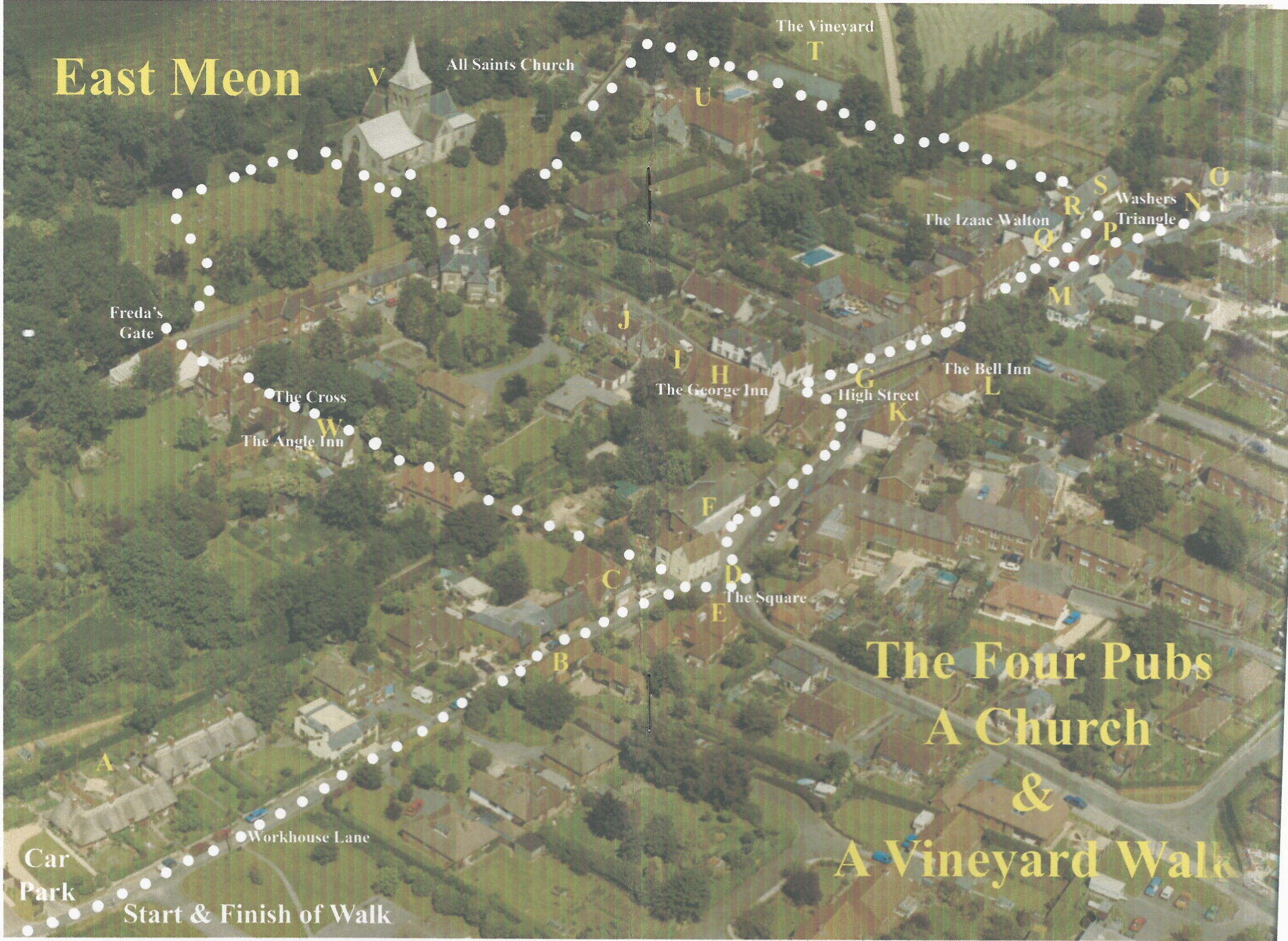


# East Meon



## The Four Pubs A Church & A Vineyard Walk

Start & Finish of Walk

## **The Four Pubs, a Church and a Vineyard Walk**

### **A light hearted look at East Meon**

The Village of East Meon has a long history dating back to the dark ages, and has many attractive Tudor and Georgian cottages and houses. A large number are listed.

This short walk, of about ½ mile, takes you through the centre of the village, and during it you will pass the sites of four pubs (two of which no longer exist), a new vineyard, and two of the oldest buildings in the village.

The Walk starts just off the left hand bottom corner of the map (see front cover).

The car park is on the western end of East Meon. Make sure you park there, as parking space in the village is limited.

**The Village of East Meon has produced this leaflet, in collaboration with The Petersfield Museum, to be used as a guide to those wishing to visit the village.**

**If you have found this leaflet useful, please make a donation to either Petersfield Museum, or All Saints Church, East Meon.**

## **Workhouse Lane & The Square**

**A).** Walk up **Workhouse Lane** towards the village centre. On the right you see the newest houses on the far side of the Green. Turn your eyes to the left as you pass a row of thatched cottages, some of the oldest, with the first suitably named **Paupers Cottage**.

**B).** Further up Workhouse Lane, on the right, is another well named building. Look top left of the wall facing the road and find the bottle, embedded in **Bottle Cottage's** wall.

**C).** Walking further, on the left, the **Tudor House** is indeed partly Tudor, but its origin is much earlier, it is thought to have been built for the bailiff of the manor. An interior beam has been tree-ring dated to 1333.

**D & E).** The best view of the next house is to walk into '**The Square**'. Look back towards the street you have just come up and, on the left, you will see **Heycroft House**, dated 1575.

In 1973 it was in very poor condition when **Freddy Standfield** bought it. Freddy was a long time resident of the village and the local historian who wrote '**A History of East Meon**'. This can be purchased from The East Meon Stores (**F**), which you pass on your left as you walk from the Square to the River Meon. You can also buy an ice cream from the shop.

## The High Street

(G). As you reach the High Street, stand on the pavement of the bridge over the Meon. On your left is the first Inn on your walk, **The George Inn (H)**. The building was originally two cottages and a grain store, but there has been an inn on the site for about 200 years. Here you can have some food and beer, or perhaps a product of the grain!

(I & J). Before proceeding along the footpath beside the Meon, note that beyond the George on the left of the road leading up to the Church, is the **Old Village Pump**, beautifully housed in a covered area, and beyond that, the **Forbes Almshouses** built in 1863 by Mrs Forbes of Bereleigh in memory of her husband.

Each 'inmate' had to be a parishioner over 65 and of good character and reputation. When two more houses were built in 1906, the amended regulations insisted that no visitors should be entertained and that regular attendance at divine service was compulsory. Residents today have to have lived in the area for 3 years, but the other rules have gone.

## (The High Street Continued)

(K). If you have wandered towards the Church turn back and take the footpath alongside the River and stop. Looking across the river you will see **Barnards Cottages**, once multi-occupancy cottages. Local knowledge suggests that Middle Barnards, then two tiny cottages, may have had 21 residents in the 1890s.

L). Next to Barnards along the High Street is **Old Bell Cottage**. This building was once **The Bell Inn**, the second inn on the walk. Here the visiting cobbler would repair shoes, and it is reported by a resident that as people only had one pair of shoes in those days, that whilst they waited to have their shoes repaired they would sit and drink in the next-door room. Thus it became a regular drinking place and got its name as **The Bell Inn**.

(M). Proceeding along the footpath past Glenthorne House, and looking across the river to the other side of the road, you see **The White Cottage**. In the 1920s this thatched cottage was the home of a carrier, Noble White. He would leave before dawn and return after dark having taken farm and garden produce down, and brought all manner of supplies up, from Portsmouth on a twice-weekly basis. He would also carry passengers.

## Washers Triangle

(N). The next building you will come to is **The Izaak Walton**, but don't think of entering at this stage, because you have to go on to see one of the oldest houses in the village, **Forge Sound**. This was originally an open hall house, which means that there was no first floor and the smoke from the fire built in the centre of the house on the ground floor used to rise to the roof ridge before seeping out between the tiles. No insulation in those days, just blackened rafters to look at. In later years, 'Sun Insurance', 'Farmers Fire and Life Insurance' signs were affixed to the gable ends. We don't know if this gave the house any more protection than before.

(O). **Riverside**, aptly named, is two connecting cottages and forms a group with Forge Sound. The most southerly building was formally a butchers shop with a shutter front that folded down to form a counter.

The butcher slapped down a lump of meat on it and the trick was to pick it up before the flies settled on it.

(P & Q). You are now at the furthest extent of the Walk, but don't be tempted to turn back towards your car, as the best is yet to come. Retrace your steps, and across the river to the **Izaak Walton**, leaving **Washers Triangle**, where the village laundry was washed, on your right. This is the third of the pubs on the Walk, (formerly known as The New Inn). Here, not only food and beer can be sampled, but also coffee and cake in the morning.

(R & S) Come out of the pub and turn left along the riverside path and within 15 metres you come to a thatched covered opening between two cottages. Hockley Cottage and Brook Cottages. The latter was home to Granny Luff who gave herbal advice in the 1920s. Recently Tina Stapley, our present day Herbal Practitioner, lived there.

## The Court House & The Church

(T & U) Take the small footpath between the cottages for 20 metres and go through a kissing gate, on your left. From here to the main road is through private property so please keep to the footpath. Walk up the path with the wall on your left, and on your right you will see the recently planted vineyard of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir vines, which should start producing sufficient grapes for a wine harvest in about 3 years time.

The vineyard is part of the land adjoining **The Court House**. The house and the Manor belonged to the Bishops of Winchester, with the Court Hall, where the area courts were held, dating back to the Norman Conquest, or even earlier.

(V). When you reach the road turn left and walk down to the Church lychgate, and as you walk up the path look right across the road to see the magnificent roof of the Court Hall.

**All Saints Church** is now in front of you, and details of the **Tournai Font**, the '**Amens Plenty**' Stone and the **Comper Window** will be found inside the Church.

(W). On leaving the Church, turn right and take the path walking through the churchyard down to '**Freda's Gate**'. Cross the road (with care), and on your right is Vicarage Lodge, thought to have been a tollhouse. Continue up the street known as **The Cross** to the thatched cottages. **Cross Cottages**, now a single home, was once three Cottages. One of these was the last inn on the walk, **The Angel Inn**.

You are nearly back to the car park. Continue up The Cross to the top, turn right and retrace your steps to your car.