

Wychwood Walks

Bus Out - Walk Back

Most people who enjoy walking prefer not to put their feet in the same place twice. But circular walks from Shipton are not so easy to plan without including a stretch of road. Fortunately, our improved bus services now offer a range of one-way linear walks, from the destination back to Shipton - and even on Sundays. Using the buses, which provide our link to Kingham Station, will also push up their vital statistics against the threat of cuts. (An OS map and good walking shoes are recommended).

X8 to Kingham and Chipping Norton (Route 233 on Sundays): Four points on the route from Shipton and Kingham connect, like spokes in a wheel, with the Oxfordshire Way as it runs through Bruern Woods and back to Shipton. The first, from **Fifield**, heads down an ancient track - good for elderflower in season - to join the Way near the River Evenlode.

The second starts from **Idbury** (fine Norman doorway in the church), to join the same track from Fifield.

The third begins at **Bould**, crosses the Foxholes Nature Reserve, again to join the same route.

And the last starts at **Foscot**, joining the Oxfordshire Way immediately.

All these routes will pass Bruern House - with a good view of its 'local Baroque' facade - and continue through Bruern Wood to emerge in Shipton's Meadow Lane.

Walking time: around two hours.



More ambitiously, stay on the bus till **Churchill**; head down the hill towards Sarsden, taking the first footpath on the right. Passing Sarsden's fine Wayside Cross, walk forward past the lake and Fairgreen Farm, to discover a pair of 18th century Gatepiers with large ball finials, matching those on the Chipping Norton road - and a stone bench on which to rest in peace and quiet. Then head down to Lyneham on the broad downland track, then home to Shipton under the railway, and again on to Meadow Lane.

Walking time: around three hours.

In the other direction the **233 to Witney on Sundays** (and of course on other days too) offers the chance to alight at the Swinbrook turn-off, follow the Roman Road down to **Asthall**, and return to Burford along the bank of the Windrush. It's cheating a bit: you still have to catch the bus back from Burford to Shipton - but you can have a café crème and pastry in Maison Blanc while you're waiting.

John Gittings

Wychwood Tennis Club

We regret that the 'It's A Knockout' contest planned for June 26th has been postponed, due to a clash of dates with another event. **Roger Hollingdale**