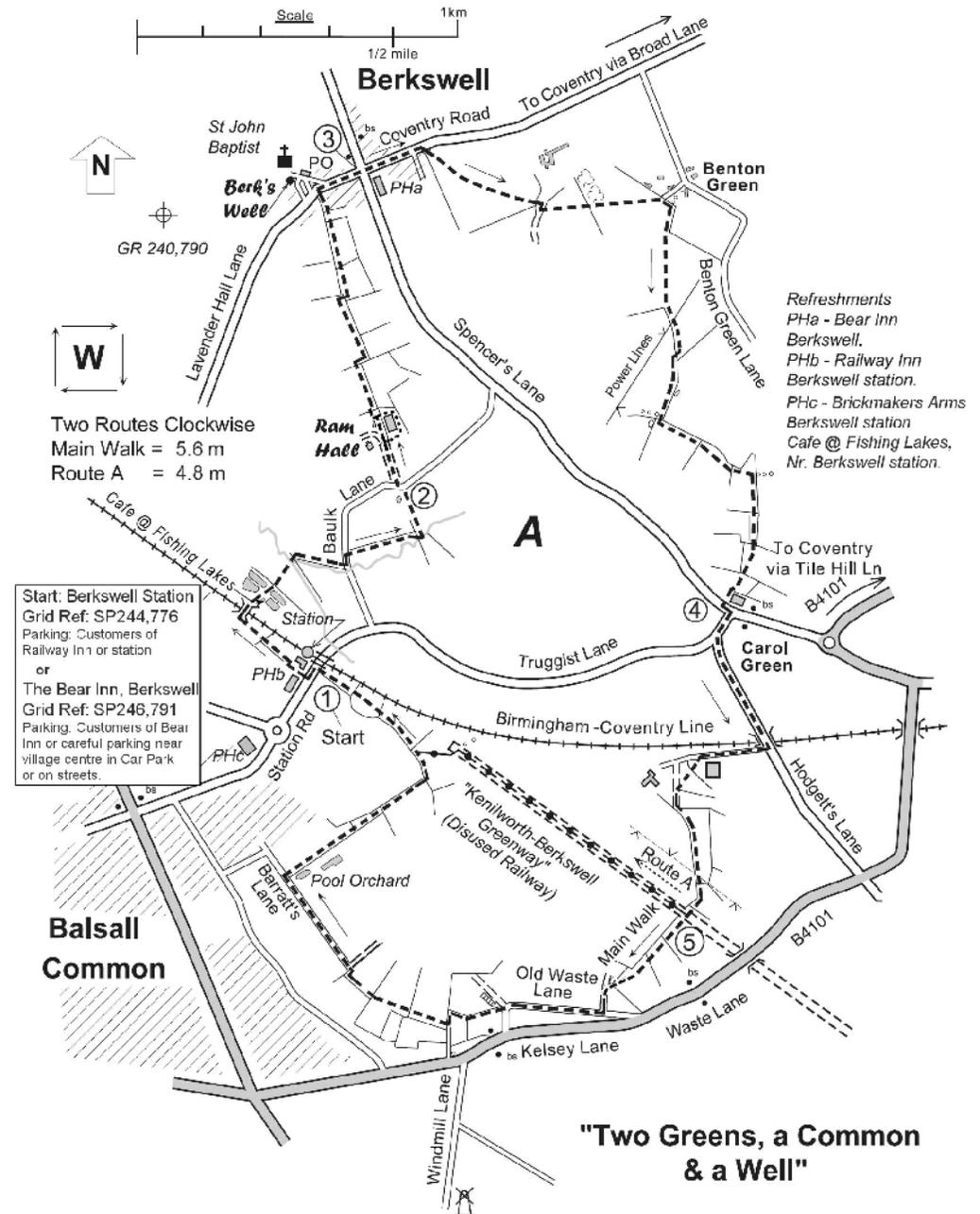**Main Walk**

1. Starting from the Station, **T/R** just past The Railway Inn and follow short unmade road, **T/R** into path to field opposite bungalow (441). **T/L**, fc-left, then with railway on right **fwd** up to bridge, **T/R** over railway. **Fwd** down track between pools to x-stile, **fwd** cross-field to cross stiled f/b over stream. **H/R**, stream right & thro' k/g to road. **T/L** up road for 15m & thro' k/g on right, hg-left until nearing stream junction thro' k/g ahead. Over s/b, (ignore s/b on right), **T/L** thro' k/g, initially hg-left, then **fwd** cross-field thro' k/g onto road.

2. Cross road and **fwd** along track towards Ram Hall. At the Hall continue **fwd** with large barn on right, farm on left & thro' k/g at end of ranch fence. Downfield, hg-right to go thro' k/g in corner. **T/R**, hg-right round corner up to field corner. Thro' k/g on right, **T/L**, hg-left over three fields to reach road via access alongside bungalow (Berkswell Village). **T/R** to crossroads.

3. **Fwd** up Coventry Road, **T/R**, just past Pound Close into enclosed path to go thro' k/g. **Fwd** cross-field (large) to k/g in hedge opposite. Over track to gap opposite, **V/L** thro' two fields to reach field-gate at the end of a lane. Ignore gate, **T/R,** ignore footpath left, to go round to outer field corner (Sign Post). Cross-field, aim to reach an outer field corner just left of pylon, **fwd** hg-right to go thro' k/g, s/b in corner. **T/L**, hg-left thro' k/g & s/b in field corner. **T/L**, hg-left over two fields, go thro' gap using long s/b and with hedge veering away to left, continue to k/g opposite. Do not take k/g, **T/R**, hg-left to k/g & s/b, **fwd** along enclosed path, f/b & thro' 2 k/g's. Crossfield to a k/g onto a concrete bridge. **Fwd** along farm track via k/g & stile to reach road.

4. **T/L** and then shortly **T/R** along Truggist Lane, **T/L** into Hodgett's Lane. **Fwd** along road, over railway bridge, immediately **T/R** down access road. **Fwd** for approx. 200m to go thro' p/g on left, just past detached house. **H/R** over grass & go thro' p/g in ranch fence to k/g in far corner. **T/L** along gravel drive for 50m, **V/L** & thro' k/g a short distance in front. Hg-right, round under OPL to take s/b. Hg-right, bear round right, thro' hedge gap, over s/b, short field & thro' k/g up steps to the Greenway. (**Route A** see below).

5. **Fwd** over Greenway & down embankment opposite, thro' k/g, hg-right over three fields, to exit onto track and **fwd** to road. **T/R** along road (Old Waste Lane). As road turns left (to main road) carry straight on, thro' k/g on left of row of cottages. Hg-right, k/g and s/b. **Fwd,** high fence on left, fc-right. **T/L** at field boundary ahead and in 30m take k/g on right, **fwd** initially hedge on left, over three fields keeping the same line to k/g just off field corner. **Fwd** along track/road to reach Barratt's Lane. Continue **fwd** and immediately after Pool Orchard thro' k/g on right. Hg-right for one field then fwd with hg-left for 2 fields & thro' k/g in corner, **T/L**, keep hg-left or near left over four fields to go thro' k/g onto road.

Route A   At the end of Note 4. **T/R** along Greenway, for approx. 1km. At the end of the Greenway **T/L** down bank into walkway, thro' k/g & s/b into field. **H/R** cross-field to gap in corner to join main route. **Fwd** hg-left or near left over three fields to go thro' k/g onto road.

Scale
1km
1/2 mile

Berkswell

To Coventry via Broad Lane
Coventry Road
St John Baptist
Benton Green
PO
PHa
Berk's Well
GR 240,790

N
W

Lavender Hall Lane
Spencer's Lane
Benton Green Lane
Power Lines

Refreshments
PHa - Bear Inn Berkswell.
PHb - Railway Inn Berkswell station.
PHc - Brickmakers Arms Berkswell station
Cafe @ Fishing Lakes, Nr. Berkswell station.

Two Routes Clockwise
Main Walk = 5.6 m
Route A   = 4.8 m

Ram Hall
Baulk Lane

A

To Coventry via Tile Hill Ln
B4101

Cafe @ Fishing Lakes
Station
PHb

Start: Berkswell Station
Grid Ref: SP244,776
Parking: Customers of Railway Inn or station
or
The Bear Inn, Berkswell
Grid Ref: SP246,791
Parking. Customers of Bear Inn or careful parking near village centre in Car Park or on streets.

Truggist Lane
Carol Green

Birmingham - Coventry Line
Hodgett's Lane

PHc Station Rd Start

Barratt's Lane
Pool Orchard

"Kenilworth-Berkswell Greenway" (Disused Railway)

Route A
Main Walk

Balsall Common

Old Waste Lane
Waste Lane
Kelsey Lane
Windmill Lane

B4101

"Two Greens, a Common & a Well"

WALK 2 "TWO GREENS, A COMMON AND A WELL"

Start: Berkswell Station
Grid Ref: SP 244,776
or The Bear Inn, Berkswell at Note 3
Grid Ref: SP 246,791
Direction: Clockwise
Main Walk: 5.5 miles
Route A: 4.5 miles
OS Maps: (p = part)
Landranger 139p
Landranger 140p
Pathfinder 955p
Explorer 221p

Parking: Customers of Railway Inn or station. Customers of Bear Inn or careful parking near village centre.

Berkswell Museum was a treasure trove of local history but the dedicated band of volunteers who ran it for decades finally gave up efforts to keep it going at the beginning of 2016 after visitor numbers dwindled it became increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers to staff the free attraction.

Not too long ago the hand pump at the crossroads was quite a feature. After an accident it was renovated and returned to its rightful place. On the village green there is the Coronation Oak (June 2 1953) surrounded with its refurbished seat.

The stocks have 5 holes, does anyone know why?

Brief Information and Outline of the Route

From the station and Railway Inn pass through the newly developed fishing ponds. At Note 2 pass the early "Tudor" Ram Hall Farm, home of the famous award winning Berkswell sheep's milk cheese. The building has stone mullion windows and is a Grade II listed building. It once had a moat and it has a priest hole in one of the bedrooms.

Then on to Berkswell (*Berschewell* in the DB, a spring or stream of a man called Beorcol), with its stocks on the green and a natural spring, Berk's Well, on the way to St John Baptist Church, built in Norman times on a Saxon site. In the churchyard is the war memorial consecrated in 1920 built of local sandstone on the site of the original church school. The old rectory, now The Well House, was a hospital for wounded soldiers during the First World War. Beyond can be seen Berkswell Hall, now converted into modern flats in 1984. The alms-houses facing the green were built in 1853 for twelve aged people from the parish. Back at the crossroads is The Bear Inn or Bear and Ragged Staff as it was formerly known. It dates back to the 15th century and was then part of the Berkswell estate. The inn was the site of the annual hiring fair. It was sold by the estate in 1951. The Bear was the best "real fire" pub in Coventry and Warwickshire for 2002. A carrier service ran twice weekly from Berkswell to Coventry in the 1920s on Tuesdays & Fridays for 6d return.

Berkswell Museum (now closed) used to hold a wide ranging collection of domestic, agricultural and other exhibits, all relating to the parish and was housed in a listed 16th century timber framed cottage, situated to the rear of the alms-houses in the centre of the village. The collection featured information and artefacts relating to Maud Watson, the Rector's daughter, who was the first female tennis champion at Wimbledon in 1884. Maud and her sister Lilian played each other in the first final, thus beating the Williams sisters by well over 100 years.

Another celebrity featured at the museum is Bob Wyatt, a former England cricket captain, who lived in the parish as a boy and played for the village team. The cannon on the lawn in front of the Museum, along with a magnificent shield which is housed inside the building (look for the double-headed eagle), was captured during the Crimean War by Sir Eardley-Wilmot, Lord of the Manor in the mid 1850s.

Now at the Coventry Road, before following the footpath on the right, you can walk on a few yards to visit Berkswell animal pound. Through Benton Green and then Carol Green, at the junction with Truggist Lane pass Tower House, called by locals "Cow Pen Castle". Apparently a previous occupier had been the keeper of the local animal pound. Cross the Kenilworth-Berkswell Greenway to "Old" Waste Lane in Balsall Common (Beleshale in 1185, nook of land of a man called Baell(i)). Just off route on the main road is Windmill Lane where the fully restored Berkswell Windmill can be seen, built in the early 19th century on the site of an earlier post mill. Back to Waste Lane and across fields to Berkswell station.

Wildlife

Whilst wandering along Waste Lane it is worth noting the old orchard on your left. Small orchards such as this used to be common place and now, as with this one, have become neglected, prone to disease or destruction. This particular orchard contains pear, plum, damson etc. and may include some old varieties of fruit tree. On leaving Waste Lane you pass through an area of rich grassland containing a spring. The drier areas include species such as betony, lesser knapweed, tufted vetch, tormentil, lesser stitchwort, pignut, bird's foot trefoil with bluebell and foxglove occurring on the northern field boundary. The wet areas contain rushes, sedges, wetland grasses and redshank, particularly rich in invertebrates.