

BILLINGTON'S GINGERBREAD

SINCE 1817

Market Drayton Gingerbread

Between 1817 and 1937 gingerbread was produced in Market Drayton. The secret recipe was then bought by baker Sidney Hayward Hughes of Cheswardine. Following his death, his son John Hayward Hughes and wife May carried on the business in the same bakery. The gingerbread was exported to many countries, but during the war years it was only baked at Christmas as ingredients were rationed. Production continued until their retirement in 1997, celebrating 60 years of gingerbread manufacture by the Hughes family in Cheswardine.

The rights to the recipe were then sold and it is being produced once again under licence in Market Drayton and sold in our Community Shop!

The Shropshire Union Canal

This stretch of the 'Shroppie' was built as part of the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal which was then absorbed by the Ellesmere and Chester Canal in 1845. It became part of the Shropshire Union Canal in 1846. The engineers were Thomas Telford and Alexander Easton. Its mileposts and red sandstone bridges are designated heritage assets that are almost 200 years old. Rope marks on the bridges are a reminder of the days when horses towed the boats: picking up grit from the towpath, the rope would bite into the stonework and in later years iron fenders. The canal is a unique habitat supporting many plants and animals. Badgers, otters, water voles and kingfishers have all been spotted along this stretch of the Shropshire Union Canal.



DOMESDAY BOOK 1086

CISEWORDE

1086

CHESEWARDA

1160

CHESEWORD

1200

CHESWORDIN

1260

CHESWURTHYN

1300

CHESWARTHIN

1376

CHESWARDYNE

1470

CHESWARDEN

1650

CHESWARDINE

Present



Cheswardine Hall

Cheswardine Hall was built by the Donaldson-Hudson family between 1875 and 1880. The house and 3500 acre estate was one of the last mansions built in the UK: it remained their family home until 1949. The following 35 years saw the hall change hands a number of times, it even being used as a school. In 1984 the Poole family took ownership of the hall opening its doors as a prestigious and specialist care home for the elderly.



St Swithun's Church

The parish church, dedicated to St Swithun, overlooks Cheswardine from the hill at the top of the village. This, at least the third church on this site, was rebuilt between 1887 and 1889 under the direction of John Loughborough Pearson, the esteemed architect, who died before the work was completed. The work was completed with the assistance of funding by the then squire of the Cheswardine Estate, Charles Donaldson-Hudson, who evidently provided half of the estimated cost of £8,500.

The church contains some fine windows by Clayton & Bell and Kempe, plus a number of interesting wall plaque memorials. St. Katherine's chapel has a 15th century roof from the former Cheswardine Castle. The peal of six bells is regularly rung. Land just north of the church was granted to Hamon le Strange in 1155. A manor house surrounded by a moat was built soon after. The manor was rebuilt as a small castle between 1250 and 1350. Ownership passed to the Earl of Arundel and Surrey in 1376. The moat, earthworks and some buried ruins remain on private land.

