

Trimley St. Martin Gazetteer: Some Places, their derivation and their Names

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.'

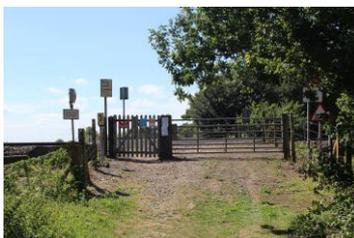
Trimley (St. Mary)

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: From the old Scandinavian, *Alteinstuna*. 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

Candlet (Candlett): 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 Candlent 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 18th Century and was the freehold property of John Cobbold.

Cavendish Grove: 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 20th century.

Christmas Tree Wood: Formerly known in old Norse as Christmase *Geard*. Later as Christmas Tree Yard.

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.

Earl Bigod's Way: This ran from the Roman's Walton Castle (lost in the 18th 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.

Port of Felixstowe/ Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company

The Felixstowe Railway and Pier Company was founded by Colonel George Tomlin in 1875. It was the first purpose built Container Terminal in the U.K.

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.

Goslings Farm: Named after John Gosling who farmed the around 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 currently in situ. 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: The seat of the Lords of the Manor, including the famous son of Trimley, Thomas Cavendish. He was the second Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. The last Lord of the Manor to occupy the Hall was George Nassau, albeit for a very short period, probably in the 1770s. Thereafter, it became a farm house. Grimston Hall is Grade Two listed, although currently in a parlous state of repair. The front of the Hall was remodelled 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.

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: This used to be in Trimley St. Mary before boundary changes in the second half of the 20th century. It is distinguished by a ship's gun which claims to have been from one of Thomas Cavendish's ships. Ray Howlett, the first Trimley Village Recorder wrote,

“The gun is of French origin dating from between 1525 and 1547. When it was discernible the letter “H” above the touch hole stood for Henri and the dolphin was the badge of the heir to the French throne. It was probably cast for Henri II when Dauphin.”

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 18th and 19th centuries. (One of the chimneys bears the inscription 1871 H.C. (H.C. was 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: This is close to the long-gone Turnpike gate which may be seen on various 18th 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: This is in Trimley St. Mary and 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 18th century. In the 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…”*

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 20th century it was simply known as Kirton Road. For the majority of its life it was known as Drabs Lane.

Levington Marina: 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>

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 Mariners: Located in 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 18th century. It was of central importance to villagers in the Trimley district and was 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 16th October 1987.



Trimley Methodist Church before the Second World War

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. However, when the A14 was constructed 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 and former Parish Councillor.

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 Trimley. 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

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 19th December 1909 and the end of January 1910. One household of seven was affected; only three survived.

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, the second Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. There is also a second War Memorial adjacent to the sign.

The Rookery, Falkenham The Rookery, that 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*.

Thorpe Lane: Thorpe is the Old Norse name for village or farmstead. There are several old properties along here which may be dated back to at least the middle of the eighteenth century.

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 in Trimley St. Martin, whilst the farm sat 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. Hence, Thurman's Lane.

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 2nd 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 Parish 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.



Trimley St. Martin Church Tower, 27th 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 3rd 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 27th February 2018

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

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

<https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com>

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Liz Rastrick, Trimley St. Martin Village Recorder

December 2020