

RAMBLE



The Crossfields has a tennis centre, bowling club and putting green

Archenfield Road, opposite Cleeve Lane.

Turn right along Archenfield Road. Just past The Shrubbery, cross over and continue to the junction with Middleton Avenue. Turn left, into Middleton Avenue, and continue to the junction with Redhill Road, opposite Ashfield Park School. Go ahead, to the right of the school and to the right of a set of steps, and continue along Ashfield Park Avenue. This is a private road and poorly surfaced, but is passable. At the T-junction at the end of the road, turn right and continue to the next tee junction, opposite The Prince of Wales Inn. Turn left along the path that rises slightly, onto an area of Ross known as The Crossfields. This area has the Ross Tennis Centre, the putting green and Ross Bowling Club. It also has the Ross weather observatory.

10 This was built in 1859 and daily readings have been made here ever since. It is part of the Meteorology Office's chain of observatories round the country and is the reason that Ross is mentioned, occasionally, on the national forecast.

After passing the Bowling Club, turn left into Ross Parish Church churchyard. The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin is 13th century and well worth a visit.

11 Go into The Prospect, on your left. The Prospect Gardens were laid out by John Kyrle in 1696 as a space for the people of the town to enjoy. Beneath the gardens is a large reservoir, the size of a large ballroom. When originally laid out there was also a fountain that many people would like to see replaced. These are just two of the many



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legacies of John Kyrle, known as The Man of Ross. The Prospect is also the location of the town's War Memorial. It was moved in 2008 when, after the collapse of part of the retaining wall, preparations for rebuilding found remains of a Roman watch tower.

Retrace to the churchyard and turn left. In the lower right hand corner of the churchyard is the Plague Cross.

12 It looks like a preaching cross but actually commemorates 315 people who, in 1637, died of the plague 20 years before the Great Plague in London. Retrace through the churchyard and go through the gates you entered by. Turn left down Church Street. On your right are the lovely old Rudhall Almshouses. They were originally a 14th century hospital and were renovated by William Rudhall in 1575. They are now administered by The Churches Charitable Trust.

13 At the bottom of Church Street, turn left onto High Street. Just before reaching the junction at the top of the street, stop

and look at the houses to the right of Ross Old Books. Note the blocked up doorways high in the walls. These were, originally at street level. However, when the new road, replacing Wye Street as the main route into Ross, was built in 1824 by Thomas Telford, the level of High Street was lowered to its present position.

14 At the end of High Street cross over to the front of The Man of Ross Inn. The pub has a nice comment on John Kyrle and another of Wylenty Patel's sculptures, this time of leaping salmon.

Pass down the steep slope of Wye Street, noting the house high on your left.

15 This has been modernised into a family house with decking and new windows. But notice the archway up the steps from street level. This building was the Ross Ice House where ice from the river would be taken in winter for use in the warmer months.

You have now completed the whole of the Ross Buggy Route and learned a very small amount of the history of Ross on the way. ■

THE RAMBLERS

For more information about Herefordshire Ramblers which has four groups, Hereford, Ross, Mortimer and Leadon Vale, contact Tom Fisher, tel: 01886 821544 or email: tom.fisher@virgin.net