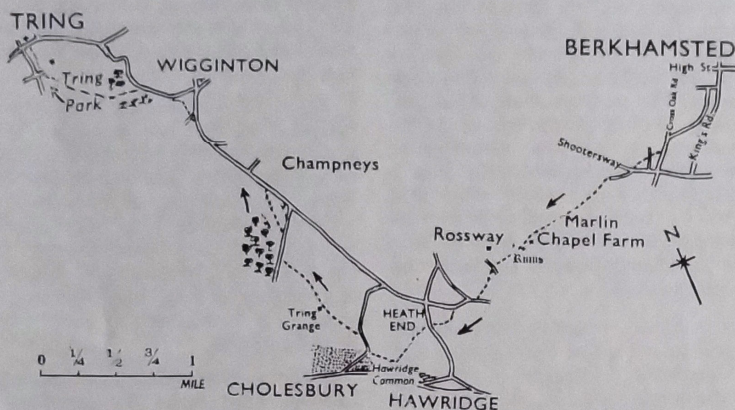


BERKHAMSTED'S BEST WALKS—2

OVER THE HILLS TO TRING

by Townsman



This ramble to Tring has several good features. On the way we pass a moated farm and a ruined chapel. We see two well-known mansions in spacious parks. We visit Hertfordshire's highest village. We use level paths and hilly paths, some with fine, distant views. And we end our walk in a sister town with a fine parish church, a wonderful museum, and some of the finest woods to be seen anywhere in the Chilterns.

The snags? One or two paths (very short ones) are rather rough, and there are two muddy patches on the way to Marlin Chapel. So please plod well shod, especially after rain.

As we like to avoid roads as much as possible, there may be criticism of the longish walk along the road at Wigginton. Before starting this part of the walk, however, we take a short cut through a plantation which is too

delightful to miss. For this reason an alternative but less attractive path, which would reduce the time spent on the road, has not been recommended.

In any case Wigginton is always worth a visit: some parts of the village, especially colourful Lower Wigginton, provide good subjects for the camera. Don't forget the parish church and the fine, distant views. And look out for unusual road names—The Twist, The Bit, Hemp Lane, Wick Road, etc.

How many miles do we walk? At a rough estimate, seven and a half. But you need not go all the way; you may catch a bus (infrequent service) from Hawridge to Tring or Chesham, but no doubt your chauffeur will be available to collect you from the point of no retreat.

If you have time and energy for only a very short walk, the best (and

to Berkhamstedians the least familiar) is from Wigginton to Tring; downhill all the way through lovely woods and then level, or almost level, across the fields with the Tring Park, the former Rothschild mansion, glowing rose-red on your right.

THE ROUTE

It is unnecessary to advise Berkhamstedians of the various ways of reaching Shootersway. Newcomers and visitors should go up King's Road, turn right along Charles Street, then left up Doctors Commons Road and Graemesdyke Road (or by the footpath known as Angle Place) to Cross Oak Road. Bear left in this road and, just beyond the house 'Greystoke', turn right along the diagonal path, crossed by two roads, to Shootersway. Cross Shootersway to Gallows Lane, a rough and rather muddy lane which veers right, downhill. Then take the forward path, first uphill and then level for about three-quarters of a mile.

On your left, you pass Marlin Chapel Farm (note the ancient moat), and straight ahead you will see, in the corner of a field, the ruins of Marlin (Magdalene) Chapel. This dates from the 13th century and was presumably the domestic chapel of a manor house which formerly occupied the site of the moated farm.

Go right of the ruins and keep straight on over a field (fenced halfway across) to a stile; the large house on your right is Rossway. From the stile, cross the private drive to Rossway to another stile and go ahead, hedge on your right, to a road in the valley.

Turn right along the road, then left at the fork, and about 150 yards beyond the fork go through a wide gap in the roadside hedge, left; then take the uphill path, hedge on your right. Just before reaching an iron field-gate, turn sharp right, over a stile and across a paddock, to the road at Heath End.

Cross this road and take the sign-posted path (left of a long, white house). The path veers left; continue along it with the hedge on your left. At the end of the field (you are now going downhill) turn right beside the fence to a stile, then go steeply downhill to another stile in the valley. Here you enter Hawridge Common; in the summer the entrance to the common tends to be overgrown, but one can usually get through.

On entering the common, turn right (any footpath will do so long as it veers right; some tend to get overgrown)

Continued overleaf

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OVER THE HILLS (contd.)

and you soon come to a metalled road. Turn *right* in this road, and where it starts to rise steeply, turn left along a farm road which runs along a valley, the various farm buildings of Tring Grange on your left, to another road.

Bear right in this road, going uphill; then, opposite Five Firs Kennels, turn left into a plantation. There are two wide tracks; take the one which veers right between young trees and then under tall, shady trees. In a few minutes you reach the Wigginton road.

Go left along this road to the village. (At the top of a rise, you may go through a white wooden swing-gate, left, and along a footpath which by-passes part of the village of Wigginton). If you keep to the road, bear left at the crossroads; keep straight on, and just beyond the 'Hill 1 in 8' sign, bear left along a track, past a house on your left, and enter the woods.

Where the drive forks left and right, go ahead along the wider of the two forward tracks (it veers slightly right) to a tall stone obelisk. From this obelisk take the lower of two drives on the left to a gate and stile at the edge of the wood, then turn right (fence on your right) for half a mile or so to a road. Tring Park, the former Rothschild mansion, will be in view (right) for most of the way. Cross the little road and take the signposted path (asphalted) to Tring High Street. Or go left along the little road, turn right along Akeman Street, and so enter the High Street.

JOHN DIXON O.B.E., L.R.C.P. A FORMER CHURCHWARDEN

The recent death of Dr. John Dixon revives memories of husband and wife who gave devoted service to Berkhamsted Parish Church and, in a wider sphere, to Church Medical Missions.

For eight years—from 1943 when Canon Stainsby was Rector until 1951 when the Rev. H. Spence was Rector—Dr. Dixon served as a Churchwarden and was also a member of the Parochial Church Council. When he was elected, his proposer (the late W. Knox Johnston) said of him: 'He has served the Church faithfully and well ever since he has been in the town. He possesses all the qualifications for a churchwarden—a diplomatic manner, a friendly disposition, and everyone who knows him has a great liking for him.' How true that proved to be was exemplified by the affectionate regard in which he was held not only by churchpeople but also by townspeople generally.

Another local organisation which owed much to his quiet enthusiasm was the Berkhamsted Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, of which he was President. In all his activities he was ably and devotedly supported by his wife who was the local secretary for the

Medical Missions of the Church Missionary Society, and after her death in 1963 he carried on that work for a time.

Dr. Dixon and his family came to Berkhamsted in 1934 from Northphorey, near Grimsby, for what he intended was to be a temporary retirement from medical practice, but he never again practised as a G.P. Instead, he eventually served as a member of the Army Medical Board (examining recruits), and it was for those services that he was awarded the O.B.E. He was also an Examiner for the Red Cross.

Aged 85, Dr. Dixon was admitted to hospital at the beginning of the year, and subsequently returned to the home of his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. J. Knowles, of Broadway Farm, where he died on 13th May. The funeral service was at Northchurch Church, followed by cremation at Garston. He also leaves a son, Mr. Richard Dixon, who is married and lives at Southampton.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his family, who have the comfort of the memory of a life well spent in the service of his fellow men.

S.H.S.

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