

Ponds Farm is referred to as far back as 1328 when it was owned by John Atte Pond. However the original farmhouse was burned down in 1970 and rebuilt as a private house where Monty Ray the 1930/40's singer lived for some years before retiring to the Isle of Arran.

From Lower Green continue northwest up Ponds Road and then along The Street towards the Keene Hall.

This takes you through the oldest part of the village. At the bottom of The Street where it joins Ponds Road you will see an old white cottage which was once part of Lower Mill House. The windmill was set back on the east side of The Street. At No. 27 The Street the Georgian house was built using bricks from the old brick works on The Common.

Return to your starting point at the Keene Hall.



View of St. Michael & All Angels Church and Upper Mill from The Common, c.1920.

John Keene (a wealthy director of Pearl Insurance Company) of Carlton House, Beehive Lane and his wife associated themselves with church and parish life. After her husband's death, Mrs Keene gave generous financial help to many projects which she considered worthwhile and the family name is perpetuated in the Keene Hall, which she had built in 1937.

Acknowledgements: Historical details from Christine Whybro's "19th Century Galleywood" and Muriel Sanders "Glimpses of Galleywood". Photographs by permission of John Chaplin (Upper Mill & Lower Mill) and Malcolm Stuart (Marvens Pond). Walk devised by Malcolm Stuart. Layout by Matthew Johnson. © Galleywood Parish Council, September 2004. E&OE.

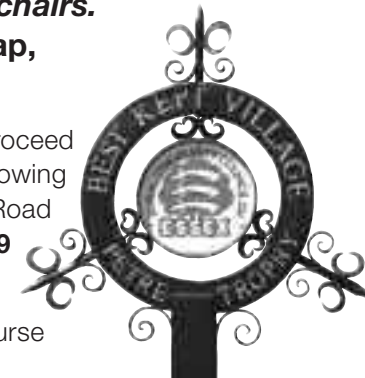
Windmills & Ponds Walk

3.1 km – 1 hour, easy. Not suitable for wheelchairs.

Mapping: Galleywood Parish Footpaths Map, OS Explorer™ 183, OS Landranger™ 167.

Starting from the Keene Hall car park turn right and proceed north round the covered reservoir boundary fence following the unofficial footpath for 100m to the junction of Stock Road and Beehive Lane. Cross Stock Road to the start of **FP49** on the Chelmsford side of Helix Garage.

FP49 takes you across the old Chelmsford Racecourse and through St. Michael and All Angels churchyard.



The church, whose soaring spire is a local landmark, is built on the highest point of Galleywood Common. In 1872, Arthur Pryor of Hylands House, Writtle, laid the memorial stone of the church which was completed in 1873 in Gothic revival style. The ecclesiastical parish of St. Michael and All Angels was established in 1874 from parts of the parishes of St. John Moulsham, Great Baddow, West Hanningfield and Orsett (detached) – the eastern and northern boundary being marked by series of ten large inscribed stones.

From St. Michael's **FP49** continues southwest across The Common to cross the Margaretting Road by the old mill pond. The 27th milepost on the old Roman road from London to Maldon is just London side of this crossing.

Mill House on the south side of Margaretting Road is the site of Upper Mill, a windmill still in regular use in the 1920's after a life of some 150 years. Sadly, the mill was demolished in 1926!

On April 24th 1806 a duel with pistols was fought close by Upper Mill between Lt. Torrens and Surgeon Fisher of the 6th Regiment of Foot. Resulting in the death of Lt. Torrens the following day!



From Margaretting Road continue on **FP49** south across The Common to the approach road to Justa Cottage, Badgers, Halden and Three Chimneys.

WALK
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Join **FP47** crossing west across The Common by the old Chelmsford racecourse grandstand and stables now used by Chelmsford Borough Council and Stables day care nursery.

Just before meeting this approach road you will walk round some earthworks now used by mountain bike riders. These are the remains of a Napoleonic fort and one of its batteries. The fortified earthworks defended the main Maldon to London road against the threat of invasion by Napoleon during the early 19th century.

Cross **bridleway 79** and continue west down The Common to the south of London Hill until you meet **bridleway 80**. Good views from here looking southwest over Wood Farm fields to Crondon Hall. Return up **bridleway 80** to **bridleway 79** and turn south, passing Farthings and Rous Cottage.



Wintertime at Marvens Pond, 2004.

Rous Cottage unfortunately no longer serves as a sweet shop for users of The Common. An untimely death occurred here when the wife of Samuel Crozier of The Admiral Rous Inn was murdered by being pushed downstairs and was buried in the churchyard. Subsequent rumours led to the disinterment of her body and the arrest of her husband who was tried, convicted of her murder and finally executed at Chelmsford prison on 5th December 1899.

From Rous Cottage cross the old racecourse due east (at what was the killing uphill finish) to the ponds formed by clay pits from Marvens brickworks, which is first recorded in 1830 and was last used in 1940.

From Marvens Pond proceed south down The Common, cross the Wood Farm approach road and the car park and cross Stock Road opposite Glebe Farm. Follow **FP50**, which starts along Glebe Farm approach road to the pond where **FP50** enters the field and continues northeast to Lower Green at Ponds Farm.



View of Lower Mill from Brick House, The Street, c.1890.

