

Wychwood Walks

The Morning after Walk

On New Year's Day fifteen of us met at the start of Dog Kennel Lane in Shipton, to walk away the over-indulgence of the night before! Dog Kennel Lane is the track adjacent to Tall Trees, at the sharp bend on the A361, as you enter Shipton from the Burford direction. The walk was about three miles and took us 1¼ hours, but we strolled very slowly!



View of Milton

on this stretch. The cluster of houses along the lane all look so interesting; how often do we drive this way without even noticing them? On the right hand side, at the crossroads, is the Washpool, which was used for washing sheep back in the 19th century. Turn left at these crossroads into New Road, a single-track road frequented by dog walkers, power walkers and the occasional vehicle or

Detours and Views

We made a detour to admire the saplings planted by the Wychwood Project. There are many birds in the hedgerows along here; a good spot for bird-watching. Opposite the entrance to Diggers Wood a gap in the hedge provides a view across towards the school and on weekdays the excited shouts of children at play can be heard. Rejoining the lane at the bottom of Diggers Wood we continued right to the fields at the end, crossing stiles and narrow bridges. Before crossing the brook into the final field behind The Sands, we turned left along the edge of the field towards Upper Milton. The path is clearly way-marked with yellow arrows, so is easy to follow. Some of the oldest houses in Milton can be seen across the fields to the right. The path bears right through converted farm buildings at Upper Milton; coming out onto the road turn left, taking care because there can be fast-moving traffic

tractor. All along New Road are panoramic views of Milton and Shipton. You can choose to walk down through Diggers Wood and back to Dog Kennel Lane, but we continued along to the main road.

Finishing in style!

The only tricky bit of the walk is crossing the A361 to reach Upper End and Fiddlers Hill. On January 1st the traffic was light and we all made it safely across.

A short walk along Upper End brought us to turn left into Simon's Lane, almost hidden between Meadowview Cottage and Rock Cottage. This last leg of the walk brings you, very conveniently, into Upper High Street and the prospect of a drink at the Lamb. Being New Year's Day we finished with drinks at the home of two of our fellow walkers. It certainly was a very sociable way to start 2004!

Christine Halliday