

Trimley St Mary in 2021



Trimley St. Mary The name Trimley means "Trymma's woodland clearing. Trimley [St Martin and St Mary] was a settlement in Domesday Book, in the hundred of Colnes and the county of Suffolk.

<https://opendomesday.org/place/XX0000/trimley-st-martin-and-st-mary/>

Trimley St. Mary is a parish and village on the outskirts of Felixstowe, and situated on what is thought to have been a Roman Road between Ipswich and Felixstowe. Trimley St Mary, and Trimley St. Martin - its neighbour are famous for their adjacent churches, which it is said were built as the result of a historical family feud. The Domesday Book entries for Trimley St Mary and St Martin show there to have been a number of farms and households in the area and the Church of St Mary, and St Martin are also mentioned. The population recorded in **1831 in Trimley St Mary was 401** and agricultural work was the main occupation. According to John Gorton (1832) 43% of the population in East Suffolk lived in rural parishes in 1851; by 1931 it was 19%. This was due to a range of influences which included the railway during the second part of the 19th century and the motor car in the 20th century. Improved transport, together with other social and economic changes led to a significant expansion of coastal resorts. In the **1911 Census**, population in Trimley St Mary was recorded as **758** a number of farms were listed – some are now Grade II listed homes which can be seen today. The period following the First World War saw major changes in the character of housing provision, occupations, population and the appearance of many villages changed – including Trimley St Mary with many old houses and cottages being demolished during the 1920's and new housing built after the wars. Nevertheless, the **High Road** has always been and continues to be important to Trimley St Mary providing a **main link** to other roads within the village and beyond. Large population increases occurred during the late 1970's – 1980's as a result of the new housing developments built in the early 1980's. According to the **2011 census**, the population of **Trimley St Mary was 3,665**. Since then there has been an additional increase in population with the new Josselyns housing development and other small infill sites within the village. It will be interesting to see the results recorded following the results of the 2021 Census later this year.

Transport: Felixstowe was not only a seaside resort; in **1875** it began to be developed as a commercial port and this development continued, interrupted only by the two World Wars when the port was requisitioned for military use. This development has affected Trimley St Mary and is easily accessible via road and rail. The A14 trunk road bypasses the village giving good connectivity to other the rest of the UK. Other roads such as the High Road and the Kirton Road provide the local inter-village routes.

Note: A brief history of the High Road and current situation will be covered later in this report.

Buses

After 1919, services run by the Eastern Counties Road Car Company (ECRCC) developed relatively quickly and all routes radiating out of Ipswich and most were in place by 1921. A route from Ipswich to Felixstowe was established in June 1919 passing through the Trimleys.

Trimley St Mary is well located for transport and has **regular bus and train** services connecting to Felixstowe and Ipswich and then on to other parts of the UK. '**Felixstowe Flyers- linking town to coast**' Bus Services include: **75, 77 and 73** (the later a new service amalgamating the old 76 and 173/4 service routes). Services starting around 6.30 until 23.00hrs. The cost of an adult return ticket (from Felixstowe/Trimleys) to Ipswich return is £6.50

Picture of the new buses



Trains

Trimley station opened in 1891 and the station serves the villages of Trimley St Mary and St Martin on the Felixstowe Branch Line - the trains operated by **Greater Anglia** running hourly throughout the day between Ipswich and Felixstowe, calling at all stations. Trains start at 5.34 am from Felixstowe (calling at Trimley); last service is 11.01pm from Felixstowe and 5.04am from Ipswich and last train 10.28pm Mon- Saturdays with a reduced timetable on Sundays. Adult fares cost £4.90 single and £6.10 return; 'off peak' rail fares to Ipswich are £5.00 and valid from the 0857 to Ipswich on weekdays- this continues a very long tradition to our rail fares being cheaper than the bus fare which dates back to the 1920's!

In 2019, a new loop on the Felixstowe branch line was brought into service facilitating an increase of freight trains in each direction carrying the highest freight tonnage in the country and serving the largest container port in the UK. This new line enhancement meant that an additional 1.4km of additional track was required for Trimley. As a result, this included the closure of six pedestrian crossings; construction of a new bridleway/footbridge and re-alignment of the existing public rights of way network, installing three automatic level crossings and signalling. The **new bridleway/footbridge** across the line near Gun Lane was constructed and connected some of the existing rights of way with the new bridge, which has equestrian ramps at the Trimley end and footpath steps at the end towards Ipswich. (See below last group of pictures)



Freight train passing through Trimley station



New train stopping at Trimley Station

The new **bridleway/footbridge** has now been constructed at the location of the existing Gun Lane. The crossings are now Trimley St Mary Station, Gun Lane bridleway crossing and the existing crossing at Thorpe Lane - Trimley St Martin. The route of several public rights of way have now been diverted to take account of the closures. The **bridleway opened in 2019** and is regularly used by walkers and equestrians



Ramp +mounting steps



New Bridleway Bridge showing steps



Horse riders must dismount to cross the bridge

Trimley Station Community Trust

The station building (see below picture 2) has remained derelict for many years but has considerable architectural and historical merit. **Trimley Station Community Trust** have taken on the lease of the old station building and brake goods store aiming to restore the station as a community asset. **For further information relating to this interesting project and history of this station** please see following link:

<http://www.trimleystation.org/index.php/trimley-railway-station>

TRIMLEY STATION COMMUNITY TRUST

Trimley Station Community Trust Limited is a company registered in England and Wales, number 07900209 and a Registered Charity, number 1151703



The Station from Station Road



Derelict station &brake goods store



Well attended station gardens

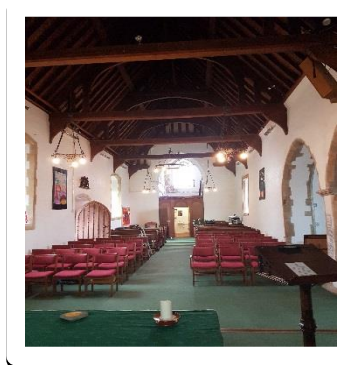
St Martin's Church Trimley St Martin High Road



St Martin's Church <http://www.stmartinstrimley.org.uk>

Continues to be the **Parish Church for Trimley St Mary**. The new Rector of the Benefice is Reverend Paul Clarke who has encountered a challenging start following the lockdown in March 2020.

Regular services via Zoom and Felixstowe Radio (107.5FM in Felixstowe or online via www.felixstoweradio.org.uk) are held in addition to 'Our Worship Services' Sundays at 10am. Face masks required if able. Contact details required for Track & Trace purposes. Coffee and chat available afterwards in smaller breakout rooms. The Sunday Service at 5pm is via Felixstowe Radio. Wednesdays 9.30am- Morning Prayer is via Zoom.



Some pictures of St Martins Church

Recreation Facilities:

Trimley St Mary has three play and recreational areas within the village: Faulkner's Way, the Josselyns and Stennetts Recreation ground.

Schools, Shops and Businesses

There is now one school: St Mary's Primary School (described later). The Village has a few shops which include a newsagent and general store 'St Marys Village Store', newsagent- 'Farmlands', hairdresser- 'Finickys', garage 'Brands Garage', Gulliver's fish and chip shop, Signals Hi-fi, Estate Agent- Bidwells, French Antiques, Community Café, and a brewery- Mr Bees. The Mariners is the only Public House in Trimley –and is popular with the locals. There is a Care Home 'Brierfields' which has a GOOD rating. The village has a lively Veterinary Practice -Whitworth Ltd located in Station Road, Felixstowe Creative Trust Centre- 2 Sisters located at the Church of St Mary.

In addition to the above Trimley St Mary has a number of businesses which include an Amazon Hub located at the village store; other businesses include a Customs Broker, Screen Printer, Sign Shop, Pest Control, Travel Agent and Wedding Cake Company. In addition to these businesses (and there may be more): 5 x Building and associated occupations companies (builders, carpenters, painting, plumbers); 13 x Logistics companies; 4 x Information, computer & IT Support companies; 2x Cleaning Companies- (window cleaning + general), 2x Shipping and Container storage and 2x Home Improvement companies. **Note:** Trimley St Mary's south eastern boundary covers much of the Port of Felixstowe on the west side of the A14 and are part of the Trinity Distribution Park where many of the above companies are located.

Trinity Distribution Park – Trinity Estate is the major commercial and industrial logistics park for the **Port of Felixstowe**. It is home to leading national and international occupiers including Hutchison Whampoa Ltd, the Maersk Company Ltd, Medite Shipping Co (UK) and China Shipping. The new **Uniserve** Warehouse can now be seen on Clickett Hill- a 11.5-acre warehouse built on a 26 acre field on land owned by Trinity College.



Trimley Estates is the largest business in the area. It extends to 1,375 ha (3,400 acres) and is the largest single landholding in the Felixstowe peninsula. It has been **owned by Trinity College, Cambridge**, since **1933** and is held as a commercial investment whose purpose is to financially support its educational role.

<https://www.trimleyestate.co.uk> According to their website some 2,800 acres of the

Trimley Estate is dedicated to farming and is largely focused on root vegetables which include potatoes and onions and combinable crops (those using a combine harvester) - wheat, barley and oil seed rape. In addition to peas, brassica crops and sugar beet. There is a new reservoir located in Trimley St Mary and built in 2017. Businesses based on the **Trimley Estates** includes Cargo Labels, Mr Bees Brewery. A micro-brewery using ingredients sourced locally. The Estate has two properties to let: Searsons Farmhouse (sleeps 10) and Searsons Cottage (sleeps 8). Both are managed by Bidwells through an appointed letting agent www.cottages.com.

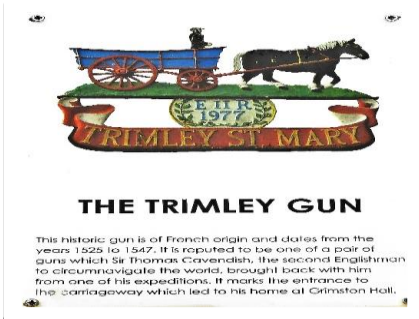
Village sign



Trimley St Mary's village sign was erected in 1977 marking the 25th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. It was celebrated with large scale parties and parades throughout the UK culminating in June with the official "Jubilee Days" held to coincide with the Queen's official birthday

Boundaries https://maps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/parish_boundaries.html

Northern Boundary: The centre of **Gun Lane** marks the boundary between St Mary and St Martin and has an interesting boundary history. During the late 1970's boundaries changes were to be altered and Gun Lane would form the new boundary. One day the gun disappeared but was mysteriously relocated later on the left of Gun Lane where it is still located today. My colleague Liz Rastrick (Trimley St Martin Recorder) in her blog ref : <https://trimleystmartinrecordersblog.com/2019/02/07/bryan-frost-felixstowe-to-trimley-return-and-beyond/> explains this interesting boundary history with additional local historical memories



The **Eastern Border** includes Spriteshall Lane and the Trimley Water Tower -one of the most recognisable landmarks on the Felixstowe peninsula and is clearly visible from the A14.

Trimley Water Tower Spriteshall Lane

Trimley Water Tower built in steel and covered in concrete in 1934. The tower stands 210 ft. high and was able to hold 150,000 gallons of water but is no longer used for water storage. In the 1970's, two covered reservoirs were constructed next to it which hold 2.35 million gallons of water - with powerful pumps at high pressure sending water through the mains around Felixstowe, the Trimleys and other villages within the area. It has been used as a telecoms mast, although much of this was decommissioned in 2012 because of the deterioration of the concrete. It suffers from concrete spalling, which has caused breaks in the concrete over time. Netting was fitted to the tower to catch falling debris although this now appears to have deteriorated.



Trimley Water Tower

Spriteshall Cottage

Spriteshall Cottage - A salmon coloured rendered stone cottage at the start of Spriteshall Lane (now **2 High Road**) was possibly built around the mid-18th century along with later additions. This was the start of the High Road in Trimley St Mary as can be seen in the address. **Spriteshall Lane** is a very old lane and provided local links to Blotfield Hall and Candlet Farm. The houses along this lane have since been demolished and many who lived in these cottages also worked in the laundry. The '**Royal Felixstowe Laundry**' (residents recorded working here in the 1881 census) was located in Spriteshall Lane (before you reach the water tower on the left hand side of the lane). The laundry buildings were sold in 1995 for redevelopment and is now Eastland Court.

Fidells Cross Grid Ref: **TM286903608** location Trimley St Mary, 1539 Walton Court Rolls, or Viduloius Cross- a 1554 Priory Customal. It is believed to have stood on the parish boundary at the **junction of Spriteshall Lane** with the High Street **Walton..** <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>: Hob Uid: 389587

The **Southern Boundary** is the River Orwell and is a beautiful estuary forming part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (ANOB). The Orwell flows from Ipswich to Felixstowe where it mixes with the waters of the Stour to meet the North Sea. One of the most southerly land aspects is **Fagbury Viewing Point** (Fagbury Cliff above Felixstowe Port) where you can view the docks and the River Orwell beyond. [An old name of Fagbury was spelt Facca Burh and Faggeberyston in 1495]. Behind the viewing point and behind the trees on the edge of a field there is a Second World War **hexagonal pillbox** with roofed entrance and blast wall on its southern side. This casemate is of type **FW3/22** <https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/21903/Pillbox-FW3-22-Trimley-St-Mary.htm> and was built in 1940 and into 1941. It is located on slightly higher ground with an unrestricted view north over Trimley Marshes.



Viewing Point towards docks



Closer view of the docks



Hexagonal Pillbox FW3/22



Trimley Marshes



Alongside the River Orwell



New farm reservoir in 2017

The **Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve** is run in partnership with the **Suffolk Wild life Trust**. The reserve was created in 1998 adjacent to the River Orwell to compensate for mud flats lost by the extension of the **Port of Felixstowe**. This area of marshland is an important nesting and feeding area for wetland birds and the Trimley Marshes nature reserve is of international importance for birds and supporting a complex eco system. The Trimley Estate, a 3,400-acre estate acquired by Trinity College, Cambridge in 1933, when the port was little more than a small dock basin. Today, the estate covers the Port of Felixstowe, Trimley Marshes Nature Reserve and farmland. This area is a rich wildlife haven and includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a wetland of international importance, all within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As a result of the habitats many birds can be spotted in the marshes including Teal, Brent Geese and Redshank, the reed beds providing nesting sites for Avocet, Ringed Plover and Tufted duck and migrating waders such as Common Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper and Greenshank can be identified in the muddy banks. Domestic animals including sheep and cattle can be seen grazing in the fields,

Many beautiful trees can be found in this and the Trimley area including: old Oaks, Ash, Beech, Sycamore, Larch, Limes, Sweet and Horse Chestnut, Willows and some non-indigenous trees including Holm Oaks. In addition, Gorse, Hawthorn, Black thorn and Sloes can all be found here within this area. Wild flowers such as poppies, vetch, daisies, celandines, nettle, docks, and cow parsley all provide a wonderful rich source for bees, butterflies and other insects. Mushrooms and toadstools can be found within Trimley St Mary's woodlands too. These fascinating species are neither plant nor animal. Varieties include 'chicken of the woods', 'common earthball', 'king alfred's cakes', 'hoof fungus', 'turkey tail'. Some fungi are edible whilst others very poisonous.



Vetch



Gorse



Poppy



Common Yarrow

Crops grown in Trimley St Mary include: Peas, Carrots, Onions, Cauliflowers, Parsley, Potatoes, Sugar beet.
Cereal crops include Wheat, Barley and Maize

The **Western Boundary** is west of Keepers Cottage and the photo below was taken in 2018. It is now completely surrounded by trees and shrubs. The pictures 3 and 4 are of a pond south of Grimston Hall and left of Gingerbread Hill.



Keepers Cottage



Outside Keepers Cottage



Pond south of Grimston Hall



Note:

Having looked at the Trimley St Mary boundaries more closely it appears that part of the new development by Persimmon Homes, Trelawny Place, Candlet Road lies within the north – eastern boundary of the village. At the time of writing new properties are for sale.

Grade II Listed Buildings in Trimley St Mary

Introduction Since 1968 the Government through the planning system has attempted to preserve buildings that have a special architectural or historical interest. **Historic England** has a record of all listed buildings in England and the listing numbers and details recorded by the buildings below can be found on the following website: <https://historicengland.org.uk/> and <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/suffolk/trimleystmary>

Listing marks and celebrates a building's special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system, so that it can be protected for future generations. When listed, an owner of such a building must seek 'Listed Building Consent' in addition to ordinary planning permission if the changes required to the building in any way alters its special character. The older a building is, and the fewer the surviving examples of its kind, the more likely it is to be listed.

How are listed buildings graded?

- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest, only 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I
- Grade II* buildings are important buildings of more than special interest; 5.8% of listed buildings are Grade II*
- Grade II buildings are of special interest; 91.7% of all listed buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a homeowner.

Trimley St Mary has thirteen Grade II listed buildings: [The List Numbers and National Grid Ref. numbers NGR below]

Church Lane: The Old Rectory; **High Road:** Eagle House, Church of St Mary, The Mariners, Street Farm House, The Limes, Trimley House, Mary Daines Almshouses; **Cordys Lane:** Searsons Farmhouse, Barn and Cartlodge; **Thurmans Lane:** Mill Farmhouse and former dairy; **Sprites Hall Lane:** Candlet Farmhouse

Listed Monument: Anti- aircraft site at Searson's Farm, Cordys Lane, Trimley St Mary.



THE OLD RECTORY Church Lane Trimley St Mary

List Number: 1198194

NGR: TM2778837049

The Old Rectory is a former Victorian vicarage and was built in the 19th-century; Frederick Barnes was the Architect (who lived in Ipswich and was involved in building the Ipswich Customs House). The building is red brick and has a large brick built entrance with moulded semi-circular arch and a recessed panelled door. The Old Rectory has had rather a chequered history and there have been reports of ghosts appearing in the rectory! After becoming a redundant rectory it was sold in the early 1990's as a nursing home, and is currently the Seven Oaks Hostel catering for migrant workers.



EAGLE HOUSE High Road Trimley St Mary

List Number 1198231

NGR: TM2761537067

Private house. The front door it is states Eagle Cottage was built in 1790 – **see picture 1** .On the Historic England site is says that Eagle House was built in the late 18th or early 19th century. The house underwent a major refurbishment and restoration at the end of the 20th century, on the left is a path to Town Field- the village allotments.



THE MARINERS (formerly the Three Mariners and The Mariners Inn) **List Number: 1198290** **NGR: TM2764236988**

A Public House built in the late 18th century. In the second picture during a routine beer delivery in 2014 some concrete was broken outside which revealed an undiscovered well. The well which drops to 30ft to the water level was constructed using hundreds of specially curved bricks. According to the Suffolk branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) the current building dates from the 18th century. Before that it was reported the Three Mariners (Mariners Inn) was on another site near Station Road and burnt down. This site, originally called the New Inn but renamed to honour the return of Trimley born Thomas Cavendish -the first man to circumnavigate the world in 1586 from the three ships: The Desire, the Content and the Hugh Gallant. Tom Potter reported this event which appeared in the **Ipswich News** on 22 January 2014. During 2014-2015 the pub stood empty for months. Since then a consortium of local people purchased and totally refurbished the pub and renamed it the **Mariners Free House** sourcing its drinks and food from local producers.

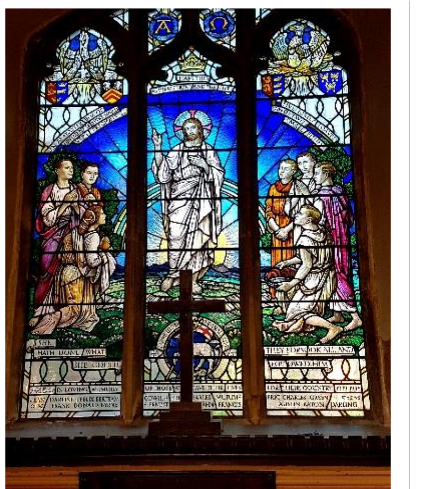
The Mariners is proving extremely popular with the residents and visitors to Trimley St Mary.

<http://www.marinersfreehouse.co.uk>; <http://suffolkcamra.co.uk/pubs/pub/975>

CHURCH OF ST MARY High Road Trimley St Mary **List Number: 1030924** NGR: TM2769136991
The first picture below shows the rear churchyards of the two churches-Church of St Mary (rear left) and St Martin on the right. The churchyards contains some very old grave stones including **Mary Dains** (bottom right picture) and **Commonwealth War Graves** can be found here. The Church of St Mary was a Parish Church and is said to have been founded in 13th Century by Thomas Brotherton, son of Edward 1. The Tower was rebuilt circa 1430-50 and the south porch around the same date. The west doors shown below (picture 4) have bullet holes that may have come from a firing squad during the Civil War (1642-1651). The listing provides interesting information along with **'The Trimleys A celebration of two villages'** published by the Parish Councils of Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary in **June 2000** celebrating the new millennium.



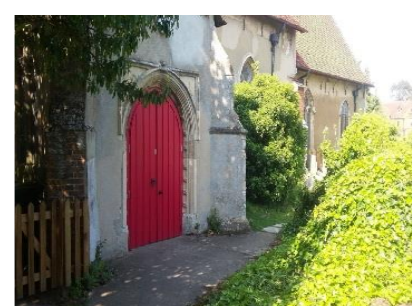
The War Memorials -see below are inside St Mary's Church: **The Alabaster Memorial** with a Celtic cross above contains seventeen names of those who gave their lives in the Great War. **Brass plaque** (centre) *'This electrical installation and the stained glass window in the nave were placed in this church as a memorial to those from this parish who gave their lives in the second great war'* **The Stained Glass Window** – The Memorial window for St Marys Church. This three light stained glass window depicts Christ surrounded by his disciples. There are seven names listed for the Second World War See <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Suffolk/TrimleyStMary.html>



Alabaster Memorial

Brass plaque

Stained glass Memorial Window



Currently: St Marys Church closed in the 1980s and struggled ever since to gain sufficient popularity to reopen. However in March 2015, Planners gave the go-ahead for the church – on the national ‘at risk’ register to be turned into a new home. Initially the organ builders Bishop and Son (based in Ipswich) were here. In 2019, the then redundant church of Trimley St Mary became the new home now used by the **Felixstowe Creative Arts Trust- 2 Sisters Arts Centre** where a lively programme of plays, music, poetry, art and dance have been staged at this venue. The centre is dedicated to championing local talent and bringing high quality touring work to the area. The Entrance to the Arts Centre doors have been repainted in red and parking in Great Street Farm. A new programme is available <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/st-marys-church/two-sisters-arts-centre>: and <https://m.facebook.com/pages/category/Performance---Event-Venue/Two-Sisters-Arts-Centre-344306032896013/>

GREAT STREET FARM- STREET FARMHOUSE - High Road List Number: 1030925 NGR: TM2766236927



The **Picture 1** shows a sign for **Great Street Farm** and provides parking for the **2 Sisters Arts Centre**. **Picture 2** shows part of the old farmyard of Great Street Farm containing barns and outbuildings. **Picture 3** is the house known as **Street Farm** – a late 18th Century red brick house Grade II listed and now a private house. The house in 2004 was left abandoned and since then it has been refurbished and sold on two occasions. It is now a lovely large family home.

THE LIMES 200 High Road Trimley St Mary List Number:1198247 NGR: TM2770036939



The Limes A former farmhouse built in the late 18th century with later addition to the south end - **picture 2**. Currently the Limes a six bedroomed house privately owned home and the gardens surrounding the house have been reduced considerably with two additional buildings built in the grounds of this historical farmhouse. **Note:** The Limes is currently for sale (May 2021) with Nicholas Estates and the **first picture** has been taken from the **Rightmove** website <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/89926006/> as it is very difficult to take pictures of this old historical farmhouse as fencing now surrounds the property

TRIMLEY HOUSE 180 High Road**List Number: 1377102**

NGR: TM 27863 36709

A Grade II listed building of architectural and historical interest. The house was built during the mid-late 19th century for Mary Dains who was popular and later became a benefactor for the village. Mary Dains lived in here until her death in 1913. Trimley House was originally one house and was split into two (180 High Road and 178 High Road at the rear). Planning permission to convert the house into two dwellings was made in 1955. **Note: Only 180 High Road is a Grade II listed building.** The single storey extension was added to Trimley House in the early 1990's – see picture 2 below and was called Trimley Lodge. Picture 3 shows a side view and rear of Trimley House which includes 178 High Road.

**MARY DAINS ALMHOUSES** (94-104) High Road Trimley St Mary**List number: 1283922**

NGR: TM2830236293

Mary Dains Almshouses These Grade II listed Almshouses have a stone tablet dated 1914 on the extreme left hand gable. Mary Dains died in 1913 and in her Will she left money for the building of Almshouses. The bungalows are red brick with tile embellishments and plain tile roof and chevron tile bands. There are six bungalows all built in 1914 and renovated in 1975 with good access for people with disabilities. Each bungalow has a single bedroom. The Almhouse charity caters for people resident in the area with preference given to those belonging to a non-conformist denomination.



Mary Dains Almshouses High Road Trimley St Mary. The gardens and are beautifully maintained and managed.

MILL FARMHOUSE 38 Thurmans Lane Trimley St Mary**List number: 1377103**

NGR: TM2806836959



Mill Farmhouse Grade II listed house was built in the 18th century and of timber framed construction. In the early 19th century a pedimented brick porch was added with six raised and fielded panelled door as shown in picture 3. A former Dairy was situated here. In 2015, the boarded up farmhouse was sold and required extensive refurbishment and renovation both inside and outside. It has now been beautifully restored and is a private home; the large gardens have been landscaped and are well attended.

SEARSONS FARM, CARTLODGE AND BARN Cordys Lane, Trimley St Mary

List number 1377101 NGR: TM2778135623 (**Searsons Farm**); List Number: 1030923 NGR: TM2773335643

(**Cartlodge**) List Number: 1198226 NGR: TM2771835611 (**Barn**)

Note: The barns underwent an extensive refurbishment and renovation in 2003

Searsons was recorded as Serssent in 1574

Searsons Farm, Cartlodge and Barns all are listed buildings - see above for further listing information. During the early 1990's planning permission was granted to change the use of redundant farm buildings to offices.

Searsons Farmhouse was built in the early 17th century. It is timber framed with colour –washed cladding and plain roof tiles. Searsons Farm is now a holiday home which can cater for up to ten people.

Cartlodge Built in the early 17th century is timber framed and weather boarded with a pantiled roof. It has four bays as shown in the photographs below. **Bidwells Estate Agents** manage the **Trimley Estate** on behalf of **Trinity College, Cambridge** who own most of the land within the **Felixstowe Peninsula**.

Barn Also built in the 17th century is timber framed and weather boarded with corrugated iron roof. It has five bays with outshuts to both sides. The outshuts have pantiled roofs as can be seen in **picture 5** below r/h side.



Entrance to the Trimley Estate- Searsons Farm



Searsons Farmhouse



Cartlodge with four bays



Barn on right

CANDLET FARMHOUSE, Sprites Hall Lane, Trimley St Mary List Number: 1030922 NGR:TM 2919136689

Candle Farmhouse Grade II listed building dating back to the early 17th century with a timber framed construction. The building is of a 'T' shaped plan form with a lobby entrance and according to some reports is possibly a rebuild of an earlier 16th century Hall house. There are also a range of outbuildings including a barn and cartlodge as shown in **picture 2**. Candle Farmhouse lies off a track and is positioned in a very secluded site surrounded by tall mainly coniferous trees. The entrance being enclosed by a timber fence and gates and the farmhouse itself is not visible as shown in **picture 1**. However, if you take the footpath towards Caple Hall – see **picture 3** on the right of the farmhouse and along this path on the left you can see Candle Farmhouse as shown in **picture 4**. Arable land completely surrounds this farmhouse.



Gates to farmhouse



Barn and cartlodge



Candle Farmhouse



Marker showing footpath

ANTI-AIRCRAFT SITE at Searson's Farm Cordys Lane, Trimley St Mary
List Entry Number: 1420538

NGR TM2765036162

North of Searsons Farm there are the remains of a World War II and Cold War Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battery and associated site. The site consisted of four embanked gun emplacements with a central embanked command post. A concrete road linked the battery itself to a domestic site to the south. The domestic area consisted of numerous Nissen huts and buildings of various sizes. This is a **listed scheduled monument** under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to be of **national importance**. 'A Cold War heavy anti-aircraft gun site comprising four gun emplacements, a generator and gun store building, a Command post and partly ruinous radar tower, and a telephone test hut, which were constructed in 1946'.

The gun site at Searson's farm is surrounded by agricultural cultivation but the main track to the emplacements, the generator and gun store building and Command post remain.

The following link provides further information about this very interesting location including a detailed description, history and facts of this anti-aircraft site: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1420538>



Pictures of the Anti-aircraft site

Houses and buildings not listed located on the High Road but have some historical interest

Shoemakers Cottage

Formally three cottages now one house where a shoemaker lived in one of the cottages with his family. The house and garden have been refurbished and redesigned in recent years



Shoemakers Cottage

Lime Cottage

Built in the circa late 17th/early 18th century-not listed and has a large inglenook fireplace and the brick built staircase to the upper floor wrapped around the chimney breast.



Lime Cottage



Signals formally **St Cecelia's Catholic Church**. This former Catholic Church has an interesting history as illustrated on the following link: <http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/trimleycecelia> The original modern church was completely destroyed by fire in October 1990 The newly built church- St Cecelia's was consecrated by the Bishop of East Anglia on 25th September 1992 and was regularly used. However, in 2015 the church was closed to comply with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The Church was sold and in 2017 Signals - a local Hi-fi company purchased the church and have made extensive alterations inside for their company's requirements.



173 High Road - Coachmakers **The Kerry Brothers Carriage Works** was located here, and garden was the former premises of **Mr GJ Watts the Builder**. The Coachmakers front garden above is on the site of a former builder's yard. The front garden has been completely constructed from scratch during the past three years. The open trap was purchased by the current owners – and takes centre stage in this delightful garden and a lovely tribute to the former Carriage Works.

Trimley St Mary Benefactors

Ellis Kindge Parish Allotments [Rear of High Road adjacent to Eagle House]

Parish Trusts -The Parish Council are trustees of two ancient charitable trusts, known as the **Poor's Allotment Trust** and the **Charity of Ellis Kindge** who can help people in financial difficulties. These trusts date back to the nineteenth century and were created for the relief of the poor- well before the introduction of the modern welfare state. The land - known as **Town Field**, has been divided into a number of allotments at the back of the High Road **adjacent to Eagle House**. During 2015 two boreholes for the allotments were made - now providing water to these popular allotments used by local residents. Currently there is a waiting list and renting an allotment costs are £22.00 annually.



Prettyman family Welcome Hall High Road Trimley St Mary

The foundation stone of this building was laid in 1902 by Lord Halsbury who was the then Lord Chancellor. The building was provided by the **Prettyman family** who were local benefactors for the benefit of the Trimley villages. In 1939 the hall was conveyed to village trustees and a Trust Deed which gave the purposes for which the hall was to be used as follows:



"for the purpose of physical and mental training and recreation social moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading, recreational rooms, library lectures, classes, recreations; entertainment or otherwise as may be found expedient for the inhabitants of the Parishes of Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary and the immediate vicinity without distinction of sex, or of political or religious opinions."

The Welcome Hall has seen many improvements over the last 7 years and is available on hire, based on three sessions per day and is used by many local groups and for special occasions. It is also used as the **Polling Station for Trimley St Mary**. The Hall is looked after by a small Group of Volunteers and a Booking Clerk, overseen by The Parish Council

Stennett Family Stennetts Memorial Field

The Stennett family in 1967 gave five acres of land to the village -the land was to be used for recreation purposes and the Trimley St Mary Parish Council are the Trustees. The playing field has a thriving football club - Trimley Red Devils FC. A new and re-furnished play area was constructed in 2019. Up until lockdown started in March 2020, Roseberry Cottage – Stennetts Community Café - a community-based enterprise offering affordable coffee and food in addition to providing work-based training for adults with learning disabilities. The café reopened earlier this year.



Footpath leading to Stennetts field



Play area



Football pitches

Mary Dains Free Church and Mary Dains Almshouses



Notice Board and entrance to the Free Church pathway



Free Church



The Manse on left of the Free Church



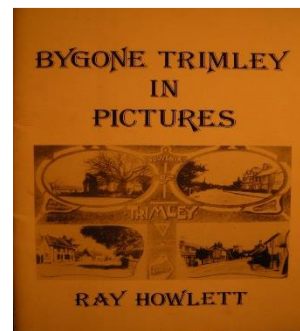
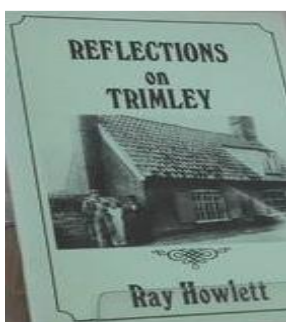
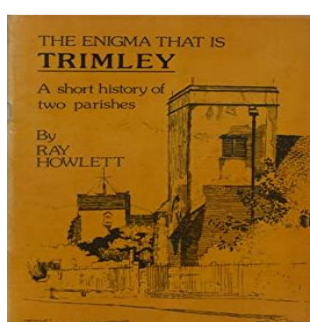
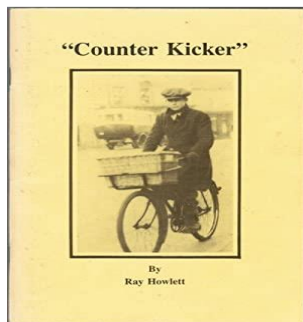
View from outside and towards the High Road

Miss Mary Dains left a substantial amount of money to the village when she died in **1913**. In her Will of 13th February 1913, signed only days before she died, she set out clear instructions for how the Mission Hall – now the Free Church was to be run. She also said in her will she had selected the land for the building of six Almshouses - now called **Mary Dains Almshouses** and these were all completed in 1914.

A separate charity- **Mary Dain's Mission and Holiday Fund Charity** was established to run the Mission Hall and Manse and to provide for the needs of non-conformist poor of the area. In **March 2021** the Charity Commission appointed new trustees to manage the Charity (no: 253412) The Charity owns Trimley Free Church and the Manse, the surrounding gardens and drive. In June 2021 the objectives were revised allowing the trustees to provide home for people in Trimley and the church building to be used for community activities as well for worship. The Charity welcomes new local trustees to assist with this long term project.

Ray Howlett was born in Trimley St Martin and wrote several books about the two villages: Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary. In the millennium book **'The Trimleys- A celebration of two villages'** recorded:

"Ray lived his whole life not only in Trimley but for Trimley- he served as the community as parish and rural district representative for many years and acted as local correspondent to the East Anglian Daily Times for village affairs. He went everywhere on his bicycle but never seemed to ride it- he would have it propped up against him while he was talking to friends in the village of which he had a multitude..... Many English villages have local characters that are as much part of the village scene as the church and the pub-Ray with his bicycle and green woolly hat was one of those"



Ray died in 1991 and is buried in Trimley St Martin's church yard. **Howlett Way** (Trimley St Martin) is named after him.

High Road Trimley St Mary

Originally the High Road is thought to be a Roman Road; Trimley High Road was, until the bypass was built the main means of getting to Ipswich. The High Road with increasing traffic generated by the Port of Felixstowe and the growth in car ownership meant that the road was becoming exceptionally busy and inadequate to cope with the large volume of traffic it was expected to withstand. The original route of the A45 was Birmingham to Ipswich and the road was extended to Felixstowe in 1935 passing through the Trimleys. In **1972**, the Trimley bypass opened thus relieving a great deal of traffic passing through the villages. The current A14 includes parts of the former A45 between Felixstowe and Cambridge. The sections from Huntingdon east to the Port of Felixstowe were upgraded in stages from 1973 to 1985 with the opening of the Ipswich southern bypass and the opening of the Orwell Bridge in 1982. The main A14 trunk road now bypasses the village (Junction 59) although there is still a great deal of local traffic passing through the villages as Trimley St Mary and its neighbour Trimley St Martin continue to expand.

The **High Road** has always been and continues to be important to Trimley St Mary providing a **main link** to other roads within the village and a number of events have and take place along the High Road and include: The Women's Tour of Great Britain Cycle Race in 2014 and the Women's World Tour Stage 6 in 2021; Annual Trimley Carnival Events; Hot Road and Custom Car Rally; the annual Ipswich to Felixstowe Classic Car Rally; Biannual Trimley Open Gardens, Trimley Christmas Tree Lighting Event.



Women's Tour of Britain Cycle Race 9th May 2014 Stage 3

Started from Felixstowe and travelled through Trimley St Mary to Ipswich, then down to Essex finishing in Clacton. This race provided many photo opportunities for the locals!

This photograph was taken from the High Road near the Faulkeners Way Roundabout

Women's World Tour 2021 Stage 6 Haverhill to Felixstowe Saturday 9th October 2021

The world's top cyclists returned to Suffolk in October 2021 as the county hosted the final stage of the Women's Tour between **Haverhill and Felixstowe** (155 kilometres) on **Saturday 9 October**. This was the first time that Suffolk hosted the final race since 2014. **Felixstowe** which appeared in the inaugural edition of the race seven years ago – hosted its **first stage finish**.

It was a magnificent day for the race with many spectators lining the streets including the High Road – Trimley St Mary watching and supporting the cyclists and their support teams fly past! –just after 3.00pm. Elisa Balsamo- crossed the finish line following a sprint finish to win stage six. However, Demi Vollering was named the overall winner of the Women's Tour



These photographs were taken on Saturday 9th October 2021 along Trimley High Road Finish- Felixstowe

Trimley Carnival



Trimley Carnival- Unfortunately, because of the pandemic in 2020 the **annual Trimley Carnivals have not taken place since 2019**.

Every year the two parishes of Trimley take part in the annual Carnival which is held in July, the two day lively and attractive event has colourful floats and displays which start at Faulkeners Way, Trimley St Mary travelling along High Road, and finishing at the Trimley Sports and Social Club (Trimley St Martin) where various activities, including discos, stalls, demonstrations, food and fairground rides. Turnout is excellent with many people lining the High Road and the atmosphere lively and vibrant.



Photographs showing pictures of the Carnival in 2019 along the High Road- '50 years through the villages'.

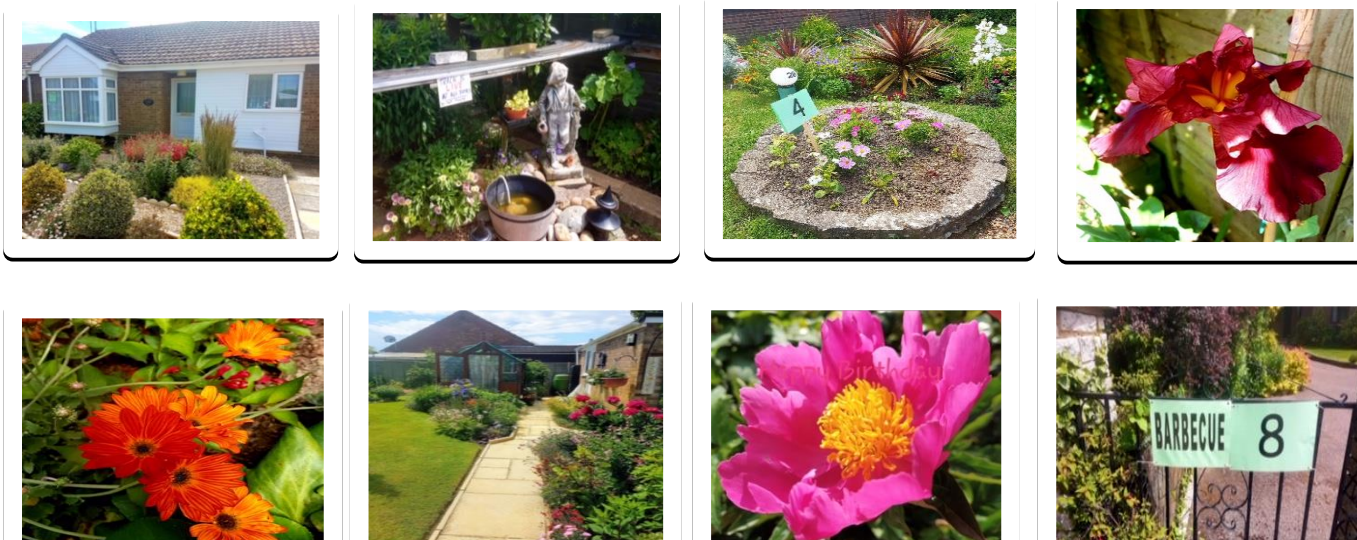
Hot Rods and Custom Car Rally The annual car rally from Trinity Park (Ipswich) to Felixstowe prom onwards. Cars travel through the Trimleys, and many enthusiasts watch the custom cars on the High Road at Trimley St Mary. Pictures below taken in 2016 and 2017



Annual Classic Car Rally Organisers of one of Suffolk's most popular events have been forced to cancel the rally in **2020 and 2021** because of the pandemic. The Ipswich to Felixstowe Classic Vehicle Run draws large crowds which start in Christchurch Park Ipswich with many of the cars passing along the High Road in Trimley St Mary before heading to Felixstowe prom.



Trimley Open Gardens A biannual very popular occasion and fundraising event for St Martin's Church whereby residents in both Trimley St Mary and Martin opened their gardens for the weekend to the public. The last event was held in 2019 and some of the 'open gardens' were located on the High Road with balloons to mark the gardens supplied by the 'Flying Lady'; the garden allotments were also included. In addition there were Cream Teas, a Bug Hunt, BBQ, Flower themed Art Workshops held at the 2 Sisters Art Centre, plants and cakes sold outside the church



Trimley St Mary Christmas Tree lighting event



The popular annual Christmas tree lighting event takes place on the last **Friday in November usually starting at 6.30pm – with drinks and mince pies**. The event is located on the green along the **High Road** opposite New Road. This is a community venture involving the **Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch of Trimley St Mary** and is very popular with residents. The Christmas tree is a very welcome sight during the dark winter evenings whilst travelling along the High Road.

Some photos of the High Road in Trimley St Mary



Increased traffic along the High Road Trimley St Mary

The Parish Council and residents have again been concerned again with the large amount of traffic passing through the village (due to increases in **road usage** and an increase in **housing**) and traffic calming measures are now in place and monitored regularly. A new **Pedestrian Crossing** was installed and situated on the High Road in April 2019 (see below pics). Suffolk County Council and Trimley St Mary Parish Council chose a traditional “puffin” crossing fitted with modern vehicle detection equipment located outside Trimley St Mary School. The crossing is popular and well used.



In addition to the above crossing **Traffic Calming Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)** have been installed when you enter the village from Ipswich (a bright smiley face when approached below the speed limit and a red angry face if the approaching speed is in excess of the speed limit). From the Felixstowe direction a sign showing your speed is displayed as shown in picture 3.



Vehicle activated signs pics 1 and 2 as you approach Trimley St Mary from Ipswich direction pic3 from Felixstowe direction

References:

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/england/suffolk/trimleystmary>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/>

Population Of Great Britain, According To The Returns Made To Parliament In 1831; Together With The Annual Value Of Real Property As Assessed In 1815. **John Gorton** Published by Chapman & Hall., 1832

The Trimleys- A celebration of two villages **Published by the Parish Councils of Trimley St Martin and Trimley St Mary** June 2000

I found this a most interesting book which looked at how the Trimleys were in 2000 and how things used to be - with lots of interesting historical information. Well worth a read!

Jane Banning
Trimley St Mary Recorder 2021