

START

The walk starts and finishes at the Community Library on High Street, Kegworth.

Turn right and walk down High Street until you reach Plummer Lane on your left. Take this path which runs alongside the Kegworth Methodist Church. As you walk along, look over the low wall on the right and you will see numerous foundation stones that were purchased by people when the Church was built in 1899. When you reach the end of the lane, exit onto Derby Road and turn right.

As you walk along Derby Road towards the village centre, on your left hand side, look out for a large building at number 42, Derby Road which was the Kegworth United Methodist Free Church Chapel which was built in 1864. If you look at the front wall of the building, below the ground floor main window you will see some dated memorial stones with different dates from its rebuilding. Also, if you look up to the top of the first floor window, a stone set into the top of the window states that it was extended in 1883.

No 30 was the site of the old cinema which would have been 'protected' if the planning laws were as they are today

1 White painted milestone



Continue along Derby Road until you reach Borough Street, on your left. Look to your right and you will see a white painted milestone, which has listed building status. It states that you are 115 miles from London, 6 miles from Loughborough and 11 miles from Derby. Sadly, at the bottom of the post it should read 'Parish Kegworth' but some of the wording is now covered up by the modern pavement level.

No 10 was the old bookmakers and Mr Worth who owned it was murdered!

On your left you will see an estate agents Newton Fallowell- Look above the doorway and you will see the N&NBC Ltd and has always been a home of a bank until a few years ago.

2 Turnpike: Carry on along Derby Road until you reach The Dragwell. This point was the point of the original Turnpike that was demolished in mid 1800's to make way for the new road. Turn left and walk down it towards Nottingham Road. As you walk along, look at the different styles of old buildings on either side and No 3 was a stocking shop.

3 The Old Church of England School

As you go down on the right is an old school, The Old Church of England School built in 1841 comprising of the Top School for boys and the Bottom School for Girls and Infants. Between the two schools at the end of the wall with railings on top of it there is a recess which has the remains of what appears to be a water pump adjacent to which was a water trough for horses. It is thought that there was once a well here giving the rise to the streets name There is a cottage on your left which has a name plate that states it is the 'Old Co-op'. Carrying on, on the left hand side of the road, next to the Orchard Doctors surgery is a very old building that is empty. It was originally one cottage with storage.



4 The Long Eaton Co-op

Next to the old building is a more modern looking building that was the Long Eaton Co-op that housed a butchery, drapers and grocery departments. If you look up towards the top of the first floor window, you will see a stone tablet set into the brickwork that states the building dates back to 1903 and the Co-op was located there until 1972. It subsequently became the Community Centre until it was redeveloped in 2015

Take this path that passes between some houses and continue along it until it exits onto The Market Place. A statutory market is held here every Easter Monday granted many years ago by the King.

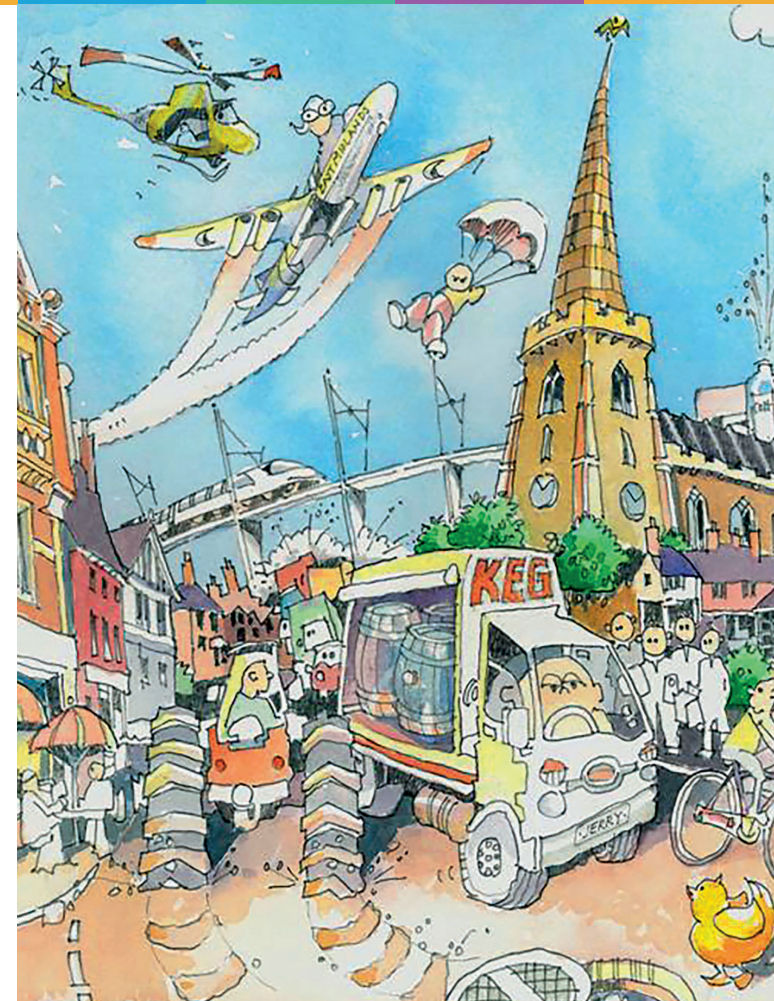
On your left was the home of Cranes Brewery and next to that purpose built shop dating back to 1860 with an imposing lion on the apex of the roof. Walk towards the Church until you reach Derby Road then bear left into High Street.

On the corner is Oaklands which was the Flying Horse Inn. It was a coaching inn where horses would go to be changed.

Continue along High Street and on your right you will see a thatched building that is the only 'cruck framed' building in Kegworth and was in its day a butchers shop with slaughter houses around the back.

12 Kegworth Baptist Church: As you walk up the street, on the right you will come to the Kegworth Baptist Church on your right. If you enter the Churchyard and approach the building, on your right you will see a Commonwealth War Grave to Private 28829 Samuel Hutchinson NORTH of the 13th Sherwood Foresters who was only 18 years of age when he died on 30th September 1915. He died from his injuries in Lichfield. He lived at 80, Mount Pleasant, Kegworth. Sadly, because he had been enlisted less than six months, no war gratuity was paid to his family. He is also remembered on a memorial tablet inside the Church.

Continue along High Street until you get back to the starting point.



THE KEGWORTH VILLAGE CENTRE WALK

Credits & Acknowledgements:

Eddie Smallwood- author
Jerry Tseng- village cartoon
Ingrid Kilens-Daniel- village map
Kegworth Heritage Centre
Julie Cooke
Residents of Kegworth for anecdotal information, images and local facts
Kegworth Co-op Community Fund



Leicestershire Promotions 2018 ★
Tourism and Hospitality Awards

5 The Old Rectory

When you reach Nottingham Road, turn right and walk towards the village centre. As you do so, look on your left and you will see a building called 'The Old Rectory'. Look up to the eaves of the building and you will see they are very grand and overhang far more than normal ones, almost looking more in place in the Swiss alps.

Continue until you reach a gate on your right next to a white cottage that has the date 1575 painted onto the front wall. The cottage is called Harrison House and is the oldest house in Kegworth and was the original Church School that was granted a charter by Elizabeth 1. Opposite this is The Manor House. Take the path heading across the grassed Churchyard towards the front of St Andrew's Church. (wheelchair access is on the other side of the Church adjacent to the Chemist) The Church dates back to 1210 with the majority of the building c14th C.

6 Commonwealth War Graves

Contained within the Churchyard are two Commonwealth War Graves. One is for Private 8311 G. STEVENSON of the 1st Lincolnshire Regiment who died on 23rd August 1916 aged 35. He was the husband of a Sarah Ann Stevenson and lived in Whatton Road, Kegworth.

The other is to a Corporal 5879 J BOWLER who died on 12th May 1915 at the age of 38. He was the son of James and Jayne Mary North of Mount Pleasant*, Kegworth. He was married to an Ellen Doughty. Villagers of Kegworth raised money to pay for two memorial plaques that were installed either side of the entrance to the Church grounds at the junction of Derby Road and Market Place. However, these were not the first memorials to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in war. The local people raised money by public subscription to pay for a wooden tablet made of oak and inscribed with the names of 29 local servicemen who had died and the names of 307 men who were serving. It was unveiled on 10th June 1917, over a year before the war ended.

In November 1919, the commemorative tablet, which had been amended to include the 58 men who had died was moved from the gateway and moved into the Porch of the Church building.

Exit the Churchyard by way of the steps under the lantern Continue walking left along Market Place until you reach Nottingham Road again. Turn right then left into London Road and walk away from the village centre. You will see on your left Claremont House which was once occupied by Customs and Excise connected to Cranes brewery that was located at the top of the Market Place.

7 'The Great House'

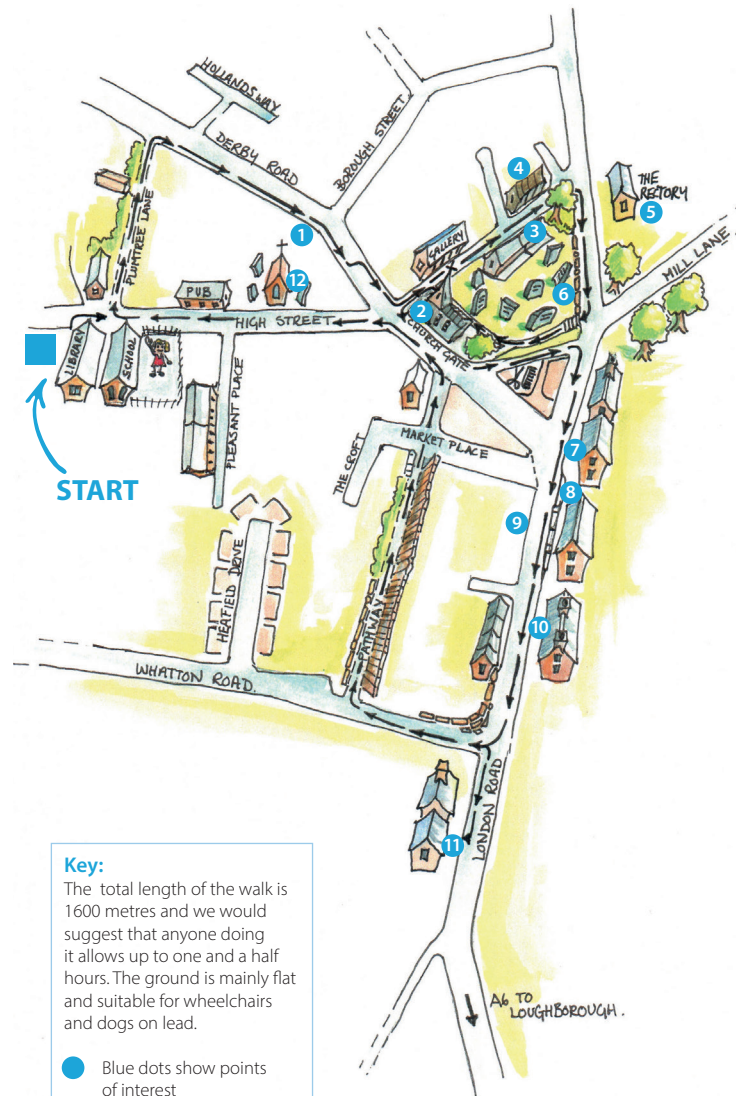
Within a short distance you will reach 'The Great House' on your left. This imposing building, with its set of curved steps and the Roman numerals 'MDCXCVII' and initials 'S, R and M' carved into a stone mounted above the main door is unoccupied. The house was built for Richard and Isabella Stratton whose initials are above the door.

On the other side of the road, the older house on the corner was an old cobblers and look to the end wall of the house at the end of a hedge and you will see the faded remains of an advert for Petrol.

8 'The Hermitage' Continue along London road and within a short distance you will come to two wooden gates set into a long brick and stone wall. The gates open onto a drive which leads to a property called 'The Hermitage'.

'The Hermitage' has a long and interesting history. AS well as being a settlement in Roman times, it also has been a religious retreat and was owned by the Parr family (of Catherine Parr fame) when it was used as a hunting box. Although there is no evidence she lived there, she may have visited it so it does have a Royal connection. There was a rumour, lately confirmed, of a hidden tunnel from the Church to the Hermitage to allow escape in the time of an invasion via the river. At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries of Henry Eighth, the Parish silver is said to have been buried in the tunnel.

THE KEGWORTH VILLAGE CENTRE WALK



Key:

The total length of the walk is 1600 metres and we would suggest that anyone doing it allows up to one and a half hours. The ground is mainly flat and suitable for wheelchairs and dogs on lead.

● Blue dots show points of interest

➔ Directional arrows

9 The Tree Tuns: Look over the road to see The Tree Tuns, one a 17 public houses that was located in Kegworth.

Back on the same side as 'The Great House' & The Hermitage is a house called 'The Cedars'. This late 18th Century house has an interesting story to tell. An Irish Poet, Thomas Moore, born in 1779 purchased the house in the summer of 1812. However, in the March of that year, before moving in, he requested that the fires be lit, the water ladled out of the cellars and that 'The Gentleman Upstairs' must be ejected'. The 'Gentleman' referred to appears to relate to the ghost of a butler who had been murdered in the house. Moore only stayed at the house until the following May.

Thomas Moore became good friends with Lord Byron who in 1816 left England. When Lord Byron died in 1824 his body was brought back to England. In 1822 Byron had named Thomas Moore as his literary executor and handed him the manuscript of his memoirs to be published at a later date.

However, the executors of Byron's will, who had been handed the memoirs by Thomas Moore decided that the contents were so scandalous that they may ruin the late Byron's reputation, so, despite opposition from Moore, the executors met at the bookshop owned by John Murray at 50, Albemarle Street, London and going to the fireplace in the upstairs drawing room, they cut up and pulled the volumes apart and burnt them, depriving the world of more of Lord Byron, despite the best efforts of Kegworth resident Thomas Moore.

Another resident of Kegworth who became renowned also lived in London Road. His name was George Frederick Hudson who was born in 1875. One of six children of George and Rachael. He must have been a natural artist as by 1898 he had his first published drawing appear as the heading for the Railway Telegraphist. He then went on to do other cartoons.

He went on to marry Emily Eccles and moved to Derbyshire. When he retired, he moved to Kegworth, living in Ashby Road. He continued to have his works produced and supported the village history groups and carnival.

10 'The Old Dairy': Carry on walking crossing over the road until you reach a large three storey building on the left next to 'The Old Dairy'. This building was at one time a Friends Meeting House' so had links to the Quaker movement. The entrance to the Meeting Yard was within the grounds of the 'Dairy House' where early Baptists held their services until the building of the new Chapel on the High Street in 1865 (which saw at the beginning of the walk).

Opposite the Old Dairy, behind the houses was a large stockingmakers shop of which there were once many in the village. At one time at least 30% of the village male population were framework knitters. It is now a long bow makers factory.

11 William Bryan: Also on London Road was the first factory works of a company started by a man called William Bryan. William Bryan invented his first Amusement machine in 1927 and it was called 'The Clock'. It was patented in 1930 and proved very popular. He went on to develop more machines over the next few decades, but eventually, with more and more new machines using electronic instead of mechanical workings, Bryans moved to smaller premises in Packington Hill. The company stopped operating in November 2000, following fires where a lot of items were destroyed. By April of 2001 all the remaining items were moved to a museum at Drayton Manor Park theme park. The two business locations have now been built on.

Now walk back towards the village and turn immediately left into Whatton Road. At the end of a stone wall on your right, turn right and head towards a footpath that goes through an alleyway. This 'jitty' was built for the servants of the then Lord Lanesborough's home (located next to Friends Meeting House) for a quicker route to the village centre.