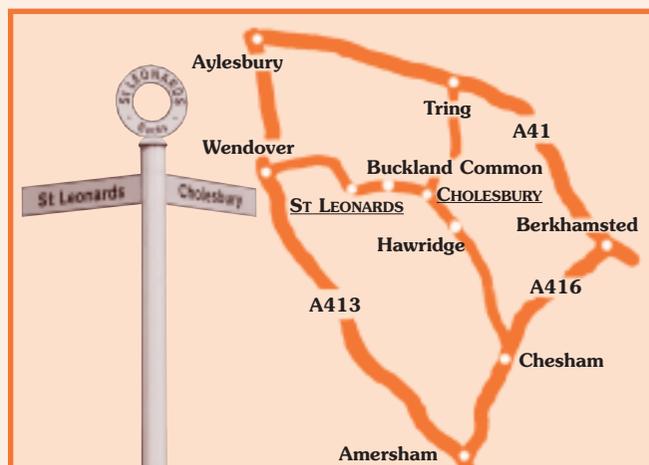


**Buildings** in the Chilterns contribute greatly to the landscape and the regional character and show a diversity of styles. The range of materials used varies from timber to brick to flint and the construction of the older village houses and barns reflects the availability of local materials at the time. Wood was one of the earliest of these and consequently the older houses are timber-framed with local clay, or later bricks, being the infill material in the walls. Simple cottages would have had flint walls. Timber-framed barns would have had weatherboarding on the outside. Original roofing materials were probably thatch, with tiles following when the local industry became established around Chesham. Similarly bricks would have become more widely used after brick-making started in the villages in the early to middle 18th century.

The Hilltop Villages were predominantly a farming community and this is reflected in the old buildings surviving today; a modest house for the farmer, probably a tenant, and cottages for his farm-workers. Craftsmen, shopkeepers and publicans made up most of the balance of the community and it is surprising how many of the surviving houses were at one time ale houses. Apart from the Full Moon and the White Lion, the walk passes two houses that were public houses at the turn of the 18th century. Opposite the Full Moon was the Mermaid and by the road junction to Tring was the Maidenhead (later the Bricklayers Arms) and now called The Bury. Both of these are now private houses.

On the walk other houses dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries such as High Chimneys can be seen alongside Cholesbury Common, interspersed with later 19th and 20th century buildings including Overburnts, built in the 1930s. Note also the Victorian village hall (1895) on the right at the end of the common and, next to it, the Old Manor House (c.1580).

## DIRECTIONS



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The support of the following is appreciated in the making of this leaflet:

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards:-

Local History Group

Millennium Committee

Parish Map Artists

The Walking Team and Field Name Advisers

The Landlords of The Full Moon and The White Lion

Design - Roland Carlin - [info@rcadesign.co.uk](mailto:info@rcadesign.co.uk)

Production - The Print Centre, Berkhamsted



**How to contact us** - For further information about this walk and the Local History Group please contact us on 01494 758890 or visit our website at

[www.cholesbury.com](http://www.cholesbury.com)

©Copyright Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local History Group September 2003

# Jubilee Walks in the Hilltop Villages



## DUNDRIDGE AND BRAZIERS END



Time: 3½ to 4 hrs  
Distance: 6 miles or 10 km

# Jubilee Walks in the Hilltop Villages

*This is the fifth in a series of walks produced to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2002 and the 40th Anniversary of the Local History Group. These walks aim to illustrate the local and natural history of the Parish. Features of this walk, which can also be enjoyed as two shorter walks, are local buildings and estates and old throughways.*

## The Parish of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards

in Buckinghamshire can be found to the northwest of Chesham. It stretches almost 4½ miles and at its highest point rises to over 230m within the Chiltern Hills, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is evidence of prehistoric settlements and the area is mentioned in 8th century records. The four 'hilltop villages' that comprise the present-day Parish (Buckland Common, Cholesbury, Hawridge, and St Leonards) evolved during Saxon times from upland pastureland of so called 'strip-parishes' associated with villages downhill in the Aylesbury Vale, subsequently becoming detached hamlets and then villages. Together with the outlying areas of Braziers End, Heath End, Lanes End and The Vale they have constituted the civil parish since 1934.



## Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local History Group

was founded in 1962 to stimulate interest in the Hilltop Villages. There is a monthly programme of talks from October to May. The group also carries out research and maintains an archive of items of historical interest. New members and visitors are always welcome.

**DUNDRIDGE** was first mentioned in the records of Missenden Abbey in 1187. The house and four acres of land were originally enclosed within a water-filled ditch or moat, which dated from about 1100. This was fairly common practice in medieval times in Buckinghamshire to protect cattle from thieves and wolves. Most of the moat has been reinstated in recent years, complete with a 20th century drawbridge.



Dundridge Manor house as seen today is largely 17th century and has been fully restored to a fine example of the period. The original house was a 'medieval cross hall' with a great chamber or hall. Traces of this are still visible and original timbers can be seen in the present house. The term 'Manor' has been recorded since the Manorial Rolls of Aston Clinton in 1544. Manorial courts were held at Dundridge four times a year, however it has always been a 'lordless manor'. Following a long ownership of Dundridge, along with vast tracts of Hertfordshire, by the Earl of Salisbury, the property passed to Henry VIII, who sold it to Sir John Baldwin in 1544. The Baldwin family owned Dundridge until the mid 1700s and descendants live locally. Relatives of the three brothers who sailed to America about 1630, return to visit Dundridge occasionally. The property has been in the family of the present owners for the last 60 years and they carried out the extensive repair and restoration works to the house and barns. The estate, now 800 acres, is still farmed by this family, who have kindly provided material for this section.

**The Old Manor House, Cholesbury** is thought to be the remaining part of a much larger timber-framed house built in the 16th century. The brickwork



was added in the 1700s. It is believed that a manorial court first met there in 1606. Some 300 years later similar sessions for the purpose of collecting quit-rents and fines were held, before the

assembled gathering retired to the Full Moon.

**Braziers End** was first recorded as being farmed in 1670. It has been suggested that the name is connected with travellers whose braziers became a familiar nocturnal sight during their seasonal gatherings. The 'End' denoted this was the extent of the clearance of common land. During the 1700s the estate expanded to include many fields and properties in and around Cholesbury including High Chimneys and the Iron Age Hillfort. It also served as the seat for the Lord of the Manors of Hawridge and Cholesbury.

**Arrewig Lane** (sometimes spelt Erriwig on old documents). The name is probably of Saxon origin, 'weg' - a way running along boundaries. The lane may have been in regular use, connecting outlying hamlets, in even earlier times.

**Broad Street Lane** ('Lane called Brode Street'

on 1582 field survey) and The Green at one time formed part of a trackway linking the Abbey at Great Missenden with lands under its stewardship. This track was probably part of an important route to St Albans. Cricket was once played on The Green!

