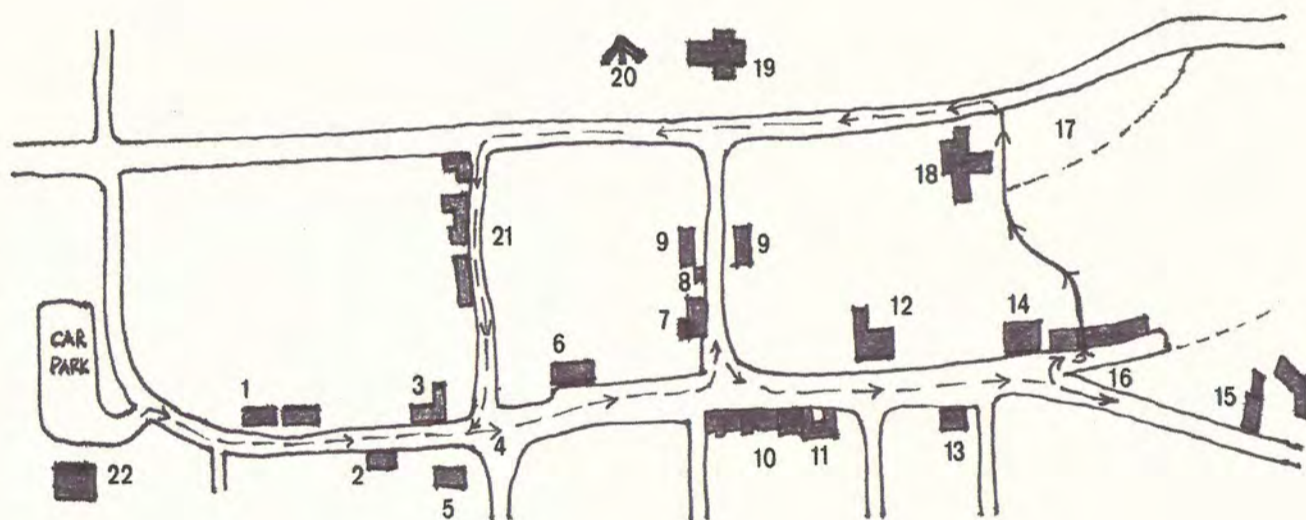
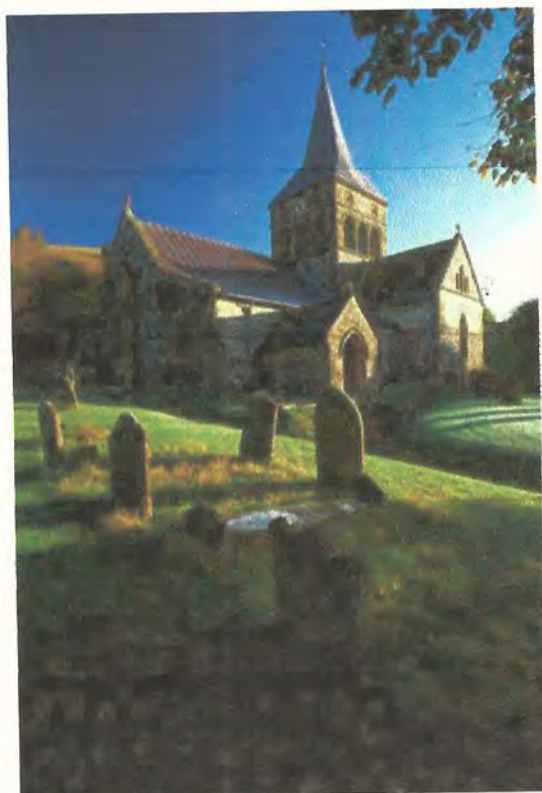




A short walk around East Meon

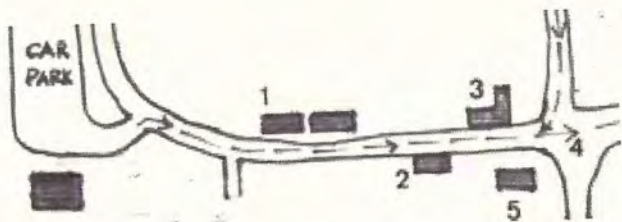
This guide describes a walk of about 2 kilometres around the village of East Meon. It is based on 'Four pubs and a Church', prepared by a villager, Denys Ryder, to support an exhibition of East Meon at the Petersfield Museum in 2006. The best of the photographs are by another resident Chris Warren.

'A short walk ...' has been compiled from a variety of sources including 'A History of East Meon' by Freddy Standfield, who lived in the village, Edward Roberts, Historian at Hampshire County Council, and 'Buildings of England' by Nikolaus Pevsner and David Lloyd.



Workhouse Lane

Start from the Car Park at the western end of the village, past the Village Hall on the bend in Workhouse Lane.



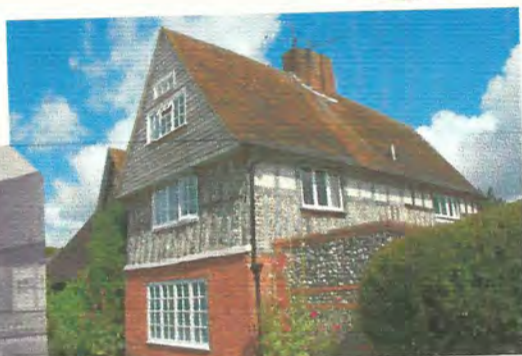
1. Walk up Workhouse Lane towards the village centre. On the right you see the newest houses on the far side of The Green. On your left you pass a row of thatched cottages, some of the oldest in the village, with the first suitably named **Paupers Cottage**



2. Further up Workhouse Lane, on the right, is **Bottle Cottage**. Look top left of the wall and find the bottle embedded in the wall of **Bottle Cottage**.



3. Further down on the left the vine-clad **Tudor House** (pictured far right) is indeed partly Tudor but its oldest part is much older, a three-bay Hall House possibly built for the Bailiff of the Manor. A fine interior beam has been tree-ring dated to the Spring of 1333. Roberts notes the rare 'cusped bracing' or 'timber studs' as Pevsner described them. In living memory, this house contained one of the half-dozen shops in East Meon.

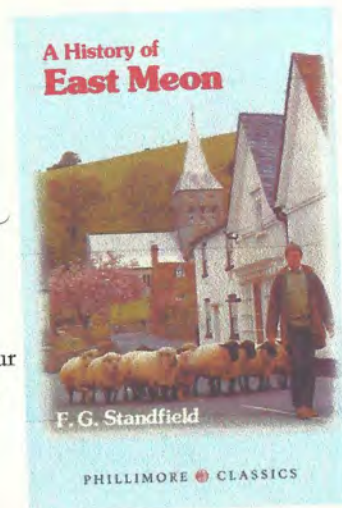
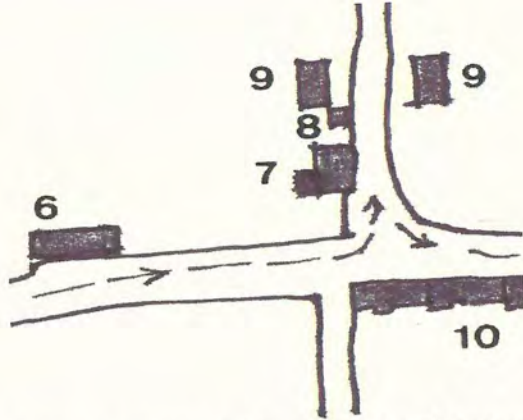


4. As you walk to the end of Workhouse Lane you are entering what was once **The Square** (period photo, left, showing the shop at the Tudor House).

5. Look back down Workhouse Lane and on your left is **Heycroft House** dated 1575 and noted for the distinctive herring-bone brickwork. It was in very poor condition when Freddy Standfield bought it. Freddy was a long-time resident of the village and wrote *A History of East Meon*.



Church Street



6. You can purchase Freddy's History (its cover is shown, right) at **East Meon Stores** which you pass on your left as you walk from The Square towards the River Meon. Or any refreshments you might need for your walk...



7. As you reach the High Street, pause on the pavement of the bridge over the Meon. On your left is the first pub on your walk, **Ye Olde George Inn**. The building was originally two cottages and a grain store but there has been an Inn on the site for around 200 years.

8. Before proceeding along the footpath beside the Meon, note that beyond the George on the left of the road leading to the Church is the **Old Village Pump** beautifully housed in a covered area and, beyond that ...

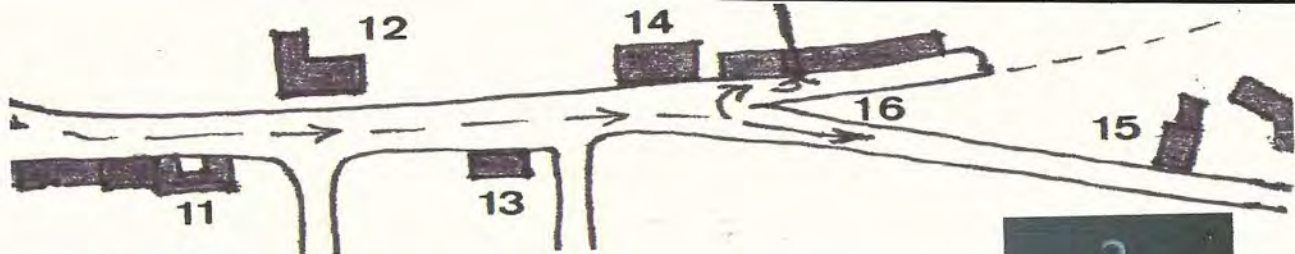


9. ... the **Forbes Almshouses** built in 1863 by Mrs Forbes of Bereleigh in memory of her husband. Each 'inmate' had to be a parishioner over 65 and of good character and reputation. When two more houses were built in 1906 the amended regulations stipulated that no visitors should be entertained and 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.



10. Turn back at this point (you will come to the Church later) and take the footpath alongside the River, then stop. Looking across the river towards the corner of the High Street you will see **Barnards Cottages**, once multi-occupancy houses. Middle Barnards, then two tiny cottages, may have had 21 residents in the 1890s.

High Street



11.
Next to Barnards is **Old Bell Cottage** (photograph on left). This was once The Bell Inn, the second pub on the walk. Here the visiting cobbler would repair shoes. Many villagers only had one pair in olden times so 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. It is well furnished and available for holiday letting.

2
Old Bell
Cottage

12.
Proceed along the footpath past **Glenthorne House**, photograph on right, described by Pevsner as the finest house in the village. This is a splendid William and Mary house, with Flemish chequered brickwork. The rear elevation is timber-framed and of an earlier period.



13.
Now look across the river to the other side of the road at The White Cottage (pictured, left). In the 1920s this thatched cottage was the home of 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 twice a week from Portsmouth. He would also carry passengers

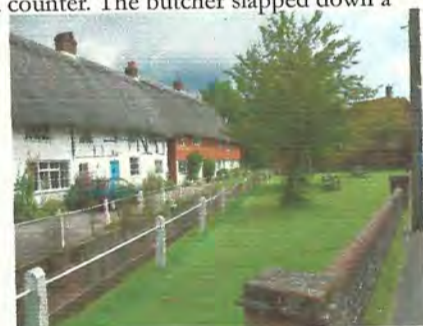
14.
The next building you will come to on your left is the **Izaak Walton**, the third of the pubs on the walk; it was formerly known as The New Inn.



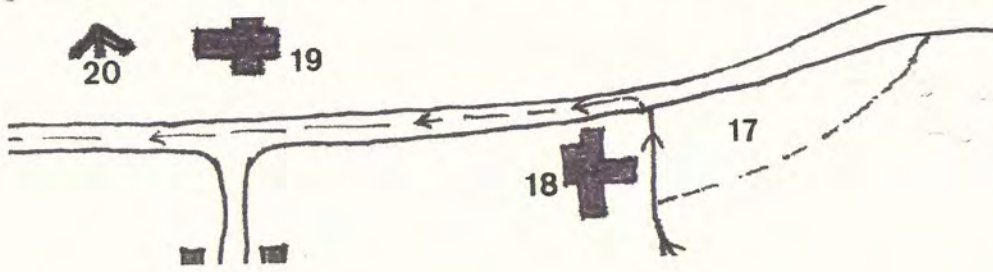
15.
Walk further down the High Street to see one of the oldest houses in the village, **Forge Sound** (to the left of the photograph on the left). This too was originally an open-hall house, which meant the smoke from the fire in the centre of the hall used to rise to the roof ridge and out between the tiles. In later years, 'Sun Insurance' and 'Farmers Fire and Life Insurance' signs were affixed to the gable ends.

Riverside (above, right) is two connecting cottages forming a group with Forge Sound. The most southerly building was formerly a butcher's shop with a shutter which folded down to form a counter. The butcher slapped down a lump of meat and the trick was to pick it up before the flies settled on it.

16.
Retrace your steps and cross the river to the Izaak Walton keeping **Washers Triangle** on your right – this is where the village washed its laundry. Head towards **Hockley and Brook Cottages** (the white and red buildings in the picture on the right)



The Court House and All Saints Church



17.

Between these two cottages there is a thatched-covered opening. Walk through it. The cottage on your right was home to Granny Luff who gave herbal advice in the 1920s. More recently, a modern-day Herbal Practitioner, Tina Stapley, lived here and she had a flourishing herbal garden. From here to the main road is private property so please keep to the footpath. Walk up the path keeping the wall to your left; on your right you will see a recently planted **Vineyard**. The Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes will be blended to make Champagne when the vines are sufficiently mature.



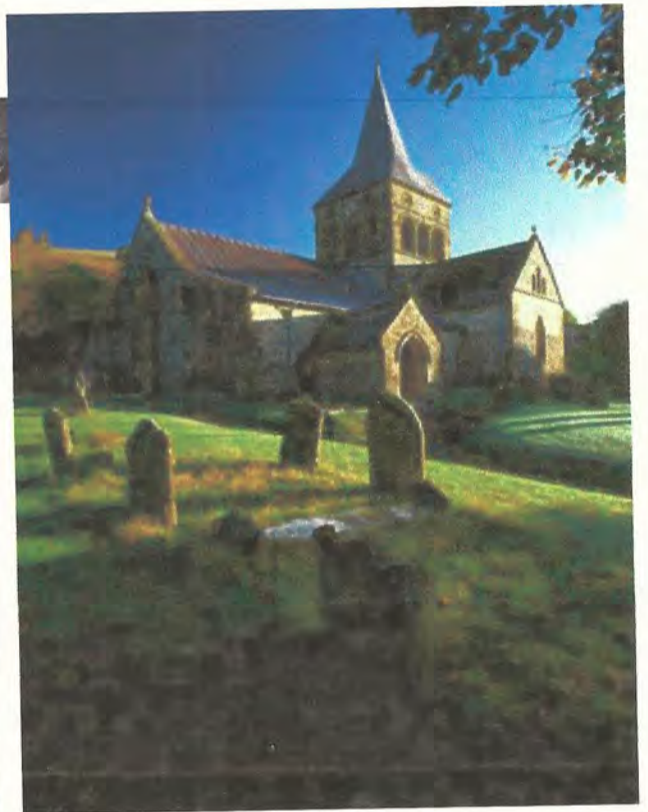
18.

The vineyard is on land adjoining **The Court House** (pictured left). The house and manor belonged to the Bishops of Winchester who held area courts in the Court Hall dating back to the Norman Conquest or even earlier. When you reach the road turn left; you will be able to see the Court House itself (right).



19.

Now walk to the lychgate of **All Saints Church**, described by Pevsner as 'one of the most thrilling village churches in Hampshire'. The earliest parts of the Church are Norman, dating to 1075 - 1150. The Lady Chapel was added in about 1230. The Font (pictured below) was shipped from Tournai in the Netherlands, across the Channel, up the river Itchen and then laboriously overland. You will find more details in the Church, as well as descriptions of the Amen Plenty Stone and the Comper Window.

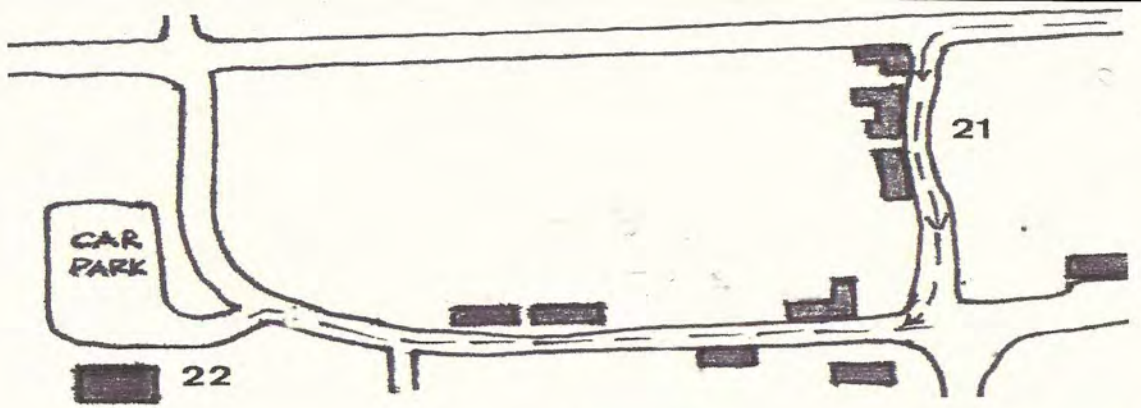


20

If you feel energetic, you could walk up a path through the woods at the northwest corner of the churchyard and climb Park Hill. You get a magnificent view of the village and surrounding countryside from the top.



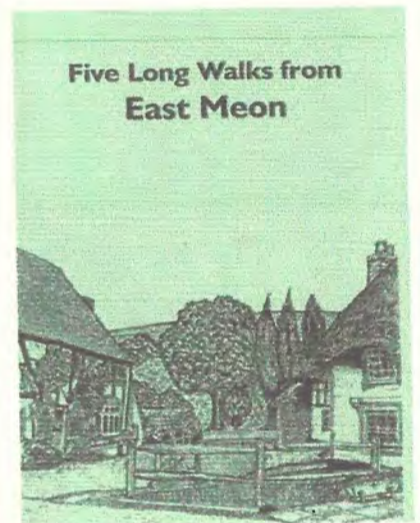
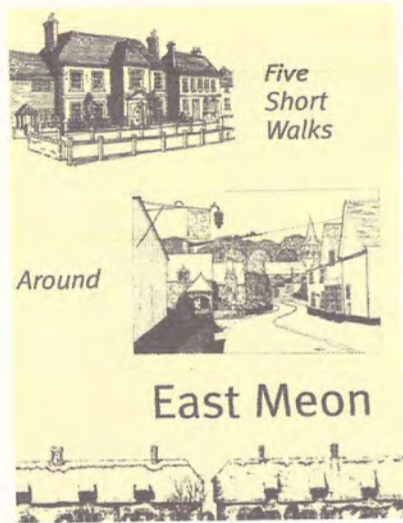
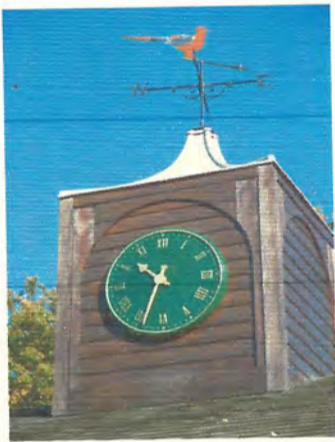
The Cross



21.
Retrace your steps and leave the churchyard once more, this time through a small gate at the southwest corner, known as Freda's Gate. Cross the road with care and on your right is Vicarage Lodge, thought to have been a toll-house. Continue up The Cross. **Cross Cottages** (the white house in the photograph on the right) is now a single home but was once three cottages one of which is the last inn on the walk, the Angel Inn.



22.
At the end of The Cross, turn right back along Workhouse Lane to the car park. You pass one of the most recent developments in the village on your left - the football pavilion and multisports pitch. The Car Park is directly ahead of you.



If you have enjoyed this walk, you might like to drop into East Meon Stores and buy copies of two booklets which describe short and longer walks in the magnificent countryside outside East Meon.