

Walk No 8.1: Edwalton & Tollerton Villages, Part 1 – Edwalton.

Walk/Photos taken 2nd & 23rd June 2020

Both villages have interesting history and buildings, with a nice country walk between them. I had intended to do the description for the full walk but, due to other demands on my time and the fact that I keep finding more to write about (!), I have split it into two. The first part is to Edwalton church and back, the second part will follow. So this is either a shorter walk (about 7km) or the first part of a longer one (about 12km). The map shows the full route.



Go up to Boundary Road (direct, or via Sherborne and Selby Roads), left along to Melton Road and turn right. This part of Melton Road has a number of large properties, no doubt some valued in the £millions. Some are striking Victorian dwellings, built soon after Edwalton railway station opened....



Great Musters (formerly "Oxholme")



Old Edwalton House



No258, formerly known as "Inglewood".



...some are newer!
We turn left off Melton Road and into Village Street, just after passing Machins Lane (on our right) with a green area on our left. This is known as Miss Machin's Field.



Elizabeth Machin (1871-1975) was a figure of some importance in the community. Apparently she was reserved and gracious. She transferred ownership of her field in 1970 to the then West Bridgford Urban District Council and wished it to be "*preserved for the village in perpetuity after her death*".

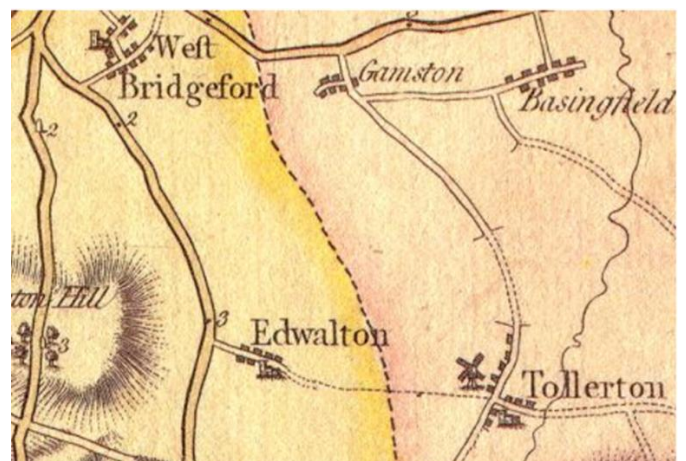
On the opposite corner is Edwalton Hall which was built by the Chaworths in the early 1800s. It is a Grade II Listed Building.



Originally a private residence owned by the Chaworth family (see below), it later became a hotel and restaurant, part of the Home Brewery company's properties. One of the private owners of Edwalton Hall had been Tommy Shipstone, the famous Nottingham brewer; he and his family lived here from 1891 until 1908. He must have turned in his grave when his old home became one of his main local rival's pubs! Subsequently the Hall has been developed into an exclusive complex of 'mews houses' and apartments.

Before continuing along Village Street let us first look back to an earlier time.

It is believed that a Saxon (or possibly an Angle) named Eadwaeld or Aedwald, who settled sometime between 400AD (when the Romans departed) and 800AD, reclaimed a piece of waste, boggy land on a hill about a mile and a half south of the Trent. Eadwaeld enclosed his farmstead or tun and a community began to grow around it (Eadwaeld's tun - Edwalton). As this 1774 map indicates, Edwalton developed, running east from what is now



Melton Road, as a linear settlement following along what is now Village Street.

One of the earliest mention of Edwalton village is in the Domesday book where it is listed amongst the lands given to Hugh de Grandmesnil by the King.

Hugh de Grandmesnil (1032 – 1098), also known as Hugues or Hugo de Grentmesnil or Grentemesnil, is one of the companions of William the Conqueror known to have fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Domesday book gives the pre-1066 owner as Goda of Edwalton. According to a presentation to The Keyworth & District Local History Society Edwalton by John Hall in 2007, *“the name Goda is more familiar to us as Godiva, and it is that famous medieval streaker that is referred to...”*

Edwalton remained a very small and often very poor farming community which for centuries rarely had more than 20 families. White's Directory of Nottinghamshire, 1853 describes Edwalton as: *‘...a small, secluded village and parish, near the Melton Mowbray Road, 3½ miles south east of Nottingham, containing 118 inhabitants and about 800 acres of land which, 60 years ago, was so boggy and indifferent, that it could scarcely be let at any price, but has been much improved within the last twenty years by draining and superior cultivation. John C. Musters Esq. (a minor) is owner, lord of the manor, and patron of the perpetual curacy, valued at £97, which has been augmented with Queen Anne's bounty.’*

John Chaworth Musters (1838-1887) was part of the Chaworth-Musters family. I will briefly pause from the walk to look at this family who were important land owners in West Bridgford and Edwalton and were the origin of the West Bridgford road names Chaworth Road, Musters Road and Musters Crescent.

The Chaworth family were descendants of the Chaources family, of Maine in northern France, who came to Britain at the time of the Norman Conquest. Through advantageous marriage alliances during the 13th to 15th centuries, the Chaworth family acquired many properties in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, including in Edwalton (acquired through the 13th century marriage of William de Chaworth and Alice de Alfreton). The family's main home was Annesley Hall.

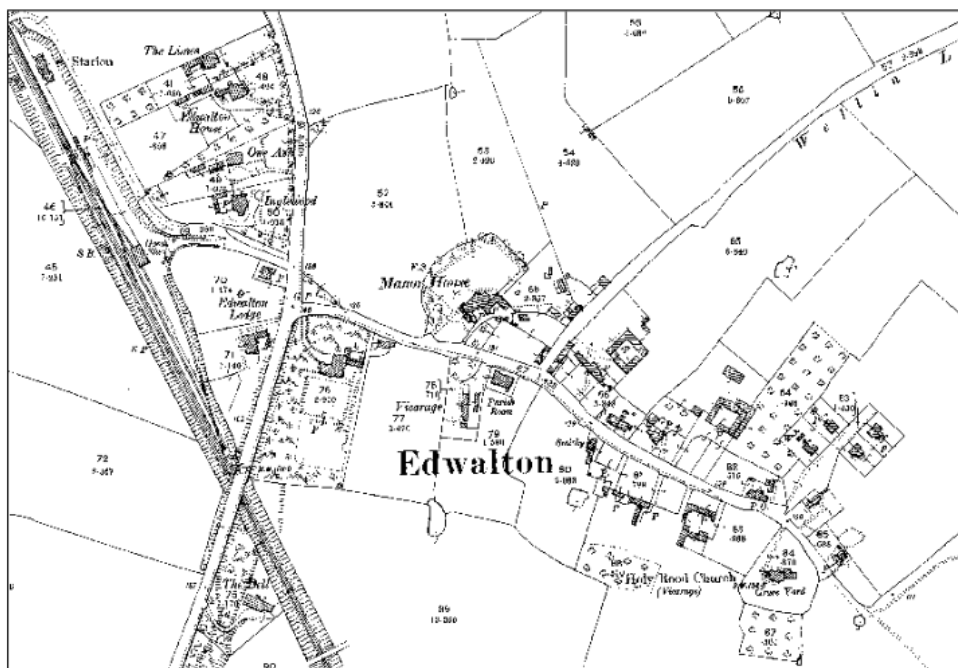
The joining of the Chaworth and Musters families happened in the early 19th century. Mary Ann Chaworth (1786-1832) was heiress to the Chaworth estates in Annesley, Edwalton and Wiverton. Annesley was the neighbouring property to Newstead Abbey and, apparently, Mary Ann was the first love of Lord Byron, the poet. She was the subject of poems including 'The Dream', which has *‘the Lady of his love was wed with one who did not love her better...’* In 1805 Mary Ann married John ('Jack') Musters (1777-1849), the eldest son of John Musters and his wife Sophia of Colwick Hall, who also owned property in West Bridgford. Jack and Mary Ann had a new house built in Edwalton – Edwalton Hall – which became the largest house in the village.

Many properties were sold over the years including Colwick Hall in 1896 and two smaller family seats, Edwalton Manor and West Bridgford Hall, at a similar time. John Neville

Chaworth-Musters (1890-1970), who during WW1 was with the South Notts Hussars (see Walk No 7) sold the last of his property in Edwalton in 1950. His son, Robert Patricius Chaworth-Musters (1923-1992), sold Annesley Hall and park in 1973 and moved to Felley Priory [the garden at Felley Priory, Underwood, is well worth a visit].

As the 19th century progressed, the changes to Edwalton described by Whites Directory included cottages being built for farm workers and their families. With the arrival of the railway in the 1880s, and the opening of Edwalton station (see Walk No 4), Edwalton became an attractive proposition for wealthy commuters giving rise to the construction of the striking Victorian dwellings we have seen along Melton Road. One of the new arrivals was Mr Harvey Haddon, the Nottingham businessman after whom the sports stadium in Bilborough is named. Another was Tommy Shipstone, at Edwalton Hall, as mentioned earlier.

The Chaworth-Musters family, who owned most of the village and surrounding land, began selling off agricultural land as building plots. In ten years the population doubled as Nottingham businessmen and their servants moved in. The Manor-House, which had been built in the mid-18th century, was very infrequently used by the Chaworths and had been let throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, before being sold, demolished and new housing built.



Ordnance Survey map of 1900. New commuter housing can be seen near the railway station.

The Victorian houses of Inglewood and Old Edwalton House are shown on this 1900 map, as is Edwalton Hall.

The end of the First World War brought the first large scale development to the area and Tudor style suburban housing emerged during the 1920's and 30's.

As we walk along Village Street, we can see that, where the Chaworths' Manor House once stood (in the centre of the above map), now there are about a dozen properties (fronting Village Street, Wellin Lane and Manor Close).

On the other side of Village Street, about half way between The Paddocks and Village Close, is the drive to an older building, set back from the road. This is apparently the oldest house in the village and was a farmhouse dating to around 1700. It is aptly named The Old House. A map of 1882 labels it as the Vicarage.

(photo taken from The Paddocks)



At the junction with Wellin Lane is the village name plate. Behind it is Firs Farm, which is displayed on the front of the Edwalton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (Rushcliffe BC, Nov 2009), was built c.1739 – now two properties, the one on the left presumably a barn conversion.



A short way further along, on our right are alms houses erected in 1927 and endowed by Oliver Watts Hind in memory of his parents, Jesse and Eliza Hind and also his brother, Lawrence Arthur Hind, and his nephew, Jesse FM Hind, both of whom died in action in WW1.



THESE HOUSES WERE ERRECTED IN 1927 BY OLIVER WATTS HIND IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF HIS EATHER JESSE HIND J.P. OF EDWALTON SOLICITOR, CLERK OF THE PEACE FOR THE COUNTY AND THE FIRST CLERK TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NOTTS. BORN 1842. DIED 1919. A WISE COUNSELLOR AND A FAITHFUL FRIEND
ALSO OF HIS MOTHER ELIZA HIND BORN 1842. DIED 1907. HERSELF FORGETTING SHE THOUGHT ONLY OF OTHERS

ALSO IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF HIS BROTHER. LAWRENCE ARTHUR HIND, M.C. SOLICITOR. LT-COL. 7th (THE ROBIN HOODS) BN. THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS. BORN 1877 WOUNDED AT HOOGHE IN 1915. KILLED LEADING HIS BATTALION IN THE ATTACK ON COMMECOURT FRANCE. JULY 1st. 1916.
ALSO OF HIS NEPHEW JESSE FRANCIS MONTAGUE HIND. ONLY CHILD OF JESSE WILLIAM AND LILIAN FRANCES HIND. BORN 1893 LIEUTENANT 9th BN. THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS. WOUNDED AT SUYLA BAY. GALLIPOLI IN 1915 AND KILLED IN ACTION WHILST IN COMMAND OF HIS COMPANY AT THIEPVAL. FRANCE. SEPTEMBER 27th 1916.
IN LIFE THEY ALL DID THEIR DUTY.

Oliver's father, Jesse Hind, had bought Edwalton Hall from Tommy Simpson in 1908 for the princely sum of £6,000 (£727,000 today). Jessie Hind was a Nottingham solicitor and Clerk to the County Council. Oliver Hind was a great devotee of The Boys Brigade and he was instrumental in establishing the organization in Nottingham. He also bought Green's Windmill (in Sneinton), saving it from being demolished and undertaking repairs. It was later said that, had it not been for Oliver's intervention, the mill would have declined to such an extent that its major renovation in the 1980s would not have been a practical proposition.

Another interesting looking property on the right of Village Stree is named The Old School House but I have been unable to find anything of its history.



At the corner of Hallfields stands The Old Post Office, a Grade II Listed house dating to the C17th with a late C17th or early C18th extension.



In the mid-1860s, several years after the introduction of the Penny Post, a letter box was placed in the wall of the house to receive the mail for the residents of Edwalton. It was then the home of William Taylor, the parish Clerk, and his wife Ann. After their deaths in the 1880s, it passed to Tom Cook, a coal dealer, who became the first Sub Postmaster of Edwalton in 1891. In 1910 he was succeeded by his daughter Annie Cook who was Postmistress for 30 years. After the WW2, the post office moved elsewhere in the village.

In August 2019 Rushcliffe Borough Council received a planning application to demolish The Old Post Office and build a new house:



Permission for this was refused, mainly because *"The proposal would result in the loss of a Grade II listed building and no clear and convincing justification has been provided for its loss"*.

This implies that the building was already listed; however, it was only after a large number of objections were received that Historic England became involved and the building was given Listed status on 17th September 2019. The Borough Council's refusal followed on 22nd October. A NottinghamshireLive article on 20th September notes that: *"It was [the owners'] original intention to renovate The Old Post Office. However, after professional consultation and pre-application advice from a Rushcliffe conservation officer on a site visit at the beginning of the design process, they were advised that the council would not be concerned by the proposal to demolish the existing building as the property had fallen into such a state of disrepair.....[the owners] will now be looking at alternative schemes to meet their original dream of making The Old Post Office their home, whilst working within the framework set out by Historic England and Rushcliffe Borough Council."*

There are a number of smaller properties which may have been built for farm labourers, e.g. Nos 8 to 12 and Nos 23 to 25 Village Street (all shown on an 1882 map).

I am sure these, and a number of the other older properties along Village Street, have a history to tell...



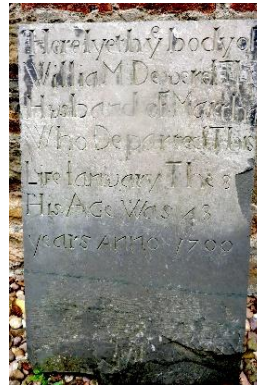
At the end of Village Street is the Church of the Holy Rood. It is the oldest surviving building in the village. Allegedly built by a local Knight around 1166AD the building has been much extended and altered throughout its history. The chancel collapsed in the 17th century and was rebuilt in brick, while the brick tower is believed to be a rare example of building from the time of Mary Tudor(1553-1558).



The church is Grade II* Listed and the lychgate is Grade II Listed, as are 3 gravestones – on one the inscription reads:



Here lyeth ye body
of
William Deverel the
husband of Martha
who departed this
lyfe January 8
his age was 48
years anno 1700



A very similar stone records the death of Martha, also in 1700.

The third has a partly erased inscription reading "..... Hallam ied May ...IO 1686."

As noted earlier, for a large part of its existence the church has part of a very small village. Archbishop Herring's Visitation Returns, 1743, includes a statement by the vicar John Henson:

Edwalton, Bingham.

We have only 12 families in this Parish, Six of which are Farmers, & Six Cottagers. There is one Dissenting Family, of that sort called Independents.

There is no Meeting House.

There is no publick or Charity School at all.

There is no Alms-House, Hospital, or other Charitable Endowment.

I do not reside there: there is indeed a poor Cottage calld **the Parsonage** House, in which my Clerk now dwells. I reside at Nottingham within two Miles of **Edwalton**, in **the** House belonging to ye Freeschool, of which I am Master.

This rather forlorn description of the village and, particularly, the Parsonage is echoed in Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire: (Volume 1, Republished With Large Additions By John Throsby).

"The parsonage, which stands at the edge of the church-yard, is one of the most wretched habitations I ever beheld: the walls are of dirt, or of materials equally as graceful, formed nearly into a square of an inconsiderable size, which was once honored with a thatch covering, now partly removed by the wind. It is ornamented with a rich display of ivy, through which the sun beams enter to give light to its inhabitant, who rents it dearly at 10s. per annum; near it is a brick barn, which serves as an elegant contrast, or soil".

I'm not sure this building still exists – though, if it refers to Church Cottage opposite, it is looking good today!



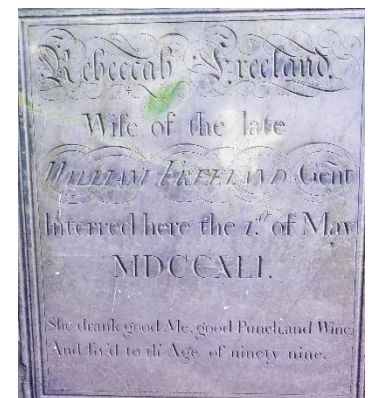
Thoroton is no less disparaging about the church:

"The chapel is dedicated to Holy Rood, has a brick clumsy tower with three bells, a nave and side aisle. Here is nothing worthy notice..."

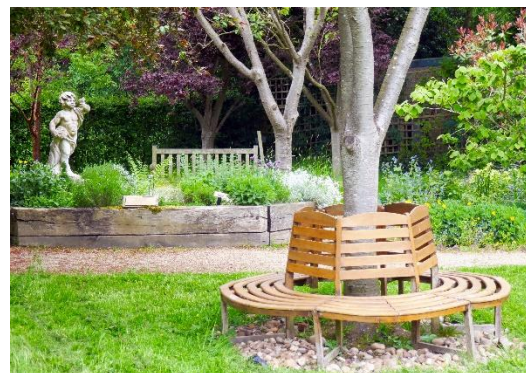
But he does add

"...excepting a strange line or two upon an old woman's grave stone, in the chapel yard, of the name of Freeland, once a land owner, who died in 1741. It says,..."

She drank good Ale, good Punch, and Wine
And liv'd to th' Age of ninety nine.

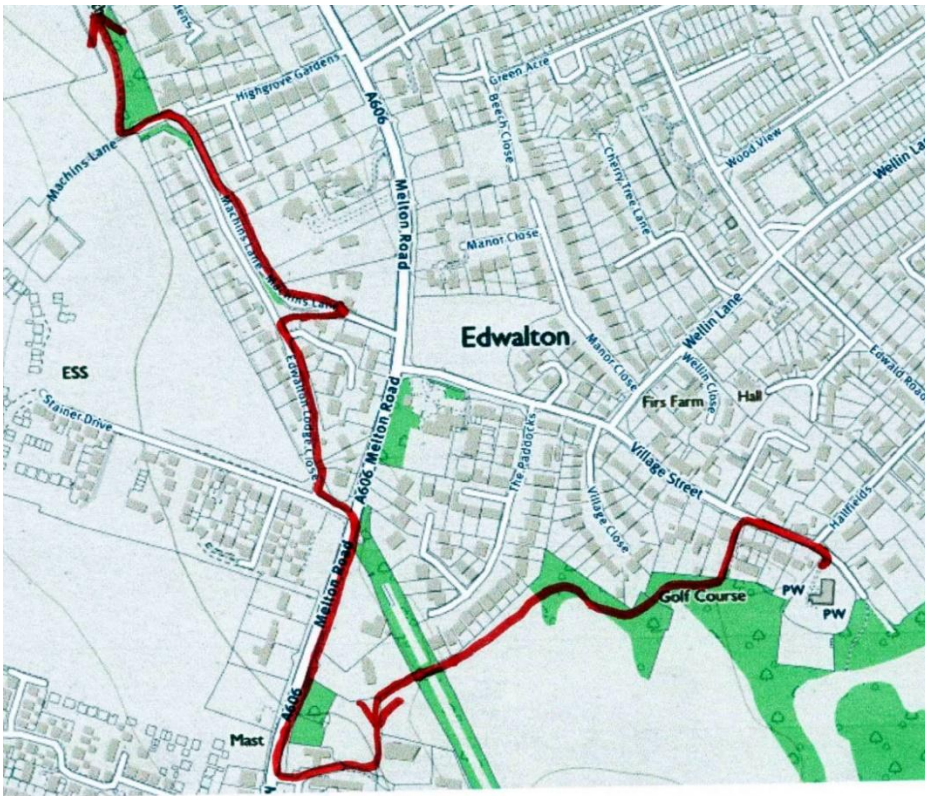


Before we leave the church, go round to the back, through the graveyard and there is a lovely garden area with seating to enjoy a few minutes of peaceful contemplation.



If you are on the longer walk, to Tollerton, you need to switch to Walk No 8.2.

If you are doing the shorter walk, here are the return directions...



From the church turn left along Village Street and then, just after numbers 23-25, turn left into the signed footpath and then keep right, through the trees, along the edge of the golf course.



Continue, along the same route as Walk No4 (The Green Line to Edwalton), to Hall Farm Court, right on Melton Road, left into Edwalton Lodge Close, Machins Lane and on to Boundary Road and back to the start.