Walk 6
Birdingbury, Long Itchington and Leamington Hastings
A circular walk of 8 km (5 miles).

Start at the Monument at the crossroads in Birdingbury
From the monument in Birdingbury leave the village up the hill sign
posted Long Itchington. On the crest of the hill pause to take in the
panoramic views across the rolling countryside. Follow the waymarker on
the left over the stile and down the hill to Birdingbury allotments. Go
through the allotments over the stiles and across the next field (always
well marked by the farmer) to the rather grand foot bridge. This leads
straight across through several gates/stiles until you appear on the main
Marton / Long Itchington road in Long Itchington. Turn ▲ along the
main road towards the pool. In 1918 a German howitzer was placed by the
pond for all to see. Unfortunately it was never a popular ornament and
found its way into the bottom of the pond, only to be reclaimed in WW2 for
its valuable metal to be used in weapons manufacture. Then look for a
way marked path on the left immediately opposite this beautifully cared for
village pond. (Why not rest awhile or visit one of the splendid hostelries).
Beyond the pond to the left lies the Tudor House. The Tudor House dates
from the late 16th century originally as an inn, then a farmhouse and now
residential.
It was owned for a long period by the Sitwell family, Dame Edith being a poet whose poems were used in conjunction with Sir William Walton's music to create “Façade”, a well known piece at any concert. Take this well marked route until you reach the junction of two paths. Here you must be careful to follow the path straight on but to the right of the hedge until you reach the corner of the field. Continue on over the two stiles and turn across the field until you reach the exit from the field onto Collingham Lane. Turn and follow the road until you reach the entrance to Birdingbury Fields Farm on your left. Here you have a choice: you can follow the path towards the farm buildings in the distance turning across the field (the dairy herd can make for rather soiled shoes at certain times of the year) and through the gate back onto the Birdingbury road or carry straight on to the cross roads turning left towards Birdingbury. The footpath to look for is on your right and has been moved from its original position (see diversion arrow). Enter the field over the new stile and follow the hedgerow climbing another stile and continue straight on until you turn through a gate and go diagonally across the bottom end of the next field to a concrete sleeper, bridging the brook. Cross this bridge, climb the stile and go straight ahead keeping the hedge on your right until you emerge over a stile onto a farm track. Turn along this track and arrive in Leamington Hastings opposite the Alms

Houses. The Almshouses were built in 1633 and extended in 1696. Information on their history can be found within the Church. Keep straight ahead and maybe pay a visit to the lovely church of All Saints before continuing along the lane towards Birdingbury. This section of road can be quite busy so do take care and walk on the right. After crossing the brook turn through the gate into the field and follow the waymarkers across the field passing under the power pole and heading towards the houses in the distance. Spare a moment to view the river Leam and Birdingbury Hall away in the distance. Birdingbury Hall was owned by Earl Leofric in the 11th Century and for a long period was the residence of the Biddulph family who owned most of the land around Birdingbury. Here the path goes between the houses and exits onto Back lane.

Birdingbury Church is well worth the short detour to investigate its history, well documented and illustrated within the Church. Turn up the lane and after 100 yards turn following the lane and after 100 yards turn following waymarker through to the main street and the completion of your walk.