

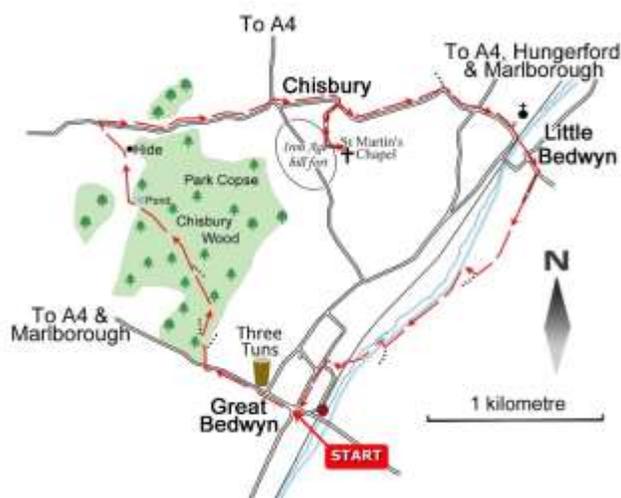
Bedwyn Footpaths Group Walk

Sunday 19th January, 11.00 am From The Chains, opposite The Stores in Great Bedwyn square.

Chisbury and the chapel 5 miles

In January we walked from Great Bedwyn to St Martin's chapel in Chisbury. This 5 mile walk uses lanes for a good part of its length so avoided the mud but unfortunately not the ice. There is one stile which it may be possible to avoid if the field gate is still unlocked and there is a flight of steps up and over the railway at Little Bedwyn but these can be by-passed by using the road bridges.

BFG member, Jennie, wrote a lovely description of this walk for the Parish News, which you'll find here below the map



Bedwyn Footpaths Group January Jaunt

Twenty seven grown-ups, one tiny baby (carried, obviously) and a dog met in the Chains at 11 am on 19th January – a gloriously sunny Sunday morning, not a cloud in the sky and with a touch of warmth in the sun. Our walk was to be a five mile hike from Great Bedwyn, up through Chisbury Woods to the Chisbury Road, and along the road to visit St Martin's chapel, with the homeward route via Little Bedwyn.

Our route took us firstly up Forest Hill, turning off to walk through Chisbury Wood before emerging to cross the field and over a stile into Chisbury Lane. Walking along the tarmac was decidedly tricky because of ice, especially in the shaded parts of the road. However, although there was the sound of a few whoopses, no one actually fell over and we all emerged safe and sound at the cross

roads in the village of Chisbury. From there we made our way to St Martin's Chapel. We stopped here to explore this pretty 13th century chapel (and also to enjoy some of Judy's jelly babies).

According to the English Heritage website, the lord of Chisbury Manor at that time wished to assert his high social status by building a chapel-of-ease. The household of the manor and the local people could attend services and pay their taxes, or tithes, at this chapel without having to travel all the way down the hill to the parish church at Great Bedwyn. It ceased to be used as a consecrated chapel in 1547 and for three



hundred years was used as a barn. It is now a wonderfully impressive and atmospheric place to visit, and the views from the strategically placed seat outside are stupendous.

Leaving the chapel, we walked along the lane into Little Bedwyn – another rather slippery bit of tarmac. Then it was down Kelston Road into Great Bedwyn. Of those who began the walk, various couples or groups peeled off at different points until just a few actually returned to the village centre.

This was a delightful walk with excellent company and a perfect way to spend a few hours on a sunny Sunday.