

NAVENBY TRAIL 1 – High Street

Before we start: car parks in Navenby are for the use of business/shop customers. Road side parking is unrestricted. Please don't block driveways. Please remember that however interesting a premises may be, it is usually **SOMEBODY'S HOME, so please respect their privacy!**

The "lanes" and sideroads are a project still in progress, and could be walked either in conjunction with this walk, or separately.

This is not intended to be an historic document, merely an introduction to the history of this village. "Listed" buildings are taken from the details found on the "Historic England" website.

Navenby History Group thank Peter Welbourne and Liz East for their advice and participation, and acknowledge the local history gleaned from the late Maurice Addison's book "Hat Pegs of History".

START at Odling's car park. This was originally the site of 2 cottages, and a draper's/grocer's shop. Possibly the site of a Primitive Chapel, but never proved.

Cross *Gas Lane* to Odling's shop, now a butcher's and general store, but originally a jeweller and clock repairer. The food side started when Ellen Odling began selling pies on Lincoln market.

Number 46 used to be the Post Office. At the back was a sorting office, always busy from the early hours with delivery people sorting the mail, and much loved by the locals as a great convenience for collecting parcels.

The telephone kiosk is on the "listed" list! Type K6. Designed 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

The site of the new Co-op has had an interesting life, and up until WW2 sold everything you could wish for. After that it was 2 different grocery stores, and from 1970 had various tenants, until the Co-op demolished the premises and rebuilt it.

Cross *Tenter Lane*, and we are outside Welbourne's the bakers, which was founded in the late 1800s and is now famous for its Plum Bread. There was a mill at the back of the premises, and until 1969 baking was done in a coal-fired oven. A listed building.

The One Stop Shop, known to older residents as "The Newsagents" was from 1900 to 1967 Dawson's the Butchers. As was usual, there was a slaughter house at the back.

Number 24 used to be the Chaplin Arms, which ceased business in 1913.

20 High Street is a listed building.

Bonners the Saddlers were at number 18. Bill Bonner was the last of the family; he sold and repaired cycles, and of course boots and shoes, and was known to cut men's hair. The shop contents are now at the "Museum of Lincolnshire Life" on Burton Road, Lincoln.

Number 16 was for many years a dairy, and was still called "The Old Dairy" when it became an off-licence.

The chip shop was previously the "Reindeer Inn". It dates back to at least the 1840s, and was used for sittings of the Magistrates Courts for this part of Kesteven. The pub closed around 1975.

NAVENBY MARKET CROSS was situated at the junction of High Street and Church Lane, and if you know of its whereabouts you will be a very popular person.

Cross *Church Lane* and we arrive at the bus stop! The corner house and the bus shelter were yet another butcher's, an interesting point often overlooked. The big house, the "Butcher's Arms", now no longer a pub! is a listed building. There are many theories about its past, including a manor house, cellars, and secret passages.

Methodism in Navenby dates back to the late 1700s, and the current Chapel was built in 1926.

To the north of the Methodist car park is the old Chapel Schoolroom, converted to a residence in the early 1980s. Another Market Cross theory (!) is that the coat of arms built into the wall came from the cross.

Number 2 was a draper's shop run by Mrs Todd, with her husband running a clothing club.

Cross *North Lane* and look at Dial House, right on the corner as you stand. Widely believed to be the oldest surviving building in the village. A grade 1 listed building, with a great many stories attributed to it. Murder most foul, ghosts, secret passages, and several skeletons top the list. Originally a farmhouse, then a staging coach inn, and now a private residence.

Cross the main road (carefully)

"Holmeleigh" is the retirement home often chosen by Navenby residents when they feel they need to move on. Built for a farming family in 1937, it became the retirement home around 1984.

Top Farm is on the corner of Green Man Road and has been with the same family since WW1.

Cross *Green Man Road* towards number 1, Stoney Croft Farm. The Roadcar bus used to stop either side of the road, depending on who wanted to get off.

Number 1A, The Old Coach house, was the entrance to the stables of Stoneycroft.

Number 3 used to house the District Nurse.

Number 5 was the home and shop of Mr South, who kept people's radios going.

25 was the home of local RAF Spitfire pilot Ken Stevenett, who crashed near Navenby. His grave can be seen in Navenby Cemetery. A listed building.

On the corner of East Road is Navenby Teashop. From 1926 to 1947 it was Fred Fluck's garage, and it is not so many years ago that the pumps were removed.

Cross *East Road* and see the large double-fronted shop at 29, an extremely interesting building with a history of its own. Rollitts opened the shop in 1793, and it is only comparatively recently (January 2003) that it passed out of the family ownership.

The King's Head is the oldest pub in Navenby, going back to the Civil War. Now a listed building.

Number 49 is The Grange, with its interesting, dated 2-storey archway. See the "squared stone" construction, as opposed to unworked stone. Also a listed building.

51 High Street is a listed building.

The Lion and Royal, once the Lion Inn (and possibly many other names), rose to fame when the Prince of Wales changed his clothes there after a day's hunting with the Blankney. Thus it became "Royal". Nearly 75 years later, it was once again newsworthy when Guy Gibson, the Dambuster, stayed there for a while. And his dog. The pub once had an archway similar to the one at The Grange, but with a smaller one at the side. This disappeared in about 1960. A listed building.

Crowland House, was built by a London merchant in the latest fashion of the day, mid to late 1800s. Both bricks and some floor tiles are believed to be of Navenby manufacture.

Number 63 has a mixed history, ranging from a Temperance Hotel, a meeting room for the Plymouth Brethren, to a more common-place use by the Addison blacksmith's family. A listed building.

On the corner of Chapel Lane was the home and surgery of the Dr Campbell who later moved to Bleak House near the Navenby/Boothby boundary. He was a great benefactor to the village.

Cross *Chapel Lane* and pass number 73 High Street, once a blacksmith's shop, and yet again previously a butcher's.

Tana Cottage, a building of great historic interest, and listed by Historic England. Note the difference in brickwork where the roof was raised. Not uncommon round here.

Number 83, Hall Cottage, Mr and Mrs Hodson, the first vendors of ice cream in the village.

Between 81 and 83 is a short drive which used to lead to the "Temperance Hall", which after several transformations eventually became the Village Hall, closed around 1969.

Winton Road, named after Henry Winton, who owned a thatched cottage on the corner.

Cross *the A607 (carefully)* and there is the large stone house known as Clint House. The name can cause confusion when looking at old maps, because a house at the bottom of the lane had that name, and the one where we are standing had no name. It was built around the mid-1700s with stables at the back. In WW2 it was used for Home Guard training, and in more recent years private occupancy, flats, and again single occupancy. Another listed building.

Cross *Clint Lane* and we are back by Odling's car park, where in 1970 Mr Cowham's shop and the 2 cottages were demolished to leave the open space for customers to park while they buy their meat and groceries.

[*Lanes, side-roads, and buildings just a bit further out to be published later.](#)