

## 1.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

1. **Heathfield School**, Bellevue Road opened 1937. Art Deco dual function building. (Now Newlands Community Primary School). Designed not just as a school, but also could be converted easily into a hospital – corridors wide enough to allow for the passage of beds, trolleys etc. It was the base for Earl Shilton Home Guard during WWII
2. **20 Doctor's Fields**, Art Deco House  
The property was built in the 1930s by local artist Ted Wilford, who specialised in watercolour and clearly had a unique vision in the home he wanted to design. The house retains many of its original features. This really is one of those buildings that is known in the local community, with curved and squared corners, an elegant glass block built porch and the staggered stages of each room, evident from the front. Every room in the home allows masses of light in and the living area has a large curved window, bringing the outside in.
3. **Edward VIII Post Box**, Doctor's Fields.  
Originally stood at the former Heath Post Office on Hinckley Road. It is one of only two in Leicestershire, the other one being in Hugglescote, and a total of around 130 in the United Kingdom. They are very rare due to the short reign of Edward VIII (from 20<sup>th</sup> January 1936 – 11<sup>th</sup> December 1936).
4. **Conservation Area - including Chelsea Row**  
Interesting framework knitters' cottages built around 1860, with five light arched windows opening to ground floor work room. Early workshops for 'basket-work' outwork for the Boot and Shoe trade the rear yard - the forerunner of the factory. One of the cottages was owned by William Bird, who started shoe making in his workshop, then had the factory built on Hinckley Road (known locally as 'Bird's Hill'). Eventually he formed a partnership with Tom Yeoman, changing to hosiery production). It is thought that Lady Byron's 'Iron School' may also have been in this area.

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5. **The Lord Nelson, 54 Wood Street** has stood in this position for at least two centuries. It is recorded that the Leicester to Birmingham stagecoach would stop outside in the 1830s.
6. **Prospect House, Kings Walk** Built in the late 1800s. Home of the Everard family, descended from John Miller Everard, partner to John Homer in the hosiery manufacturing firm of Homer & Everard, the factory where 130 workers held the first hosiery strike in 1859. (Main house was demolished to make way for Prospect Way, Prospect Cottage is all that remains today).
7. **The Cenotaph**, Wood Street. Unveiled in 11<sup>th</sup> October 1920 by Lieutenant Colonel Jones the memorial was paid for by public subscription. During the 1914-18 war, approximately 1000 men went from Earl Shilton to fight, and 100 men died, leaving the village's population of young men decimated.
8. **14 Wood Street**. Former Midland Bank built in 1894.
9. **22 The Hollow, Earl Shilton Building Society** First formed in 1856, the building society was originally based in the front room of the house which stood on the corner of Wood Street and Kings Walk, then at 134 High Street, moving into its current Art Deco style building in 1940. The local Gilbert family was associated with the running of the Society for over 100 years until Mr. John Gilbert retired in the 1990s.
10. **The Stute & Norman Dagley Blue Plaque**. The foundation stone of the Earl Shilton Social Institute building was laid in 1909 and the Billiard Saloon extension was built in 1934. It was originally founded at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to provide a social and sporting outlet for the young men of Earl Shilton. A Grand Bazaar was held at the High Street School in December 1908 to raise funds for a new building. There was also a public subscription, and a mortgage guaranteed by local industrialists, who were the founders and Management Committee. The new premises were built in Station Road in 1909. The Institute organised football, cricket, chess club, skittles and billiards, and also had a rifle range.  
**Norman Dagley** was Amateur Billiards Champion 1965 – 1984; World Amateur Champion 1971 and 1975;

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World Matchplay Champion 1987; UK Champion 1987; World Professional Billiards Champion 1987 and 1988; and British Open Champion 1991.

11. **Former National Westminster Bank** currently 'The Vaults', The Hollow. Built in 1894 with an extension to the front being built between 1900 and 1905. Originally it was the Midland Drapery.
12. **The Mansion**, 123 High Street . Little is known about this Georgian house, built in 1820. One of its occupants in 1911 was Dr Rayner and his family, and in an 1892 Directory list of Earl Shilton *Nobility & Gentry* we find a Mrs Carlisle at The Mansion.
13. **The Red Lion**, 168 High Street Grade II listed building. It is thought that it was built towards the end of the 1700s. In the late 1800s the landlord was William Gilbert, father of Edwin H Gilbert who was the accountant of the Earl Shilton Building Society and also Assistant Overseer of the Earl Shilton Gaslight & Coke Company formed in 1866, which stood in Station Road.
14. **Glove Factory** rear of 83 Keats Lane The Glove Workshop was just an addition to the rear of 53 (now 83) Keats Lane of the terrace known as The Linney Cottages, when they were built for Thomas Linney in the 1800s. His son William and wife Emily connected the house to the workshop for easy access. They made basic felt or leather gloves for the local Police force. These were made for Dents, the Leicester glove makers. The glove making finished around 1930, when no further orders were made, and the workshop was just used for storage.
15. **115 High Street** (Former Co-operative Society) Built in 1886 it was the Earl Shilton Co-operative Village Hall. Downstairs was divided into two areas - drapery on one side and grocery on the other. Upstairs was regularly used for dances, wedding receptions and such, and it also housed the Co-op bank, and where Co-op members claimed their dividend or 'divvy'.

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16. **71&73 High Street (Abbott's)** Built in the early 1700s, it was the former home of Isaac Abbott, tailor. His name is picked out in the mosaic tiled floor at the entrance.
17. **7 High Street, Hilltop House** (former house of Dr. James Cook) the house was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and has a Georgian fan light over the front door. It became the home for many years of the local GPs. One of them Dr. Garrett possessed Earl Shilton's first motor-car, a De Dion.
18. **Ashfields Restaurant** (former Bowling Green Inn – appears in directories in early 1800s).
19. **Hilltop Works** (Former T Whitmore & Sons Ltd.) Boot & Shoe manufacturers. (Appears in the 1880 Leicestershire directory as Samuel Whitmore, Boot & Shoe manufacturer).
20. **Motte & Bailey, Hall Field** The site of Earl Shilton Castle is an 11th century earthwork motte and bailey fortress, founded by the Earl of Leicester. The large flat-topped circular motte, retains part of its ditch and to the south are the remains of a mutilated bailey rampart. This timber castle was dismantled in the late 12th century and the stone gateway defending the motte is a folly.
21. **144/146/148/150 Hinckley Road** all built in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for local business owners etc. as the area became more gentrified.
22. **79 Hinckley Road**, interesting Edwardian home.
23. **102 Hinckley Road (Former telephone exchange)** Built in the early 1900s, the telephone exchange was probably installed sometime after the General Post Office took over the exchange system nationally in 1912. The operator could be seen sitting in the front room to take and transfer calls on a 'plug in' switchboard.
24. **102 Wood Street**, former home of Dan Astley – JP, County Councillor and Sandpit Owner. The sandpit was in the area to the rear of the house.

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25. **Toon's Memorial Clock.** This clock was originally sited on the Premier Works of Toon's Factory, erected in 1920 by Alfred Toon in remembrance of the men who were killed in the First World War. It was moved to its current position in 1980 after the factory burnt down.
26. **Kings Row** Terrace of cottages built 1880 – 1900.
27. **Earl Shilton Town Cricket Club,** Keats Lane  
First recorded cricket match was in 1815 played by a team from Shilton and Thurlaston against Barwell, on Burbage Common. Shilton and Thurlaston won the game. The current ground was purchased in 1920. It's most famous player was Sam Coe, who, when playing for Leicestershire in 1914 scored 252 not out in the game against Northamptonshire. He played for England against Australia in 1909. In July 1900, Coe became the first county victim of Bernard Bosanquet's innovation, the googly. The ball reportedly bounced four times before Coe was out stumped for 98. Another more recent Leicestershire and England cricketer who began his career with Earl Shilton Town was Les Taylor.
28. **The Methodist Church,** Wood Street. Original building dated from 1822, rebuilt in 1875, and then again in 1909 at a cost of £2,000. A Primitive Methodist Chapel stood further down Wood Street towards Heath Lane. Built originally in 1840 at a cost £140, it was rebuilt in 1884. The two Methodist Churches amalgamated in 1963 and the 'Prims' building was taken over by the Roman Catholic Church before being demolished in the 1970s, when a new Catholic Church was built in Melton Street. The Cloisters apartment development now stands on the original site of the 'Prims'.
29. **Kingscroft Bowls Club,** Kings Walk. The first recorded bowls club in Earl Shilton was the Leycroft Bowls Club which was at the top of Carrs Road in 1912, although there has been a Bowling Green pub since the 1820s. Kingscroft Bowls Club has stood in its current position at the top of Kings Walk since the 1931, but burnt down in 1953 and the current building was opened in 1954.

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30. **22 Wood Street,** currently Black & Co. Solicitors. Originally Shorland's Tailors and Outfitters, evidenced by the mosaic tiled entrance with the name 'Shorland's' picked out, almost certainly built at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The owner, Frederick, lived with his family in Shilton Road, Barwell.
31. **8 The Hollow,** currently 'The Flower Shop' formerly a wet fish shop, which in the evenings also sold fish and chips. The children of the family were put to peeling potatoes after school, apparently the fish were gutted outside in the gutter so that the foul water could be washed down the drain! The door with its ironwork window, which used to be unglazed, is over 100 years old.
32. **122 High Street - Post Office** – This is one of many buildings which has served as 'The Post Office. The old letterbox is still visible in between the two downstairs windows. (Another former Post Office building stands about 100 metres away at 188 High Street, and was built in 1905.
33. **King William IV,** The Hollow. Built 1830 – 1840.
34. **Dog & Gun Inn** Dating from the 1700s the Inn moved to a new building in the 1930s to another in Keat's Lane, a little distance from where the old licensed house had sold beer for over 150 years. This old building stood for many years afterwards as a private house.
35. **134 High Street** Formerly the home of Edwin H Gilbert, Registrar and Manager of the Earl Shilton Building Society, and also Earl Shilton Sub-District Hinckley Union & Insurance Sgt. The building was where the Building Society operated from until moving to the purpose built premises in 1940.
36. **The Independent Chapel** High Street (built 1824) by 1829 the Independents were the strongest non-conformist in Earl Shilton, and out of a village population of approximately 2,000 over 400 people were regular attenders.

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37. **Almeys' Blue Plaque** unveiled in 2015 on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and commemorates Samuel, Nathaniel and George Almey of Earl Shilton who fought in the battle.
38. **Ironcraft 92 High Street** (former blacksmiths, undertakers, builders, wheelwright). The buildings externally are pretty much as they were in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
39. **Gaffers Alley** named for Samuel Reynolds Headmaster of the Top School for many years. This was the jitty he used to walk to school each day from his home which was near to where the Vicarage now stands.
40. **Bradbury's Row, 10 – 16 High Street** -these cottages were erected by Bradbury's for staff. The Norton and Bradbury factory and its yard, stood behind these houses and were accessed from Keats Lane. In 1932 a lioness, which was being transported in a lorry up Leicester hill (which was much steeper at the time) escaped from the back of the vehicle when the door came open. It was eventually cornered in Bradbury's Yard with the help of meat from the local butcher's shop. Mr Bradbury's home was called 'Hollydene' which stood where today Hollydene Crescent stands.
41. **Highfields Works**, Keats Lane (Formerly the Argee) which was owned originally by Homer & Everard who suffered the first hosiery strike in 1859, when 130 workers walked out.
42. **Waterloo Memorial** This memorial was erected in June 2015, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle, to commemorate the 6 men from Earl Shilton who fought at the battle in the Royal Horse Artillery.
43. **Hallfield & Gates** The land was donated to the people of Earl Shilton by Tom Eatough OBE, whose slipper factory stood at the corner of New Street and Hinckley Road. He also, in 1951, donated the gates at the Parish Church end of the park to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Exhibition.
44. **St Simon's & St Jude's Church** (rebuilt and enlarged 1856 spire rebuilt 1874) The original chapel was dedicated to St Peter and was in the Parish of Kirkby Mallory, the register dates back to 1552. Lady Byron appointed

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- the first vicar Revd. Ferdinand Tower (Tower Road was named after him) in 1854. The current tower and spire dates back to 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is believed that Richard III stayed and prayed in the original chapel on his way to Market Bosworth in 1485.
45. **Baptist Church**, Mill Lane (Baptist Meeting House built in 1758 enlarged in 1844). There were Baptists in Earl Shilton as far back as 1651, at that time these 'dissenters' met in secret in cottages around Church Street and Mill Lane. Eventually, in the reign of Charles II an act was passed in Parliament which gave them the right to practice their religion.
  46. **The Pinfold Footpath**. The "Pinfold" was an old stone building which was used for penning stray cattle prior to the village being enclosed and stood near to the Baptist Chapel in Pinfield Close.
  47. **Top House, Hilltop** built in late 18<sup>th</sup> Century/beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It was formerly known as Hilltop Farmhouse. It is a Grade II listed building.
  48. **Wood Street Park**. This land was bequeathed to the residents of the village of Earl Shilton in 1928 by William Henry Cotton, the manufacturer mentioned previously, for their leisure. Local legend has it that a World War I German field gun is buried near to the entrance of the park. The field gun was given to the village and stood originally near to the Cenotaph.

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