

WICKHAM MARKET

In Roman times, the first good ford crossing was established here over the Deben to trade with a large settlement across the river. This original ford is now bridged near Rackhams Mill. Domesday book refers to "Wickham", the 'Market' was added after a charter of 1284. The grandeur of All Saints Church is evidence of trading prosperity particularly during the C14th and C15th. The market was revived in 2013 after a 500-year absence. The vital London to Gt. Yarmouth turnpike ran right through the village (bypassed in the

1970s) giving the White Hart Inn prominence as a staging post. Nelson is reputed to have stayed there and at least two murders were recorded in the C17th. The building was converted to flats and shops in 1986. From the 1830s to 1901 the Whitmore and Binyon Ironworks made milling machinery

and employed over 200 people. Now the only reminders are iron railings found at the entries to many houses. On the outskirts of the village the remains of a gibbet can be found. The last known hanging was in 1699. The condemned were executed in the village and the corpses dragged behind carts down steep Dragards Hill to the gibbet. Today people still refer to this but the name Dragards has changed a little by dropping the last 'd' and adding 'e' on the end...

A bustling village and focal point since Roman times and important staging post on the London turnpike



MAP NOT TO SCALE
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A great place to relax and unwind



ALL SAINTS CHURCH
The unique octagonal tower, visible for several miles, is 137ft high. It boasts a 700-year-old font as well as an interesting carving. The first recorded record was William de Ludham in 1309. The oldest bell dates from about 1450 to 1527. Four others were made in the C17 with the newest in 1883.



MILESTONE
Cast in 1818 by the Garratt iron foundry in Ipswich following the 1786 Act requiring Turnpike Trusts to erect milestones or posts along all Turnpike roads. This milestone was moved here in 1881. The adjacent cottage was then named Milestone Cottage. Despite the stone's heading 'Hacheston' its position is well within the Wickham Market Parish boundary.



DEBEN MILL
Now known as 'Rackham's Mill' the deeds are dated to 1751 but a water mill was first mentioned here in the C12th. The current Mill was originally wind powered then converted to steam roller mills in 1885 by Whitmore & Binyon for new owner Rowden Rackham. Although ceasing work in 1949, the watermill continued in use until 1965.



VILLAGE WALKS
Wickham Market is intersected with footpaths that can take walkers on a range of scenic circular routes that offer a true escape into the countryside - the ideal way to relax and unwind. These routes can also be used to link nearby villages. More detailed maps are available.



WAR MEMORIAL
Memorial plaques to Wickham residents from two world wars were removed from the de-commissioned Congregational Chapel and placed on this memorial designed by villager Arthur Mullins and rededicated in 1989 by the then Miss Royal British Legion!



WORK HOUSE
The Pioneers Union Workhouse was built in 1836/7 for the destitute, sick and homeless of the village and 40 other parishes. It closed in 1936. In 1938 forty refugee children from the Spanish Civil War were housed there. Between 1939-45 it was used by various army units including some rescued from Owerks. It was converted to council flats in 1947 and named Deben Court. After complete refurbishment the old workhouse and old chimney buildings were re-occupied in 2015.



OLYMPIC TORCH
Locals were delighted and proud that the village was selected for a public parade of the iconic torch through 88 High Street in 2012.



WHITE HART INN
The inn dates from the C14th and was named in honour of Richard I whose badge it bears. More detailed records start in the reign of Henry VII up to the 1950s. A vital resting place for local horses and travellers in 1811 the Suffolk Agricultural Association was born out of the Farmers Club that met there. They organised the East Suffolk Agricultural Show, predecessor of the Suffolk Show, which was held on the fest adjoining the Church eight times between 1832-1849.



VILLAGE PUMP
The Victorian Jubilee pump was erected in 1897 to give better Wickham a public water supply but it was so heavily impregnated with iron that it was only used to water the dusty pre-war roads. A pump in the centre of the Hill supplied water from a very deep well and continued into the 1950s.

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