

# ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS

King William IV Walk (Kempston) BWF App No PT197

START & FINISH: King William IV Pub, 56 High Street, Kempston,  
Bedford MK42 7AL

OS map 153 Grid Ref TL025473 Distance 13km

Fee £1.00 Patch £2.00

Route last updated on 10 February 2016

This route description is valid from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

This walk has been established by members of the Ise Valley Vagabonds Walking Club (BWF Club No 70) and is a qualifying event in the IVV award scheme. It can be walked at any time.

**NOTE – After heavy or prolonged rain, the section marked between \* and \*\* is prone to flooding. The section at the end of the bridge is much deeper than it will appear. There is no alternative way of crossing the river.**

Exit pub car park and turn right along King William Road. At the bend in the road turn left, still King William Road but becomes Riverview Way after 15 metres. Follow this as it bears round to the right. At second road, turn left, signed Public Footpath to Biddenham. At the entrance to Kempston Mill/Mill Lane, turn right and follow to the river, the Great Ouse, \* and ahead over bridge. Pass through right hand kissing gate and turn left to wooden bridge, Kempston Mill Bridge. Cross the bridge \*\* and ahead on right hand gravel path with field on left for 1200 metres. A hard surface path joins from your left, by a children`s playground. Ahead on path for 30 metres to a yellow topped post. Bear left along tarmac track with hedge on your left. DO NOT FOLLOW THE RIVER! Ahead between housing developments, crossing estate road and ahead to yellow topped post. Ahead to first golf hole on your left. Continue directly ahead across golf course, passing under the power lines. Ahead between wooden post lines, then a fence on your left. Gravel tracks join from the left, but continue ahead to a steel gate. Go through the gate onto a small tarmac road. Go straight ahead for 50 metres to the T junction. There is a notice board on your right.

## QUESTION 1. WHEN WAS THE BIDDENHAM HERITAGE TRAIL CREATED?

Turn left along the road. You are now in the older part of Biddenham village. Ahead for 400 metres until you get to the Church. *(This is an old Norman church and is open to the public every day. The first rector of the church was recorded in 1231).* Just past the church, turn right on tarmac path and go past the church and churchyard. Ahead onto grass path with hedges on both sides, then on left only. Keep ahead to a main road. Pass through gap in fence, cross road (A428) **with care** and pass through kissing gate on the far side. Ahead along field with hedge on your left, to wooden gate. Pass through the gate, cross road and turn left along pavement on the right hand side of the road. Ahead to cross the old river bridge into Bromham, using the niches above the buttresses to avoid the traffic. *(Points of interest: The length of the bridge as it spans the flood plain as well as the river itself, and the old mill with its integrated mill-wheel and mill race).* After the bridge, keep straight ahead along the main road, passing the village green on the left.

## **QUESTION 2. ON THE VILLAGE SIGN, WHAT TYPE OF ROAD CROSSING IS SHOWN?**

*(The pub is open from 12 noon daily).* Continue along the main road (Stagsden Road) ignoring the roads on the left to Kempston, and on the right to Oakley. Walk along the main road, passing a petrol station on the right. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and continue in the same direction, ignoring all roads to the left and right until, opposite Budgens supermarket. Turn left into Thistley Lane, signed Private Road and Bridleway. At the fork in the track, bear right following the Clay Way marker. Continue ahead to pass through a gateway to the main road (A428). Cross **with care** as there can be very heavy traffic here. Across the road take pathway rising to the right to pass through a wooden swing gate and finger post marked Public Bridleway and CR (close gate behind you). Go ahead between wire fences for approximately 150 metres, to a notice board on your left.

## **QUESTION 3. WHEN WAS THE ROMAN FARM DISCOVERED?**

Continue ahead for 400 metres towards the wood. At the edge of the wood is a way-marker marked Clay Way. Ahead with wood on your right. *(In the season this is carpeted with Bluebells).* At the next way-marker, go ahead with the wood on the right and the hedge on the left along a woodland path.

On exiting the wood, turn left. You have another golf course on the right, and the wood on the left. Please keep between the white markers and the wood, as this indicates the width of the bridleway. At the end of the golf course, go through the gate. Keep ahead on the bridleway with hedge on left and field on right. At the road, turn left downhill for 800 metres, enjoying the views all round. *(Bedford to your left. Slightly left, near the horizon, are 2 large dull green structures. These are the airship hangers at Cardington. They used to house the ill-fated airship R101, that crashed on its voyage to France. The crew are buried in Cardington cemetery and there is a memorial to them in Cardington Church).*

At the T-junction, turn left. In 20 metres turn right on the Public Footpath (finger post) across the field bearing slightly right to follow the footpath to a telegraph pole by the hedge and then along field edge with the hedge on the right. At far right hand corner of the field, bear right to cross over a wooden bridge and stile (watch out for the brambles). Ahead between a hedge and tall wire fence, through overgrown strip to the road. Turn left and go along the road for approximately 150 metres. As the road bears right, ignoring the bridleway to the left, walk straight ahead to cross the ditch and go half left up the field to a lone tree. At the tree, bear half left, passing a pond/pit to pass through a metal kissing gate. Cross a grassy track and go through a wooden kissing gate opposite. Walk straight ahead across the meadow to the corner and wooden fence. Walk ahead with the fence and hedge on the right and continue ahead, passing a small pond on the left. Keep ahead to pass through a wooden kissing gate onto the road. **Beware of the traffic.** Turn left along the road through the hamlet of Green End. At the main road, cross straight over.

## **QUESTION 4. ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE, BY THE JUNCTION, IS A SMALL ROUND GREEN SIGN. WHERE IS THIS COMMUNITY RECORDED?**

Go ahead along Church End. In front of the church follow the road to the right, *(noting the 16<sup>th</sup> century half-timbered house on the left, which is reputed to have been used in the lace-making cottage industry 250-300 years ago).* Continue ahead

to pass Tiddlywinks Day Nursery on your right. *(As a note of interest, all the 'End' hamlets are part of the parish of Kempston Rural)*. Pass through the kissing gate onto a tree-lined path. Continue ahead to pass under road bridge.

#### **QUESTION 5. WHO DESIGNED THE BRIDGE?**

Continue ahead and in 650 metres pass through the kissing gate into a narrow street. Ahead to the end and then turn right and ahead again with ditch on your left, to the main road at High Street. Turn left along High Street to return to the King William and the end of your walk. *(The King William IV is open daily from 11.00 am and serves a good variety of drinks and good country food)*.

We hope you have enjoyed the walk!

The Ise Valley Vagabonds have established other Permanent Trails at Bedford (2), Daventry, Kettering, Kings Lynn, London (2), Marston Moretaine (2), Oxford, Rugby, Rushden, Stamford, Stratford upon Avon, Warwick, Wellingborough and Woodstock. They are all qualifying events towards the IVV award scheme. Further information about these walks, the IVV, the club and all its activities can be found by visiting our Web Site [www.vagabonds.org.uk](http://www.vagabonds.org.uk)

THE ORGANISERS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ACCIDENTS, THEFT, AND/OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE ORGANISERS TO MAKE THIS A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EVENT.

**ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS  
PERMANENT TRAIL REGISTRATION FORM**

|   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| TRAIL   | King William IV Walk, Kempston (2016/2) |          |
| ROUTE UPDATED   | 10 February 2016                        |          |
| DATE WALKED   |   |          |
| NAME  |   |          |
| ADDRESS   |   |          |
|   |   |          |
|   |   |          |
|   |   |          |
|   |   |          |
| ADDITIONAL WALKERS  |   |          |
|   |   |          |
|   |   |          |
|   |   |          |
| ENTRY FEE   | ___ Walkers @ £1.00 (€2,00) each        | Total £  |
| AWARDS REQUIRED   | ___ Patches @ £2.00 (€4,00) each        | Total £  |
| <b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED</b>  |   | <b>£</b> |
| Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of Insert cards Yes/No  |   |          |
| <b>ANSWERS</b>  |   |          |
| 1   |   |          |
| 2   |   |          |
| 3   |   |          |
| 4   |   |          |
| 5   |   |          |
| Comments  |   |          |
| <p>If you have a problem with this trail, please try and resolve it with the organiser.<br/>         If you are unable to resolve the problem, then please contact the BWF Trail Officer.</p>   |   |          |
| <p>Please enclose a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (at least C6 (114 x 162mm)<br/>         or DL (110 x 220mm)) with this form and send it to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carol Jones<br/>         138 Rushden Road<br/>         Wymington<br/>         Rushden<br/>         Northants<br/>         NN10 9LE</p> |   |          |