

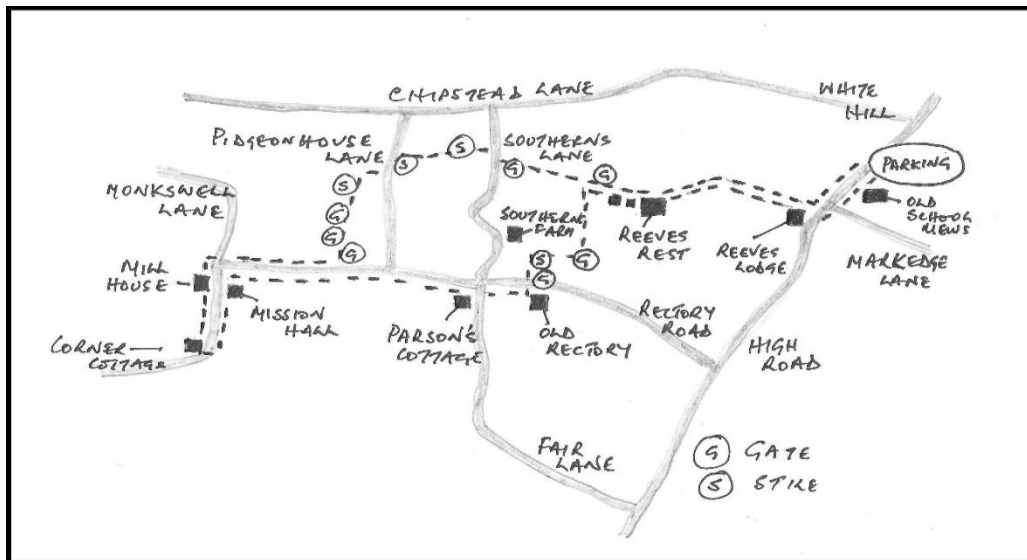


Historical Chipstead walks

2. High Road to Mugswell Village

Overview

The walk is about 3 miles. The route takes you past Reeves Rest to Mugswell through some very pretty fields. The village of Mugswell predates Chipstead and there are some fine old flint houses and the original Rectory (used on and off from 1450 until 1902) with its 40 acres of 'glebe' land. We have to sympathise with vicars of old who had to travel over 2 miles to get to St. Margaret's church – no wonder the infamous Rev Charles Young was often late for services!



Directions	History
<p>Take the High Road towards Reigate. About ¼ mile after White Hill there is a pull-in on the left outside Farm Cottage. Park there and walk further along the High Road past the Reading Room and Old School Mews.</p>	<p>Old School Mews was the site of Chipstead School which educated village children from 1874 until it was closed in 1994.</p>
<p>At Markedge Lane cross the High Road and take the long drive past Reeves Rest Lodge to Reeves Rest itself. Continue past the first sign to a footpath on the right and, 50 yards later on, take the footpath straight ahead. Pass through a small wood and then into a fine open field with, on the right, views of both Kingswood and Surrey Downs Golf Clubs.</p>	<p>Originally Reeses Farm, the property (photo overleaf) was 'gentrified' in 1810 when the core of the current building was built. There were Victorian and Edwardian additions and the building is now divided into three. Old garages, stables and cottages for the gardeners and chauffeurs are also occupied.</p>

Cross Southern Lane and, 20 yards on the right, take the (rather overgrown) footpath by the side of Field View. After a wooded area you enter a field. Keep to the left by the wooden fence. When the fence turns sharp left continue straight across the field to a stile onto Pidgeonhouse Lane.



On Pidgeonhouse Lane turn left and take the footpath just to the right of Kingswood Kennels. Go through a wood and continue into a field segmented into different horse pastures. Keep to the right of the field and exit onto Rectory Road. Turn right, walk for about ¼ mile and, at the fork turn left, into Green Lane.

Green Lane is the heart of Mugswell with the Mission Hall built in 1907 with funds left over from the Peter Aubertin Hall. Opposite it is Mill House still with the round base of an old flour mill. The first reference to a mill here dates from 1772 and it continued to be used until 1895.

Once you reach Corner Cottage turn around and retrace your steps. Turn right back into Rectory Road and walk for ½ mile, passing Orchard Cottage, to the cross roads with Fair Lane and Southern Lane. Parson's Cottage is on this corner. Continue 200 yards further up Rectory Road for a glimpse of the Old Rectory through the iron gates. Opposite this take the footpath on the left and head back towards Reeves Rest.

The Old Rectory (photo below) is a large medieval timber-framed house built around 1450 with an impressive open hall. It was let as labourers' cottages in the 18th century and the rector used Parsons Cottage. The Victorian rectors used it again but it was sold in 1902. In secular hands, the house was enlarged especially by the property developer Harry Hyams (of Centre Point fame). After his death the building was listed in 2016 after a local campaign.

The track takes you down a hill and through a small wood. After this you reach a large field with long grass in summer. The footpath is shown on the O.S. map as crossing this field and there is indeed a gate on the other side. However, it is a hard walk through the long grass and the gate is difficult to locate and thereafter the path is badly kept. An easier option is therefore to keep to the left of the large field and meet up with the footpath you have already used.



Return to Reeves Rest and retrace your steps along the drive to the High Road.