

Trimley St. Mary Gazetteer: local names and places.

(Including locations in Trimley St. Martin and Walton mentioned in the Guided Walks.)

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 21¼ 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.'

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 *Alteinestuna* 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.

Anti-Aircraft Site, Keeper's Track: The structural remains of a Cold War, ant-aircraft site. It includes four gun emplacements, the remains of a brick radar tower telephone testing hut.

Blofield: The first written appearance of Blofield appears to have been in the Walton Court Rolls of 1292. W.G. Arnott suggests the name may mean '*cold or exposed land*.' Interestingly, the town Blofield in Norfolk was known as Blafelda in 1086 when the Domesday Book was compiled.

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. 2017

Candle Farmhouse: 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.

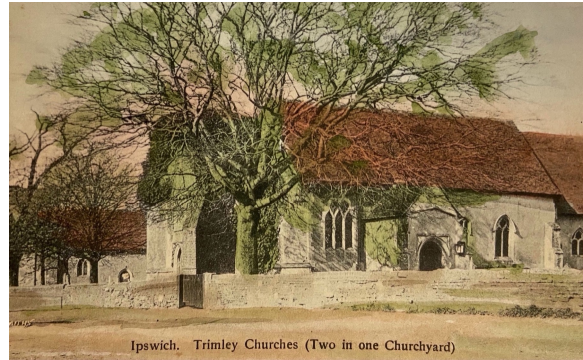
Christmasyard Wood: Formerly known in old Norse as Christmasse *Geard*, meaning enclosure. Later as Christmas Tree Yard. W.G Arnott in "The place names of the Deben Valley Parishes", states that Christmasyard Wood is associated with John Christemasse in 1327.

Churches

Trimley St. Martin 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. There are three Commonwealth War Graves in the Churchyard as well as a War Memorial beside the entrance gate.



Trimley St. Mary Church: The Church dates back to the late 13th or early 14th Century. It was probably built by Thomas Brotherton, 1st Earl of Norfolk. The Brotherton coat of arms is in the centre of the Coats of Arms just about visible above the West door. The Church tower has been in various states of repair over the centuries as may be seen in the image below. It is now used as the Two Sisters Arts Centre, which covers a wide range of the Arts.



Trimley St. Mary Church, c. 1900.

There are five Commonwealth War Graves in St. Mary's Churchyard and further War memorials inside the Church.

Walton St. Mary Church: Munroe Cautley states the original church was mostly built of septaria. Much of the church was re-built between 1857 and 1867 and is now largely Victorian in character. Some of the details of the Victorian stained glass are beautiful. The Church has a lively evangelical community.

Coachmakers (173 High Road): The Kerry Brothers Carriage Works was located here. The garden was the former premises of Mr. G. J. Watts the Builder. The Coachmakers front garden is on the site of a former builder's yard. The front garden has been completely constructed from scratch during the past three years. The open trap was purchased by the current owners.

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.

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.

Fagbury Viewpoint: (Fagbury Cliff above Felixstowe Port) Here you can view the docks and the River Orwell beyond. Originally it may have been Facca('s) Burh. A Burh was the Old English word for a fortified or defended site. Other names recorded include Faggeberyston in 1495, from the Walton Court Manor documents.

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

Flory's Farm (in Grimston Lane): Named after William Flory, Farmer, who farmed 39 acres from the mid 1850s until about 1878.

Free Church: Miss Mary Dains left a substantial amount of money to the village when she died in 1913. In her Will of 13th February 1913, signed only days before she died, she set out clear instructions for how the Mission Hall – now the Free Church – was to be run. She also said in her will she had selected the land for the building of six Almshouses- now called Mary Dains Almshouses and these were all completed in 1914.

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 18th century. However, the core of the building suggests a much earlier date of possibly the late 15th or early 16th 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 17th 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 19th century. The Barn, which is visible from various angles, is also Grade two listed and dates from the late 15th or early 16th century.



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

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 20th 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 16th century. The footpath originally ran directly to Grimston Hall before the railway and the new Bridge were constructed.



The Gun at the corner of Gun Lane, pre-1957

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

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 18th 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 30th 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..."

Lime Cottage (200 High Road): This unlisted house, built in the 17th or early 18th century, has a large inglenook fireplace. The brickbuilt staircase to the upper floor is wrapped around the chimney breast.

The Limes: A former farmhouse built of red brick in the late 18th century with later additions to the south end.

Lock Up or Prison Cage, Walton: This structure may have started life as a Market Cross (possibly Fidell's Cross). It was a originally sited on Cage Lane next to the Church and around 1795 became the Lock Up or Prison Cage. This function stopped c. 1852. It was sold in 1910 and transported to Chiswick where it remained until 1957. In that year, after a local campaign it was returned to Walton on a low loader when it continued its life as a Bus Shelter.

<https://www.prisonhistory.org/lockup/walton-lock-up/>

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, 2018

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 second half of the 18th century. The land was 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 at the start of the first Lockdown, May 2020

Mary Dains Almshouses: These Grade 2 buildings have a stone tablet dated 1914 on the extreme left hand gable. Mary Dains, who died 1913, left money for the building of the Almshouses. The bungalows are red brick with tile embellishments and plain tile roof and chevron tile bands. There are six bungalows all built in 1914 and renovated in 1975 with good access for people with disabilities.

Mill Farmhouse: Built in the 18th century, this Grade 2 building is a timber framed construction. In the early 19th century a pedimented brick porch was added. Formerly a Dairy was situated here. In 2015, the boarded-up farmhouse was sold, requiring extensive refurbishment and renovation. Now restored it is a private home. The Farmhouse was named Mill as it situated on Thurman's Lane which led to the former Mill which has long since disappeared.

Nature Reserve, Trimley Marshes: This is run in partnership with the Suffolk Wild life Trust. The reserve was created in 1998 adjacent to the River Orwell to compensate for mud flats lost by the extension of the Port of Felixstowe. This area of marshland is an important nesting and feeding area for wetland birds and the Trimley Marshes nature reserve is of international importance for birds and supporting a complex eco system. The Trimley Estate, a 3,400 acre estate acquired by Trinity College, Cambridge in 1933, when the port was little more than a small dock basin. This area is a rich wildlife haven and includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a wetland of international importance, all within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Old Rectory: Situated in Church Lane the Old Rectory is a former Victorian vicarage built in the 19th-century; Frederick Barnes was the Architect. The building is constructed of red brick. There have been reports of ghosts appearing in the house. After becoming a redundant Rectory, it was sold in the early 1990s as a nursing home. It is currently the Seven Oaks Hostel catering for workers new to the U.K.

Pillboxes

Pillboxes originated in the First World War when there were only two shapes; round and hexagonal. These were the most common homeland fortification of the Second World War when an additional 18,000 were built across Great Britain between May and September 1940. The usual shape was hexagonal but there are many variations. The walls could be up to 18" thick and the opening usually had a blast wall built on the inside. By 1941 it was generally recognised 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 Fagbury Road Pillbox is one of three in the two Trimleys. The other two are in Trimley St. Martin. One is close to Morston Hall, the other in the field adjacent to Howlett Way.



Pill Box off Howlett Way, with Water Tower on the left, July 2017



Pill Box close to Morston Hall, January 2019

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 one of the cottages in Thorpe Lane occurred between 19th 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 1st July 1987. On 3rd March 2021, Rishi Sunak the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that together with Harwich the port would become a Freeport.

Post Office, Trimley St. Martin: this building dates back before the 19th 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 20th century. (Eagle House is immediately opposite, on the left.)

Post Office and Angel Inn Coffee House (234 High Street, Walton): Angel Inn, Walton: This was an important building, probably dating back to the 16th Century. It has fulfilled many functions over the years, including acting as an Auction Centre in the late 18th/early 19th century when it was used for the quarterly hiring of servants.

In 1891, Jessie Brinkley, a widow, was the Publican of the Angel Inn. Nowadays the Angel Inn Coffee House is a popular café venue. The interior cheerfully exhibits its age, especially when viewed over a cup of coffee.



The Angel Inn sign may be seen on the extreme left of the image. 1913.

The Roundhouse, Walton

This building is hexagonal rather than round and although its appearance suggests it may have been a Toll House, this is not the case. It dates from the early 19th century and is Grade 2 listed.

School - Trimley St. Mary: The School opened in 1904 with 119 pupils although built for the provision of 259 pupils. The Architects were Edward Fernley Bisshopp and Henry Munro Cautley. (Amongst many other buildings, Munro Cautley designed 'The Walk' and the Library in Northgate Street. Both buildings are in Ipswich.)



A mid-20th century view of Trimley St. Mary Primary School

Searsons: The timber framed Farm house was built in the early 17th century. It's now a holiday home which can cater for up to ten people. In 1574 it was referred to as Serssent. The Cartlodge and 17th century Barn are also timber framed. The Cart Lodge is now the main office of Bidwells, who manage the Trinity Estate on behalf of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Shoemakers Cottage (201 High Road, Trimley St. Mary): Formally three cottages but now one house. A shoemaker lived in one of the cottages with his family during the 19th century. The house and garden have been recently refurbished.

Signals: Signals was formally St Cecelia's Catholic Church. It has an interesting history as explained on the following link: <http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/trimleycecilia>. The original modern church was completely destroyed by fire in October 1990. The new St Cecelia's was consecrated by the Bishop of East Anglia on 25th September 1992 and was regularly used. However, in 2015 the church was closed to comply with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The Church was sold and in 2017 'Signals' a local Hi-fi company, purchased the church and subsequently made extensive internal alterations.

Sleighton Hill: Called Slayton Hill in 1784. From the old Norse word *Sleyght*, meaning 'a level place'.

Spriteshall Cottage (2 High Road/Sprites): possibly built around the mid-18th century along with later additions.

Spriteshall Lane: The 'Royal Felixstowe Laundry' was located in Spriteshall Lane immediately before you reach the Water Tower on the left hand side of the lane. The laundry buildings were sold in 1995 for redevelopment and the area is now known as Eastland Court.

Stennetts Memorial Field : In 1967 the Stennett family gave five acres of land to the village. The land was to be used for recreation purposes with Trimley St Mary Parish Council acting as Trustees. It is home to Stennetts Community Café, a community-based enterprise offering affordable coffee and food in addition to providing work based training for adults with learning disabilities.

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

Street Farms: There were two areas of farming land with the name Street attached to them. Great Street Farm (Trimley St. Mary: 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 originally 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).

Thurman's Lane: 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 House: A Grade 2 listed building. The house was built during the mid-late 19th century for Mary Dains who was and is, a benefactor of both the Trimley villages. Mary Dains lived in here until her death in 1913. Trimley House was originally one house and was split into two (180 High Road and 178 High Road at the rear). Planning permission to convert the house into two dwellings was made in 1955. Note: Only 180 High Road is a Grade 2 listed building. A single storey extension was added to Trimley House in the early 1990's and is called Trimley Lodge.



Trimley House, c.1912

Trimley Station: The station opened in 1891 and serves the villages of Trimley St. Mary and Trimley St. Martin. The building itself is in the 'New Essex' style and is something of a rarity; only one other exists outside Essex.

Uniserve Building: The new Uniserve Warehouse can now be seen on Clickett Hill, a 11.5 acre warehouse built on a 26 acre field on land owned by Trinity College. It can also be seen from parts of Grimston Lane in Trimley St. Martin.

Upper Mill, Walton

This smock Mill would appear to date from c.1816. In the 1820s it was in the occupation of James Ruffles, who also owned the Mills in Trimley St. Martin's Mill Lane. Now in the possession of Bloomfield, who also owns the furniture shop in Walton High Street.

For further information: <https://new.millsarchive.org/mills/index/?action=show&which=1071>



Upper Mill, Walton when it was working.

Village Sign: This was erected to mark the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne in 1953. Along with Trimley St. Martin, it was unveiled a year later, in 1978



The unveiling of Trimley St. Mary's Village sign. 1st September 1978

Walton Hall, Walton: Now a Grade 2 listed building, Pevsner states that this house was built between 1740 and 1750. One of the chimney stacks has a date of 1796 or 1799, together with the initials of Anthony Collett, who occupied the house until his death in 1804. Several sources mention the interior staircase, dating from 1633, which originally came from Brightwell Hall. An instance of shrewd 18th century recycling. In 1918 the Hall was occupied by Clement Charles Smith, a well-known breeder of Suffolk Sheep and Horses.

For further information: <https://historicensland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1182978>



Four people walking away from Walton Hall c. 1900. The gate to the left of the walkers is roughly where the entrance to Felixstowe School now stands.

Water Tower, Trimley St. Mary: Built in steel and covered in concrete in 1934, the tower stands 210 ft. high and was able to hold 150,000 gallons of water. It is no longer used for water storage. In the 1970s, two covered reservoirs were constructed next to it which hold 2.35 million gallons of water with powerful pumps operating at high pressure sending water through the mains around Felixstowe, the Trimleys and other villages within the area. It has been used as a telecom mast, although much of this was decommissioned in 2012 because of deteriorating concrete.

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 27th February 2018 viewed from Slayton Hill. Only the roof is visible in the bottom right hand corner.

Welcome Hall, Trimley St. Mary: The Welcome Hall began life in 1902. The land formerly belonged to the church and was the site of a wooden hut used as a school. It was sold to Captain Pretymann, who then owned the large swathe of land now known as The Trimley Estate. He built the Welcome Hall and then donated the building for the use of the inhabitants of both of the Trimley Villages.

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