



Images Courtesy of Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council



## Cogenhoe & Whiston Heritage Society

[cogenhoeritage.org.uk](http://cogenhoeritage.org.uk)

### How to find us

The village of Cogenhoe is a few miles south east of Northampton. From the M1 junction 15 follow the A45 East towards Cambridge and you will see the signs for Cogenhoe (same exit as Billing Aquadrome). Go across Billing Bridge and turn left into Station Road, which is the main street through the village.

Funded by



South Northamptonshire Council

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# The Cogenhoe Green Plaque Trail



Cogenhoe & Whiston Heritage Society

# The Village of Cogenhoe



**Cogenhoe** (pronounced Cook-know), is a village in South Northamptonshire, overlooking the valley of the River Nene. Five miles east of Northampton, Cogenhoe has grown into a large village with a church, local shop and pub as well as its own football, cricket and bowls clubs.

People are believed to have lived here for at least 4,000 years, with one of the earliest settlements lying to the east of the village. Later, the Celts lived here followed by Romans, when a corn-drying kiln was built in the centre of the village and a villa estate developed out of an Iron Age settlement. The Saxons lived to the west of St Peter's Church and it was they who would have built the church's predecessor, probably from timber. After the Norman Conquest, the village was moved on to the steep slope where it remained until development took place along Church Street, probably in the 16th or 17th centuries.

Station Road was the main road running through the village, from the old train station. It began to evolve with the construction of houses built from bricks made in the Cogenhoe brickyard in the 9th century. More recently in the 1960's, acres of orchards and open fields were replaced by housing, with these estates now being known as Orchard Way, Glebe Road and St Peters Way.



From the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries the village became dominated by the manufacture of boots and shoes, with The British Shoe Corporation taking residence in The Old School. During the 1950's, the major employer was a local coach firm, York Brothers, which has now sadly closed. Today, Cogenhoe is largely a commuter village with most people working in Northampton or further afield due to its road links with the A45 and M1 motorway.



## Cogenhoe & Whiston Heritage Society

**The Cogenhoe & Whiston Heritage Society was founded in the year 2000, by a team of keen enthusiasts and people with a knowledge of the area.**

Our aim is to inspire present and future generations, by bringing local stories to life to generate interest in the rich history and heritage of the Cogenhoe, Whiston and surrounding areas. The Society has around 50 active members and holds various heritage and photographic exhibitions throughout the year, as well as regular monthly meetings, where knowledgeable speakers talk on a wide variety of subjects of local interest and everyone is invited. We have published three books on local heritage and we fund a number of projects exploring the history of the two parishes.

# The Green Plaque Trail



Our most recent scheme is The Green Plaque Trail which highlights a number of properties in Cogenhoe that have played a significant part in the history of the village.

The Green Plaques that adorn key buildings, tell the story of some local properties and the people who occupied them in times gone past.

For an inspiring taste of the past foundations of this beautiful village, follow The Green Plaque Trail.

Step  
back  
in time

and follow the  
Green Plaque Trail  
for a taste of  
the history  
and heritage  
of the  
beautiful  
village of  
Cogenhoe

### Tips for the trip

We suggest you start your walk at **The Royal Oak** pub, from where you can view the **Gladstone Terrace**. After there, walk down **Church Street** and head to **Mill Lane**.

Head back to the start of **Church Street** again and go left towards **Whiston Road** to plaque 8. Then return to the pub and continue west on **Station Road** up to the other end of the village.



## Unfold the past...

# Cogenhoe VILLAGE



THE SHOP AND POSTOFFICE



12  
13

STATION ROAD

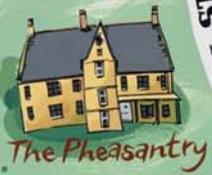
TO BILLING AQUADROME AND NORTHAMPTON

11  
10

ST PETERS CHURCH



WAR MEMORIAL



The Pheasantry



Manor House

CHURCH STREET

4  
3  
2

7

MILL LANE  
TO COGENHOE MILL AND RIVER

NENE VALLEY WAY  
KF2

6

KF4

TO WHISTON HISTORIC CHURCH

8

YORK AVENUE



VILLAGE HALL

Childrens play area and PLAYING FIELD



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Football Club AND Cricket Club

BRAFIELD ROAD  
TO BRAFIELD

9

1

SHORT LANE



THE ROYAL OAK

FOOTPATH TO CASTLE ASHBY  
KF17

KF27

FOOTPATH TO THE FIRS AND JERUSALEM STEPS

Rocket Park

## 1 Gladstone Terrace, 1-17 Station Road

The houses were built on land purchased from the Cogenhoe Estate in the 1880s by T C Mann for his shoe workers. They were acknowledged as being of high standard for the time and form part of the Conservation Area today recognising their distinctive style. The houses are known as Gladstone Terrace, clearly demonstrating the Mann family's politics but always known colloquially as Kidney Bean Row, presumably at some time the front gardens didn't always grow flowers. T C Mann also funded the Baptist Chapel opposite which closed in 2010.

## 2 The Steps, Church Street

Home of **Sir John Hobson** probably the only MP ever to live in Cogenhoe, (he was MP for Leamington and Warwick) his short term as Attorney General from 1962 until 1964 will long be associated with the Profumo affair and the resulting court action in 1963 when the whole torrid affair was much publicised. Although he was not implicated, his Office as Attorney General would have been at the centre of the case. He also led the Prosecution team in the trial of the spy John Vassall.

## 3 51 Church Street

The middle years of the 20th Century saw moves towards the improvement in the education of children. A system of National Schools was set up maintained by the Church of England and donations, and administered by County societies. Charles Hartshorne, the Curate of Cogenhoe from 1838 to 1865, established a National School here opening in May 1843.

HMI reports in early days were not very favourable! As local authorities began to take on a state education role, the National School closed in 1896 with the opening of the Council school on Station Road.

## 4 53 Church Street

Besides a public house most villages had one or two outdoor beer houses (better known today as off licences) where people could buy draught beer poured into their own jugs and taken home to drink. It was also a shop selling a range of products from paraffin to sweets until into the 1950s. **Frank Cheer** originally came from Ecton and members of his family ran it until the end. The distinctive smell of the shop is still remembered by older residents.

## 5 The Grange (formerly The Rectory)

The Grange was the Rectory until about 1991. Although the first National Census was in 1801, Rector of Cogenhoe, Christopher Spicer recognised the value of taking a census of a settlement which he undertook between 1615 and 1628 and this is universally recognised as the first Census. It is valued as an historic document recording details of life in a village at that time. A later resident of the Rectory in the 19th Century was the Curate Rev Charles Hartshorne from 1838 to 1854. He was instrumental in establishing the National School in the village and an artist of local scenes. His son Albert was a recognised antiquarian.

## 6 Cogenhoe Mill

There have been several mills on this site using the water power of the river to grind corn grown in the parish. There is mention of a mill here in the Domesday Book. The mill was still operating in the 20th Century, the last owners being the Spokes family when milling finally ceased in 1950.

## 7 Manor Cottage, 46 Church Street

**Chris Fiddes** a renowned contemporary Northamptonshire artist with a career over 60 years, with a distinctive style reflecting social comment and situations including Northern Ireland in the 1970s. He lived here from 1965 until 1976.

## 8 Whiston Road (adjacent to Armadale House)

The single window frame is the only remains of the large three storey shoe factory of T C Mann & Sons, built in 1877 and destroyed by fire in January 1909. Manchester House a few yards away was built for T C Mann Junior.

## 9 Nene View, 23 Station Rd

**Thomas Claridge Mann** founder of T C Mann & Sons moved from Heyford and began shoe manufacturing in the village. He had this house built, together with Rocklands (19 Station Road) and Manchester House, Whiston Road for other family members. He died in 1921.

## 10 The Limes, 37 Station Road

**Frederick York**, brother of George, trained as a blacksmith but joined his brother as the bus and coach business developed in 1926. He had The Limes built and lived there until his death in 1965.

## 11 45 Station Road

Anderson York father of George and Fred York, by trade was a blacksmith but also ran a carrier business, transporting anything that a villager needed moving, including bringing home any supplies from Northampton that the purchaser could not carry home on foot. Most villages had a carrier and the departure point in Northampton was Wood Hill.

George saw the potential to transport people as well as goods and with the advent of motor transport, began a bus service in 1924 rivalling the railway serving Billing Station swapping the goods body for a bus body. He was joined at this time by brother Fred. The venture rapidly developed into a regular bus service soon to be followed by a coach business to the East coast all trading as Easy Motor Coach Co.

From 1939 they operated as York Bros (Northampton) Ltd and operated the bus service through Cogenhoe until 2011, with a short gap in the 1970s. The coach business was sold to The Bowens Group which ceased trading in 2012 thus ending a very long association of buses and coaches with the village which at one time employed a large number of Cogenhoe residents.

## 12 The Elms, 168 Station Road

The family of **George Thompson** moved here in 1884 as the first occupants. George was born in 1877 and as a young man played for several clubs including Cogenhoe Cricket Club and later Northamptonshire as an amateur. He is acknowledged as a key to establishing the County into First Class Cricket, becoming professional in 1895. He was the first Northamptonshire player to achieve 1000 runs and take 100 wickets and an illustrious player for England in several Test matches in the Edwardian era.

## 13 Centre View, 174 Station Road

**Russell Seal** By the beginning of the 20th Century the new craze of cycling had taken hold in Britain. Cycling gave people a new freedom to travel independently and many village cycling clubs sprang up. Cycles needed maintenance and the means to repair punctures on the poor roads at the time. Local entrepreneurs saw this business opportunity and William Seal, trading as W Seal & Son, developed a rubber solution for puncture repairs at Centre View. His son Russell developed other products and production moved to larger premises on what is now the Claylands development. The firm's name was changed to Russell Seal and the business of cycling & automotive products moved into Northampton in 1921.