

Great Bookham Village Trail

Great Bookham High Street is the core of the old village, but its busy commercial heart extends into Church Road, Lower Road and Lower Shott. With a variety of pubs, restaurants, coffee shops and independent retailers typical of a busy vibrant village, the High Street is a hub for shopping and community, popular with residents and visitors alike.

Nearly half of Great Bookham Parish is open space owned by the National Trust: Polesden Lacey and Ranmore Common to the south (situated within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and the three Bookham Commons to the north. The total length of this trail is approximately 1.5km (1 mile).

Start in the Lower Shott car park, just off the A246 (originally a turnpike 'toll road' between Leatherhead and Guildford). You are standing in what was once the front garden of Bookham Grove House 1, built for Admiral Brodrick in around 1760. Because of the garden's design, the main road (straightened out around 1960) had to take a Z-bend in front of Grove Cottage.

Dorking Road, to the left of the long stable block 2, opens into beech avenues on the way to Polesden Lacey.

Grove Cottage 3, a late Tudor house, was originally called the White Hart Ale House. It was renamed The Saracen and Ring by Viscount Dawnay to commemorate the 12th century exploits of his ancestor Sir William Dawnay who fought in the Crusades. The inn was one of at least five public houses closed down by Mary Chrystie.

Cross at the traffic lights and turn into the High Street. The pavement's line of yellow bricks marks the front garden boundary of the houses which used to occupy the High Street.

After closing the Saracen & Ring Inn, Mary Chrystie had the Victoria Temperance Hotel 4 built to replace it. Next door are Englands Cottages 5, a half-timbered Tudor house extended to the left and now split in two. Further down you will see 18th century Fairfield House 6 with its bulging mansard roof. The terrace of Tudor cottages next to it connect with the core of the Royal Oak public house 7, whose rent once included 'a red rose and a quart of lampreys'.

Cross the High Street. Look back from the entrance to the Royal Oak yard to see some of the old houses that remain above and behind the shops, including two medieval hall houses half-hidden here 8.

Cross back over the High Street and enter the small forecourt of the Old Crown public house 9 (rebuilt in 1932) at the crossroads.

Looking back up the High Street, the left-hand part of the yellow London stock brick building (a house c. 1820) 10 has been a working bakery for well over a century.

On the roof of the shop at the corner of Lower Road and Church Road 11, can you spot the tile shaped like a fabulous wyvern (a two-legged winged dragon)?

At the end of the High Street turn left and follow Lower Road to the Baptist Church. Built in 1912, the Chrystie Memorial Hall was leased by the Baptists in 1925 and later bought and extended on both sides 12. Slinfold Cottage opposite 13 was one of the village's several blacksmiths.

Walk up Townshott Close, one of the two back lanes of the medieval village. The public library on the right 14, designed by William Butterfield in 1856-58, was given to the village as a school by the Viscountess Downe (of Bookham Grove) in memory of her son who died in 1857. It remained a school until the 1980s.

Walk back to the crossroads. Cross Lower Road at the traffic island and follow the flint wall to the left down Church Road.

Across the road, the house with a small front garden is called the Tyrrells 15 after its 1665 owner; its brick front conceals an older timber frame. The plate-glass shop windows of Gothic House 16 disguise an early 19th century building.

The 16th century cottages next to the churchyard 17 were originally a single house. The small shop on a flint base links to the terrace behind, dated 1734 18.

The 17th century Gables Cottages 19 later housed the staff for Bookham Gables next door. The original barn 20 survives within modern extensions. Another barn was moved on rollers to form the first house of his 'development'.

Retrace your steps and go through the churchyard gate.

St Nicolas' Church 21 bears features from each century of its expansion from the 11th through to the 20th. Inside, note the Norman and Transitional arcades (with older windows above) in the nave and the beautiful Lombardic lettering of Abbot Rutherwyck's rededication stone of 1341 in the chancel.

Walk through the graveyard with the church on your left and go through the far gate.

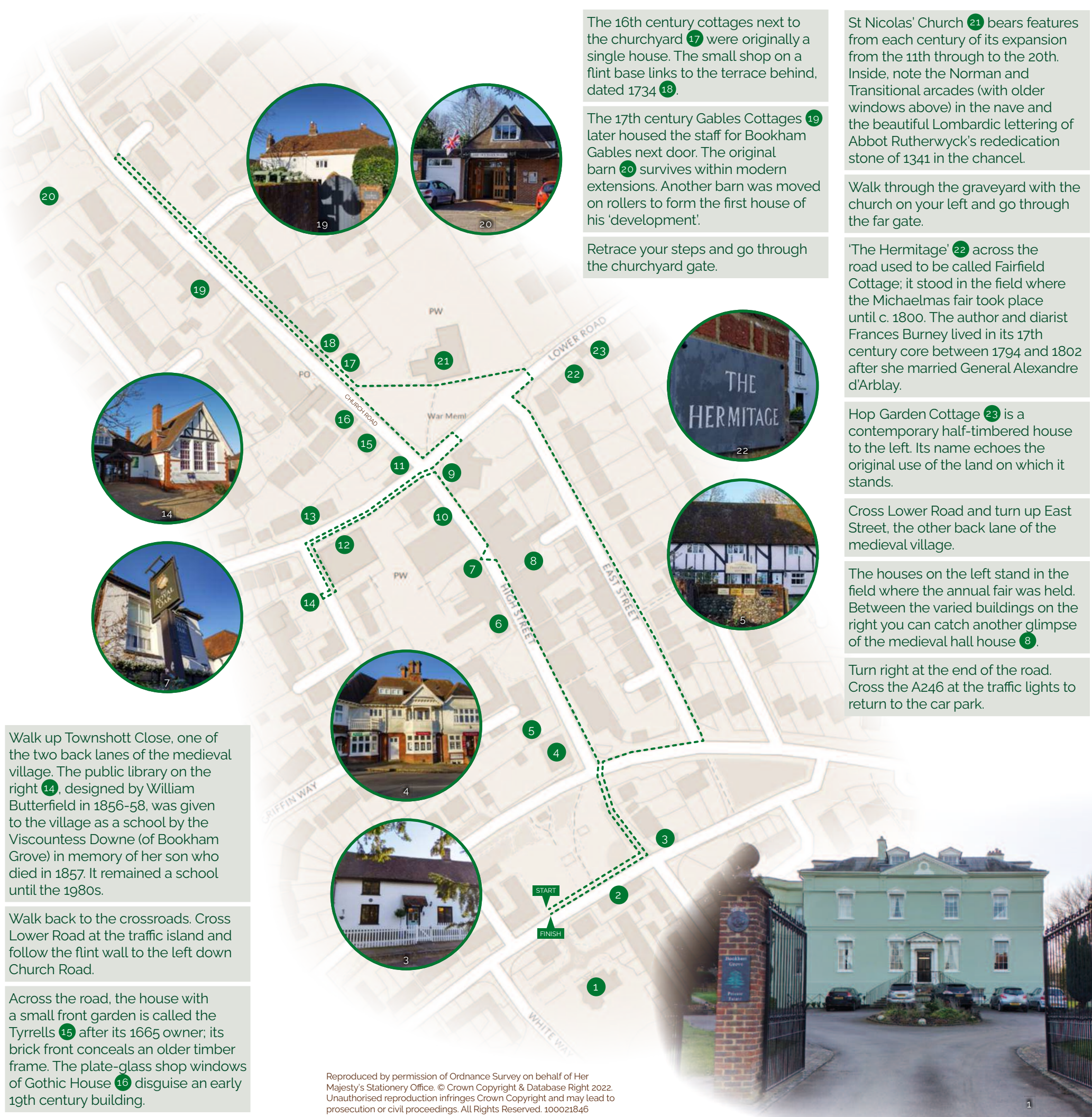
'The Hermitage' 22 across the road used to be called Fairfield Cottage; it stood in the field where the Michaelmas fair took place until c. 1800. The author and diarist Frances Burney lived in its 17th century core between 1794 and 1802 after she married General Alexandre d'Arbly.

Hop Garden Cottage 23 is a contemporary half-timbered house to the left. Its name echoes the original use of the land on which it stands.

Cross Lower Road and turn up East Street, the other back lane of the medieval village.

The houses on the left stand in the field where the annual fair was held. Between the varied buildings on the right you can catch another glimpse of the medieval hall house 5.

Turn right at the end of the road. Cross the A246 at the traffic lights to return to the car park.



Eastwick & Little Bookham Village Trail

This trail is best followed from Bookham Railway Station or by using the nearby Bookham Commons or Bookham Tunnel car parks. The total length of the trail is 6 km (4 miles).

Leave the National Trust car park and walk along the pavement to the right.

The station buildings **1** are almost unchanged since the railway line was opened in 1885. The new block of flats opposite **2** resembles its predecessor, the Merrylands Hotel (also 1885), where Mary Chrystie used to entertain poor families brought down from London for the day.

Before Bookham was linked by rail, the only 'public transport' was an occasional horse-drawn coach travelling along the turnpike (now the A246 Leatherhead to Guildford Road) and a twice weekly cart to London.

Cross over and follow the path to the left of the block of flats. You have National Trust common land on your left. Half a mile later opposite Sole Farm Road you pass two features of the Eastwick Estate: the low white-painted former almshouses **3** and the three storey flour mill **4** with a tall chimney for its steam engine.

Cross the road and walk into The Park, taking the first road on the right, Park View. Through the half barrier at the end turn right into Eastwick Park Avenue.

Between the two World Wars, much of Eastwick Park was sold off as building plots for small bungalows, now replaced by larger houses. Behind the green on the left is a school **5** where Eastwick Park House used to stand (built c1830 and demolished in the 1960s). Note there is no public access to the school.

Exit the road and turn left before crossing Lower Road at the traffic lights. The Anchor public house **6** and the houses left and right date from the 17th century.

To the right of the pub on the corner of Eastwick Road, Woodcote's coach-house **7** held the cart that travelled to London twice a week.

This was an estate hamlet. The lower servants of Eastwick Park lived in this road while the upper servants lived in St Nicholas' Avenue with larger houses and wider pavements **8**.

Walk up St Nicholas' Avenue. Go through the bottleneck at the end, through Greville Court and turn right along Keswick Road.

Turn left into Eastwick Road. Notice the unusual United Reformed Church **9**. The allotments have been here for over 150 years.

As you reach the crossroad look diagonally across at Ralphs' Cross Cottages **10**, designed in 1864-66 by William Butterfield, the architect of the village school. They are named after Ralph Sutherland, once hanged here for sheep stealing.

Cross over at the traffic lights and take the narrow fenced footpath behind the cottages.

This small diversion is to see some hidden almshouses **11** built in 1889 and named in honour of Sir Bartle Frere, a hero of the Indian Mutiny, by a local surgeon who had served under him. Walk down the slope and turn left. Follow Leatherhead Road (A246) and cross at the next traffic lights by the High Street.

For details of the buildings in and around the High Street, see the 'Great Bookham Heritage Trail'

Turn down the High Street and left at the crossroads into Lower Road. Continue along Lower Road to Glebe Close. Take the narrow fenced footpath (after the entrance to Glebe Close) crossing The Lorne.

At Rectory Lane walk a few metres to the left for a view of The Grange **12**. In 1938 The Grange was used to teach stitchery and lace to nurses injured in World War I, allowing them to earn a living. It is now a charity supporting people with disabilities to lead independent lives.

Continue along the footpath, cross Manor House Lane and reach All Saints church **14**. On the way you may be able to catch a glimpse of the enormous 10-bay Manor Farm barn **13** on the left.

Unlike its bigger neighbour, All Saints **14**, (the small Norman church of Little Bookham) has altered over the years – see the blocked up arches on either side of the porch. Protected by the metal fence, the yew tree is said to be even older than the church. Behind the high brick walls, the central part of the Manor House **15** dates from the 18th century but has been a school since 1927.

Retrace your steps to Manor House Lane, turn left and then right along Lower Road. Cross over at the roundabout and turn down Little Bookham Street.

First on the right is Half Moon Cottage **16**, framed in timber that was felled in the 1490s. This was originally a single-storey five-bay hall-house. Dawes Cottage **17**, the L-shaped half-timbered house on the other side of the road, dates from the 16th century, the earlier part being that to the left. School House **18** was one of several schools in the street at different times and has doubled in width since 1884.

The front part of Post Cottage **19**, timber framed on a brick base, dates from about 1700. The two parts of Rose Cottage **20** can be identified by the brickwork; the younger part is faintly marked with LM 1746 above one window.

The Old Windsor Castle public house **21** has a Tudor farmhouse at its core. When Mrs Weale took over the licence in 1870 she started a general store at one end; it sadly no longer exists.

Where the road narrows, Old Pound Cottage **22** is of three periods; its oldest part most likely built before Half Moon Cottage. Parts of the brick Shaftesbury Cottages **23** of 1899 were occupied by members of the same family for generations.

Grapevine Cottage **24**, next to the shop, was an 18th century farmhouse. The Village Hall **25** was also gifted by Mary Chrystie after she bought and closed the Fox Inn here. Below the road to the right is the Tudor Foxglove Cottage **26** with Bookham River (more of a stream!) running through its garden.

Further on are Maddox Farm's 18th century tarred black barns **27**. Turning right, you arrive back at the railway station and car parks. The footpath opposite the station takes you back to the middle of Great Bookham.

