

# The Famous and Not so Famous of the Goring Gap - 8+yrs

Start opposite the Miller of Mansfield by Rectory Gardens.

1. Miller of Mansfield. The story goes that the miller stole a Royal deer and made a pasty of it, which he fed to the King who was staying there, unknown to the miller. However, it is said the King forgave him because it tasted so good. [A medieval arrow could hit a target 200 paces away. Count your paces as you walk towards the entrance to the graveyard, where would your arrow land?](#)

2. Go into the Graveyard under the lychgate. Grahamsfield (the house and garden on the right of the graveyard) where Mr Greenwell kept donkeys. His son, Graham, used to ride the donkeys around



the garden and so the house was renamed Graham's field. [Can you think of any donkeys that star in stories? \('Wonkey Donkey' and 'The Dinky Donkey' both by Craig Smith, Eeyore from 'Winnie the Pooh' by A.A. Milne and Mary rode to Bethlehem on a donkey\).](#)

3. St Thomas Church was once a Nunnery (founded in 1130), where at one time 36 nuns lived. [When you get home can you find out what life was like for a medieval nun? The nunneries were often self-sufficient and all their clothes and food was produced within the convent walls. If you like a challenge can you find the grave of Towse "the Goring man who won the Victoria Cross".](#) Walk past the church and along the lane, up the steps to the main road. Cross carefully to reach Pierreponts café

4. Walk over the bridge to the middle. Lock and Weir where in 1674 a boat containing about 60 people and a horse returning to Streatley after Goring Fair overturned. Most of the people, including the horse, were drowned as few people in those days could swim. The bridge wasn't built until 1837. [The River Thames is the second-longest river in the UK. It is crossed by over 200 bridges, 27 tunnels, 6 ferries, one cable car and one ford along its 215 mile course. Which way is London and the sea?](#)

5. Walk up the road past Streatley meadows until you reach White Hart lane on the right. There was a Laundry at end of White Hart lane where Three Men In A Boat, To Say Nothing Of The Dog (written by Jerome K Jerome) took their clothes after trying unsuccessfully to wash them in the river from their boat. They were so dirty, the laundress charged them three times the usual amount. [Three Men in a boat is a Story about the adventures of three men and a dog rowing up the river Thames from London. What adventures would you like to go on?](#) Close by is Copper Cottage which used to be the Police House and said to have had a cell in the basement. Vine Cottage, which used to be a pub called The White Hart and was the pub where Kenneth Grahame – Wind in the Willows, got a jug of beer and his supper when he stayed in Streatley High Street



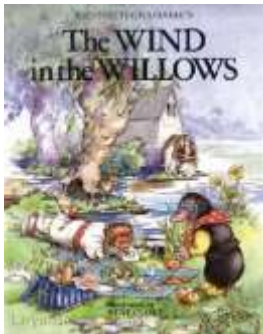
6. Walk up the road until you can see The Bull Pub. Isambard Kingdom Brunel surveyed the area from the top of Streatley Hill for his railway line the

Great Western Railway. GWR later had an office at the Bull. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was a famous engineer in Victorian times. He built bridges, ships and railways. You can visit one of his bridges in Goring where the railway crosses the river at Gatehampton. [When you get home you could try making a bridge out of Lego or wooden bricks.](#)

7. Walk back down the road until you reach the lane that leads to Streatley Church, turn up and walk until you can see the church. This is where Lewis Carroll preached just before publication of Alice in Wonderland and he stayed in the Vicarage at end of Vicarage Lane. [In the story Alice follows the white rabbit down the rabbit hole. Do you think you would follow the rabbit? Why?](#) Richard Adams who wrote Watership Down used to worship with his wife and two daughters here. Watership Down is a survival and adventure novel about a group of rabbits escaping the destruction of their home. Richard Adams made up the story for his two daughters during long car journeys to stop them getting bored.



8. Turn around and walk back down the road until you get to the edge of the bridge. Turn and look at the gardens in front of the houses on the other side of the bridge. Ratty and Mole had their picnic here at the start of Wind in The Willows by Kenneth Grahame. He stayed for a holiday in Streatley High Street. [Can you think of an interesting sandwich to have at a picnic? Maybe you could try making it at home and have a picnic in your garden.](#)



9. Cross back over the bridge, then cross over the road carefully and walk down past the mill. Turn left along the river and turn and look at Mill Cottage. This is where George Michael lived a 1980/90s pop star ([ask your mum and dad if they listen to his music](#)) The Mill was also painted by JMW Turner in 1806. JMW Turner was a very famous English painter. [Take a photo of the view and try painting your own version at home.](#)



10. Walk along the river until you reach the small field that leads to Ferry Lane. Turn left up Ferry lane until you see Ferry House. This where Oscar Wilde stayed in 1893. Oscar Wilde is a famous playwright. He even named a character in one of his plays - Lord Goring. He also wrote a book of short stories for children called The Happy Prince and Other Tales. [Oscar Wilde produced a lot of very famous quotes. 'Be Yourself, everyone else is already taken' is one. When you get home draw around your hand on a piece of paper and cover your handprint in things that make you special.](#)



Walk up to the road and turn left to return to the start of the walk. Walk carefully as there is no pavement.