

**1.** Park Lodge is a 19<sup>th</sup> century gate house to the former Fairford Park estate.

Turn west along Mill Lane to **2. Fairford Mill** - a mill was mentioned in the Domesday Book and the present building dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Once a fulling mill, it last ground corn in 1922. The ornamental bridge near the Mill Pond was part of the late 18th century landscaping of Fairford Park. Beyond the Mill are the **3.** Oxpens, wooden stalls that accommodate pairs of oxen, you can still see the hitching rings.

Follow the twisty lane to Coronation Street. Turn southwards **4.** Coronation Street was named in 1910 for the Coronation of King Edward VII, previously the area had been called Milton End. Two Chapels are nearby: **5.** the Ebenezer Chapel (1860-1919), now Hilary Cottage; and in Milton Place to the west was the **6.** Primitive Methodist Chapel from 1867-1925.

Heading on towards the crossroads - the buildings opposite **7.** were the former Coln House School, which closed in March, 2017. These buildings, on both sides of Horcott Road, were used as a lunatic asylum known as 'The Retreat' from 1821 until 1944. Horcott Road leads on the **8.** St Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church and RAF Fairford.

Turn east back towards the town along Milton Street, passing **9.** Fairford United Church, which opened as a Baptist Chapel in 1724, rebuilt in 1853. Almost opposite notice the a **10.** lovely old stone used as a stile leading on to the Green – where the flat meadowland indicates the site of the original ford from which Fairford got its name in Saxon times as Fagranforda i.e. fair or clear water to cross the river. From the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the River Coln has marked the boundary between the town borough and Mill Town End tithing.

Either go straight on to the town across the town bridge. or almost opposite the stile turn south down Waterloo Lane and when you reach the river and then turn left up towards the turn across

**11.** Dilly's Bridge (named after a favourite dog) and then turn left up towards the town. Where the path widens to a road go past **12.** Retort House this is where Fairford Gas and Coke Company functioned from 1852 -1972. At Back Lane turn left then right to the Market Place.

On your left is **13.** White Hart Court, the site of the one of the oldest pubs in Fairford which closed in 1990. Ahead of you can be seen the half timbered **14.** Coffee Post which was once the George Hotel. Next to it is the **15.** Bull Hotel, formerly a 'coaching inn'.

Turning right along London Street. Notice the very old houses, Tudor cottage is said to be the oldest dwelling in the town, These were burgage plots. After the Plough on the left is **16.** Palmer Hall. The land was given by Arkells who owned the Plough next door and the hall funded by Colonel Palmer of Fairford Park House in 1936.

Further along to the left set back is **17.** Fairford Library, this was originally the Infants' School and Primary School until 1989. The school was built near to the site of the Fairford workhouse (1773-1870).

**18.** Hyperion House, a residential care home to the right was the former Vicarage until 1946. The house was named after the Derby winner in 1933 – Hyperion.

Continuing along London Street towards and nearly opposite the Eight Bells pub is **19.** Keble House. Here was born John Keble author of 'The Christian Year' and one of the founders of the Oxford Movement. Keble College, Oxford was named in his honour after his death. His father John Keble was Vicar of Coln St Aldwyns from 1782 -1835 and John assisted him in his duties up to his death. His great great nephew Edward Keble, was Vicar of Fairford from 1946 until 1976 and lived in this house.

Turn up the narrow alley beside Keble House which comes out in **20.** 'The Croft', The Croft was

an area of 'common fields' where animals were grazed handily adjacent to the entrance to the High Street where the Market was held.

Going towards the centre of town **21.** Fairford Cottage Hospital is on your left, This was built by public subscription in 1887 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The red brick came from Waiten Hill brickworks. From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century until 1956 an annual Carnival was held in the town to raise money for the Cottage Hospital.

To the right is **22.** Walnut Tree Field owned by the Ernest Cook Trust and run by Fairford Town Council for leisure activities. It was originally called 'Pigeon House Ground' after the **23.** medieval dovecote situated to the north west.

Enter the High Street through the arch. Across the road is the **24.** Community Centre which was originally Farmor's School, established in 1738 at a cost of £543.8s 0d. It was named after one of the benefactresses, Elizabeth Farmor. In 1962 a new school was opened in Fairford Park. The old school subsequently became a library and Youth Centre until 2002 when it was bought jointly by Fairford Town Council and Parochial Church Council and was refurbished with the help of a Heritage Lottery grant. Notice the plaques on the side wall to two former headteachers.

Opposite the Community Centre is a Victorian building, the former **25.** Police Station and Magistrates Court. It was built in 1863 and is now privately owned.

**26.** The Church was rebuilt in the 1490s by John Tame and has the only complete set of medieval stained glass windows in Britain. More information can be found inside the Church.

Map Ref: SP152010

Distance: 3 km / 2 miles

Approx time: 1 hour

