



A Domesday Village East Keswick

The East Keswick Heritage Trails introduce residents and visitors to some features in our buildings and landscape that reflect the history of East Keswick over hundreds of years.

There may be no obvious signs of village life from the time of the Norman Conquest but a wall plaque on Stocks Hill tells us that an agricultural estate was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. In fact a community existed here before that time and Chesinc, an early spelling of Keswick, may indicate that a cheese farm was established here by Saxon lords. Meadows, pasture and woodland along the banks of the Wharfe formed the northern limits of this estate or township and Keswick Beck marked the southern boundary. The earliest dwellings were probably in the vicinity of Moor Lane, which, as its name suggests, led to an area of open grazing to the west adjoining Harewood's moor. Housing spread over the centuries to include what is now Main Street, School Lane and Whitegate, but the boundaries of the township were very similar to those of the modern civil parish of East Keswick. Within this area there are clues, many yet to be discovered, of the evolution of a small farming community into a twenty-first century commuter village.

Back in the Middle Ages Bardsey and Collingham belonged to the monks of Kirkstall Abbey but the fortunes of East Keswick and Harewood lay with private landlords. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries East Keswick was granted to the Mohaut family who probably built the moated house which stood between Keswick Beck and Moor Lane. Around 1260, after three generations of Mohauts, the estate was divided between seven daughters, and over the next few hundred years parcels of land in East Keswick belonged to a succession of non-resident landlords. Those who lived here were mostly peasant farmers but, whatever their status, all residents were involved in a communal system of agriculture which exploited the resources of all the land within



East Keswick A Domesday Village

the township. Crops were cultivated in narrow strips in three large open fields and rights to graze animals and collect wood were strictly regulated. Flour may have been milled locally and there is evidence of cloth making. The parish church was in Harewood, and tracks leading across the moor would have been used by villagers not only to attend baptisms, marriages and burials but also to visit the medieval market and other entertainments in Harewood.

When in 1539 Henry VIII requested an assessment of the number of men available in the event of a French invasion, ten of 17 able-bodied males in East Keswick could provide horses and six of these were described as archers. Other documents show that during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries peasant farmers were able to rent land, often in small plots around the township. The population was growing and new dwellings increasingly used sandstone from local quarries rather than wood. The Hearth Tax of 1672 listed 36 properties with fireplaces. Most had only one but the two largest houses had four and five each. Some names may have survived from this time. Gateon House Lane, actually just in Bardsey but overlooking the village from the south, and Clitheroe House in School Lane, could both be derived from village families recorded both in the Hearth Tax and earlier documents

In the eighteenth century the aspirations of some of the yeomen families who had been building up their farms may have been affected by the greater ambitions of the new lord of Harewood. When Edwin Lascelles bought the estate in 1739 he set about acquiring land in the neighbouring villages. By the end of the century he owned more than two thirds of the farmland in East Keswick. While there is no evidence that the enclosure of the common land and open fields in 1801 affected villagers adversely, it must have been of great benefit to the Harewood estate which continued to buy land here for another hundred years until it owned all but a few fields.

In the nineteenth century nearly every family was involved in some way with farming, but as roads improved and later the railway passed nearby, the community also encompassed other interests. As well as those who described themselves as farmers, there were blacksmiths and lime burners, the latter producing fertiliser from the limestone quarries in the east of the village. There were also market gardeners, butchers, joiners, shoemakers, grocers, and a postmaster. Among the professions were clergymen, teachers and a surgeon. After 1850, Wesleyans, who had worshiped in the village since the end of the eighteenth century, planned a new chapel and at last the Anglican congregation got their own church building here. There were now a Sunday school, day school and two small boarding schools.



An early twentieth century historian remarked that the village had a 'pleasant, prosperous look...accessible by good driving roads from Leeds as well as from stations on the Leeds Wetherby railway, the place is much visited in the summer season'. At that time there were about 115 houses. Thatch and flags were being replaced by slate roofs, but more drastic changes in building styles were to come, starting with Brooklands at the southern approach to the village. A number of older cottages were demolished and the local authority bought land for housing. In 1950 death duties forced the Harewood Estate to sell its land in the village and existing tenant farmers took advantage of this. Since 1958 small farms and market gardens near the centre of the village have given way to new housing. Rosecroft replaced Rose Nurseries and later Argyle Mews was built on the site of a small farm of that name. In 1974, when Leeds Metropolitan District Council took over this corner of the old West Riding, most of the village was designated a conservation area.

planned and natural environment. There have been several campaigns to restrict the number of new houses and more recently a Village Design Statement has been adopted by Leeds City Council as supplementary planning guidance. In 2003 there were about 450 houses and about 1200 residents in a setting still defined by a pattern of fields and woodland between river and beck. Some of this historic landscape is now in the care of the East Keswick Wildlife Trust, whose work was a factor in our success as North of England Winners of the Calor Village of the Year Competition in 2002.

Nowadays the footpaths and bridle ways around the village are used mainly for recreation, while road traffic hurries people about their daily lives. These heritage trails point to some of the features we can find on these routes which link us to hundreds of years of village life.



Heritage TRATUI

The trail begins at the Village Hall.

1. Village Hall

It seems appropriate that the starting (and finishing) point for this first Heritage Trail should be the Village Hall, which has been the heart of the community since it was built. The original hall was built after three years of spectacular fundraising and the donation of land by the Earl of Harewood. It opened in 1949 where the car park stands now, and was replaced by the present building early in 1986. The building houses a sports hall, meeting room, kitchens and accommodation for the Snooker Club. In the garden behind the Village Hall stands a tree planted by HRH The Prince of Wales to commemorate his visit to the village on St Valentine's Day 2003.





2. The Old School

Directly opposite the Village Hall and on your left as you begin the trail, you will notice the old school, now a private residence. The school opened in 1914, moving from earlier premises in Moor Lane. It began as a typical village elementary school, taking children from five to fourteen. It later became a Junior and Infant School, then, in the 1980s, faced with a surplus of places across the education authority area and falling rolls, it became clear that the school's days were numbered. In 1990 it closed and today the village youngsters attend a number of schools in neighbouring villages, most of them going to Bardsey.

Walk down School Lane towards Main Street. On the left you'll find:

3. School House and Clitheroe House

These formed a private boarding school for boys owned and run by the Laurence family from 1820 to 1890. In its latter years the school became a Methodist College, training students for missionary work in various parts of the world, especially Newfoundland. School House is thought to date from 1690 and has a vaulted cellar with a well and rafters that still bear traces of tree bark.

4. The Old Mill

The Methodists' activity in East Keswick dates back to at least 1777 and it was this building that was erected as their first dedicated chapel in 1792 (the year following Wesley's death). It stood next to the Laurences' school and seminary and was sold to local grocer G H Moon in 1891, when worship transferred to the present Church on Main Street, then called the Joseph Laurence Memorial Chapel. Moon converted the disused building to a flour mill, which it remained until 1916, and installed an oil engine to power it. The Old Mill served as a corned beef store during the Second World War and was sold in 1947 to become a private house.

G. H. MOON & SON,

Family Grocers,

Wine and Spirit Merchants,

EAST KESWICK,

Nr. LEEDS.

5. Laurel Bank

This large property was built by the Moon family on land they had inherited through a judicious marriage. The grocery business which they established here in the mid-nineteenth century proved extremely successful and in time additional branches were opened in the area, supplied by horse and dray from the warehouse located in the north wing. The spacious south-facing house which formed the domestic portion of the property boasted ten bedrooms and an acre of garden. Today, Moons' original shop has been divided into two shop units: the warehouse and the house are now flats.

Turn left into Main Street and walk down past Laurel Close.

6. The Lodge and The Orchards

The Orchards is a terrace of three houses built by the Moons for their employees, in a small orchard behind the Duke of Wellington. Only the terrace's gable end is visible from the Main Street, at the end of the cobbled driveway which also serves the Lodge and would have continued up northwards to Laurel Bank. Although the extent to which the Lodge served its suggested function is not clear, it would certainly have been an impressive addition to the Moons' developments. Both the Orchards and the Lodge were built in 1902.

7. The Duke of Wellington

This building has been a public house from at least 1822, when it was recorded in Baines' Directory - the earliest known trade directory to include East Keswick. The present dedication also survives from this time. Of the host of buildings that once occupied this site, much has been cleared: a description of 1876 identified two adjacent cottages, a wheelwright's shop, a garden, 'pigcoates' and coalhouses. Also beneath the present car park lie the remains of a barn and stables.

8. Brooklands

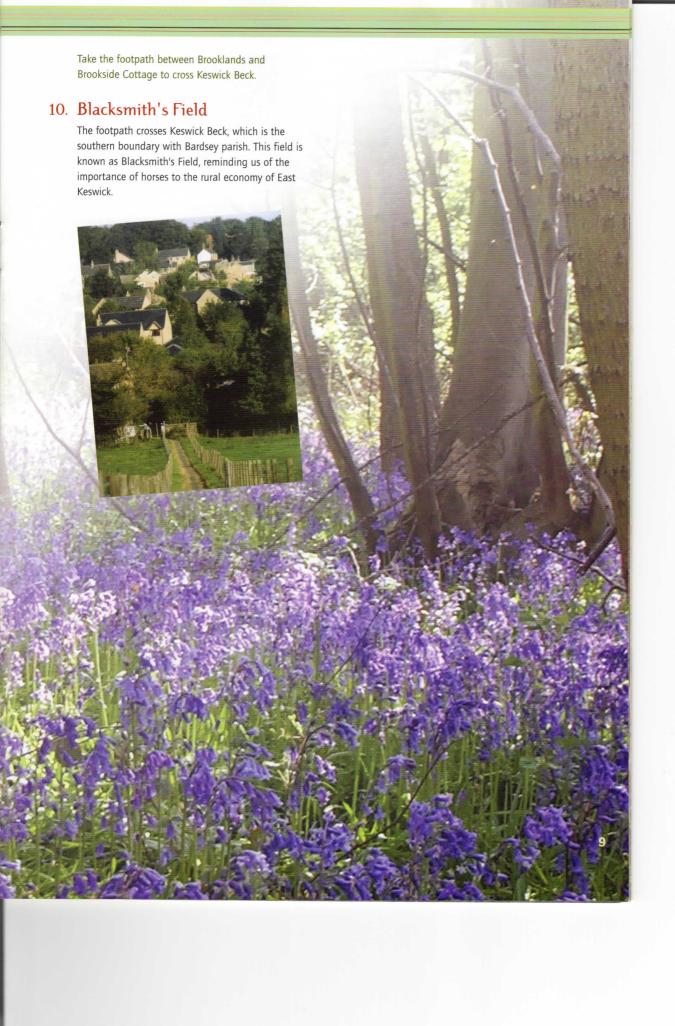
Completed in 1903, this terrace of nine houses was the last significant phase in the Moons' development of south-east East Keswick. Newspaper advertisements of the day show that these modern homes, supplied from the outset with electric light, indoor lavatories and hot water, were targeted at commuters wishing to use the new railway to Leeds, with Bardsey station being less than a mile away. The electricity which Moon privately supplied to Brooklands was probably generated using the oil engine at the flour mill, and predates the arrival of the village's first mains supply by over twenty years



9. Brookside Cottage

Although the ornamental gable end of East Keswick's southernmost house is a later-twentieth century addition, the present building has existed in various guises since the seventeenth or eighteenth century, having comprised three and then two separate dwellings before the conversion to a single home. In 1795, the property was purchased by the Lascelles of Harewood House, who reputedly had greenhouses here at some stage in the nineteenth century. G H Moon bought the holding at the time of Brooklands' construction in 1903. The two large cylindrical stones which flank the gateway suggest former industrial activity on this site, benefiting from its proximity to the beck.





At the top of the footpath, turn right along Keswick Lane and walk to the road junction near Rigton Grange. Turn left for just a few paces before crossing the road to take the bridle path known as Gateon Lane.

From here there are excellent views of the village. The line of the beck is East Keswick's southern boundary and the area to the left of the road as it enters the village is Keswick Marsh Nature Reserve.

Follow the track as far as its junction with a bridle path on your right (ignore the stile half hidden in the hedge which is an alternative way back to the village). Follow the bridle path downhill until it joins a farm track.

A row of wooden chalets ran down the hill close to the path and served as weekend retreats for families wishing to escape to the country. The chalets were demolished in the early years of this century.

11. The Water Course marker

Twenty yards or so after the bridle path joins the farm road, just before it crosses the beck, look out for a stone in the hedge bottom on the right with the inscription Thee old Water Course, 1786. (Notice that the stonemason had difficulty in fitting all these words into the space available!). No-one has yet discovered why it was thought necessary to divert the course of the beck, but an early map shows a building near here and there may have been some industrial process in the vicinity which required running water. The parish boundary follows the original course of the beck.

Continue along the farm track until you reach the tarmac road of Moor Lane, then turn right towards the village.

12. The former Moated Site

After Reighton House on the right you reach a farm gate overlooking an area where once stood a medieval moated house. The earthwork was finally ploughed out in 1960 and can now only be discerned by aerial photography. The house was built on a raised rectangular platform surrounded by a flat-bottomed ditch. Access was via a causeway on the north (Moor Lane) side. It is likely that in the eighteenth century most of the original construction materials were used for new buildings in the vicinity. One of these was Hall Farm on the opposite side of the road. Before leaving this gateway, look for the old oak tree about half way down the right-hand hedge boundary. This is the oldest tree in the village and was probably there when the moated house was occupied.

A little further on the right you come to Moat House, standing in front of the moated site and probably built of stone from it. Originally a farm, the buildings included a piggery, hen loft and cattle barn with a cantilevered staircase leading to a hay loft. In a garden wall there are bee boles, recesses designed to keep hives dry, probably dating from the eighteenth century.

Hope Cottage and Craine Cottage

A little further up Moor Lane on the left you come to Craine Cottage, the end of a terrace of three cottages (formerly four). The whole block, built before 1750, has undergone many alterations. An early photograph shows Craine Cottage with a stone mullioned window downstairs which may date back to the seventeenth century.



At the Public Footpath sign on the right, go through the gate and keep to the left of the field for a short distance until you reach a gate on the left. Go though this and follow the path to St Mary's Garth. Once on the road, look for another footpath on the left and follow this up between the tennis court and the churchyard.

14. Carr Green

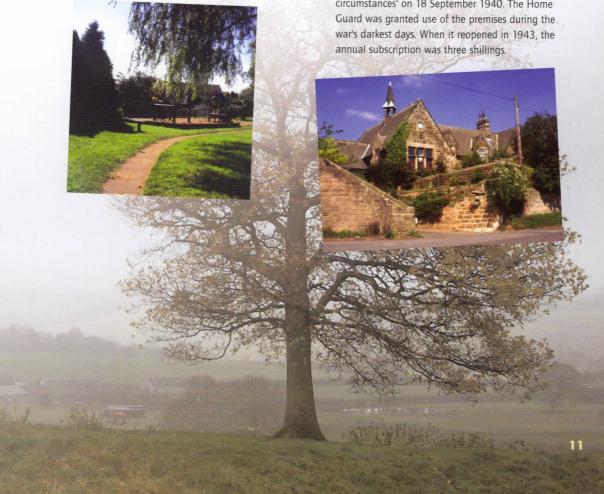
The age of the Tennis Club is a matter for some conjecture, but a Members' Rule Book from 1924 shows it to be fully active then. Its official title was the 'East Keswick Lawn Tennis Club' as it began on grass courts. The membership fee in 1924 was five shillings per year and its aims were to provide a facility for anyone in the village who wanted to play tennis at recreational and club level. It rented its land from the Harewood Estate and at the end of World War Two was paying five shillings each Lady Day. In 1949 the Tennis Club was offered the site which it bought the following year for £75.

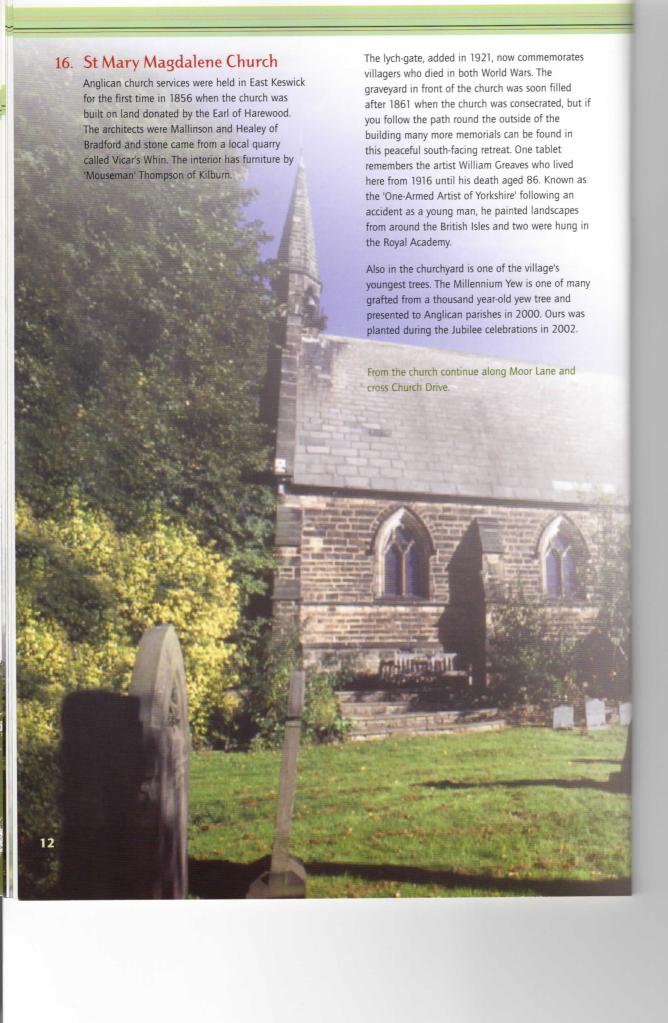
On the ground above the tennis courts is the village's play area which was substantially improved in 2002 using some of the proceeds from the East Keswick Millennium Book.

Follow the path to Moor Lane and take a look at the building with the clock gable.

15. The former Men's Institute

The building which is now West End House and Darwent House was respectively the village school and the home of the school's head teacher. The school transferred to School Lane in 1914 and the property became the Men's Institute, offering facilities for darts, billiards and dominoes. It also formed the village library which was open on Thursday evenings. Although girls were allowed in to choose books, if their choice was not considered suitable reading for an under-sixteen, it had to be changed for one that was. The club remained popular until it was closed 'owing to war circumstances' on 18 September 1940. The Home Guard was granted use of the premises during the war's darkest days. When it reopened in 1943, the annual subscription was three shillings





17. One up one down cottage

Immediately on the right you'll see one of the oldest buildings in the village, dating from about 1700. The interior still contains many original features -



fireplace, Yorkshire sliding window, floorboards held in place with wooden pegs and a wooden plank staircase. It has a pantiled roof and distinctive chimney composed of four flagstones. The present owner has embarked upon a careful restoration.

18. West End and 'City Square'

The remaining fifty yards or so to the junction with Main Street were known to villagers as West End and the junction with Main Street as City Square, no doubt in reference to the busy hub of Leeds. However, it seems it wasn't just villagers who referred to it in this way: even pre-war West Yorkshire Road Car bus timetables stated that their stop in the village was City Square!

Cross the road to the post box.

19. The Old Parsonage

The right hand wing of the large house opposite was originally Low Farm and dates from the early to mid-eighteenth century. One of nine listed buildings in the village, this is an interesting property. The hammer beam roof was originally thatched and there are unusual five-pane windows. It was extended to form a parsonage when the church was built, but apparently was never popular with the curates on account of its size. There is a dairy on the side of the house and a large barn in front. The blocked-up entrance suggests the changing levels of the adjacent road.



20. Stocks Hill

This area was so named because it was claimed to be the site of the village stocks which stood outside the wall of what is now the Old Parsonage.



Turn down Main Street, then left along The Close, which becomes The Paddock.

21. The Paddock

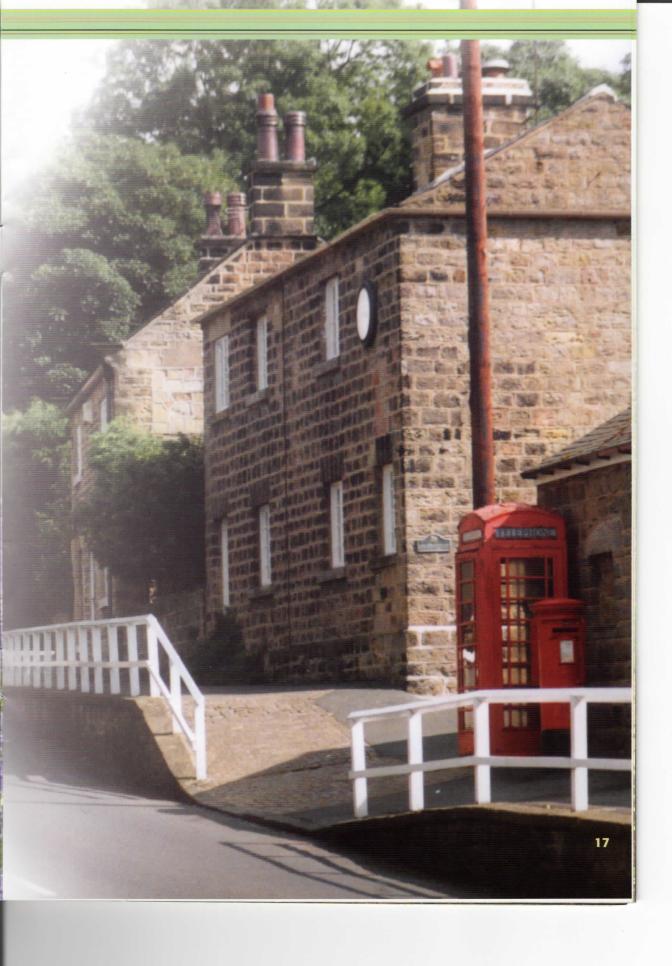
This was formerly an area of small closes and paddocks. South View, the farm in this 1963 photo, was a 17-acre smallholding belonging to the Illingworth family, butchers, of East Keswick and Harewood. It was subsequently demolished to make room for the housing development you are now walking through. As the twentieth century progressed, many of the small fields between and behind the dozen or so farmhouses and nurseries in the village were sold for housing developments in this way.



Turn left into Paddock Green then right along the short ginnel and you will arrive back at your starting point, the Village Hall car park.









Walk up the left-hand side of Main Street to the junction with Moor Lane, known locally as City Square (see also Heritage Trail 1 which describes part of this area). Look across to the right at the house with the clock.

H. Wray's Cottage

This is one of several buildings in this part of the village that can still be remembered by villagers as a shop. The clock is said to have been on a house at the end of School Lane (now demolished) but was installed here by 1940. At that time Jack Wray, who was a skilled watch repairer, kept it in good order, but later it was to become unreliable and stopped for years at a time.

I. Dains' Corner

This was the name formerly given to the junction of Main Street and Lumby Lane after the family who had shops on both sides of the road at different times from the 1920s. The group of buildings above Wray's Cottage provides glimpses into different aspects of local architecture, including Yorkshire sliding windows and flagged roofs. Old lintels and varying patterns of stonework suggest some of the changes which have occurred over the years. Wayside Cottage still has its vaulted cellar and the 'kneelers' built into the eaves at the gable ends can be seen clearly.

Beyond the junction, Main Street becomes Whitegate. Continue up the road.

EAST KESWICK VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

Will be unveiled on Saturday, October 8th, 1921, at 3 p.m.,

COL. G. R. LANE-FOX, M.P.

The Committee would be pleased if all relatives and Ex-service Men (in civilian dress) would be on the site at 2-50 p.m.

WALTER SPENCE, CHAIRMAN

Henry Crossley, Printer, Wetherby

J. Hillside

Methodism flourished in the village and this house was once a Primitive Methodist Chapel, as shown by the stone with the date 1847 beside the front door. Whether this was the date the building began to be used or when the foundation stone was laid is unclear. The register of baptisms began in December 1849 and continued until 1875, although only seventeen names are listed. However the registers may not be entirely accurate as they were compiled on a circuit basis and not by each individual chapel. The chapel was converted into a private house in about 1900.

K. The War Memorial

The memorial was erected in 1921 in the form of a Celtic cross four and a half metres high designed by the East Keswick War Memorial Committee. Its £207 cost was raised by public subscription. It was unveiled on October 8th that year by Colonel Lane-Fox of Bramham Park, MP for Wetherby.



L. Frank Shire's Quarry and Field

While local sandstone was used for building, limestone such as that quarried here during the nineteenth century was used as a fertiliser. The quarry has reverted to woodland and, together with the adjoining meadow, is maintained by the Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Parish Council. Species of interest on the site include twayblade, wood sanicle and field scabious.

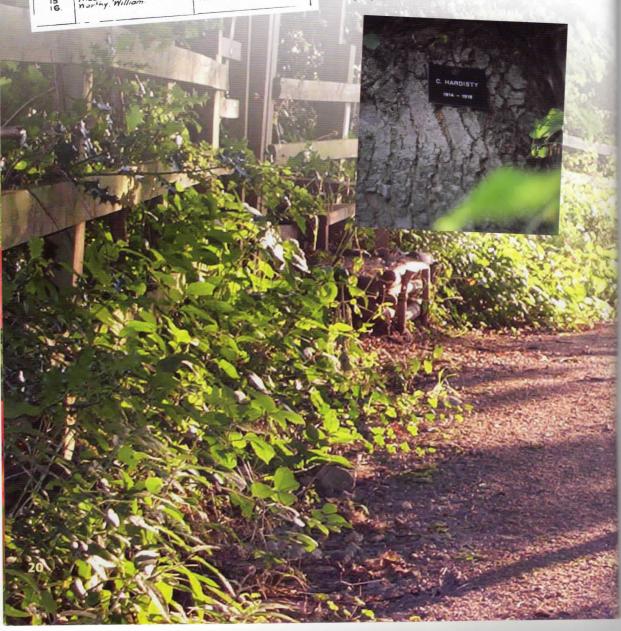
EAST KESWICK VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL -

- LIMETREES PLANTED JANUARY 31ST 1920 -

onmencing of Southerd	IN MEMORY OF	TREE PLANTED BY
	Allison George Bertram Asquith Same Borber Henry Brodrick Eric William Dalby Ernesk Dains Herbert Sanderson. Hardisty Charles Johnson Thomas Edwin Longfellow Laurence Samuel Phillibs. Firthur James. Rushforth. Harold Sane: Edvard Sampson, Edward Thackray Herbert Northy, William.	Miss Dalby Mrs. Asguith Rev. J. S. Harrison. Rev. Conon Lascelles Mrs. Dalby. Arthur Dains Rev. Henry Scott- Mrs. Johnson. Miss M. Langfellov Mrs. A.J. Phillips Mrs. Roo. Mrs. Sawcr. Mrs. J. Greaves Mrs. Trackray Rev. J. S. Harrison.

M. The Memorial Limes

Look carefully at the avenue of trees ahead of you and you'll see that each bears a man's name. Initially sixteen trees were planted, presumably before the death toll rose further, and each bore a small metal plaque, later replaced by varnished wood, dedicated to a villager who lost his life in the First World War. On January 31st 1920, 'in not very propitious weather conditions', the Reverends Lascelles, Scott and Harrison in the presence of 'a goodly gathering of residents and sympathisers' dedicated this avenue to their memory. The Parish Council maintains its upkeep and replaced the plaques for the second time in 2001.



Continue along the path until you come to the...

N. Memorial Garden

After the Second World War a small piece of land known as Little Burton Close was given by Edmund Patchett to the parish council as a War Memorial Garden and garden of rest to be used by the public forever. Mr Howarth donated the trees and the conveyance of the land took place on November 14th, 1949.

O. Crabtree Lane Car Park

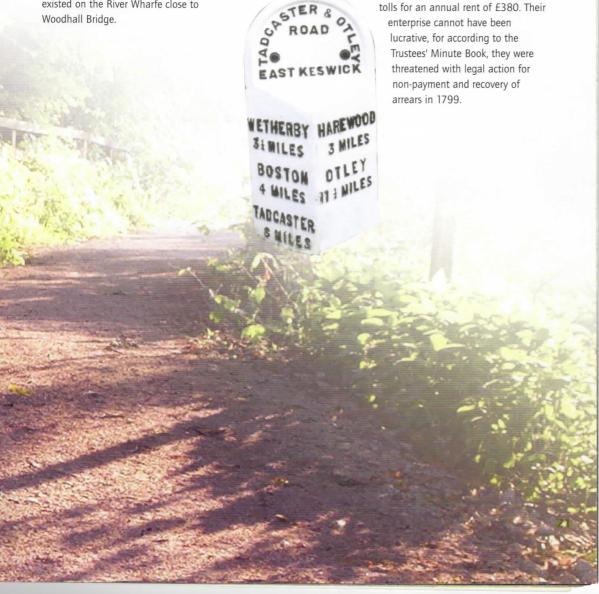
This former sandstone quarry was filled in with village rubbish in the twentieth century to make the present car park. Its old name of 'Millgate Quarry' supports speculation that a water-mill existed on the River Wharfe close to

The Otley and Tadcaster Turnpike

In the early eighteenth century, many of Britain's roads were little more than packhorse routes and bringing them up to a standard to take horse drawn traffic was an immense task. The government found the answer in a form of private road building known as turnpikes. Private companies could take over a stretch of road and charge a toll in return for improving it. This road was one. It was the Tadcaster to Otley Turnpike (the present-day A659 follows most of its route) established under an Act of 1753. Between 1796 and 1799, the tenant of the Angel Inn at Wetherby together with an attorney from the town,

Theophilus Wetherhead, leased these

enterprise cannot have been lucrative, for according to the Trustees' Minute Book, they were threatened with legal action for non-payment and recovery of



Cross the road with extreme care and take the bridle path opposite you.

Q. Lime Kiln House

At the top of the bridle path to the right stands Lime Kiln House, which was built about 200 years ago for the Teal family, a prominent name in the lime industry of East Keswick. Farmers and lime burners in the village for ten generations, the Teals quarried limestone in an area north of the road between this house and Collingham. The lime was processed in kilns adjacent to the quarry using coal from mines to the east of Leeds.

Go down the bridle path. At the bottom to the right, where the path runs parallel to the River Wharfe, is Ox Close Wood.

R. Ox Close Wood

Known as New Close or Ox Close, this thirty-five acre woodland by the River Wharfe was once part of the village common land. The commoners grazed their horses, cattle and sheep here at agreed times of the year, so this wooded pasture would have looked much like parkland. Villagers who had rights to use Ox Close were also allowed to gather nuts in autumn and to take wood from allocated areas, provided it was only for local use. Those accused of breaking this rule could be taken before the Harewood Manorial Court, as indeed two were in 1751 and fined one shilling and sixpence each. When the commons of East Keswick were enclosed in 1801, Ox Close became part of Lord Harewood's expanding estate.



In 1993, East Keswick Wildlife Trust purchased the wood to create a nature reserve. Lying on the edge of the magnesium limestone belt, it has both acid and alkaline soils which support a rich and diverse flora. Ox Close has many plants indicative of ancient woodland. Its trees include ash, oak, field maple, small-leaved lime, holly, spindle and dogwood. In Spring, it is carpeted in wood anemone which gives way to yellow archangel, cowslip, primrose, stitchwort, dog's mercury and bluebell creating a vivid tapestry of colour. In summer, it is one of the few areas where the rare, parasitic plant thistle broomrape can still be seen. Roe deer, foxes, noctule and pipistrelle bats are just a few of its animals, whilst the river attracts heron and kingfisher. Green, greater and lesser-spotted woodpeckers all frequent the woodland.

You are welcome to follow the footpaths around the wood, but please remember that these are not public rights of way. We ask you to keep to the permissive paths, respect the natural habitat and keep dogs on a lead.



S. Woodhall Bridge

Our trail ends at the River Wharfe, which at this point forms the boundary between West and North Yorkshire. The river is crossed by a metal footbridge which was built in 1868 by Jos Whitham and Sons of Leeds, reportedly to provide the Bramham Hunt with easy access to the far side. It is the only river crossing between the Harewood and Linton road bridges. The bridge is ten feet wide and supported by two iron pillars in its centre as well as stone buttresses at each end.

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