

Guide to the Village Centre

Bridge Street

BRIDGE STREET



Bridge Street which, in medieval times, was known as Grub Street, in Georgian times as George Hill, and then Mill Hill, is a narrow street connecting The Square with St Nicholas Church. It was probably part of the initial village development which centred around the church and Manor, and along the banks of the River Meon. It connects the village to the manor and the church via the north ford, (now a stone bridge, previously a wooden bridge and before that stepping stones), crossing the river.

The medieval name "Grub Street" may, (or may not), allude to the presence of Saxon "Grub houses" or "Grubenhäuser". If so, it is one of the very few pieces of evidence that remains of the existence of the Saxon settlement, a good deal more evidence having been destroyed by the building of the railway embankment and housing developments to the east of the River Meon.

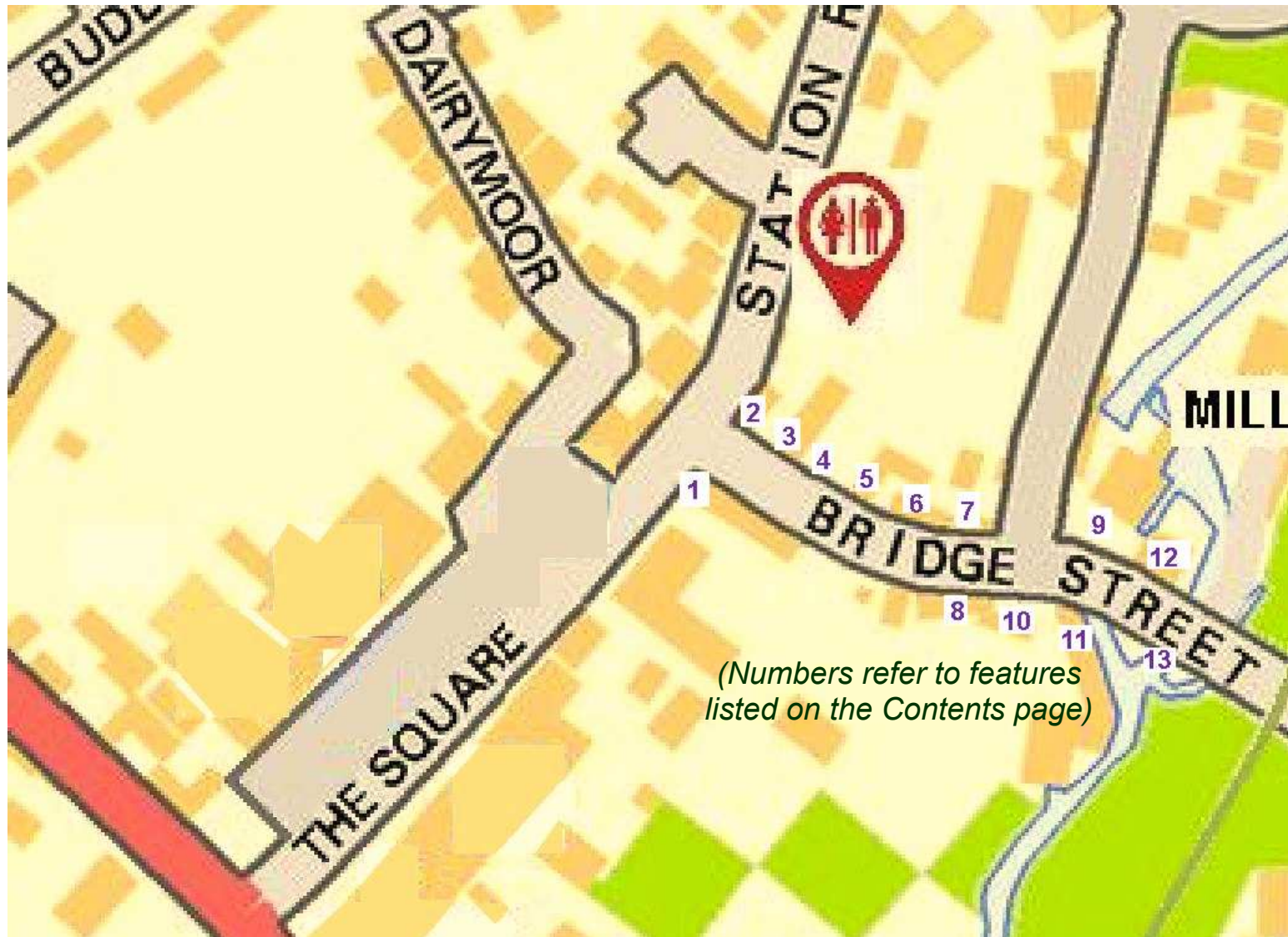
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MAP OF BRIDGE STREET



Ref. 8.9.



CLARK'S CORNER

The former haberdashery and clothiers of F W Clark, draper. The present building is 110 years old. Earlier buildings on the site were a row of timber framed eighteenth century houses, built by Jonathan Rashleigh, the Lord of the Manor, in 1767 and leased to William Dowden and Benjamin Blundell.

(Map ref. 1)



Ref. 1.8.9.



IVY COTTAGE

A fine flint and brick Victorian cottage-style school house, built in 1846, with each gable fringed with attractive pierced and moulded barge boards over delicate cast iron window frames, and above is a pair of decorative chimneys.

It was built as a school by the Garnier family. The playground once extended across the present Station Road. The school closed 1869 when the Church School opened in School Road.

(Map ref.2)



Ref. 1.8.9.

WARWICK HOUSE

(Map ref. 3)

A timber frame house built, in 1580, with a brick frontage added in 1820. Formally two houses and two shops owned by a Miss Trigg, an absentee landlady who lived on the Isle of Wight. The shops were a watch and violin repairer and a saddlers. They closed in 1950.

It is said that the absentee land-lady desired to evict a Mr. Steve Warwick, proprietor of one of the shops, who, in response, displayed a notice saying, in effect, “THIS IS WARWICK’S HOUSE” – hence the house name as we see today.



Ref. 1.8.9.

ST GEORGE’S

(Map ref. 4)



A timber framed building. The original timbers date from 1580, but extensive rebuilding has taken place over time.

Formally an ale house built by the Lord of the Manor so that widows of sailors could hold a licence to brew and sell ale in lieu of a pension.

The main building as seen today is of 9” brickwork built c1760. Some of the structural timber is of c1650 but was probably recycled from elsewhere.

Ref. 1.8.9.

BLANTON

(Map ref. 5)



A fine example of a Georgian village house for the better off. Built in blue and red brick in 1777, (during the reign of George III). In the second half of the eighteenth century, many of the better off merchant class were becoming increasingly wealthy and began to migrate from the filthy cities to the more pleasant surroundings of the country villages. Several beautiful houses in Wickham were erected by these wealthy Georgian merchants.

The door-case is of stucco with an arched top and the door has a fanlight over it, typical of the period. There are three dormer windows in the roof space. Inside there is a fine example of a “Chippendale” style staircase and a large cellar which may have once housed the more valuable goods of a wealthy merchant.



To the left of the door arch is a brick inscribed “MG 1777”, a builder’s mark, partially covered by the door cap, indicating that the door cap was an addition emplaced after the brickwork was completed.

Ref. 8.9.

QUEEN'S LODGE

(Map ref. 6)



A post medieval house. The protruding front upper story support beam can be seen at the up hill end of the house, indicating where the original front walls of a jettied building were located. The Artisan Manorist style frontage dates from the seventeenth century but has changed with each phase of the building's use, Queen's Lodge was originally a house, then the George Inn, then a grocers and then Miller and Lee bakers, (a bakehouse remains extant in the rear), before reverting again to a private house.

The tall roof with its massive central chimney has half hipped ends and the two windows at first floor level are enclosed by a mixture of decorative brickwork with arches and a small window, (Sun Insurance plaque over). The bow window, door and remaining window stand level but the pavement slopes away to reveal part of an arched opening to the cellars.

This house was referred to as the George Inn in documents of 1720 and it closed c1800, becoming a house and a shop, (closed 1959). Within, there are two seventeenth century over-mantels of plaster decoration and a section of plaster ornamental ceiling, (with fully moulded cornice), of the same period and an over-fire beam inside carrying the date 1649 and possible ritual markings. The story that Queen Anne stayed in the house, (hence its name), and that her soldiers lodged in the Old Barracks opposite, is unfounded.

Ref. 8.9.

WARREN COTTAGE

(Map ref. 7)



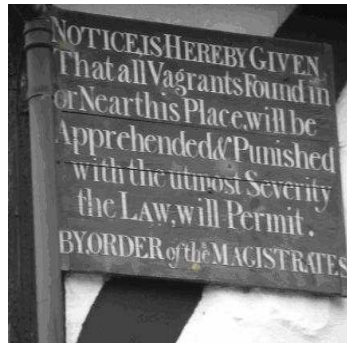
A post medieval house, built in the seventeenth century but much altered. It is a timber-framed house, later clad in brick, once two or three cottages. The timber-framing is partially exposed. The re-cladding and rear extension are of late eighteenth/early nineteenth century date.

The front wall as seen today is of Georgian brickwork in Flemish bond with grey headers, with cambered arches and altered features. The east wall has exposed framework with plaster infill, and the rear wall is rendered. Note the half-hipped tile roof, “catslide” roof at the rear, shafted stack and rounded stack at the up-hill end of the roof. The south front is of two storeys with two above three casement windows. There are two plain doorways.

Ref. 8.9.

THE OLD BARRACKS

(Map ref. 8)



The most complete example of a Wealden House in the local area. A jettied three bay house with single bay hall forms Nos.10 and 11, No.9 being a latter extension. They are timber framed with plaster infill and with later brickwork cladding. Timbers have been dated by dendrochronology to c1495.

There is a reference in the Parish Register to three cottages in Bridge Street called 'The Barracks' in 1556, (the reign of Mary Tudor), that probably refers to this building. The popular story that the building was used to house officers during a visit of Queen Anne is unfounded. A later use of the building was to house workers building the railway. Note the "vagrants" notice at the down-hill end of the building.

The tiled roofs are half-hipped at the east end, with a "catslide" roof at the rear and with hipped dormers, (added relatively recently as the photograph above shows). The infill in brick of the original jetties at No.11 and the top end of No.10 is clear. Inside No.11, the original dividing partition between the open hall and the floored solar still exists and shows indications of where the top table was situated.

Ref. 8.9.13.14

CHESAPEAKE MILL

(Map ref. 9)



A ship-to-ship battle took place in 1813 between HMS Shannon and USS Chesapeake. Taken as prize, the Chesapeake served as a Royal Navy ship. Broken up in 1819, many of her timbers were used to build the mill on a site, (though some beams have been dated by dendrochronology to as early as 1567), where a mill may have existed since the compilation of the Domesday Book. The mill produced animal foodstuffs in the main. The miller lived in the house next door, (to the left of the mill). The last miller was Bruce Tappenden, author of "A History of Wickham" and ceased operation as a mill in 1976.



Note The Dip Hole on the corner of the street, built by public subscription in 1820 and renovated in 1998, and village map board the other side of the car park.

(For more information about the Mill, click [HERE](#))

Ref. 8.9.

DALE COTTAGE

(Map ref. 10)

Once called Brewery Cottage, and the one time the home of the brewery manager. A letter of 1901 is in existence from the local vicar to the brewer ordering 18 gallons of beer and a bottle of brandy and gin!

A late medieval timber-framed house with 18th century cladding and early 19th century rear extensions. The walls are of brickwork, part of blue headers with red quoins and cambered arches, part of Flemish Garden Wall bond with blue headers. One piece of framework is exposed at the west side.



It has a tile roof, half-hipped at the east end and a catslide at the rear, and hipped dormers. The north front elevation is of one storey and there is an attic with three casement windows. The doorway, (replacing a former window), has a half-glazed door within an open porch, having a canopy on slender cast-iron columns. At the east end there is a single-storied extension, with boarded walls and hipped slate roof. Inside, the frame is partly exposed.

Dale Cottage was originally a two bay cottage with later additions and may have been built as a kitchen block for The Barracks, next door.

THE BREWERY



Built in the 1830s and, in 1912, sold to George Gale who closed it down. Note the commemorative plaque celebrating 60 years of the reign of Queen Victoria.

A complex of community halls, (Victory Hall), a scout hut and a butcher's shop took its place. By 1984 it was owned by the Parish Council who later sold it to raise money for a new Community Centre. In January 1998, just before it was sold, the tower caught fire. The fire was put out by our own retained fire brigade, with some assistance from the professionals from Fareham, our men receiving high praise from the Fareham firemen for their efforts in saving the building.

Ref. 1.8.9.

BRIDGE HOUSE

(Map ref. 12)



Built early in the eighteenth century as a grand private residence. It was used as a hospital for officers during the Napoleonic wars. It also once housed a bank, and is reputed to have had its very own ghost.

The house is built with Flemish bond brickwork, and has a mansard roof. The house has slipped, over time, on the river gravels on which it is built. Note the necessary bracing of the brickwork. There once was a pump in the cellar to keep the water level down.

Ref. 8.9.

THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER MEON

(Map ref. 13)



Built 1792 during the reign of George III, by public subscription, as the stone reports. The River Meon may be named after the Juteish Meonwara tribe of the 5th and early 6th century, who inhabited the Meon Valley. Alternatively, the name may date from Roman times.

