

Chrishall History Walks

WALK 4 – SELF SUFFICIENT CHRISHALL

Walk Details



A walk identifying some of the many businesses in Chrishall over the years.



1 – 1.5 hours, approximately 6.5km. Road and footpaths. Not wheelchair friendly.



Refreshments available at The Red Cow public house in the centre of the village. (Opening hours, see their website at www.theredcow.com)

Country Code and Disclaimer

Please keep to public paths, leave gates as you find them, keep dogs under control, take your litter home and take care on roads. Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Chrishall Archive Group have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property.

1. The walk starts at Chrishall pavilion on Jigneys playing field and cricket pitch. The pavilion houses the Chrishall archive collection which will be open **over the Jubilee weekend and on 26 June, 31 July and 4 September 2022.**

2. With your back to the pavilion, walk straight across the field towards a footpath sign. Cross a small bridge. Follow the path straight ahead with a field to your left and trees to your right. When you reach a lane, turn right. Almost immediately on your left you will see a house called Sawkins Cottage. It is thought that at some point in the past the house (or perhaps the thatched barn next to it) was a pub. There is some debate as to what it was called. It may have been called 'the Moon and Stars', or 'the Half Moon' or 'the Bull'.

3. The lane you are on is called Broad Green. In the 1870s and 1880s a sieve maker (someone

who made sieves to sieve grain from the chaff) lived along this road.



4. At the end of the lane is a large house on the left called Cedar House. In the early 20th century a family of fruit growers lived here. There were orchards at the rear of the house. It was possible to buy fruit such as apples and pears from the owners until the 1970s. One of the owners was a Mrs Langford.

5. Retrace your steps and you will come to a footpath sign on your left (just before the pond that you passed earlier). Take the footpath and walk across a meadow. You will come to a stile which will lead you out onto a

road. Turn right and walk along the lane, passing both school and crossroads signs. You will then pass a give way sign. On your right is Langford Drive. Just before you come to the village centre, you will see a house on your right which was built in 1938 as the telephone exchange.

6. At various stages in its history the centre of Chrishall village has been the site of a number of different businesses.



7. As you stand by the village sign, you will see a bungalow called 'The Old Post Office' straight ahead of you. This was the village stores from the 1940s onwards and from the early

1950s it was also the post office. It closed in the 1970s. The kitchen was used as a doctor's surgery by a visiting doctor from Barley at least once a week. To see what the bungalow looked like when it was a shop and for information on the shop keepers see the QR code at the end of this walk or visit the website.

8. To the right of the bungalow is a development of fairly new houses, starting with Mistletoe Cottage and continuing on to Loveday Close. This whole area was, in the past, the site of a lot of businesses. For much of the 20th century it was effectively two sites.

9. The left hand side was originally a bus depot owned by a Mr Weedon, which opened between the two world wars. In the late 1940s it was purchased by Premier Travel and during that time Chrishall became something of a travel hub (at one point lots of Premier Travel journeys started from Chrishall). Imagine the hive of activity with buses

coming and going on a regular basis, the drivers and conductors popping into the shop next door for provisions. It is thought that the shop, or part of it, was initially built as a café for the bus drivers.

10. The right hand side of the site was a cycle, motor, wireless and general engineering business run by a Mr Arthur Crocker. Later in the 1960s, it was a motor repair garage run by two men - Mr Doug Pratt and Mr Peter Coote.

11. In the 1980s both sides of the site became a long distance lorry depot run by Mr Funston who lived in the village.

12. With Loveday Close on your left, take the road to your left called 'The Green' which very quickly becomes Church Road.

13. Almost immediately on your left is a thatched cottage called 'The Gate.' This was a pub called the Gate (sometimes

referred to as 'the Lion and Gate'). It's not clear when it opened, but it was a pub by the 1850s and was still a pub in 1900 when it was the scene of an untimely death!



At times 'the Gate' doubled as a blacksmiths and also as an undertakers. By the late 1930s it was no longer a pub, but it was still a blacksmiths. It had also become a garage and car repair shop and there was also a small shop, really a petrol station kiosk which sold sweets. This was run by Mr Rush and then by Mr 'Tupenny' Pigg and subsequently by Mr Funston. The garage closed in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Click QR code to see a plan of what it looked like in about 1940. You can also read about a break-in which took place here in 1947.

14. Now turn your attention to the next house on your left, the 'Grange'. Until the 1960s a row of cottages stood here. In the later half of the 19th century, a dressmaker, Miss Caroline Young, lived in one of the cottages. There were a number of dressmakers dotted around the village.

15. Now look to your right. You will see a thatched cottage called Mullion Cottage. This was also a pub, known as the Greyhound. By 1891 it is thought to have been both a pub and a butchers!



By 1911 neither the Gate and the Greyhound were pubs anymore. At one point after The Greyhound closed as a pub, it became a bicycle repair shop.

Later on, and up until the 1950s it was a butchers and was run by a Mr Hedley Hicks – check QR code to see a photograph of the butchers in the late 1930s. At the far end of Mullion Cottage, Miss Alice Dove ran a dressmakers business in the 1950s and 1960s.



16. Next to Mullion Cottage stands Stanmore Place. By 1891 this was a grocers shop run by the Andrews' family and also became the post office. In 1924 it became the telephone exchange.

17. Now retrace your steps. At the give way sign, turn left and then after a very short while, left again into the High Street (there is a road sign on the corner). On your left is the Red Cow pub. This has been a pub since at

least the 1840's and probably long before then.

18. In the late 1980s and 1990s, the tiled barn in front of the Red Cow was the village shop and post office.

19. On the left hand side of the Red Cow, next to the lane called 'Hogs Lane' is a cottage (with the number 15 on the gate) which was the home of a Mr Hagger, a cobbler, during the mid 20th century.

20. Continue to walk along the High Street and on the left, just before a thatched cottage with three ducks on the roof is a thatched cottage called Cherry Tree Cottage (it has the number 21 on its door). This was a sweet shop, in the 1920s and 1930s.



21. Carry on along the High Street and opposite a pond on your right is a red brick house on your left, called Kemps. Look carefully and you will see a plaque on the wall by the front door to Miss Guiver who taught Pinaforte here. At one point there was a small shop here.

22. As you continue along the High Street, just after the pond mentioned above, is a lay-by in front of some fairly modern houses. Before the houses were built, from about the turn of the 20th century until the 1950s, Drage & Kent operated an agricultural machinery business here. The business stretched from the houses behind the pond you have just passed, down as far as opposite the thatched cottage on the left called Home Farm. Some distance! At the time this area was known as 'the Moors'. Drage & Kent was not just a local business. It was well-known in the area for its steam engines and its 'Gyro Tiller'. A lot of local men were employed by Drage & Kent.

23. Head further down the High Street. As you leave the houses behind, you will see a seat in memory of Barbara Kent on the right. Next to the seat is a large square concrete block. This is a covered well. The Drage & Kent steam engines would have been able to get water from here.

24. A little further on, there is a turning into a lane on your left, nearly opposite a sign for Hollow Road and close to the national speed limit sign. Turn left into the lane.

25. Walk along the lane for a short distance, and take the first footpath sign on your left (before you come to the house on your right). Walk along the left hand side of the field and when you get to the top left hand corner of the field, you will see an opening. Walk through the opening. You will see allotments on your left and two flint cottages on your right.

Chrishall History Walks

WALK 4 – SELF SUFFICIENT CHRISHALL

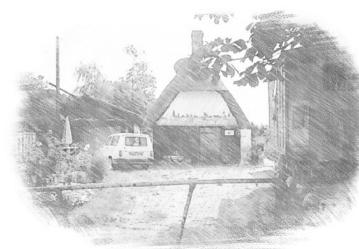
Walk along this lane and it will eventually bring you out by the Red Cow pub.

26. Return to the centre of the village and by the village sign, take the road on your right marked Crawley End. Immediately on your left, just after a pond is a house called Martinholme. At various times in the 19th and early 20th century, this was the post office, general stores (including a drapers) as well as a bakers (bread was baked on site) and an undertakers. Sometimes it was all of these at the same time! See the QR code or the website for Mrs Cranwell's article on 'Chambereses'.



27. Continue along Crawley End for a few minutes. You will

pass another pond on your left and Wire Farm on your right. You will also see a seat to Irene Cranwell, local historian on your left. Just after the village hall on your left is a thatched cottage on your right called Faerie Cottage. In the early to mid 20th century, Bernard Cranwell, (Irene's husband) a wheelwright, operated his business from here.



28. Next to Faerie cottage is Cobblers Cottage where in the early to mid 20th century, Mr Mancer, a cobbler ran his business from here.

29. Continue along the road passing the 30 mile an hour sign. You will soon see a post box in front of a house called Ramblers. Ramblers was, during part of the 1980s, the post office and village

shop - hence the post box outside it.

30. You will then pass a close called Engleric on your right. Look to your left and you will see a house called Banyards. Mr Fred Cranwell ran a building company from here in the mid 20th century.



31. Continue along the road, passing a notice board and a seat to 'Ian and Sean' on your right and then a close of bungalows called Pinkneys. You will come to a sharp left hand turn, at a corner by a thatched cottage called Dormers. There is no footpath here so be careful. After a short while, you will see a road to your left by a signpost. Turn left towards Heydon. The first house on your right was the

site of a coal merchants in the 1940s and 50s run by a Mr Bert Reeves.

32. Continue along the road and will you come to a house called Ridgeway. In the past, a shoemakers business was run from the cottage that stood here. Four men worked here. The farmer at Chrishall Grange used to pay for each of his men to have a new pair of boots every year made by these shoemakers.

33. On the other side of the road is Mill House. There was post mill here in the past. In the 1850 census Thomas Beans is named as the miller. You can see a lot more about the history of the mill and the family associated with it for many years in the Archive displays.

34. Just after Mill House, there is a footpath to your right. Take the footpath. You will have trees on your left and a field on your right. When you come to a



Chrishall History Walks

WALK 4 – SELF SUFFICIENT CHRISHALL

five bar gate turn left in front of the gate and keep left as the path becomes gravel. The path will eventually reach a road (Crawley End) by an old water pump. Turn right and walk along the road to the centre of the village and the end of the walk.

QR codes for this walk



Point 7. The village centre shop.



Point 13. The Gate pictures and break-in.



Point 10. Mr Arthur Crocker.



Point 15. Hicks butchers



Point 13. Untimely death at The Gate



Point 28. Cobblers Cottage