

# Glemsford Changes

## "A Walk Through Glemsford" - 1993

---

Although the title - "A Walk Through Glemsford" - also applies to a [very old page](#) on this site, it originated as a project carried out in 1992 - 1993 by the Local History Society, in conjunction with numerous other local people and organisations.

It took the form of a leaflet.

*Chris Britton, Chairman of the Project and later of the History Society, wrote at the time:*

### **GLEMSFORD CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT**

"This project was launched in 1992 by Babergh District Council in conjunction with Glemsford Parish Council and with sponsorship from E. W. Downs & Son to secure over a three year period a permanent and real improvement in the environment of the village.

The project will look to make the best use of the good points of the village and to tackle, where possible, the environmental problems.

A working party consisting of representatives from the local community, members of the Parish Council, Local Council Members, and Richard Ward, Conservation Officer for Babergh District Council, was formed to ensure that work undertaken has the full support of the local community.

Some of the proposals put forward include the enhancement of the three village greens and the undergrounding of some overhead wires. It is also hoped that the war memorial will be refurbished and seating that complements the village will be sited in strategic places so that visitors will be able to sit and fully appreciate some of the many interesting and historic places mentioned in this guide."

***"This Guide" was "A Walk Through Glemsford".***

***Here are some excerpts from the Guide. The text was largely written by Richard Deeks. The wonderful illustrations are by Patricia Flinn, to whom many thanks for permission to use them here.***

***Even in the short time since its writing and publication, the Guide is already affected by further changes.***

---

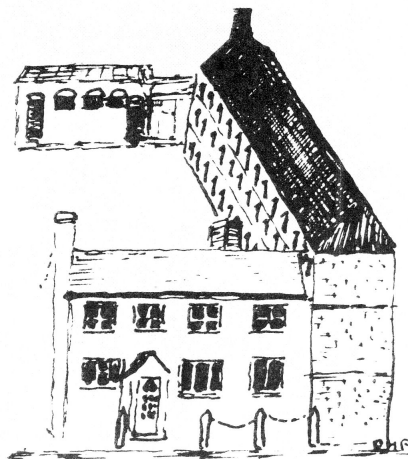


*Several footpaths skirt the village. The Casey can be joined from Flax Lane and followed nearly to the church allowing a circular walk through the village. A second path begins near St Anthony's on Skates Hill. This can be followed to Grove Farm, at the top of Angel Lane. Bearing left by the first house on Angel Lane, a further path leads on to the recreation ground, and so back to the Village Hall.*

**Churchgate is dominated by the Church of St Mary the Virgin and was once the centre of the village, which over the centuries has developed southwards. The present Church was by no means the first building on the site. It is of late perpendicular style, 1350-1539.**



Park Farm was once the Manor House of Glemsford Manor and at one time had a deer park. Monks Hall was the home of the Kerrington family in the 17th century. Church hill was formerly Wood Street.



Bells Lane factory complex was built by the Parish Officers in 1821 for silk weaving, afterwards horsehair drawing, which still continues. It also houses various industrial units.



Fair Green, formerly 'Tilneys Green', part of the Manor of Tilneys. The Post Office was established here in 1887. E. W. Downs, which began as a blacksmiths, now manufacture the latest machinery for potato

handling and grading on an international scale. They are presently involved in rehanging the church bells at St Mary's which they last hung in 1864.

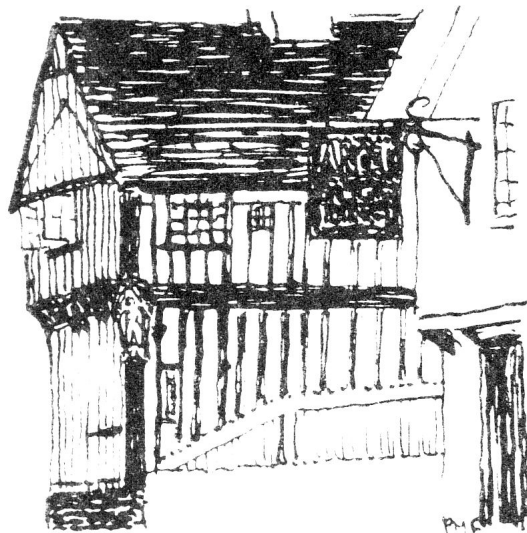
The Primary School, a grade II listed building, was built as a result of the 1870 Education Act, for 520 pupils. The iron railings have recently been replaced so retaining its original character. The 'Black Lion' is a medieval building which had an infamous fire in 1937.

The local authority houses were built in 1922, 1948, 1960 and 1988





Tye Green. The word 'tye' means small green. During the 18th and 19th centuries the cage and animal pound was there. The large house 'Peverells', which is a grade II listed building, was built c. 1495, the home of a clothier, reflecting the wealth of the 15th century wool trade.



The 'Angel' was the home of a John Golding who died there in 1588.

Note the fine carving of St Michael the Archangel. The Ebenezer Chapel is a listed building built in 1829.

Flax Lane was formerly Workhouse Lane. The parish workhouse\* was on the site of the mirror factory. The Croft was the site of the largest 19th century mat factory.

*\*it is possible to disagree with Richard here, a "workhouse" may simply have meant a factory. Is there any evidence*



*that Glemsford had a workhouse before the Sudbury Union was created after 1834? Debate, however, is what History is about.*

*Kirby, writing in his 'Suffolk Traveller' in 1764, had this to say about Glemsford: "It is a very large parish in bounds; and if the houses stood contiguous it is supposed there would not be four larger towns in the county".*

*And in the 1522 muster, Lavenham had the largest number of clothiers involved in the wool industry, with Glemsford its nearest rival.*

*This involvement in industry through the ages continued into the 19th century, when the parish supported a number of textile establishments, all operating alongside agriculture. Today there has been a decline in manufacture although some remain. With its*



*recent increase in  
population it is  
heading towards  
a residential  
village but  
hopefully still  
retains its  
character.*

**Richard Deeks  
Chairman,  
Glemsford Local  
History Society**

---