

A CIRCUIT OF WINECA'S FIELD (WINKFIELD) (Places of Interest)

Winkfield is one of the largest parishes in Berkshire, comprising part of Cranbourne, Winkfield Row, Ascot and Bracknell. The only antiquities found at Winkfield point to the Roman occupation of the district. The Manor of Winkfield at the time of the Domesday Survey belonged to the Abbey of Abingdon. After the Dissolution the Manor was granted in 1540 to Richard Warde. It remained in private hands until it was purchased in 1782 by King George III who retained it until 1819. It then became the property of Daniel Agace whose name appears on various parcels of land on the Tithe Map.

1. METHODIST CHAPEL

During the ministry of Rev Daniel Mossop, a plot of land was offered and purchased for £5. The foundation stone was laid by John Hunt Esq. of High Wycombe, on May 30th, 1854 when the Rev J Mules Preached. Afterwards it was said to have been "one of the most interesting tea meetings that it has been our privilege to attend". Four months later on Sunday September 17th the chapel was opened for Divine Worship, when the Rev Edward Bishop & Rev N Broadway preached, the former being then stationed in the circuit and the latter a former minister. On the following day a respectable party sat down to an excellent tea and the crowded assembly was then interested by addresses from the above ministers and some friends. The services throughout were good and congregations large. The collections, donations etc. amounted to £48 15s 4d (£48.77).



2. LAMBROOK SCHOOL

The house which later became Lambrook School was built by William BUDD in 1853. It is not known what if any building pre dates the school but the Court Rolls of Winkfield Manor dated 1440 shows:-“John BOWYER held one croft of bond arable land called Lambrokes in Wynkefyld has ended his last day – son John BOWYER is his next heir”

In 1860 a Robert BURNSIDE who had a tutorial business in London purchased Lambrook and it then became a school. One pupil, Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig Holstein, a grandson of Queen Victoria was, according to a telegram dated 27th August 1878, invited to lunch at Balmoral at 2pm the next day.

3. GROVE LODGE

Standing on the corner of Grove Lane this substantial house has been occupied by many distinguished people. Lieutenant General Sir Henry KING 1776-1839, an Indian Army Officer and Member of Parliament for Sligo lived there till his death and is buried in St. Marys Church.

In the late 1880's it was the home of the Admiral of the Fleet, the Hon Sir Henry Keppel. During the Second World War it became the home of the 9-year-old King Faisal of Iraq and his mother.

There is reference in the papers of Lambrook School of the sight of Iraq soldiers guarding the gate of Grove Lodge during that time to the amusement of the pupils.

4. THE CUT

The cut rises in North Ascot, flows for around 14 miles through Winkfield, Warfield and Binfield to Bray where it joins the Thames near Queens Eyot Island. It got its name because it was diverted eastwards artificially from its original course westwards to the River Loddon.

5. MAIDEN'S GREEN

Rocque's map of 1761 shows Maiden's Green clearly populated around the crossroads. The buildings that remain today are Handpost Farm (circa 1630), the White Cottage and until recently the house at Bailey's Garage.

6. WINKFIELD HOUSE

Built in the 1860's, it had become the local store by 1877 (Richard Phipps – grocer) and it was originally called “White Cottage”. By the 1930's Kelly's records the shop became a grocers, drapers and post office and was remembered by villagers as a 'fantastic village shop'. It ceased being a post office in the 1970's, was for a time used as a tack shop and is now apartments.

7. HOUSE at BAILEY'S GARAGE

The early years of this house in the 18thC are a mystery. However, Kelly's Directory names three 'saddlers' who occupied the house – Henry Caley (1854), Robert Poole (1883-1895) and George Bailey (1907). By 1931 George Bailey's trade had become 'saddler and motor engineer'. Unfortunately, it is no longer there: in 1995 the garage moved to Bracknell ... and the site is now boarded up, who knows what will follow.

8. TOONAGH (formally SCROOPE VILLA) and MEADOWBANK

In 1892 it was called SCROOP VILLA, which was replaced by the present house. This was the home of Lord George Murray Pratt 1843-1922 and his wife Lady Charlotte Pratt nee Charlotte Harman Eaton 1845-1928 who were both prominent in local affairs. One legacy still in use today is the Charlotte Pratt Memorial Hall in Chavey Down, close to where this walk starts.

The estate was broken up and the house named Toonagh was divided into 3 in the 1950's.

Next door is Meadowbank. In 1895 Arthur Sullivan rented the house for the summer while his London flat was being redecorated and refurbished.

9. WINNING POST formally JOLLY FARMER, COTTAGE INN

The property is extremely old, but no original title deeds have been found. According to Kelly's Directory of 1887, Mary Bedford is listed as a beer retailer and the later Licensing Register lists Eliza Bedford as owner and brewer of 'The Jolly Farmer'. The pub went through a number of different landlords, with Eliza Bedford retaining ownership until Messrs Wethered purchased the property in 1959, subsequently selling on to Messrs Whitbread.

The pub has subsequently changed name a number of times becoming 'The Cottage' about 1970 and for a period in the 1980's 'The Pheasant Plucker' under the ownership of Iris Williams, the singer. Most recently, the pub has become 'The Winning Post'.

10. ABBEY FARM

The name Abbey Farm only dates from 1885 but there is evidence that buildings existed from 1542 when it was occupied by John Mosse. The manor of Winkfield was owned by Abingdon Abbey from 1015 to 1536 and the name could well hark back to that connection.

11. St. MARYS CHURCH



The church of St Mary the Virgin has seen many alterations over the years with the nave dating from the 13th century. One unusual feature is the columns supporting the Elizabethan roof, they are oak with one bearing a carving of a Tudor rose and the date 1592. The former wooden tower was rebuilt in brick in 1629 and has recently been refurbished. The ring of six bells, the oldest is inscribed "This bell Was Made 1597". They were originally rung from the ground floor but now from the first floor of the tower.

12. WHITE HART



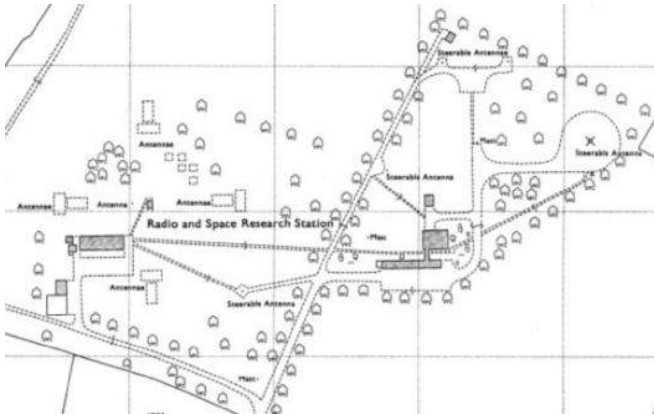
The White Hart was formerly a Court Leet House which was a Manorial Court and dealt with petty offences. It stood on the old coaching route. In 1815 Eliza Agar, a widow, was the landlady and Henry Sherborn of Dedworth was surety in the sum of £10 by way of recognizance to his Sovereign Lord King for a licence to keep a Common Alehouse. In 1857 106 barrels were consumed and in 1883, 91 barrels of beer and 77 spirits. In 1917 18 barrels were recorded. The reduction could well have been the impact of the 1st W.W.

13. POPELS HALL & COTTAGES

The charity known as Pople's Charity (Note the change of spelling) was founded by indenture dated the 15th May 1607. The trust consists of 1 acre of land with a building on part thereof let for the purposes of a school for girls. Two roomed cottages are at either end of the school and two detached buildings each containing four dwellings called alms-houses for the use of single women of the parish. These have been refurbished and are still in use today. The school building is shown as a National School on the 1870 map. Popels Hall still functions as parish hall and a Montessori School. High profile ex-pupils were Princess Beatrix and her sister Eugenie.

14. SATELLITE TRACKING STATION

Winkfield Tracking Station was built on the site of the wartime grass airfield and served the embryonic satellite industry by relaying and receiving information.



This was the scene of a UFO spoof in September 1967, when one of several “flying saucers” was found in a paddock at Ryemead House later renamed Newell House which is next to the White Hart.

15. ASCOT PLACE

Ascot Place occupies a 400-acre site bounded by Forest Rd, Hatchet Lane, Pigeonhouse Lane & Braziers Lane. It was originally a Medieval Manor House owned by a Henry Bataille a forester of the Bailiwick of Ascot in 1339. In 1722 it was called “Fosters” and occupied by Robert Foster. In 1726 it was bought by Andrew Lindegren who built a new house, “Ascot Place” in 1772. It was designed by Thomas Sandby, Deputy Ranger at Windsor Great Park. Between 1773 and 1783 a grotto (Grade 1 Listed) was constructed. In 1787 it was bought by Daniel Agace, a Huguenot Silk Merchant. In the 1860s it was owned by Rt.Hon. William Lidderdale, Governor of the Bank of England, followed by Sir William Farmer in the 1890s who became Sherriff of the City of London and High Sherriff of Berkshire. In 1907 it was owned by Sir Harry Livesey, a racing driver. In 1911 it was purchased by Mr Samuel Garcia Asher who donated parcels of land to the local community. It is now owned by the ruler of Abu Dhabi (£18 million in 1989).