**Bigsweir Bridge Walk**

Bigsweir Bridge walk is about 6.6 miles. n. Allow 5 hours if you do the extended version. It is half on the road and half back along the river with some tricky climbs through the woods. Not for the faint hearted!

From house, head up the road. Pass the big field on your left – there are often deer in here and I have even seen wild boar on occasion. There is a lovely view back down the valley to the Severn Bridge in the distance. Keep on up the hill (approximately 1.5 miles) until you come to 3 big green electricity boxes on your right. There is a road off to your left called ‘Cockshoot Hill’. Take this road down for approximately 1 mile and then turn left at the road junction to continue down the hill to Bigsweir Bridge. There are some woods on the right. It is well worth stopping off here in the bluebell season as the carpet of bluebells is fantastic here. About another mile down this road you come to Bigsweir Bridge. Just before the bridge there is a path on the left along the river. Take this and follow the river for approximately 2.5 miles. Alternatively continue along the river bank all the way back to the village.

If you want to cut up through the woods to get home, then just before you see a small stone boathouse you need to take path up through the woods. It is easy to miss this as it gets very overgrown.This is more of a scramble than a walk at this point and you may find yourself having to cling to fallen trees to get up! At the top of this scramble, the path takes you through an ancient ‘stoneway’ – a stone wall on either side where they used to roll stones down to the boats waiting at the river. Follow this stoneway up to some donkeys in a field and follow the path around the small field. At the top of this lane, turn right and then in a few metres follow the path up left beside Spring Cottage (with a big green sign outside.)

This path leads you through more trees and comes out at Sylvian House which was once the home of Flora Klickman (editor, journalist and writer of The Flower Patch series). Take the path diagonally right onto a gravel track. Turn right onto the track and walk until you see a small path to your left along another ‘stoneway’. Take this stoneway and at the top, turn left. The house is now just a few metres up this track.