

Bathford Village Family Walking Trails
No. 5: Ashley Road/ New Road

Bathford was on the route from Bath to London. Did you know that Queen Elizabeth I would have travelled through Bathford in 1574 when she went from Bath to Lacock?

For centuries **Ashley Road** was the main road through the village, and from 1707 it was part of a Turnpike route, which meant that travellers would have to pay a toll to use it. As you walk along imagine the stage coaches on their way to London.

Start the trail from the playing field end. Can you find the details shown in the pictures? Try the questions as you go along (answers at the end of the trail).

The **playing field** (often called the Folly Field) was given to the village in 1945. Its proper name is the Wynne-Wilson War Memorial Recreation Ground.

1. Look out for the letter **Ws** on the gates.
2. Which dogs are allowed on the Playing Field?
3. When was the Diamond Jubilee? (*clue - look at the plaque*)
4. Can you spot these as you walk along the road?





5. The old photo above shows the cottages on either side of Ashley Road near the Recreation Ground gates. At one time they were both public houses. No 4 Ashley Road, on the left of the road, was The Star. Here is a picture of the same building today. What's different? What has changed?

6. The cottage across the road (1 and 3 Ashley Road) was a Blacksmith's forge, and later became The Smiths Arms. Can you see the faded lettering on the blocked window advertising drinks? You should be able to see "PINCHINS BEER ALE & STOUT".

7. Can you solve this clue?
Does this cottage go across the river?
(*clue - the name of a cottage*)

8. Can you do the sums at Garston Cottage?
(*Clue - look at the B&B sign*)

9. Can you find these?





10. The building on the right of the photo was Bull's Brewery (or Bathford Brewery). This road used to be called Brewery Lane. It was renamed Ashley Road in 1923 to make it sound more respectable!

Can you find this building today?



11. Can you see a small stone building in the allotments, near the gates to Ashley Road. (This picture was taken a few years ago) What do you think it is?

In the late 1800s, people were worried about the quality of the water supply in Bathford. The Parish Council hired a water diviner to find new springs. One well was dug in the allotments, and this is the well house which was built over the pumps.

At one time it was also used to store the village fire engine!

12. A few more things to look out for as you walk along Ashley Road...



At the end of Ashley Road turn right up **New Road**.



The allotments are on your right. In 1869 land called Northfield was given to the parish for the use of villagers. New Road was built at the same time.

Looking at the names of the houses along New Road, can you solve these clues?

- 13.** Does a famous cyclist live here?
- 14.** A good home for an old fashioned song bird?
- 15.** A miniature hill?

16. Have you spotted this sign?



17. What is this?



You will soon reach the High Street where your trail will end. We hope you enjoyed it.

Jan Tatem

*Answers: 2. Guide Dogs/ Assistance dogs 3. 2012 6. Bridge Cottage
7. 56 (28+28) 13. Cavendish 14. Thristle Nest 15. Small Ridge 17. Fencing*