

Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Heritage Walk Leaflet



Stowe village Historic Trail

Start from the village hall car park:

The village hall was built in 1926 with monies from local contributions. It was completed in 1928 and put into trust in August of that year.

Since the building was erected a number of improvements have been made. Recently the heating, security doors, insulation, new kitchen units and decorating have been added to the hall, and is very smart and up to date. The Village Hall is available to hire, Website: stowebychartley.co.uk or contact Paul Tildsley booking secretary on 07748 933685

With your back to the hall over to the right is the remnants of the Old Railway that ran from Stafford to the north west and Uttoxeter to the east. Stowe had a station and transported all manner of goods and passengers. Many years ago Chartley Estate cattle were aboard a train when it caught fire and all the contents were lost.



Walk from the hall to your left and look at the Old School House and playing field.

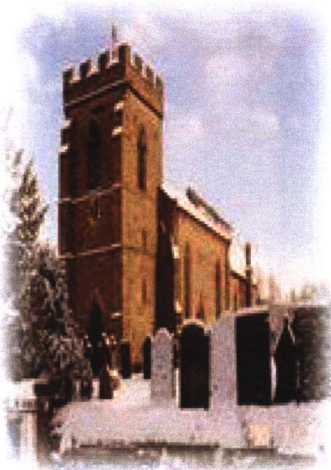


Walk past the Village Hall and enter the Playing Field. This field was the school playground and is adjacent to The Old School House. The Playing field is now owned by the Parish Council and provides a good amenity area for the locals. Each week the play equipment and surrounding area is inspected by the Parish Councillors to ensure everything is kept in order. The Victorian style school was closed in 1974, and



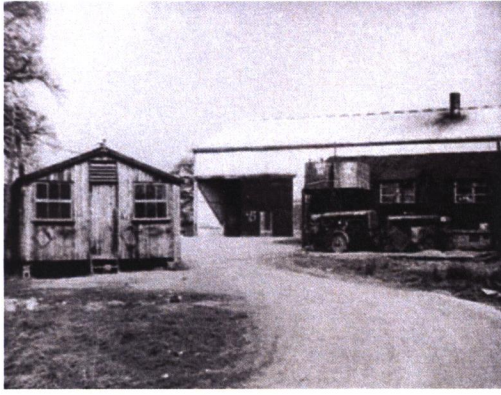
is a residential property. A reminder that most villages had a school.

The Jubilee Oak on the playing field, was planted in the Summer of 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the Jubilee Oak planted on the junction of Bridge Lane and Stowe Lane was planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



Carry on towards St Johns church.

A 12th century Norman church, built about 1150 A.D. The tower, containing five ancient bells and one cast in 1914, are still rung each Sunday. The large clock on the west wall can be seen by passers-by. Inside the church is the 16th century alabaster tomb of Sir Walter Devereux of Chartley with an effigy of himself lying between his two wives. Nearby are two wall tablets, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, commemorating Sir Walter Congreve and his eldest son, William, both of whom were awarded the Victoria Cross. The interior of the church may be viewed by appointment—contact the Churchwarden on 01889 270596.



As you approach the cross roads, Drointon lane is on your left, and leads to Normanswood farm , approximately 2 miles. This was the site of the local Gypsum mine that gave work to the locals in the 1930's. The mine closed in 1956 but left the underground mine tunnels that weave under the lanes of Drointon and the surrounding fields.

If you don't wish to walk to Normanswood Farm, carry on past the crossroads and approach St Johns Close. This area was sold to build the properties you see today. The grassed area, and bench, is useful for a quiet sit down to view Hixon Airfield built between 1942 and 1945. This was used by the Royal Air

force Operations unit No. 30. Runway No. 1 down the middle of the airfield is 150 ft. wide and 4,750 ft. long, the longest of three runways originally on the site. Intended to be a night bomber *training* unit, it soon found itself sending Wellington Bombers to enemy territory on night raids. Starting in September 1942 and closing for RAF use in 1957. In recent years the runways have been used by light aircraft and the surrounding land used by local farmers.

When you leave St John's close walk back towards the village.

The Thatched cottage, dating back to the 1600's, was once four labourers' cottages, but has since been converted into one building. The centre cottage, a one up one down, is known as 'The Old Lady's Cottage'.



The Tree in the centre of the road is called the Jubilee Oak Tree and was planted to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Anniversary in 1897.

Carefully cross the road and view the 15th century Cock Inn, a place of rest and accommodation in the days of horse drawn travel, now a place of refreshment. Walk past the Cock Inn towards the Old Post office. This was once a sorting office as well as a post office and local shop, all are now closed and serve as residential properties. The red phone box was sold to the Parish Council for a £1 and is now used



as a Book Exchange and information centre. (Please look inside the phone box and take a book if you see one you like.)

Carefully cross the road to the opposite footpath and walk back to the Village Hall.



Your walk will lead you through the village and give you a little more knowledge and history of Stowe Village and the local area.

This walk leaflet has been compiled by Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council.

Published with monies from the Community Paths Initiative. More information from www.stowe-by-chartley-pc.gov.uk

Telephone 01785 662160

View from Chartley Castle

