

Not the Village Fayre 2021

MILTON VILLAGE – HISTORIC TRAIL 2021

There is evidence that people lived in Milton over 4,500 years ago, in the Neolithic period. The Romans occupied the area during the first 500 years AD, when the river Cam was used to transport goods as well as Mere Way.

Starting on the east footpath at the Tesco roundabout head North into Milton Village.

1. You are on Cambridge Road, walking past the entrance to The Rowans on the left. The Rowans estate now occupies the land where Milton Nurseries stood, producing tomatoes and cucumbers, from 1900 to 1978. Present house owners have reported digging up glass, from the greenhouses, in their gardens.

Early maps from the 19th Century show the milestones which were along the road, near this location was one indicating 54 miles from London. One that still remains is the original stone near the entrance to the allotments, on the old Ely Road, which has 55 miles to London and 4 miles to Cambridge engraved on it.

2. After a few steps you will see Bene't Close on the left, built after World War Two, on land next to Bene't Farm, which was farmed by the Easy family.
3. Staying on the right-hand path, looking up at 17/19 Cambridge Road, you will see on the upper wall a plaque commemorating the building of Council houses by Chesterton Rural District Council.
4. Also on this side, near 13 Cambridge Road, hidden away in the bushes, is a village water pump.
5. Just a few more steps along the path, now you are in the High Street, and you come to the Baptist Church, built in 1865.
6. The first pub in the village on this route, is The White Horse, on the right-hand side, one of four remaining pubs, where in the 19th Century there were six. The White Horse is a late 17th Century Grade II, listed building. In January 1886 the pub, including an enclosed bowling alley, was for sale. However, the sale was withdrawn, when the reserve price was not reached, at £750.
7. On the other side of the road, at 3 High Street, is a Grade II listed building from the 17th Century, a timber framed cottage.

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8. On the same side, at 19 High Street, is the Lion and Lamb public house, an early 17th Century inn, with 19th Century alterations and extensions. It too is a Grade II listed building.
9. Staying on the right-hand footpath, you come to a white house at 42 High Street, this used to be a pub called The Three Tuns, and until recently, some of the buildings on this site were offices for EACH (East Anglia Children's Hospice).
10. With 42 High Street behind you, look across the road and to the right and you see the Waggon and Horses pub. This is a more recent building, less than a hundred years, as the original burnt down in the 1930s.
11. A few doors down from 42 High Street, now on Fen Road, at number 6 you come to Queen Anne's Lodge. Also, a former pub, when it was called The Greyhound, but ceased trading in the late 19th century. This is a 17th century building that at some time was two cottages.
12. Across the road is yet another pub, now called The Brewers Inn, previously The Jolly Brewers, and until just after the First World War, also including a brewery owned by the Essex family. The building dates from the late 17th Century or early 18th Century. In the 1870s the population of Milton was just under 600.
13. Before you carry on down Fen Road, towards the river, take a look right at the War Memorial next to the Post Office, at the junction with Coles Road. Recent commemorative benches add to the reminder of former sacrifices. The memorial was not always here, as when it was unveiled in 1922 it was on what is now Ely Road, near the Waggon and Horses pub. It was moved in the 1960's to make way for a new road layout. The names of the dead from the village from the two World Wars are recorded here.
14. Retrace your steps to Fen Road and continue going east towards the railway crossing and the river. On the right-hand side when you get to number 24 Fen Road, stop and turn around. The low-level wall between 22 and 24 Fen Road is all that remains of the playground wall of the Victorian school built in 1836, closed in 1958, and finally demolished in the late 1960's. The school took a photograph in 1958, of the pupils on the last day of term, and they are standing in front of the playground brick wall, and you can clearly see the copings reproduced in the photograph.
15. At 28 Fen Road is Milton House, a 17th Century house with later additions. This too is a Grade II listed building.

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16. Just a few steps further on, at 32 Fen Road, is a late 18th Century house, also a Grade II listed building.
17. Number 48 is also a Grade II listed cottage, probably originally two cottages from the 17th Century, timber framed and with a thatched roof.

If you wish to carry on, the walk takes you to the River Cam and Baits Bite Lock, via the railway crossing (please take care).

If not, please turn around and head back up Fen Road to the Brewers pub, where turning right you enter Church Lane.

18. Immediately on your right, next to the Brewers is 2 Church Lane, a 17th Century timbered framed and rendered Grade II listed cottage.
19. Opposite, at 1 Church Lane is a larger 17th Century cottage, with 20th Century extensions, also a Grade II listed building.
20. Carry on along Church Lane and you come to the Parish Church of All Saints, Milton, a Church with a history going back nearly 1,000.

This concludes your brief tour of Historic Milton, which included some of the visual sites of the history of the village. Other locations for another day include Milton Hall, the wall and Lodges of Milton Hall, Essex House, Humphrey Repton Lake and the village pond.

Andrew Latchem 2021