

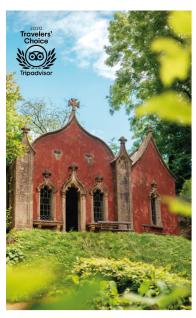
A series of short, circular walks around Cherry Tree Glamping

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Little Cotswold Walks
Book 13. Cherry Tree Glamping Special Edition 2021

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Introduction.

When we put these walks together, we look for a part of the countryside which is less visited by others, yet is within easy reach of a pub!

Cherry Tree Glamping is beautifully positioned on a ridge between the Painswick Valley, featuring the villages of Sheepscombe, Cranham and Painswick – all with great pubs – and the Slad Valley. The latter is of course renowned for being the childhood home of the author Laurie Lee, most well known for *Cider with Rosie*. Just as importantly,

Slad Valley is the home of The Woolpack Inn which featured in his book. Well worth a visit to drink in the culture and the local ales such as Budding from Stroud Brewery, which my friend Jonny says is his favourite beer. But he says that about most beers after the fourth pint.

Each walk in this booklet has been hand-crafted by my wife Nicky and our dog Daisy – but I was drafted in to write the flowery bits of the instructions and draw the maps! Nicky's objectives for these walks were:

- To get you to the nearest pubs to Cherry Tree Glamping: The Butchers Arms in Sheepscombe and The Woolpack Inn in Slad.
- A nice village: it's always interesting to see how the other half lives and we've tried to select some places where you can look at some nice houses and discuss whether you would like to live there.
- Circular walks: we've tried to come up with circular (ish) walks, but there might be some interesting side paths which we've suggested and sometimes these require returning by the same route.
- Some exercise for Daisy: uppermost in Daisy's mind was her desire that each walk should contain a stretch where she could be off the lead. For longer walks, I'm also aware that Daisy will need a drink so a stream, lake, horse trough is a very useful landmark on the walk. By the way, all the pubs are happy to have dogs (at time of printing!).

Daisy absolutely insists that we regularly re-trace the walks in case anything has changed, but if you spot any errors then please let me know – we will both be mortified and will correct the error immediately and republish on www.rrgordon.com

Rod Gordon <u>rod@rrgordon.com</u>

1. Down to The Dillay and Up The Other Side

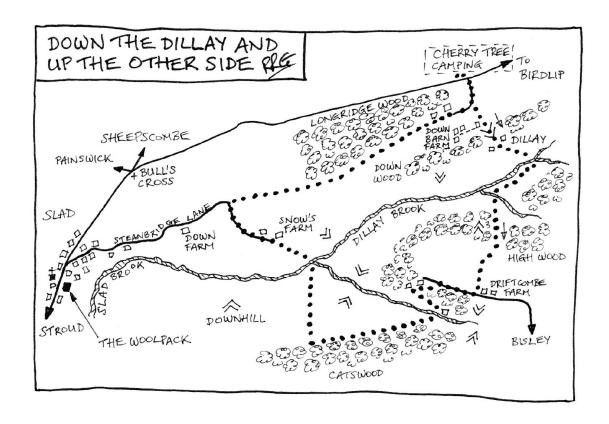
Rod's Rating	***
	The Dillay is a brook which is tucked away in a small tributary valley at the head of the main Slad Valley – and this walk takes you on a delightful ramble up and down the steep valley, and up and down again. And up again.
	There are parts of this roaming, meandering expedition which, without wishing to sound too grandiose, are reminiscent of Tolkein landscapes - and you may come to feel that you are escaping the Shire with the Black Riders on your heels.
	See Something Interesting below for interesting Tolkein facts
Daisy's Rating	HHHH
	Daisy never once mentioned the Fellowship of the Ring as she was too busy sniffing around the woods and diving into the Dillay Brook. This is a great walk for energetic dogs - and energetic owners
Is it a circular walk?	Yes
How long did it take?	2 ½ hours, 8km (approx. 5 miles), 330m up/down

WHERE TO START:

Car park of Cherry Tree Glamping, Seven Acres Rd, The Camp, Stroud GL6 7EU

THE WALK - In summary:

Start at Cherry Tree Glamping, go down into the Dillay Brook valley and up the other side - and then down into Piedmont Valley which then joins onto the main Slad valley, before finally returning along a small track through Longridge Woods.



THE WALK - In detail:

- > Walk through the Camping Field to the far end between two firepits and go through a gap in the hedge
- > Turn left onto a stone track and walk up towards the road
- > At the road **turn left** and then cross the road and at a footpath sign turn down a stone track signed Dillay Farm/Down Barn
- > Follow the road as it bends to the left to Dillay Farm
- > Bear left towards Dillay Farm along a stone track
- > Follow the stone track around to the right to head towards a stone circle on the hill. Ignore Public Footpath signs to the left
- > Continue downhill through a gate for the Dillay through some woods to a group of buildings at the bottom
- > Go between the houses and to the **left** through a wooden gate and then steeply down a grassy bank to the bottom of the valley
- > Cross the stream (Dillay Brook) on a wooden bridge
- > Turn right along the valley floor and then go up to the left heading for a white-topped post to a stile into the woods (High Wood)
- > Follow path past a tumbledown cottage and go straight across a wide stone track and head up, up, up between two tumbledown Cotswold stone walls
- > Halfway up, bear left onto another track
- > At the top, cross a track, go slightly **right** and then left/up the bank past an old stone stile along a narrow path to a large field
- > Keep to the left hand edge of the field
- > At the end of the field **turn right onto the road** at Driftcombe Farm
- > At the intersection by the dead end sign go left downhill

Outhouse built into wall at Driftcombe Farm

- > At a large wooden house (St Benedicts) the road bends left back on itself and continues downhill past a garage to the bottom stay left
- > As you approach a house **turn sharp right** towards a large willow tree. Go to the right of the willow and over a wooden footbridge
- > Go through a wooden gate and follow the grass track uphill and then continue onto a track along the edge of the wood (Catswood)
- > Go through a large wooden gate continuing straight ahead along the edge of the wood until you see a stile (Laurie Lee walk marker) on the right
- > Go over the stile and follow the path diagonally right downhill through a large field
- > Go through a gateway and continue following the path down to a metal kissing gate
- > Bear right around some bushes and down to a stream
- > Head down some steps and cross a wooden bridge, then head left towards an intersection of streams
- > Go through a metal kissing gate and over a small stone bridge and then head uphill towards a house at the top of the field
- > Go over the stile at the top of the field and go to the left of the house (Snows Farm) and uphill along the road
- > Where the road bends to the left follow a **footpath sign on the right** to go back on yourself **(BENCH)** uphill towards some barns

- > Continue up the stone track (Down Hill) past a **BENCH** on the right. Have a sit down and enjoy the beautiful views!
- > Cross a stone track and continue until you come to a large metal gate. Head through it and into the wood (Longridge Wood)
- > Continue along track as it passes some scrap yards (sorry about that!) on your right
- > At the end of the track turn left and follow the track back to the main road
- > At the road, cross carefully, **bear left and go right** down stone track to side of Cherry Tree Glamping. Head downhill and then turn right through gap in hedge back into campsite

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Tolkein was known to have visited the Cotswolds many times as his mother's family came from Evesham and the following are reputed to have inspired parts of his books. You might like to visit them ...

St Edwards Church, Stow-on-the-Wold: the ancient entrance of this medieval church is flanked by two yew trees, and is said to have inspired the Door of Durin, which was the impenetrable entrance built into the walls of Moria, which lead down to the Dwarven city of Khazad-dum. Say 'Speak friend & enter' to open the door.

The Bell Inn, Moreton-in-Marsh is considered by many to be the inspiration for the Prancing Pony in Lord of the Rings – the Inn in Bree where the Hobbits meet Aragorn for the first time, escaping death at the hands of the Nazgul, the Black Riders.

Broadway Tower, Broadway, is a 65 feet high folly found at the second highest point in the Cotswolds, and is rumoured to be the inspiration for Amon Hen in Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. In the tale, Amon Hen is the location where the Company of the Ring camp until being attacked by Uruk-hai. The skirmish results in the death of Boromir.

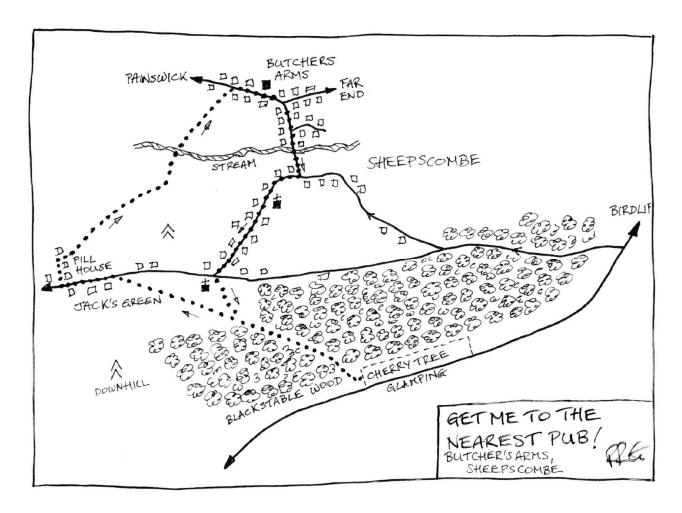
2. Get Me To The Nearest Pub!

Campsite to Butchers Arms, Sheepscombe (and back)

	,
Rod's Rating	Running along one side of the campsite is Blackstable Wood and through the trees is the beautiful Sheepscombe valley – and at the bottom of the valley is the Butchers Arms. If it wasn't for the trees, you could probably see the pub from the campsite. This walk takes you to the pub on an interesting, semi-circular route – and then we thought people would want to return by the most direct route possible. 45-60 minutes on the way there, 25-30 minutes on the way back.
Daisy's Rating	Daisy liked roaming around the woods and it was good to have a drink in the stream just before reaching the pub.
Pub	Butchers Arms, Sheepscombe, Stroud GL6 7RH https://butchers-arms.co.uk/ One of our favourite pubs. Log fires in winter and lots of tables out the front & at the side for sunny days.
How long did it take?	1 hour 30 mins, 3.4 km (2.10 miles), 190m up/down

WHERE TO START:

Car park for Cherry Tree Glamping, Seven Acres Rd, The Camp, Stroud GL6 7EU



THE WALK - in summary:

Start at Cherry Tree Glamping, go into the woods which run alongside the campsite, go down the hill into Sheepscombe and return - up, up, up!

THE WALK - In detail:

- > Walk through the Camping Field to the far end between two firepits and go through a gap in the hedge
- > Turn right down wide stone track which leads through the woods
- > Follow track downhill ignoring paths to left and right past signs for Black Stable Woods
- > Where the track splits into two take the left hand track and follow it down to the road
- > Turn left onto the road
- > Turn right down a Public Bridleway which leads down a driveway to Pyll House (stone on the right), the sign might be hidden by the hedge but there is a busstop sign on the other side of the driveway (NB this is just after the last few houses on the left ie The Nook)
- > Follow the tarmac driveway down 25 yards
- > Do NOT follow the blue Public Bridleway sign which continues straight ahead, but **turn right** following a yellow Public Footpath sign; the path goes between Pyll Barn and Pyll House leading to two gates
- > Go through the gate on the left. If closed the gate opens electronically by pressing a button
- > Walk across the gravel and through another wooden gate
- > Go through yet another wooden gate with yellow Public Footpath sign on it
- > Walk down between a barbed wire fence on your right and hedges/trees on your left
- > Go over a stile and turn left walking down the undulating field staying to the left
- > Cross the stream and go over a stile (there is a sword-shaped piece of wood which acts as a dog gate)
- > Walk up a steep grassy hill, staying left initially and then, at a telegraph pole, veer right heading towards a double wooden five-bar gate
- > Go through the gate (no Public Footpath sign) and then the one after
- > Turn right and walk up the gravel drive to the road
- > Turn right onto the road and walk to the Butchers Arms on your left for a well-earned drink or bite to eat
- > When it's time to head back...turn left out of the pub and head down the hill into the dip
- > Go past the phone box (where you can borrow books) and Village Hall on your left and then start walking uphill again staying on the road
- > Ignore the Public Footpaths on the left and right
- > Follow the road round to the right opposite the War Memorial at the foot of the cemetery
- > Go past St John's Church on the left (BENCH), a huge millstone in the next garden on the left and keep going up, up, up until you reach the road
- > Go straight across the road following Public Footpath sign and go up a track (behind the stone-built busstop)
- > Go over a stile into a small field and continue uphill slightly left
- > At the next stile, **turn left** onto a stone track and continue all the way uphill. As you approach the road, **turn left** through the gap in the hedge into Cherry Tree Glamping

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The Sheepscombe valley was once part of a Royal Deer Park for King Henry VIII. The Butchers Arms pub dates from around 1670 and its name comes from the practice in those early days of hanging carcasses of deer killed on the hunt in what is now the bar.

The owners of the Butchers Arms asked artist Barnaby Catt-Morrison to create a new sign – and the resulting carved sign of a butcher sipping a pint of beer with a pig tied to his leg is probably the best known and photographed pub sign in the country and is featured in many publications on the subject.

'Cider with Rosie' author, Laurie Lee, once said of Sheepscombe cricket pitch that it was probably the most picturesque pitch in the whole of England. His uncles were founder members of the club, keen players and supporters – and Laurie Lee also played there himself. In 1971 he bought the pitch so that it could be used by the club forever and in 2014 the club raised £25,000 to purchase the field from Laurie Lee's estate. It is still known as the Laurie Lee Field.

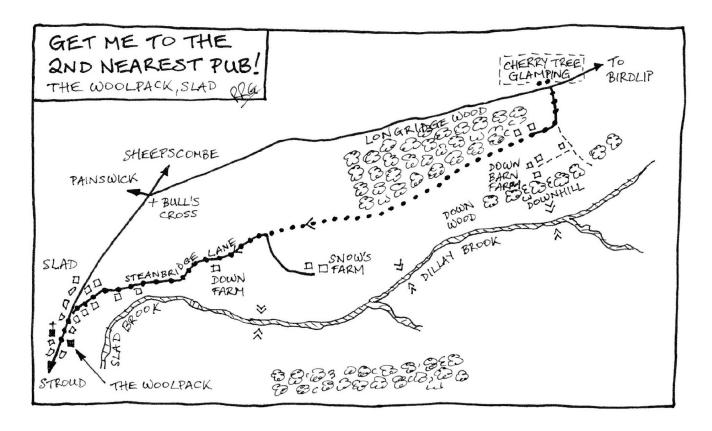
Lee once compared the undulating pitch to a pony's back and his drinking pal Frank was immortalised in 'Cider with Rosie' in a section which illustrates how the field drops away at the edges: "At first only the outfield was visible, then you'd see the top of Frank's cap. Then his flushed face and great heaving shoulders until gradually, like a galleon, he'd come billowing into view and loose his fast, furious ball like a shot from a cannon."

3. Get me to the second nearest pub! *aka The Beanpod Walk* Campsite to Woolpack Inn, Slad (and back)

Rod's Rating	Designed as a functional walk to take you to famous Woolpack pub on foot, and back, by the most direct route. However, even functional walks in the Slad Valley are a delightful trip through the stunning vistas of Laurie Lee's childhood memoirs, Cider With Rosie. See Something Interesting below. Don't have a dessert at the pub because you need to regain some altitude on the return leg! We do we call it The Beanpod Walk? See Something Interesting below
Daisy's Rating	Daisy has always liked The Woolpack, with its terraced garden overlooking the valley, and the opportunity to eat a few chips that might tumble inadvertently from our plates. She also likes the woods at the start of this walk, and the opportunity to jump in the small lake at the bottom of the valley. It's a simple life with simple pleasures
Pub	The Woolpack Inn, Slad Rd, Slad, Stroud GL6 7QA www.thewoolpackslad.com
How long did it take?	2 hours, 8 km (5 miles), 230m up/down

WHERE TO START:

Car park for Cherry Tree Glamping, Seven Acres Rd, The Camp, Stroud GL6 7EU



THE WALK - in summary:

A leisurely stroll down through Longridge Woods and along a very quiet, dead-end, country lane to the famous Woolpack Inn in Slad, favourite of author Laurie Lee. Great food, beer and views!

THE WALK - In detail:

- > Walk through the Camping Field to the far end between two firepits and go through a gap in the hedge
- > Turn left onto a stone track and walk up towards the road
- > At the road **turn left** and then cross the road and at a footpath sign turn down a stone track signed Dillay Farm/Down Barn
- > As the track bears to the left turn right down a stone track through the woods (Longridge Wood) past a scrapyard (sorry about that!)
- > Follow the track through the woods ignoring paths to the left and right for about a mile until you come to a large metal seven-bar gate
- > Go through the gate and into a large sloping field
- > Continue to follow the stone track as it crosses another wide track. You will see a **BENCH** to your left with beautiful views
- > Continue downhill to a metal gate at the bottom of the field and out onto a tarmac road (BENCH)
- > Turn right onto the road and continue downhill past a large house and stables on your left (Down Farm)
- > At the bottom of the hill pass a few houses (Steanbridge Cottage and Mill) to your left and then continue along the road as it starts to go uphill towards the village of Slad up,up,up!
- > Ignore an uphill turning to your right and continue following road to the main road
- > At the road turn left and continue for approx. 200 yards to the Woolpack Inn on your left.
- > To return to the campsite you just need to re-trace your steps! It'll be all up, up, up so gird your loins!
- > So... turn right out of the Woolpack and walk along the road for approx. 200 yards
- > At Steanbridge Lane turn right down the lane
- > Follow the lane to the bottom and then as it heads uphill once more past Down Farm
- > Where the road bends to the right follow a footpath sign on the left (BENCH) uphill towards some barns
- > Continue up the stone track (Down Hill) past a **BENCH** on the right. Have a sit down and enjoy the beautiful views!
- > Cross a stone track and continue until you come to a large metal gate. Head through it and into the wood (Longridge Wood)
- > Continue along track as it passes the scrap yards on your right
- > At the end of the track turn left and follow the track back to the main road
- > At the road, cross carefully, **bear left and go right** down stone track to side of Cherry Tree Glamping. Head downhill and then turn right through gap in hedge back into campsite

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The author Laurie Lee, most famous for the nostalgic 'Cider With Rosie', is buried in Slad churchyard overlooking The Woolpack pub.

When we did this walk for the first time, climbing up and down the steep-side valleys I was reminded of the following words from his from the novel: "The village to which our family had come was a scattering of some twenty to thirty houses down the south-east slope of a valley. The valley was narrow, steep, and almost entirely cut off; it was also a funnel for winds, a channel for floods and a jungly, bird-crammed, insect-hopping sun-trap whenever there happened to be any sun.

Living down there was like living in a bean-pod; one could see nothing but the bed one lay in. Our horizon of woods was the limit of our world. For weeks on end the trees moved in the wind with a dry roaring that seemed a natural utterance of the landscape. In winter they ringed us with frozen spikes, and in summer they oozed over the lips of the hills like layers of green lava. Mornings, they steamed with mist or sunshine, and almost every evening threw streamers above us, reflecting sunsets we were too hidden to see."

At one stage this walk coincides with the Laurie Lee Wildlife Way which is approx. five miles starting & ending at Bulls Cross. You can find further information – and details of how to buy the walk booklet – from www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/laurielee

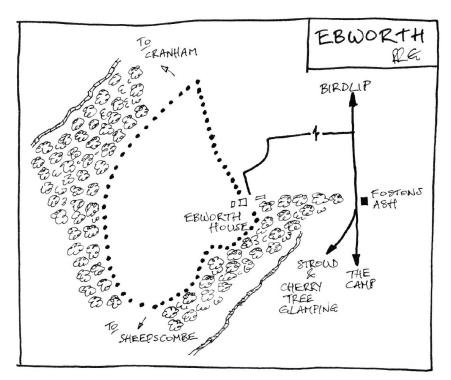
P.S. Interestingly the word slad means valley.

4. Ebworth Woods

Rod's Rating	***
	This is a designated walk on some lovely National Trust land a couple of miles from Cherry Tree Glamping. The walk runs out along the top of the Sheepscombe valley, circles around a headland and then back up the top of the Cranham valley. Much of the walk is in woodland, but with occasional glimpses of stunning views down the two valleys. Not too much up & down, which is a rarity in this area!
Daisy's Rating	HHHH
	Daisy loves roaming around the woods, sniffing for wildlife. No streams to jump in, but you can't have everything. She was intrigued by the mild-mannered Belted Galloway cattle which occasionally are stationed in one of the neighbouring fields alongside the walk.
Pub	The Fostons Ash, on the road from Birdlip to Stroud https://www.fostonsash.co.uk/
	Fostons Ash, Slad Road, The Camp, Near Birdlip, Gloucestershire, GL6 7ES
	The current owners are enthusiastic and passionate – and have created a marvellous undercover area in the garden which has become very popular.
How long did it take?	1 hour, 4km (2.5 miles), 125m up/down

WHERE TO PARK:

You have to drive 5 mins for this walk!! From Cherry Tree Glamping, turn left out of the campsite and follow the road. As it bends to the left you pass the Fostons Ash pub. Continue on for 100 yards and the National Trust green sign for Ebworth Woods is on your left. Follow the tarmac lane for approx. one mile and where it splits in two bear left towards a gravel parking area.



THE WALK - In summary:

Beautiful National Trust woods, teeming with wild flowers and heritage sheep and cattle. Circumnavigate a flat area of farmland located on the upper reaches of the headland.

THE WALK - In detail:

- > From the carpark go through the large wooden gate into the farmyard following the orange National Trust (NT) marker. You will follow this marker/trail for the whole of the walk
- > Continue straight ahead slightly downhill along a wide stone track between houses and outbuildings
- > After approx. 50 yards, at the large Workmans Wood sign, turn right steeply downhill (do NOT take the path going back on itself) and zigzag down
- > At the bottom the path joins a stone track, **go right** and follow the track as it bends to the left (below the houses you passed earlier) and through the woods
- > Pass an orange NT marker post and continue up and down through the lovely woods
- > At the next orange NT marker bear **right** NOT downhill. You are on the top edge of the woods with a Cotswold stone wall to your right
- > As you emerge from the woods head towards a large wooden gate and go to its left to cross a stone stile. Take a moment to enjoy the beautiful view across the valley the village of Sheepscombe lies ahead of you and beyond it on the ridge is Cherry Tree Glamping
- > Bear left just after the gate and follow the orange marker along a narrow path with a tumbledown wall to your left. Below and to the left is Sheepscombe cricket ground surely the best place in the country to enjoy the game.
- > The path emerges onto a wide stone track, **turn left** onto the track and continue along it with the woods (Lord's and Lady's Wood) to your left and stone wall to your right
- > At an intersection of three paths follow the orange NT marker to the right slightly uphill
- > At the next orange NT marker continue straight ahead
- > At the bottom of a slight downhill stretch there is another three path intersection. **Bear right** uphill onto a narrower path
- > At the end of the woods go through a small wooden gate into an environmental wildflower restoration area and keep to the left hand side of the field. The village of Cranham lies to your left and beyond it the Cotswold Escarpment which overlooks the Severn valley.
- > At the next wooden gate **go right** uphill towards the middle of a copse of trees at the top
- > Pass a metal water trough on your right and go through a wooden gate into a small copse
- > At the end of the trees, go through another wooden gate into a small field. **Stay right** heading for a wooden gate ahead and slightly to the left; farm buildings and car park are now visible ahead of you
- > Go through the gate, cross a lane to another five bar wooden gate which you go through
- > Head across the small field to a wooden gate which leads back into the parking area

 Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrqordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

In 1989 John Workman gave the Ebworth Estate to the National Trust. John was a National Trust forestry advisor for 30 years, co-founder of the Tree Council and co-founder of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum, as well as ex-president of the Royal Forestry Society (RFS). He was also one of the few recipients of the National Trust Octavia Hill medal and considered by many as one of the most influential foresters of his generation. The estate includes five hundred acres of beech woodland, which form part of a larger National Nature Reserve, and six hundred acres of organic farmland. The beech woodland is of international importance for conservation and is part of a continuous block of ancient semi-natural woodland and grassland along the Cotswold scarp. John Workman loved the estate, particularly the woods, and even had

a favourite tree which visitors are still able to spot. However, it was his wish to pass on this passion and knowledge of the countryside to future generations, and it is this wish that National Trust rangers hope will come to life at the Ebworth Centre.

P.S. More intrepid walkers might wish to walk from the campsite to Ebworth Woods. This is relatively straightfoward. Follow the first part of the Butchers Arms walk above (Walk #2), then from the pub walk along the road which is signposted to Far End, then walk up the track to Laurie Lee cricket pitch, then cross the cricket pitch and behind the clubhouse (go around the right hand side) you can join the above walk by going through a gap in the tumbledown wall. You will join at the instruction which refers to "Sheepscombe cricket ground".

We hope you enjoyed this book of Little Cotswold Walks.
RR Gordon is the best-selling author of **Gull Rock**.
For further information about this and other books see
www.rrgordon.com

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Can deliver to campsite (min order £20.00)

Tel: 01285 821 385

To get to Miserden Post Office & Stores:

- Turn left out of campsite, then take first right (signposted The Camp)
- At T junction turn left and then as you leave the village turn right opposite electricity station (signposted Miserden)
- At next T junction turn right and then 2nd left (signposted Miserden). Post office & Stores is on your right just after the school

