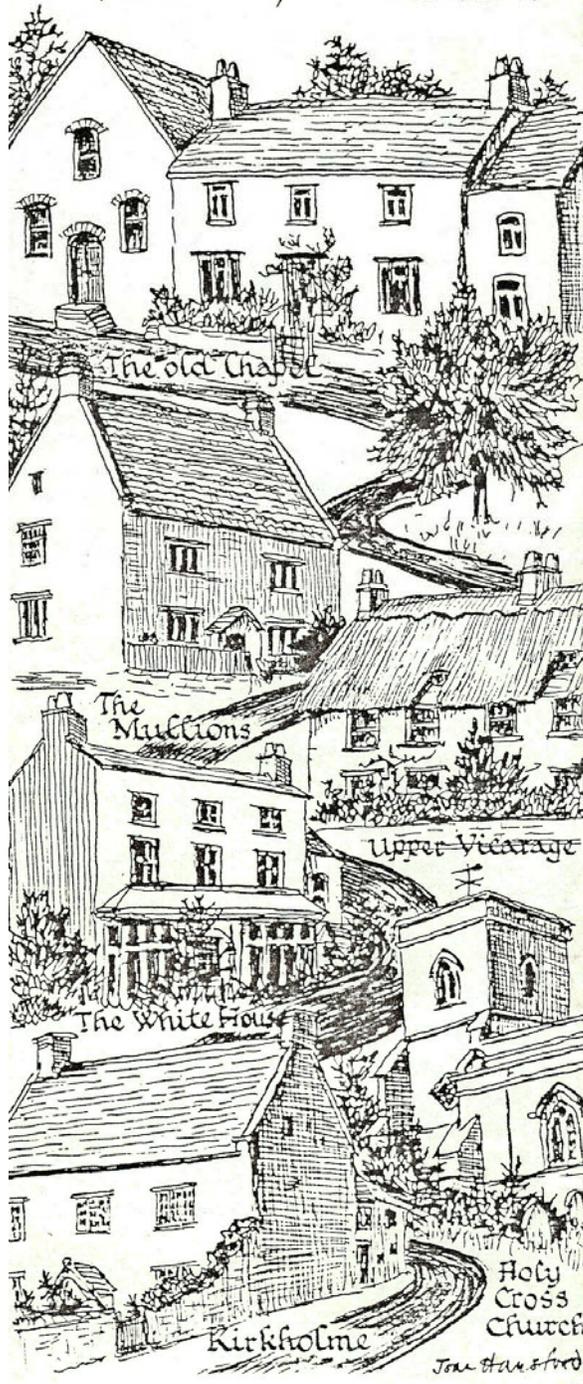


# A PATTISHALL VILLAGE TRAIL.



## A Pattishall Village Trail

Pattishall is a village, which is set between the Roman Watling Street (A5) and Banbury Lane, an ancient drove way. It is approximately 6 km to the north of Towcester.

The surrounding villages are Bugbrooke to the north, Gayton and Tiffield to the east, Litchborough and Grimscote to the west and Greens Norton to the south.

The Parish of Pattishall consists of the villages of Ascote, Cornhill, Dalscote, Eastcote, Fosters Booth and Pattishall. The population has grown from 551 in 1801 to approximately 1600 in 2006.

Pattishall dates at least from Saxon times. The church and the Manor House are on high ground adjacent to a loop road called **The Crescent** where the oldest houses are to be found.

## **1 The Lower Vicarage**

Until 1878 Pattishall had two vicarages. The lower vicarage stood where 'The Beeches' is now.

It was established when Simon de Wahull, son of Walter Flanderensis gave half of the living of the church to Godstow Abbey near Oxford. The last Vicar of the Godstow vicarage was Reverend Henry Welsh. ~ It is said that local children used to pick walnuts from the trees on this site but the tell-tale stains showed up when their hands were inspected in school.~

## **2 The Manor House**

The Manor House is situated in a commanding, high, easily defensible position on a lime stone plateau and was probably one of the first settlement sites in the village. Its history is linked with the Markes family – they bought both Manors – in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and with the family of George Osborn from 1838 -1899.

Today the Manor House is a working farm owned by the Burt family. The building shows evidence of different styles and two or more buildings have been joined together. There is a large Georgian farm yard enclosed by brick built barns and stalls and 'hovels' on three sides. This 'improved layout' is associated with the new framing principles bought in by 13<sup>th</sup> century enclosures.

## **3 Holy Cross Church**

Holy Cross Church has grown and changed and changed over the years. There are different building styles. There is some Saxon or early Norman long and short stonework by the west tower. As you enter the church by the south door there is a sun dial and there are mason's marks inside the porch.

Inside there is a Norman chancel arch – note the decoration. There are signs of the old rood screen, a leper squint, a medieval stone mason's head and a plaque for Thomas Young who founded the school. The tower houses six bells. Years ago a bell was rung at noon each day to call the villages in the fields to dinner.

The 'pancake bell' was rung at 11am on Shrove Tuesday to warn housekeepers to prepare the pancakes. Among the gravestones in the churchyard you may see one in memory of the four children of Henry and Sarah Dunckley. One child died in 1840 and three others in June 1848 perhaps as the result of a 'local epidemic'. In 1918 German Prisoners of War in the Eastcote camp contracted Spanish influenza. Seventeen prisoners died. The Vicar at the time was not willing to preside over the service and so it was taken by a Catholic priest. Later their bodies were returned to Germany in 1921.

## **4 12 -14 Church Street**

The gap between the cottages was where one of the village buses was kept. Reeve's buses operated from here. Websters and Kirtons were also carriers at the same time.

In the days of horse-drawn vehicles a trip to town started at about 9:30am and finished at between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening.

## **5 The Old School and School House**

The Old School stood in the north west corner of the church yard. The school was founded in 1684 by Thomas Young with free places for 15 boys. In 1818 -1819 the school was nearly rebuilt and the house repaired. In 1855 a new school for 126 older boys and girls was built at the cost of £155. The old building became the Infants school. In 1896 the present school was built for infants at the Eastcote turn. The old school was demolished in the 1950s ~ all primary age children came to the present school and older children were educated in Towcester.

## **6 The Studio**

The Studio was once a public house called The Malt Shovel. It has stables and a coach house and there was a pump and a spring in the garden.

## **7 The Upper Vicarage**

The Upper Vicarage was established when the grandson of Walter Flanderensis gave the second half of the church to Dunstable Priory. It is now a private dwelling and the only thatched house in the village. ~ The terms 'upper' and 'lower' may refer to 'High' and 'Low' church ~

## **8 Two Cottages**

Two Cottages once stood here near to the frost pond where village children enjoyed the newts and grass snakes in summer and skating in the winter.

## **9 The Baptist Chapel**

The Baptist Chapel seating 150 was established in 1838 as a result of the work of Reverend Thomas Chamberlain who came from Milton as a home missionary agent. It was closed in 1945 and the congregation joined worshippers at Eastcote.

## **10 The Mullions**

The Mullions was originally a thatched farmhouse and is a fine example of a stone house with mullioned windows. There is a date stone:

1668  
JC  
1973

## **11&12 The Old Post Office**

The Old Post Office was once just a village shop with a row of cottages attached. Nearby was the Bakery - signs of which can be seen on the walls of the adjacent building. Years ago fish (Bloaters) were bought occasionally by donkey and cart from Towcester.

Coal was bought on Mondays – 11d per hundredweight in 1896. Paraffin was 10d a gallon in 1901. Travelling Tinkers, glaziers, crockery and hardware sellers visited the village and the Rag and Bone man gave windmills to the children.

### **13 Site of village Blacksmith**

It is said that King George V and the German Kaiser waited at Pattishall whilst the King's horse was shod by Haynes Burrows the Blacksmith. This was during the great manoeuvres of 1912

### **14 Mews Close**

Mews Close was a farm house with a close of land. The roof is sharply pitched showing that it was once thatched. Can you find the blocked doorway at the front of the house?

### **14a The White House**

The White House was once called The Laurels. It is an early Regency House with a portico by the front door. It is a three storey building, which has its own stabling at the corner by The Crescent.

### **15 The Grange**

Owner's of The Grange have included:

1920s Mr Sparrow who owned the Blisworth Ironstone Workings

1950s Mr John Barnett a white Russian whose family fled from Moscow at the time of the Revolution in 1918.

### **16 Kirkholme**

Kirkholme was probably once owned by a yeoman farmer who moved into this modernised hall house in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The house is built of limestone with some ironstone. It originally possessed two sections, a hall end and a service end. Later a kitchen extension was added.

Kirkholme stands on a stone plinth, which could have taken an earlier medieval timber-framed dwelling. On the south west gable a date stone used to read – AS NS IULY 29 Anno Domini 1647 – this may well be a restoration date and probably refers to the Steward family. Nicholas Steward was Lord of the Manor in 1683.

The steep pitch of the roof shows that it was once thatched. Kirkholme was one of the first houses in the village to possess a wireless. The fixings, which held the Marconi wire above the roof can still be seen on the gable ends.

**17. A row of cottages stood here.** They once housed six families including many children. One of the cottages was a sweet shop in the early 1900s. Bars were put at the windows to stop passing children from helping themselves.

**18.** The 1888 Ordnance Survey map tells us that there was a smithy here.

## **The mystery of the Two Manors**

Pattishall has two manor houses: The Manor House next to the Church and Cornhill Manor, which is on the outskirts of the village towards Bugbroke.

## **A tale of two Normans**

The two manor houses were established by two important families in Norman times – the Woodhulls and the de Pateshulls.

## **The Woodhull family**

Saxon 'Pascelle' (Pattishall) was in the hands of the Saxon Levantot until the Norman Conquest in 1066. After this, William I gave Levantot's lands to Walter Flanderensis (Walter of Flanders). His name appears in the Domesday book.

Walter's descendants took the surname Woodhull and later by marriage the name Chetwood – these names were given to one of the manor houses.

## **Simon de Pateshull.**

Simon de Pateshull was a Norman of considerable importance in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. He was High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and became Chief Justice of England in the court of Henry III. He had three sons. Walter was a travelling justice. Hugh was treasurer of the exchequer and a bishop of Coventry. Martin was a justice of the court of John II and dean of St Pauls.

## **The Arms of Simon de Pateshull**

Argent a fess sable between three crescents gules - which can be seen on the sign of the **Eastcote Arms**.

The next three generations of de Pateshulls all held important offices. In 1345 John de Pateshull and his son William joined with other knights to ride into France with King Edward III. The de Pateshulls were succeeded by the Fauconberg and Strangeways families and the second manor in the village has been known as the Strangeways or Pattishall Manor. But which is which? We do not know.

We hope that you enjoy this trail, which was originally written in 1989 as a result of work by children of Pattishall Church of England School.

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Words: Christine Craven

We would like to thank those people who gave us additional information.

**Please note that all the buildings mentioned are privately owned.**

