

The Worlingtons

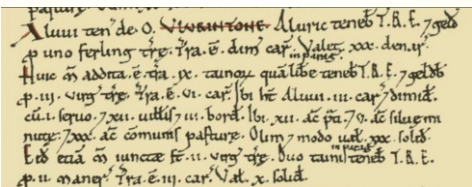
2017



The Worlingtons



Worlington is recorded in the Domesday record of 1086



This is a translation of the 1086 entry in Domesday

Taxable units Taxable value 1.3 geld units.

Value:

Value to lord in 1086 £2.1. Value to lord c.1070 £1.5.

Households: 12 villagers. 3 smallholders. 1 slave.

Ploughland: 9.5 ploughlands (land for).

2 lord's plough teams. 1.5 men's plough teams.

Other resources: 0.28 lord's lands. Meadow 12 acres.

Pasture 30 acres. Woodland 5 acres.

Livestock in 1086: 27 cattle. 3 pigs. 45 sheep.

Lords in 1066: Aelfric; thanes, nine; thanes, two.

Lord in 1086: Abwy.

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Odo son of Gamalin.

How Worlington got its name

- 'Worl'**the area was an estate associated with a person called Wulfred where it might be surmised 'Worl' originated
- 'ing'**is a Saxon place name/word which is generally accepted to mean "groups of people" and was originally thought to be indicative of the Early Saxon settlers
- 'ton'**is an Anglo Saxon word meaning enclosed village/farmstead/manor. A seventeenth century description of the Worlingtons, "Lower upon the stream (the Little Dart River) stand two twins, I mean the Worlingtons" can be found in Tristram Risdon's book, 'Survey of the county of Devon' which was compiled between 1605 and 1640



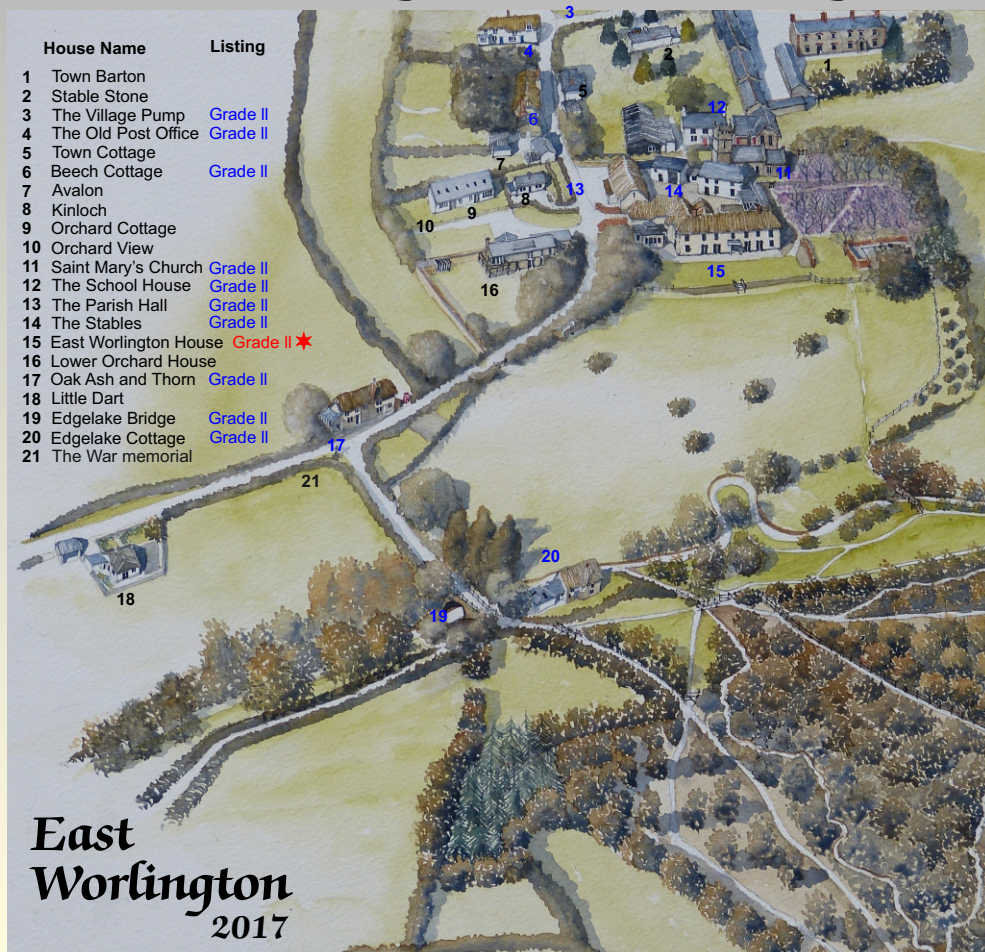
East & West Worlington

For at least 700 years East and West Worlington were separate parishes.

That changed in 1885 when the two parishes were united for civic purposes under the title of East Worlington. Thirty four years later the livings were similarly united by an Order of the Council dated August 1919 and the rectory of West Worlington was sold as a farm.

The living of East Worlington continued until 1958 at which time it was put into abeyance and the rectory (now East Worlington House) was also sold. In 1967 the two St Mary's became part of the Little Dart Team which is a ministry of twelve churches, Burrington, Chawleigh, Cheldon, Chulmleigh, East Worlington, Eggesford, Meshaw, Romansleigh, Thelbridge, Wembworthy, West Worlington and Witheridge.

Wander through East Worlington



The 'Wander' commences at East Worlington Village Pump.

Town Barton (1), built in 1885, was part of the Estate owned by the Earl of Portsmouth. Many of the older cottages of East Worlington also formed part of that Estate and housed the Estate workers. Opposite stands **The Village Pump**(3), installed in 1886. The pump was erected to facilitate a gravity fed system that supplied **East Worlington School** (12) with water, pumped from the Little Dart River. Children were sent from school at lunchtime to pump water into the system and if you look at the wood in the pump enclosure you will see the initials school children carved there.

**The Old Post
Office
East Worlington**



The Old Post Office(4) is a Grade II listed property that was probably a pair of cottages of C17th origin remodelled and extended in the C18th and C19th. It housed the village shop and in 1966 incorporated the Post Office when it moved from Oak, Ash and Thorn (17) located at the bottom of the hill when you leave East Worlington. The Post Office closed in 1995.

Beech Cottage(6) is also a Grade II listed property, circa 1600 constructed of rubble and cob. This a fine example of a single phase C17th house.



Beech Cottage and Town Cottage

Beech Cottage



St Mary's Church East Worlington (11)

History

About the middle of the C12th the parishes of East and West Worlington were formed and the two St Mary's churches were built, both dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It is believed that East Worlington church was built on the site of a Saxon place of worship. Although the church dates from the C12th and is Grade II listed, most of the church you can see was rebuilt in the C19th as it had become dilapidated. The rebuilding and renovation was paid for by its then Patron the Earl of Portsmouth at a cost of £1000.

The church once boasted a wooden spire, presumably matching the one on West Worlington church, but regrettably this has been lost.

The Architecture

St Mary's is a stone built parish church, consisting of chancel, nave, south porch with a Norman doorway, and an embattled western tower containing 6 bells: The only part of the original C12th church that remains is the Norman doorway to the nave and the church therefore is, in essence, a Victorian church.

Not everyone has approved of the efforts to restore the church as testified by a disparaging remark from a renowned local historian, William Hoskins, in his 1954 book entitled simply "Devon"; in this he wrote about the church, "almost rebuilt in 1879 and spoilt". The work was undertaken by Mr Selly of Witheridge using local stone from Coombe Quarry, now disused, but the quarry can still be seen on the road from Drayford to Witheridge



Seasons in the churchyard



Not to be missed is the Norman inner doorway to the porch. Also, look out for the Stuart Royal Arms in the nave and the plaque commemorating the rebuilding of the church in 1879. Victorian features inside the church include the floor tiling in the chancel and the cast iron lattice windows in the nave and tower. Also dating from the C19th are the neo-Norman font with cover, and the elaborate wood panelled altar table. Also of interest are the inscriptions in the nave in memory of the Cobleigh family in Chulmleigh. They left the interest of £200 in Consols Annuities (a form of Government bond) to be distributed by the churchwardens on Easter Monday for ever to the poor men and women of the parish not having monthly pay. It is not known when the last distribution was made. See if you can find this delightful gargoye.



On the north wall of the chancel there is a monument surmounted by a coat of arms belonging to the Nott family, dated 1704. A second monument, in the nave, is to the Rev. Benjamin Clay M.A. a former rector, who died in 1763.

The School House (12)



St Mary's Church, the School House and Victorian School

Possibly originally a church house, now part of the school. The earliest features identified date to the C17th, but the site may be earlier. In 1727 it consisted of three rooms on the ground floor with a chamber over. It was rented by the Church from the Earl of Portsmouth, a local landowner, and was used as a meeting and drinking place. The church house was rebuilt in about 1793, as it had fallen into decay. A memorandum on the back of a Terrier dated 1727 stated that it contained three under-rooms and one chamber for the use of the parish. The Grade II Listing confirms that much renovation work was undertaken in the early C19th and records suggest this work cost £60. During the early part of the C19th it was used as a poor house. This was confirmed in the 1851 census when it appears as Church House and was occupied by paupers.

By 1857 a National School has appeared in East Worlington, supported by the Earl of Portsmouth, with R. Sleep as master. From the time of its establishment the school was housed in the upper room of the Church House with paupers below. The school continued to use the first floor until 1868, when a new National School (the present larger class-room) was built. By 1871, the Church House was now called School House, lived in by the schoolmaster, John Francis Lemon. The National School closed in about 1873.



Education Act 1870 and School Boards

The Education Act 1870 required School Boards to be established to ensure the provision of elementary education for children aged 5–13. In 1874 the first meeting of the new East Worlington School Board was held. On November 2nd 1874 a deed of gift of the new school and school house from the Earl of Portsmouth was presented to the Board. The Board School itself was opened on 5th April 1875, with John Dainty as master. At this time the School and School House were insured for the sum of £400. The School House continued to be the home of head teachers of the school until 1979, when as it was no longer needed for accommodation and it became part of the school itself.

The Parish Hall (13)

The Tithe/Threshing Barn, now East Worlington Parish Hall, a Listed Grade II building was probably constructed in the C17th of rubble and cob, rendered and colour washed with a half-hipped straw thatched roof. The earliest records known as Glebe Terriers



The Parish Hall in 2011

provide evidence of the date range when the barn was constructed. A document of 1679 indicates a barn built with mud walls, suggesting an earlier date. There has been much speculation by archaeologists as to whether the building was used as a tithe barn or threshing barn. No conclusive evidence has been discovered to confirm this one way or the other, however it is possible to speculate that, like many such barns in small rural communities in Devon, it had both uses.

East Worlington Parish Hall was originally part of the Rectory and thus fell under the patronage of the Earl of Portsmouth. By 1910, and probably long before that date, the incumbent was certainly utilising the building as a meeting place linked to the church, the school and the community.



The Devon Dairy School

Around the turn of the C20th and well into the Edwardian period Devon supported a travelling Dairy School, mainly for girls, that taught them skills associated with producing dairy products. The Devon Dairy school visited East Worlington and while it is impossible to confirm an exact date, the photographic evidences supports its presence in the Parish Hall.

Following World War 1 there was national consensus that those who served and died should be remembered. In East Worlington a War Memorial Committee was elected and the building purchased by the community and transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council in 1920.



The Parish Hall in Edwardian times

Recent Conservation Work

The first programme of conservation work to restore the C17th Parish Hall was undertaken and completed in celebration of the Millennium 2000AD and included the removal of all cement plaster and render before re-plastering and re-rendering using traditional lime based building materials.

In 2015-16 further extensive work was carried out which included the complete rethatching of the building, the installation of under floor heating and the provision of sports hall timber flooring. Other improvements included the opening up of the roof space to expose the original roof trusses, the reconstruction of the stage in green oak, including the construction of a minstrels gallery over. Further work will include the refurbishment and updating the kitchen and even in time the rebuilding of the foyer and toilet facilities.



Re-thatching



The new stage and gallery

East Worlington House (15)



This Grade II * listed property was originally a manor house and subsequently the rectory and was lived in by the rectors of the Parish until the 1950s. It is now privately owned. Dating from the early or mid C16th it was remodelled and extended sometime during the mid or late C17th, and there were further extensions and extensive remodelling in the late C18th. The walls are of rubble and cob, rendered and colour washed; the many hipped roofs are thatched with water-reed.

An attractive **two storey stable and extensive out buildings**(14) form an enclosed courtyard with the rear of the Parish Hall to the north.



The entrance from the courtyard

Across the road, three properties have recently been built, in what was originally the walled kitchen garden and orchard of East Worlington House. You can still see the original walls from the road as you walk down the hill towards **Oak, Ash and Thorn.**(17)

Oak Ash and Thorn (17)

An early C17th Grade II listed house which may have been divided into two cottages and reunited again.. An attractive traditional Devon house in an important roadside position. The raised pavement to the front of the property is also Grade II listed.



This property was a working shop until 1959 and the local post office until 1966.



The above photograph was taken around the turn of the 20th Century



War Memorial at Boundy's Cross (21)

A listed Grade II War Memorial for the fallen of the First and Second World Wars is constructed of granite. A stepped octagonal base supports a tapered rectangular shaft surmounted by a Celtic cross. The war memorial is set within a stone faced plinth, enclosed by an earth embankment. The three front faces of the base are inscribed with names of the fallen, thirteen from the First World War, four from Second World War. Although a simple monument, it is an elegant and dignified memorial, in the English commemorative tradition.

Turn left at the War Memorial and walk a few hundred yards towards the river and you will reach.... **Edgelake Bridge (19)**

This unusual little road bridge crossing the Little Dart River was constructed in the early C19th and is now is Grade II listed.

From it, if you're lucky, you may see brown trout, a dipper or a kingfisher!

It is believed near this bridge is where Sarah Downe was drowned on 13th July 1823, John Radford being hanged for her murder.

Next you will see...

Edgelake Cottage (20)

A Grade II listed early C17th property constructed of stone rubble and cob, rendered and lime washed. It has a gabled straw-thatched roof and a tall stone projecting front lateral chimney stack with bread oven.

Internally there is an original stone spiral stair. This is a good example of a small early C17th 'two room plan' house which has subsequently been extended.....

Retrace your steps to the War Memorial and turn left towards West Worlington.

During the Civil War which started in 1642, East Worlington declared for Cromwell whereas West

Worlington declared for the King. Friendly village rivalry still exists with 'a tug of war' being hotly contested at the annual village fete!



Edgelake Bridge



Edgelake Cottage



West Worlington



Many buildings in West Worlington were constructed using stones from the area around **Affeton Castle** as it is believed there was a mediaeval settlement below the Castle. **Affeton Castle**, 2 miles from West Worlington, is a converted late-medieval gatehouse and stables, formerly part of the destroyed fortified manor house of **Affeton** which was built before Catherine de Afton's marriage to Hugh Stucley in 1428.

The house was destroyed in the Civil War, 1642-1651, leaving only the gatehouse which remained as a folly until it was restored by Sir George Stucley, 1st Baronet and completed in 1870. In 1970 Sir Hugh Stucley, 6th Baronet carried out extensive work to the property and the gatehouse forms part of his private home. He and his wife are the first Stucley's to live at the Castle, since 1645. The Castle is not open to the public, unlike their other residence at Hartland Abbey.



**The restored Gatehouse
Affeton Castle**

Wander through West Worlington



The 'Wander' continues into West Worlington.

You will cross a stream as you enter the Village of West Worlington, having passed a bungalow on your left called Little Dart.(18)

Waterside Cottage (22)

is immediately located on your right. Originally an C11th hovel stood here. Later in the C16th, it was the village forge, before being transformed into the dwelling you see today.



South View (23)

A late C17th grade II listed house, constructed of cob and rubble, was also known as the Poor House. At sometime it was divided into two dwellings and two households remained in occupancy until 1891 when there was a family of nine living there. By 1841 it was shared by three families!

In 1857 the Billings Directory notes, there is a 'small national school' held at South View, chiefly supported by the Earl Portsmouth. By 1860 there is no further mention of the West Worlington School which had presumably closed probably when the new National School was built in East Worlington in 1868. It was also noted as a library.



The road forks here, to your left it leads back down to the river. Opposite is a steep track to **Town Farm(33)** and **Eastgate Cottage(34)** Before you is **Worlington Hill**, and the first house on your left is the.....

Stucley Arms (25 & 26)

This property was originally one building and was formerly the village pub called the **Stucley Arms Inn**. It was closed down by local magistrates in March 1940 as the landlord did not wish to install mains water system to improve sanitary conditions. Upstairs there was one large room which was used for dances etc. A long stone alley, that was used for playing skittles, can still be seen at the rear of the property.

The thatched cottages ahead of you on this steep hill were built for the estate workers of **Affeton Castle**.

West Worlington Hill Cottages

This is probably one of the best preserved groups of cottages in the county of Devon. The first cottage on the right is **Down Cottage (24)** Grade II listed probably C18th.



Down Cottage at dawn

The first thatched cottage on the left is **Knights Cottage (30)** another Grade II listed cottage, circa early C18th rendered stone rubble and cob.

Opposite is a very picturesque row of Grade II listed cottages late C16th or C17th with later alterations.



Knights Cottage



Church Cottage Middle Cottage & Lower Cottage (29,28 &27)

In front of Church Cottage there are well preserved stone cobbles leading through an archway beneath the first floor and into the church yard of St Mary's Church.



Church Cottage

Once in the Church yard the cottages are as equally delightful.....



...or when viewed from further up the hill whatever the season.....



as appreciated by local artist Brian Percival



Opposite Church Cottage and adjoining Knights Cottage is **Woodpark Cottage (31)** again Grade II listed and probably early C18th

Church of St Marys (32)

History

This building is a rare Listed Grade I Anglican parish church.

The tower and chancel date from the C13th and C14th.

Much of the church, however, is predominately C15th.

The chancel was restored and refurbished in 1881 at a cost of £140. Further restoration was undertaken in 1906 at a cost of £650 and 1913 at a cost of £200.

The spire was restored after a lightning strike in 1976, but retains some of its early structure. The church underwent another major repair programme in 2011 to restore the floor and interior panelling. At the same time the bells were refurbished and are now rung on a regular basis.



St Mary's



Arched gated entrance to the churchyard

(possibly rebuilt in the C17th), has a slight twist, making it look a little like a slightly crumpled wizard's hat. It is covered in oak shingles and supports a peal of six bells.

Inside the church a splendid feature is the wagon (also known as a barrel) roof, which runs the full length of the church (apart from the chancel). The roof boasts beautifully carved ribs and decorated bosses. The pulpit, lectern, altar rails and altar table are all mid-late C19th and are in the High Victorian Gothic style popular at the time.

Architecture

St Mary's is a stone church, consisting of chancel, nave, south porch and a western tower complete with wooden spire. Built mainly of stone rubble, but also some Bathstone dressings, with a slate roof. St Mary's was built in the gothic perpendicular style, which was a common design for churches in the C15th in Devon, and is so called because of the emphasis on vertical lines. The spire

Things to look out for

There are so many lovely features to this church it is difficult to pick just a few but you must look at the roof bosses and see if you can spot this delightful one near the south door.



While looking up don't miss the intricate decorative leaf frieze covering the wall plate and a monument to Sir Thomas Stucley kt. ob. September 20th, 1663, whose brother and successor to the Affeton estate, Lewis Stucley, was chaplain to the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell.



The ends of the benches have intricate and individual carvings that probably date from the C16th and you will see that no two are alike..



A peaceful corner of the church yard

As you leave the church, turn left towards the Eastgate. In front of you you will see **Eastgate Cottage.(33)** Probably built in the early C18th as a labourer's cottage and formerly known as Town Farm Cottage. It fell into disrepair in the mid C20th, but has recently been restored and extended, to provide a delightful dwelling overlooking the church yard.



Wild daffodils in the church yard



Exit the church yard via the east gate and you will find yourself on the track leading to **Town Farm (34)** a Grade II listed farm house of early C17th origin. This was a working farm until 1990.

Town Farm

The property used to have an extensive range of cob and rubble barns under thatched roofs but these were replaced in the late C19th with those built of stone and slate. These have more recently been converted to form a substantial dwelling known as **Town Farm Barn (35)**



Sheep shearing at Town Farm

Prepared by the Worlington Heritage Group
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