

Chrishall History Walks

WALK 1 - POST TO POST

Walk Details



A gentle stroll around the village of Chrishall from one location of the Post Office to another.



1 hour, approximately 2.5k. Easy walking on roads.



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.

Like many villages years ago, Chrishall had to be self-sufficient. While transport connections have been surprisingly good in the village going back many years, there was always a need to provide services in the village. This walk takes you from two places where the Post Office has been sited over the years taking in some of the history of the other buildings that you pass on the way.

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 26th June, 31st July and 4th September 2022.**

2. With your back to the pavilion, turn left and then immediate left to take a path towards the Red Cow pub. When you reach the road turn left to reach the centre of the village and the village sign.

3. The road that is straight ahead is signposted Crawley End. At the back of the pond on the left you will see a large red brick house set back from the road. This is Martinholme and in the 1500s was

thought to be home to Lettice Martin who created a charity to leave money to the poor.



It is now thought that, while Lettice Martin owned the land the house stands on, it was probably not occupied by her. However Martinholme is our first marker for this walk as the village shop and post office were based here from at least the 1880s to the 1940s.



4. Continue up Crawley End and after some 500 yards you will pass Wire Farm on your right. The

current farmhouse is built on the site of a much older house and was possibly the site of the manor house Crawley Bury, one of the four medieval manors of Chrishall.

As you walk up Crawley End notice how many of the older thatched cottages in the village faced south, end on to the road. This was deliberate and was to maximize the sun for light and warmth.



5. On your left you will pass the Chapel, now used as a village hall and meeting place. The chapel was built in 1862, the same year as the old school.

As you face the chapel you can see Chapel Cottage to your right. Until the early 1960s there were also two cottages on the left of the chapel and another cottage stood on the chapel site itself, so before 1862 this was a close of 4 cottages.

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6. Continue along Crawley End and notice the modern developments of Engleric and then Pinkneys, both on the right and both named after Lords of the Manor of Chrishall from many centuries ago.

7. At the top of Crawley End, keep following the road round to the left to take you on to Mill Causeway 'the Castey' as it used to be known locally. As you walk along the causeway notice the name of the second house on the left 'Mill House'. Yes, this is where Chrishall windmill stood for at least three hundred years. Sadly it was taken down in the early 1800's and we have no pictures of it but we do know it was a post mill similar to the one at Great Chishill and we have quite a history of who ran the mill in the Archive - do call in to have a look or check the QR code at the end of this walk.



8. Nearly opposite the Mill House is a new house which recently replaced a cottage, Ridgeway which used to be the home and shop of one of the three Cobblers in the village. Chrishall was self-sufficient at one time and you may well have found yourself coming here to get your boots mended.

9. As you walk out on the causeway don't miss the views over to your right. On a good day you can see Duxford Airfield, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and over to Barrington. Where else can you spot?

10. As the road starts to dip you are now walking on relatively new road. Until as recently as 1805 the made-up road petered out here and there was just a footpath.

11. Turn left by the flint cottages and head back into the village. Flint is widely found around the village but surprisingly perhaps is not widely used in buildings. Many of the older cottages are built from wattle and

daub or clay bats which were large brick shapes, the size of today's modern breeze blocks and made from local clay and straw. You can see a clay bat in the Archive at the Pavilion.

12. Head up the hill again and you are now walking up Abrams Lane. Abrams were a big family in the village and at one time lived at Builden End. Call in at the Archive or visit the website to see photographs of them.

13. As you come up to the top of the hill you will pass Cedar House on your right, the first house in Broad Green. Cedar House was the home of Mrs Langford in the 1940s and 50s – a formidable force in the village who was a great organizer and oversaw the WI jam making production during WWII in the black barn to the left of the house.



14. Finally you will arrive back at the green, via Palmers Lane which takes you past the "new" school, opened in 1971 and still thought of as 'new' by those who went to the 'old' school – the red brick building opposite The Red Cow, now converted to houses! In front of you on the green is the bungalow that housed another version of the village post office and shop, run for many years by Doug and Glad Oliver.



We started at Martinholme, the old Post Office, and ended at the bungalow – a more recent Post Office. So now you have come Post to Post!



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QR codes for this walk



Point 4: More pictures and history of Wire Farm



Point 7: The history of Chrishall Windmill