

# Lingfield



**15 The Thatched Cottage**  
This medieval gem, a Grade II listed building, was originally a barn. Now a two bedroom cottage with low beams and inglenooks, it can be seen on the left just after the pinch points as you enter the village from Godstone Road. The Thatched Cottage, which has a homemade plaque, is fabled for having been the home of W.E. Johns, creator of the Biggles adventure books. Johns wrote some nine books here beginning with *The Camels are Coming* and was an instant success, so much so that his diary notes the cottage was becoming 'too small to entertain his growing circle of friends'. In 1937 he moved to Reigate and penned dozens more Biggles yarns. This is the last thatched cottage in Lingfield, all others having succumbed to the inevitable fate of so many: fire.



**4 Lingfield High Street (1920's)**  
The High Street retains a number of buildings dating from the Victorian period, as can be seen in the photo above. Once a traditional mixture of locally owned shops, many fell empty after the 2008 economic crisis. It now has a plethora of food outlets and restaurants. New businesses have arrived recently and its character is slowly being rebuilt.



**10 The Guest House**, another of Lingfield's finest old buildings with a Grade II\* listing is now a library run by volunteers thanks to a campaign by residents to save it from closure by Surrey Country Council. The 15<sup>th</sup> century Wealden style building, was restored and extended in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but the original structure is largely intact and gives a good impression of a medieval open hall. Exceptional features include the Horsham slab roof, leaded casement windows with stained glass inserts, and an unusual beamed roof structure. Study of the wood (dendrochronology) suggests a date from c.1474 or earlier. It is traditionally thought to have been where guests of the chaplains of the church were housed. The building was bequeathed to the village by Mr Hayward in 1954, and became a library.



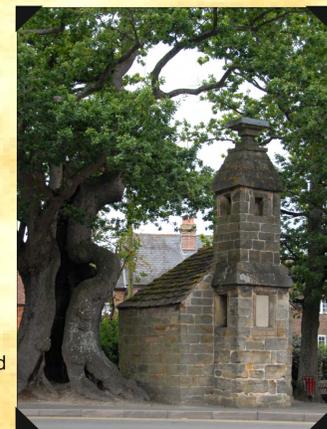
**12 Lingfield Railway**  
Lingfield's station was built in 1884 following the opening of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. The village, earmarked for development, was also to be the site of a new racecourse which was opened in 1890 by the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII and formerly there was a covered walk from the station to the course. The station remains largely unaltered and is a fine - and increasingly rare - example of a cottage-style country station with surviving stationmaster's house. Features include Gothic-style windows, decorative brickwork and an original canopy with attractive wrought iron pillars. Other stations with common architectural elements - windows, canopies, brickwork and cottage style - include Cranleigh (disused) Buxted, and Hassocks (demolished). It's likely that Lingfield was designed by London and Brighton railway architect David Mocatta.



**2 Old Town**  
Old Town, which leads to the church, includes Lingfield's third Grade I building, Pollard Cottage/House. This and other houses in the small street may once have been associated with the College, the home of chaplains sited west of the churchyard and paid to pray for the Chobham family. Others certainly had a commercial purpose in later years judging by the early 16<sup>th</sup> century shop front to Pollard House, said to have been a butcher's shop and the early 18<sup>th</sup> century shops in Star Cottages. Now part of the Conservation Area, the Old Town which leads to the church hosts a regular summer fair.



**5 Gun Pond and Plaistow Street**  
Plaistow - meaning the place of play - was once a collection of farms, the most important of which was what is now Grade II Magnus Deo, a medieval farmhouse which had 100 acres of land. A chapel was added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The cottage faces the village pond, adjacent to the ancient oak and the Grade I listed Cage, formerly a prison. The Pond and its colony of ducks is a much loved feature of the village.



**6 St. Peter's Cross and The Cage**  
St. Peter's Cross (the cross of which has gone) was built in about 1437 and was the heart of Playstow. In 1773 The Cage, a one room prison described as 'a lock up for the temporary repose of miscreants' was added. It was last used to imprison a poacher. It is one of Lingfield's three Grade I listed buildings but is used to store council tools. A recent stunt to raise money for the Scouts Hut extension which saw two ladies 'imprisoned' for the night led to calls for the Cage to be re-opened as a mini museum.



**1 The Church of St Peter and St Paul**  
The Church of St Peter and St Paul is a Grade I listed church dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century with a rare double nave. The church was rebuilt by the Cobham family in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, replacing the Saxon church on the site, and adding the tower. The alabaster tomb of the crusader Sir Reginald Cobham and his second wife Anne can be seen in front of the High Altar. The church houses one of the most important collections of brasses and monuments in England, the brasses being of College clergy in full vestments. Following the Reformation, the interior of the church was subject to constant rearrangement. By the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the sermon had become the central feature of the service, the church was 'new beautified': box pews were installed in the nave and a gallery constructed at the west end. The stained glass windows are mainly Victorian, but the George V Coronation window and the Millennium window are notable exceptions. The window on the south side of the sanctuary is composed of fragments of the medieval stained glass smashed by Cromwell's soldiers. There is a fine ring of eight bells which are rung on Thursday evening by a team of dedicated bell ringers.

..... Age to Age Walk  
[Leaflet Guide from Community Centre]  
- - - - - Public Footpaths

- ① Church of St. Peter & St. Paul
- ② Old Town
- ③ Community Centre
- ④ High Street
- ⑤ Village Pond
- ⑥ The Cage
- ⑦ St. Bernard's Catholic Church
- ⑧ Lingfield Primary School
- ⑨ The College
- ⑩ The Guest House
- ⑪ New Place
- ⑫ Lingfield Station
- ⑬ Notre Dame School
- ⑭ Football & Cricket Club
- ⑮ The Thatched Cottage