

## Trimley St. Martin Gazetteer: Some Names and Places.

### Trimley (St. Martin)

*'TRIMLEY (St. Martin), a parish, in the union of Woodbridge, Hundred of Colneis, E. division of Suffolk, 8½ miles (S. E. by E.) from Ipswich; containing 496 inhabitants. The parish comprises about 2000 acres, and its western boundary is washed by the river Orwell. The living is a discharged rectory, with the living of Alleston consolidated, valued in the king's books at £12. 0. 5., and in the gift of J. Ambrose, Esq.: the tithes have been commuted for £500; there is a parsonage house, and the glebe consists of 21¾ acres. The church is situated in the same churchyard with that of Trimley St. Mary, and contains a mausoleum for the family of Sir John Barker, Bart.: the walls of the burial-ground were repaired with the stones of Felixstow Castle and priory. No remains exist of Alleston church. Grimston Hall, in the parish, the site of which is now occupied by a farmhouse, was the seat of Thomas Cavendish, celebrated as the first English circumnavigator\*, who was born here.'*

- Samuel Lewis was incorrect. Thomas Cavendish was the *second* English circumnavigator. Drake was the first.

### Trimley (St. Mary)

*TRIMLEY (St. Mary), a parish, in the union of Woodbridge, hundred of Colneis, E. division of Suffolk, 9 miles (S. E. by E.) from Ipswich; containing 430 inhabitants. Here seems to have been anciently a considerable town, which was plundered by the Danes. The parish is bounded on the west by the river Orwell, and comprises by admeasurement 1823 acres. The living is a discharged rectory, valued in the king's books at £16. 13. 4. and in the patronage of the Crown: the tithes have been commuted for £470, and the glebe contains 7 acres. The steeple and part of the nave of the church are in ruins.*

From: [A Topographical Dictionary of England](#). S Lewis, London, 1848.

**Alston Hall:** Known as *Alteinstuna* in the Domesday Book of 1086. Bronze age pottery was found near here in 1956. The chapel of St. John was formerly close by although nothing remains today. It was consolidated with St. Martin's c.1362 and the font rests in Trimley St. Mary Churchyard. It is said a tunnel runs between Alston Hall and Grimston Hall, possibly with smuggling connections.

**Bridleway Bridge:** This bridge was completed in 2019 after approximately nine months construction work. It replaced the former rail crossing.



*The former rail crossing linking Gun Lane to Grimston Hall*

**Candleit:** Named *Candelenta* in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it was in the possession of Roger Bigod. It was then just three acres in size, valued at 6d (approximately 2 ½ p) and held by a freeman called Brihtric.

**Capel Hall:** Please note: The Hall and grounds are not accessible to the public and the drive to the house is private. Capel with Candleit was one of the seven manors in the ownership of the local Lord of the Manor. The Grade 2 listed house was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and was the freehold property of John Cobbold.

**Cavendish Grove:** The working title for a small modern development built c.2016 - 2018. The name Cavendish comes from Thomas Cavendish (pronounced Candish), the second Englishman to circumnavigate the world 1586 -1588.



**Cavendish Road:** Close to the Village Sign, this road goes between Old Kirton Road and Mill Lane. Originally all the properties were magnificent Council House properties but following the 1980 Housing Act, Suffolk Coastal District Council gradually sold them off.



*Cavendish Road, mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

**Christmasyard Wood:** Formerly known in old Norse as Christmasse *Geard*, meaning enclosure. Later as Christmas Tree Yard. W.G Arnott in "The place names of the Deben Valley Parishes", states that Christmasyard Wood is associated with John Christemasse in 1327.

**Church Lane:** This lane is the site of two former Rectories. One for St. Martin's and one for St. Mary's. Both are now in private ownership.



*View from the top of St. Martin's Church Tower, looking down Church Lane in the direction of the A14.*

### Churches:

**St. Ethelbert's Church, Falkenham:** Dedicated to St. Ethelbert (Aethelbert). There are four other churches in Suffolk dedicated to Aethelbert. He was an East Anglian King, beheaded on the orders of King Offa in 794. The tower is fifteenth century.

**St. Martin's Church:** This may be dated back to at least 1414 when the north chapel was constructed by Roger Cavendish. The tower was built in 1432, although the brick parapet is of a modern construction.

**St. Mary's Church/Two Sisters Arts Centre, Trimley St. Mary:** The church dates back to c. fourteenth century. For much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century its tower was in ruins. If you look at the Coats of Arms over the east door, you will see a lily, which was the emblem of the Virgin Mary and also that of the Brotherton family. The church became an Arts Centre in April 2019, offering a wide and vibrant range of programmes.

**St. Mary and St. Martin's Church, Kirton:** The Church of St. Mary and St. Martin dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and the font to about 1200, although there was an earlier foundation in the village at the time of Domesday. Of

interest in the Churchyard, is the grave of Eric David Arthur Betts, a Civil Engineer who, amongst other projects, designed the Trimley main sewer.



**The Dog, Falkenham:** This was formerly a Pub which closed in the early 1970s. It may be seen on Isaac Johnson's 1784, 'Plan of the parishes of Felixstowe, Walton, Trimlies St. Martin and St. Mary, Stratton & parts of the parishes of Falkenham, Kirton and Levington, in Suffolk' which was based on John Kirby's survey of 1740 and 1741.

**Durilda Green, Kirton:** You may wonder who or what was Durilda. According to 'The Victoria County History of Suffolk' (Volume 1), Durilda was a Freewoman who held land in Struestuna, now a lost part of Kirton, during the reign of King Edward. (Pre-dating the Norman conquest of 1066.) The naming of the modern development dates back to 2006

**Eagle House, Trimley St. Mary:** This house dates back to at least the eighteenth century. At one point it was known as Eagle Lodge and owned by William Brame who also owned the Post Office.

**Earl Bigod's Way:** This ran from the Roman's Walton Castle (lost in the 18<sup>th</sup> century due to coastal erosion) to Framlingham. It is supposed to be observable from the stretch of Felixstowe beach between Cobbold Point and Felixstowe Ferry. A tiny part of the walk from the end of Thurman's Lane towards Howlett Way, more or less covers part of the former Way.

**Egypt Wood:** *'Egypt Wood is said to have been a one time a camping-site for gypsies who, according to the country people came from Egypt'* Arnott, W.G. Place names of the Deben Valley.

**Everett's Corner, Falkenham:** In Isaac Johnson's 1784 'Plan' (the land at Everett's Corner was called Rivets. However, many Everetts are buried in Falkenham Churchyard. It is likely Rivets was a corruption of Everett's. There were many of that name in Falkenham in the eighteenth century.

**Fingerbread Hill:** From the old Scandinavian name, *'Fen-gara-brad Hill'*

**Flory's Farm:** Named after William Flory, Farmer, who farmed 39 acres from the mid 1850s until about 1878.

**The Forge, Kirton:** According to the owners, the Forge was originally built in 1848 when it was a Blacksmith/Coal Merchants. It is currently a family run business. Kirton Village sign was made by Alec Jacobs, Kirton Blacksmith.

**Goslings Farm:** Named after John Gosling who farmed Goslings Farm from about the 1860s to the early 1880s.

**Goslings Farm Shop:** Named after Goslings Farm in Thorpe Lane, the Shop opened in the early 1990s, specialising in Pick-your-own Strawberries.

**Goslings Track:** Although not usually known by this name, it is a long-established route to Trimley Shore. A photograph taken in 1905 shows it to be virtually unchanged to the current day. The photo was probably taken from the river side of the large barn built later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The stile has long since been removed.



c.1905 Photograph by Emeny & Sons of Walton



*c.1905 Photograph of Track to Trimley Shore on Sleighton Hill*

**Goslings Way:** One of the roads in Cavendish Grove. Named after the farm owned by Nigel Smith.

**Grimston Hall:** Called *Grimestuna* in the Domesday Book, 1086. The seat of the Lords of the Manor, including the famous son of Trimley, Thomas Cavendish. The last Lord of the Manor to occupy the Hall was George Nassau, albeit for a very short period, probably in the 1770s. For much of its life it has been a farm house. Grimston Hall is Grade Two listed, although currently in a parlous state of repair. The front of the Hall was re-modelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, the core of the building suggests a much earlier date of possibly the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century.



*View from the footpath to the west of Grimston Hall, May 2020*



*Interior shot of part of the upper storey in Grimston Hall, 2018. This is NOT accessible to the public.*

From the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the Hall was surrounded by Grimston Park which stretched westwards towards Alston Hall and southwards to the River Orwell. It appears to have been abandoned as such by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Barn, which is visible from various angles, is also Grade two listed and dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century.



*Interior of Grimston Hall Barn, 2018. This is NOT accessible to the public.*

**Grimston Lane:** Formerly called Lower Street. It runs from the High Road to Grimston Hall and Alston Hall. The name Grimston is of Scandinavian origin. 'Tun' or 'Ton' indicates a farmstead or enclosed piece of land.

**Gun Lane:** The gun at the entrance to this lane was once to be found in St. Mary's churchyard and later moved to Gun Lane. Before boundary changes in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the lane was in Trimley St. Mary. Today, the current boundary between the two parishes runs down the middle of Gun Lane so, when turning into it from the High Rd, the left hand side is in St Mary and the right hand side is in St Martin

There are claims the ship's gun came from one of Thomas Cavendish's ships. The provenance of the gun was confirmed in 1957 by The Armouries, H.M Tower of London, who stated it originated in France in the second quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The footpath originally ran directly to Grimston Hall before the railway and the new Bridge were constructed.



*The Gun, pre 1980, courtesy of Bryan Frost*

**Ham's House or Farm:** This property was originally a small pair of tied cottages owned by the Cobbolds who lived at Capel Hall in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. (One of the chimneys bears the inscription 1871 H.C. (H.C. was probably Horace Cobbold.) The original Ham's Farm or House was much older and can be found on Isaac Johnson's 1784 map of the Trimley Estates held by George Nassau.

**The Hand in Hand:** In 1851 this was a Beer House occupied by an Isaac Punt. The Beer House Act of 1830 permitted the selling of Beer only, not spirits. It continued to be identified as a Beer House on the 1902 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey Map.

**Holm Oak (*Ilex Quercus*):** This is close to the long-gone Turnpike or Tollgate, which may be seen on various 18<sup>th</sup> century maps covering Trimley St. Martin.

**Howlett Way:** This road is named after 'Mr Trimley', Ray Howlett (1920 – 1991), the first Village Recorder for Trimley St. Martin. He wrote several books including a history of the village entitled, 'The Enigma that is Trimley'. The road was constructed c.1973 but called Howlett Way after his death.

**Keepers Lane, Trimley St. Mary:** This was once known as *Leston Weye*.

**Keeper's Cottage:** The house, Keeper's Cottage or Lodge, may have been the home of the Trimley Estate's Gamekeepers since at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the eighteen eighties and nineties, it was occupied by George Mattin, Colonel Tomlin's Head Gamekeeper.

**Kingsfleet:** In 1337 Edward III laid claim to the throne of France and it is said his fleet anchored at Kingsfleet before sailing for France. The source of the rivulet known as Kingsfleet is somewhere on the borders of Trimley

St. Martin/St. Mary. In 30<sup>th</sup> May 1711 Sir James Thornhill, artist, visited Kingsfleet, which he stated was about two miles long. He observed,

*"We went to Kings fleet a kind of Lake abounding With noble Tench, Bream, Eeles, Perch, Pike, Roach & Gudgeons... There are 4 or 5 lakes in this marsh, all abounding with fish..."* It was divided from the sea, *"...by a large bank or Causeway..."*

**Kirton Road and Old Kirton Road:** Following the construction of the A14, this is now known as Old Kirton Road although for the majority of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was simply known as Kirton Road. For the majority of its earlier life it was known as Drabs Lane.

**Levington Marina, Levington:** The Marina, or Suffolk Yacht Harbour was initiated in 1967 at approximately the same time as Loompit Lake.

*"Work on the Suffolk Yacht Harbour began in 1967, the vision of chartered surveyor Michael Spear working with landowner Charles Stennett, to transform 12 acres of flooded marshland into berths for local yachtsmen."*

From:

<https://enjoyfelixstowemore.co.uk/things-to-do/walk-from-trimley-st-martin-to-suffolk-yacht-harbour-1-5754962>

**The Limes, Trimley St. Mary:** A large Grade 2 listed building built in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century. There are several similarly aged properties close by, all built at approximately the same time.

**Loompit Lake:** The origins of this lake arose from the 1953 floods when the river wall was breached. In the 1960s it was known as the Trout Lake. The Suffolk Fly Fisher's Club is currently based at Loompit Lake and offers members fly and boat fishing for Rainbow and Brown trout. Potential new members are welcome to visit and experience fishing in the lake with no obligation. Please note, the land adjacent to the Lake is private.



*Loompit Lake c. 1975*



*Loompit Lake from the banks of the River Orwell, June 2020*

**The Maltings, Kirton:** Heritage Gateways states: *'WWII field artillery observation post complex including two Lewis gun emplacements in perfect condition. Wilfully destroyed 2006.'* The original early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Grade Two listed house remains within this small development. It originated in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**The Mariners, Trimley St. Mary:** John Kirby in 'The Suffolk Traveller' (1735) places 'The Mariners' as being close to the two churches. The current building is Grade 2 listed and was built in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and originally owned by the then Lord of the Manor, George Nassau. It was of central importance to villagers in the

Trimley district and was initially used for public meetings such as Coroner's inquests, Colneis Hundred Association meetings and Landholders' meetings about Enclosure to name but a few.



*'The Mariners' during Lockdown, early April 2020*

**The Memorial Hall:** Originally built as a Memorial to those who fought and died in the First World War, the first building constructed in 1919 was a wooden structure which burnt down in 1923. It was replaced by a stronger structure which was subject to an arson attack on 19 June 2013. This in its turn was rebuilt in 2014 and continues to serve the village and many community activities.



*Memorial Hall June 1998. Photograph taken by Reg Dixon, former Trimley St. Mary Village Recorder*



*Memorial Hall, November 2020.*

**Methodist Church:** The modern Methodist Church building replaces an earlier one, which was destroyed in the Great Gale of 16<sup>th</sup> October 1987.



Trimley Methodist Church before the Second World War

**Mill Farm Thurman's Lane, Trimley St. Mary:** An 18<sup>th</sup> century, Grade 2 listed building in Thurman's Lane.

**Mill House, Kirton Road:** Known as, 'The Black Mill', the Post Mill was moved in sections from Dennington in Suffolk. Its function was to grind corn. For a long time during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was operated by the Hawes family. However, in 1917 it ceased operating and the sails were removed in 1918. In 1945 the residual dwelling was bought and occupied by local artist, Yvonne Drewry.



Trimley School in the foreground with the Black Mill sails behind it.

**Mill Lane:** Named after the windmills which originally stood approximately where the junction of Mill Lane and Mill Close meet.



*View of the mills which stood on the land now occupied by Mill Close, Trimley St. Martin*

**Mill Pouch:** The Mill Pouch may be seen on Isaac Johnson's 1784 map and the 1807 Enclosure Map but is of a much earlier origin. 'A water Corne Mill and the ponds called the Pouche' were recorded in Aaron Rathbone's 'Survey of the Manors of Walton with Trimley and Felixstowe Priory' in 1613. When the new A14 was constructed in the 1970s, a millstone was discovered and thought to be medieval. It was clearly a significant water course.

**Morston Hall:** The current building dates back at least 350 years and has links to the Anglo-Saxon era. It is known as *Morestuna* in the Domesday Book of 1086.

**Nigel Way:** Nigel Smith was a local farmer, operating out of Goslings Farm, and a former Parish Councillor.

**Old Rectory, Church Lane:** This Grade 2 listed building was originally the Rectory for the clergy of Trimley St. Mary. It is now used as a hostel.

**Painter's Wood:** Probably named after the land holder of this piece of land in 1564, Geo. Paynter.

**Pill Boxes:** There are two Pill Boxes in the village. The one close to Morston Hall is in the middle of a field. (English Type 23 with a small interior of about eight square feet) The gun's trajectory was towards the River Orwell. The other Pill Box is the slightly different in design and faces inland.



*Pill Box close to Morston Hall*



*Pill box in the field next to Howlett's Way and the A14*

Pillboxes originated in the First World War. At this time, there were only two shapes; round and hexagonal. With the arrival of the Second World War, their number increased exponentially. They were the most common

homeland fortifications of the Second World War and between May and September 1940, 18,000 new Pillboxes were constructed in a variety of shapes, although the majority were hexagonal south of Orford and Square north of

Thorpeness. The walls are usually about 18" thick and the opening had a blast wall built on the inside. By 1941 it was generally recognised that the only defence they provided was against rifle fire. Had any larger form of weaponry been deployed they would not have withstood a sustained onslaught.

**The Plague:** Between 1906 and 1918 there were isolated occurrences of the Bubonic Plague on the Shotley Peninsula and in Trimley St. Martin. The outbreak in Thorpe Lane occurred between 19<sup>th</sup> December 1909 and the end of January 1910. One household of seven was affected; only three survived.

**Port of Felixstowe/ Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company:** The Felixstowe Railway and Pier Company was founded by Colonel George Tomlin in 1875. Landguard Container Terminal was the first purpose built Container Terminal in the U.K. and opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1987. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, Rishi Sunak the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that together with Harwich the port would become a Freeport.

**Post Office:** this building dates back before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1807 Aaron Kent bought the property for £150. By 1871 it housed the Post Office, which was then owned by Aaron Kent's daughter, Eliza and her husband William Dore. The Sub-postmaster was William Gorham. It has continued as a Post Office since that date.



*The Post Office in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. (Eagle House is immediately opposite)*

**Reeve Lodge:** Opened in 1977 to provide sheltered accommodation for the elderly. It was named after a local Councillor, Jim Reeve who died in 1976. There is another sign located here celebrating Thomas Cavendish. There is also a second War Memorial adjacent to the sign.

**The Rookery, Falkenham:** The Rookery, which runs alongside Falkenham Brook, was a plantation of Poplar trees, grown for the Bryant and May Match company, until the Great Storm of 1987. (Source: Robin Biddle)

**Sleighton Hill:** Called Slayton Hill in 1784. From the old Norse word *Sleyght*.

**Street Farms:** There were two areas of farming land with the name Street attached to them.

Great Street Farm (Trimley St. Martin): This name may be seen on the gate opening on to the piece of land now used by 2 Sisters for parking. Little Street Farm (Trimley St. Martin) has now disappeared but covered the area between Old Kirton Road, Howlett Way and some of the land opposite Reeve Lodge. 'Street' has its origins in the Old English word *stræt* from the Latin, *via strāta* (paved way).

**Street Farmhouse:** This is a Grade 2 Listed building next to the land called Great Street Farm. The exterior is late 18<sup>th</sup> century with an earlier building behind it.

**Thorpe Lane:** Thorpe is the Old Danish name for an outlying settlement or farmstead. In the Domesday Book of 1086, it is called *Torp*. The small settlement of residential buildings set in Farmland in Thorpe were surrounded by Thorpe Common. There are several old properties along here which may be dated back to at least the middle of the eighteenth century, possibly earlier. On the 1886 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey Map, the lane is called Heath Lane.

**Thurman's Lane, Trimley St. Mary:** On the 1784 map drawn by Isaac Johnson, this lane was known as Watering Lane. It led to the site of the Water Mill and the Mill Pouch. The water source for the mill was probably located somewhere close to the boundary between Trimley St. Martin and Trimley St. Mary. The farm is firmly placed in Trimley St. Mary. Ray Howlett stated it was called Mill Lane. Between 1881 and 1895 Henry Thurman from Bacton, Suffolk lived at Mill Farm. After his death, his wife Ann Marie Thurman ran the farm until her death in 1932.

**Trimley St. Martin Primary School:** Following the introduction of Forster's 1870 Education Act, a School Board was formed in 1874 with the intention of serving Trimley St. Martin, Trimley St. Mary, Kirton and Falkenham. Funding came from the local Rates. The Infant school opened in 1875 followed by the United District Girls School on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1876. Supplies frequently came from local benefactors. Education was not made compulsory until the passing of the 1880 Education Act.



*Trimley St. Martin School – the original entrance. March 2018*



*Trimley St. Martin Church Tower, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018*

**Village Sign:** This was originally designed by Robin Tremaseur as part of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977; he chose to celebrate Thomas Cavendish of Grimston Hall on the sign. A short extract from the multi-versed poem, 'The Oaks of Grimston Hall' is included on the mount. The ironwork surrounding the image was designed by Robin and constructed by Jacobs, the Kirton Village Blacksmith. The image has been redesigned at least twice since it was first erected.



*Trimley St. Martin Village Sign, February 2019*



*The original Trimley St. Martin Village sign in 1977*

**War Memorial in St. Martin's churchyard:** This was unveiled on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1921. The commemoration is for those who died in the First and Second World Wars and during 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland.

**Waterworks:** Sometimes called Little Grove Pumping Station on twentieth century Ordnance Survey maps. Ray Howlett (in 'The enigma that is Trimley') said: *'At one time, the bulk of the water supplies in Felixstowe and district was pumped from an artesian well, sunk 200 feet into the chalk, in a waterworks in Trimley...'*

After many years of disuse, the building was converted into a private house, the roof of which may be seen in the foreground of the photo below. It is not accessible to the public.



*Former Waterworks 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018*

*(Only the roof is visible in the right hand foreground.)*

**Welcome Hall, Trimley St. Mary:** The Welcome Hall began life in 1902. The Pretyman family who then owned the large swathe of land now known as The Trimley Estate, donated the building for the use of the inhabitants of both of the Trimley Villages.

For more information about Trimley St. Martin, please click on the following link:

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com>

Email: [trimleystmartinrecorder@gmail.com](mailto:trimleystmartinrecorder@gmail.com)

Liz Rastrick, Trimley St. Martin Village Recorder

October 2021

