



The Equestrian Centre at Shardeloes Farm is a long established family-run business, boasting 500 acres of rolling countryside and spectacular views, nestled in an area of outstanding natural beauty above the picturesque town of Old Amersham in the beautiful Chiltern Hills. Shardeloes Farm has been welcoming clients of all standards and disciplines for the last 15 years and so is the perfect choice for you whatever your ability or aims. We have a good selection of well-schooled horses and ponies that are willing and able to take you through your riding journey, whatever your destination.

We are delighted to be able to offer 500 acres of some of the best off-road hacking in the Chilterns. We love exploring the British countryside and regularly see awe-inspiring wildlife, flora and fauna, including rare species on occasions. We are a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and have a BHS approved cross-country course to ensure your hacking experience is always safe and always fun!



Cherry Lane, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP7 0QF
01494 433333 email: office@shardeloesfarm.com
www.shardeloesfarm.com

FAMOUS RESIDENTS

With such a delightful old town in a lovely setting, it is hardly surprising that many celebrities have chosen to live in and around Amersham. Starting with Royalty, one of Henry VIII's more fortunate wives, Anne of Cleves (not a looker, but at least she kept her head) purchased Chenies Manor with her divorce settlement.



Moving on a few hundred years, we find Benjamin Disraeli lived in Hughenden Manor, philosopher and statesman Edmund Burke, resided in Beaconsfield, as did authoress of the Famous Five, Enid Blyton and Dragon Den's Peter Jones.

Amersham and the surrounding area has also been home to presenter Ludovic Kennedy, Mary Berry, musicians Tim Rice, Ozzie Osborn and Leo Sayer and also actors David Jason, Pauline Quirk and Bill Pertwee to name a few.

"You are honest enough by nature to be able to see and judge your own self clearly - and that is a great thing. Never lose that honesty - always be honest with yourself, know your own motives for what they are, good or bad, make your own decisions firmly and justly - and you will be a fine, strong character, of some real use in this muddled world of ours!"

Enid Blyton

THE AMERSHAM MARTYRS MEMORIAL

The 15th and 16th Centuries were a time of great religious intolerance in England and Amersham was known to be a hotbed of dissent. Between 1414 and 1532, more than a dozen people were burned at the stake in Amersham.

They were Lollards (followers of John Wycliffe, who translated the Bible into English around 1379), who denounced the wealth of the church and refused to accept that the church's teaching that bread and wine were actually turned into the body and blood of Christ at Communion. Their main demand however, was simply that they should be allowed to read the Bible in English. This was enough in those days to incur the wrath of the Catholic Church and following a statute passed by Henry IV in 1399, Bishops were empowered, to condemn such "heretics" to be put to death in this gruesome manner.

Today, the memory of the persecution of the martyrs, is marked by the memorial erected on the hill near Parsonage Woods and can be reached from St Mary's Church. It lists the names of 11 Martyrs, burned between 1506 and 1532. More can be read about these brave people at the Amersham Museum.



ON LOCATION!

Amersham's quintessentially English old town lends itself as a wonderful backdrop to television and cinema. Miss Marple fans regularly visit (there is a particularly active German fan base). *Murder at the Gallop* featured Miss Marple overhearing the reading of the will at the Kings Arms and staying in what is now room 10.

The town has featured in *Midsomer Murders*. The most worrying aspect of this is that novices to the program may fear visiting the area, due to the abnormally high murder ratio in the Midsomer area - 277 victims at the latest count.

Not all of Amersham's cinematic heritage is macabre. Perhaps the most famous scenes are from *Four weddings and a Funeral* as Hugh Grant reflects on his 'odd decision' being dropped at the Lucky Boatman (outside the Kings Arms) in pursuit of Andie MacDowell. He then enters (The Crown) to find a rival in pursuit, before some skulking in the corridors prior to winning over the American.

The hotels in Amersham regularly host famous guests including, over the last year, Dame Judi Dench, Sadie Frost, Russell Brand and Nick Grimshaw. Be ready with your camera!



RUTH ELLIS AT REST IN AMERSHAM

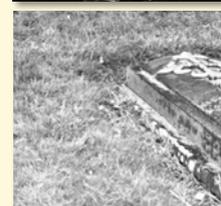
A quiet corner of St Mary's Churchyard in Amersham, is the final resting place of the last woman to be executed for murder in Britain.

Ruth Ellis, a nightclub hostess, with a sad and turbulent past, was found guilty in 1955 of the murder of her lover, David Blakely, a hard drinking racing driver, whom she shot 4 times outside the Magdala pub in Hampstead. Her body was first interred within the walls of Holloway prison, but had to be moved when the prison underwent a rebuilding programme in the 1970s. It was not easy to find an alternative resting place, until the good people of Amersham stepped forward to offer a final resting place for her remains in St Mary's Churchyard.



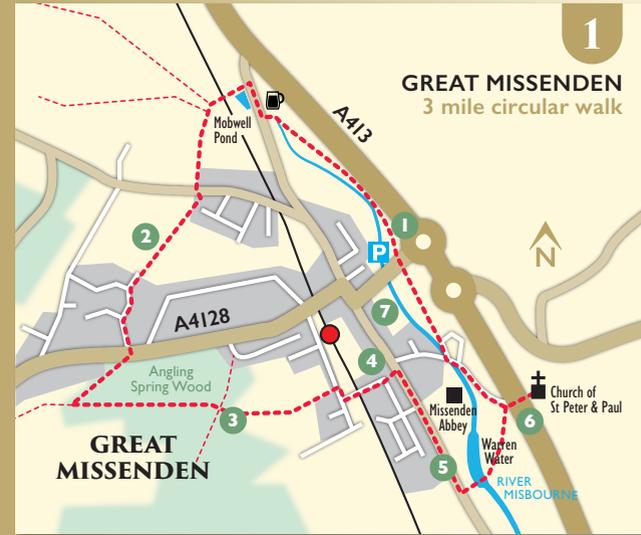
The headstone was inscribed "Ruth Hornby 1926 – 1955", but in a final tragic twist, the headstone was destroyed by her son "Andy", shortly before he committed suicide in 1982.

Although, no longer marked, the position of the grave is known to lie between a grave bearing a prominent fleur-de-lis and the boundary wall of the church yard extension. Fresh flowers are often left there by sympathetic visitors.



EXPLORING THE CHILTERN HILLS

Amersham is the ideal starting point for exploring the most beautiful countryside of the Chiltern Hills. So why not get your walking boots on and take in the views.



WALK 1 (3 miles) Allow approx 1¼ hours walking time
Start: Great Missenden Public Car Park

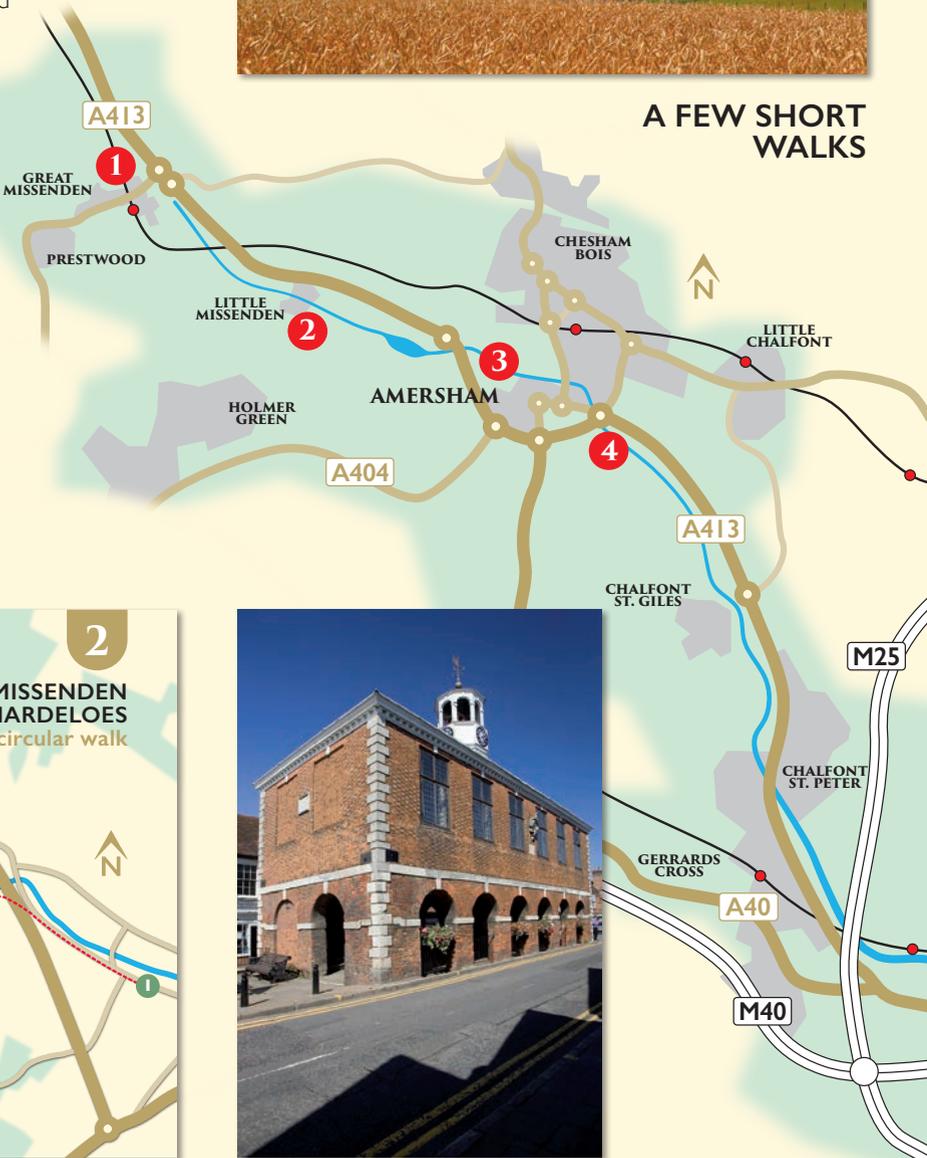
1 Walk towards Mobwell Pond keeping the River Misbourne on your left. Mobwell Pond is said to be the source of the Misbourne. 2 At the top of the field look back at a typical Chiltern landscape of rolling chalk hills, clumps of beech woodland, and arable and pastoral farmland. 3 On leaving Angling Spring Wood look down on Great Missenden. In the last 100 years, Great Missenden has changed from a small farming village to the busy commuter settlement you see today. 4 At the end of the unmade residential road you come across the oldest inn in the village, The George. This timber-framed building was once the court house. 5 From the bridge at Warren Water you look towards Missenden Abbey. This building is on the site of the original abbey, founded by Sir William de Missenden in about 1133 and used as a monastery for 400 years. 6 When you reach the road, you may like to visit the Church of St Peter & Paul. Turn right and walk up over the bridge. The church dates back to the medieval period and has 8 bells, the oldest dating back to 1692. 7 The river at this point, flows through a culvert beneath a recreation area, known as the Buryfields, often the location for summer fetes and events.

WALK 2 (5½ miles) Allow approx 3½ hours walking time
Start: Shardeloes Park

1 Turn left out of the Kings Arms or Crown Inn and follow the High Street towards Amersham Cricket Club. 2 You are in Shardeloes Park, which was laid out by Humphrey Repton in 1793. The lake is the home of many types of water fowl and a good place to do some bird watching. Shardeloes House was designed by Stiff Leadbetter and finished in 1766. The house and stable block were converted to multiple residences in the 1960s. 3 On reaching the road at Little Missenden, turn right to take a look at Little Missenden Mill House a little way up on the left. The Misbourne used to have about eleven water mills. 4 Little Missenden remains a true English village with a church, manor house, pubs, farms and cottages. Before reaching the church, you will pass a Jacobean Manor House on the right. The Church of St John the Baptist is famous for its 13th century wall paintings that were only uncovered in 1931. Little Missenden may once have supported cottage industries such as straw plaiting and lace making. 5 The Chilterns was home to traditional woodland industries in the 19th and early 20th century. Woodlands like this one were once used by bodgers, highly skilled Chiltern craftsmen turning chair legs, tent pegs and wheel-spokes on pole-lathes.



A FEW SHORT WALKS

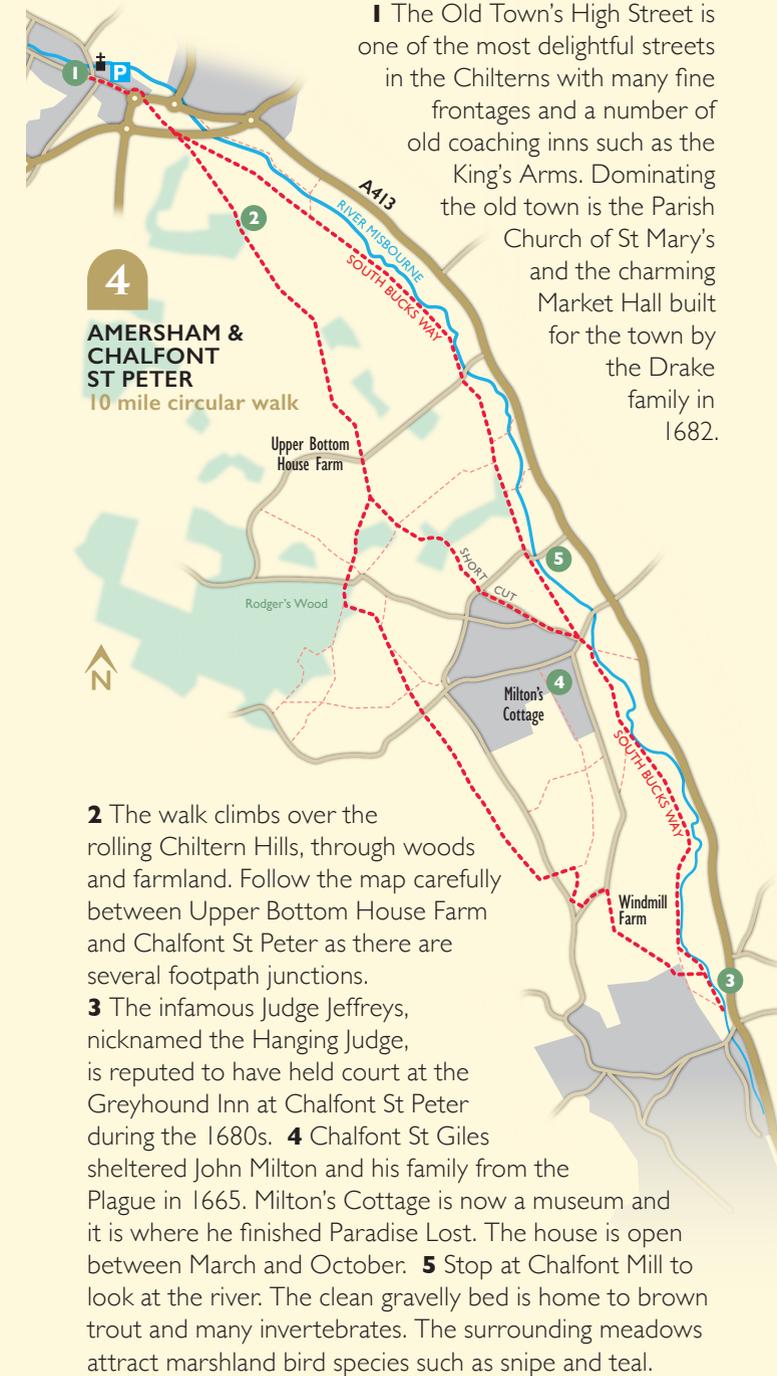


WALK 3 (2½ miles) Allow approx 1½ hours walking time
Start: High Street

Turn right out of The Kings Arms or The Crown and head to St Mary's Church. 1 Cross over the River Misbourne, then turn right, walk along the side of the cemetery, turning left up the steep hill at the end. At the top look back down over Old Amersham. 2 Continue up the path to hedge and turn left to Martyrs' Memorial (see above). Continue to the right towards Parsonage Wood, walk through the woods to reach the road (Rectory Hill). 3 Turn right joining the road and under the railway bridge. Take the first left (Longfield Drive) walking until you reach Hervines Wood. 4 Turning left, cross the level crossing with care, descending the slope back towards Old Amersham. 5 Bear left following the yellow arrow and flow path to reach School Lane. Cross into Mill Lane to reach the River Misbourne again, turning left again into the High Street.



WALK 4 (10 miles) Allow approx 5 hours walking time
(3½ hour for shorter 6 mile option)
Start: Amersham Old Town



1 The Old Town's High Street is one of the most delightful streets in the Chilterns with many fine frontages and a number of old coaching inns such as the King's Arms. Dominating the old town is the Parish Church of St Mary's and the charming Market Hall built for the town by the Drake family in 1682.

2 The walk climbs over the rolling Chiltern Hills, through woods and farmland. Follow the map carefully between Upper Bottom House Farm and Chalfont St Peter as there are several footpath junctions. 3 The infamous Judge Jeffreys, nicknamed the Hanging Judge, is reputed to have held court at the Greyhound Inn at Chalfont St Peter during the 1680s. 4 Chalfont St Giles sheltered John Milton and his family from the Plague in 1665. Milton's Cottage is now a museum and it is where he finished Paradise Lost. The house is open between March and October. 5 Stop at Chalfont Mill to look at the river. The clean gravelly bed is home to brown trout and many invertebrates. The surrounding meadows attract marshland bird species such as snipe and teal.