

# **KEYNSHAM**

# WALK - No 5

A CIRCULAR WALK FROM KEYNSHAM ALONG THE RIVER AVON TO WILLSBRIDGE MILL NATURE RESERVE, ALONG THE CYCLE PATH TO BITTON, AND BACK TO KEYNSHAM

# **DISTANCE 8 MILES**

Mainly flat - short stretch of steep slope, and steep narrow steps

12 Kissing Gates
2 Stile
3 Metal Gates

**Start** 

Memorial Park Gates

Bath Hill

right and head down the second path toward the bandstand. In front of the bandstand head left past the council notice board. alongside the river Chew. Continue under the by-pass viaduct, to the footbridge on the right and cross over; turn left and head up the grass bank to the steps by the road, and turn left under the railway bridge

### Beware - narrow footpath

Left again at the mini-roundabout, takes you past The Brassmills pub. pass over the river Chew again and turn right at the main road. Pass over the River Avon and canal link, past The Lockkeeper, stopping to look upstream at the weir. At the end of the bridge parapet, head down the short flight of steps diagonally across the small gravel car-park, turn right and head back toward the entrance to the pub. Before reaching the pub turn right on to the footpath signposted Willsbridge. Head under the road, past Keynsham Lock on your left and proceed along the footpath next to the River Avon thro 3 kissing gates.

### 1. Point of Interest

Over the small stone bridge, in front of you will be an isolated house, and the convergence of several footpaths. Take the second one to the left of the house, and head up over the hill, thro a kissing gate and when at the top, look back to superb views over parts of Keynsham. Continue over the stile and head steeply downhill, and over the metal stile by the main road.

#### Beware - Main road

Cross straight over the road and head left and enter the Willsbridge Mill Nature Park.

#### 2. Points of Interest

Take time to look around this lovely nature reserve with it's coffee shop. Past the pond and in front of the mill buildings, head left up the wide path/road over the stone bridge and turn right on to footpath and continue along the uphill footpath with the metal railings and brook on your right, thro the quarry workings. Turn right at the wide footpath over the bridge and left on the other side. After a few hundred yards, follow the footpath to the right and head up hill thro the bushes with the quarry on your left, up some steps and thro the kissing gate onto the estate road. Head straight across into Cherrywood, and keeping right to the far end on to the footpath signposted to the cycle path. At the far end, turn right down the slope and right again onto the Bristol/Bath cycle track. Continue along the cycle path, including crossing the track to Bitton Station.

# 3. Points of Interest

Thro the car park gates, diagonally right across the car park and on to a continuation of the cycle path. Over the level crossing, and continue some distance til the first bridge, where immediately past the bridge head down some very steep steps on the right

#### **Beware - Steep Narrow Steps**

Turn right under bridge and right again at first kissing gate, then head left by the field with the hedge on your left. In the left hand corner head over the ancient stone stile, and right on to metalled track to the main road.

#### **Beware - Main Road**

Turn right and head to the White Hart pub, with it's large rear garden, by Church Rd.
Optional stop, but your will receive a warm welcome. Head down Church Road.

# 4. Point of Interest

Someway past the church turn right onto a track, and on past the wooden gate til you get to a metal kissing gate in front of you. Head diagonally across the field toward the bridge over the river. Go under the bridge, which is the Bristol/Bath cycle way, and keep to the path between the picnic area and River Avon, and follow the footpath over the wooden bridge over the River Boyd, which was featured on television, and alongside the river for some considerable distance, and on to a tarmac track

# **5. Point of Interest**

Just after the cattle grid, bear left down a partially hidden footpath next to the river.

Beware - footpath slippery and liable to subsidence

Pass thro the kissing gate, over the metal bridge at the entrance to the marina, and turn right at the metal gate onto the roadway, keeping to the pavement. Turn left at the main road and left again after the bridges crossing the canal and reiver by the Lockkeeper pub, into Avonmill Lane, which you cross. Head right under the narrow railway bridge

## **Beware - Narrow pavement**

After a short distance, head down the steps on the right into the park, and diagonally left to the park path, alongside the River Chew and continue til the childrens' play area. Turn right over the bridge, into the bandstand area, and head up the path back to the start point

Contact:- wrwkeynsham@outlook.com

Website:- Keynsham Walkers are Welcome

### **Points of Interest**

- 1. Just before the small stone bridge is the site of Londonderry Wharf, where the barges used to collect coal from the Bristol mines, brought there along the dramways that are found in the area
- 2. Willsbridge Mill Nature Reserve, in the site of an old quarry is the habitat of much flora and fauna. Apart from the outside interests, are a craft centre and coffee shop
- 3. Bitton Railway Station is a mecca for the steam railway enthusiast, and home of the Avon Valley Railway. Those with no such interest can rest a while at the excellent Station Buffet
- 4. Bitton Church is steeped in history and well worth a visit
- 5. The area between the isolated square white house and the river is the site of the former Avonside coal wharf. See point of interest 1. above