



# JUBILEE HERITAGE TRAIL

Produced in 2022 by  
Lindfield Society

Encouraging the Preservation and  
Enhancement of The Village for over 60 years

In partnership with  
Lindfield History Project Group

**1** Lindfield is often identified by The Pond. In years past the pond was a part of the Common. It was a watering spot for cattle grazing on the Common, passing horses and animals being driven to new pastures or market. The houses round the pond date mainly from the 1850s.

**King Edward Hall** was designed by Walter Tower in the neo-Tudor style. The village hall with club rooms above opened in 1911 and has been the centre of village social life for over a century. Following the start of the Great War in November 1914, it became a Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital for the convalescence of wounded soldiers, caring for 877 patients before it closed in January 1919.

**3** **The Common** has existed as long as Lindfield, extending up to the High Street and the pond. Over the centuries it has been used by villagers for grazing cattle, commemorative events and sport, with cricket having been played since 1747. A notable use was as the site for Lindfield Fair during the 19th century and well into the next. It provided entertainment but was primarily a sheep and livestock sale, with thousands of animals being sold.

*On reaching the children's playground, please proceed down the path on the left of the playground, passing several pretty cottages. On reaching Lewes Road, go to your right.*

**4** **Lindfield Board School** was opened in 1883. The fine red brick Victorian building with its large windows reflected all aspects of good school design. The school moved in 2000 and the Victorian buildings are now private houses.

*Cross Lewes Road turn left and over Chaloner Road.*

**5** **Carriers** was originally built as a four bay open hall in the early 1300s and is now regarded as the oldest and most complete medieval house in Lindfield. Around the 1600s an additional bay and chimney stack were added to the east end.

**6** On the opposite side of Lewes Road, the small single storey brick building was the **Lindfield Fire Station**.

The Fire Brigade was established by the Parish Council in 1899. Ten years later a Merryweather Greenwich Gem horse-drawn steam fire pump was acquired at a total cost of £276-15s.

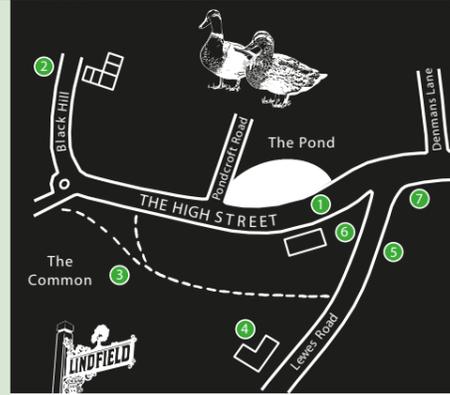
The Brigade was disbanded in 1934, but on the outbreak of WW2 the building was used by the Auxiliary Fire Service.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

Built along an ancient route, Lindfield's name is derived from Old English **Lindefeldia**, meaning open land with lime trees, first mentioned in a Saxon charter dated 765AD. In the charter King Ealdwulf grants parcels of land from Stanmer to Crawley Down to support the building of a church. Lindfield grew into a small thriving medieval town, supporting the local agricultural economy, with businesses from bonnet makers to blacksmiths. Neighbouring Haywards Heath comprised only a few scattered farmsteads until the railway arrived in 1841.

Forty one medieval (pre 1550) and post medieval timber framed houses survive in the village.

*Start at the map located at the front of King Edward Hall.*



*Walk towards the Common and continue up Black Hill. For a shorter walk, take the footpath at the start of the Common beside the old brick wall and continue with no.3.*

**2** **Pelham Place Cottages** are all that remain of the training workshops of Lindfield School of Industry, founded by William Allen, a Quaker philanthropist, chemist and social reformer, who believed education was one route out of poverty for children from the labouring classes. The school provided a sound basic education and vocational training and later became the cornerstone of Lindfield School.

*On reaching the High Street turn right.*

**7** **Bank Cottages** nos. 36 & 38 High Street are a good example of houses hiding their true age. External appearance suggests a build date in the 1700s, but in fact they were built in the very early 1400s as a Wealden style four bay open hall house. This was a popular style for higher status houses from c.1380 for the next hundred years.

*Head north up the High Street.*

**10** **The Red Lion** was established around 1747 as an ale house lower down the High Street at Rycroft, next to the United Reformed Church. In 1804, the sign of the Red Lion moved up the High Street to Porters in 1830 and three years later moved next door to its present location.

The landlord at that time was Charles Mills, who produced Lindfield Sauce, a fermented sauce similar to Lea & Perrins Worcester Sauce, which according to the bottle label was served at George IV's coronation banquet.

*Continue up the High Street.*



**11** **Mid High Street.** Pass a short row of shops built c.1850.

*After crossing Alma Road,* the High Street now becomes residential with houses of differing age and style creating a pleasant streetscape.

In times past, this section was home to many artisans and shopkeepers. **Boarsland**, built c1650, **Crosskeys** and **Malling Cottage** had single storey shop extensions out to the pavement. Crosskeys and Malling Cottage, together with the adjoining Priory Cottage, are all medieval open hall houses, which have been much altered over the years.

**12** **Malling Priory** was built in c.1730 for Peter Short and his wife Philadelphia, daughter of the wealthy local Burrell family.



Unusually for a Georgian house the front windows are not symmetrical and the doorway with the tall pediment is not centrally placed. Despite its name, the house has no religious nor manorial connections.

*As you walk past the pair of large semi-detached houses, built in 1886 and used during the Great War as an army hospital, look up at the impressive chimney pots.*

An alehouse has existed on the site of **the Bent Arms** since at least 1660. In 1682 it acquired a wine licence, becoming the White Lion Inn; an ermine lion featured on the family crest of the Newtons, who for a time were the Lords of the Manor. During the late 1820s the White Lion was acquired by John Bent, previously an MP and connected with Caribbean trade, and he changed the name to Bent Hotel.

In the 1920s **Spongs** was the schoolboy home of Group Captain Frank Carey CBE, DFC and 2 bars, AFC, DFM, US Silver Star. He was considered by his contemporaries to be one of the finest fighter pilots of WW2.

*Extra details of Frank Carey on our website.*

**15** **Pilstye** was built in about 1600, with its surviving brew house or workshop to the side. In the 17th and 18th centuries Pilstye was a butchery with a slaughterhouse at the rear.



**8**

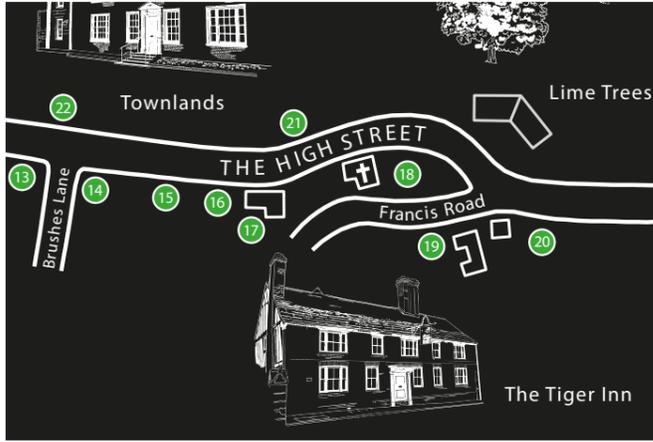
**The United Reformed Church.**

In common with communities across Sussex, Lindfield had a strong non-conformist following. A chapel was opened on this site on Good Friday 1813, but soon became too small. It was replaced by the present building in 1858, in the neo-gothic style with the emphasis on height. The

Congregational Chapel became the United Reformed Church in 1972.

**9** **The Toll House**, built in about 1630, became a toll cottage on the Newchapel (near East Grinstead) turnpike road. There was a toll gate across the High Street at this point, with another gate at the entrance to Hickmans Lane, so it was not possible to journey through the village without paying a toll. The gates were removed on 31 October 1884 and burnt in the High Street on Bonfire Night.

Neighbouring **Pierpoint House** is a fine example of a post medieval house dating from about 1650, but was originally two cottages and a mercer's shop. Matthew Pierpoint, a surgeon, purchased the property in 1765 and it was owned by the family for 100 years.



*Pause by the archway entrance to a passage to view Bower House on the other side of the High Street.*

**16 Bower House** is one of the three oldest surviving in Lindfield with a build date before 1350. An open hall house, it was restored in the 16th century and re-fronted in 1725. The date stone with the letters VAM refers to the owner Alexander Usborne and Mary his wife.

From around 1742 Doctor John Dutton began conducting experimental small pox inoculations in the house which caused great consternation among inhabitants. This resulted in him establishing the Pest House in Gravelye Lane for smallpox sufferers.

**17** The former **Tiger Inn**, standing at the churchyard entrance, was originally an open hall house built around 1400. It became the home of the Michelbourne family, merchant adventurers who had a tiger on their crest. When the family moved away during the 1500s the house became an inn called the Michelbourne Arms, later changing its name to Tiger Inn. It closed in 1916 and was purchased for £700 raised

**20 Thatched Cottage**, built in 1390, is a 'Wealden' open hall house, a design popular for high status houses in the Wealden areas of Kent and Sussex between c.1380 and 1500. The distinctive feature is that the upper levels on both sides of the hall overhang the ground floor.

*Continue a short distance up the High Street, carefully crossing the road outside Lindfield House (c1725). Turn left and take a few paces.*

Look across the road to see the extent of Kempe's grand house. Look along the roofline to the restored Belvedere, an open-sided viewing gallery, constructed in 1891, with nine gold plated flags and a weather vane. To the right is an impressive set of chimneys.

*Return down the High Street.* After passing two attractive timber framed houses, Firs Cottage and Little Blacklands, there is an entrance to three sandstone buildings, built in 1856 by Revd Francis Sewell as a school and the Master's neo-gothic house.

**21 Townlands** house and farm were purchased in 1813 by Captain John Pilfold who joined the British fleet at Trafalgar and was promoted for his active part in securing victory. He renamed the house 'Nelson Hall' and added the black mathematical tiled Georgian style false front up to the roof line. *An interesting story about the next occupant is on our website.*

**22 Upper High Street – west side.** Walking down the High Street there is a pleasing mix of mostly medieval or post medieval houses, although many have been re-fronted. At the southern end of Wickham House, with its mansard roof, a painted-over sign advertised 'Geo. Mason Fly & Cab Proprietor. Carriages of Every Description for hire'.

On the corner with Hickmans Lane is the old toll cottage for the second turnpike toll gate. High up on the adjoining houses is the remains of a trade sign for Wratten's, a long closed department store.

by subscription from parishioners, becoming All Saints Church House.

*Enter the churchyard.*

**18 All Saints Churchyard and Church.** Close to the entrance is the **Village War Memorial** commemorating the fallen of both World Wars. Designed by the famous 'gothic revivalist' church architect Sir Ninian Comper, it is made in Clipsham stone from Rutland. At the base, inscribed into the wall are the 61 names of the fallen in the Great War. Below are named the 34 men killed during World War 2.

Look up at the **church clock**, made by Gillets of Croydon. It was originally in a building at Cawnpore, India. When the building was demolished after the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58 to make way for a memorial tower, the clock was returned to England and installed in the tower's south face.



**All Saints Church** is believed to be the site of the church mentioned in the Saxon charter of 765AD. The current church dates from the 13th – 15th centuries. By 1840 the church was in disrepair and following his arrival, Reverend Francis Sewell instigated a restoration with Victorian improver's zeal much advocated at the time, destroying many historic features.

*Please take care crossing Hickmans Lane.*

**23** The adjoining **Barnlands** and **Well House** have a fine Horsham stone roof. Barnlands dates from the late 1500s whilst Well House is older, being a medieval cross wing. This indicates it was originally part of an earlier medieval house that became dilapidated and was replaced with Barnlands.



*Continue down High Street, passing Nash House (c1720) with its early Georgian facade.*

**24** Although called the **Manor House**, it has never been the home of the Lord of the Manor. The imposing house is another example of being re-fronted, as behind the mathematical tiles is a post-medieval timber framed house built around 1650.

**25 65 High Street**, locally known as Humphrey's, the name derived from past owners. They were one of the four families who ran a bakery in this building from 1796 to 2019. Built as the cross-wing of a medieval house, it is another of the oldest buildings, dating from the early 1300s.

**Friar Tuck**, an outlaw featured in Robin Hood stories was a priest at the church in the 1400s. Royal writs were issued in 1417 for the arrest of 'Frere Tuck' who led a band of criminals committing poaching, murder and arson in the border areas of Sussex and Surrey. A further writ issued in 1429 stated Friar Tuck was the alias of Robert Stafford a priest at Lindfield. He was never arrested and Friar Tuck became immortalised in the Robin Hood fables.

*Follow the path to the east end of the church.*

**19** Opposite is the **Old Place Estate** (please note there is no public access) once the country residence of Charles Eamer Kempe, a renowned **Victorian stained glass** artist. He was a member of the prominent Sussex Kemp family that developed Kemp Town Brighton, and sold the farmhouse that became the Royal Pavilion in Brighton to the Prince Regent.

*Walk a short way to your right* to observe a rather strange looking structure with towers and bell turret; this was the garden house used primarily for pleasure and entertaining.

*Return back along the road*, passing a fine Tudor house built in 1584 by the Chaloner family as their manor house. This is the original Old Place, today known as West Wing. In 1793-94 it became the village poor house until about 1837. Kempe purchased Old Place in 1875, restoring the house and using it as the start point for his grand residence completed in 1895.

*Rejoin the High Street and turn right.*



**26 The Stand Up Inn** was the beer house of Edward Durrant's brewery, which stood behind the inn and ceased brewing around 1906. The name is derived from having no chairs or tables so workers would not linger over their beer.

The High Street at this point is considerably wider as for many centuries it was the site of Lindfield Fair.



*Continue to browse the shops, cafes and pubs in Lindfield's historic and vibrant High Street.*

COMMEMORATING THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

*You will find more details of all these locations on our Website*



Since 1961, the Lindfield Society has sought to encourage the preservation, development and improvement of our historic tree-lined village. Help us to protect what we have and to create our future heritage.

Please join the Society by visiting [WWW.LINDFIELDSOCIETY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LINDFIELDSOCIETY.ORG.UK)