

Wychwood Walks

Two Pub Walk

“We need a walk for the next issue,” said my assistant editor as she flew out for a week’s skiing in Switzerland. “Fine,” I thought as Gordon and I set off to test out a walk on the last Sunday in February, the coldest, windiest day so far in what had been a bitterly cold week.

A Lazy Wind!

We set off into the teeth of what my friend Anna would describe as a lazy wind - too lazy to go round you so it blows straight through. The sky was clear blue and the sun was shining so we felt very lucky to be able to get out in the fresh air though.

Starting at the gateway by Johnson’s Garage, the path is way-marked to the left, diagonally across the first field. Behind the remains of an old building cross the stile and turn right, keeping to the field edge. As you walk along this path you realise what a stunning view the houses in Station Road have as they look across the fields towards Ascott.

Two Herons, No Otters

The Evenlode flows along to the right of the path in places and although we saw a couple of herons we were disappointed not to see any otters (are they really back in this area?) Cross another stile and a footpath over a stream.

The route now follows a wide path between trees, with evidence of recent

tree pruning (see Charles Keighley’s article on page 43). Beyond the gate continue along the track to cross the Evenlode, taking note of the remains of the motte and bailey visible on the left.

The Swan and the Lamb

The track brings you out by Ascott Earl, where you can either turn left and head for the **Swan**, or turn right and, on the right hand bend turn left at the sign along

the gated footpath. Here you will pass a restored sheep-wash and former fishpond; take a few minutes to read the information sign as you pass. Beyond the farm buildings the

footpath with stiles follows alongside a brook; cross the footbridge in the clump of trees at the corner of the field to reach the Charlbury road. Turn right and keep to the verge for about ½ mile until you reach the footpath sign to the right, on the left-hand bend. Judd’s Grave is in sight, but it is much more pleasant to walk through the fields and continue to enjoy the lovely views. Cross another stile and follow the path to come out on the Leafield Road.

Follow the footpath that cuts through to the Swinbrook Road, across the allotments and finish your walk at the **Lamb!** Full details of this walk can be found in ‘**The Evenlode**’ by **Gordon Ottewell**, available from local shops.



Christine Halliday