

14A. Chilwell & Bramcote Appendix – Further Information on Sites along the Walk

The walk routes are drawn using Open Street Maps from the internet <https://www.openstreetmap.org>, with some use of Google Maps <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&q=google+maps>, and old maps are from Old Maps Online <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/England> and National Library of Scotland, Ordnance Survey Maps <https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>

Facts, descriptions, old photographs and historical information used in the walks are from sources openly available on the internet. The sources are recorded with links – readers can use the links (available at time of writing – 2025) to obtain further information.

1. Graduation House

This site in Chilwell had previously been used as a college for over 50 years. A new building was constructed in the late 2000s.

In the 1990s it was Broxtowe College. The college merged with The People's College in Nottingham in 2006 to form Castle College. This merged with South Nottingham College in 2011 and the merged college, with over ten sites in Nottinghamshire, was renamed Central College Nottingham in 2012. This name was used for the tramstop. However, in 2017, Central College merged with New College Nottingham,



which itself was a merger of Arnold and Carlton College, Basford Hall College of Further Education, Clarendon College of Further Education and the High Pavement Sixth Form College. The new name for the merged colleges is Nottingham College, one of the largest colleges in the UK, with around 40,000 full-time and part-time students.

Not many years later, Nottingham college decided to close the Chilwell site and it was bought by Nottingham based ALB Group in 2020. A scheme to convert the building into student flats (162 beds) obtained planning approval in 2022.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/property/former-nottingham-college-site-beeston-7382714>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_College

2. Barton House

Barton House was the home of the Bartons Bus Company. Bartons was founded in 1908 by Thomas Henry Barton as one of Britain's earliest bus companies – in 2010 a blue plaque was unveiled by Beeston and District Civic Society to commemorate Barton 'The Guv'nor'.

The company grew to be, for many years, the largest independent operator in the country but bus deregulation (Transport Act 1985) ironically made Bartons uncompetitive, leading to the sale of the transport business in 1989.

The new owners were the Wellglade Group which was formed in 1986 when Brian King and Ian Morgan purchased Trent Buses from the National Bus Company in a management buyout. Wellglade made other purchases, widening their service coverage from Leicester to Sheffield and out to the Peak District. They also created a partnership with Vinci, Alstom and Keolis to form Tramlink Nottingham.



Sometime after Barton's sale of the bus operations, the site on High Road became an events venue – The Garage. In 2008 Bartons plc hosted an innovative stage-show to celebrate the Centenary of the company, and from then the firm experimented with artistic uses of the garage buildings. In the years following, The Garage has delivered an impressive range of events, including Club Nights, Beer Festivals, Indoor and Drive

in Cinemas, Modern Art Exhibitions, Food Festivals, Stand-Up Comedy, Silent Discos, Music Festivals, and artisan Markets.

In September 2012 The Garage hosted 'Tram-a-geddon', a heritage event, comedy shows and Oxjam music which was to be "a campaign of culture, heritage, laughter and fun"....

"The Chilwell and Beeston fightback... Brash, foolish and likely to be doomed, Bartons fight back the Monsters of the devious 'tram' attack, when the battle for the soul of the town that no one realised had begun had been all but lost! Deciding on their weapons, they scraped about - to discover all they had to fight with were Comedians! No one could predict the outcome, but few thought that things could get worse! 'Wish us luck - by gum, we will need it!'"

In 2025, the events are run by Barton Bros. Limited, the fifth generation of the Barton family to have worked at the site.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barton_Transport

<https://www.bartonsplc.co.uk/index.php/2012-01-23-22-22-17/history-introduction>

<https://www.bartonsplc.co.uk/index.php/about-mobile/press-mobile/item/tram-a-geddon>

<https://thegaragechilwell.co.uk/>

3. G H Hurt & Son

Lace manufacture is very much part of our local history, starting from 1589 when Nottinghamshire's Rev. William Lee invented the world's first stocking frame, thus transforming the speed of knitting. Then, in 1769 Sir Richard Arkwright developed the first spinning machines in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. In 1780, Susanna Arkwright, his daughter, married Charles Hurt.

In 1912, George Henry Hurt establishes G.H.Hurt & Son. The business began in an old seed warehouse built in 1781 and has remained on this site. George sold shawls and scarves knitted on his ancient handframes. From "The Shawl Factory" the business designs and manufactures *"the finest quality ladies shawls and scarves, baby christening shawls and a variety of heritage knitted lace products celebrating 400 years of this proud British industry. Whether you are looking for a beautiful lace shawl, stole or scarf, we have the latest seasons styles and colours to complete any outfit. G.H.Hurt & Son are proud to have been awarded The Queen's Awards for Enterprise: International Trade 2021"*.



In 1939, the period film "Gone with the Wind" features a mohair shawl from the company and in 1965 one of its knitted lace shawls was worn by Julie Christie braving the Russian winter in Doctor Zhivago.

Apparently, soon after Prince Charles's birth in 1948, the Queen bought many of Hurt's shawls and Prince Charles and Princess Diana also wrapped their son, Prince William in one of Hurt's shawls as were his children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

<https://uk.linkedin.com/company/g-h-hurt-son>

<https://www.ghhurt.com/blogs/discover/our-history>

<https://www.tatler.com/article/henry-hurt-master-knitter-whose-luxury-shawls-swaddled-royal-new-borns-obituary>

4. Chetwynd Barracks

Early military presence was the main reason for the area's population growth which increased substantially during World War I when most of the area of level ground between Chilwell and Toton was occupied by the National Shell Filling Factory No. 6. On 1 July 1918, 134 people were killed in an explosion at the factory, with over 250 people injured in the explosion. This tragedy was the largest number of deaths caused by a single explosion in Britain. The memorial to the dead can be found in nearby church yard of St Mary's, Attenborough.

The army continued to dominate the area with the factory becoming a major depot site for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and more recently for the Royal Engineers. The Chilwell Bypass Road was constructed in the 1930s to take army traffic out of the village centre.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chetwynd_Barracks <https://www.greatwarforum.org/blogs/entry/2773-chillwell-national-shell-filling-factory-no-6/> <https://heritagecalling.com/2018/06/29/the-chilwell-catastrophe-fatal-explosion-on-the-home-front/>

5. Bramcote

Lots about the history of Bramcote can be found on the Bramcote Local History Group website

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/village-history>

The name is thought to be Saxon in origin and to mean “dwelling in the broom”, as reflected in this poem.

‘BRAMCOTE’ THE HOME IN THE BROOM



Golden the Broom on the gentle slope
Of the small hill facing south to the sun.
Golden the Broom on the windswept moor
Fighting for space now the builders have
done.

Thick grew the Broom when the Saxon came,
Settling his family here on the hill.
‘Bramcote,’ home in the Broom, he named it
And Broom and Bramcote thrive here still.

S. Town, 1965

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/gallery/bramcote-village-photos>

Bronze Age remains have been found here in the form of two burial urns discovered in 1978 when building work was being carried out. The Domesday Book of 1086 provides the first mention of a village called Bruncote or Broncote in the Wapentake (administrative district) of Broxtowe.

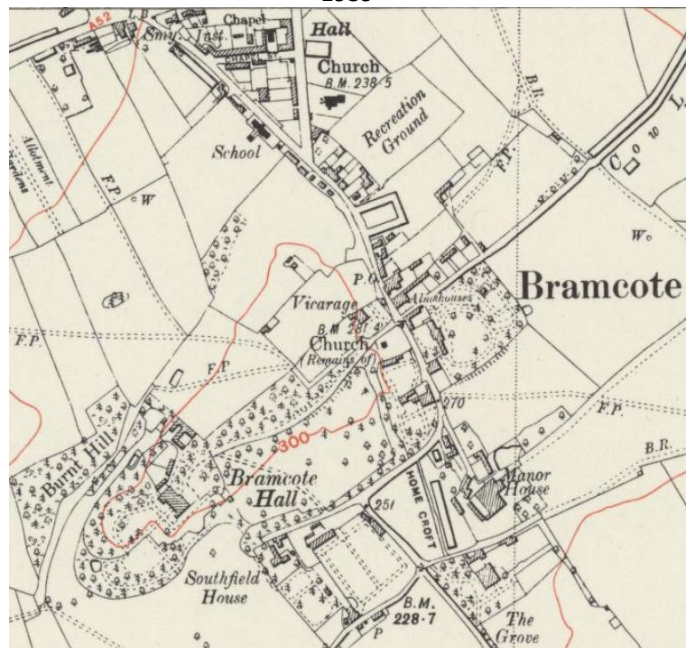
For many centuries Bramcote was mainly agricultural but during the first half of the 19th Century people moved towards framework knitting and coal mining and the population increased from 354 in 1801 to 722 by the 1851 census. In the Victorian period Bramcote became a popular place to live for wealthy business people who enjoyed its rural quiet. White’s Directory of 1864 described it as “one of the most delightful villages in the whole county ; it is scaled upon several lofty hills, from which extensive and beautiful prospects are seen, and contains several handsome mansions occupied by their owners...”

Between the 1800s and 1940, there was little development in the village, as evident from these old maps.

1884



1939



There has been significant change since WW2, with substantial areas of housing built to the east of the village, on both sides of the A52. However, the old village streets remain much as they were a century ago.

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/village-history> <https://bramcoteneighbourhoodforum.org.uk/about-bramcote/>

6. Manor House

Grade II* Listed Manor house, built in 1625 but incorporating part of a C16 manor house, with C20 alterations and additions. Today, the Manor House is probably regarded as the most beautiful private home in Bramcote.

The north side of Bramcote Manor House, c.1910.
<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/doubleday/bramcote2.htm>



The Manor House now
Photo courtesy of Val Bird

The manor of Bramcote was in the possession of the Hanley family from 1564 until 1650. Their coat of arms (granted in 1612) is displayed in St Michael's Church.

Succeeding families to live in the Manor House were the Sherwins and Longdens who relocated to their new home of Bramcote Hills House in 1805 (situated c700yds north of Derby Road, demolished in 1969). The Manor House then became a rented farmhouse.

By 1919 the owner of the farm was Ernest Frank Holden, a descendant of the Sherwins, and the property was one of 70 lots offered for sale. Described as "a valuable mixed dairy farm together with old fashioned residence and extensive range of farm buildings" plus 156 acres, it was purchased by Elias Joule for £6000. In the 1920s, Fred Mitchell and others bought the Manor House and its extensive estate and resold the house itself but kept most of the acreage to create the Beeston Fields Golf Course.

In recent times the succession of private owners have renovated the building, which stands in a small private estate with no access for the general public.

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/village-history/bramcote-manor-house>

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101263875-the-manor-house-and-adjoining-terrace-broxtowe-bramcote-ward>

7. The Grove

St John's College, founded as the London College of Divinity, was an Anglican and interdenominational theological college situated in Bramcote. The college was of the open evangelical tradition and stated that its mission was "to inspire creative Christian learning marked by evangelical conviction, theological excellence and Spirit-filled life, that all who train with us might be equipped for mission in a world of change".

The college was established as the London College of Divinity in 1863. It was founded by the Reverend Alfred Peache and his sister, Kezia, who had inherited their businessman father's fortune in 1858. The college was established to provide an evangelical theological education to men who could not go to university.

After being based at a number of premises in London, it was decided that the college's future lay outside of the capital city and nearer to a university, and a site was available in Nottingham, whose university's theological department was growing in reputation. In 1970, the college moved to The Grove, a Grade II listed Country house built c.1810. The access road, Peache Way, is presumably named after the college founder, the Reverend Peache.



In December 2019, the college closed due to financial constraints that affected its long term viability.

The main building remains and the site is being developed for housing and offices.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_John%27s_College,_Nottingham

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101248244-the-grove-broxtowe-bramcote-ward>

8. Bramcote House

This rather ramshackle building was a care home but was closed in 2015.

The gates have its name

BRACOTE NURSING HOME
BRAMCOTE HOUSE



A BBC report, 5 August 2015, states Bramcote House Nursing Home ... was rated "inadequate" by the Care Quality Commission in a report in January [2015]. Residents have been moved to new accommodation after its owners closed it down at short notice. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-33793639>

A blue plaque on the wall records that Henry John Pearson lived here.

In 1916, in his Historical Articles, Robert Mellors tells that Pearson "commenced business life with Robert Foster, and lived in Broadgate. He afterwards with the co-operation of his youngest brother, Lewis Pearson, formed the Beeston Foundry Co. Ltd., whose operations he largely extended. He was an ardent student of bird life, possessed one of the finest collections of Arctic birds and eggs, and wrote books thereon, one being "Beyond Petsora Eastward," & another "Three Summers among the Birds in Russian Lapland." He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the British Ornithological Society, the Royal Horticultural Society, etc. He took an active part in the Nottingham Convalescent Homes, the Hospital for Women, in Castle Gate, etc. He gave £1,000 towards the Beeston Recreation Ground. He died in 1913 in Egypt, and the body was the following year interred in Attenborough Churchyard. There is a memorial window in Bramcote Church, with representations of Moses, the Lawgiver, and Christ the Good Shepherd. He was a man of refined tastes, combined with great business energy and force of character, and he largely increased employment in the parish".

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/beeston9.htm>



9. The Gables

The Gables, 101 Town Street, is a mid C18 Grade II Listed building, in brick with pebbledash.

10. The Grange

The Grange was built c1830 and it is probable that it was designed specifically for Charlotte, the widow of John Longden. John had been the squire of Bramcote and original owner of Bramcote Hills House (which was situated north of Derby Road, off this Walk route).

John and Charlotte's eldest son and heir, eventually became John Sherwin Gregory through inheritance of other properties. He married in 1829 and set up home with his wife, Catherine, at The Hills. His widowed mother needed a new residence and thus she lived at The Grange with her daughter.

The property continued to be owned and let by the Sherwin Gregorlys and then the related Holden family until 1919 when it was sold to the then tenant, Henry Enfield, a Nottingham solicitor. Following the death of Miss Mary Enfield in 1946, the house and contents were sold along with 19 acres of land and 15 cottages.

No longer in use as a family home, The Grange became a research laboratory for The British Sugar Corporation and was then converted into small flats for students at St. John's Theological College (see 7). Latterly it has been modernised and transformed into 10 luxury apartments.

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/village-history/the-grange>

11. Frances Jane Longden Almshouses

These four Grade II Listed homes were erected in 1852. The patron was Frances Jane Longden, the sister of John Sherwin Gregory of Bramcote Manor. She endowed the almshouses to provide accommodation for four poor women of the parish who were to receive two shillings weekly and two tons of coal each year.



The datestone is located just off centre of the building with the wording “Almshouses erected by Frances Jane Longden 1852”. Nottingham Community Housing Association assumed ownership in 2007.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frances_Longden_Almshouses <https://www.ncha.org.uk/>

12. White Lion

Described by Nottingham’s Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) as an “unspoilt village pub”, the White Lion is known locally as the ‘Top House’. This Grade II Listed building, built mid C18 and mid C19 has been serving beer since the early 1800’s.

13. St Michaels & All Angels Church

St Michael and All Angels Church, was opened on 12 December 1861, replacing the previous Parish Church of Bramcote, the tower of which still remains (see 18). In 1862 the Archdeacon of Nottingham, the Venerable George Wilkins, gave a permit for demolition of the old church, and re-use of part of the stone in building the boundary wall of the new church. John Sherwin Gregory Esq, one of the churchwardens, gave the land for the new church. The 13th-century font from the old church was transferred to the new church. The spire of the church is 130 feet high and underwent major repairs in 2011 – the church's 150th anniversary year.

The church is Grade II listed and is described as having C14, C14 and C15 style. The new building to the left of the church was added in 1992.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_St_Michael_and_All_Angels,_Bramcote

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/bramcote/hhistory.php>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1247920?section=official-list-entry>

14. Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall was erected in 1923 as a permanent memorial to honour the 15 men from Bramcote who lost their lives in WW1.

“The Memorial Halls which were erected in so many villages after the 14-18 war have done a great deal towards enriching village life. There is surely no better way of commemorating those who died for their country than by making that country a better place to live in, and the Memorial Halls have helped in no small way to do this. Bramcote’s is constantly booked; badminton clubs, Pathfinders, W.I., handicrafts, children’s dancing class, socials and youth dances, school meals service, produce shows and Christmas fairs, not to mention the baby clinic run by the Welfare State every fortnight in the hall.”

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/special-events>

<https://charityhistory.wordpress.com/2023/04/19/bramcote-memorial-hall/>

15. Broom Hill Terrace

Now 2 houses, Grade II Listed Broom Hill Terrace is a surviving example of a framework knitter's house, built in early C19. The top storey is full of windows designed to let in plenty of light so that people could work at the frame knitting machines. There were several of these in the village which have now been demolished. Eventually competition from factories meant that the villagers had to diversify and many went into domestic service or travelled to the large factories in Beeston or Stapleford.

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/village-history>



16. The Village Nursery

This used to be the village school opened in 1885. The lands and funds for the building were gifted to the village by Catherine Sherwin Gregory of Bramcote Hills House. The Sherwin Gregory coat of arms is above the front porch. <https://her.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/Monument/MNT27781>



17. King George's Park

On 30 January 1936 upon the death of His Majesty King George V a foundation was formed and was named "King George's Fields". The aim of this foundation was to "promote and to assist in the establishment of playing fields for the use of and enjoyment of the people", every playing field to be named 'King George's Field' and to be distinguished at each entrance by displaying the Heraldic Panels.

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/media/1830/king-georges-park-bramcote-management-plan.pdf>



18. Old Church

This medieval church (of which only the tower survives) was built in the 13th and 14th centuries. It is the oldest surviving building in Bramcote and is Grade II listed.

There is no mention of either church or priest in Bramcote in the Domesday Book. There is an indirect reference to a chapel in Bramcote in 1246 (the word 'chapel' is used here to mean 'a small church'). In 1344 the vicarage at Attenbrough was endowed and the deed of endowment mentions the chapelry of Bramcote as a dependency.

The Early English Gothic style stone church was a small building, not more than 40 feet long and 14 feet broad – the surviving tower is only 10 feet square inside. This drawing imagines what the church may have looked like. The church would have seated about 30 people. The first known rector was Geoffrey de Westmeles, who was also responsible for the mother church at Attenborough. It had close links with the Lenton Priory.



The church closed in 1861, and the nave and aisle were demolished the following year, apparently because it was too small for the size of the parish. The original intention seems to have been to demolish the whole building, but on 17 September 1862 the Archdeacon of Nottingham, the Venerable George Wilkins, issued an order granting permission to demolish the old church, to use part of the stone in building the boundary wall of the new church, and to dispose of the remainder. This exempted the tower 'which shall be retained to house the monuments'.

The tower stood as a ruin for many years but since 2004 has been extensively restored. A modern stained-glass window designed by Escape, a group of women artists, has been installed.

A medieval-style community garden has been created in the churchyard with information panels, seats and stone sculptures by Andy Smith. A grant from East Midlands Airport Community Fund, together with support from Nottinghamshire County Council, has led to the provision of an interpretation panel which has been erected on site for visitors to learn more about the Old Church.

In 2011 responsibility for the Old Church Tower passed to a specially formed charitable trust 'Bramcote Old Church Tower Trust'. In August 2015 the Heritage Lottery Fund gave initial support of £50,800 for the further development of the project to continue restoring the Old Church Tower and to provide new amenities.

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/bramcote-old-church/hhistory.php>

19. Old Vicarage

The old vicarage for the church was part-tiled, part-thatched with three lower rooms, three chambers, two cellars, and a garden. This house was replaced in 1841 by a house which still stands. Certain refinements were added in 1867 including the bays.

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/bramcote-old-church/hhistory.php>

The building remained the vicarage for St Michael and All Angels Church until early 2025 when a new vicar was housed in the new vicarage provided by the Diocese on The Chancery and the old vicarage was sold. <https://saintmichaelsbramcote.com/2024/12/02/a-new-vicar-of-bramcote/>



20. Bramcote Hall

Bramcote Hall was built around 1832. It occupied land of around 100 acres and was southwest facing with adjoining outbuildings and a large stable block. The earliest known occupant was banker Charles White who lived here from 1837 to the late 1950s when he moved to Stapleford Hall (demolished in 1930s). Another banker, Frederic Chatfield Smith, who had lived at The Grove (see 7), moved in around the late 1950s – early 1860s. He altered and enlarged the Hall until it became a mansion with 21 bedrooms that could comfortably accommodate his 11 surviving children together with the staff he retained.

1884 map with walk route shown in red



Bramcote Hall



The Hall with extensions, including a tower block.



F C Smith was one of the many Smith family descendants of Thomas Smith who created Smiths' Bank in Nottingham. In 1658 Thomas Smith bought some premises at the corner of Peck Lane (which runs between Cheapside and St Peters Gate) where he originally carried on the business of a mercer, and at about the year 1688 he added a Bank, the origin of the oldest country Banking House in England, with which the name of Smith has for generations been connected.

The Smith family, over many generations, lived at many large halls and houses across Nottinghamshire, including Wilford Hall (see Walk 1, Wilford Village) and twenty-two family members were MPs, seven of them sat in the House of Commons in one Parliament.

F C Smith was the MP for the Northern Division of Nottinghamshire for nearly 12 years, Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire. and High Sheriff of Nottingham in 1874.

F C Smith died in 1905 and his wife, Harriet Matilda, died in 1914, just after the outbreak of WW1. The war saw the demise, generally, of large country houses and the redeployment of those who had worked "in service" — it was the end of an era. The Smith family decided to sell The Hall in 1920.

The property was bought by Trent College (Long Eaton) in 1921 and it became a prep school. The Hall became the school building with accommodation for the headmaster. The stable block was converted to staff accommodation and a gym, the coach house area became an outdoor swimming pool and the out buildings became workshops.

In late 1964 Trent College sold the Hall to Nottingham University. The University's original plan was use the Hall as a Postgraduate Centre but this did not come to realisation and the house fell into disrepair and was badly damaged by fire. Most of the buildings were demolished in 1969 with the remainder going in the early 1990s.

The area is still owned by Nottingham University and is now completely wooded – Bramcote Woods.

Thanks to Christopher Upton and the Bramcote History Group.

<https://bramcotehistory.org.uk/village-history>

https://stapleford-notts.co.uk/Bramcote_Hall_Nottingham_Nottinghamshire.htm

21. Inham Nook

The Inham Nook estate (including the Inham Nook pub) was built by Beeston and Stapleford Urban District Council on land to the west of Bramcote Lane from the 1950s; St Barnabas's Church was constructed in 1957 as a "mission church" to serve the new population. For many years, Inham Nook's council housing was in sharp contrast to the surrounding areas of middle class suburban owner-occupation. Since the 1980s right to buy legislation, tenure has been more mixed, but Inham Nook remains relatively deprived compared to other areas in the southern part of Broxtowe borough. The council, in partnership with NET, have recently spent £100,000 on refurbishment works to the Inham Nook sports pavilion to help improve local facilities for the community.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chilwell>

22. St. Barnabas Church

St Barnabas Church stands at the top of Inham Road, at the western end of the parish of Chilwell. It was opened in 1957 as a daughter church of Christ Church, Chilwell, to serve the new housing estate, Inham Nook. The building on the site today was originally intended as a church hall, with a large open space left adjoining Inham Road for the church. It became clear that funding would not be available for a new church, and at various times in the past fifty years the building has been modified to provide suitable church and community facilities. A major extension completed in 1999 has converted the building into a main hallway, used as a church and, during the week, community area (with shutters to close off the sanctuary), and rooms, a kitchen and modern toilet facilities to provide space for additional church and community activities.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Barnabas_Church,_Inham_Nook

<https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/inham-nook/hhistory.php>