

Rambling on about Gt Missenden Parish

The Parish of Great Missenden lies at the centre of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 35 miles northwest of London and 10 miles from the County Town of Aylesbury. It includes the picturesque villages of Ballinger Common, South Heath, Prestwood, Heath End and Hyde End, as well as the historic village of Great Missenden with its Augustine Abbey and many listed buildings.

The Parish is located in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, surrounded by rolling chalk hills, magnificent beech woods, quiet valleys and charming brick and flint villages. Views from some of the spectacular local walks reveal tapestries of woods, fields, hedges, sunken lanes and clear streams. Wildlife too is varied and interesting. There has been a successful reintroduction of red kites in the area and some of our commons have rare species of orchids and butterflies. Local nature groups run many activities such as pond dipping, badger watching, moth trapping and bird watching.

Go – take a hike!

Here are some walks that we've put together for you to enjoy.

You might be active or prefer a gentle stroll, the suggested walks will give you an indication. There is always some wonderful scenery is close at hand.

These walks were designed for visitors to the area. Residents of the parish may dip into different sections or may suggest their own favourite rambles.



As a back-up, it is always a good idea to take an Ordnance Survey Map of the area and a charged up mobile phone. *Walks compiled by Christine Baxter and Valerie Marshall.*

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Walk 1

Prestwood Car Park - Prestwood Farm - Road Farm (fields) -Townend Farm (fields) - Angling Spring Wood - Prestwood Car Park

Duration 1 ½ Hrs Distance 5 ½ to 6 km.

Suitable for reasonably active people. Some steep and /or rocky tracks.

Attire - Wind can be bracing when emerging from sheltered woodland onto open countryside, so warm weatherproof clothing is advised and in winter you will need to wear substantial walking boots as this walk can be muddy, but the views make the effort more than worthwhile.

Directions –

From Prestwood High Street car park, turn right along the High Street and proceed towards the crossroads with Nairdwood Lane and Moat Lane.

Turn left into Moat Lane and continue until you come to Prestwood Farm on the right. Proceed up the concrete drive until you come upon a narrow fenced-in footpath flanked on either side by stables and paddocks. Continue along this path to where it opens out to a wider drive. Keep on this drive until you see a footpath sign on the right that directs you into Rignall Wood.

Follow the path through the wood and continue down towards the Rignall Road. The path is well used and clearly marked. When you exit onto the road make your way to the right along the verge for about 50 yds. On the left there is a drive that slowly climbs up Coney Hill and through the Coneybank Wood. The path through Coneybank Wood is short as the wood is narrow at this point.

When you emerge on the other side there is a meadow in front that is a designated set-aside field for local wild flowers. At this point you are free to wander in the field, but you have a choice of three different paths and in this instance, we will take the path to the right which follows the top edge of the wood. This leads gradually down on a clearly marked path through a gate and on down through a paddock towards the gate at the end to the rear of Townend Farm. Instead of taking the path to the left and under the railway, take the gate to the right along a narrow path between two paddocks and round the back of the cottages on Rignall Road.

Cross Rignall Road and take the footpath up the hill with the hedge to your left, towards the house at the top. At the end of this footpath, you reach Upper Hollis. Proceed directly ahead along Upper Hollis until you reach Martinsend Lane.

Cross the busy Lane into Angling Spring Wood and make your way on the path to the right. This will take you down into the valley at a point where there is a kissing gate on your right. Go through this gate make your way gently up towards the houses at the end of the path in Green Lane, (Andlows Farm is up on the right)

Cross Green Lane and proceed up New Road directly opposite. About half way you will see a footpath on your right between the houses. This brings you out at the end of Salmon Lane. A short way to the right is the footpath on your left that brings you into Nairdwood Lane. Turn right in Nairdwood Lane to reach the crossroads. Turn left and walk back up the High Street to return to the car park.

Walk 2a

Start - Prestwood Car Park – Angling Spring Wood – Upper Hollis – Rignall Road– Buryfield– Atkins Wood- Prestwood Car Park

Duration 2 Hrs Distance 8 to 8 ½ km.

Suitable for reasonably active people. Some steep and /or rocky tracks. In winter warm weatherproof clothing is advised and you will need to wear substantial walking boots as this walk can be muddy, but the views make the effort well worthwhile.

From the Prestwood High Street car park turn right onto the High Street and walk down to Orchard Lane, (second turn right). Turn right and proceed to Honor Road. Turn left and continue to Nairdwood Lane and cross over to take the footpath between the bungalow and Coulson Court.

In Salmons Lane, cross to New Road. At the end bearing slightly left across Green Lane, go through the gate into a field, (Andlows Farm Land). Continue down through the field, through the kissing gate into Angling Spring Wood. Take the left-hand path up the hill and continue along this path until you reach Martinsend Lane. Cross over into Upper Hollis and proceed ahead until you reach a footpath across the road, before the road bends to the left.

Continue down this footpath, through a gate, down the right-hand edge of the field, through a gate and a small copse, another gate and down the right-hand edge of the next field until you reach a gate on your right. This will take you into Winslow Field. Proceed a short way and turn left, (still in Winslow Field), and down to Rignall Road. Turn right and make the short walk along Rignall Road and the High Street towards Gt Missenden. At the roundabout, turn left into Link Road and cross at the pedestrian crossing to access the Buryfield. *(You can choose to walk down the High Street or Buryfield at this point, though the pretty houses in Church Street are worth the extra few minutes).*

Across the Buryfield along the narrow path beside the school brings you into the Square and into Church Street. Proceed up to your right till you come back onto the High Street.

Directly across the High Street there is a narrow path with a step leading to it. Take this path to the end and then turn left round the back of The George.

Turn first right up Twitchell Road and continue through the tunnel under the railway. Turn left along the un-adopted Trafford Road on to emerge into Whitefield Lane opposite the Plant Nursery. Turn right and proceed a short distance until you see a five barred gate with a narrow footpath immediately to the right. Take this path, which follows the field hedge, and climb the hill towards Hobbshill Wood. Gypsy House (of Roald Dahl Fame) is down on the lane to the right of this path.



Through the gate at the top proceed forward along the distinct path until you reach the gate at the top. Turn left and walk down to the kissing gate on the right a short way down. This gate takes you into Atkins Wood and if you proceed directly forward along the path you will emerge at the top into Atkins field. Cross this field to Nairdwood Lane and cross onto Church Path. This path will take you into Peterley Wood and you take the path immediately straight ahead, not to the left. Continue up this path until you reach the corner of a timber fence. Turn right and take the path round the paddocks and continue along the distinct paths until you emerge in Widmere Field.



Walk out of this cul de sac, across Lodge Lane and into Wren Road. Turn right at the end into Wrights Lane and continue until you reach a turning to the left. This will take you into Grimms Dyke; proceed to the end into Honor Road, turn right and proceed until you reach Orchard Lane on your left. Take this lane and at the end in the High Street turn left to return to the car park.



Walk 2b – an even more off-road variation on 2a.

Start - Prestwood Car Park – Angling Spring Wood – Upper Hollis – Rignall Road– Buryfield– Atkins Wood- Prestwood Car Park

Duration 1½ Hrs Distance 7km.

Suitable for reasonably active people. Some steep and /or rocky tracks. This is an alternative to 2a with less road walking.

In winter warm weatherproof clothing is advised and you will need to wear substantial walking boots as this walk can be muddy, but the views make the effort well worthwhile.

From the Prestwood High Street car park turn right onto the High Street and walk down to Orchard Lane, (second turn right). Turn right and proceed to Honor Road. Turn left and continue to Nairdwood Lane and cross over and through the footpath.

In Salmons Lane, cross to New Road. At the end bearing slightly left across Green Lane, go through the gate into a field, (Andlows Farm Land). Continue down through the field, through a kissing gate into Angling Spring Wood. Take the left- hand path up the hill and continue along this path until you reach Martinsend Lane. Cross over into Upper Hollis and proceed ahead until you reach a footpath across the road at the end before the road bends to the left.

Continue down this footpath, through a gate, down the right-hand edge of the field, through a gate and a small copse, another gate and down the right-hand edge of the next field until you reach the bottom. This is Rignall Road and if you cross and look slightly to your left you will see a gate. Through this gate the path will take you along past the rear of the cottages and towards the railway underpass. Take this path and keep to your left and on to the road, with the Black Horse Pub opposite. Take the gate and cross to the pub. Take the track to the right of the pub and through the field on your right through the gate. The path takes you down the middle where another gate will take you diagonally across towards the A413. Another gate will take you to the right of the stables and along with the boundary of the horse paddock to your right until you see a gate on your right. This distinct footpath will take you through another gate and as you proceed towards the Link road, you will see a gate to your right. This will take you down a narrow path, along the edge of Boug's meadow and into the Link Road car park. Emerge from the car park and cross the Link Road via the crossing to turn left into the High Street with its various eateries.

Continue along the high street until you come to Whitefield Lane, (opposite the Abbey) and turn right. Continue up the road, under the railway and past Trafford Road on the right. At this point the road is a vehicular single-track road and it will take you past Gypsy House (of Roald Dahl fame).

Continue up on this road until you finally reach Angling Spring Farm and branch right past the field of sheep and round the back of the farm. At this point take the left-hand fork and proceed along the back of the farm and on through the wood on the top path. This path will bring you out on Andlow's Farm driveway. Proceed along this drive until you reach Green Lane and cross into Green Park. Continue until you see a footpath on your right between two houses. Emerging into Salmons Lane continue until you see a footpath on your left. At the end of this path you will emerge into Nairdwood Lane.

Cross into Honor Road and proceed until you reach Orchard Lane on your right. Take this lane and at the end in the High Street turn left to return to the car park.

Walk 3

Prestwood Car Park - Church Path - Peterley Wood - Trinity Church- Hampden Rd- Nanfan Wood- Kiln Rd – Prestwood Car Park

Duration 2 Hrs Distance 6 ½ km.

Suitable for reasonably active people.

As expected, some inclines and declines involved and in winter you will need to wear boots as this walk can be muddy and suitable weatherproof clothing, but the views make the effort more than worthwhile.

From Prestwood car park turn right onto the High Street and walk down to Orchard Lane. Turn right and proceed to the end to Honor Road. Turn left and continue to Nairdwood Lane. Turn right and proceed down Nairdwood Lane, past Fairacres and then Lodge Lane on your right. Continue until you reach Church Path on your right and make your way down past the cottages on your left and into Peterley Wood. Take the path to your right, (straight forward) and continue until you reach the corner of a wooden fence. You now continue forward but with the fence close to your left. Ahead you will see some houses and this path opens out to a concrete drive that takes you up to Wycombe Rd, opposite Trinity Church. Cross to the church and take the footpath to the side. This path soon opens onto a pretty valley and takes you to the right of Lawrence Grove Wood. Leaving the wood, take the path down through the field into Meadsgarden Wood. The path is steep and a difficult descent here but keep close to the right boundary. There is a kissing gate at the bottom which you proceed through and across a short piece of land into Hampden Road.

Bright clothes and traffic awareness are called for on this short stretch. Proceed with caution to Stony Green on your right and take the footpath up towards Nanfan Wood. Continue along the footpath through the lowest part of the wood. Through the gate at the end of the path, you have a choice of three directions, but proceed straight ahead through two fields and along a narrow path with horse paddocks to your left. The gate at the end brings you into Hangings Lane and you turn right towards Honor End Lane. Cross to Greenlands Lane and immediately right into Kiln Road, walk along Kiln Road until you reach a trellised archway on your right and you proceed along the front of the cottages into the Glebe. At the end turn left into Chequers Lane and you continue along past the allotments until you see a footpath where the road bends to the left. Take this footpath to the end and across the road and to the right is the Prestwood Car Park.



Walk 4

Potter Row – across the fields to the rear of Ballinger

Duration <1hr Distance 4 km.

Can be very muddy Open land so can be breezy and stiles will have to be negotiated.

By car – At the double roundabout in Gt Missenden take the exit down Link Rd. At the end at another double roundabout, approach to turn right but immediately before the next roundabout take the left-hand lane to turn up Frith Hill. Take the first turn left, also marked Frith Hill and proceed up the hill until you reach the crossroads. Turn left into Potter Row and drive along until you see a bright yellow house (unsurprisingly named Sunshine House) on the right-hand side and 40mph markers on the road.

Park along the verge just before the footpath indicated on the right-hand side without obstructing the paddock on your left.

Go through the gate and proceed along the distinct footpath that will take you through the corner of the hedge and along the right-hand side of an agricultural field. Walk right down to the end where there is a stile. Once over the stile, turn left and follow the path until you come to a concealed stile through the hedge on your left. Follow the path round the field to your right until you come to another stile and once over continue in a diagonal route across and through the opening at the end. There are disused open barns to the right. Once through the opening you will join a path that merges from the right, (rear of Ballinger Cricket ground).



Continue forward in this field with the hedgerow to your right. You will see the footpath takes you forward and past a hedge on your left then diagonally across to the left towards a tree line. Through into another field, the footpath takes you along the left hand side close to the tree line until you reach another stile on your left. At this point the footpath launches across this field diagonally to your right and down into a dip. You should reach the hedgerow and continue uphill towards the gate. Once through the gate, take the right-hand path and continue along a hedge lined path and then along the edge of a copse. Keep on this path until you reach the gate at the end. Here you take the right-hand path again which brings you into a small field. The footpath takes you up the left-hand side to the opening at the end. Turn left and return on the original path. Take the righthand fork when you get to the field with the barns and diagonally back towards the stile. The way bends back around this field and over the stile through the hedge and right onto the footpath, then down to the bottom and over the stile on your right. Proceed forward along the path from earlier and round this field and back to the opening in the hedge. Then across the paddock back to the gate that is adjacent to your parked car.

Walk 5

Circular walk Prestwood and Great Missenden

Duration 2 hrs Distance 6 km.

Can be very muddy open land so can be breezy and styles will have to be negotiated.

From the corner by Prestwood Lodge school of Lodge Lane and Nairdwood Lane

Walk along Nairdwood Lane past the school entrance until you reach Church Path on the right. Cross Church path and immediately you will see a log blocking the vehicle entrance to a large field on the left-hand side of Nairdwood Lane. This marks the public footpath. Take this path through the gate and into the field between the houses. The path across this large arable field dips away down until it reaches the edge of Atkins Wood.

Just inside the wood take the path to the **right** (there is a path going left which leads back to Atkins Farm on Green Lane).

Follow the path to the right dropping down slightly through the gate at the bottom end and turn left up track till you see a gate on your right into Hobbshill Wood. Continue this path taking the left path at the junction until you arrive at a wooden gate. This path drops away through this gate so be careful. At this point there is a lovely view ahead of the Misbourne Valley below. Soay sheep are often in the field here too.



Continue on the narrow fenced path down to Whitefield Lane. Below to the left is a single-track dead end road that passes Gipsy house the Dahl family home) the way descends into Great Missenden passing Gipsy House and gives an opportunity to enjoy hedgerow blossoms and or fruits according to time of year. Motorised traffic is rare and the road is usually walked without disturbance.

Turn right into Whitefield Lane and immediately, there is a signed narrow footpath just below the Dahl garden to the

left which can be followed. It leads to a junction of footpaths at the entrance to an open field.

This avoids Great Missenden town centre but to access it with its facilities (coffee shops, pubs offering food, library, carparks, public toilets etc.) Take the path to the right past the little cemetery and turn right. A short way along on your left is a tunnel under the railway that takes you into Twitchell Rd at the bottom take the walled path rough the back of The George Pub until you arrive at Gt Missenden High St. Turn left and proceed through the village. Here you can find eateries and pubs along with souvenir shops. When you have reached the two mini roundabouts take the left turn up over the railway bridge and left again along Trafford Road, an unadopted road with limited traffic. Follow this to the footpath sign to the right between houses, cross the field to meet the junction of paths in the open field.



Choose the path going up to the highest point of the field on the extreme right. At the top it enters Angling Spring Wood and follows the line of Martinsend Lane bearing round past the information board (almost opposite Upper Hollis) and continues to follow the boundary of the wood down to the kissing gate which opens to a large set-aside field. The footpath crosses the field, climbing gently towards Green Lane, and passes out to the lane through a narrow section between houses. Turn left into Green Lane and walk facing the oncoming traffic to Nairdwood Lane. (Beware there are no walkways, and the lane is narrow and winding. Keep dogs and children under control). This is a return to our starting place and would have taken a couple of hours at a leisurely pace.

Walk 6

Prestwood – Hobshill – Nairdwood Farm – Old Orchard – Peterley Avenue – Heathend Rd – Ninneywood – Crooks Wood – Peterley Wood – Prestwood High Street.

Duration <2hr Distance 8 km.

More active walk negotiating muddy banks and stiles.

From the Prestwood High Street car park turn right onto the High Street and walk down to Orchard Lane, (second turn right). Turn right and proceed to Honor Road. Turn left and continue to Nairdwood Lane and cross over and through the footpath slightly left.

At the end – Salmons Lane, turn right towards public footpath at the end. This path leads to Green Park, turn left proceed to the end to Green Lane. Cross and walk up Andlow's Farm drive, (tarmac). On your right you will see a white farm gate with a kissing gate to its left. Go through this gate and walk along the green walkway to the white gate at the top. Turn left to the side of the agricultural field and follow the path round into Atkins Wood. Take the path to the right and proceed down and up to the corner of the wood where you take the path to the left. Continue down this path toward a white gate at the bottom. Turn right into Hobbshill Lane (track). Continue down this track (which



can be very muddy with large puddles) until you finally reach the entrance to Sedges Farm to the left. Continue straight forward where the road reaches Nags Head Lane. Turn up to the right and face oncoming traffic. Be careful and keep dogs and children tucked in to the hedge. A short way up opposite the junction with Nairdwood Lane is Nairdwood Farm. To the left of the farm is the footpath. Proceed on this footpath around the farm. At a point halfway across the field the path forks, to the right towards the Old Orchard. Take this path and continue to the corner of the orchard and along

the side until you reach a gate. Through the gate, immediately turn right. (There is an Alpaca Farm with around 80 head of Alpaca in paddocks at this point). Continue along this path until you reach Peterley Avenue, (merely a broader, muddy track. Here is a direction post, take the path immediately opposite and over the stile where the path goes directionally across the field towards Heath End Road. Caution at the end as Heath End road can be fast with no footpaths. Again, be careful and keep dogs and children tucked in to the hedge. Proceed facing the oncoming traffic a short way until you arrive at the footpath on your right. This leads you past some houses and down a path at the end. You now have a choice of paths, take the one to your right what takes you along the edge of Long Plantation. When you come to the next hedge line turn right into Crooks Wood and a short way in the path takes you to the left. Walk along with the edge of the wood to your left until you come to a cross path where you will turn right. Proceed almost to the edge of the wood where you should take the footpath to the left. A short way down you will emerge onto Peterley Lane. Almost directly across but slightly to your right, there is an entrance into Peterley Wood. Follow the footpath but at the sign don't follow the suggested path to the right but keep to the path to the left. Shortly, you will notice that the edge of the wood is to your left. Continue until you come to a junction with a wooden



fence to your left. Don't take the path along the side of this path but continue directly ahead with paddocks now on your right. Follow the distinct path along until you come out through a metal gate into Widmer Field.

Walk out of this cul de sac, across Lodge Lane and into Wren Road. Turn right at the end into Wrights Lane and continue until you reach a turning to the left. This will take you into Grimms Dyke; proceed to the end into Honor Road, turn right and proceed until you reach Orchard Lane on your left. Take this lane and at the end in the High Street turn left to return to the car park.

Walk 7

Prestwood – Hobshill – Nairdwood Farm – Old Orchard – Full Moon Pub – return to Prestwood High Street.

Duration 2hr Distance 8 km.

Easy walking, some sticky places underfoot

This walk begins in the Public carpark in Prestwood, and follows the usual start down Orchard Lane, left along Honor Road, across the recreation ground and into Nairdwood Lane, turning right down Nairdwood to cross Lodge Lane. Continue down Nairdwood to Nairdwood Farm crossing Peterley with care at the three-way junction.

The country walk begins here and being on the Prestwood clay cap for most of the way, you can expect sticky mud on most footpaths, in fields and woodland persisting after any rain. The footpath through the kissing gate leads across a field of grassland to a signpost at the edge of a large arable field, which is crossed by two footpaths. Continuing in the same original direction, follow the left arm of the sign, cutting diagonally across the ploughed field. Most of the year it is very clearly marked as a footpath, and it is soon re-established after ploughing.

Across the field the path enters Sandwich Wood, so named because of the increased amount of sand in the clay here, which was dug out in the past, leaving many small pits and disturbed areas, so that larger trees are only present at the boundary, which the right-hand footpath follows. Through the boundary on your right, but not accessible, is an old orchard. The farms around here are name Bramley and Orchard Farms, pointing to a history of fruit growing. Keep along the right hand boundary path, some shrubs here have low branches over the path, until you reach the end of the wood. To your left is a path back into Sandwich Wood, which leads past the large chalk pit, and eventually down to Nagshead Lane, but our route is to bear right along a narrow path between the hedge and the field fence, across a wet patch of path where at times a small stream runs. This narrow path continues sometimes with muddy patches, other times with stepping stones, sometimes with barbed wire close to walkers, so be watchful. One field usually has sheep. The hedgerow on the left is old and suggests the path is long established.



At the end the path emerges into the busy garden and entrance to the Full Moon, with food, snacks, beer and other drinks, and toilet facilities, and with dog water available.

The path continues to the quiet road, we are briefly out of GM parish and venturing into Little Kingshill and turn right down the road. At the main road Heath End Road turn right, and at the first track right leave the road and enter the track. It passes between houses and between fields but opens out into a large field. Two footpaths cross the second field, one to your right keeps to the field boundary. The

one you will take is to your left diagonally across the field. At the opposite corner it emerges onto Peterley Avenue (the track at Peterley Manor Farm). Again, there are all the facilities here available.



Just before the entrance to Peterley Manor Farm there is a footpath left which allows walkers to avoid the bends on the busy road, and emerge opposite Peterley Wood, taking care to cross the road. On entering the wood, follow the track round to your left to meet the main track through the wood, which eventually emerges at Church Path. Cross Church Path at the tall wooden fence and walk on to Widmere field, to cross Lodge Lane and return to the High Street and Prestwood Car Park.

Walk 8

Link Rd or Buryfield Car Parks or Great Missenden Railway Station – Across A413, up and across Potter Rd – edge of Ballinger Cricket Ground, Potter Row, down to A413, return to car in Gt Missenden.

Duration 2hr Distance 8 km.

Easy climbing, walking almost entirely off road.

From the Car Park make your way down Link Road to the A413 and cross very carefully to the footpath directly opposite the roundabout. Take this well-defined path up the hill with the hedge to your right. There is a new gate a small way up installed by HS2. At the corner of the field and over the stile, there is a narrow, fenced footpath ahead and slowly up. This opens out to a stretch of grassland and continue in the same direction to the next gate. Go through this gate and on up with the field boundary to your right, until you see the edge of the wood. The path through this wood is clearly defined and will bring you to a stile. Once over you are in a horses paddock and your path leads towards the left hand corner of the field where another stile is located. Here you cross Potter Row and directly across is a gate into grassland. Ahead you will see the path that will take you to the corner of a hedge boundary and you are to take the narrow gap through this hedge. Proceed along the edge of the field with the boundary to your right and follow round until you reach another stile. Although a well, worn path is shown to the left, the actual footpath is over the stile and directly left continuing along this path until you come to a concealed stile through the hedge on your left. Follow the path round the field to your right until you come to another stile and once over continue in a diagonal direction across and through the opening at the end. There are disused open barns to the right. Once through the opening you will join a path that emerges from the right, (from the rear of Ballinger Cricket ground).

Continue forward in this field with the hedgerow to your right. You will see the footpath takes you forward and past a hedged boundary on your left then diagonally across to the left towards a tree line. At this junction you turn left through the gap so that the wood flanks you on the right. Continue directly forward for some distance until you will see a footpath merging from the right. Continue on this footpath round the back of the house and over a stile at the side of the house to emerge onto Potter Row again. Turn right and proceed a short distance until you see a stile on your left. This will take you into a large paddock. Continue forward with the boundary to your left until you reach another stile to the right of a wide gate. Over the stile and on still with the boundary to your left until you come to a wide opening on your left. Once through this opening turn right and proceed gently down hill and under the pylon, through into another field and on down to a double stile.





This takes you into a very flinty field and the footpath takes towards the path down the edge of the field with the boundary on your left. At the bottom is a stile that takes you into a field with horses. At this point, a reminder to keep your dogs on a leash as you will encounter livestock from here until you return to your car.

Proceed down diagonally across this field to your left and through the gate into a field of sheep. The footpath is clearly defined and will take you gradually down through a hedge and on down to the A413 where you exit through a gate. Caution is advised as the road can be very fast.

Across the road through another gate take the footpath to the left and towards Buryfield House. This distinct footpath will take you through another gate and as you proceed towards the Link Road, you will see a gate to your right. This will take you down a narrow path, along the edge of Boug's meadow and into the Link Road car park. You are now close to your car, the station, and to the various eateries in Gt Missenden.



Walk 9

Link Road Carpark/Railway Station Gt Missenden – Mobwell - circular walk to end at Link Road Carpark/Railway Station

Duration 1hr 20 mins

Leisurely stroll along the River Misbourne

Beverages available in Black Horse and in the village

The River Misbourne is a typical chalk stream which rises from springs at Mobwell and beyond and flows South East towards Amersham. It is dependent for flow on the chalk rock filling up with rain water which then seeps to the springs of which there are several supplying the pond and stream at Mobwell. Often however, following hot summers such as 2018, or drier than average years, there is little flow in the Missenden Parish except at the hospital and Deep Mill.

Nevertheless the banks of the potential chalk stream carry pleasant footpaths and provide a pleasant circular walk, covering the lengths of the Aylesbury/London Road and High Street, without inclines or traffic.

Leaving the carpark turn right to walk up the Link Road passing Abbeyfield and turn right onto the High Street in front of the Roman Catholic Church. The first road on your right, Elmtree Green, leads to a tree lined footpath, which passes the Gateway School on your left. The footpath continues through the river meadow to a roadside gate on your left. Emerge from the field and continue along the road to your right to the Black Horse pub – and its facilities. Cross the road to see the Mobwell Pond (dry at present (Jan 2019) and respect it as an important habitat for newts, frogs, toads and many dragonflies. The river is diverted under the road at the left of the pond as you look with your back to the Black Horse. The stiles facing you are gateways to more walks (including the South Bucks Way), which go up into the hills around the Great and Little Hampden.

Our leisurely stroll however continues from the entrance to the Black Horse Car Park. Following this footpath back towards the village centre, the dry bed of the Misbourne is on your left as you cross the wet meadows. The path nears the A413 and when it does, there are tunnels under the road giving access to the chalk scarp leading to South Heath farms and ultimately to the Lee. Continue along the footpath until you reach the house and horse fields by the Link Road. Take the path on your right into Boug's Meadow, where there is an old flint bridge over the (dry) river. Boug's Meadow is property of Chiltern District Council, but is managed as a river meadow by Prestwood Nature, the local conservation group, and is being restored by removal of nettles, and planting of wild flowers.

From Boug's Meadow, leave the Link Rd Carpark beside the conveniences and cross the Link Road (on the pedestrian crossing) and turn left down the pavement to enter the Buryfield beside the children's playground. Follow the footpath across the field until arriving at the School in the Square. From Link Road to this point the river has been in a culvert under the playing fields. Crossing the Square walk up the steep path to the Church and before crossing the bridge over the bypass turn right down the steps into Abbey Park. This is site of veteran Oaks, Ash and Horse-chestnut trees with an occasional Walnut too. These trees are some of the best examples of their kind in the Parish. Head down to the river bed crossing the area diagonally in front of Missenden Abbey. You are headed towards Warren Water – an ornamental pond which usually holds water,



and south of which you may usually expect to find the river running in the narrow stream bed. The clarity of the water is due to the cleansing effect of percolating through the chalk.

At Warren Water there is a track back to the main road. At the end of the track turn right along the High Street and head back to the zebra crossing over the Link Road to your starting place.

Walk 10

Prestwood – Angling Spring Wood, Gt Missenden Village – Under A413 - Potter Row – Ballinger Cricket Ground – return A413 – Mobwell – Upper Hollis – Angling Spring Wood – Church Walk Prestwood – Peterley Wood – High St Prestwood Car Park.

Duration 4 hrs 13 km

A good ramble around Gt Missenden Parish; this is a combination of some of the earlier walks. There are so many public footpaths within the parish that the permutations are endless. This is another example with expected time and distance.

From the Prestwood High Street car park turn right onto the High Street and walk down to Orchard Lane, (second turn right). Turn right and proceed to Honor Road. Turn left and continue to Nairdwood Lane and cross over to take the footpath between the bungalow and Coulson Court.

In Salmons Lane, cross to New Road, proceed to the end and cross Green Lane. Go through the gate and follow the footpath into a field, (Andlows Farmland) and continue down through the field, through the kissing gate into Angling Spring Wood. Continue forward along this path until you reach the field at the end of the wood; go through the gate. The path continues along the right-hand side of this field. Nearing the gate at the end, you will see Gypsy House of Roald Dahl fame, up on the right. Through the gate proceed straight forward past the little cemetery on your right and turn right at the end. Go down this unmade road until you see a tunnel on your left. This will take you under the railway and into Twitchell Rd. At the end of this short road, turn left and proceed to the right before the white barrier, along the narrow-walled path. **Please be cautious at the end as will emerge down two steps and directly onto Gt Missenden High Street.**

Cross over and continue down Church Street and keep going past the school on your left and on to the end of the cul-de-sac, where you will see a tunnel. Take this tunnel under the A413 and Frith Hill and continue forward and upward and past the stables on your left. When you come to the end, turn left past the entrance to the stables and the footpath continues between the edge of the ménage and the curtilage of the neighbouring house.



At the end of this narrow, fenced path, follow the distinct path which starts to climb to the right and continue until it then brings you on down to a gate leading to a footpath on your right. At this point you can see straight down on to the A413 and the Link Road roundabout.



This narrow-fenced path will take you up towards a field and through a gate into the open pasture. Continue to climb for a couple of hundred metres and at the end is a gate followed immediately by another gate on your right. Through this gate proceed along the edge of arable land until you reach the wood. The footpath through the wood is distinct and will bring you out of the wood to a stile. Over this stile continue through the paddock until you reach another stile, by a farm gate. **Please be cautious as you are on Potter Row and the traffic can travel at 40mph.**

Cross Potter Row, through the gate and into the field. From here and slightly to your left you will see the corner of a hedged field with a small gap. Go through this gap and along the right-hand side of farm land. Proceed along until you reach a stile. Go over the stile and turn immediately to your left and continue up the path until you see a concealed stile on your left. Turn right and follow the path round the edge of the field until you come to another stile on your right and once over continue in a diagonal route across and through the opening at the end. *There are disused open barns to the right.* Once through the opening you will join a path that merges from the right, (rear of Ballinger Cricket ground).

Continue forward in this field with the hedgerow to your right. You will see the distinct footpath, go forward until you will see the path going through a wide opening in the boundary on your right.

Continue down until you reach a crossroads of footpaths and take the one to the left through a gate. Walk upwards with the wooded area to your left. Continue on this path until the land to your left opens out and to your left will be woodland. Proceed until you arrive at another junction of footpaths. Take the left one through the gate and down the edge of agricultural farmland with the boundary to your right. As you reach the dip, this path will branch off diagonally to your left and climb until you see a gate in front of you. There will be a warning of Bulls. The path leads you forward past a telegraph pole at the rear of Springfield Farm. You will see a gate to your left;

continue across the next field and through another gate. The path is distinct into the next field and will take you round the rear of the properties in Potter Row.



Between the houses is a stile that takes you back out onto Potter Row. Turn right and continue a short distance until you see a stile on your left. Through this paddock, over the next stile and forward with the boundary to your left until you see an opening on your left. Go through this opening, turn right and proceed downhill and under the electric cables, on through the gap and into another field and on downwards until you reach another hedged boundary with a double stile.

This takes you into a very flinty field and the footpath takes on downwards and to the left of the field with the boundary on your left. At the bottom is a stile that takes you into a field with horses. **At this point, a reminder to keep your dogs on a leash as you will encounter livestock.**

Proceed diagonally to your left and through the gate into a field of sheep. The footpath is clearly defined and will take you gradually down through a hedge and on down to the A413 where you exit through a gate. **At this point you can access the pass under the A413; this is strongly advised as the road can be extremely fast.**



Emerging the other side go through another gate and take the footpath to the right and proceed diagonally across the paddock, through the hedge and on towards the Black Horse Pub. This path will bring you out onto the Aylesbury Road. Cross over and slightly to your right you will see a



kissing gate that will take you under the railway with the farm to the right. Go through the gate at the end and then the gate to your left which will take you to the side of the cottages in Rignall Road.

Cross Rignall Road and take the footpath up the hill with the hedge to your left, towards the house at the top. At the end of this footpath, you will reach Upper Hollis. Proceed directly ahead along Upper Hollis until you reach Martinsend Lane.

Cross the busy Lane into Angling Spring Wood and make your way on the path to the left. This will gradually lead you down through the wood until it opens out into a field. The path carries on down to your left and to the gate you walked through much earlier. (close to Gypsy House). Through this gate, take the narrow path to the right, with the rear of the properties on your left and Gypsy house garden to your right. This path will emerge into Whitefield Lane. Cross this lane toward the farm gate and immediately to your right between the farm gate and Whitefield lane, take the narrow footpath. This will gently climb towards Hobbshill Wood. **Do stop at the top before you enter the wood and take a chance to enjoy the view.**

Take the clear path through the wood (not the one to the left though it will merge with the other path shortly), until you reach a kissing gate at the end. Once through turn left and continue a short way downhill until you see a white gate on your right. Take the pedestrian access into Atkins Wood. The footpath climbs upward and to the left of this wood until you reach a large agricultural field. Cross this land until you reach the houses and go through the gate. You are now in Nairdwood Lane.

To your right and across this road is Church Path. Take this path with the cottages to your left and proceed into Peterley Wood. Continue through the wood on the path until you see the corner of a timber fence. You are at a junction of footpaths and your path is to your right. The pony paddocks should still be immediately to your right. This distinct path will bring you out into Widmere Field.

At the end of Widmere Field is Lodge Lane, cross over into Wren Road and proceed to the end into Wrights Lane. Turn right and continue until you see a turning on your left (still Wrights Lane) and proceed forward into Gryms Dyke. Go straight forward until you reach Honor Road. Turn left and walk down until you see a walkway to your right. This will bring you into Blacksmiths Lane. Go straight forward until you reach Prestwood High Street. Turn left to return to the car park.