

MEDIEVAL WELLINGBOROUGH

At the crossing of the River Nene, against the supporting arm of the River Isle, Wellingborough takes its shape. For thousands of years, people have been migrating here, influencing skills, trade and its community.

Rich wetland landscapes attracted many early settlers. Romans built a community on the south bank at Irchester and later the Saxons took on the north bank where the fingers of the River spread through the settlement. After a Viking invasion in the early middle ages, the area began to prosper and grow. Stories of Wellingborough's fertile springs and fields, spread across the country. In 948 AD, the area was granted to the newly founded fenland abbey of Crowland or Croyland, by King Eadred of England.

By the time the Domesday Book was compiled in 1087, the town had three mills and a population of 250 persons, with more than 2000 living in surrounding settlements (now the villages of the Borough of Wellingborough). Despite England's leadership changes during the medieval period, the townsfolk remained steadfast, working the lands and paying the tithe.

The uplands were ideal for sheep rearing and the rolling rivers for milling. The sloping lowlands and proximity to the river Nene yielded optimum barley crops which together with the natural springs helped to establish the town's fruitful beer industry. For the next 800 years brewing traditions played an important role in the development of Wellingborough. You can still buy traditional ales from the town's old pubs.



Ye Golden Lion
Sheep Street

Once an ancient house of great charm, owned by a local yeoman farmer named Thomas Roane. It stands at the corner of three routes, which was at one time known as 'Ham Joint' Close. The building dates from 1540 and was built with enormous timber, mostly stout English oak, incorporated into the exterior. The interior boasts a fine minstrel's gallery.

It was the town's first inn to serve tea.

A MARKET TOWN



Market Square

The Market

In 1201 a market charter was awarded to the town by King John. It is thought that the area for the market was laid out at this time, making use of existing Roman roads. A north - south route to London via London Road and west to east route to Oxford and Cambridge made Wellingborough a central location for traders transporting cattle and stock. Links that continue to support today's economy.

All Hallows Church Street

Before the Norman Conquest, All Hallows Church belonged to the monks of Croyland Abbey, but nothing remains of the original Saxon building. The current ironstone building is around 600 years old and has had various alterations during this period. The south door however, is Norman and dates from 1170. The dominating spire is 165 feet and is flanked by four pinnacles. It has an ironstone tower, with limestone bands and dates back to the 13th Century. The church would have served the bustling market place which is laid before its main gates.



All Hallows Church

Tudor House Sheep Street

This building is situated on Sheep Street. Its foundations are believed to have been laid prior to 1000 A.D. The lower ground-floor walls date from 1200s and the upper floor is believed to be from the 1500 or 1600s. There is little doubt that this building was originally part of the Manor of Croyland. It is the only remaining thatched house in the town.



Tudor House

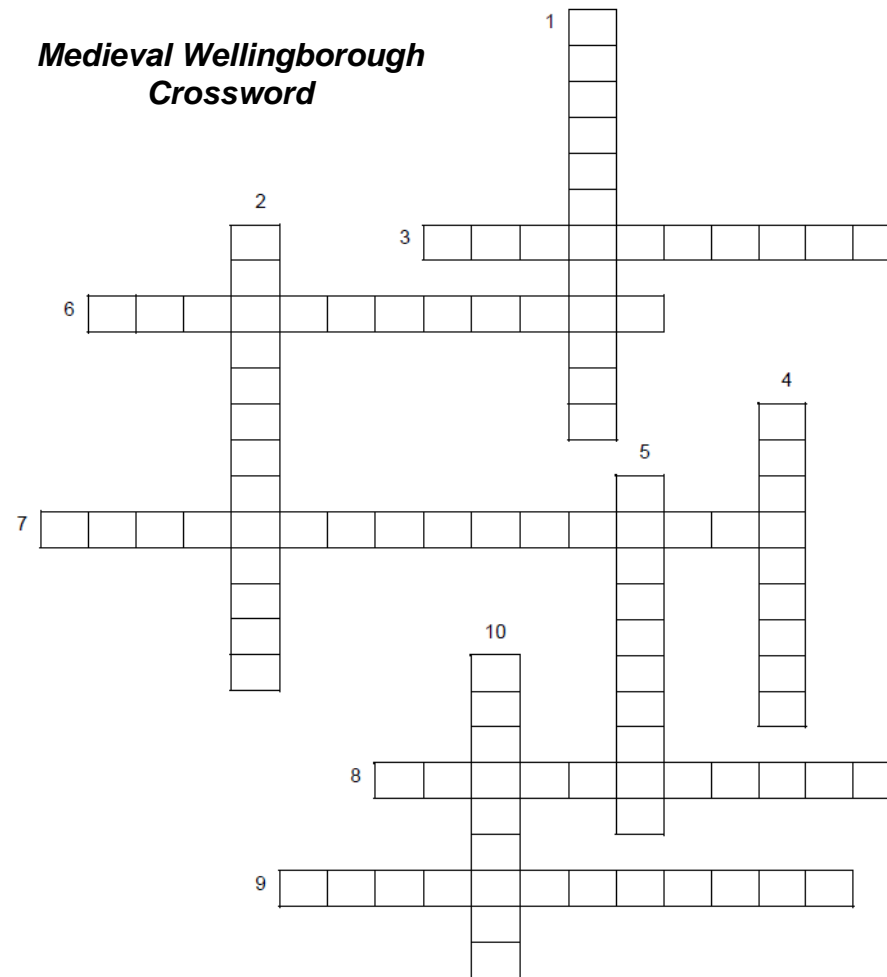
The Wells

Wellingborough has many springs and early settlers believed the waters to have healing powers. The fame of one of these wells, 'the Red Well', thought to aid fertility, reached the ears of King Charles I. In 1628 he brought his young wife, Queen Henrietta Maria to 'drink from the waters in the hope of conceiving an heir'. The Queen went on to have four children in quick succession after camping at the well for an entire summer. The King vowed to make Wellingborough a Royal Spa town, but the idea never saw fruition as Charles became occupied with the civil unrest and was then executed in 1649.



The Red Well

Medieval Wellingborough Crossword



Down:

- 17th century coaching Inn thought to have been erected at the time of the battle of Naseby. (3, 4, 5)
- Original headquarters of the local monastery, approved by King Eadred around 948 AD (8, 5)
- Wellingborough's only surviving 15th century ironstone grain store (5, 4)
- Ancient home covered with traditional thatch. (5, 5)
- The town is settled on this water course (5, 4)

Across:

- In Medieval times, this route was an important north-south link to the capital (6, 4)
- This establishment has been serving ale from the Medieval period to the present day (2, 6, 4)
- With its stately spire, this religious building looks out over the Market Square (3, 7, 6)
- A road named after the cattle that supported the woollen cloth industry (5, 6)
- The charter for this open-air plaza was granted by King John in 1201 (6, 6)

Croyland Abbey and Tithe Barn Croyland Gardens & Burystead Place

The Croyland settlement at Wellingborough was an exceptionally large medieval encampment compared to its contemporaries and very influential in the late Saxon and early Medieval period. The monastic headquarters were situated on the current Croyland Gardens site, where most of the Abbey still remains along with one of the two original thatched Tithe Barns (the other was once situated in Cambridge St).



Croyland Abbey



Tithe Barn

To make all manner of fruit Tartes

You must boyle your fruite, whether it be apple, cherrie, peach, damson, peare, Mulberie, or codling, in faire water, and when they be boyled inough, put them into a bowle, and bruse them with a ladle, and when they be colde, straine them, and put in red wine or Claret wine, and so season it with suger, sinamon and ginger
(The Good Housewife's Jewell, T. Dawson)

Serve "snow" with strawberries on top and with a couple shortbread cookies on the side

To make dyschefull of Snowe: Take a pottel of swete thycke creame and the whytes of eyghte egges, and beate them altogether wyth a spon, then putte them in youre creame and a saucerful of Rosewater, and a dyshe full of Suger wyth all, then take a stick and make it cleane, and than cutte it in the ende foure squsre, and therwith beate all the aforesayde thynges together, and as ever it ryseth takeit of and put it into a Collaunder, this done take one apple and set it in the myddes of it, and a thick bushe of Rosemary, and set it in the myddes of the platter, then cast your Snowe upon the Rosemary and fyll your platter therwith.
And yf you have wafers cast some in wyth all and thus serve them for them for the.

(Gloning, 16th cent. A Proper Neue Book of Cokery)

The Hind Hotel (Inn) Sheep Street

The Jacobean Hind Hotel was built at the time of the Battle of Naseby in 1645, built on the foundations of another inn. The name and emblem of the hotel is taken from the crest of Sir Christopher Hatton. The majority of the Croyland Estate was gifted to Hatton in 1574, by Queen Elizabeth I.

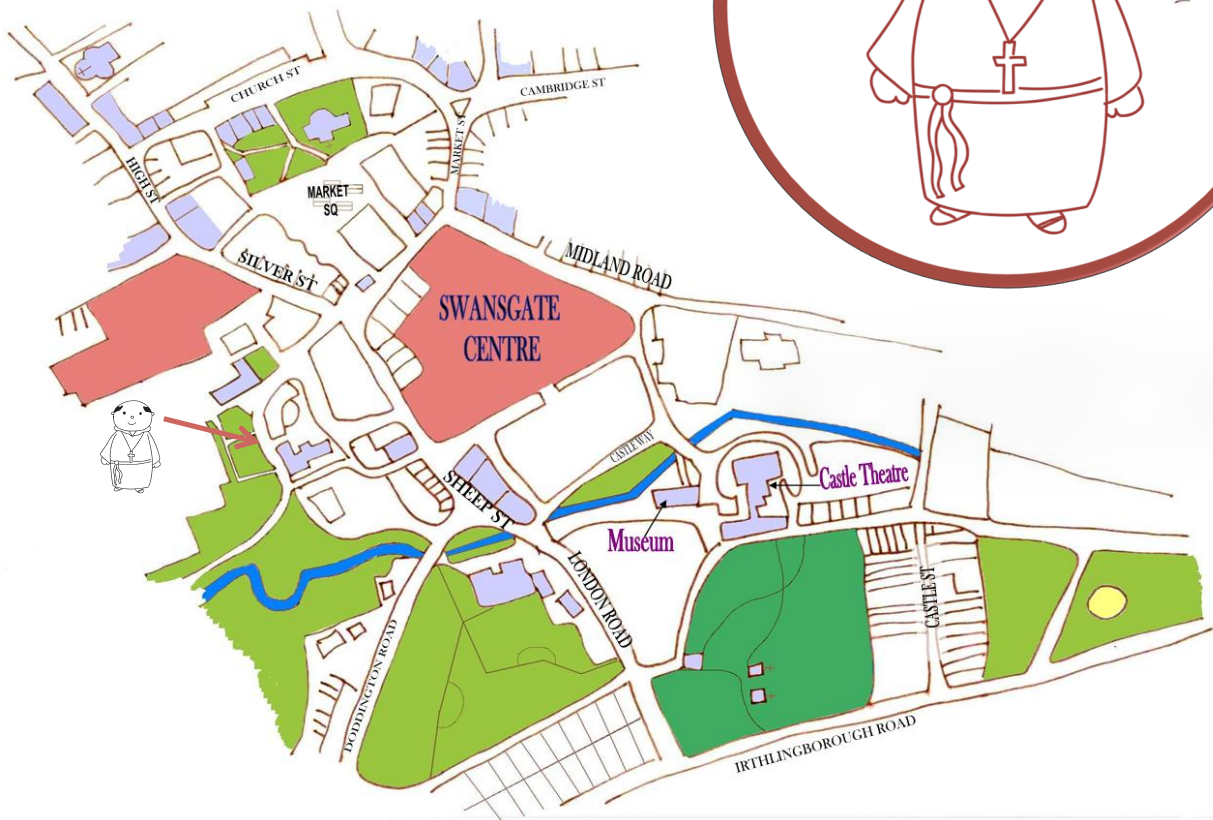


The Hind Hotel

'Paid towards a charge laid upon the hundred of twenty fat sheep and three fat heyfers for Genl. Thomas Fairfax army £1, 0s. 0d.'

In honour of this event, one of the upper rooms is known as the 'Cromwell Room'. The room hides a secret recess, which at one time provided an escape route to the roof.

Can you find the monk
of Croyland Abbey?



To discover more about Wellingborough's hidden past visit the
Wellingborough Museum,
12 Castle Way, Wellingborough, NN8 1XB. 01933 276838.
wellingboroughmuseum@msn.com

See if you can find any other famous
Wellingburians hidden around the town!



The Wellingborough Heritage Trail Improvement scheme is funded by the
Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI),
supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Borough Council of Wellingborough



Borough Council of
Wellingborough

Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of



Do you think
you could
march through
the market
today dear? We
are all out of
candied
horseradish!

S L A M A P P R E N T I C E G K Q H
Y C M G C D V R U G K B A V B H Y N
V T W G H R P G E G J F K Q X C R P
G P R C I E S W D N O O I Z M X N U
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N J I S Z K E H C K V J D W A Z W D

Crusade
chivalry
Renaissance

apprentice
feudalism
medieval

indenture
castle

knight
jousting

