

# Rutland Local History & Record Society

Registered Charity No. 700273



## Wing Village Walk

September 2001

(updated 2022)

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### INTRODUCTION

The manor of Wing is anciently called 'Wenge', this is derived from the Old Norse word 'vengi', meaning 'field'. It is located within the Rutland Hundred of Martinsley.

The southern boundary of the parish runs along a water course which passes under Glaston Road, and the northern boundary is defined by the River Chater. The area of the parish is 1,116 acres (452 hectares) and the population in 2011 was 314. It was 249 in 1811 and 297 in 1911.

Wing was included in the lands held in 1066 by Queen Edith, the wife of Edward the Confessor, but they had been appropriated by William the Conqueror by 1086 when they were included in the Domesday Survey. The Marquess of Exeter of Burghley House, near Stamford, was the main landholder from the early seventeenth century through to the twentieth century and is still Lord of the Manor. The land has always been mostly pasture.

There are 35 Grade II listed buildings and structures within the parish, and Wing maze in Glaston Road is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The centre of the village between Top Street and Bottom Street is a Conservation Area.

### THE VILLAGE MAP

The map accompanying this walk is based on the Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25 inch to one-mile map of 1904. Consequently, later buildings, extensions and demolitions are not shown. Numbers in the text, [12] for example, refer to locations shown on the map.

**Please:**

**Respect private property.**

**Use pavements and footpaths where available.**

**Take great care when walking alongside or crossing roads.**

**Remember that you are responsible for your own safety.**

### THE WALK

The walk starts at **Wing Maze [1]** on the west side of Glaston Road and adjacent to the village recreation field. This circular medieval turf maze is about 46 feet (14 metres) in diameter and is more accurately described as a unicursal labyrinth.

It consists of a grass path which winds backwards and

*The labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral (Wikipedia).*



forwards round the circle before ending up at the centre. It is similar in design and size to the pavement maze in Chartres cathedral, and to one at Aldborough, Lincolnshire. The information board at the side of the maze provides more details.

Walk a short distance south along Glaston Road to Mill Close [2] on the left. This is a small development of houses built on the former site of one of Wing's **Post Mills**. There was another post mill in a small field on the opposite side of the road, formerly called Mill Field.

A mill at Wing is noted in the twelfth century (*VCH Rutland Vol II*) and a post mill is included in the 1773 Enclosure Award. King's map of 1806 also shows two mills located on opposite sides of the road leading to Glaston.



*The two windmills either side of the road from Wing to Glaston on the Ordnance Survey one-inch map of 1864.*

John Peach was the miller and baker at Wing at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century. In October 1804, a windmill at Wing belonging to him was blown over whilst he was working in it, but he escaped uninjured.



*The Wing post mills were similar to this one at Preston (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).*

An 'excellent new-erected **POST WINDMILL**' was advertised in the *Stamford Mercury* in 1819, and an auction in 1838 and again in 1839 included the two windmills, each being described as a 'Post Corn Windmill, with large Round house...'

A later owner was Charles Presgrave, a miller and baker who also owned the bakehouse adjacent to the Kings Arms in Top Street, previously owned by the Peach family (see later). The mill on the west side of the road to Glaston was no longer there in 1884. It was probably one of the mills sold at the auction in 1839. The other mill is still shown on the Ordnance Survey Series I map of 1884, but it had been dismantled by 1904.

Walk back to the maze and continue to the junction with

Morcott Road. On the left is a pair of semi-detached **Swedish Houses** [3].

At the end of World War II there was a severe shortage of housing in Britain and between September 1945 and March 1946, Sweden exported 5,000 Baltic pine prefabricated timber houses to England. The semi-detached design with a ground floor wash-house extension was adapted by the Ministry of Works from a standard Swedish kit. They had a life expectancy of about 60 years. On arrival as flat packs, they were allocated in small numbers to rural areas in support of farm workers.

In Rutland, single pairs were erected in Barrowden, Lyddington, Ridlington and Wing. Only those in Morcott Road, Barrowden, and these in Wing have survived.



*A typical pair of newly erected semi-detached Swedish Houses in 1946 (Ministry of Works).*

Opposite the end of Glaston Road, the track running northwards is known locally as **Muddy Lane**. On early maps it is shown as part of a road through Rutland which joins the Great North Road north of Empingham.

Turn left and walk along Morcott Road. On the right are three phases of **Council Houses** [4] which were built between 1930 and 1965. Most are now privately owned.

Continue along Morcott Road into Top Street. On the right are **Townsend House** [5] and **Corner House** [6], two of the oldest houses in the village. Townsend House, dated 1622 on its front elevation, occupied the corner plot before Corner House, originally known as Corbel House, was built about 1650.



*Wing National School and pupils in 1910 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).*

On the left in Top Street, the former Church of England National School [7], which closed in 1977, is now the **Village Hall**. It was built in 1851 to accommodate eighty pupils at a cost of £400.

Next to the Village Hall, the **Church of St Peter and St Paul** [8] is normally open and is well worth visiting. At the side of the steps leading to the North porch is a slate plaque recording that the church clock was installed in memory of those who lost their lives in World War I.



The clock was installed by John Smith & Sons of Derby at a cost of £130. The dedication service was on 13th February 1920.

The original late Norman church was built without aisles, but these were added in the twelfth century. The original Norman doorway remains in the north porch. The chancel arch is thirteenth century and the tower with

a spire was built 1380-1400. The spire was taken down in



*From a c1839 watercolour painting of Wing Church just before its spire was removed. The original Rectory can be seen beyond the church (Uppingham School Archives).*

1840-41, having become unsafe due to belfry alterations.

The chancel was restored in 1875, and the south aisle was restored in 1885 when the south porch and west gallery were removed, the nave restored, and the north porch added.

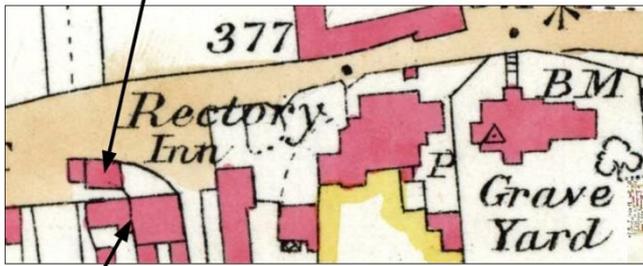
Feel free to explore the church and churchyard, but please remember to close the church door on leaving.

The original **Rectory** [9], next to the church, was built just after 1600. Its first occupant was the Rev Professor Francis Meres who was rector of Wing from 1602 to 1647. His son, also Francis Meres, was Headmaster of Uppingham School from 1641 to 1666, and Archdeacon of Leicester. The Rectory, now known as *Churchfield*, was substantially rebuilt in 1841, at a cost of £800, but incorporating fragments of the earlier building. It is now very much smaller than the original house.

Continuing along Top Street, walking along the footpath on the north side, the next buildings on the left are 3A and 3B Top Street. Both are Grade II listed. Together, these were originally the **Cuckoo Inn** which closed in 2004. The first public house on this site was the Red Lion from about 1815, although the present 3A is partly late seventeenth century. From 1846 it was known as the Noel's Arms, and from about 1875 it finally became the Cuckoo Inn when the landlord was Edward Barnett. The name derives from Cuckoo Cottage

which once stood on this site. Note that 3B Top Street is now also known as Cuckoo Cottage.

**Cuckoo Cottage**



**Cuckoo Inn**

*Cuckoo Cottage on the OS Series 1 map of 1886.*

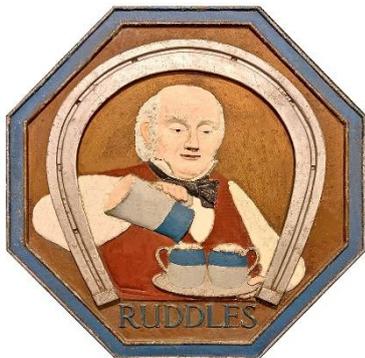


*The Cuckoo Inn in 1910 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).*

Next along Top Street, on the south side, is the drive to **Wingwell Farmhouse [11]**, although the house cannot be seen in any detail from the footpath. The farmhouse, which stands at right-angles to the road, is early seventeenth century and Grade II listed.

Further along Top Street, behind the telephone kiosk, is **The Old Forge [12]**, the middle section of which is dated to the seventeenth century. This property is not listed

Next on the left is the Grade II listed **Kings Arms [13]** in Kings Arms Yard. It was originally a row of three buildings with the gable end to street. The middle part, which has 1694 with the initials R over SA on a datestone, is the oldest. It was one of Ruddles' 37 tied public houses until 1978 when all but one were sold to generate capital for reinvestment in modern plant at their Langham Brewery.



aluminium plaques, featuring a period barman pouring ale from a jug into tankards, were on the wall next to the pub entrance and on the north wall for many years.

*Ruddles' plaque (Hilary Crowden).*

Looking up Kings Arms Yard from Top Street, the last building on the left was the village bakery until the 1950s. Members of the Presgrave family were Wing millers until the end of the nineteenth century, and continued as bakers and landlords of The Kings Arms until the 1940s

It is not known when the bakehouse was vacated by the Presgrave family, but in 1953 an Oakham bakery company was renting it. Soon after this date it was condemned as being unfit for use as a bakery and it became an art studio before it was converted to additional inn accommodation.

Next on the left along Top Street, there is a public footpath which passes through City Yard to Wing New Hall. Walk along this footpath to just beyond **City Yard House [14]**. This grade II listed property has datestones with 1622 and 1694 and had white-washed walls up to about 1950. There is a vertical sundial on the south elevation with lines and Arabic numerals engraved on a limestone dial which is complete with its gnomon. There appears to be a date and initials above the gnomon, but they are illegible.

It is thought that the name City Yard comes from the numerous carriages of well-to-do people from nearby cities who came here to consult Amelia Woodcock, 'The Wise Woman of Wing'. **Amelia Woodcock's cottage [15]**, now demolished, was one of a line of cottages which stood behind City Yard House. Amelia was a nineteenth century herbalist and healer. She committed suicide after she was wrongly accused of being a witch.



*Amelia Woodcock's cottage, now demolished, is the first of the row on the left, and City Yard House is on the right on this c1930 picture postcard (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).*

Return to Top Street and cross over the road to the front of the house named **Top Lodge [16]**. This was the butler's house from when the Worrall family first occupied Wing Old Hall in the 1880s.

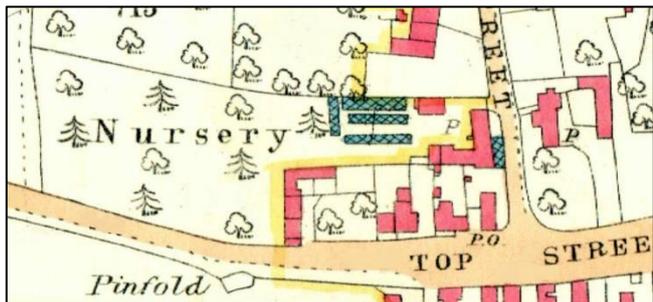
Walk back along Top Street and turn left into Middle Street. The first house on the right is **Garden Cottage [17]** which, together with its water pump and barn, is Grade II listed. The oldest part has a datestone with G P 1668. The later southern part is dated 1881 with S W on a quoin stone.



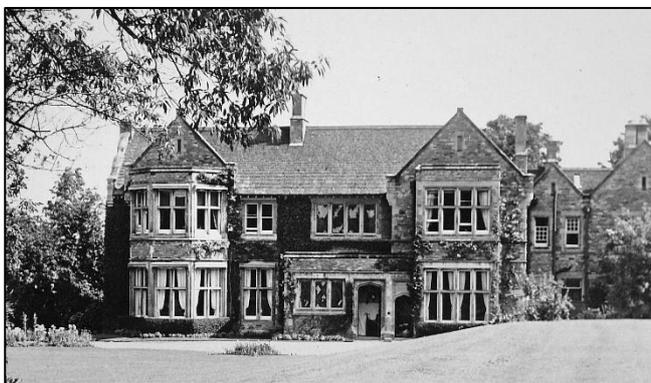
The G P on the early datestone is almost certainly George Pepper who was baptised at Wing in 1627. His wife, Patience, and four of their children were also baptised here. George was 41 when he built Garden Cottage. He died in July 1687 at the age of 60 and members of the Pepper family lived in the village until at least 1790.

Just after 6 pm on Thursday, 21st December 2016, a fire broke out in a chimney at Garden Cottage and rapidly spread to the thatched roof. Eighty firemen were involved in shifts in subduing the fire and most of the original fabric was destroyed in the main part of the cottage. Over the next two years it was restored to an award-winning standard.

Opposite Garden Cottage in Middle Street is the Grade II listed **Wing Old Hall [18]**, but only the rear can be seen from here. Incorporating the rear of an earlier building, it was built by George Wyatt Worrall in the late 1880s on the site of a former nursery which was acquired from the Sheild family. Several properties fronting Top Street, including the post office, were demolished when the Old Hall was built.



*The nursery site on which Wing Old Hall was built in the late 1880s. Note that the site of the village pinfold is also shown on this map (OS Series 1 map of 1886).*



*Wing Old Hall about 1910 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).*

The Worrall family of Whalley Range, Manchester, made its fortune developing a technique for dyeing velvet at its dye-works at Salford. George was one of the eight children who inherited this family fortune. Edward Worrall, his brother, built **Wing New Hall** (see later) in the 1890s, and the two cottages [19] in Top Street next to Garden Cottage.

Next along Middle Street on the left is **Wing Lodge [20]**, much of which is late nineteenth century and of the same period as Wing Old Hall. Also on the left is **Stable Barn**, a listed Grade II barn dated to the 1700s, and the adjoining **Stable Cottage [21]** which is of a later date.

Opposite Stable Barn is **Millstones [22]**, which is shown as a Post Office (P O) on the 1904 walk map. Note the millstone in the garden wall. This is possibly from one of the windmills owned by the Presgrave family.

Continue to walk down Middle Street, passing the entrance to the footpath known as **The Jetty** on the right. The next house on the left [23] is dated 1771 and is Grade II listed. Just beyond is the white painted **The Old Post Office [24]**, a later post office than that at Millstones noted above.

Next there is a gateway to a drive which once led to the farm buildings at the rear Cedar House (see later). Out of sight down this private drive is a large stone-built dovecote, which is dated 1756, and a former laundry, both now part of **Dove Cottage [25]**.

Opposite the drive to Dove Cottage, on the east side of Middle Street, is **Tom Cottage [26]**, at 8 Middle Street. This 1½ storey seventeenth century thatched cottage is Grade II listed and was probably built during the Civil War. Note the small, chamfered stone window to right. Small 'ingle windows' were often set in the wall beside an inglenook

fireplace to provide light for cooking.

Towards the end of Middle Street, on the right, is the former Grade II listed **Methodist Chapel [27]** which was built in 1840. It is said to have been constructed using the stone from when the church steeple was demolished, which caused some controversy at the time. It is now a holiday cottage. Opposite are 15 and 17 Middle Street [28]. These mid-eighteenth century houses are Grade II listed.

Now turn round and walk back up Middle Street and then turn left into the footpath known as **The Jetty** which leads to Church Street. About halfway along is **7 The Jitty [29]**, a Grade II listed house built in two parts. The earliest part, with stone tiled roof, is seventeenth century. Note the blocked two-light mullioned window in the gable.

Continue along to the end of The Jitty and enter Church Street, previously known, together with the present Bottom Street, as Far Street. Here, immediately opposite, is **Manor Farm [30]** at 6 Church Street, which is Grade II listed. This elegant, symmetrical, solid looking two-storey three-bay farmhouse, with coursed rubble walls and a stone tiled roof, is considered to be early nineteenth century. Next to the farmhouse, on the north side, are Manor Farm barns, a range of barns which are contemporary with the farmhouse. The centre barn was originally open on the north side with iron columns. These are also Grade II listed and have been converted to dwellings.

Walk in a northerly direction along Church Street. Next, on the right, is the white painted **Inglewood Cottage [31]** at 8 Church Street. It is probably late seventeenth or early eighteenth century and is Grade II listed.

Opposite is **Wing House [32]** which, together with its barn at the rear, is another Grade II listed property. The present house was built about 1850, but it has a quoin stone which is dated 1673. This may have come from an earlier house on the site. This magnificent symmetrical house has two storeys with attics and a cellar. Note the central door with a fanlight and its architrave with a keystone, and the shallow arched bay windows with sashes and moulded fascia boards which flank the door. The small two-storey barn to the rear also has a quoin stone dated 1673 from an earlier building. In the gable wall there is an upper doorway approached by stone steps.

The nineteenth century Grade II listed **ashlar wall [33]** on the opposite side of the road provides a frontage to Wing House paddock and tennis court. The wrought iron gate and gate piers with recessed panels and concave arched caps are also listed. From here there is a good view to the east along the Chater valley.



*Wing almshouses about 1905 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM)*

Now continue to walk along the road to **Sundial House [34]** at 20 Church Street. This Grade II listed property was originally three early seventeenth century almshouses which were contemporary with Townsend House. The present house is named after the engraved sundial set into the right dormer. When the dial was restored in 1995, in memory of the late Mr Harris who lived here, 'H' was included in the gnomon design and the motto UT AVES SIC HORAE (As birds fly so does time) was added as an intended connection between birds and Wing.

Continue into Bottom Street, previously known as Far Street. On the right, opposite to the entrance to Middle Street, is a row of **bungalows [35]** built by Rutland County Council in the late 1960s as accommodation for the elderly.

Continue to walk along Bottom Street to point [36] on the map, which is opposite the entrance to Cedar House. From here you can look down into the Chater valley to see the railway line, just inside the parish boundary, which follows the valley from here to Stamford. The line was opened in 1848 by the Midland Railway Company as the Syston and Peterborough Railway. The buildings on the site of Manton Station, which closed in 1966, can be seen to the west.

Opposite, on the left-hand side of Bottom Street, is **Cedar House [37]**, a Grade II listed manor house which was built in the 1700s, but which now has a late Victorian frontage. This was the home of the Sheild family who owned most of the village until late 1800s when they sold off their land and properties. Behind Cedar House, at right angles to the main range, but unseen from here, is a former cottage with a datestone of 1735 which has initials S over T E.

Continue along Bottom Street. On the right, near the end, is a sign [38] indicating the footpath which leads to the former Manton station. This was well used by villagers when the station was operational. At the end of Bottom Street, the lane which continues straight ahead [39] is an old road. It is now a footpath leading to Station Road and Crownwell Farm in Wing Hollow (see later). The 'P' at point [39] on the map marks the location of the former water pump which was used for watering cattle. It is said that this never ran dry even when other pumps in the village failed.

Turn left into Reeves Lane. The second house on the left is the Grade II listed **Westcott [40]** at 6 Reeves Lane. It was probably originally built in the late sixteenth century and may be the oldest house in the village, but it has been much altered since then, particularly in the mid-nineteenth century. The date 1704 scratched on a quoin may confirm its early origins. The end gable facing the road has thinly coursed rubble and casement windows with chamfered timber lintels.

On the left, almost opposite Westcott, is **Westhorpe House [41]**, which was originally a farmhouse. It was probably built in the late mid-seventeenth century, but, like most of the older houses in the village, it has been extensively altered since then, particularly in the mid-nineteenth century. The barn attached to the south end has stepped buttresses to the rear wall.

Proceed to the end of Reeves Lane and continue straight ahead into Wing Hill. Walk by the extensive and well-tended **allotment gardens [42]** on the right, then turn left and walk along the entrance drive up to Wing Hall.



Wing Hall, sometimes known as **Wing New Hall [43]**, is a Victorian country house built between 1885 and 1891 by Edward Worrall, the brother of George Wyatt Worrall who built Wing Old Hall at the same time (see above).

*The Worrall Coat of Arms*

Today, Wing New Hall has a caravan and camping site as well as a fishing lake, a café and a shop.

This is the end of the walk. Return to the starting point via Wing Hill, Top Street and Glaston Road. Alternatively, it is possible to take a short cut through the Wing New Hall site to the City Yard footpath and thence to Top Street.

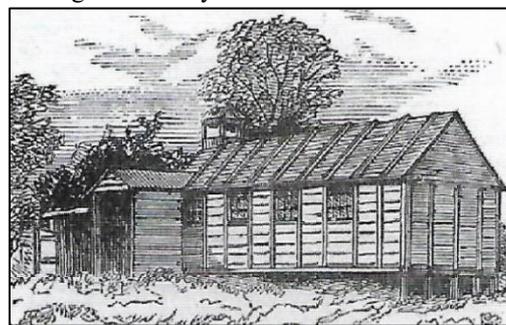
Also in the parish, but not included in this walk are Crownwell Farmhouse, Wing Grange and the site of a Railway Mission chapel.



**Crownwell Farmhouse** in Wing Hollow is Grade II listed. From 1846 to 1930 it was a busy public house known variously as *The Railway Inn*, *The Railroad*, *The Engine and Tender* and *The Railway & Crownwell Bridge Inn*. During the construction of the nearby Syston and Peterborough and Manton to Kettering railway lines it had a reputation for being frequented by rowdy gangs of railway navvies.

**Wing Grange**, a red brick country house on the south side of Preston Road, was the home of Miss Agnes Sylvia Brocklebank OBE. She lived here from 1913 until her death in 1962 at the age of 80. Miss Brocklebank was renowned for her prowess as a horsewoman, being a leading expert on driving pairs and fours with outstanding skill. She was also a breeder of prize-winning short-horn cattle, building up a herd with a worldwide reputation. Her knowledge and skill resulted in invitations to be a judge in horse and cattle rings at leading shows throughout the country. She was made a Justice of the Peace in 1924 and became a member of the Rutland Agricultural Society's Committee of which she was president in 1946. Wing Grange is now a Langley Trust residential home, providing care and rehabilitation for men who are ex-offenders or at risk of offending.

**Wing Railway Mission Chapel** was a former navy accommodation hut located near the bottom of Wing Hill, one of three chapels erected along the Rutland section of the Manton to Kettering railway in the 1870s. Intended as places of worship for railway navvies, they were established by the Rev D W Barrett, the curate in charge of the Bishop of Peterborough's Railway Mission. Services ended in 1878.

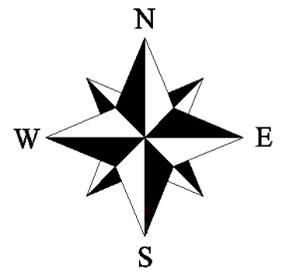


*Wing Railway Mission Chapel in 1878 (Barrett, D W, Life and Work Among the Navvies, 1880, p30).*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sheila Sleath, Uppingham School Archives, Rutland County Museum (Jack Hart Collection), Wing Community.  
Robert Owens

Based on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map of 1904  
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