

## Roxwell's Christmas Challenge Walk

This is a walk with a difference that you can take any time before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021, on a day that suits you, when the weather is ok, and you have the inclination. There are things to find and clues to solve suitable for both younger and older family members. As can be seen on the attached map, there is a longer (pink) route of about 6.2 miles that starts and ends in the village or a shorter (green) route around 3.8 miles circumnavigating from Cooksmill Green and taking in some country that will be unfamiliar to many of you.

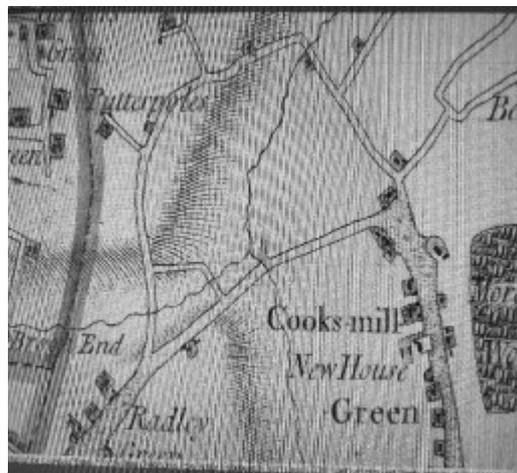
Leave plenty of time to do the walk, particularly the short route which can easily take 3 hours, as the last part is on the road – and it gets dark early! If you would like to do the walk in two halves you are welcome to leave a vehicle at Pooty Pools Farm. All the clues and things to find are on the common part of both routes. There are 8 clues to solve for older members and 9 animal silhouettes like this to find and name for the younger in heart. All answers should be entered on the sheet against the clue number. The digitally adept will maybe just use their phone, but most will probably want to print off these pages.



For the longer route walk from Roxwell village up Green Lane then the track and on to Cooksmill Green

Those on shorter route, park at Cooksmill Green, near Blows Farm CM1 3SH. *Please do so with thought for others. There are no stiles or farm animals to negotiate and, except for one potentially muddy field, (wellies advised) it is mostly easy walking on grassland, but you do the walk at your own risk.*

Both routes join here, so look for the entrance to Colleybridge Lane, on the right about 130m up from the Newney Green road junction, then walk down this pleasant, picturesque (at least in summer!) ancient lane.



After about 300m look for this view on your right. Then, find animal No 1, and fill in what it is called here

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You can see, right, that this lane was a main thoroughfare in 1777

Continue on down to the brook and tell me where can a steely R1U be found?

.....

Continue up the lane, but note on the left the relatively new hedge, planted by the Metson family in 2005 to mark 100 years at Colleybridge Farm, but also as a replacement for a mature hedge, removed in the 1960's with government subsidy, as part of a scheme to improve home food production. At that time, a series of narrow 'slips' – originally part of the old thoroughfare - went all the way to Radley Green, with scrubby land and ponds which would be regarded as a wildlife nirvana today, but sadly, was unappreciated then. Feeding an expanding population without relying on imported food was paramount in that period.

When you get to a wide gap in the hedge on both sides, turn right and cross the first field and the gateway over the brook and right again. This is private land, but we have permission for this walk only.



Now immediately look for this scene and near the little tree, find animal silhouette No2, which is something you might see near a brook, it is a

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Follow the mown strip along the headland of this field and on the way spot some plant life with a namesake on the side of the river Thames, what is it

.....

Continue along the bottom of the next field, and then look for something large and blue. Close by is animal No 3, which is a

.....

Turn left here and walk to the left of the hedge up the hill to the road at the top, and carefully cross over and then left and right into part of the farmyard.

A farmyard is a strange place for a kangaroo, where can you find this animal No4?

.....

Also, not far away where is a bird encompassed? .....

Carry on up the drive and on the right, you will see 'Alec's Acre'. This is a new venture, by Alex Horne, growing all sorts of vegetables organically. To find out more about his produce and how to obtain a vegetable box just Google 'The Essex Allotment Farm'.



Carry on, and then somewhere near this site:

What is a recyclable connection with a rain forest?

.....

Go through the yard surrounded by a house and buildings and then follow the left-hand hedge up and round a corner and along the way look for this view and little people spot no 5, which is a:

.....

*soon after beware rabbit holes!*

A little further on turn right and follow the cross-field footpath to opposite hedge, somewhere near this post:



You may have heard of 'Just Three Words' a system of identifying an exact spot. Not on the post but close by can you find three identical words that send you in several directions? What are they and why do they have green support?

.....

Pass through the gateway and follow path across the grass field, turn right at the opposite hedge and proceed to this footbridge, cross it, and nearby look for animal No 6, which is a

.....



Turn right up the road to Quires Green. Could this be England's smallest green? It would be better named Quiet Green as it only has one house, but that house is quite unusual as it is the home of the chairman of a national political party, The English Democrats, the ultimate aim of whom is to obtain English independence. Note the England flag!



As you walk past this house on the road, how many chimney pots are there?

.....

Carry on up the track and pass to the left of this old tank and decide why two words rhyming with crackle and planes could be a moving feature. What are they?

.....



Carry on a short distance, turn right over footbridge, and cross the field which could be quite muddy, heading slightly left for this gap in the far hedge



When you get to the hedge, can you find animal No 7

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From now on it is all good walking, and if it is a sunny day you will be treated to a wonderful view as you stroll down the grassy path between two fields until you find something yellow and heavy beside the path, where you can see the remnants of a national emblem and a couple of high temperature pins disguised. What do I mean?

.....

Also, animal no 8 is secreted here, it is a .....

Carry on left of the big yellow machine and before the sharp left corner beware, there is an unsafe place, what did EE do here in 2006?

.....

Continue to the end of the hedge, do not cross footbridge, but go round corner and head down the slope



Away to your left is this venerable old tree, probably the oldest in Roxwell parish, it is believed to be the sole survivor of many such oaks that marked the perimeter of Skreens Deer Park. On the Chapman and Andre 1777 map you can clearly see the outline of the park, which seems to have been fenced in those days, and maybe this tree was planted even earlier in 1635 when the park was first enclosed to mark the south-east corner? Until quite recently you could still see a part of the perimeter ditch in this area. How different the view now!

Final animal no 9 is down this slope near your path, but you must be sharp eyed to find it.

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At the bottom, those on longer route turn left and follow path back to the village. Those on shorter route turn right, then left on the road and walk up hill back to the starting point.



We know you have had some great exercise, but really hope that this walk has also been enjoyable, interesting, and informative (sounds like the BBC!). It is the last of a series of Roxwell Christmas community events which have all been part of Roxwell church council's newly avowed mission statement.

*Because of Covid-19, Roxwell school have been unable to hold their usual Christmas fundraiser and the restoration of the church is another significant local project in need of support. So, if you have appreciated this post-Christmas exercise and would like to help we invite you to make a donation, big or small, by going to [JustGiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) (but not before 26<sup>th</sup> December) and look for 'Roxwell Charity Walk' and the proceeds will be split 50:50 between church restoration and school. When you have done so, please email [news@roxwell.online](mailto:news@roxwell.online) with 'Roxwell Walk' in the subject line, add any comments about how you found the walk, and then you will be contacted at the end of January with the answers - but hopefully not with any apologies for a lash up in the clues!*

