

Walking into 2006

A walk on New Year's Day is always a good way to clear the head after a hard night's celebrating. This year the weather was definitely on our side,



Bruern House. Crossing the railway crossing we turned right to follow the footpath across Wychwood Golf course. Up the road we could see Crossing

sunshine and clear, blue skies, as we set off through Shipton heading for Meadow Lane and the Oxfordshire Way. 'Go right along to the end of the lane, past all the houses and turn left along the side of the field' we had been advised by our dog-walking friends and that is just what we did. The path then heads off to the right, along the ridge of the hill, heading towards Bruern. Somewhere along here I remember there used to be dog-training track but it has disappeared under the plough now.

The views across the Evenlode valley are stunning and you cannot fail to feel lucky to live in such a beautiful area. Keeping our eye on Heath Farm in the distance we walked between small fields and new plantations until we came out onto the Lyneham Road. Here we carried on across the road, through the edge of Bruern Woods and along the side of Bruern Abbey.

Who moved the Signal Box?

Coming out onto the road again we turned right through Bruern, admiring the beautiful holiday cottages on the other side of the road and the fine building of

Cottage with the old signal box in the garden. How did this come to be moved away from the railway line; was it jacked up and rolled along?

Where have All the Golfers Gone?

My golfer husband could not get over the lack of players out on the golf course on such a beautiful day. Good for us though, because the footpath is barely signed and we did wander around a bit until coming out in the village of Lyneham.

If we'd had a map with us we might have found the footpath from here to pick up the Oxfordshire Way but instead we walked back along the road and turned right onto the A361, heading down hill into Shipton. We were rewarded by the sight of a buzzard wheeling in the sky above a small copse. Fortunately the roads were very quiet but I would not like to walk that bit on a busy day.

Luckily for us The Red Horse was open and we were able to enjoy a refreshing pint before walking the last little bit home for a well-earned rest.

Do you have a favourite walk that you would like to share with our readers?

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