

St George Strollers 10th Birthday Walk

In May 2011 the St George Strollers set off on their first “taster” walk. They met at the Labour club on Church Rd. They took a short walk around St George Park and Avon View Cemetery and returned to the club for teas, coffee, fruit, biscuits and the essential part of all Strollers walks, a good chat.

This walk is a celebration of 10 years of walking. In keeping with any walks that we repeat, it's a variation on the original, including new things that were not there the first time round.

We hope you enjoy it.

Distance – 3.3km 2 miles. Allow an hour to fully enjoy the walk.

The start

Start at the pedestrian entrance to St George Park, close to St George Library on Church Rd in St George Bristol. NOTE – There is a “St George Library” sign on the pillar on the right of the entrance. This is NOT the entrance wide enough for cars. The postcode of the library is BS5 8AL. The What3Words location is

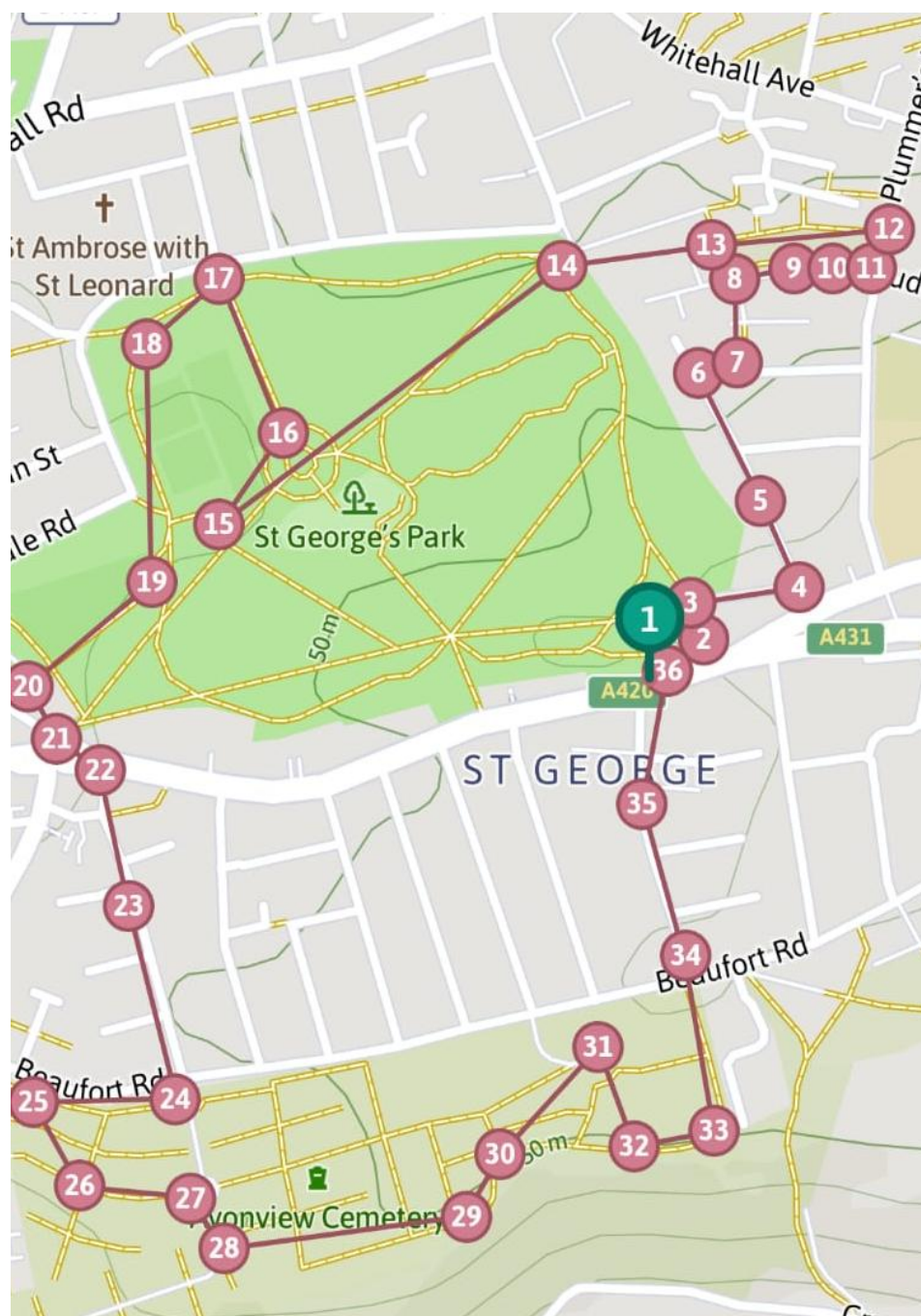
<https://what3words.com/vase.expose.crust?maptype=satellite>

The walk – this walk is available on the app Go Jauntly titled “A 10th Birthday Stroll

If you have a smart phone you can load the free app Go Jauntly and follow this walk using the app. The link to the walk is

<https://app.gojauntly.com/walk/7426303803540640235>

otherwise just follow the notes overleaf. The numbers used for the steps reflect the map above.



Steps 1-3

Walk in through the entrance to park and follow the path to pass in front of the library. Note the maypole on your right. This was installed by the St George Community Association in 1981. Turn left along the tarmac drive. Just beyond the library, enjoy a view across the park down towards the lake then turn right along the wide path between houses, out to Clouds Hill Avenue. Don't worry you will be coming back to the park.

4. Turn left down Clouds Hill Avenue. Pause at no. 14 and look up to read the blue plaque to Bob Hope.
6. Turn right onto Park Avenue.
7. Turn left, down two steps, into a public footpath between no.16 and no. 18
- 8-12 Emerge into the green area at the end of Hudds Vale Rd. Admire the conversion of the old tin factory on your left, formerly the site of a poorhouse. Turn right and walk around the green area to return to the other end of the tin factory. As you walk note the dip of the grass area, underneath runs the course of the Wain Brook that fed the lake in St George Park. See if you can identify the alder trees (they thrive in damp ground) and the cherry trees.
13. Walk past the right hand end of the tin factory and continue along the alley into St George Park.
14. Follow the path downhill to the lake.
15. At the end of the lake just beyond the raised bandstand area (no bandstand but a community garden) there are toilets and a small café
16. Retrace your step to the bandstand and the path north (left), passing a bench with a plaque to Ted Stevens, "The Music Man".
17. Enjoy the view of the large church, St Ambrose, known as the "cathedral of east Bristol.
18. When you reach the edge of the park take the path on the left, walking inside the park's perimeter to the skate park.
19. Keep the skatepark on your right and walk past it towards the car park.
20. In the car park enjoy the mural on the end of the Hope Rise apartments.
21. Leave the park and turn left on Chalks Rd, walking past the main entrance to the park, pause to admire the plaque to Bob Hope on a gate pillar.
22. Cross Church Rd, using the pedestrian crossing lights. Turn left and then right into Cossham Rd. Cossham was the first Member of Parliament for Bristol East.
23. Now the ornate mouldings on some of the houses, made with fireclay, which used to be mined nearby in Crews Hole.
24. Cross Beaufort Rd into Avonview Cemetery and turn right immediately, following the path beside the hedge.
25. As you approach the end of the cemetery you will see that there seem to be very few gravestones in the middle of the area. Taking care, because the ground is uneven, cross the grass to a smooth, upright, gravestone with a curved top. The inscription is on the other side. It is a memorial to the dead of the work house at 100 Fishponds Rd. The what3words location of the gravestone is <https://what3words.com/vivid.skills.submit?maptype=satellite>
Look around and notice that some of the other gravestones also mark mass graves.

- 26-27. Cross to the nearest path and turn left, turning uphill towards the cemetery “roundabout”.
Pause as you climb to run around and admire the wonderful views.
28. Turn right at the roundabout and then turn left to follow the path on the southern edge of the cemetery.
29. Pause at the large monument to William Butler who ran Butlers tar works in Crews Hole, beside the Avon river, below the cemetery. At his death he was Chairman of the board who ran Bristol’s trams and all the trams stopped for 3 minutes at the time of his funeral.
30. A short distance further on there is an even bigger memorial, to Handel Cossham, mine owner and first Member of Parliament for Bristol East. Take a look at the must smaller grave right against this memorial Inspector Bird of the police of St George. He served for over 30 years, investigating many crimes and died very soon before he was due to retire. The board of St George agreed to make a payment to his widow.
31. Bear left to the chapel and on the far side find the grave of the secretary of the Order of the Druids. It is unmistakable, carved with the figure of a man with a beard, carrying a sickle and a wreath.
32. Continue round the chapel (note the old out of use Victorian ironwork gentlemen’s urinal) and continue along the path along the southern perimeter of the cemetery. Look out for, on your left, a gravestone topped with a draped urn. If you find this gravestone to George Lacey, read the inscription. He died in a fire at Butlers tar works. This was few years after William Butler had handed the management of this business to his sons. If you are interested in the restoration of this piece of industrial history please contact Susan on 0117 947 5037 or email chair@troopers-hill.org.uk
33. Continue along the path to turn left at the end to use the gate to leave the cemetery.
34. Cross the road, with care, into Beaconsfield Rd.
35. As you start to approach the end of Beaconsfield look for a stone wall on your right with a large stone carved with the words “Bristol Tramways”. This was the old tram depot. The trams stopped when a bomb hit the power supply at St Phillips Bridge in central Bristol and the trams never ran again. While looking at the stone, look up and to your right and admire a lovely mural of St George Park.
36. At the end of Beaconsfield Rd cross Church Rd and return to library. At the entrance to the library note the stump of an old stone cross. This was Don John’s cross that used to mark the junction of Clouds Hill Rd and Summerhill Rd.

We hope you enjoyed this 10th birthday stroll

More about the St George Strollers on www.troopers-hill.org.uk/strollers