

# 'Heart of Cheltenham' Pilgrimage from Greenbelt 2007

"It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances. The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible." Oscar Wilde

"Local distinctiveness is essentially about places and our relationship with them. It is as much about the commonplace as about the rare, about the everyday as much as the endangered, and about the ordinary as much as the spectacular. Many of us have strong allegiances to places, complex and compound appreciations of them, and we recognize that nature, identity and place have strong bonds... ours is a cultural landscape."

Sue Clifford and Angela King

What does the word 'arriving' mean to you?

Central Cheltenham

World's Edge

What does the word 'leaving' mean to you?

Private Place

Corner Shopping

CHELTENHAM

Who might have told this same path before you?

As you walk think about your strongest memories of travelling

What things might yet happen here?

CHARLES HURST: THE BOOK OF THE ENGLISH OAK pp.122-23

Among the advantages which I have gathered from my tour, I count as not the least the proficiency I have acquired in the gentle art of strolling. I can now perform a feat which I believe few townbred men could accomplish with ease of grace; that is, to walk a good English mile in an hour. This is not quite so easy as it may appear. I therefore set down a few observations on what is fast becoming a lost art.

The first essential for success is that the stroller must free his mind from all thoughts of time, ambition, money, over-drafts, assignments, leases, bonds, agreements, formulae, loans, interests, and such tricks of commerce, and from all peevishness whatsoever. He must be prepared to pass the time of day with hawkers, beggars, parsons, money-lenders, and bottom dogs generally; and when he receives a surly answer or a stony stare he must smile and pass on. I consider it good form to be an attentive listener to long, incoherent accounts of fearful ailments and afflictions told by garrulous old ladies; and I do heartily approve of carrying a small stock of nuts or wholesome sweets for distribution amongst juvenile friends that may be met on the way. The great secret is sympathy both with humanity and nature, and this sympathy will open the eye and the ear to sights and sounds that the indifferent would miss. A rambler in the proper frame of mind can see a complex world in each clear pool of a brook; or he can regard the tumbling ocean as a mere moisture covering a portion of a whirling atom of dust.

Trigger questions from [www.mis-guides.com](http://www.mis-guides.com). Further resources, inspirations, ideas, may be found at [www.johndavies.org](http://www.johndavies.org)

