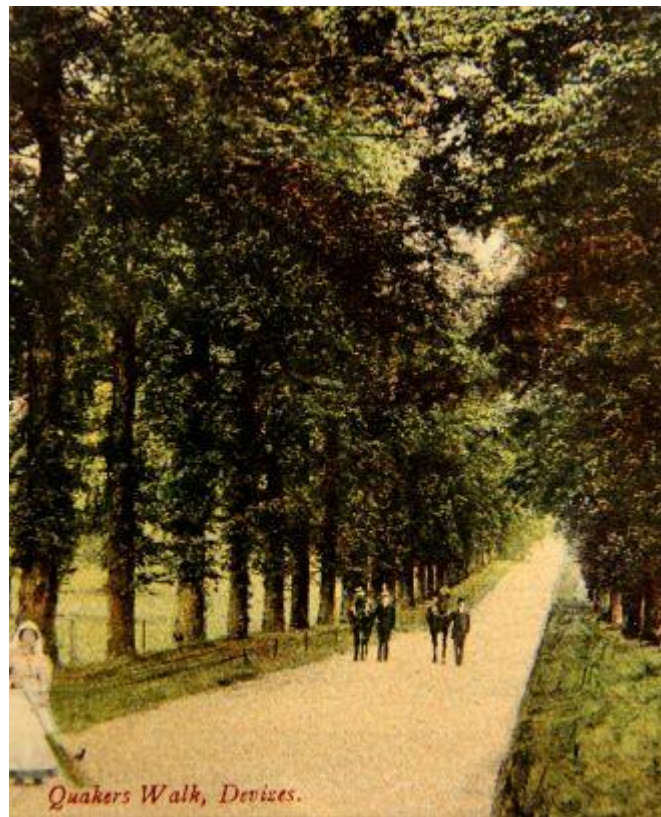


Quakers Walk, Devizes



A tranquil, historic tree-lined bridleway, very much loved and used by Devizes folk and tourists alike. The walk gives easy access to the countryside for many people in Devizes, whether to walk their dogs, ride their bicycles, as the start of a walk on the extended Ridgeway (Marlborough to Lyme Regis), Roundway Hill or just to unwind. The route is believed to go back more than 700 years to the reign of King Edward I. The Gates and Lodge at the canal end of the walk are Grade II listed and originally marked the southern end of Lord Roundway's estate of which now only the converted stables remain. The dolphin on the gates of the Walk bears the crest of Edward Colston who was born in Bristol in 1636. Tradition has it that one of his ships, heavily laden and returning from the West Indies, sprung a leak which the crew were unable to stop. The water rose rapidly and suddenly and unaccountably it ceased. The pumps were kept at work and the ship was soon cleared of water and able to proceed. On reaching port the owner, having the ship examined for damage found that a hole had appeared in the ships timbers and had been blocked again by a dolphin who had managed to get stuck in the hole but this managed to keep the leak at bay sufficiently for the ship to carry on its voyage. The dolphin probably saved the lives of the crew and the vessel from floundering. Quakers Walk is the subject of a protection group. Images of the pathway can be viewed in the main Devizes gallery.