

## VILLAGE WALK (ABOUT 1.5 MILES)

1. The village green – The houses on the green were built around the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A wheelwright's shop and blacksmiths were situated where the shop now stands. The green was once the site of the village lock-up and during the Second World War, it was the location of a communal air raid shelter. The village sign, depicts the Pilgrims' Way and the Archbishop's Garden, which comprises of the parishes of Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge, was erected in 1951.

***White Hart cottages are a few yards to the right of this board and the White Hart is on the opposite side of the road.***

2. The White Hart and White Hart cottages – The earliest record of the White Hart pub is dated 1744 although the present building only dates from 1885. It is well known as 'the Inn of the Few' as it was one of the local pubs favoured by RAF pilots stationed at nearby RAF Biggin Hill, during the Second World War. White Hart Cottages, on the opposite side of the road, were originally known as Ford's, the two cottages closest to the green having been built by John Ford in 1522, while the remaining four cottages were built in 1622 by R Durnell and Sons, a longstanding family building company based in Brasted.

***Walk along the north side of the High Street with the village green on your right, across Rectory Lane. In the order that you will walk past them, Dilgerts, Eversley, Cromers Cottage, The Shop, Old Forge Cottages and Brasted House are all on the north side of the road while, again in the order that you walk past them, the White House, Mount House and Village House are on the south side. Before you walk very far from the green, note the single storey building to the left of the White House. Now a coffee shop, it was once the village morgue when the White House contained a doctor's surgery.***

3. High Street – There are many historic buildings between the green and Church Road. Among the highlights are Dilgerts, Eversley, Cromers Cottage to The Shop and Old Forge Cottages, built between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The White House and Brasted House are Queen Anne and the Mount House and Village House are Georgian.

***Continue walking along the north side of the High Street and turn right into Mill Close. At the end of this private road is Brasted Mill.***

4. Brasted Mill – The mill house, thought to date from at least 1867, continued to operate until about 1925. The wheel was powered by the River Darent, which rises in the hills to the south of Westerham and flows into the Thames. It is now a private house. You will cross the beautiful River Darent as it flows through Church Road and Rectory Lane.

***Walk back to the High Street and turn right until you come to Brasted Village Hall.***

5. Brasted Village Hall - The hall was built in 1900 in memory of William Tipping of Brasted Place, a great benefactor to Brasted. It was previously the site of a fair held annually on Ascension Day.

The wrought iron gates were made by Brasted Forge to commemorate the coronation of Elizabeth II.

***On the opposite side of the High Street from the village hall is the former village school.***

6. The school – Brasted School was opened in 1860 and became a Primary School in 1949. It closed in 1988 merging with Sundridge Primary School. For two years, it was a temporary church while St Martin’s Church was being rebuilt following a fire in 1989 before conversion into houses and a doctors’ surgery.

***Across the driveway leading to the doctors’ surgery on the south side of the High Street is Alms Row.***

7. Alms Row - Alms Row was built in the 16th century, part of which was a Wealden hall house. Number 10 is a mid-nineteenth century addition. The row was acquired at auction and renovated in 1837 by local philanthropist William Tipping. All of the houses are now private property.

***Walk further along the High Street to the junction with Church Road. On the opposite side of this junction is the former Baptist chapel.***

8. Baptist Chapel - Now a private house, the chapel was built in 1886, replacing much earlier chapels, the first being built during the early period of the Baptist movement in this area. The present chapel closed in 1989. The stunning stained glass window has been preserved. The Manse in Coles Lane was the residence of the pastor.

***Turn right into Church Road where, after about 100 yards, you cross over the River Darent. Just before the slight incline about 200 yards further on, you will see Mill Farm on the left.***

9. Mill Farm - The former farmhouse was built in 1702 and is so named after one of two watermills that used to operate in the village. The former watermill still stands in the grounds of the farm although it ceased operating at about the end of the nineteenth century. It was damaged during WW2 when a bomb landed close by which also badly damaged the foundations of the church.

***Walk past the row of cottages on your left, which contains the former original village schoolhouse, and you will find the Stanhope Arms.***

10. The Stanhope Arms - Originally known as the Queen’s Arms, the earliest known record of this popular pub is dated 1799, by which time the name had already changed. Parts of the building are considerably older dating back to when it was a row of cottages with one containing a tap room for serving beer.

***Just beyond the pub, you will see St Martin’s Church.***

11. St Martin’s Church – Originally a Saxon church, it was gradually rebuilt during from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries before being substantially renovated in 1866 by the celebrated architect Alfred Waterhouse. The church suffered a catastrophic fire in 1989. Only the tower which contains

eight bells, still dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Look out for the unusual Crawshay memorial, in the form of an obelisk, in the churchyard.

***Continue along Church Road and take the first right into Coles Lane. You will see the former manse on the left hand side. At the end of Coles Lane, turn right and follow Rectory Lane down the steep hill. You will see R Durtnell and Sons' modern office building on the right hand side.***

12. R Durtnell and Sons - Britain's oldest building company was established in Brasted in 1591. Darenton next door, was built in 1864 as the Durtnell family home.

***After this, you will have returned to your starting point.***

***If you identify any problems or inaccuracies with this walk, please let us know by emailing:***  
[enquiries@stmartinsbrasted@heritagetrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stmartinsbrasted@heritagetrust.org.uk)

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