



WINSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

**10 WALKS IN AND
AROUND WINSHILL**

50p

INTRODUCTION

Winshill began life as a collection of farms with a mill near the River Trent. Its old English name – Wine's Hylle – is thought to be named after an early settler. Over the years the spelling has altered from Wyneshylle to Wineshull to Winsel and eventually Winshill.

It was possibly on an old packhorse trail across the ridge of hills from Repton and Bretby.

Wulfric Spot, a Mercian nobleman, gave the manor of Winshill to Burton Abbey in 1004 and it is referred to in the Domesday Book in 1086.

Its population in the 1550's was 84, rising to 377 in 1841 and 1,478 in 1871. By 1901 4266 people lived in Winshill and this rose to 9358 by 1971.

Whilst researching Winshill Walks as part of the Parish Plan we were surprised by its history, hence the inclusion of Walk 10, the History Walk.

The Parish Council decided to print the walks in the form of this booklet and to donate any money raised to its Grant Fund thus channelling proceeds back into the community.

We hope you enjoy the walks and find them not only a healthy pastime but also an interesting historical record of Winshill.

Cllr Margaret Fletcher
Cllr Penny Perry

June, 2012

WALK 1 DALEBROOK

Approximately 1 mile in length and takes about 30 minutes. Suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs, there are no stiles

START Co-operative Store, corner of Mill Hill Lane and Church Hill Street

- 1 Walk down Church Hill Street, left into Mear Greaves Lane and right into Wheatley Lane. Both roads are named after old fields, Weadley Close and Margreave Way.
- 2 At the bottom of the hill take the footpath through yellow and red gates just past the last house on the left on to the path by the brook.
- 3 After about 50 metres take the right fork in the path to follow the Dale Brook. This brook is the boundary between East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire, between Staffordshire and Derbyshire and the East and West Midlands. The Winshill and Stapenhill parts of Burton belonged to Derbyshire until 1878 when they joined Burton and later Staffordshire in 1894.
- 4 The footpath joins Brookside and then turns left into Dalebrook Road.
- 5 Proceed up Dalebrook Road and into Monsaldale Close, the second turning on the left. If you look back from here, in the distance you can see Bladon House School, once the home of brewery owner, John Gretton. At the end of the close in the left hand corner take the footpath which leads to Winshill Recreation Ground.
- 5 To get back to the start walk across on the asphalt path past the children's play area to Mear Greaves Lane. You can also exit on the first opening on the right into Vicarage Close or the second one into Newfield Road and then onto Mill Hill Lane and turn left to get back to the Co-op. This building, built in 1887 was once the place of worship for the United Free Methodists. Alternatively, spend time exploring the wooded area of the Recreation Ground, with its winding paths and steps looking at the trees which were planted as part of the National Forest and, in Spring, the daffodils planted by the Civic Society.

WALK 2 MOUNT PLEASANT

Approximately 1 mile and will take 30 minutes. Part of the route is over a field and it may be muddy and difficult going for wheelchairs and pushchairs but there are no stiles.

START Hawfield Lane shops, corner of Brough Road

1. Walk down Brough Road, past Elizabeth Court and into Jacobean Close.
2. In the top right hand corner next to No10 take the footpath, turning left into Berry Gardens and then onto Nelson Street. Look up Nelson street to where there is a shop on the corner. Around 1900, 99 Nelson Street was a grocer, baker and off licence shop owned by C Harper who had his own horse and cart for door to door sales.
3. Turn right into Nelson Street and then right again into Berry Hedge Lane. Notice the older houses which form Old Winshill. The one immediately in front of you was once the Old Gate Pub and Pleasure Gardens. At the junction of Hollow Lane and Berry Hedge Lane was the site of the spring used as the old village water supply.
4. Turn left into Hollow Lane. This is an ancient sunken road with the brook running alongside.
5. At the end you will notice the ford and footbridge which you will cross.
6. Over the bridge on the right is an opening in the hedge which is a footpath which goes along a field edge alongside the brook and the rear of the properties in Newton Leys. The path will reach Sales Lane.
7. Turn right into Sales Lane to get back to Hawfield Lane and the shops.

WALK 3 TOWER WOODS AND WATERLOO CLUMP

Approximately 2 miles, taking 1 hour. The section from Ashby Road to the Water Tower is steep, over fields and often muddy with 2 stiles therefore not suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

START Corner of Ashby Road and Tower Road

1. Walk along Tower Road to the end past the Water Tower (built in 1904 to improve the water pressure for Winshill) Notice a house on the right called Waterloo Mount (built in 1897) with its gates constructed from large clock faces.
2. Proceed down the narrow lane. After about 300m on the left is an excellent play area for all ages amidst the trees planted for the National Forest. From this point the route either goes down the long established lane on the right with splendid views over Burton and Derbyshire or through newer paths amongst the woods with views to the south. Both routes pass Waterloo Clump the prominent landmark on the left (planted in 1815 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo,) and then emerge at the top of Elms Road next to the Cemetery. This was created on land purchased from the Marquess of Anglesey in 1864 for £4,800.
3. Go down Elms Road and right into Stapenhill Road, with its views across the Trent and the Washlands. In the Domesday Book the Trent was named Trenta. Take the first road on the right and go up Scalpcliffe Road. By 1890 only part of the road was built and the gaps in the house numbers suggest more houses were intended than were actually built. Go past Rosemount Road and carry on up the hill. In 1888 Rosemount Road housed a small private school which in 1904 moved into Scalpcliffe Road now numbers 80 and 80a. Go past Claverhouse Road on the right which remains a cul-de-sac with no addresses.
4. At the top of Scalpcliffe Road turn left into Hamilton road, and then right into Ashby Road. This section of Ashby road up to High Bank Road was cut through Winshill Woods in 1837

5. Go up Ashby Road for a short distance, and take the footpath on the right just past No 166 Ashby Road.
6. Opposite the Waterworks building is a stile. Cross this and keeping the hedge on your left proceed up the hill to a second stile and the Water Tower on your left.
7. Turn left into Tower Road to return to the start.

WALK 4 THE WATER TOWER AND BRIZLINCOTE

This walk is approximately 1.5 miles long and takes about 45 minutes.

There are no stiles and the paths are asphalt, so suitable for wheelchairs and push chairs.

START On Ashby Road opposite Bretby Lane.

1. Opposite Bretby Lane, go down the steps and across the small grassed area into Keble Close. Cross Wetherel Road and proceed down the footpath which skirts the houses in Brizlincote Valley. You will pass three play areas.
 2. After the second toddler play area on the right the path forks. Take the right fork up to Beaufort Road, just to the rear of the Tesco store.
 3. Cross Beaufort Road and proceed up the footpath which brings you to the Water Tower, **built in 1904 to improve the water pressure for Winshill,**
 4. Turn right along Tower Road to Ashby Road and right again up Ashby Road back to the start.
- Alternatively for a longer walk continue down the footpath to Elms Road, joining Walk no 3 at point 2.

WALK 5 OLDICOTE

This walk is approximately 1.5 miles long and takes about 45 minutes.

There are no stiles, but kissing gates and a couple of steps at the start. The steps can be avoided by starting the walk at the entrance to Moat Bank. The paths are not asphalt but quite firm so may be suitable for wheelchairs and push chairs.

START Top of Empire Road at Bretby Lane Roundabout.

1. Cross Bretby Lane to take the steps into Moat Bank. *This was the site of a gothic mansion built for Burton solicitor, Abraham Bass. The name Moat Bank comes from a medieval ditch built round a rabbit warren.*
2. Turn left and proceed along the footpath past the last house into an area of National Forest planting.
3. Enjoy the splendid views to the North over Derby and the Peak District, and to the South over towards Tamworth.
4. Just before the large house which is Oldicote Farm, turn left and exit the forestry land onto Oldicote Lane.
5. At its junction with Bretby Lane turn right and within 100m take a farm track on the left.
6. Go down the track and before the farm turn left to take the footpath to the rear of the houses in Calgary Crescent. *This is part of the Manners Estate built in the last days of Empire on land owned by the Manners brewing family. Hence the roads named after cities in the Dominions (e.g. Durban, Queensland etc.)*
7. At the rear of the houses the path turns left to join the road between two gardens. Turn right down Calgary Crescent then left where it meets Empire Road. *The road is such a wide dual carriageway as it was intended to be part of a ring road around Burton.*
8. Walk uphill back to the start.

LONGER WALKS

WALK 6 WINSHILL CIRCULAR

This longer walk takes approximately 2 hours to complete. It is often on grass and not on an even surface and may be narrowed by the lush growth of the trees and undergrowth. It is a circular walk and can be joined at any place and there are three pubs en-route for refreshments – but allow more time for this!

START Corner of Hawfield Lane and Sales Lane, near the shops.

1. Turn down Sales Lane and walk past the rear of Winshill Village Primary School (*Previously called Bend Oak Junior, named after the farm which stood on this site*) alongside the playing fields to just past the last house in the road on the left.
2. Take the footpath left, running through a wooded area at the rear of the houses in Newton Leys until it opens out into a field. Keeping close to the rear gardens of Cherry Leys (*named after an old field*) find an opening in the hedge which joins the access road to the Mount Pleasant Residential Home (*once the site of a row of old houses*).
3. Turn left to cross the ford and then turn right into Hollow Lane (*an ancient sunken road with the brook running alongside*).
4. At the junction with Wheatley Lane (*named after the old field called Weadley Close*), take the footpath opposite just to the right of the last house.
5. After about 50 metres take the right fork in the path to follow the Dale Brook. *This brook is the boundary between East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire, between Staffordshire and Derbyshire and the East and West Midlands. The Winshill and Stapenhill parts of Burton belonged to Derbyshire until 1878 when they joined Burton and later Staffordshire in 1894.*
6. The footpath joins Brookside. Walk along Brookside to the junction and then turn right into Dalebrook Road. Walk to the bottom of Dalebrook Road and left onto Newton Road.

7. Walk along Newton Road to Newton Road Park. On the way you will notice the Mill. A water mill has been on this site for about 1000 years and over this time there have also been cotton, fulling and flint mills and a forge where Lloyds Foundry started in 1762. Greensmith's Mill ceased milling flour over 15 years ago and now it has been renovated and converted into homes. Next to the mill is the Sump, formerly called the Royal Oak which has been there since 1862.

8. Enter the park and turn right towards the Canoe Club hut and left to the riverbank. From here crowds of people watched the 1910 aviation show on Bass Meadows. Walk the whole length of the bank towards the Burton Bridge. The old 12th Century bridge served the town until the present one was built in 1864. The park has National Forest planting which is now well grown. Over the other side of the river is more planting which can be accessed from the Bridge via Meadow Road. As you look down Meadow Road the building on the right with the curved wall was once the site of Boddington's and then Everard's brewery. An arch of the old medieval bridge is still in part of the cellar. (It is possible now to walk along Meadow Road and then by reaching the other arm of the river cross by a new footbridge into Wetmore Community Park and up Wetmore Lane to the Pirelli Stadium).

9. Leave Newton Park via the access road between the houses and turn right. Walk towards the traffic lights. Here on Newton Road at the bottom of Bearwood Hill is the site of a tram accident in 1919. Cross Ashby Road into Stapenhill Road at the lights at the Swan Public house (built in 1869) and continue along Stapenhill Road, passing the Clubhouses of the Leander Rowing Club (established in 1847) and the Trent Rowing Club (established in 1863). The first Regatta took place in 1865. Opposite on land next to the garage once stood the Winhill Gibbet where felons were hung.

10. Take the path on the right into Stapenhill Gardens and then the higher path through the wooded area, before re-crossing Stapenhill Road opposite the Elms Pub.

11. Walk up Elms Road alongside the Cemetery (created on land purchased from the Marquess of Anglesey in 1864 for £4800) to the very top. There cross the grassed area to find a

path which runs along the Cemetery fence. You will notice at the top of the Cemetery the Forget-Me-Not Garden, dedicated to babies and small children. As an alternative, on the right through the hedge there is a parallel track, which goes past the Tower Woods Play area. The open space was created with National Forest planting in the 1990s.

12. Rejoin the track and walk past the Water Tower (built in 1904 to improve water pressure for Winhill) and along Tower Road to Ashby Road. There cross over into Queensland Crescent. At the top of the road find a footpath in the right-hand corner (next to no.24). This joins one on the left which drops to Vancouver Drive. Take the steps down opposite into Kimberley Crescent. Turn right then left into Melbourne Avenue and onto the Sales Lane corner where the walk started. You have just walked through part of the old Manners Council Estate built, in the last days of the Empire, on land previously owned by a prominent brewery family hence the roads named after Dominion cities (e.g. Vancouver and Melbourne)

WALK 7 WINSHILL-STAPENHILL CIRCULAR

Approximately 4 miles long and taking 2 hours. Like Walk 6, some surfaces are muddy and parts of the route are not suitable for wheelchairs.

START On Ashby Road opposite Bretby Lane.

1. Opposite Bretby Lane, go down the steps and across the small grassed area into Keble Close. Cross Wetherel Road and proceed down the footpath which skirts the houses in Brizlincote Valley. You will pass three play areas.
2. After the second toddler play area on the right the path forks. Take the left-hand fork over a stile and a wooden bridge. Proceed along the path which passes to the rear of the houses to the right.
3. The path drops down with steps across the large depression which serves as a balancing lake to take the surface water from the area and to prevent flooding in times of heavy rain. This may be muddy. The path emerges in front of Lomas's Farm.
4. Continue to Beaufort Road and turn left.
5. At the top of the hill there is a footpath on the right across a grassed area. This continues along Red Hill through woods until it joins a path from the right from Cricketers Close.
6. Turn left up Greenvale Close to the roundabout with Violet Way and Stanton Road. Cross at this point and go along a wide access opposite which narrows into a footpath across allotments.
7. At Rosliston Road turn right and then left into Ferry Street. (Look out for the old Wesleyan Chapel). Turn right into the Dingle. (A dingle is a natural excavation made by surface drainage from surrounding hills. Then go down to the Ferry Bridge (opened in 1889 as Lord Burton's gift to the town)
8. Return through Stapenhill Gardens (originally the site of Stapenhill House – a sundial marking the spot. The gardens were

opened in 1933 in memory of Mary Goodger, the first Lady Mayor of Burton) Now walk along the river bank and around the Hollows, following the signposts to the Greenhouse. Look back at Stapenhill Church. This was the site of earlier places of worship but the present church, built of Derbyshire stone, was opened in 1881 and cost £13,000

9. Cross Stapenhill Road and go up Elms Road to the right of the Cemetery (created on land purchased from the Marquess of Anglesey in 1864 for £4800) with the Elms Pub on the corner.
10. At the top of the road, near the Cemetery gate, go up over a grassed area which turns into a rough footpath skirting Tower Woods to the Water Tower (built in 1904 to improve water pressure for Winshill) and Tower Road.
11. Walk along Tower Road and the right into Ashby Road to return to the Start.

WALK 8 OVER THE FIELDS TO NEWTON SOLNEY AND BACK

The walk, over fields, is approximately 4 miles long and should take 2 hours. There are stiles on the return route.

START Co-operative Store, corner of Mill Hill Lane and Church Hill Street. *The store was originally a chapel built in 1887 for the United Free Methodists*

1. Walk down Church Hill Street, left into Mear Greaves Lane and right into Wheatley Lane *(both named after old fields. As you walk down Wheatley Lane notice the Alms houses built in 1923 and, half way down on the right, the old white cottage.)*
2. At the bottom of Wheatley Lane turn right into Hollow Lane *(an old sunken road with the brook alongside)* Walk along Hollow lane and then turn left onto the bridge over the ford. *(You are now in Derbyshire)*
3. Proceed up past the Mount Pleasant Residential Home *(once the site of a row of terraced cottages)* and take the footpath on the right running alongside a hedge.
4. Keep to the well defined path adjacent to the hedge for 1.5miles until you reach a road.
5. Turn left along this road for about one third of a mile.
6. Just before some cottages, take the way-marked footpath on the left.
7. Cross two fields to another track.
8. Turn left, and after a short distance pick up another way-marked path on the right.
9. This takes you over fields keeping to the hedgerows with wooded areas on the right and Winshill St Mark's Church in the distance. *(St Mark's was built in 1869 and paid for by John Gretton a well known brewery owner.)*
10. After a mile go through Bladon Farm farmyard and onto the track back to Wheatley Lane and then onto the Co-op and the start.

WALK 9 BRETBY

This walk is approximately 3 miles long and should take 1 and half hours to complete. It is over fields and stiles so is not suitable for wheelchairs.

START Hawfield Lane Shops, corner of Sales Lane.

1. Walk along Sales Lane and then along the farm track past the first farm.
2. At the second farm the track splits into two. Take the footpath on the right.
3. The route climbs gradually over 3 fields to join Bretby Lane near the Bretby Garden Centre.
4. Turn left and within a short distance take the track on the right.
5. After approximately 300m this joins Geary Lane.
6. Turn right and walk along Geary Lane past the Crematorium and the new houses which were Geary House. Be careful, as traffic speeds along Geary Lane with little consideration for pedestrians.
7. Take the footpath on the right over the golf course. Stop to allow golfers who are already on the greens and driving. *The golf course was built in 1907 having begun life in Stapenhill then moved to Branston before settling at Bretby. The club house was designed so that if the venture failed it could easily become a private residence)*
8. The route is well marked and leaves the Golf Course by Oldicote Farm.
9. Keep straight on into an area of National Forest Planting. *Enjoy the splendid views to the North over Derby and the Peak District and to the South over towards Tamworth.*
10. Almost immediately leave the planted area turning to the right into Oldicote Lane.
11. Go down to the junction with Bretby Lane and turn right.
12. Take the track on the left and before the farm turn left to take the footpath to the rear of the houses in Calgary Crescent.

13. At the rear of the houses the path turns left to join the road between two gardens.

14. Turn right into Empire Road and left into Hawfield Lane and walk back to the start. Empire Road is such a wide dual carriageway as it was intended to be part of a ring road around Burton. You have just walked through part of the old Manners Council Estate built , in the last days of the Empire, on land previously owned by the prominent brewery family hence the roads named after Dominion cities.

WALK 10 HISTORY WALK

Approximately 2 miles in length and takes about an hour and a half. Suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs as it is along pavements. This is a circular walk so can be started at any point.

START Outside the entrance to St Mark's Church

1. Stand in the entrance and look at the church
St Mark's was built in the Gothic style in 1869 by John Gretton, a prominent brewery owner who lived at Bladon House (now a school) on the road to Newton Solney. He died in 1867 before the church was finished.

St Mark's is built on a prominent hill which has a number of local names (one being 'Gorby's Knob'). The church spire can be seen for some distance. Away.

2. Turn round and look behind you.
Here you can see the new houses of East Street, West Street and North Street, built in the 1970s. It was previously the site of streets of terraced houses for brewery workers built in the 1850s by Burton Freehold Land Society. The old village was to the East side of the hill around a village green.

There were 3 pubs in this area: The Queens, which is now the fish and chip shop; The Travellers Rest on the corner opposite the church; and the Alma on Church Hill Street – both now demolished and replaced by houses.

3. Now go to your right and walk down Church Hill Street towards the Post Office at the junction with High Bank Road. On your left you will pass what was once the Church Hall, built in 1916 and extended in 1962. Today it is used by the Scouts and as a Day Centre for adults.

Just before the junction look across the road. Between the leylandii trees at the gate of a house, you catch a glimpse of the Water Tower and Waterloo Clump.

The Water Tower is a well known Burton landmark, built in 1904 to improve the water pressure for Winshill residents. It is visible for many miles in all directions which is why, in 1910, it served as a signal point for the aviation show held on Bass Meadows. The aeroplanes could not fly if winds were more than 15mph so flags from the Water Tower indicated what was going to happen each day. A red flag meant 'flying soon', a white flag meant 'might fly later' and no flag meant no flying. Today the Tower is festooned with radio masts.

The Waterloo Clump is a copse of trees planted in 1815 to commemorate the part the 1st Marquis of Anglesey played in the Battle of Waterloo. It was given to the Burton Corporation by the 6th Marquis of Anglesey in 1918. It has also played its part in Burton celebrations. On the Coronation Day of George V (22nd June 1911) at 6 a.m a salvo of guns was fired at 6am followed by the ringing of church bells. In the evening a beacon was lit. Today, on snowy winter days, it is a popular place for sledging.

4. Stop outside the Anglesey Arms

From here you can see the route of the trams that came to Winshill – up Bearwood Hill and along Bearwood Hill Road.

Two trams services operated to Winshill. The Burton Corporation trams started in 1903. They ran from 5.30am to 11.30pm, starting in the town and terminating at the Church. The Ashby Light Railway also ran trams that came through Winshill. They used the same route into Winshill as the Corporation trams but then went right up High Bank Road to Ashby Road and on to Ashby. The journey was a distance of 10.2 miles, took 80 minutes and cost 6d (2½p).

Old photographs show that at this time High Bank Road (once known as Ticket Lane) was very rural, with fields on either side.

A more direct route to Ashby would, of course, have been up Ashby Road from the bridge, but the families in the large houses didn't want trams going past their doors!

The trams to Ashby finished in 1927, unable to compete with the more flexible bus service. The very last Corporation tram left Winshill on New Year's Eve 1929 and the trams were sold off to become chicken runs, garden sheds and sports pavilions. There are many old photos and postcards of the trams in and around Winshill.

5. Now continue on Bearwood Hill Road, along what for obvious reasons is known as 'The Level'.

This section of the road has been the location of a number of businesses including Hodges Brickworks and Wrigleys Saw Mill.

6. Stop when you get to the junction with Mount Street on the left.

If you look down this street towards Alexandra Road you will see on the left a building which since 1967 has St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. It was built and paid for by subscriptions in 1888 as the Winshill Institute. It was later used by the Freemasons before they moved into their present home on Ashby Road.

Now look back at The Level.

Today there are very few shops but this area was once a thriving village shopping area. In the 1970's there were two butcher's (Charlie Carter and Stanley's), a greengrocer, a baker, a chemist and Simm's fish and poultry shop with its display of rabbits and pheasants hanging outside. Across the road was Fisher's, a haberdashery store. In the 1930s Albert Baldock had a Drapery and Boot Warehouse where The Making House now is. Evidence of this was found by the present owner during renovations when draper's models were discovered.

7. Carry on along the level and then turn right into Kensington Road and left into Osborne Street, to the entrance of the school. As you go along you will pass examples of the many Victorian houses which were built in Winshill. They are a reflection of the class system which was in existence at that time. The brewery owners moved out of the town when transport improved, into large country houses (e.g. Bladon House – Gretton, Rangemore Hall – Bass, Newton Hall – Ratcliffe). The professional people such as doctors, solicitors and brewers built their houses on Alexandra Road, Scapcliff Road and Ashby Road, while the brewery workers' terraced homes sprang up in areas like the old East, North and West Streets around the church.

Through the entrance you will see the Abbot Beyne High School's Linnel building. This was originally the Girls' High School which started life as Allsopps Girls' School for pupils 7-17 and occupied buildings in Waterloo Street. Miss Linnel, for whom the building is named, became Head in 1913, but it wasn't until 1928 that the school moved to Winshill. The building is on the land of an old house called Woodlands, the present school's 6th Form accommodation.

In 1975 the Girls' High School, together with two other schools (Ada Chadwick and the Boys' Grammar School) became Abbot Beyne mixed comprehensive.

8. Retrace your steps back along Osborne Street and then turn right and walk along Balmoral Road to the junction with Bearwood Hill Road.

The large house diagonally opposite this junction on the corner of Oxley Road, Bearwood House Residential Home, was once the home of Sir Clifford Gothard.

9. Turn right at the junction and start to descend Bearwood Hill. In this area in 1912, excavations found the footprint of a prehistoric amphibian, alive 180 million years ago. Stop at the second seat half way down the hill. You are now looking at the site of a tragic accident which

happened on 8th October 1919. At 11.35am, Tram 19 started its ascent up the hill. Part of the way up, it faltered and began to go backwards. The driver put on the front brake but it didn't stop. The conductress tried the back brake and that also failed, with the result that the tram went backwards down the hill and overturned in the vicinity of the end of the terraced houses that are there now.

The conductress, Lillian Parker, and another passenger, were killed, while 15 others were injured. Investigations into the cause of the accident decided the sharp double turn which then existed at the end of the bridge could have been a factor (it was later widened where today are trees and grass). The tram itself was examined and proved to be in good working order, and was back in service the next day. An interesting theory came via a listener to a radio programme made by local historian Richard Stone. The listener told him that both her parents had worked on the trams at that time. Apparently the consensus among workers was that leaves on the track had been the cause.

10. Continue to the bottom of the hill, cross the road and stand near the junction at the end of the bridge. This entrance to Winshill has many interesting stories to tell. The Swan Hotel: This pub was originally in the small building on the corner of Bearwood Hill Road (now an alternative therapy business). If you look on the side of the wall behind the new noticeboard you can just make out the words 'Swan Inn' in black. In 1892 it belonged to Charles John Spooner who had his works behind in what is now the car park. Previously it had been the establishment of a tobacco pipe maker. Spooner started as a designer and woodcarver and later branched out into making wooden wagon homes for showmen. He moved into larger premises on Meadow Road (off the bridge) before finally joining with Ortons to become a manufacturer of fairground apparatus with its associated carving and gilding.

The present Swan was built in 1894. There are two theories as to why it has its name. Obviously one relates to the birds on the

nearby river. The second theory relates to the roads leading from the Junction (Stapenhill, Winshill, Ashby, Newton Solney)

Now look across at the junction of Ashby Road and Stapenhill Road.

Ashby Road itself, as far as High Bank Road, was excavated from Winshill Woods in 1837. In the 12th century the woods are reputed to have been home to a hermit. For a brief period (1855-1859) coal was mined. Most of the woodland was felled in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Behind the trees today is Ashfield House, built in the 1870s and in 1919 home to Alderman J. R. Morris who was twice Mayor (in 1895 and 1900). Today it is used by the Freemasons.

Many years ago this was the spot where thieves were hung and it was called 'Hanging Hill'. Just visible on the opposite side of Stapenhill Road are the boat houses of the Rowing Clubs, Leander (1847) and Trent (1863). The first Regatta was held on the river in 1865.

Leading to the junction is Burton Bridge over the River Trent. After the tram accident the bridge end was widened and this can still be seen where the road widens and the trees and grass beds are now. Pictures show that Bearwood Hill looks just like an extension of the Bridge at that time.

Between 1924-26 the whole bridge was widened. This is commemorated by a plaque on the wall just next to the flower beds at the Swan end of the bridge..

11. Leave the junction and start walking along Newton Road. As you go notice across the road a small housing development called Newton Mews. It is thought that the quarry there in 1344 provided sandstone for the building of Tutbury Castle. In later years it belonged to Elijah Wrigley, a builder, and at one time it was a Council depot.

Immediately next to Newton Mews you can see the gateway and path leading to what was once Woodlands House. Built in 1846 it was at one time home to Robert Tomlinson, a Burton surgeon. When the Girls' High School was built in the grounds, the house became home to the school's headmistresses.

On 2 August 1951 Miss Winifred Mulley, Headmistress from 1944, was murdered there. An Army deserter, John Fenton aged 20 admitted the crime. At his trial he said: "A woman came out of the bedroom door. She said 'What are you doing?' and took hold of me by the arm. I must have lost my head then because I took the big tin [of sausages, stolen from another house] out of my pocket and hit her on the head with it. We struggled into the bedroom. I saw a penknife on the bedside table. My mind was in such a mess I did not know what I was doing and stuck it in her neck."

He was given a death sentence but there was a plea for mercy. In the event, he spent 10 years in prison before emigrating to Australia. Then in London, in 1962, he gassed himself in an empty school using a folded up union flag as a pillow. His wife of 16 weeks knew he'd been in prison, but not for murder. She said that he had a nasty temper.

12. Continue along Newton Road until you come to Newton Road Park. Go into the car park.

In the distance, on your left, you get a glimpse of Burton Bridge. This has been the site of a crossing for many years. There is certainly evidence of one here in the 12th Century (although further downstream). The present bridge was built in 1864 and opened by the Marquis of Anglesey. It was a very narrow road with refuges at intervals. In old photographs it is possible to see the old and new bridges side by side until the old bridge was demolished.

Two important events took place on the old bridge. In 1322 King Edward II, during his campaign to attack Tutbury Castle, fought with the Earl of Lancaster, destroying much of the town in the

process. Then in 1643 during the civil war, Colonel Tyldersley led a charge for the royalists over the bridge to attack the town. This was witnessed by Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I.

Alongside Newton Road Park flows the River Trent. It is 170 miles long and flows from its source at Biddulph Moor in the Staffordshire Moorlands to the Humber Estuary. There is evidence of an early settlement here, where there was a ford and plentiful supply of fish and river fowl for food. The river has also been known over the years by different names. The Romans called it Trisantonata meaning 'trespasser', referring to its frequent flooding. In Saxon times it was known as Treanta or Treenta, but it was referred to as Trenta in the Domesday book of 1086. This part of the 'smug and silver Trent' receives a mention in Shakespeare (Henry IV part 1, Act 3 scene 1).

The river has been used by the townspeople over the years for regattas, for riverside pageants and festivals and, in the winter of 1929, when large stretches were frozen, for ice skating.

On the opposite side of the river from here is Bass Meadows. An exciting event took place here in 1910 when one of the first aviation shows came to the town. From 26th September to 1st October over 30,000 people watched the exhibition of monoplanes and biplanes which included the Blériot, produced by the famous French aviator and engineer who had been the first person to fly across the channel in 1909. Special excursion trains brought thousands of people to Burton and residents of the houses high on Newton Road rented out their bedrooms to provide a good view of the event. The Burton Aviation Week flyers were all French. They included a woman, Hélène Dutrieu (who was admired for her breeches as well as her flying skills) and Paul de Lessops (son of the engineer of the Suez canal) who on one trip missed Burton and ended up in Nottingham. Also taking part was Julien Mamet who won the prize for the fastest flight around Lichfield Cathedral and back. Passengers were also taken on some flights including the then Mayor of Burton Cllr T Jenkins.

Julien Mamet came back to the town in 1912 but the air show was moved to Outwoods owing to flooding.

The 1910 show was a great success and the profits were used to buy a chain and badge for the Mayoress, Mrs Mary Jenkins, whose initials are incorporated into the design. This is still in use today. The badge includes a small enamel medallion depicting one of the aeroplanes.

Royalty used the Bass Meadows as a landing strip when the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) came on a visit in 1929.

13. Leave the Park and turn left back onto Newton Road. Walk along the road until you come to a pub called The Sump. This was originally called the Royal Oak and was on this site in 1862. It was on an island in the river near here that, in March 1971, the decomposing body of a man was found in a shallow grave. His hands and feet were tied and he was in a sitting position, naked except for a pair of socks and a gold ring. The man could not be identified, despite it being revealed that he had a distinctive medical condition called torticollis, a neck condition that would cause his head to lean permanently to the right. In 2006 his face was digitally reconstructed in the hope that someone would recognise him, but no-one did and the murder remains unsolved to this day.

Next to the pub are the old mill buildings

A mill has been on this site since the time of the Domesday Book. In the 11th Century there was a Corn Mill and in the 14th Century there was a Fulling Mill (part of the process of making woollen cloth). That became a Cotton Mill in the 18th Century, owned at one time by the grandfather of Robert Peel (founder of the modern police force). who also owned works in Bond Street near the Ferry Bridge and lived in the large Georgian house, Peel House in Lichfield Street next to the rugby ground. Greensmiths were the final owners of a flour mill on this site which closed in 1991. The mill buildings have now been converted into flats.

14. At this point cross the road and go past the derelict building on the corner of Mill Hill Lane. This was once part of the mill and used to be a Wheelwright's. Go up Mill Hill Lane past the cricket club (established 1881) and continue to the junction with Greenway on the right (a development built in 1999). This area is the site of Ada Chadwick Secondary Modern School, opened by and named after the local Alderman who had been chair of the Education Committee.. It was built in 1968 and became part of Abbot Beyne Mixed Comprehensive in 1975. It was closed as a school in the 1980s and the building was then used by Burton College. In 1992 it was demolished amid concerns about its structural safety – the area was full of springs and it was alleged to be sliding down the hill.

15. Continue up Mill Hill Lane past the junction with Dalebrook Road on the left with its houses which date from the late 1960s. At the top of the hill stop at the pedestrian entrance to Abbot Beyne High School, opposite Vicarage Close. From here you can see the copper roof of what is now the school's Evershed Building. This was built in 1957 as the new home of the Boys' Grammar School which began life in 1520 as part of Burton Abbey and funded by Abbot William Beyne. In 1834 it moved to Friar's Walk (facing the Gardens of Remembrance) and in 1877 it moved to Bond Street (near the end of the Ferry Bridge before finally coming to rest in Winhill. The opening ceremony was performed by the Right Honourable Lord Evershed, Master of the Rolls. It merged with Ada Chadwick Secondary Modern and the Girls' High School to become Abbot Beyne mixed comprehensive in 1975.

As with the Girls' High School, tragedy struck. In 1950, headmaster Harold Moodey murdered his wife and 2 children at their home in Clay Street. He then went to Burton Railway Station and threw himself under a train.

On the corner opposite the school entrance, behind the trees, is St Mark's Vicarage, built in the 1960s. The original house was built in 1869; like the church it was funded by John Gretton. The

first vicar was George Frampton (1869-1910).

16. Carry on along Mill Hill Lane and at the junction with Newfield Road turn left and then right. Follow the road around until you reach the top of Wheatley Lane. You are now entering what is known as 'Old Winhill'. On the corner of Newfield Road and Wheatley Lane are two almshouses. As you will see from an inscription between the houses, they were built in 1923 with money left by Harriet Walton Jefford. She was a spinster who lived at 27, Ashby Road and who died in 1922. In 1954 the administration passed to Consolidated Charities of Burton.

Wheatley Lane (named after an ancient field, Weadley Close) was at one time the home of William Coltman. During the First World War he was a Lance Corporal in the North Staffordshire Regiment. As a stretcher-bearer he became the most decorated NCO (non-commissioned officer) of the war. He was awarded the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Bar, and the Military Medal and Bar. He was mentioned in dispatches and given the Croix De Guerre by the French – all without firing a shot! He died in 1974 aged 82 and is buried in St Mark's Churchyard.

As you walk down the lane look at the old white cottage half way down on the right called Wheatley Cottage. It is one of the oldest houses in Winhill. It is understood that a deaf and dumb man who in the 1970s lived further down the lane was born here and lived there with his parents and 10 siblings.

17. At the bottom of the lane turn right into Hollow Lane (once called Ditch Lane which was an ancient sunken road with the Dale Brook running alongside) The brook forms the boundary between Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Both Winhill and Stapenhill were part of Derbyshire until 1878 when they joined Burton. In 1894, they became part of Staffordshire. At the small wooden bridge and ford you can see Mount Pleasant, residential home named after a row of houses that used to be on the site.

18. Follow the lane as it curves right past Cherry Leys (also named after an old field) and stop at the junction with Berry Hedge Lane. It was at this point that the spring for Winshill old village was situated. It is commemorated by the house opposite, once a farm, which has its name, Spring Farm, on the door. Villagers in the surrounding houses paid a halfpenny in old money for their bucket of water but it was free on Sundays. Piped water was not installed in Winshill until 1904.

19. Turn right and walk up the hill. Here on the right is an old house (once thatched) called The Old Gate . It used to be a public house called The Old Gate and Pleasure Gardens and was surrounded by orchards. It served Allsopp's beer and the landlord in 1880 was Thomas Wilson. Later it was taken over by an Allsopp employee called Hardy.

20. At the junction turn right on to Berry Hedge Lane. As you follow the road round, notice another old house on your right called Cruck Cottage. Opposite Cruck Cottage are some new houses and flats built on the site of the old Berry Hedge Lane school which was demolished in 2011. This school; was opened in 1846 and in its early days (before the church was built) also served as a place of worship. The 1851 Census noted that 90 adults attended the service.

As a school, by 1871 it was attended by 56 boys and 50 girls. It became an all boys school in 1874 when the girls and younger pupils transferred to the school on the corner of Berry Hedge Lane and Hawfield Lane that later became Winshill Infants School. As new schools were built in Winshill, Berry Hedge Lane School closed and became a community centre that housed a playgroup and a youth club.

As you walk past the new housing, you can see echoes of the old school in the design of the block of flats. The road into the new housing development is called "Old School Grounds."

21. Carry on along Berry Hedge Lane past Mear Greaves Lane and up Church Hill Street until you come to the Co-op store. This was once a chapel built in 1887 for the United Free Methodists who later moved into High Bank Road Methodist Church. In the mid 1750's, Great Winshill Farm stood here surrounded by fields.

On the opposite side of the road at the junction with Hawfield lane used to be Winshill Infants School ,built in 1874, and its adjoining caretaker's house. Houses are now on the site but the part of the old school which remains can be seen opposite the Co-op. This now houses Winshill Youth Lounge and a Pupil Referral Unit.

Look down Hawfield Lane, past the new houses to 5 Alms Houses on the right built in 1885 and endowed by William Wardle. Hawfield lane then leads to what was once Manners' Council Estate built in the 1950's on land that used to belong to the Manners Brewing family. Built at the end of the Empire, the roads were named after cities from the old empire such as Queensland, Durban and Vancouver. Empire Road itself is a wide dual carriageway which we believe was built that way as the proposed route of a ring road round Burton.

We hope you have enjoyed this walk highlighting the history of Winshill and that it may have revived memories for you. If this is your experience, you may like to share them with others.

Winashill Residents' Association are undertaking a project called, "History on the Hill" where they hope to bring together people's recollections of life in Winshill. If you can contribute in any way they will be delighted to hear from you either by the Parish Council website **winshill.info** or by writing using FREEPOST to:

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Recollections of Winshill
FREEPOST
RRHR-EKKT-TJUJ
Winshill Parish Council
Neighbourhood Resource Centre
Canterbury Road
Burton on Trent
DE15 0HD

SOURCES

In researching the walks, the following sources were used: -

The Magic Attic – Sharpe's heritage Centre, Swadlincote

Books: -

History of Burton upon Trent – Charles Hayward Underhill

A Stones Throw of Burton – Richard Stone

Five books by G Sowerby and R Farman containing interesting old photographs: -

Burton upon Trent – Talk of the Town

Burton upon Trent – Looking Back

Burton upon Trent and District – On Old postcards

Second Collection

Around Burton on Trent

Websites: -

British History Online

Burton Grammar.Co.Uk

Wikipedia

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WINSHILL—BRETBY—WINSHILL SIX MILES

Map: Explorer 245. The National Forest.

This walk begins at the Anglesey Arms. For residents of Winshill the walk can begin from your doorstep. Alternatively you can start this walk from the Chesterfield Arms (opposite Keepers Cottage). Start at instruction 3. If you decide to leave your car at the starting points ask the landlord's permission.

1 Take the road opposite the pub, High Bank Road until it joins the main Ashby Road and proceed up the road passing the Total garage to your right. Turn left into Bretby Lane and cross over to enter Moat Bank on the right and follow the road until it runs into a public footpath.

2 Enter into a new plantation, Mimi's Wood, through a kissing gate and follow the wide track to a stile on to Burton Golf Course. Head towards Geary House, using the green and yellow markers as your guide. (Beware of flying golf balls and respect the golfers). Take the stile and walk along a fenced and hedge footpath to Geary Lane. Cross the road to a stile opposite into the field. Follow the distinctive path to a tarmac path which eventually comes out by Keepers Cottage.

3 Bear left and immediately left and follow the narrow tarmac road to Bretby Hall. Just before you reach the Hall, there is a diversionary footpath to your right. Cross the stile and follow this path to the end passing the Hall in its glorious setting. Turn left then left again then right to join tarmac road.

4 Proceed along this road passing the old stables with a distinctive clock on the roof. This building now is used for private residency. To your left you could just about see what use to be the walled garden. Where the road starts to bend there is a stile to your right. Cross the stile and follow not a clear path, heading in the direction of Bretby Church, crossing a wooden bridge then to a stile in the hedge on to the road. Head for the church.

5 At the church go over two stiles. At the second stile take diagonal path (not clear) to the right heading for trees and hedge to a stile. Cross the stile and head straight down to a stile that leads to Newton Lane. Proceed down the lane to farm on your right.

6 Turn left up a farm track. It is a straight path back into Winshill with views of Winshill Church and the water tower on Waterloo Clump. At the end of the track it turns into a road leading to houses. Take the first right into Newton Leys, taking the second left and then right Berry Hedge Lane.

Follow the road round and at top of hill bear right and follow road past Winshill Church back to the Anglesey Arms.

6a Chesterfield Arms starters. Follow above until end of track. Continue along road (Sales Lane) to crossroads. Carry straight on to top of road to roundabout. Cross road into Bretby Lane and immediate opposite is a public footpath. At top turn left brings you to instruction 2.



The present Bretby Hall was built in 1812 for the fifth Earl of Chesterfield. In 1871 on the death of the 7th Earl the estate was passed to his widowed mother, Dowager Countess of Chesterfield. On her death the Hall came into the ownership of

the Earls of Carnavon. The fifth Earl became involved with Howard Carter the renowned Egyptologist who discovered Tutankhamen tomb in the early 1920s. To fund the expedition the Earl sold the main estate to Swadlincote industrialist J D Wragg. In 1926, the Hall was sold to SDerbyshire County Council and was run as an orthopaedic hospital until 1997. It has now been converted into luxury apartments.