

A Historical Walk through Cutthorpe Village



Welcome to Cutthorpe

Cutthorpe has many lovely houses both new and old and has plenty to offer for anyone interested in history. There are many buildings that remain which are worth observing as you walk round the village. The people and the events relating to them are well documented in Mrs Judith Stubb's books about the village.

1. One of the earliest references, although not a building, is the mention of the **mearstone** situated in the field next to the lane which leads from Oxtan Rakes to the top of Grange Hill. The sixth earl of Shrewsbury is recorded as walking here to mark his lands in 1590.
The Gate Inn is in part a historic building. In Victorian times the labourers building the top Linacre Reservoir used to drink here, and its name and position suggest it was the siting for a toll gate. The views from this pub are superb.
2. Descending Grange Hill and passing through Overgreen if you take the right fork to Praththall you pass the former Praththall Methodist Chapel before coming to the **cruck building** which is opposite the present **Pratt Hall**. This is believed to be the cruck building mentioned in the early 1600's.
3. **Linacre Reservoirs** - The Lower Reservoir was built first after the 1855 Reservoirs Act, to provide water for Chesterfield. It covers 8½ acres is 31 feet deep and holds 31 million gallons. The Upper Reservoir was built next in 1865. It covers 18 acres, is 61 feet deep and holds 120 million gallons. The Middle Reservoir was built last in 1904 and covers 17 acres, is 42 feet deep and holds around 90 million gallons. Water is no longer taken from the reservoirs by Severn Trent Water Authority. Instead they have improved the paths and woodlands, including a Nature Reserve around the top reservoir, built carparks and a Ranger Centre with toilet facilities. In spring the woods are carpeted with bluebells.
4. Walking down the old 'Salt Trail', where salt from Cheshire was carried to Chesterfield via Saltergate, you reach the first car park for Linacre Reservoirs. Under the ground here are the remains of **Linacre House** and possibly the earlier Linacre Hall. This was in the family of the Tudor scholar and royal physician Thomas Linacre. There is a network of walks around the reservoirs and from just above the Warden's Centre the path leads across the field and through Kitchen Flat Wood to The Peacock.
The Peacock was the first place to hold an Annual Well Dressing in 1865. During a 3 month drought the spring at the Peacock was the only one in the village that did not dry out. The then landlady, Mrs Harriet Salt, decided to hold a well dressing in honour and thanks for the water.
5. Across the road you can see the "**New School**" opened in 1884 to replace the original school lower down the road, now the Cutthorpe Institute.

6. Further down the road **Green Lane** leads off to the right. This was an old route taken by villagers to reach the market in Chesterfield. Paths lead to Linacre Woods, Holmehall and Holmebrook Valley Park.
7. The lane also leads past **Cutthorpe Hall**. The hall was originally a Tudor farmhouse. Gilbert Heathcote the famous physician lived here in the 17th century.
8. Nearby is the **Dower House**
9. On the opposite side of the main road is the **Old Manor House**. Ralph Clarke, a wealthy man and several times mayor of Chesterfield bought the row of cottages in 1626 and added the four storey staircase tower.
10. Further down the road is the original school. This is now a much used hall called "**The Institute**". This was built by another mayor of Chesterfield, John Brown. He was a land agent for several large estates and he rebuilt much of Cutthorpe in the late 19th century. These include three stone and two brick houses in The Square and a row of houses called "The Poplars" in Main Road below The Three Merry Lads. All his buildings were built in his distinctive style and most had his crest on the walls. Some are still visible today.
11. Opposite the Cutthorpe Institute is the **Coronation Tree**, planted to mark the coronation of George V on 22nd June 1911. The trees planted at the entrance to the Recreation Ground mark the Silver Jubilee of George V in 1936 and an oak tree was planted inside the gates in 2002 to mark the Golden Jubilee of The Queen.
12. The **Recreation Ground** has a cricket square and small playground.
The Three Merry Lads was originally called The Cutthorpe Hotel. However when a signboard was found in a pigsty across the road it was incorporated into the renovations taking place at the time in the 1970's and the inn became the Three Merry Lads.
13. The **Primitive Methodist Chapel**, situated past The Poplars, was erected in 1837 and enlarged in 1867 but is now a residential property.

Acknowledgements, further reading and walks

A History of Cutthorpe Village by Judith Stubbs (no longer in print) -
Part 1 Portrait of a Schoolmaster, Part 2 Tudor Foundations,
Part 3 Besoms, Baskets and Black Gold.
Country Walks in North East Derbyshire - Holymoorside, Brampton and Cutthorpe, NEDDC
Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 269
Off Peak Walks by Michael Hull