

Through the Ash Village (0.9 miles; 1.45 km) March 2022

Easy walking with most of the walk able to be done on public pavements.

This walk highlights some of the many buildings of interest and gives a glimpse into the history of the village.

Photos of and information about many of these buildings are held at the Ash Heritage Centre (AHC) at the Ash Village Hall, Queens Road, Ash CT3 2BG. It is open to the public on most Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon. For more information go to the Ash Heritage Centre website. There is a public car park to the rear of the hall, with 2 electric vehicle charge points available.

(DGD) = David Downes book "Ash – An East Kent Village" available from the AHC for £10.

LB = Listed Building

GUILTON – at the south side of Guilton, start at the junction with Durlock Road

1. Guilton Rectory LB: Cartwright Family home who endowed Ash School with places for 25 boys and 25 girls early in the C18 (DGD p. 80). LB: late C17, remodeled mid C19.
2. Guilton Farm: LB 1720. Machine Gun Posts situated here in the road during WWII (DGD pp.135-136).
 - School Farmhouse (No. 62 Guilton): Dated 1691 and used to provide income for
 - School from 1721. Note Dutch Gables with 1691 spread in all four corners (DGD p. 57).
3. Cross the road at Rowan Lodge opposite No. 57. No pavement from No. 49 to Poulton Lane.
4. No. 57 Guilton: Former Laundry/Shop with date of 1896 at the top of the building. See Molly Horn's Memories of the Laundry (AHC).
5. Guilton House LB: built 1760. Note Sun Insurance plaque on the left.
6. Guilton Forge (corner of Poulton Lane): Previously a forge; garage since the early 1970's (DGD p. 147).
7. Volunteer Public House (corner of Poulton Lane): 19th century.

THE STREET starts near the junction of Molland Lane

8. St. Faith's School (No. 5 The Street): Formerly Woottonley House School from 1952 and built in 1891.
9. No. 7 Stuarts LB: built 1624, previously Yeoman Cottage. Former vets – Major Gallie.
10. No. 11 The Street (Old Malt House): Was a Malt House and the present owner has the original indenture framed on a wall. It latterly became Foat's then Boothby's Butchers.
11. No. 15: The actress Ann Rye lived here. Her mother was the senior of 2 teachers (sisters) at Kelsey school, located on the site of Nos. 8 and 8a Chequer Lane.
12. Nos. 27 & 29 Yeoman Thatch and Pump Cottage: LB circa C17.
13. West of Hawthorn Cottage (No. 12): Site of Armstrong's Yard and Moss Dairy.
14. No. 18 - Cape House: Built 1724 and home to David Downes, solicitor and author of the book "Ash – An East Kent Village".
15. Chequer Lodge (No. 2 Chequer Lane): Formerly Jean & Mary Ltd.
16. Chequers Bakery with shop door and window on The Street. (DGD p. 97)

17. Nos. 31/33: Pop Around/Salon: Formerly Jacobs Stores established 1857 (DGD p. 96). (Note "Jacob Bros." on the tiled step of No. 31.)
18. No. 35: Ash Pizza King on the left-hand side, formerly Bickers Newsagents having relocated from
19. No. 30 in the early 1940's. Originally The Marquis of Granby Public House. Note the boot/shoe scrappers on each side of the door. (DGD p. 94)
20. CAR PARK - Formerly 2 thatched cottages on this site.
21. The Chequer Inn LB: Visible from The Street in Chequer Lane, built late C14 as a Hall House and became a Public House C17. Closed in 2014 and sold for residential redevelopment but the community successfully reopened it as a pub on 10 June 2019. It is now owned by the Chequer Inn Society.
22. Pound Corner (The Street/Chequer Lane): Site of Village Pond until 1840's and purchased by the Parish Council for £1 in 1974 (DGD p. 97).
23. Welcome Co-op (No. 20): Formerly Vyes/Watson/Grout (DGD p. 97).
24. Boots the Chemist LB (No. 22): early C19 front to C18 (DGD p. 100). Old negatives on glass found here and are now in the AHC.
25. Nos. 37 and 39 (Solly Cottage): LB early and mid C19. Formerly Harden's Draper's established 1844 and by the turn of the century had as many as 10 milliners working on the top floor. (DGD p. 96)
26. No. 24 - Meadow View LB: built 1799.
27. No. 43 - Chilton House LB: late C17. Part of house former doctor's surgery before relocating to Chilton Fields.
28. No. 30 LB: Formerly Bickers Shop before relocating to No. 35 with No. 32 LB, C18 front to C17/16 building.
29. Nos. 34 LB and 36 LB: Formerly "Good Intent" Public House. Early C18 altered early C19.
30. No. 38a (The Little Studio): Henry Bourne, latterly Spicer butchers (DGD p. 96).
31. No. 38 - Norfolk House LB: mid C19 on C17 foundations/base. Site of garage next to United Reform Church entrance: Closed 1967 and relocated to new premises on site of Nos. 40-42 Sandwich Road (Donaldson's) (DGD p. 147).
32. United Reformed Church: Built 1849 and closed with a final service on 19th September 2015. Now being converted for residential use. (DGD p. 105)
33. No. 51: Antique shop known as Henry's of Ash.
34. Nos. 40-42 – Namaste House LB: mid C18 extended and altered mid C19. Formerly Turner House and now flats.
35. No. 55 - The Old Bakery: Formerly Solley's in the C19 (DGD p. 96). Turmaine & Sons were the last baker closing in 1998 (DGD p. 147).
36. No. 59 Ship House LB (backing onto churchyard): C18. Formerly Ship Inn including Starboard and Port Houses (DGD p. 98).
37. ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH LB - Medieval Anglican church which has separate Guide Books available. This is a Grade 1* listed building and has a number of listed tombs inside the church.
38. No. 46 - Spencer House LB: front of house early C19, with rear wing early C18.

39. No. 54 "Provisions": Former Hills Grocers Store. Note old sign to the right above the Gateway.
40. No. 56 - Old Library: Previously home and shoemaker premises of the Farnell family. Three machine guns placed in the 1st floor room (which previously had a bay window) – WWII. See Betty Castle née Farnell memories (AHC).
41. Ash Physio + Lion Walk: Site of former garage and car park.
42. Nos. 60/60A LB - Aslan House/Ty Llew: C16 altered early C19. Former Lion Inn and Posting House (DGD p. 101). Latterly Indian Restaurant gutted by fire in 2009, now private residence.
43. No. 61: Formerly Cabinet Maker and a Gun Shop (Colin Smith) (DGD p. 101).
44. With No. 63 LB, possible site of the Bull's Head Public House in C18. Early C19 built on earlier base. Also believed to have previously been a brewery.
45. No. 67: Formerly a Saddler (S.W. Harle) and Shoemaker (Mr. T. Chapman) and many of the tools from these premises for both trades can be seen at the White Mill, Sandwich.
46. Nos. 65-67 were previously thatched cottages which burnt down and were rebuilt in 1882. (Still visible on the side is: S.W. Harle/Saddler/Harness/Maker/Sandwich.) (DGD p. 101)
47. No. 75 – Cobwebs LB: C15 restored late C20, previously called The Lion Cottage.

The start of Moat Lane which was the main roadway to Sandwich until the early C14.

48. Ash War Memorial - Dedicated May 1920 with 45 names from WWI inscribed and subsequently a further 17 from WWII. Westmarsh also has a War Memorial with 13 and 4 names respectively inscribed. (DGD pp. 124-127 and 143). Continue along The Street.
49. No. 70 - Bank House LB: Former branch of Nat West Bank. Mid C18, altered mid C19 and mid C20.
50. No. 72 - Old Forge: Formerly Blacksmith (DGD p. 76).
51. No. 79a - The Old Post Office LB: Established 1836 (DGD p. 76) closed 2007. Early C19.
52. Former Cartwright School: Closed in 1964. See stone tablet above door inscribed "Cartwright Charity Schools A.D. 1871". This was for boys with the building at the back of the yard for girls. (DGD pp. 80/81 – referred to in contemporary reports when Queen Victoria travelled through the village in 1842.)
53. No. 88 plus Vine House LB (No. 90) – C18 altered mid C19. Additional part of Vine House was once Mr Birch's tailor's workshop (mid C20).
54. Site of Cycle Shop (between Nos. 88 & 94) - Owned by the Brisley family. Also subsequently used for a time as a library.
55. Nos. 87-89: Formerly George and Dragon Public House LB: mid C19.
56. No. 94 Griffin Cottage LB: late C18.
57. No. 91 - Formerly Co-op Stores
58. Nos. 96-110A - Victoria Terrace (1860's):
 - No. 96 previously Swinnock and Beer Stores, latterly Victoria Stores (DGD p. 99). Closed end of C20.
 - No. 110A (The Studio) with canopy previously a Pork Butcher's shop.
59. Alexandra Row (Nos. 112 – 126): Built 1860's – 1870's by Richard Ratcliff Smith (DGD p. 96).
60. No. 128 - Gooden Cottage: Previously Old Toll Cottage in use until 1876 (DGD pp. 74/75).
61. Street End House LB: early C18 altered and extended early C19. (DGD p. 73)

New Street was built in the 1300's as a new route to Sandwich, via Houndpits, Each and the Causeway. Sandwich Road was built in 1798 as a more direct route to Sandwich. Continue along

SANDWICH ROAD

62. First and Last (Nos. 1-4) LB: Former Public House and White Post Brewery (DGD p. 96). Early C18 and mid C19.
63. Nos. 7-9 Greenhill Place: Built 1851 by Richard Ratcliff Smith (DGD p. 96).
64. Nos. 11-27 Mount Pleasant Row: Built 1822 to house the Parish Poor (DGD p. 67).
65. No. 24 - White Post Farm: Farmhouse with barns. Farmland being developed for housing. This is the site of Levericks. C14 effigy of Sir John Leverick can be seen in St. Nicholas church (DGD pp. 22, 26).
66. Gardner's Close: Built on site of the former Workhouse which was subsequently Gardner's Brewery and produced one Britain's best known ginger beers; Putticks and lastly Puma (DGD pp. 72 and 147). This is also the site of a Romano British cemetery.
67. The Old Rectory (corner of Cherry Garden Lane): Built 1856 – became the Rectory 1871 (DGD p. 107).
68. No. 51-53: Wooden building east side of house formerly a Cycle Shop.
69. Site west of No. 67: Wooden barn on the right, formerly the Reed Barn School (DGD p. 82) and presently being used by All Kinds of Music. Previously, entire site used by Bates of Ash; Dalgety and Agrii.

