

Lindfield

'One of the finest High Streets....'

West Side

Reflecting the prosperity of the early 18th century are the fine Georgian houses such as Lindfield Place, Townlands fronted in black mathematical tiles and further down the High Street, Nash House. Between Pretty Corner and Townlands, the Reverend Francis Sewell, vicar of Lindfield, built the cluster of mid Victorian stone buildings, including the former Mission Rooms. This became the home of the Evangelical Free Church prior to its move to Chaloner Road.

Lindfield's oldest house is The Bower House, the medieval rectory, an early timber framed hall house built at the beginning of the 1300s and refronted in 1725. In the past, refronting was a popular way to make a house fashionable and disguise its true age; other examples are Froyls, Seckhams House, Everydens and the Manor House. When a Dr Tuppen lived at Froyls, Charles Dickens was a regular guest and was often to be seen walking to church.

A fine example of 16th century timber framing with Horsham slab roof and a magnificent chimney can be seen in Barnlands and the adjoining Well House. Cows were kept in the barn behind. The houses were once shops, and many of the houses you see today were previously shops or business premises. The cottage adjacent to Nash House was once a candle factory.

Humphrey's, a bakery since 1796, is the cross wing of an early medieval hall house, c.1350 - a receipt dated 1453 for rent paid to the Rector was found during renovation. The Linden Tree, formerly Stand Up Inn, so named because it had no seats, was the brewery pub of Durrant's Lindfield Brewery which stood behind.



Pretty Corner



Bower House



Chantry Cottage



Barnlands & Well House



The Manor House



Humphrey's



WILLIAM ALLEN

William Allen, the Quaker chemist and philanthropist, identified Lindfield as the location for his social endeavours as in the early 19th century the parish was eaten up with pauperism. In 1825 he set up an industrial school for boys and girls with workshops and dormitories, which exist today as Pelham Place Cottages. Allen also established a rural colony for eighteen agricultural workers with land to work in their own time, making them independent of poor relief.



Pelham Place Cottages



Thatched Cottage



The Tiger Inn



Kempe style window

East Side

Lindfield House, an early 18th century house, has a bust of Shakespeare set in the open pediment above the doorway.

Thatched Cottage, an early 15th century Wealden hall house, was the important Chaloner family's first Lindfield home before they built Old Place in 1590. Later, Old Place became the village poor house. It was subsequently purchased by Charles Kempe, the renowned Victorian stained glass artist, to form the west wing of his grand 19th century house. In the grounds the predominantly wooden Pavilion was his studio.

All Saints' Church, thought to incorporate part of the earlier Saxon Minster, dates mainly from the 13th to 15th centuries. The fine ceiling to the nave was the work of Charles Kempe and Somers Clark, a Brighton architect. It has two good examples of stained glass in the style of the Kempe studio. The war memorial in the churchyard was designed by the distinguished architect Sir Ninian Comper.

The Tiger, now Church House, was probably the parish ale or guest house before becoming an inn - taking its name from the Michelbournes, a family of merchant adventurers, who had a tiger on their crest and a ship of the same name.



The Red Lion



The 'Horse Gin' House

Malling Priory, a rather imposing early Georgian house, has an unusual window and door configuration. Despite its name the house has no religious connections. It was once the home of John Bent whose brewery extended from the house to the Bent Arms. Neighbouring medieval Priory Cottage and Malling Cottage were built as a single three-bay open hall house and nearby Crosskeys is of the same period.

The Red Lion with its mathematical tiled bay windows, has the reconstructed 'horse gin' house from the former Lindfield Brewery standing in its back garden. Next door, Porters was in fact the Red Lion until c.1720.

The village had two toll gates until October 1884, as the High Street was part of the Newchapel-Brighton turnpike. One stood outside the Toll House, c.1630, the other across the entrance to Hickmans Lane. The gates were removed and burnt in the street on Bonfire Night 1884 amid much celebrating.

The United Reformed Church was built in 1858 for £1200 with a new hall being added in 1959 and was further enlarged in 1996.