



The Ramblers Association
Ouse Valley Group
Ouse Valley Ramblers' Guided Walks

Walk N° 5

Keysoe, Bedfordshire

Area	Keysoe , Bedfordshire.
Walk Leader	Mike Dawson
Start Point	Keysoe Church at 10:00 am
End Point	Keysoe Church at approximately 12:30 pm
Places Visited	Keysoe -> Keysoe
Approximate Distance	4.8 miles
Time To Complete	2 to 3 hours depending upon walking speed (2:1/2 hrs ave)
Difficulty	Easy - Mostly flat countryside or undulating hills.
Car Parking	Keysoe Church, off the A600
Public Transport	Not yet !



Walk Itinary

- [1] Depart Keysoe Church north west towards Valbrook farm where a right turn is made on the road. The footpath then continues north west
- [2] Walk along this path until corner of a wood is encountered where a left turn is made at a footpath cross roads.
- [3] This path is followed until another wood is encountered where at another footpath cross roads a left turn is made. The wood is then to your right as you make your way down to the road in a south easterly direction.
- [4] Carefully cross the road turning left and then right to continue along the footpath. At what appears to be the end of the path at a line of trees walk on towards the next field. Look left to see a bridleway between a line of trees. Walk along here until a T-junction is encountered. Turn left and follow this path back to the road.
- [5] At the road turn left and walk along the road until a footpath is found on the right hand side at the left hand bend in the road. Follow this path back to the road. Cross the road and continue on the same path. When another road is encountered turn left and within a short distance the walk is completed the Keysoe church.

Notes On The Walk

This walk is primarily on established paths and farm tracks so the going should not too muddy. Some stretches can be muddy after prolonged rain but there are no ploughed fields to negotiate. There are no stiles for a change.

The walk is through arable farming land and therefore no livestock will be directly encountered. However occasionally adjacent fields will contain livestock (Inc. sheep, cattle and horses) dogs **MUST** be kept on a lead during these times. Please follow the guidance of the walk leader.

Notes On the Walk Area

Notes on the history of the area are printed overleaf.

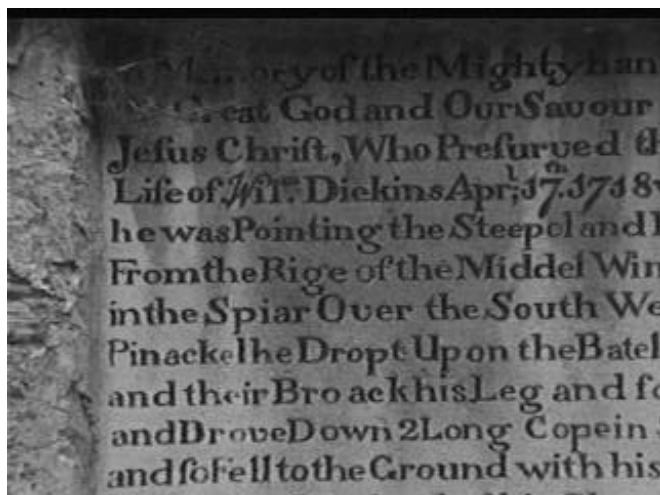


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In the 11th century the name of the village was written as Caisot, Caissot or Chaisot. The pronunciation 'Kayso' can still be heard now and again.



Keysoe church has a 15th century tower with openings, pinnaced buttresses, gargoyles, and a spire with three tiers of dormer windows. It has seen a miracle that no one could dispute, for a tablet on the exterior wall tells us of the miraculous escape of William Dickins, who fell from the tower in 1718 and was heard to exclaim to his brother as he fell, "Lord! Daniel! What is the matter? Lord Jesus Christ help me." The Lord helped him and he lived for 40 years more.

The plaque records

"The Great God and Our Saviour Jesus Christ, who preserved the life of William Dickins, April 17, 1718 when he was pointing the steepol and fell from the rige of the middel window on the spiar over the south-west pinackel he dropt upon the batelment and their broack his leg and foot and drove down 2 long, copein stones so fell to the ground with his neck upon one standard of his chear when the other end took the ground which was the nearest of killing him. Yet when he see he was faring crid out to his brother lord Daniel Wats the matter Lord have mercy Upon me Christ have mercy upon me, Lord Jesus Christ help me. But now almost to the ground Died November 29, 1759, Aged 73 years."

Inside the church is a 13th century coffin lid, an early 14th century gravestone with a Norman inscription, and a font with an old prayer cut in the stone in Norman French 700 years ago begging us who pass by to pray for the soul of him who gave it.



The non-conformist chapel at Brook End was built in 1741.

John Bunyan is said to have preached at Keysoe in the surrounding woods and to have lodged at a local farmhouse. Bunyan was once arrested at Keysoe in what are known as Buryfields, the ideal place for a forbidden meeting.



It was from this village also that a humble John Donne was taken to join John Bunyan in Bedford gaol. Like his famous namesake the poet, John Donne was a preacher, and he and Bunyan had

preached in defiance of the Conventicle Act which forbade more than five people to come together for worship except in church, and one of the proud possessions of the Record Office in London is a list of 25 ministers for whom John Bunyan applied for permission to preach; John Donne is Number One.

In 1808, Joel Miles dissented from this chapel to form Keysoe Row Baptist chapel which still has the original hat pegs and oil lamps and is one of only two thatched chapels in Bedfordshire.

Until 1870 Keysoe was one of the few villages to have a school. This was the National School, named because it was maintained by the National Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a Church of England organization. The building is one of the few of its kind still standing today. When education became compulsory in 1870, Keysoe school was built.

Keysoe Windmill was built in 1800 and was the last working post mill in Bedfordshire. In 1935 it was the only one where flour was still ground and dressed solely by windpower. The mill was blown down in a gale in 1947.