A Walk from Braunton Museum/Countryside Centre

To St. Brannoc's RC Church Walk 5

Time 40 minutes + return

By kind permission of the Smith-Bingham family

Take care: keep to pavements – crossing roads and, where no pavement, walk single file – especially with children and dogs (accompanied please by a responsible adult) – on the path down to the church which may be mossy and slippery

- Museum/Countryside Centre. Collect a card from here if this is your first walk. Walk to the main road crossing the entry road to the car park by The Green Newsagents. Note the faded sign for its historic use on the red brick building to your right at first floor height
- Cross the main road at the Pelican crossing to the Anchor seating area. Find the bench with the inscription to Mr. Rayson Postmaster for very many years in the former Post Office in Caen Street a little further down on the left-hand side
- Continue on along the Tarka Trail. On your right is Caen Primary School built in 1873 and enlarged in 1888 and 1896 with squared rubble stone for increasing numbers.
- Cross the bridge over the River Caen. Looking downstream note the artificial turn in the river made when the railway was installed
- Continue on past the Bowling Club behind high hedges. The original Bowling green was established in 1912 in Lower Park Road on land leased then purchased from Mr. A. J. Tweedie remembered in the Tweedie Cup and relocated in 1964 here to accommodate growing popularity.
- Continue straight ahead past the pedestrian cross roads. Note on your right the pair of former railway cottages facing out onto the railway line with cast iron railings built in 1916 built by local architect E.A.C. Schwable and builder J. J. Huxtable
- Continue on to the end of the Tarka Trail. Just before, on your right hand side, is the Fire Station. A carved stone in the end gable gives the date when it was built as Challoners School. This was initially free but dwindling funds meant that fees had to be charged. A Mr. J. L. 'Cavie' Ralph was the Head from 1890 – 1925 now remembered in street names 'Cavie Road' and 'Cavie Crescent' on Saunton estate
- Cross the road here [Take care] to the pavement on the other side. There used to be an unmanned open crossing here over the railway line. This is the road leading to Georgeham where Henry Williamson author of Tarka the Otter lived and, in his book, 'Life in a Devon Village' gave a description of getting out of the train at Cross Tree (his name for Braunton) and going up a long hill and at the top looking back at a tract of sandhills and lines of breakers, a tiny white lighthouse in the remote distance beside a narrow estuary gleaming azure as it widened into the sea.
- Continue up the hill along the pavement with magnificent trees on your left. Can you identify what these are? Cross over the entrance into Brannock's Well

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Close and continue upwards. The pavement runs out. Take care walking up the short section of road. Just before the turning on your left into Frog Lane there is a turning right into a car park. Please close the gate. DO NOT GO UP the driveway to the side as this is private. Go through the car park and down the deep lane leading to St. Brannoc's RC Church which is currently closed. There is a Holy Well on your left. It is a lovely peaceful spot. The tokens box is in the porch to the Church.

- Please take great care on the lane which is likely to be mossy and therefore somewhat slippery. Please do not throw coins into the pond nor allow dogs to swim there.
- The identity of all five chapels is the subject of debate. The current Church was built in 1957 on the foundations of an old mediaeval Chapel. According to local tradition when St. Brannock arrived in the 6th century CE and founded his first Church he was also guided to establish a small original chapel by a natural spring. Churchwardens' accounts from 1562 and 1568 explicitly mention this chapel. It was a popular place of pilgrimage before the Reformation.

We do hope you have enjoyed your exploration of Braunton. We would love you to make a donation using the QR code, by card on www.brauntoncaenrotary.co.uk or cash at Braunton Museum or Countryside Centre

End Polio Now: Detection of the Wild Virus and Areas for Vaccination

Wild poliovirus is detected through clinical tracking of paralysis and testing sewage, while vaccination areas are chosen based on virus findings, population immunity gaps, and high-risk travel or border zones. Rotary International supports these global efforts through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

- **Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) Surveillance:** Doctors and health workers look for children with sudden limb weakness. They test stool samples in accredited laboratories to confirm if the cause is poliovirus.
- **Environmental Surveillance:** Teams collect raw sewage and wastewater samples from city sites. Labs concentrate the sewage, isolate viruses, and run genetic sequencing to spot hidden virus spread before anyone shows symptoms.
- **Case and Positive Sample Tracing:** Health teams target immediate zones where a paralyzed patient or a positive sewage test appears.
- **High-Risk and Endemic Zones:** Planners focus on areas with active transmission, like parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, or places with low routine vaccination rates.
- **Movement and Border Corridors:** Campaigns target refugee camps, mobile populations, and border crossings where children might miss regular health clinic shots.

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