



5 Footpath to Cholsey

Having crossed the railway line, turn left immediately and follow the footpath which runs parallel to the railway. To your right you may glimpse Cox's Farm, parts of which dates back to 1550. This house is the surviving remnant of a former Cholsey community called Winhurst. Continue for a mile beside the railway, through several kissing-gates. The path finally leaves the railway and cuts diagonally across a field called 'Shepherds Garden', past a grand house built by Cholsey's Lord of the Manor, James Morrison in 1836 for a tenant farmer. At the far side of this field pass through a kissing gate to a road. Cross carefully and go down the gravel path to the church ahead.

6 St Mary's Church, Cholsey

Note the display board as you enter the churchyard. At the back of the church in the far right-hand corner of the churchyard and beside a wall, find the grave of Dame Agatha (Christie) and Sir Max Mallowan (find the spelling mistake!). On the churchyard wall is a plaque recording the names of those sponsoring trees planted in the churchyard in memory of Agatha Christie. Beyond this wall note the Manor Farm buildings, the site of the former tithe barn reputed to have been the largest in Europe.

To return to Wallingford you have three choices:

- Walk back the way you came
- Travel back by bus, taxi or (occasionally) train
- Complete the circular walk as described below.

7 To Cholsey village

For B and C turn right from the church to follow the road over a hump-backed railway bridge. After passing the present school note the Old School and the side road, Mary Mead, named from the Christie books. At the road junction, for C turn left, signposted to Wallingford (or detour right to first visit the village centre). For B go right, to find shops, a cafe, and a bus stop. (C&WR heritage trains run some weekends from the station, which is at the far end of Station Rd).



8 Cholsey to Caps Lane

The walk back follows Wallingford Road, where you will go past The Red Lion - another refreshment opportunity. From here continue along the straight road for a third of a mile, past numerous houses, to reach Caps Lane (on the right). Cross over and follow this quiet lane passing Blackall's Farm and, round the bend, Taylor's Barn until you reach the main road. Cross with care and bearing slightly left, follow the footpath to The Thames, with Bow Wood on your left.

9 Riverside Path to Winterbrook

On reaching the towpath, follow it to the left beside an unspoilt stretch of The Thames which eventually passes beneath the Wallingford Bypass. You are now in Winterbrook, on a path that Agatha Christie enjoyed walking. The gardens of several houses stretched down to the towpath, including her home. Winterbrook House is visible when the leaves are off the trees and her former squash court, now a house, is clearly visible. Continue along the towpath before crossing a wooden footbridge over Bradford's Brook as it enters The Thames. Turn left here, and follow the footpath beside the brook to the main road. Turn right and retrace your steps to Wallingford where you started.

For more information about Wallingford, things to do and places to stay, visit www.wallingford.co.uk or visit the Town Information Centre, under the Town Hall in the Market Place.



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The Agatha Christie Trail

Winterbrook House



St Mary's Church





About Agatha Christie

Dame Agatha Christie DBE CBE was born in Torquay in 1890. In 1914 she married Archibald Christie and they had one daughter, Rosalind. Agatha published her first novel in 1920. The Christie marriage sadly ended in divorce in 1928 but just two years later Agatha married Max Mallowan, a young archaeologist.

In 1934 the couple bought Winterbrook House, a home where they could relax away from the public gaze. She was known locally as Mrs Mallowan, but 'Agatha Christie' became the best-selling novelist of all time and many of her books were written here. After her death in 1976 at Winterbrook House, at the age of 85, she was buried in the churchyard of St Mary's, Cholsey where she had worshipped.

This six mile circular walking trail takes you past locations prominent in the life of Agatha Christie in Wallingford and on to her grave in Cholsey. The walk is cross-country and therefore not suitable for wheelchairs and buggies.

1 Begin your walk at Wallingford Museum, High Street

Wallingford Museum, housed in an oak-framed building of medieval origins, presents excellent displays on the town's rich royal history. These link from King Alfred's Saxon fortifications through royalty

at the town's great medieval castle, to reach at last the Queen of Crime! The Agatha Christie exhibition takes you behind the scenes to her home life. Photographs, stories and memories have been gathered from people who knew her, visited her, served her in shops and even interviewed her. Personal, handwritten letters are displayed, reflecting details as diverse as her love of pantomime and her frustrations with declining health in her final years. TV's *Midsomer Murders* also gets a look in, with memorabilia highlighting the town's link with the series. For more details, opening hours and information about the annual Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend in September, visit the website: www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

From the museum walk carefully across the road to the Kinecroft - the green park opposite which is surrounded by surviving 9th century earthworks. Head straight towards the Coach and Horses pub on the left of the Kinecroft, but as you walk, notice the double doors of the brick Masonic Hall building on your left. This was the former home of the Sinodun Players amateur theatrical group where Agatha Christie enjoyed many productions. She was their President from 1951-1976.

At the pub, turn left and follow the street, crossing Goldsmith's Lane and continuing up the narrow Church Lane to reach the Market Place, with its splendid 17th century Town Hall.

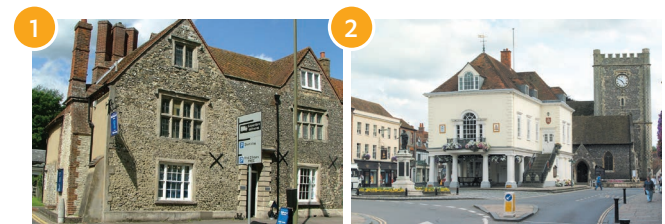
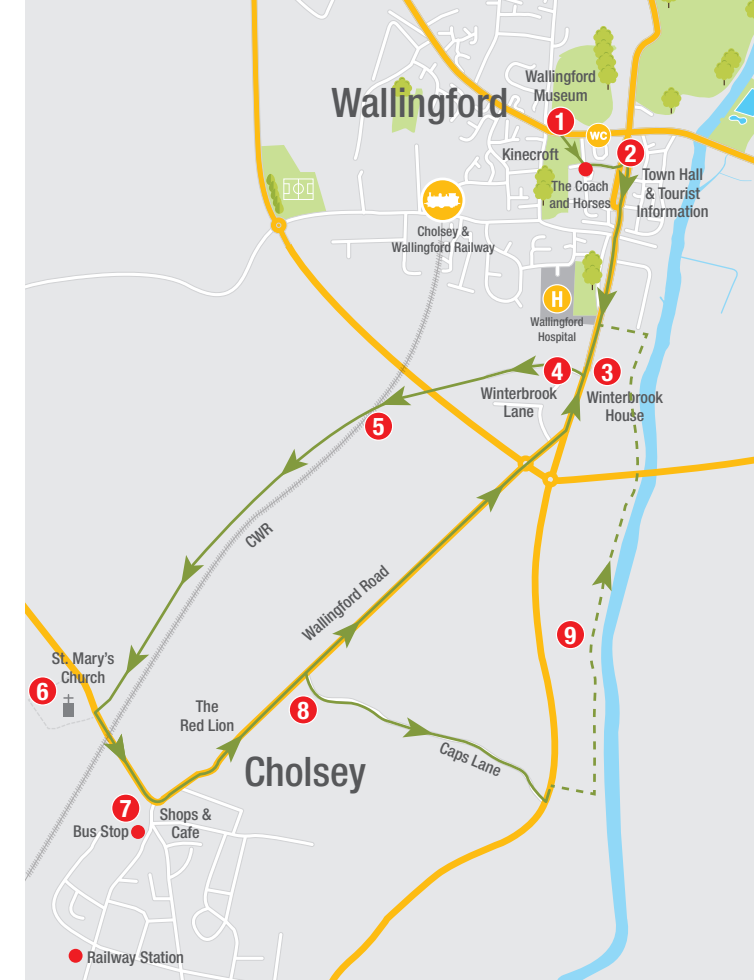
2 Market Place

On the far side of the Market Place is the Corn Exchange, built in 1856 and now home to the Sinodun Players. They acquired the building in the week that Agatha Christie died. She and Max felt they risked failure by the venture!

With your back to the Corn Exchange, now turn left down St Mary's Street. Go straight on past Pettit's on the right (where Agatha shopped), past St Leonard's Square, the Green Tree, and the junction with St John's Road. Note the Alms Houses of 1681 on your left, then cross the road and continue till you reach Wallingford Hospital on the right. Cross the road again here and note Bradford's Brook flowing beneath as you enter Winterbrook.

3 Winterbrook House

At the junction with The Murren see the information board, then continue past The Old Nag's Head and the long brick wall which encloses the large gardens of Winterbrook House (now privately owned). This was Agatha Christie's home, marked by a Blue Plaque next to the front door.



4 Winterbrook Lane

Almost opposite is Winterbrook Lane. Cross the road to walk down this lane. Beyond all the houses and along a footpath you will soon arrive at the Wallingford bypass. Cross the road carefully to the long track opposite. Follow this to the level-crossing over the Cholsey & Wallingford Railway (C&WR). Cross the track with care. (There is no regular service).