

## Let's Thrupp again like we did last summer

Details correct at time of walk October 2018

Approx. 4 1/2 miles

Approx 2/3 walk is on road/farm tracks; 1/3 across fields.

Starts (& finishes) in car park of the  
Boat Inn  
Canal Road  
Thrupp  
Nr Kidlington  
OX15 1JY

When we recc'd this walk we recognised the start & finish of the walk as one that Vee has already done. We did not recognise the middle so either this was not as memorable or we walked a different section. But so the walk is different we have changed the end.

To further differentiate the walk (and because this is the university of the 3<sup>rd</sup> age walking group), we have added a short quiz, please see the end of these notes.

### Walk warning

One field that the public footpath crosses contained a number of cows/bulls, all with large horns. If this is the case on the walk a slight detour will be required that will involve squeezing round the end of a gate.

### Directions

Destination is:

Boat Inn  
Canal Road  
Thrupp  
Nr Kidlington  
OX15 1JY

Approx 25 mins, 40 miles

For traditionalists

Turn left out of Stratford Rd layby

Turn right at roundabout and continue around ring road until Tesco roundabout.

Continue straight across on A421, signposted Bicester

Continue along A421, follow signposts to Banbury, and continue straight across all roundabouts until the roundabout with A43

Turn left onto A43, signposted Oxford

Continue along A43 until the junction with M40.

Continue straight across junction onto B430

Continue through Middleton Stoney & take right turn signposted Kirklington/Witney (A4095)

Turn left at T junction signposted Kirklington/Witney (A4095)

Turn right at T junction signposted Witney (A4095)

Take left turn signposted Witney (A4095)

Turn left at T junction signposted Kidlington (A4260)

Pass Jeep garage on right and then turn left signposted Thrupp

Follow lane & Boat Inn will be in front of you.

For techies

Post code is OX15 1JY

### Stileometer

Reads 14 for this walk, 3 should be bypassable.

## **Inclineometrics**

There is one very small bit of an incline near the end of the walk.

## **Dining arrangements**

We are booked into the Boat Inn

By special arrangement the usual facilities will be open on arrival.

## **Quiz**

- Where on this walk might Dr Who live?
- At the church in Thrupp:
  - a. What is the connection with Toy Story?
  - b. What herb can be found here?
  - c. Is the church happy or sad?

On the following map the arrows only loosely point to what the words are describing.

## Circular Walk: Kidlington Approximately 4 miles (6 km)

Please note — This walk can be waterlogged during the wetter seasons. It is best undertaken following dry weather between May and September.



TL = Turn Left   FL = Fork Left   BL = Bear Left  
TR = Turn Right   FR = Fork Right   BR = Bear Right

**6** Cross field diagonally left to cross suspension bridge back over River Cherwell. Straight ahead through next field and over stile by metal gate.

**7** Continue to stile by canal bridge. Do not cross bridge, but **TL** and follow to path in southerly direction towards Thrupp.

**8** On reaching swing bridge at Thrupp, do not cross but **TL** and follow path through British Waterways yard past Annie's Tea Room and cottages.

**9** Pass under railway line and through gate. Either head straight on for 30 metres and then **BR** through the woods, or just head straight along on the mown path with the River Cherwell on your left to point **11**.

**10** Follow this woodland path for 200m until you see a small bridge and waymark post. Go straight on then at next path fork, **BL** towards the river.

**11** When you reach the main crossing path, **TR**. Follow the path straight on through woods and then out in the open along river for almost a kilometre until you arrive back at White Bridge.

**12** At White Bridge, **TR** and retrace your steps back to St Mary's Church.

**1** Start from entrance barrier at car park behind St Mary's Church at the end of Church Street. Walk through the kissing gate by the car park barrier and follow stoned footpath straight ahead through woodland nature reserve and over footbridge by pond.

**2** **TR** after footbridge and keep to right-hand edge of meadows, following path to substantial concrete bridge over River Cherwell. Cross 'White Bridge' and go straight ahead to footbridge and straight across two fields and stiles to road by St Mary the Virgin Church at Hampton Poyle.

**3** Cross road by church and go straight ahead over stile into field. Cross field and two stiles and then cross another two stiles 20 metres up on the left-hand side.

**4** Bear slightly right across next three fields to a small spinney with two footbridges through it.

**5** Cross next field to stile and follow path over another field to cross stile by large ash tree. Head diagonally right across the next field towards a tall chimney on the horizon. You will soon see the ruins of the manor house straight ahead and a church to the left of them. Go through a kissing gate before you reach the church and **BL** to riverside. **TL** through kissing gate, under railway bridge and through another gate.



Walk starts at the Boat Inn  
Go to canal and turn left along road  
Cross canal at swing bridge and walk then continues from point 9 (anti clockwise)  
At point 7, do not join towpath but cross bridge and follow road.  
At junction bear left and follow road to A4260.  
Turn left (to Kidlington)  
Pass garage that is on other side of road.  
Turn left down a footpath signposted Thrupp  
Continue straight ahead into a field.  
Path joins a drive to a house, turn left at this point.  
Follow path straight ahead  
After a short walk join canal and continue ahead along towpath.  
Walk up through churchyard,  
At other side of churchyard join road and turn right back over canal bridge.  
Now back at point 7, walk down onto towpath (do not go under bridge)  
Follow tow path, cross back over swing bridge, turn left and follow road back to Boat Inn.

#### A

Kidlington lies in the centre of Oxfordshire on the River Cherwell, which rises in Northamptonshire and forms one of the tributaries of the Thames. The name Kidlington was derived from the tun (Anglo-Saxon for settlement or farm) of Cydela. The first written form of the name appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Chedelintone.

#### B

St Mary's Church provides a picturesque starting point for the walk. In the past, Church Street was a busy working area, with a butcher, baker and school. Now it is a quiet residential road. The present church dates from c.1220, but was built on the foundations of an earlier church of Norman or Saxon times. It was built in the Early English style but there were extensive later alterations, particularly in the 15th century, when the upper stages of the tower and the spire rising 170 feet above it were added.

#### C

The Almshouses opposite the church were built by Sir William Morton in 1671 and endowed in his will. The Morton Arms can be seen on the north end of the house and the names of some of the Morton children are on the window ledges.

#### D

The name Hampton Gay comes from the Old English 'Hampton', meaning village or farm, and the local de Gay family. The ruined manor house that you can see from the walk was built by the Barry family in the 16th century. It retained its original Elizabethan plan and features almost unaltered until it was destroyed by fire in 1887.

#### E

Look out for wildlife. Many species of bird have been spotted on this walk, including kingfishers along the banks of the river Cherwell. You may also see muntjac deer, rabbits and foxes, to mention but a few.

#### F

The railway crash in 1874 near Shipton-on-Cherwell was the worst accident in the history of the Great Western Railway. More than 30 people were killed and 70 injured. At the time there was a rumour that a curse had been put on the manor house because the family in residence refused to help rescue the victims from the wreckage.

## G

The Oxford Canal, completed in 1790 linked Oxford with Coventry and so provided a continuous waterway between Birmingham and London. During the 19th century it was an important route for coal, lime and stone. The coal trade was the last vestige of the formerly diverse traffic. This declined in the 1950s and the last regular deliveries were in 1961. In 1971, the wharf at Thrupp was lengthened to accommodate the increasing number of pleasure boats.

## H

The tiny hamlet of Thrupp is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Trop', the Old English for farm or hamlet. Its size has not increased greatly since then, when the son of Wadard held it from Roger d'Ivry. Wadard was an officer some importance in the Norman army and is pictured in the Bayeaux Tapestry, busying himself with supplies for the troops. The main attraction of Thrupp today is the row of picturesque terraced cottages along the bank of the Oxford Canal.

## I

Annie's Tea Room on the route at Thrupp is open 7 days a week 10—5 in summer and Sat, Sun & Mon 10—4 in winter.