

Buxted Village

The original name for the village was 'Boc Stede' (Place of Beeches) and while Buxted is not directly mentioned in the Domesday Book there are some indirect references to families who lived in or around the village. Buxted is an East Sussex village on the edge of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, just over a mile north of the small town of Uckfield and is located 42 miles south of London.



In 1250 the church known as St. Margaret the Queen was built (over a period of 50 years) together with a Curate's house in Buxted Park. There are references to 'poaching of the deer' from within the park during this period.

In 1303 the King (Edward 1st) arrived at Buxted from Lewis and while 'resting' conducted business in the parish.

In 1331 King Edward III encouraged weavers from Flanders to settle in England. They brought their weaving and dying techniques to England. At Buxted they produced silk materials while living in the Mill until 1890.

Population of the village in 1359 was recorded as being 250.



In 1543 the first iron cannons were cast by Ralph Hogge who lived in Hogge House built in 1585 with the Rebus of Hogge (a pig in iron) mounted on the north wall. This listed house is located on the left side of the entrance to Buxted Park and is still occupied today.

'Nan Tuck's Lane' was named after Old Nan who lived here in the 17th century. She was reputed to have been a witch. She fled down the lane with her persecutors in hot pursuit. She disappeared into a wood never to be seen again, according to one climax of the story, or to be found hanged in Tuck's Wood according to the sadder version. Nan's ghost is said to haunt the lane and when efforts were made to restock the wood with trees after the Great War there was one patch on which no sapling would ever grow.

In 1772 Tomas Medley (then owner of Buxted Park) pulled down the existing Mansion which stood on the lower ground and built a new Mansion on higher ground near the church (St. Margaret the Queen). Later in the early 19th Century when the Hon. Charles Jenkinson owned the Park, he decided to move the village elsewhere in order to enlarge the Park and make it more secluded. Tradition has it that he offered to rebuild the houses elsewhere for the villagers but they refused so he, in turn, refused to keep the houses in good repair. The houses decayed and all signs of the village were obliterated (thought to be in 1836). New houses were built where the present day Buxted village stands on the other side of the valley.



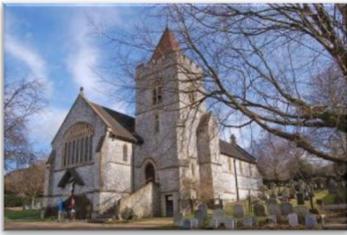
The Curate's House is stated to have been removed 'stone by stone' and rebuilt in the new village. It is now known as 'Upper Totease' and the mounting block can still be seen today outside the wall.

Queen Victoria visited Buxted Park in 1845 together with her family.

Buxted Church School was opened in 1857; it remains as the Village school to this day.

By 1861 the population of the village was recorded as 1624, by 1901 it was 2038 and in 2013 the Parish Council states that it is 3400.

The railway line through Buxted was opened by the London Brighton and South Coast Railway in 1868 and by 1894 had been expanded to a double track. However in the Beeching era, the goods service was withdrawn in 1962, followed in 1969 by the closure of the Lewis to Uckfield line. The line was then reduced to a single track in the 1980s and remains so to this day.



The current church of St Marys was built in the late 1800's paid for by a wealthy clergyman Rev A D Wagner and opened in October 1887; it is of unusual flint construction.

The Rev Wagner was also responsible for opening a church school in Church Road as well as a home for girls. This is now a private dwelling.



The Methodist Church was built in 1907 through the generosity of the Vater family. It was extended in 1978 adding a hall, kitchen and upstairs rooms.

In 1908, Buxted parish Council built a village hall, known as the Reading room, for the benefit of the local people of Buxted and surrounding area.

Queen Mary visited Buxted Park and St Margaret's Church in 1936.

Today, while the Village has expanded in terms of housing, the facilities (eg shops, banks etc) have reduced. On the positive note, the recently opened Medical Centre is a welcome replacement for the old surgery. Buxted Park and the mansion are now owned by a hotel group who maintain the Park with its famous herd of deer and the large artificial lake which is home for many exotic birds.

The proposed new village hall would replace the existing village hall, known as the Reading Room, which is no longer of a size or having adequate facilities for the village of Buxted.