









THE WILLOUGHBY HERITAGE WALKING TRAIL






Additional Notes





This guide should be read in conjunction with the Willoughby Heritage Walking Trail leaflet which has a brief history of Willoughby and a map with short descriptions of properties and places.





In this guide, the numbers on the left are the same as those on the trail map. If there is no number, the place is labelled on the map but no information is given. You can see more information about all these places below.


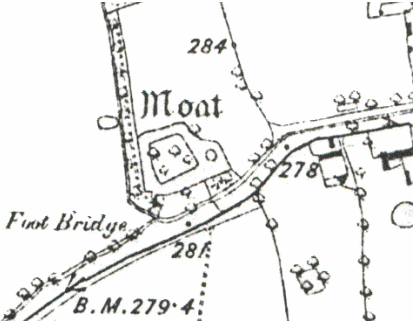



<p>1.</p>		<p>St Nicholas' Church Grade II* listed. The nave was probably built by 1630 as a recently discovered document, of that date, refers to the "buildinge of a steeple 'in and to' the Churche of Willoughbye" perhaps suggesting that the main part of the church was already in place.</p> <p>As part of a successful bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, investigations are underway to establish a more detailed and accurate understanding of the history and structure of the church.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Manor Farmhouse Grade II listed and built in the late 18th century, the house is a successor of the farmstead at the Moated Farmstead to the south. At one time Magdalen College leased the 'Manor Place' out. One of the terms of the lease was to accommodate the President of the College and his steward with their families for two nights twice a year. This was when the manorial courts were held.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">1876</p>
<p>3.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">1903</p>	<p>Pye Court The name is a corruption of Py's Croft, later Pycroft, after the man who owned a small farm (croft) long ago. The most recent name stems from a 19th century book saying a court was held here. Three cob and thatch cottages dating from 1540-1750 stood here until the early 20th century. The houses at the start of Pye Court were originally a terrace of four cottages built in 1860 which were converted into two by 1910. The shape of the doors blocked up as part of the conversion can still be seen on the facade.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>'The Green' The Cricket Club was formed in 1901. For many years, they played at various places around the village, including the corner of 'Big Grounds', a ridge and furrow field opposite the moated farmstead on Moor Lane. 'The Green' was purchased in 1973 and the pavilion built.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	 <p>1890 - Church View with Shop</p>	<p>Church View Probably built in 1640 as two cottages. In the 1800s, the barn on the left was a Primitive Methodist Chapel and the road in front was called Church Road not Lower Street. The deeds from 1860 show a sign to the railway station.</p> <p>The thatched roof of Church View went up in flames in the early 1950s when the owner, Fred Hancock, decided to repaint the windows and set light to the thatch with a blow lamp.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Vale House Grade II listed. Built in 1580 as a 3-bay, timber-framed farmhouse when Elizabeth I was Queen. The two-storeyed front porch is partly made from timbers taken from a substantial house in the area and has a moulded Tudor arch.</p> <p>In 2002-2003, during an extensive restoration, a priest hole used to hide persecuted Catholic priests was discovered in the chimney stack at the back. The small window in the gable above the porch was also uncovered.</p>	 <p>1866</p>
<p>7.</p>	 <p>Lower Street in the 1900s</p> <p>Barrowfield (left). The cottages opposite were later demolished. Ivy Farm House is in the distance. You can see Brooks Close on the left before the bungalows were built.</p>	<p>Barrowfield Evidence of a wattle and daub cottage (early 1800s) was found where the kitchen is now. In the 1860s/1870s, the cottage was incorporated into a much larger red-brick building built by Magdalen College, the owners at that time.</p> <p>Over the years, Barrowfield has been home to a village wheelwright, carpenter, undertaker and milkman and been a village shop, newsagent and hairdresser's. From 1909 - 1936, the owner at the time, Mr W G Reynolds, also ran the post office and telegrams were delivered to Willoughby and Grandborough.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Lower Street Cottages These seven roadside houses are among the oldest in the village. In the 1700s, they were cob cottages and in the 1820s they were rebuilt using an assortment of whatever was easily obtained locally - cob, stone, bricks and pieces of wood, which is consistent with the replacement of older properties.</p> <p>Following a fire in 1926 which burned down No. 3, the thatched roofs were replaced with tiles. The houses were spared demolition in the 1950s unlike others along the road.</p>	 <p>1910</p>

<p>9.</p>		<p>Post Cottage The first post office was run by George Malin from 1876 to 1909 in a small cul-de-sac called Bakers Lane near the path from Main Street to the end of Magdalen Road. From 1909, the post office was in Barrowfield and by 1936 it was in Main Street. In 2002, the post office closed and, after 125 years, Willoughby no longer had its own post office. The photograph shows the shop, the post office and the bakehouse in a row on the left.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>The Bakehouse The bakehouse flourished from 1900 until 1984 when it closed following the demise of coke or coal fired ovens. At one time, residents used to take their Sunday joints to the bakehouse to be cooked, calling for them at 12.30. All of the equipment was obtained by Warwick Museum when the business closed.</p>	 <p>1972</p>
<p>11.</p>	 <p>1909</p>	<p>Rose Inn Grade II listed. Built in the early/mid 18th century, this is the only thatched building left in the village. After a serious fire, the inn was restored in 2007/2008. The Rose is the last remaining pub of four. The Four Crosses at the top of Main Street is now apartments, the Navigation Inn on Longdown Lane is a private residence and the New Inn on the A45 is now Gate Farm.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Village Hall The original hall complete with internal furnishings cost £978 and opened in October 1933. The land was leased from Magdalen College but the freehold was purchased in 1948. A lounge with a bar area and a kitchen were added in later years.</p>	
<p>13.</p>		<p>College Farm The original farm was part of the Magdalen College estate and remained in its hands until 1953 when the farm was sold. The house was built in three sections. The right-hand side is the oldest and there is a stone dated 1703 on the back with the initials HCB and WM. The smaller building on the roadside was originally the dairy. In 1973, the farmhouse became a private house and new houses were built on either side on the tennis court and part of the farmyard.</p>

<p>14.</p>	<p>Whitehouse Farmhouse Grade II listed, the main house was built from sandstone rubble in the 17th century.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	 <p>The original Three Crosses Inn (later Four Crosses) was near where the cafe is today. It was demolished in 1898.</p>	<p>Four Crosses In 1725, the English satirist, Jonathan Swift, stayed in the 'Three Crosses'. After disagreeing with the landlord's wife, Swift wrote <i>'There are three crosses at your door, Hang up your wife and you'll count four.'</i> The building has been known as the Four Crosses ever since.</p> <p>In the 19th century, a landlord, William Crupper, set up the New Willoughby Baths (1824-1841), behind Tattlebank Cottages, as a sideline to increase business.</p> <p>The original inn was replaced by the one opposite at the top of Main Street in 1900.</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p>The Smithy Grade II listed and built during the early/mid-18th century. There was a village blacksmith here for well over 100 years.</p> <p>In 1926, the business passed to Fred Wooldridge, who was one of the few remaining blacksmiths in the area for over fifty years until his death in 1977.</p>	
<p>17.</p>		<p>Wesleyan Chapel The chapel was built on a tiny piece of land in 1898 at a cost of £250 and was intended to seat seventy people. It was in regular use until, by 1990, the congregation had dwindled and the chapel was sold into private ownership.</p> <p>For the next fourteen years, the chapel was bought and sold by local people and was used as a recording studio, a workshop by an interior designer and an engineering workshop and store.</p> <p>The article about the auction is from the Rugby Advertiser dated 30 September, 2004.</p>

<p>18. The Old School House</p> <p>In 1816, a school and a school house were built at a cost of £430. From 1888, a 'reading room' was established. By paying a subscription, residents could go and read newspapers (including The Daily Telegraph and The Daily Mirror) and play cards.</p> <p>Before the Village Hall was built in 1933, the reading room was the focus of village events and early Parish Council meetings. The school closed in 1977.</p>	 <p>1940 - Mrs Jackson was the headteacher</p>
<p>19.</p>  <p>1930</p>	<p>Old Vicarage</p> <p>Built in 1836 for the Rev. Richard Tawney because the previous vicarage was not in a convenient enough location. Rev. Tawney paid for the construction and, after his death in 1848, the contents of the house were sold at auction. The advertised lots show the house was furnished in some style.</p> <p>The house was sold by the Coventry Diocese in 1978 when the New Vicarage was built next door in what had been the kitchen garden.</p>
<p>Hayward Lodge</p> <p>In 1793, a substantial home called Willoughby Lodge was built here for the Rev. Dr Nathaniel Bridges, an eloquent and popular vicar.</p> <p>The building was destroyed by a fire in 1951 and became derelict until the County Council acquired it as a salt depot. When the depot was no longer required, the Parish Council purchased the land in 1987 to create a conservation area.</p>	
<p>20.</p> 	<p>Gate Farm</p> <p>There was an inn here known as the New Inn in 1760 until around 1910. The sparsely furnished drinking room was upstairs. The inn's position on the High Road made it quite popular in coaching days as a secondary inn to the Three/Four Crosses further south.</p> <p>You can see the original stable on the right-hand side.</p>

<p>Navigation House (Inn) Soon after the Oxford Canal was completed in 1790, a wharf was built nearby. The wharf was used for storing agricultural supplies, lime from nearby kilns and coal, as well as building materials for the railway and roads in the heyday of canal traffic (1800-1940).</p> <p>The Inn on Longdown Lane, known locally as 'The Navvy' and the stables on the left (now Navigation Cottage) were built soon afterwards. The inn closed in 1953 but the canal remains an important leisure route today.</p>	 <p>1930 - Longdown Lane</p>
<p>21.</p>  <p>There are two islands, now covered in trees, surrounded by a moat.</p>	<p>Moated Farmstead A scheduled monument, this site was part of the medieval settlement of Willoughby and is of national importance. It was built around 1495 when Magdalen College were the main landowners and was unusual in having two islands, one for the farmstead and the other for geese.</p> <p>Moated farmsteads of this period were not built for defensive purposes; it was simply fashionable. The fashion died out around one hundred years later, probably because of the inconvenience.</p>
<p>Willoughby House The discovery of a sulphurous and saline spring led to the construction of the Bath Hotel in 1827. People believed that the spa waters would cure gout, rheumatism and skin complaints. After the hotel and spa enterprise failed, Willoughby House was built on the site in the 1860s with subsequent owners adding to the original building over time.</p> <p>Interestingly, the property was requisitioned in the Second World War and used as a repository for the valuables from St. Mary's Hall in Coventry.</p>	 <p>c.1935</p>
<p>Tattlebank Cottages</p>  <p>1950 - Mrs 'Lady' Russell in front</p>	<p>Station Master's House</p>  <p>1912 - Mr MacNess was the station master</p>

Four Crosses



1920 - The inn which replaced the one across the road in 1900. The railway bridge over the A45 is in the distance.

Thomas Johnson's Wagon on the London Road



The driver, John Hollick, lived in Pye Court according to the 1911 Willoughby Census.

Braunston and Willoughby Station



c. 1928 - Train 5246, the 10.00am express from Manchester to Marylebone passing the station.

Station Bridge



c. 1950 - Railway bridge over the A45 (London Road)

Village Pond



Before the barn conversions on the right.

Rose Inn



The Rose Inn after the devastating fire in 2007.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Willoughby Society for permission to use old photographs from their archive. *Material from the archive may not be further published without consent from the Society.*

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