

# Vaughan Williams' Folk Workshop

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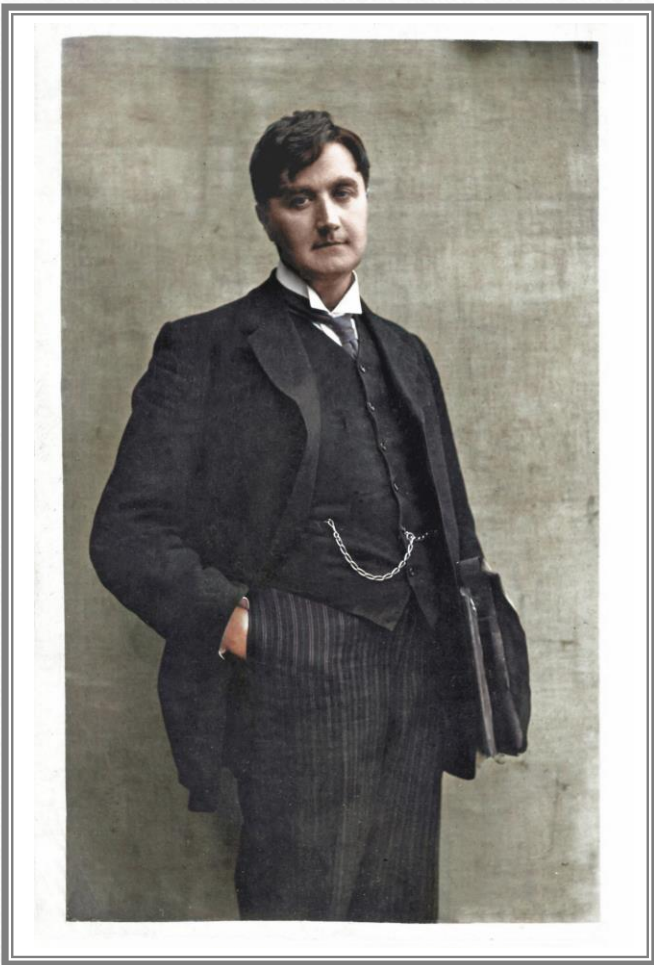
Millfield Primary  
School  
Littleport

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Erin Brown & Nicky Stockman



Image - Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst - Vaughan Williams Foundation



# Ralph Vaughan Williams

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- Born in October 1872
- Father was a Vicar
- Great uncle was Charles Darwin
- Learnt the piano from the age of 5 and started violin the following year
- Went to Cambridge University to study Music and History

# Ralph Vaughan Williams 150

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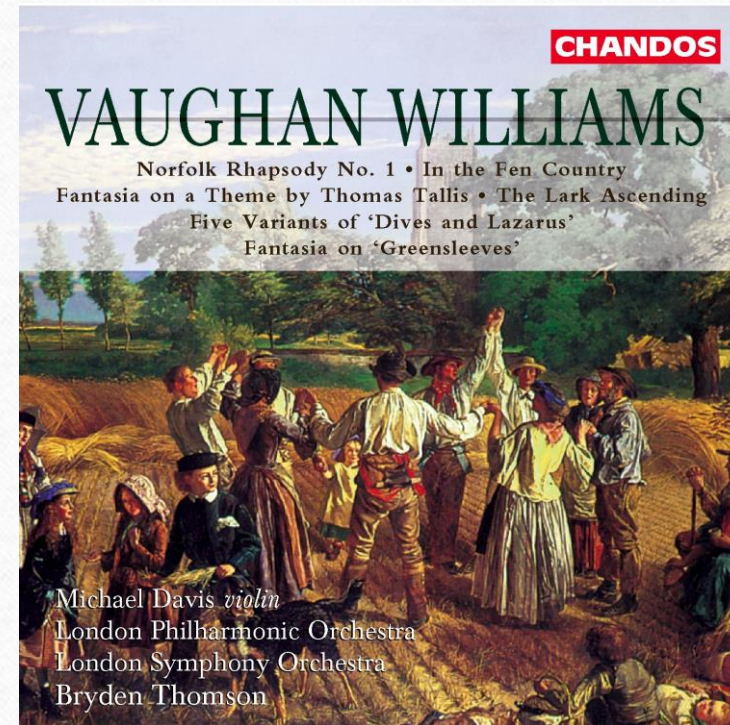
RVW150 is a celebration of Ralph Vaughan Williams with performances, recordings, new works and imaginative projects around the country (and beyond)



# RVW Collecting Folk Music in East Anglia



- [Norfolk Rhapsody](#)
- [In the Fen Country](#)
- [Five Variations of 'Dives and Lazarus'](#)





## Summer Holidays in Meldreth (1906 & 1907)

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- Vaughan Williams and his wife Adeline went on summer holidays in **Meldreth**.
- He walked, cycled and used the train to travel to villages that were close to his holiday home and others that were as far as it was possible to travel within the county (Humphreys 2022)



- **Millfield Primary School**
- **Meldreth**
- **Fowlmere**
- **Fen Ditton**



# Fen Ditton

## 22 August 1906

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- Llewellyn Mallion
- In 1901, lived at 13 Green End
- 52 years old
- Labourer in the cement works
- Lived next door to the “Harvest Home” pub

Best 26 min 1 hr 17 4 hr 7 1 hr 12

Fen Ditton, Cambridge

Meldreth, Royston

Add destination

Options

Send directions to your phone

via A603 1 hr 12 min 13.9 miles

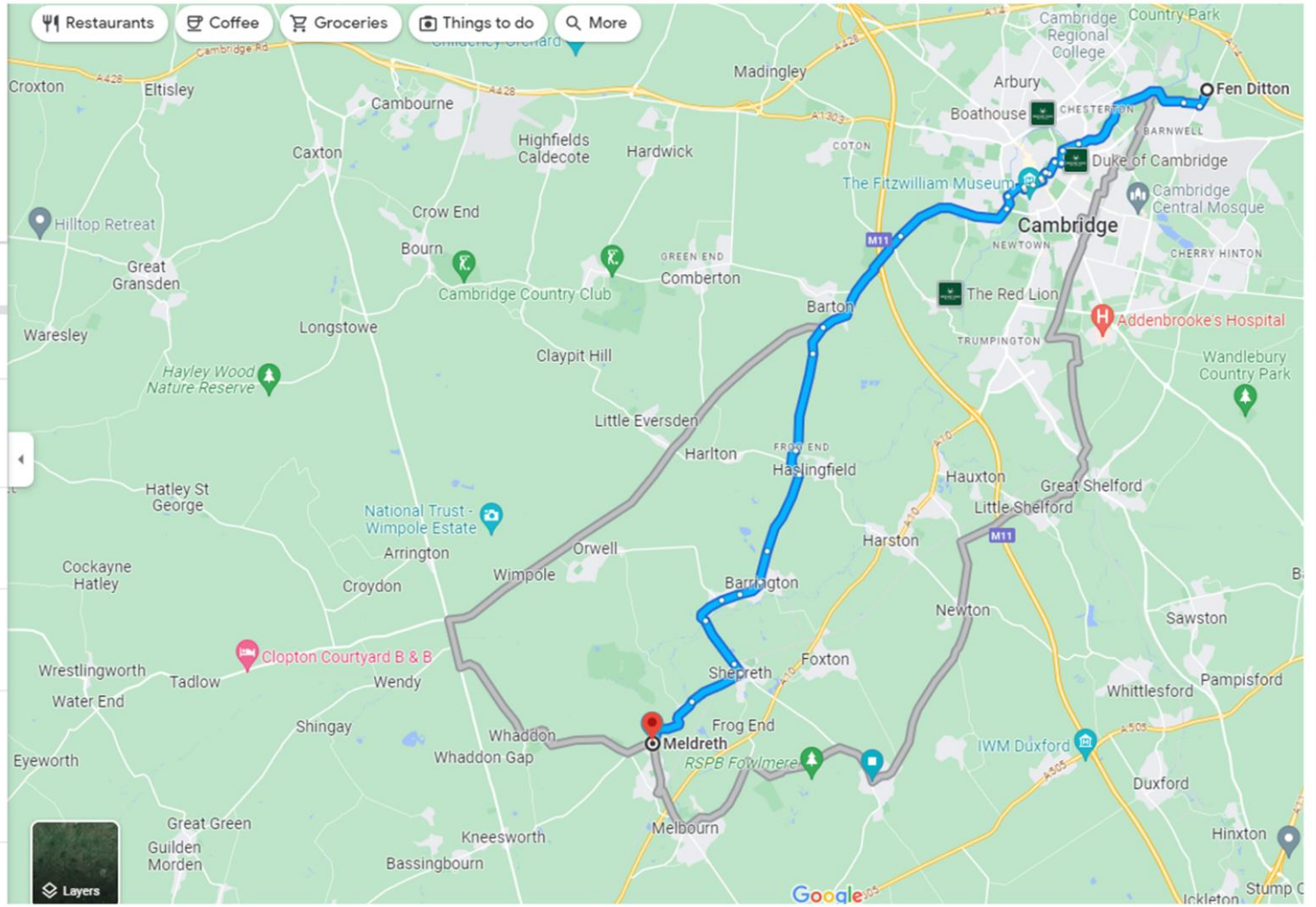
via B1368 1 hr 27 min 17.3 miles

via National Cycle Rte 51 and A603 1 hr 26 min 17.0 miles

↑ 328 ft · ↓ 285 ft



Restaurants Coffee Groceries Things to do More



Google



# John Barleycorn —*Llewellyn Mallion, Fen Ditton 1906*



There were three men came from the west their fortune for to try

Then these three men made a solemn vow John Barleycorn should die

They ploughed, they sowed and harrowed him in, threw clods upon his head

Then these three men made a solemn vow John Barleycorn was dead

They let him lie for a very long time till the rain from heaven did fall

Then little Sir John sprung up his head and so amazed them all

They let him lie till midsummer and he grew so pale and wan

Then little Sir John he grew a long beard and so became a man

**They hired men with scythes so sharp to cut him off at the knee**

**And then they tied him to a cart and used him barbarously**

**They hired men with flails so strong to cut him skin from bone**

**But the miller he used him worse than that for he ground him between two stones**

**Put brandy in a glass me boys and cider into a can**

**Put little Sir John in a nut-brown mug and he'll prove the merrier man**

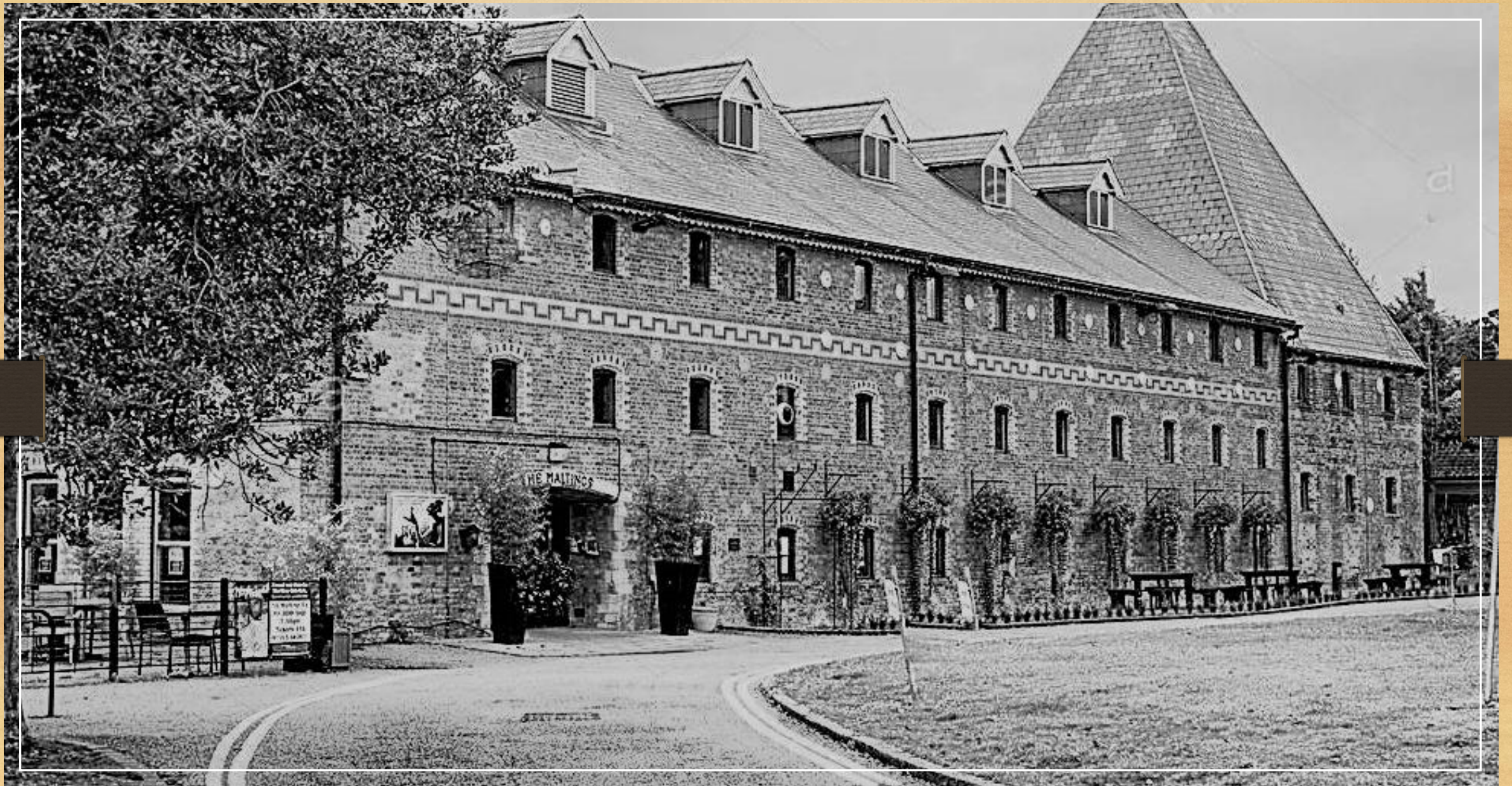
**The ploughboy he can't plough the field, nor the huntsman blow his horn**

**The parson he can't say his prayers without a little John Barleycorn**



# Reaping and Malting







# Other Uses of Barley

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# Fowlmere

## 12 July 1907

- Charles 'Hoppy' Flack
- 44-year-old farm labourer
- Born and lived with his mother in Thriplow
- In 1891 he was a lodger at the Black Horse pub. In 1901 was listed as a visitor in Fowlmere
- He used to walk from village to village handing out 'sprigs of May' which he gave in return for a glass of ale (Enid Porter, 1969)

- Best
- 9 min
- 40 min
- 1 hr 15
- 22 min
- X

Fowlmere, Royston

Meldreth, Royston

Add destination

Options

Send directions to your phone

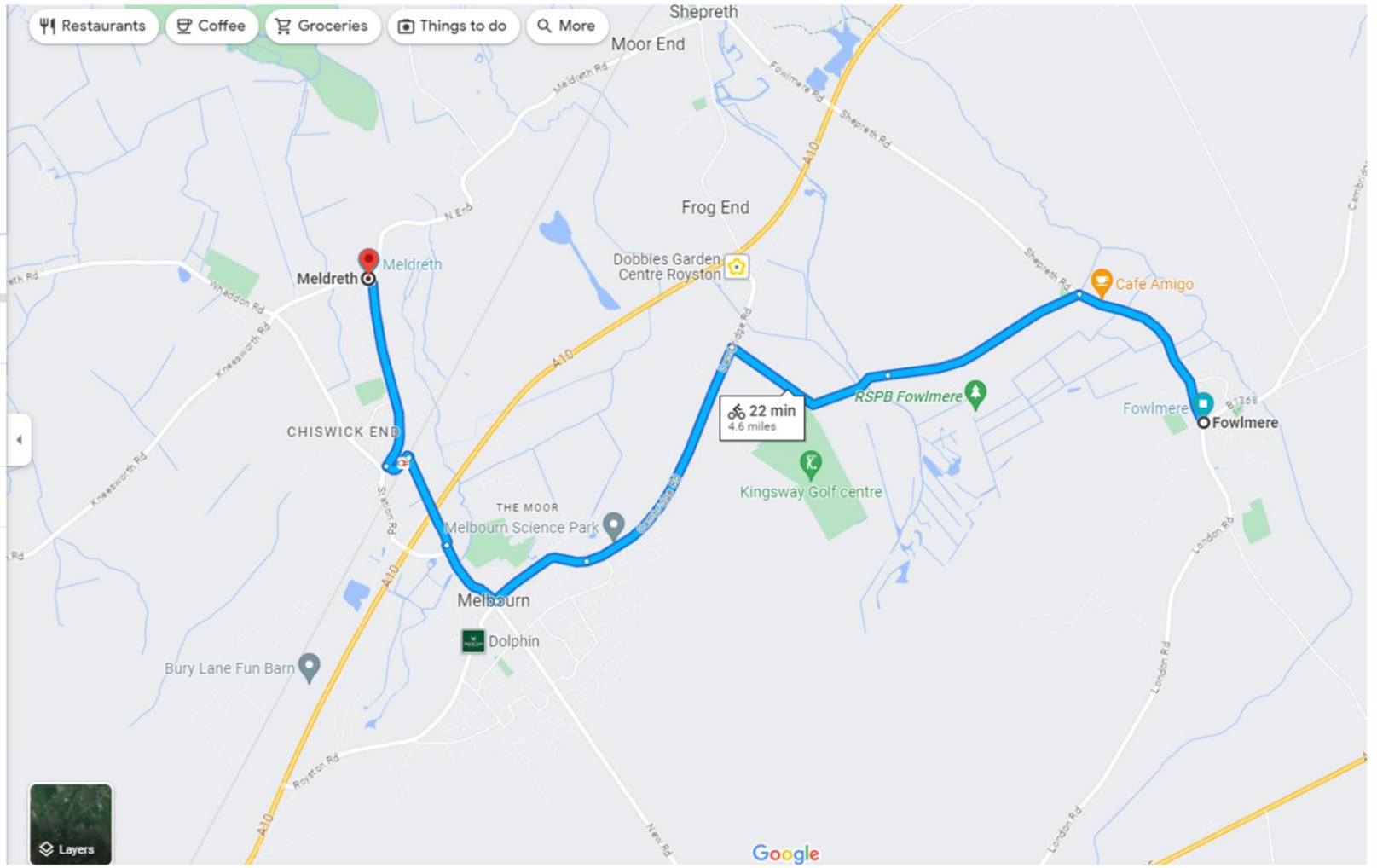
via High St 22 min

4.6 miles

Details

Mostly flat

- Restaurants
- Coffee
- Groceries
- Things to do
- More



Layers

Google

# Cambridge May Song

*Hoppy Flack, Fowlmere, 1907*



I have a bag on my right arm

Tied with a silver string

And all it wants is a little of your gold

To line it well within

And now my song is almost done

No longer can I stay

God bless you all both great and small

And bring you a joyful May



## 'May Song' in *Hugh the Drover* 1924



[Click here for  
YouTube Video](#)



## May Folk Customs in Cambridgeshire

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# Introduction to Broom Dancing

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[Click here for YouTube video](#)

*The trees they do grow high* 419

# The Trees They Do Grow High

Ginger Clayton, *Meldreth 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1907*

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Collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams from Ginger Clayton at Meldreth in Cambridgeshire in 1907.

Unfortunately, not much is known about Ginger Clayton

Sung by Mary Humphreys

[Click here for YouTube video](#)



# The Millfield Country Dance

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Boston Tea Party – Author: Jean Butler

Longways 5 couples

- Top couple gallop down the set, form an arch and go up over the melodeon line
- Arch down over the fiddle side line, and gallop back up to the top
- Top couple duck-and-dive down to the bottom, and form an arch
- Second couple cast out, under the arch and back to the top. All swing

# Useful Links & Videos

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- [Millfield Primary School – RVW project website](#)
- [Mary Humphreys’ research of Cambridgeshire songs](#)
- [Mary Humphreys’ complete list of songs collect by RVW in Cambridgeshire](#)
- [Millfield Primary School – Enid Porter Project – Video](#)
- [Millfield Primary School – Broom Dancing – Video](#)
- [East Anglian Traditional Music Trust – Vaughan Williams Project](#)
- [Vaughan Williams Foundation](#)