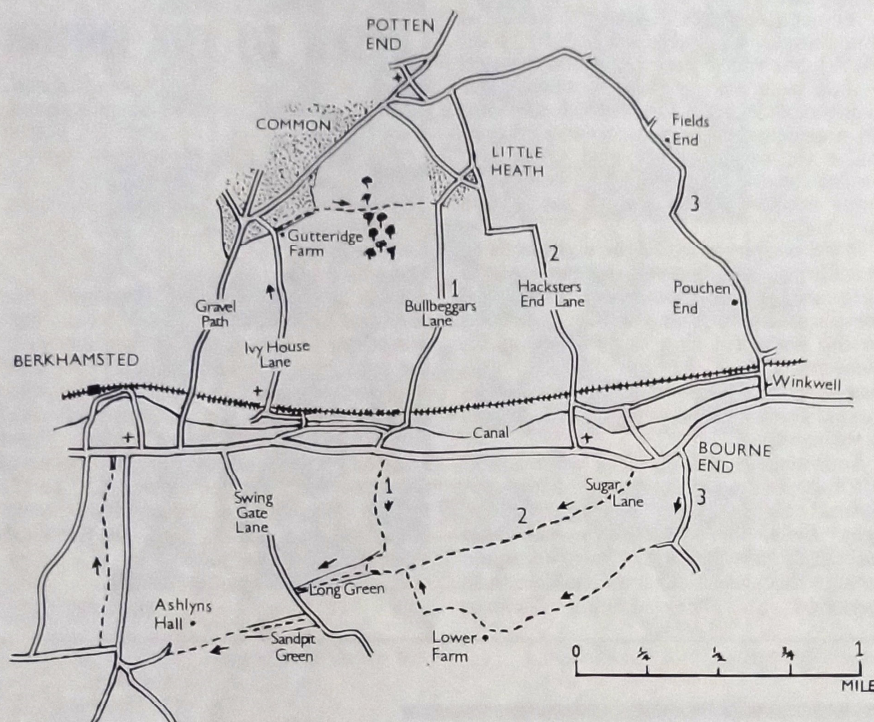


## BERKHAMSTED'S BEST WALKS—8

# FROM BULLBEGGARS TO WINKWELL

by Townsman



Previous walks were designed to avoid roads and lanes wherever possible, not because fieldpaths are always more attractive than lanes but because fast traffic has taken away much of the pleasure of walking along narrow country roads. If you have ever flattened your back against a prickly hedge while a speed merchant whooshed by, you will know what I mean.

But there are certain areas where footpaths are scarce and where roads and lanes are the only rights of way. I am thinking especially of the area east of the town, between the canal and Potten End. Here the walker must either use the lanes or stay away; and it would be a pity to stay away from such a pleasant

hillside. Happily, motor traffic along the lanes is usually light, the views across the valley are pleasant, and one stays dry-footed when many paths are muddy.

By using the lanes we have a walk with several variations. Three, four, five, six, seven miles—the choice is yours. The only recommendation standard to all routes is that you start by going up Ivy House Lane (that's the one which runs past St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Sunnyside). The return to the valley is via Little Heath and then by one of three different lanes.

For a quick return home the canal towpath has the merit of being direct and fairly dry. But if time and energy permit, do try to climb the opposite

hillside, where there are three different ways home, not to mention the choice of going down Swing Gate Lane or continuing through Sandpit Green, past Ashlyns Hall, to Berkhamsted.

It so happens that the longest route is a favourite Christmas walk of mine. Perhaps I shall see you somewhere en route. Here's wishing you good walking—and a happy Christmas!

### ROUTES

I prefer to start this walk via the canal towpath; but there are many other ways of reaching the little lane which starts at Sunnyside railway bridge, passes St. Michael and All Angels' Church, and provides a switchback way to the Common. As soon as you enter the Common, turn right (in front of Gutteridge Farm and some other houses) and keep straight on. The path soon runs through trees and then descends a hill steeply, between hedges. Continue in the same direction uphill; on leaving a wood you follow the hedge (on your left) to the road at Little Heath.

Now for the alternative routes.

**1. Via Bullbeggars Lane.** Turn right down the lane. For a quick return home, use the canal towpath. Alternatively, go ahead to the main road, turn left for a short distance and then go up a steep track (Garden Field Lane) to the top of the hill. Then turn right and keep ahead to Swing Gate Lane. (Further suggestion at end of article.)

**2. Via Hacksters End Lane.** Turn left along the lane; at the crossroads, take the signposted lane to Bourne End. Rather more than halfway down the hill you pass, on your right, the site of Hacksters End Farm, where Peter the Wild Boy spent much of his life.

In the valley you may prefer to return home by canal towpath. For a longer walk, try Sugar Lane. To reach this lane I suggest that you go left along the towpath to the next bridge, then right along the little lane to the main road, and right again to Sugar Lane, on opposite side of highway. Take care! This is a dangerous crossing! Go up Sugar Lane and keep straight on to Swing Gate Lane. (Further suggestion at end of article.)

**3. Via Pouchen End.** Turn left along the road, keep straight on at crossroads but shortly afterwards veer left to Potten End; then it's right all the way past Fields End and Pouchen End to Winkwell, noted for its swing-bridge. Quickest way home by towpath. For a longer walk, go ahead to the main road, turn right to village centre, go left along Bourne End Lane. Opposite the cricket

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## FROM BULLBEGGARS TO WINKWELL—Cont.

ground, turn right along a little stony lane for about a mile. Leave the lane or track where it turns left in front of Lower Farm: keep straight on and in about 20 yards go over a stile, right, and continue ahead in the same direction beside hedge and fence (on your left). Opposite a lone tree in the meadow, go right to a stile, then uphill, hedge on your right, to a track, in which turn left to Swing Gate Lane.

Now for those further suggestions mentioned above. If there has been recent heavy rain, I advise you to return to Berkhamsted via Swing Gate Lane. The way through Sandpit Green can be very muddy. If you wish to go this way, however, turn left along Swing Gate Lane for about 150 yards, then right through the Green (densely wooded). Keep straight on, passing Ashlyns Hall on your right, to the road at Brickhill Green corner. The path through the playing fields to Butts Meadow is pleasant. And it's downhill all the way!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Should we keep two churches? Yes, I think we should. But why not curtail expenses by omitting Evensong on Sunday. Also, I think that we should be encouraged to go to the other church rather more often.

Yours truly,  
N S. ROBINSON.

## LOCAL BELLRINGING ACTIVITIES

On Saturday 18th October, members of the Western District of the Herts County Association of Change Ringers enjoyed a half-day outing to the City of London. Ringers from Tring, Northchurch, Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Apsley, Kings Langley, Sarratt and Redbourn journeyed by coach, which left Tring at noon on a warm, sunny day.

The coach driver did well to arrive at Southwark Cathedral by 1.30 p.m. David Sheppard had been consecrated Bishop here during the morning. After negotiating a very long spiral staircase (in complete darkness due to an electrical fault) we rang rounds and Grandsire Caters on the magnificent 12 bells. The tenor weighs 48 cwt. and has a fine deep tone.

We then moved on to the eight bells of St. James, Clerkenwell Green, which were rather disappointing, after the previous tower. The ringing improved on the beautiful ring of ten bells at St. Clement Danes in the Strand, and ranged from rounds to Kent Treble Bob Royal. Tea was then enjoyed at J. Lyons in Bishopsgate.

Activities in the evening were at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate and St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, both having rings of eight bells. St. Matthews has been beautifully restored after bomb damage during the war. Thirsts were then quenched at Dirty Dick's Tavern,

Bishopsgate, before boarding the coach for home, tired but happy.

The monthly practice meeting of the Western District was held at Berkhamsted on Saturday 8th November. Ringing commenced at 3 p.m. and after Evensong at 4.30 tea was served to 45 members in the Court House. Mike Howes took the chair for the short business meeting which followed tea, and in the evening ringing continued until 8 p.m. Methods rung included, Cambridge Surprise Major, Stedman Triples, and Double Norwich Court Bob Major.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

32 Finch Road,  
Berkhamsted,  
Herts.

12th November, 1969

The Editor,  
*The Berkhamsted Review*,  
53 Bridgewater Road,  
Berkhamsted.

Dear Sir,

May I be permitted through your columns to thank those who sent donations in lieu of flowers in memory of the late Mrs. Eileen Comley. The total contributed was £55. Certain gifts were earmarked for Cancer Research and some for the Save the Children Fund and the rest was equally divided between the two. We have forwarded £30 to the British Empire Campaign for Cancer Research and £25 to the Save the Children Fund.

Yours faithfully,  
D. J. REEP.

# Shaw & Kilburn

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