

This is a short self-guided mystery walk, taking c1 hour, which highlights historical facts about the village. Please bear in mind that several of the properties detailed below are privately owned and be respectful of the privacy of their owners.

Your Task: There have been several complaints about a villager who has ignored the traffic calming and right of way signs and has caused a lot of upset for other road users. Your task is to help identify the rubbish road user, their vehicle & number of complaints. Use the directions and clues below to work out the answers

The Road Users:

					
Tina the Teacher	Peter the Publican	Bal the Waiter	Chris the Café owner	George the Golfer	Kateryna the Curate

The Vehicles:

	Convertible		Ice Cream Van		Bicycle
	Sports Car		Minibus		Motorbike
	Estate		E-scooter		Tractor

Number of complaints:

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Directions (map below)

Start at the bus stop opposite Church Farm Close. Look at the two houses behind the bus stop, they are the Old School House (on the right) and the School (Teacher's) house (on the left). The school was built in 1848 and had around 70 pupils. Find the noticeboard on the bus stop. How many times does the letter "O" appear on the name of the noticeboard.

If it appears 2 times or fewer then rule out anyone with long hair.

If it appears 3 times or more then rule out anyone with short hair.

Turn towards the church, but before you get there, head down the unpaved short road on your right, to St Osyth's well. This is where a Roman villa was located. By the well is an information board. Which town is shown as being due North of the well on the compass?

If it's Tring – rule out anyone who works outdoors.
If it's Wendover – rule out anyone who serves drinks
If it's Aylesbury or Broughton – rule out anyone with light coloured hair.

Return to the main road, turn right and walk past St James the Great church. The first official records regarding the church date from 1294, but there is evidence that a church existed earlier as the font within the church dates to the time of the Saxons – c400-1,000AD.

How many sets of upstairs windows are there on the side of the church facing the road?
If it's 2 – then rule out any vehicle with more than 5 seats
If it's 3 – then rule out any vehicle that has a large boot

Either:

(Walk involving stiles & gates) Turn down Parsons Road (on your right), turn left into Cowley Close and walk straight ahead through a narrow passageway between Numbers 10 & 11, to the fields. Following the path, crossing a number of stiles until you reach Burcott Lane. Cross the road to the recreation ground.

Or:

(Walk without stiles/gates) – from the church, continue walking along the Aylesbury Road until you reach Burcott Lane, walk down the lane until you find the recreation ground on your left.

This land and the cricket pavilion were given to the parish by the Rothschild family to commemorate WW1. Locate the memorial plaque on the cricket pavilion. Count the words – what number is the word 'country's'? Then count through the alphabet and rule out anyone who's name starts with this letter. You should now know who the villager is. Leave the recreation ground and turn right

Either

(Walk involving gates) almost immediately on your right you will see a gate & footpath, follow this path until you arrive on the main road, next to Lounge India.

OR

(Gate free walk) – walk to the top of Burcott Lane with the junction with the Aylesbury Road, turn right and walk to Lounge India.

Lounge India used to be a pub called The Bell. The earliest census record from 1841 show that the building was a pub and the landlord and landlady were James and Sarah Monk.

Continue along the main road towards Wing, until you reach Gib Lane. In 1773 the last public gibbeting execution in Buckinghamshire was held here. Richard Holt, a widower was murdered in his Bierton home. A Tring chimney sweep and rat catcher called Corbet was found guilty and was hung in irons on this spot, which is now called Gib Lane. It's said that the body remained there for many years and was very smelly.

Keep walking towards the junction with Mike Griffin Way. On your right is a bus-shelter. What colour is it painted inside?

If green – you can rule out vehicle with rear lights
If white – you can rule out any vehicle with wing mirrors
If grey – you can rule out any vehicle with 2 wheels

Cross the road at the traffic lights and turn round to head back through Bierton, so that the main road is on your left. Keep walking and look out Read Drive on your right, this road is named after Henry & William Read who were WW1 casualties who lived in Bierton. Look out for the old mile-marker sign which is located on the verge near the road. How many miles is it to Hockliffe – you can discount any number of complaints of this number or more.

Walk to Brick Kiln Lane. The road got its name from the Brick Kilns that were located nearby, clay was gathered from the land which created large holes, which when filled with water became ponds or 'pits'. If you want to see these, walk up Brick Kiln Lane and turn left along the footpath, the ponds/pits are on your right (do not enter private land)– then return to the junction of Brick Kiln Lane & the Aylesbury Road.

On the opposite corner you can see the former Methodist chapel this opened in 1877 and was taken over by the Elim Pentecostal Church in the late 1970s and was closed as a place of worship in 1994. It then became the office for Sun Alex who produced specialist lamps/lights before becoming the Bierton Coffee House in 2024.

Continue and look out for the former Baptist Chapel on your right. The Baptist Chapel was built in 1831 and extended in 1835 and again in 1885 and accommodated 180 people. What house number is the Chapel? Add these digits together – you can ignore this number of complaints and fewer.

On the other side of the road is Old Forge Gardens, which was the location of Bierton Forge which was demolished during the second world war.

Continue along the road and cross over Barnett Way, just after this road you will see some large horse chestnut trees and a bench. This was the site of one of the ponds in Bierton. It was often used to water the horses who pulled carts through the village.

Continue walking and head towards Jubilee Hall, look at the building just before the hall which used to be a pub. How many letters in its name? This is the number of complaints

Now go to the Jubilee Hall which will be on your right. This was built in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. Villagers gave donations and several bricks were built into the walls with their names. As you face Jubilee Hall – go around the right side and find the 'Building Committee' plaque. Look at the surnames, which letter starts most surnames? This is the first letter of the vehicle which was not guilty of the offences.

Leaving Jubilee Hall, cross Great Lane – which was named after St James the Great church, to the Red Lion which is a 16th Century Public house. It was significant during the English Civil War when it was host to many Royalist Officers, including it is rumoured King Charles 1st.

You should now have enough information to work out who the naughty villager was, their vehicle and how many complaints were received. Check your answer on the village website – in the walks section.

