



Walk No. 12 – Beggars Bush circular

This is walk number twelve in a series of historical walks around Chudleigh and the surrounding countryside compiled by Alan Brunton for the Chudleigh History Group. Most walks commence from the Town Hall. The historical content of the walks is mainly brief, but further information can be found on our website and in The Chudleigh Book, available in the library.

To avoid a long walk to the starting point I suggest you drive out and park. Leave Chudleigh passing the cemetery and allotments. When reaching the junction to Ugbrooke House at the top of the hill turn left towards Beggars Bush and on reaching the turning to Ashcombe and Torquay turn right and park in the lay-by on the left just 100 yards up this road.

Walk 12: Distance approx. 2 miles. Time 1–1.5 hours. Bridleway, quiet roads, forest track/paths.

Leave the parking area and walk back to the junction (**Beggars Bush**), turn left towards Chudleigh and after 100 yards enter the footpath/bridleway on the right opposite the lane to Higher Dunscombe Farm. This path gets quite overgrown during the spring but is passable, although it can get soft underfoot in the winter months. It offers wonderful views of Chudleigh, the Teign Valley and Hay Tor. Pass through the large gate. After a few hundred yards another path comes in on the left from Waddon, a small hamlet of seven or eight houses and the old Waddon Mill. Powered by the Waddon Spring very little evidence of the mill remains now. It was probably only used for the grinding of animal feed and ceased working before the Second World War.

From this meeting of paths walk straight on and through two small gates to Ridge Lane. Just before reaching the hard road surface you cross over a very small watercourse, another spring rising in Haldon Forest. This is very often dry but in wetter months runs slowly down alongside Ridge Lane to Amberley and then Hams Barton before reaching the Kate Brook. Many years ago a heavy storm caused the water to rush through here, down the lane and through some chicken houses in Amberley killing a lot of birds.

When reaching the lane bear right and follow it up to a junction with stables on the corner. Turn right again and walk up towards the A380 Exeter-bound slip road with pastures either side. After half a mile or so a road comes up from your left from Mistletoe Farm, very well-known for its Jersey herd established in the 1950s. In 1981 farm manager, Barry Nockolds, was showing some of the cows at the Honiton Agricultural Show. The Princess of Bahrain and her entourage, in England for the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, visited the show and asked if she could purchase some of the cows to take back to Bahrain as the initial stock for a Jersey herd in her country. She came to Chudleigh the next day and selected a number of cows which, along with a few others from various Jersey herds in Devon, were exported. Barry went to Bahrain to supervise the creation of a Jersey herd farm and teach cattle welfare and oversee the building of milking parlours. He and his wife were held in high regard by the Princess and attended the weddings of her brother and one of her daughters. Apparently, the cows



thrive in Bahrain's climate. Barry and Mary lived in Colway Lane; both passed away a few years ago.

Walk on to the small crossroads and over to Thorn's Cottage, although this is a bit of a misnomer as it is hardly a cottage. Immediately turn right just past the house into the woods after the driveway. This can be a little wet at times but it is only for a few feet so pick your way across. Follow the side of the property and garden for 100 yards. The path is not very clear but soon you will notice two little paths off to the left, Take one of those to a wide forest track – allegedly a Roman road – which is only a few yards away. If you prefer an easier walk back to your car then turn right before Thorn's Cottage and follow the A380 slip road (what remains of the old Newton Abbot–Exeter road prior to its duelling and which can be traced on an OS map south via Higher Dunscombe) back to your parking place.



Route of Walk No.12 (map source: OpenStreetMap)