

Leaving the Youth Centre, turn right on the footpath passing Connaught Middle School. Shortly after an abrupt right hand bend the front entrance to the school is reached. Turn left and immediately left again into the footpath which runs between Connaught Park estate and more established housing on the right.



Recreation Ground

Continue uphill, and enjoy the recreation ground on the right which was created for children and dog walkers. Turn left into Chapel Lane and very shortly on the left, is "Woodside Cottage".

On this site in 1757, Lady Amelia Butler of Bagshot Park gave £100 for the building of a "Pest House". This was to allow for the isolation of those affected by infectious diseases common at the

time, such as smallpox, typhoid and diphtheria. It was renamed "Woodside Cottage" in 1934.



Mortuary Chapel

Almost immediately on the right and easily missed is the entrance to a picturesque burial ground, which is well worth a visit. Following the footpath straight ahead, bordered by ancient headstones, one comes to a Mortuary Chapel, which now occupies the sight of

Bagshot's first Parish Church consecrated in 1821.

This church was in use when the present Church of St. Anne was built. The early church has been described as having been "an ugly, oblong building of about 90ft by 45ft". It had no heating or lighting and for this reason no evening services were held.

The Mortuary Chapel was erected in the early 1900's at the instigation of the Duchess of Connaught. Since 1962, it has been maintained by Windlesham Parish Council as a multi-denominational chapel. The cemetery itself has been closed since 1966, except for family burials and cremation ashes.

Continuing round the chapel, keeping to the left hand branch on the way back towards the entrance gate and just before regaining the original path, on the left is a memorial in the form of a Celtic cross under the shade of a spruce tree.

This is the resting place of the 17 year old Emily Jane Popejoy, born in Bagshot in 1880. At the age of 16, she was placed in domestic service in the Kensington home of a Mrs Nichols. Injured and severely ill as a result of ill treatment, she returned to Bagshot on Christmas Eve in 1897 and died two days later. Mrs Nichols defended by the redoubtable Marshall Hall, was convicted at the Old Bailey of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years penal servitude, which she commence at

Wormwood Scrubs. This memorial, which will be noted from its inscription, was subscribed for by the readers of "The Weekly Dispatch" after the case had caused a national sensation.

On returning to the road, turn to the right. Behind the Holly hedge on your right, are houses which have been built on an area that was at one time known as "Lambourne Moor". It had been the home of Jabez James, a prominent engineer, who was responsible for the architectural ironworks for the Palace of Westminster and for hanging the bells, including "Big Ben", in the clock tower.



Turn left, passing the rear of a new housing development once occupied by a Garden Centre. Continue by a tarmacked path reach the main road (A30).

Remaining on this side of the road, proceeding uphill, Connaught Court with its white columned portico is on the left hand corner.

Originally called "Hunmanby House", it was purchased in 1921 by the Duke of Connaught in memory of his wife, the Duchess, and his daughter Margaret, Crown Princess of Sweden and given to Bagshot as a nursing home. It was unfortunate that it was not endowed, as following the National Health Service Act of 1946, it was transferred to the Health Service and closed in 1952.



Hunmanby
House

With great care cross the road and a little further on, turn into Fry's Lane.



Follow this down through a housing development to Yaverland Drive. Turn right and at the T-junction cross over. Take the footpath into Higgs Lane, which with School Lane, is reputed to be part of an ancient drovers road.

Cross over Lower Mill Field and walk briefly uphill to regain the A30, noticing the old "Brook Cottages" on the left, at one time a single house and a commercial dairy.



Brooke
Cottages

Continue downhill, and cross at the pedestrian crossing. Returning uphill turn left into School Lane which has bollards at its entrance.



Loading Bay

For horse carts



Carry on uphill and just before its junction with Chantry Road, note the magnificent oak tree on the right with “School House”, a fine Victorian building, on the left.

Towards the end of the Bagshot First School complex is a sand rendered building which was the original school and is still in use. As St. Anne’s School, it opened in 1870 with fifty children. Carry on downhill, rejoining the outward path, and return to the starting point at the Youth Centre.



*Published by the Windlesham Society
with the support of Windlesham Parish
Council. For further information contact
Reg Ward of the Windlesham Society
01276 473789.*