

#### Walk 4: The Cotswold Way and Edge Village.

(Route map – page 2)

The walk starts at the Rococo Garden and is approx. 4 miles (allow 2 hours). Walking boots or shoes with good grips are recommended as paths can become slippery when wet. Visitors to The Garden can leave their cars in the car park to undertake this circular walk.

The route begins with a walk through the lovely village of Painswick to join the famous Cotswold Way National Trail leading up into the hills to the nearby village of Edge. The walk follows a scenic route through a number of local farms via quiet lanes and footpaths to return to a point immediately above the entrance to the Garden.

Buzzards are a common sight in this area, as are kestrels and sparrow hawks. Keep an eye open along the abundant hedgerows for the handsome bullfinch and the bright plumage of the yellowhammer.

*On leaving the Rococo Garden entrance, turn right and follow the road downhill to the centre of Painswick. On reaching New Street (A46) turn right and shortly you will pass the Village Post Office. This half-timbered building is the oldest in the U.K. housing an active Post Office. A little further on the right, is the Falcon Inn, behind which is the oldest bowling green in the country and is still very much part of village activities. Opposite the Falcon Inn is St Mary's Church and the famous churchyard with its 99 yews (see myths and legends).*

*Take the turning opposite the Lych gate into Edge Road and proceed until the Cotswold Way sign indicates left through a gate and across a field. Follow the acorns of the National Trail as you walk between gardens and head downhill. As you walk along this section, the sports facility on your left is the home of Painswick Rugby club, the oldest village rugby club in the country.*

The red and white hooped shirts of the club originate from a need to differentiate from the teams of that era who played predominantly in white strip. The early edition of the shirt was identified in this way by the addition of a red sash made from the vicar's wife's curtains. In 1873 Painswick loaned a set of red and white shirts to the newly formed Gloucester Rugby Club and Gloucester adopted the famous 'Cherry and Whites'. It took until 2002 however for the shirts to be returned, when Gloucester presented Painswick with a championship winning set to commemorate the village clubs 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Continue to follow the Cotswold Way National Trail acorn signs, crossing Wash Brook at Washbrook Farm turning left up a track to shortly enter a small field and cross over a small stream via a footbridge. As you climb the hill there is a milestone marking the Cotswold Way, (102 miles in length) indicating the mileage to both Bath and Chipping Campden.*

*Continue uphill until the Cotswold way turns left towards Jenkins Lane. At this point leave the Cotswold way, turn right and head slightly downhill for a stile situated 100 yards from the top of the field, and then down to a footbridge and up to Edge Hill Farm. Follow Edge Lane uphill and the right fork will take you to the centre of Edge village. On the northern edge of the village lies Harescombe Grange and it was here while staying with friends that Beatrix Potter conceived the famous story 'The Tailor of Gloucester' based upon an event in the nearby city. Emerging from Edge Lane turn right into Back Edge Lane and follow to Packhurst Farm. Keep straight to pass immediately right of Edge Cottage and follow the footpath to Edge Farm. At the farm entrance, by the footpath signpost, take the right-angled path downhill to cross two stiles and follow the line of the holly and hazel field boundary to the brook. Cross the footbridge to head left and uphill between two hedgerows. Continue uphill to emerge on a lane. At this point turn left up the lane and on shortly reaching a 'T' junction turn right. This lane joins the B4073 just above the entrance to the Rococo Garden.*

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The Cotswold Way



View from Edge Cottage



