

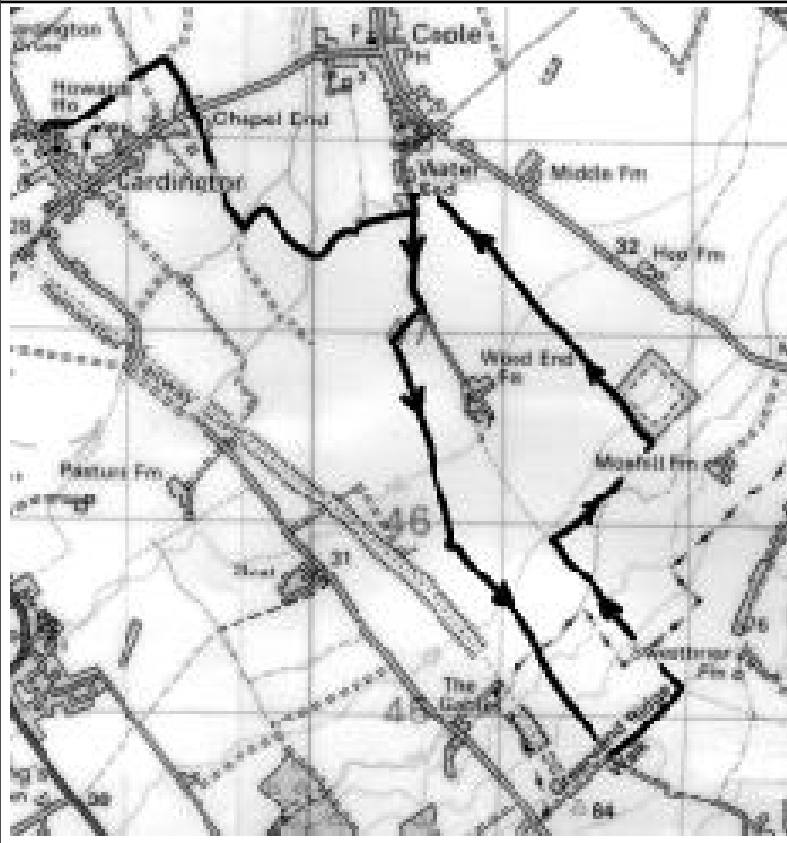


The Ramblers Association  
**Ouse Valley Group**  
Ouse Valley Ramblers' Guided Walks

**Walk N° 5**

**Cardington, Bedfordshire**

**Area** Cardington , Bedfordshire.  
**Walk Leader** Mike Dawson  
**Start Point** Cardington Church at 10:00 am  
**End Point** Cardington Church at 1:00 pm (approx)  
**Places Visited** Cardington -> Chapel End -> Water End -> Greensands Ridge  
-> Water End -> Chapel End -> Cardington  
**Approximate Distance** 7 miles  
**Time To Complete** 2:1/2 to 3 hours depending upon walking speed.  
**Difficulty** Easy - Mostly flat countryside and one minor hill.  
**Car Parking** Cardington, Opposite the church  
**Public Transport** Not yet !



**Walk Itinary**

- [1] Depart Cardington north east from left of the Church and past the vicarage and along the farm track to Chapel End.
- [2] At Chapel End head South - South East towards Water End. At Water End turn right and walk up the farm access road to the next bridle path to the right.
- [3] Follow the bridle path up to Greensands Ridge and turn left. At the next left hand footpath turn left towards Wood end Farm and Moxhill Farm. A right turn from the footpath from towards Moxhill farm is taken and a left turn at the wood which takes us back towards Water End.
- [4] At Water End turn left and walk the short distance to the first footpath on the right. This is where we retrace our original route back to Cardington.

**Notes On The Walk**

This walk is primarily on established paths, bridel ways and farm tracks so after all the recent rain the going will be muddy in places. There is only one ploughed field and a couple of easy styles to climb over.

As we shall be moving through and past fields of sheep and lambs, dogs **MUST** be kept on a lead during these times. Please follow the guidance of the walks leader to avoid any misunderstandings.

**Notes On the Walk Area**

Cardington is a small, picturesque village three miles to the southeast of Bedford. Residents of Cardington have seen many changes over the last years, all of which have taken place gradually but each of which has taken away a small piece of Cardington's soul - the slow drop in the number of pupils at the village school and its eventual closure in 1983, for example. The school had been open since the 19th century, when the children had to sit back to back to keep warm and the ink used to freeze in the inkwells !



# The Ramblers Association *Ouse Valley Group*

## Ouse Valley Ramblers' Guided Walks



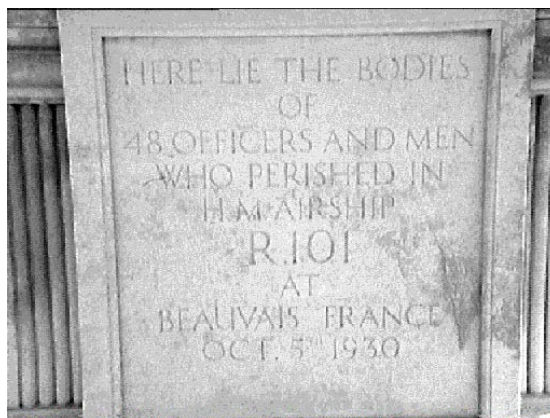
The village focuses around a large green and residents can remember when majestic elm trees used to dominate the landscape. Sadly, Dutch Elm Disease took its toll back in the 1970's and any trees now found on the green are relatively young. The grand holm oak tree to the north of the green still stands proud, however.

Despite the fact that Cardington has lost its school, its shop, its only industry (a fork lift truck plant) and one of its pubs, it is a village steeped in history and character and many of its residents who have spent all their lives there have fond memories and strong ties to the village. In recent years, the street party for the Queen's Silver Jubilee stands out as an unforgettable event which brought everyone in the village together to enjoy the celebration. Cardington came alive for one day with games on the green and a beautiful flower display in the church and all the villagers flocked into the streets.

Another fond memory people hold is of the days when the Kings Arms pub attracted large numbers of visitors, chiefly because of the miniature train which used to chug around the garden taking passengers around the track for the grand sum of 5 pence!

Many of the houses in the village date back to the 17th century and ghost stories are quite commonplace among the

residents. The crash of the R101 airship, which took off from Cardington airfield in the 1930's, added its fair share of stories to the collection and several houses in the village are said to be haunted by members of the crew who have come back to search for their long lost loved ones.



As well as being famous for its aircraft hangars and the fated R101 airship, Cardington has connections too with the prison reformer John Howard, who lived during the 17th century and after whom the village hall, or the Howard Reading Room, is named. The Whitbread family also have important connections with the village and, in fact, own virtually all of the property in Cardington. Being an estate village means that living in sleepy Cardington is like stepping back in history; it is as though the village has been caught in a time warp. Life goes on in Cardington without any urgency.

Another reason for this is the fact that the village is still very much dominated by agriculture, which sets the pace of life. The Rural Community Council has taken up residence in The Old School but apart from this and a part-time post office there is no other source of employment outside agriculture. The huge parish church still plays an important part in village life.

