the introductory volume to "The King's England" series of guides, he wrote "that a Thankful Village was one which had lost no men in the Great War because all those who left to serve came home again." Although the village was subject to an air raid, it also lost no men in World War II, an honour held by only 14 villages, collectively known as the Doubly Thankful Villages

4. Caudle Green, Misarden Park & Jamie's Ford

Rod's Rating	 <p>We prefer walks away from the madding crowd and that is more important to us at this current time. Here's a little walk that is tucked away on the eastern side of the Misarden Park estate and we've suggested a starting point at the bottom of the valley near Caudle Green.</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Daisy's not shy about giving out five stars, especially for a walk which features one of our favourite locations in the Cotswolds: the small ford in the corner of Misarden Park which we call Jamie's Ford. There have been many times when we've stopped for a picnic here and Daisy has splashed in the ford continuously for 20-30 minutes.</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
How long did it take?	1

WHERE TO PARK:

The start point is the bottom of the valley near Caudle Green. At an intersection of small roads there is enough room for 2-3 cars to park, but the location is a little tucked away. So here goes ... if you are situated on the village green in Caudle Green (which could be found using the postcode GL53 9PR) then go downhill (with the postbox on the left and green on the right) in the direction of Syde and Winstone.

At the bottom of the valley you will find the stream (the River Frome). Park alongside the road, where it widens, opposite the turning to Syde, at a point where the stream goes underneath the road.

Park between these two signs ...



INSTRUCTIONS

- Let's be very specific about the start as we're in the middle of the countryside: head up the road to Syde, in the direction of a house called Washbrook, but only go five paces, then turn right up a Public Footpath between the Syde road and the Winstone & Miserden road. Here's a photo (taken at the end of May):



- Follow the path uphill for about half a mile following a small brook on the left; near the start there is a sign for Winstone Wood; about two thirds of the way up there is a public footpath to the left which does down to the stream – but ignore this
- Near the top of the hill, the path bends to the right and emerges from the woods into a field; go straight ahead – do not be tempted to follow paths to the left & right (actually these aren't public footpaths)
- Continue straight ahead, going up the right hand side of a field, heading slightly uphill, hedge on right; the village of Winstone is to your left
- At the far right corner of the field, go through the hedge; there really is a gap there! (close to corner)
- Go straight ahead for a few yards and then **turn right** and follow the right edge of a very large field; on the far side of the field, away to your left, is the Lodge and entrance for Misarden Park
- After a while there is a small wood on the right, and the path goes right a short way and then left again to follow the edge of the field; continue to head for the far corner of the field
- Climb over a stile and **turn right** onto a quiet road
- Walk 50 yards, past farm gates on both left & right, and then **turn left** through a wooden walker's gate marked by a Public Footpath sign
- Walk along the right edge of another large field
- After 50 yards **turn right** over a large stone stile marked by a Public Footpath sign (NB if you have a dog you may wish to go another 10 yards to a place where the wall has tumbled down)
- Follow the narrow meandering path as it goes steeply downhill, going past a fallen tree at one point
- Depending on the season the path is sometimes difficult to make out, but generally you need to go down and left until you meet a small tarmac road; NB this is an internal road for Misarden Park and you shouldn't see any traffic – perhaps just an occasional Land Rover or quad bike for the park staff
- **Turn right** onto the small tarmac road and follow it downhill
- At the bottom of the valley the road cross a stream (River Frome again) at a grand stone bridge
- **Turn right** immediately after the stone bridge

By the way, before you turn right, you could turn left just before the bridge and follow the stream downstream through the woods to a lovely lake; please return to this spot afterwards

- Follow the stream upstream and after a few hundred yards you reach what we call Jamie's Ford, named after our middle son; we often eat our sandwiches at this point and let Daisy play in the ford
- Cross the stream using the bridge made from two railway sleepers and bear left back to the farm track
- Follow the farm track as it goes along the bottom of the valley (grass on left, woods on right) and then continue to follow it uphill and to the right; ignore two tracks going to the left
- Follow the farm track all the way up to the road and go through a wooden gate (which we call Cal's Gate, after our youngest son – the reason being lost in the mists of time!)



- **Turn left** and follow the road downhill back to your car

Any problems with these directions? Email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

Jamie's Ford, May 2020:



5. Daglingworth

Rod's Rating	 One of my favourites, especially the small valley towards the end - this is a nice little walk around a lovely village with some interesting houses and archetypal Cotswold cottages. I've often considered including this walk in other booklets, but Daglingworth doesn't have a pub! However, such things are no longer at the top of the priority list ... maybe one day they will be again ...
Daisy's Rating	 Daisy liked this walk, but was forced to mark it down due to not having a stream to jump in, and not too many stretches off the lead. She pronounced it more a walk for humans, but said she was prepared to accompany us anyway. I wonder if she's been spoilt by all the other walks ...
Is it a circular walk?	Yes, almost perfectly so.
How long did it take?	1 hour 4km/2.5miles; up/down: 50m

QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

Park in Daglingworth Village Hall car park (postcode: GL7 7AE). The car park is around the back.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Turn left** out of the village hall car park and walk along the road through the village
- After 100 yards **turn right** up a small road signposted to the Church (no through road); the road goes slightly uphill and round to the left past Daglingworth House and up to the church
- Go past the church on your left (and car park on right) and continue straight ahead along the old crumbling tarmac road
- Go straight on through a small wooden 5-bar gate next to The Old Rectory and walk along the left edge of the field
- Go through a small wooden 5-bar gate, **turn left** past a house called The Fold and walk down the road, heading slightly downhill
- The road crosses the stream at the bottom; then **turn left** out of Lower End onto the main road through the village (best to walk on the opposite side), walk 20 yards and turn right up the second opening, just past a house called The Old School

NB. This track is marked on the OS map as an "Other Route of Public Access" ie an old farm track or way which anybody can use – but it is not signposted in any way.

- Follow the farm track (*Other Route of Public Access*) as it bends to the left and heads uphill
- Cross the road (which heads up to the A417) and go straight across to walk up the small road which leads to Itlay and High Tun
- Walk through hamlet of Itlay (first house on left is Little Manor) and out the other side, still slightly uphill
- **Turn left** at the road to High Tun
- Go through gateway as you near the houses of High Tun and, at the end of the iron railings, **turn left** and through a gate to follow a Public Footpath which runs down a small, yet delightful, valley



- At the end of the field, go over a stile in the right corner (NB dog gate to left!) and follow the footpath into the bushes

NB. We sometimes eat our sandwiches here sitting on the first couple of stones on the dry stone wall.

- Emerge from the bushes and walk past a house called North Cottages and follow farm track downhill, field on left, after a short way the track becomes tarmac

NB. At this point there is a Public Bridleway to your right. It looks like it goes back up the hill again but in fact it turns to the left and goes parallel to the stream which is at the bottom of the valley; the bridleway crosses the stream after half a mile at Duntisbourne Rouse and you can return to Daglingworth along the quiet country road; anyway why don't you do that next time – we'll now continue with the main directions ...

- Follow the road down to the bottom of the valley, past Grove House on left, and turn right (or is it straight on) to go slightly uphill, as if you're heading out of the village again

- After the last house, **turn left** over a stone stile, at a Public Footpath sign – and walk along the footpath with a dry stone wall on both sides

- Go down the steps, cross the road, up the steps on the other side of the road and over the stone stile (after opening the gate first!)

- Follow the wall on your right and then head directly across the middle of the field to a stone stile halfway along the far side

- Climb over the stone stile, go straight ahead twenty yards and then **turn left**

- Climb over stile (with Public Footpath sign) and you will find yourself back on the road which leads to the church; **turn left** to go downhill

- At the bottom **turn left** to return to the village hall car park

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Daglingworth is situated in the Duntisbourne Valley, which derives its name from the river Dunt. The village dates back to circa 1150 and translated literally it means 'enclosure of the family of Daeggal'.

The church is called Church Of Holy Rood and it is believed that Holy Rood means Holy Cross. The greatest treasures of the church are four 10th Century Saxon sculptures, three of which were discovered when the chancel arch was rebuilt by Canon Barker in 1850.

6. Cowley (featuring part of Olive's Walk)

Rod's Rating	 <p>A bracing walk up to the Elkstone ridge which overlooks the pub and then back along the Cockleford road which runs alongside the pub. The walk overlaps with "Olive's Walk" which is signposted on some of the gateposts – see instructions below.</p> <p>By the way, I have no idea who Olive is or any of the history of her walk – I'd be grateful if anybody could let me know!</p>
Daisy's Rating	 <p>Daisy always likes walks which follow a stream for a while – and even better if there is a small lake to jump in! She was a bit tired at the end as she's not as young as she was ...</p> <p>(2 stiles were tricky for dogs but normally possible to around; see below)</p>
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
How long did it take?	1 hour 30 mins <i>5km/3miles; up/down: 130m</i>

QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

The Green Dragon Inn, Cockleford, Nr Cowley, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 9NW

www.green-dragon-inn.co.uk

The pub has kept its car park open during lockdown. And it now has a shop – can I suggest that you pop in and buy something in exchange for using their car park!

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Park in the Green Dragon car park
- Leave the car park by the wooden 5-bar gate in the upper right corner (not by the car exit or the exit which leads to the pub)
- Go through a second wooden gate a few steps after the first
- **Turn right** onto a grass path which runs down between two hedges (adventure playground on right)
- Continue straight ahead into the woods (very tall trees!)
- Just after a small lake on the right, **turn left** then immediately left again in a small clearing/intersection to follow a grassy track (very) steeply uphill; NB you should follow the steepest, grassiest & leftmost public footpath, which is heading slightly back on yourself.
- The track curves to the right and then looks as if it heads straight up into the sky between the trees
- As the track flattens a little after the steep section, there is a pheasant pen on the right; ignore tracks to left and right, before & after the pen, and just continue straight ahead towards the top of the hill
- Climb over a stile (Daisy found it easier to jump over the tumble-down wall to the right)
- Continue uphill with mossy wall on right
- Climb over a stile (Daisy found it easier to go through gate to left, which was fortunately open)
- Continue slightly uphill with wooden fence on left
- Go past farm buildings on left and out through the entrance gateway (there is actually a stile to the right of the gate but it's well hidden!)
- **Turn left** on the tarmac road (this is a quiet country lane)

- Go straight across crossroads signposted Colesbourne and Woodmancote; NB the village of Elkstone is to the right
- Follow road as it goes slightly downhill, following the ridge and looking at views on both side
NB in a mile or so we will go down into the valley to your left; ignore Public Footpaths on right and left; I did once go down the footpath to the left, and it comes out at the right place, but it was not well marked halfway down the hill
- Go past an old, small barn on left (with corrugated iron roof)
- Just after a farm on right, and opposite a Restricted Byway on the right, you should **turn left** through a metal 7-bar gate; *NB. This track is marked on the OS map as an "Other Route of Public Access" ie an old drovers' road, ie wide country trail that was used as a highway to drive sheep and other livestock from meadow to market; this is a public route, but it is not signposted in any way – other than a sign saying "Unsuitable for Motor Vehicles" – and on the other side of the gatepost is a sign for Olive's Walk; go through the gate and then ...*
- Follow the farm track (*Other Route of Public Access*) as it bends to the left a little and heads slightly downhill; aim for a big bushy tree slightly to the left
- Go to the left of the big tree and follow track more steeply downhill with a metal link fence on your left
- Walk past a small wood of gnarly old hawthorn bushes/trees on your right
- Go through a metal 7-bar gate and head straight ahead (maybe slightly left) to follow a grey stone track downhill into the valley (*look behind at the gatepost to see small sign for "Olive's Walk"*)
- When you reach a tarmac road then **turn left** (*look behind at the gatepost to see small sign for "Olive's Walk"*); *NB this is the road to Cackleford which is a dead end so the road is very quiet; the stream to the right of the road is the River Churn – see Something Interesting for Colesbourne walk*
- Follow the road for about half a mile and then **turn right** and you will find the pub on your right after a few yards

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Cowley: the name originates from 'cow' and 'leigh', literally meaning cow pasture.

Cowley Manor: built by James Horlick, the malted milk drink magnate, this countryside estate hotel was originally a medieval manor that had been altered over the centuries. After buying the old house in the 1890s, Horlick expanded it beyond recognition and developed the stunning gardens, enhanced by sculptures, lakes and cascades.

Lewis Carroll (William Dodgson) visited Cowley regularly, staying with friends at what's now the Old Rectory. Local history has it that Carroll wrote his best known book, *Alice in Wonderland*, during his stays in the village, drawing his inspiration from the grounds of Cowley Manor.

During the Second World War, Cowley Manor was requisitioned to house the Cheltenham Ladies College – as a safe haven from German air attacks, as it was thought the Luftwaffe would find it difficult to launch raids down the narrow Churn valley - which proved to be correct.

The Green Dragon, a 17th century Inn, features hand crafted bars and furniture by the famous Robert Thompson (the "Mouse Man of Killburn").

7. Coberley

Rod's Rating	 Coberley is a lovely little village tucked away in a corner of the Cotswolds near Seven Springs. This is a short-ish walk around the outskirts of the village. Lots of interesting twists and turns through criss-crossing pathways in & around the village!
Daisy's Rating	 Daisy also found this walk very interesting and had a couple of opportunities to dive into a stream for a drink.
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
How long did it take?	1 hour 3km/2miles; up/down: 50m

QUICK DIRECTIONS TO THE PARKING SPOT:

Coberley School is right in the heart of the village and its address is: 2 The Green, Cheltenham GL53 9QZ. Park near the school or near the village green or near the phonebox. Alternatively go past the turning to the phonebox on your left and park on the right of the road that runs through the village, where it widens. The walk starts at the phone box ...

INSTRUCTIONS:

- With the phone box (and gates for The Old Rectory) behind you turn left onto the main road which runs through the village, walking slightly downhill
 - Go past the signpost to the village church which seems to be through a large house (it is!)
 - Just after the last house in the village, **turn right** onto a Public Footpath, by climbing over a 3-step stile
 - Follow right edge of field, continue straight ahead
 - Go over a stile next to a wooden 5-bar gate, continue straight ahead, cotswold stone wall on left, church on right
 - Go over another stile next to a wooden 5-bar gate, continue straight ahead, past lake on left
 - Go through wooden 5-bar gate and go straight across field to tallest tree on opposite side
 - Go through small wooden 5-bar gate and **turn right** onto a farm track which leads to Coberley Mill
- NB. This track is marked on the OS map as an "Other Route of Public Access" ie an old farm track or way which anybody can use – but it is not signposted in any way.*
- At a wooden fence at the bottom of the track (just before Coberley Mill), **turn left** onto a permitted route and follow grass track which leads to a metal bridge over a stream
- NB. This permitted route has been arranged by the house owners to divert walkers around a pleasant loop around the house. The Other Route of Public Access actually goes straight past the left side of the house.*
- Go through a wooden 6-bar gate and then over another metal bridge over a stream
- NB. There is a public footpath off to the left here, across a wooden footbridge, which leads to Cowley. We sometimes walk to Cowley (as it goes past some alpacas!) and then return to this point.*
- Follow the footpath round to the right through a field to return to the Other Route of Public Access
 - Go through a wooden kissing gate and **turn left**, follow the track between the trees/bushes
 - Go through a metal 5-bar gate and continue straight ahead (Coberley village is to your right)

- Shortly before a tarmac road, **turn sharp right**, almost back on yourself, with wooden fence on right and cotswold stone wall on your left; you are now heading back to Coberley along one of the Crickley Hill Walks
- Go through a wooden gate and continue straight ahead
- You come to two gates next to each other – continue straight ahead, slightly downhill still heading back to the village, fields on right, hedge on left
- Go through a wooden gate and continue straight ahead along left side of field, still following Crickley Hill Walks and Gloucestershire Way
- Go through a wooden gate and go over a bridge to cross the stream; **BENCH**
- Go up the steps; another **BENCH!**
- Go through a gate to emerge onto a tarmac road; *the phone box (ie starting point) is a few yards to your right, but we're not going to finish yet!*
- **Turn left** to walk along the road through the village past houses such as Brook Cottage and Fern Cottage
- At a fork in the road, take the right fork, ie straight on, slightly uphill (marked "Gate")
- Continue past a house (Conygree House)
- At the next (large) house on the right, there is a Public Footpath sign on the left, which points up the gravel driveway of the house; take two steps up the driveway and there is a metal 6-bar gate on the right of the drive; pull on the gate and go through, and follow the right side of the field
- Go through a wooden 5-bar gate and continue straight ahead on the right side of the field heading towards the right side of the school
- Go through three kissing gates on the right of the school and emerge onto a track between the school and a house;
- **Turn right** to follow road down through the centre of the village and back to the phone box; there is a nice **BENCH** beside the war memorial

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Ermin Street (A436), the Roman route between Gloucester and Cirencester, runs close by and in 2007 near Coberley, a villa, along with its mosaics, coins and brooches, was re-excavated for Channel 4's Time Team programme.

There are unusual burials at St Giles Church in Coberley. A favourite warhorse, Lombard, was laid to rest in the churchyard. When owner Sir Giles Berkeley died in 1294, his heart was removed and buried in the church close to his beloved steed, while the rest of his body was interred in St Giles, Little Malvern. The story continues from there. His son Sir Thomas Berkeley married Joan, who became Lady Berkeley. When widowed, she married Sir William Whittington and one of their sons was Richard 'Dick' Whittington. There's evidence to suggest after Sir William's death, Joan returned to Coberley with Richard, so London's most famous mayor grew up in the village. In time Lady Berkeley was interred alongside her first husband - two effigies mark their tomb.

You crossed a lot of streams on this walk – and the area is known as Seven Springs. One of these is the River Churn which is the first tributary river of the River Thames – and some consider it to be the real source of the Thames, disclaiming the source which is near the Thames Head pub between Cirencester and Tetbury. Approximately 25 kilometres (16 m) long, the Churn rises in the Cotswolds at Seven Springs and flows south, joining the Thames in Cricklade. Its length from source to confluence with the Thames is considerably greater than that of the Thames from Thames Head, though the Churn is regarded as a tributary historically and therefore by most geography guides. The name Churn is ancient, certainly pre-Roman, and probably has its origins in the Celtic language. The river flows through Cirencester and it is thought that the town takes its name from the river.