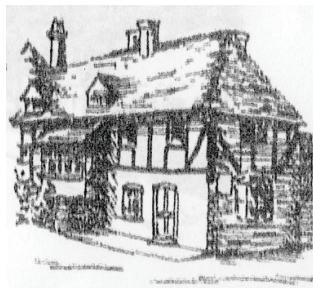


Market Square becomes the High Street as you go west, with more shops before turning left into Lodge Lane with its many picturesque old houses. Before the gates of Squerries Lodge, turn right onto a footpath through Back Meadow into Mill Lane.



To the left of the Round Pond a pile of stones and rubble mark the site of Elm View Mill, the largest corn mill in the town fed by springs which are tributaries of the River Darent.

Turn back along Mill Lane to the main road, past the former British Legion clubhouse to Verralls Corner. On the left is the old forge, once a smithy.

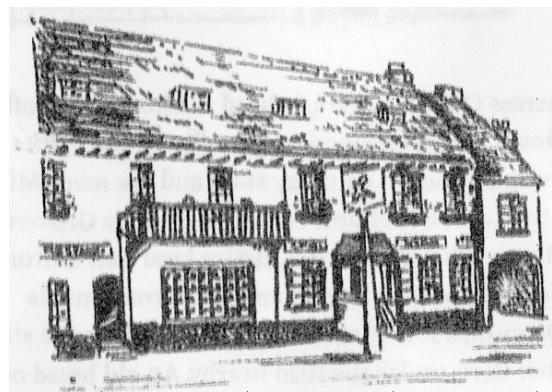


Cross the road here with care, and walk on past the former Black Eagle Brewery, once famous for its Westerham Ales. Brewery House is all that remains, but a Victorian letterbox set into the wall declares its age. Opposite, meandering wetlands remain of the Long Pond, cleared and restored as the town's Centennial project. A white weather-boarded building comes into view, the former General Wolfe Inn shows another local building style, beyond it the Flemish gables of Moretons are different again, as is Pitts Cottage, so named as William Pitt the younger stayed there while his home in Keston was being repaired.



At Wolfelands, looking up Goodley Stock the lodge gates of Squerries court can be seen. The William & Mary house, home of the Warde family since 1731, looks over the western boundary of the town. Retrace your steps to Verralls Corner and pass houses of many different periods, just before Wells Place are the Old Laundry Cottages (14th - 18th C). On the corner of Croydon Road is the Manor House (17th C).

Looking further down Croydon Road, an oast is all that remains of Delegarde Farm. Cross Croydon Road and head up into Market Square and at the George & Dragon, another coaching inn, a plaque commemorates James Wolfe's last stay in Westerham in December 1758.



Compiled by Margaret Payne, based on a text by Doreen Byrd in 1977. Drawing by Olive Wilson, last update 2022.

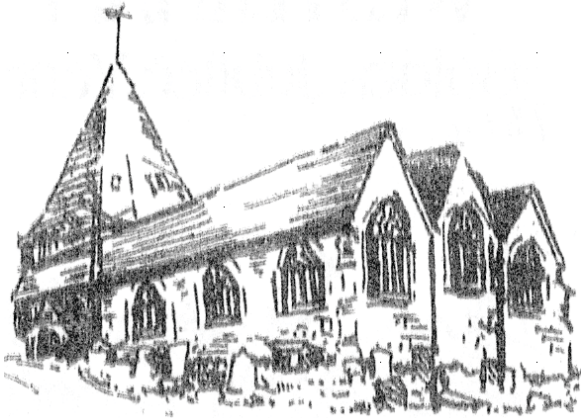
A WALK AROUND WESTERHAM Platinum Jubilee Year



This town trail takes you past some of Westerham's historic buildings and sites of interest

The Westerham Society 2022

Start at the Wolfe Statue (erected January 1911) on the north corner of The Green and walk towards the church, past the Little Grasshopper Inn (16th C) and a row of shops and houses (much older than their facades) to the statue of Sir Winston Churchill (20th C), a famous resident of nearby Chartwell. On either side of the paving stones and in the churchyard can be seen ancient Kentish Ironstone setts.



The parish church of St. Mary's is built of Kentish Ragstone. The tower dates from the 12th C, the remaining walls from the 13th & 14th C. Look at the view eastwards past the War Memorial over rooftops to fields and rising woods beyond showing that Westerham is actually built on a hill in a valley surrounded by higher hills...

Take the path to the left of the church, past the tower and the John Fryth room, named after the Protestant martyr reputed to have been born in the house by the church gate when it was an inn and his father was the innkeeper.

Over the wall just beyond the church are fine views of the North Downs, further reaches of the hill range surrounding the town. Continuing down the churchyard path, just beyond the seat lies the grave tablet of Noel Streatfeild, author of 'Ballet Shoes'.

Another former resident Peter Nissen, who designed the famous war-time storage huts, is also buried in the churchyard. The footpath curves round the bottom of the churchyard to meet another from the War Memorial. Turn left, leaving the churchyard and follow the path to Quebec Avenue. Cross the road to take the footpath to the car park alongside the infant Darent stream. Walk up the slope and leave the car park to join the busy A25 by Westerham Place, once Darenth Towers, home of Luke Hansard's family (of parliamentary fame). Next to it Quebec House (17th C) formerly titled as Spiers, the boyhood home of James Wolfe, born 1727, commissioned at 14, and died a general leading an army to capture Quebec for Britain in 1759.



Across Quebec Square, behind the houses and off Hosey Hill, once stood Darenth Mill and the Swan Brewery, the brewery chimney and the name Mill Street are all that now remain. Beyond, starting up the hill is Grosvenor House (18th C) and opposite beside a former inn stands Darenth, a 15th Century Wealden House, named from the stream that flows under the road nearby. An old bread oven projects from its inner corner.



Walking up Vicarage Hill there are several old houses of note, including Red Cow House (c 1450), Copthall (1575) another hall house, and The Old Vicarage. Opposite, beside a narrow path to the churchyard is Colthurst (established 1575), one of the town's three almshouses.

Continue up to The Green until you are beside The Pheasantry with its distinctive gold weather vane. Adjacent stands Water Lane where townsfolk once drew their water from the mill leat feeding the mill pond.



Look at the window of Owl House, a former stable block, where a glass engraving 'reflects' The Green behind you with the faces of children who once lived there.

Continue up the hill to Market Square past the King's Arms Hotel and turn left into the square where Russell House council offices and the town's surgery are based. Beside the surgery stands the Domesday Mosaic by local artist Kenneth Budd, sponsored by the Rotary in 1980, illustrating the entry for the town known as 'Oistreham' in the Domesday Book.