

## Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November “A Heritage Walk Around East Budleigh” with Paul Kurowski

25 people came together on a cold November Wednesday morning for “A slow wander around the historical village of East Budleigh, including a short tour of All Saints Church with its medieval pew ends etc., to find out more about the picturesque cottages which line the High Street, other historic buildings and how the village has changed over the years.”



After a definition of “heritage”, eg, “valued things such as historic buildings that have been passed down from previous generations ... of special value and worthy of preservation”, we were told that Historic England has 52 Grade II, two Grade II\* and one Grade I listed buildings and scheduled monuments, including railing and chest tombs, within the village of East Budleigh. However, we suggested that all the buildings were part of our heritage as they get passed down from generation to generation. We then set out to review past and current heritage around the village including architectural, historic and human aspects.

Looking at a map from 1888, most of the buildings were clustered in the High Street, some in Middle Street near Wynards Farm and Drake’s School, a few in Lower Budleigh with a few ‘outliers, eg, Syon House, Oakhill, Pulhayes Farm, Temple Hill and Salem Chapel.

It was interesting to note that, when you stand in the Churchyard in front of the Church’s Chancel and look down the High Street, every house that you can see all the way down to Wynards House is a Grade II listed building. The High Street and part of Hayes Lane to Vicars Mead are within the East Budleigh Conservation Area first designated on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1973 with appraisal reviews in 1999, 2008 and 2019.

In walking along Hayes Lane, Vicarage Road, Middletown Road, Middle Street, a bit of Brookfield Road, Lower Budleigh, Budleigh Hill and back up the High Street, we were able to see the heritage buildings, discuss how they have changed/ been modified, and how the village developed in phases from the 1930s, through 1950s - 1970s, redevelopments in the 1980s-1990s and some of the more recent buildings.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, East Budleigh was still a largely self-supporting community - there were two butchers, a shoemaker, a dressmaker, a tailor, a sweet shop, two post offices (at different times), as well as an undertaker, a blacksmith, a coal merchant, a wheelwright, a chimney sweep and even a watchmaker. We identified some of the locations / buildings that had been farms with barns, vicarages, mills, blacksmiths, cobblers, haulage yards, a tannery, post offices, lace makers, groceries,

antique shops, the 'co-op', tea rooms, an Indian take-away, The Institute and the 'new' Village Hall and the numerous pubs together with Mark Rolle's contribution to the village: brick cottages and water pumps.

Apart from finishing in the Sir Walter Raleigh pub for warmth and lunch, the highlight of the walk was when the owner of Wynards House, Mark Duffelen, invited us to go around the back of the house to see the barn with its original window frames dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier (see photos below).

A question that was not answered during the walk related to buildings and roads being "Wynards" - having had a chance to check: "William Wynard was recorder of Exeter in the 1450's and was a wealthy merchant and lawyer, probably having connections with the Ottermouth Port. Moving to Budleigh Polsoe, the family probably became sheep-farmers. They may have been the first leaseholders and responsible for one of the pew ends in the Church" - source: OVApedia.

We had a number of printed maps showing the development of the village over the years - the National Library of Scotland has a wonderful "Map Images" section that enables you to look at all maps of your chosen area through different times:

<https://maps.nls.uk>

For East Budleigh, the link below gave us an option of 13 large scale maps to review:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/marker/#zoom=14&lat=50.6653&lon=-3.3292&f=0&z=1&marker=50.6574,-3.3218&from=1450&to=1972&i=106004534>

The OVApedia provided a lot of information for the walk including:

The Historic Buildings of East Budleigh. Part 1 – Higher Budleigh: and

The Historic Buildings of East Budleigh. Part 2 – Lower Budleigh and Environs

<https://www.ova.org.uk/article/historic-buildings-east-budleigh-part-1---higher-budleigh>

<https://www.ova.org.uk/article/historic-buildings-east-budleigh-part-2---lower-budleigh-and-environs>

Paul and Penny Kurowski

Photo credits: Chris Boorman, Jane Kewley and Penny Kurowski

