

1.

LARGE CIRCULAR JITTY WALK

APPROX. 5KM – 1.5 hours steady walking

The small blue numbers relate to information in

Points of interest list

The JITTIES in Earl Shilton are a mixture of short cuts and old rural footpaths. They have also been referred to as ‘The Backs’. It was said that you could go the whole length of Shilton without touching the main road.



Aerial view of Earl Shilton pre-1929

2.

Starting point:

Heritage Notice Board in the Town Centre (Wood Street).

It is thought that the Earl Shilton Workhouse stood somewhere near here in the area called Wood End on a map of the late 18th century, probably near to the current Co-op. The workhouse was sold off in 1838, and Earl Shilton people in need of assistance would have been sent to the Hinckley Union (Workhouse) known as ‘The Bastille’.

Cross road into Kings Walk, to Wood Street Park *49*

Take right hand path adjacent to Kings Walk passing Prospect House on your right *5*

Continue on this path to Keats Lane with Kingscroft Bowls Club *29* on your right and Earl Shilton Town Cricket Club *27* on the left. Among the renowned players at this cricket club were the great Sam Coe and more recently Les Taylor both of whom played for Leicestershire and England. Turn right into Keats Lane passing cottages on right, including the former glove factory of Mr Linney at number 81 *14*

Pass by Green Lane and the Dog & Gun *34* on the left, passing West Street on the right. The factory on the left, Highfield Works was formerly the Argee. *42*

At the end of Keats Lane passing Hilltop Works *19* on left, turn right and at Ashfields Restaurant, *18* Looking to your right you will see nos. 10-16 High Street, Bradbury’s Row *40*

3.



THE EARL SHILTON LION IN BRADBURY'S YARD

Crossing the High Street, immediately on your right you will see No. 7, Hilltop House ¹⁷ Go through the car park straight ahead to the Queen Elizabeth II Hall Field Park continuing straight on, you will see the Castle Mound with its folly ²⁰



4.

On the right is the memorial to the six men from Earl Shilton who all fought and returned from the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 ⁴³

Continue through the gates, which were donated by Tom Eatough, who bought what was known as the 'Hall Yard' from the Diocese and gifted it to Earl Shilton ⁴⁴ On your left you will see the Parish Church of St Simon & St Jude, whose Saints' day is celebrated on Wake Sunday – the last Sunday in October ⁴⁵. Turn right into Almeys Lane crossing the road you will pass on your left, the Pinfold Footpath ⁴⁷

Take the service road on the left, continue to the bottom and then take the right fork into the jitty. Continue straight on crossing Avenue South to the next part of this jitty. Up the slope take the right fork and the jitty will take you onto Almeys Lane. Turn left passing Vicarage Street and Oxford Street, please take care here as the path narrows. After passing Orton Place you will see in front of you a red brick building on the corner of Almeys Lane and the High Street, with a very old road sign on the wall pointing to Thurlaston. Beneath this is a Blue Plaque commemorating the three Almey men who fought at the Battle of Waterloo ³⁷



5.



Fronting onto the High Street is the shopfront of what used to be Abbotts tailoring with the interesting mosaic entrance ¹⁶, and opposite you will see what is now 'Ironcraft' ³⁸. This was where the village blacksmith and undertaker plied his trade in the until the 20th century. Having viewed the plaque, back track slightly and take the jitty which used to be called 'Candlestick Alley' where the Candle House stood. At the end of the jitty cross the road (Alexander Avenue) towards Orton Close turn right and then before the Car Park to the Independent Chapel ³⁶ Take the jitty known as 'The Meadows'. At the bottom turn right across the end of Cottage Gardens, and continue on the jitty. What remains of Cotton's Gardens which were extensive and beautifully landscaped, are over the fence. Continue through Borrowdale Park and arrive at Equity Road East. Cross the road and bear left past Lyndene Crescent. On the right is the next jitty which leads through to Cotton Mews.

All of this area was formerly owned by William Cotton. The Mews are on the site of Cottons factory where boots and shoes were made, including boots for the Russian Army.

6.

Turn left into Hurst Road, and then right into Equity Road, coming out into Station Road. This road was part of Breach Lane up to Wood Street, until the railway came to Elmesthorpe. In 1861 many local people were out of work due to the problems of the Civil War in America, and the difficulties obtaining cotton because of the blockade. These people, about 1200 of them, were put to work building Station Road in return for little more than bread and meat.

Crossing over, take the lane facing which is Mona Street. Carry on along this lane and jitty to the end and you will be in Byron Street, turn left and at the junction with New Street cross over to Highfields Street, and then right into Rossendale Road. Carry on along this road and at the end on the right is where the former factory of Eatough's Ltd was sited, this again made slippers, sandals and shoes, the road was named after Rossendale in Lancashire where the founder of the company had his first factory.

Opposite is 102 Hinckley Road, which housed the first telephone exchange in Earl Shilton ²³, also you will see a small estate named for Bird's & Yeoman's ⁴, the hosiery factory which stood there until the 1980s. Turn left and continue up the hill for about 200mtrs. Cross the road and turn right into Field Way.

7.

Heading along this jitty, you will see to your left the rear of an art deco building, formerly Heathfield High School which was opened in 1937 ¹



8.



Turn left on the first footpath in the park and at the top left you will see a small woodland area. Here you will find another memorial to the 6 Earl Shilton men who fought at Waterloo. It is a slate memorial let into the ground in between six native trees, one for each of the men. From this viewpoint you look across towards Kirkby Mallory and at the time of the Battle of Waterloo you would have seen Kirkby Hall, the home of the family of Lady Byron, (wife of the famous poet), and their daughter Ada Lovelace, writer and mathematician, who worked with Charles Babbage on the early mechanical computer. Leaving the woodland area, and moving back into the park, follow the path in front of the skateboard park and the BMX track and retrace your steps on the path to the right, past the Age UK centre onto Kings Walk, to Wood Street. Take a slight left and cross at the pelican crossing. On the left you will see the Methodist Church ²⁸ and to your right is the Cenotaph ⁷

At the end of the path take the right hand turn down the hill into Heath Lane South. This area, was the Heath, used for steeplechasing from Tooley Park until the time of the enclosures. This will bring you onto the junction of Hinckley Road and Wood Street. Turning left along Wood Street you will be passing where Dan Astley's sand pit was (behind nos. 138 – 134). His home was no. 102 Wood Street. ²³ Take the footpath on the left after the convenience store until you arrive again at Wood Street Community Park.

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Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council