

£1.00

Walks in Petham



Foreword

This booklet is produced by Petham Parish Council through the Parish Paths Partnership scheme with support from the Strategic Planning Department of Kent County Council and The Countryside Agency.

We hope you will enjoy getting to know Petham through the walks it offers.

Acknowledgments

The House on the Hill, by J.R.V. Thompson, 1988, for much of the information in the *Notes on Places of Interest* sections.

George Maynard for illustration and cover design.

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Useful information

Maps: It should be possible to complete the walks using only the instructions and maps provided, but an OS map may be helpful. Recommended is OS Explorer 150, which covers all four walks.

Buses: Service 620 from Canterbury to Hastingleigh, via Petham, is run by Poynters Coaches. Buses are not frequent (between four and six per day) and there are none on Sundays. To check times see timetables or tel. 01233 812002.

Parking: Petham has no public car park and few open spaces for vehicles. Walks starting from the church may use the space opposite the school but please take care not to obstruct the church entrance in the event of weddings or funerals. There is some space in the lay-by lower down the hill and for walks starting from Kenfield Cricket Ground limited space under trees at the corner of the ground. If parking along roads please take care not to obstruct gateways or prevent the passage of agricultural vehicles.

Stiles: All the walks involve crossing at least one stile; ensure that there is adequate help for the less agile – and for unathletic dogs!

Footwear: The countryside can be a muddy place, especially after heavy rain. Stout shoes or boots are recommended.

Care of the countryside: Please read and heed the Country Code printed on *Page 14*.

Walk 1: Around Petham village

A gentle stroll (about ¾ mile) around the village centre & a look at its history

*For items in **Bold** and on map see notes on Pages 6 & 7.*

- Starting from **Church**, continue uphill along road. Take footpath signed right through iron gates into churchyard. Continue, keeping downhill, over stile and down along field edge to second stile.
- Bear slightly right across meadow towards third stile in line of trees ahead. With children's playground to your right, narrow path leads uphill left of block of flats to a road named Duckpit.
- For a view of **Petham House** walk left along Duckpit for about 200 yards to white gate on right at foot of hill. Return and continue ahead into The Street.
- Cross Church Lane and continue for about 50 yards along Town Road to **Dormer Cottage**. Immediately past the cottage, turn right down footpath to Recreation Ground. Continue ahead to gap in hedge, cross sleeper bridge, and follow path uphill through cultivated land (about 150 yards). Good view of layout of village from here.
- Turn back sharp right to path leading downhill, over two stiles to join Church Lane near village hall. A few yards along road to right is **China Court**.
Retrace and continue uphill back to Church.

Map for Walk 1.



Notes on places of particular interest

Petham Church dates from 1287, on the site of an earlier building mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086. In 1922 nave and tower were gutted by fire and the roof was destroyed. The decorated roof beams are a feature of the rebuilding in 1923.

Petham School: the present building dates from 1885, the original School House now forming part of the school premises.

Petham House dates from 1814, but in its present form it goes back to 1850. It has been handsomely restored by the present owners since 1985.

In the Street, Petham:

(On the right:)

The Old Bakehouse: 17th century, formerly a general stores and post office.

Old Hall: dates from c.1360, a mediaeval oak-framed hall house, thatched until 1959. Originally single storey, the first floor rooms were added between 1580 and 1620.

Cotterell Court: (1500-1520) another hall house, extensively restored in the 1950s, on the site of the Saxon court house where the monthly courts for the Petham "Hundred" (the Saxon administrative area) were held. It has a 50 foot deep, flint-lined well.



(On the left):

Virginia Cottage and **Forge Cottage** are both 17th century and would originally have been pairs of smaller cottages.

Duke House, now a private house, was the village pub until 1998.

Lyon House ("Lyons Tea Sold Here") was village shop, post office until the 1980s, and at an earlier stage boasted petrol pumps, too.

(After crossing Church Lane)

Dormer Cottage: (1340-1380), the oldest house in Petham, retains its thatch, has wattle and daub partition inside and has a timber chimney, probably added around 1600.

China Court (1506-1526), originally an end-jettied hall house, had first floor rooms added around 1550.

When below ground water levels rise, the Nailbourne stream flows down to the right of the village hall, under the road, and the low-lying area opposite the village hall is transformed into the Marble Pond, with the stream flowing out through the drainage pipes at the far end.

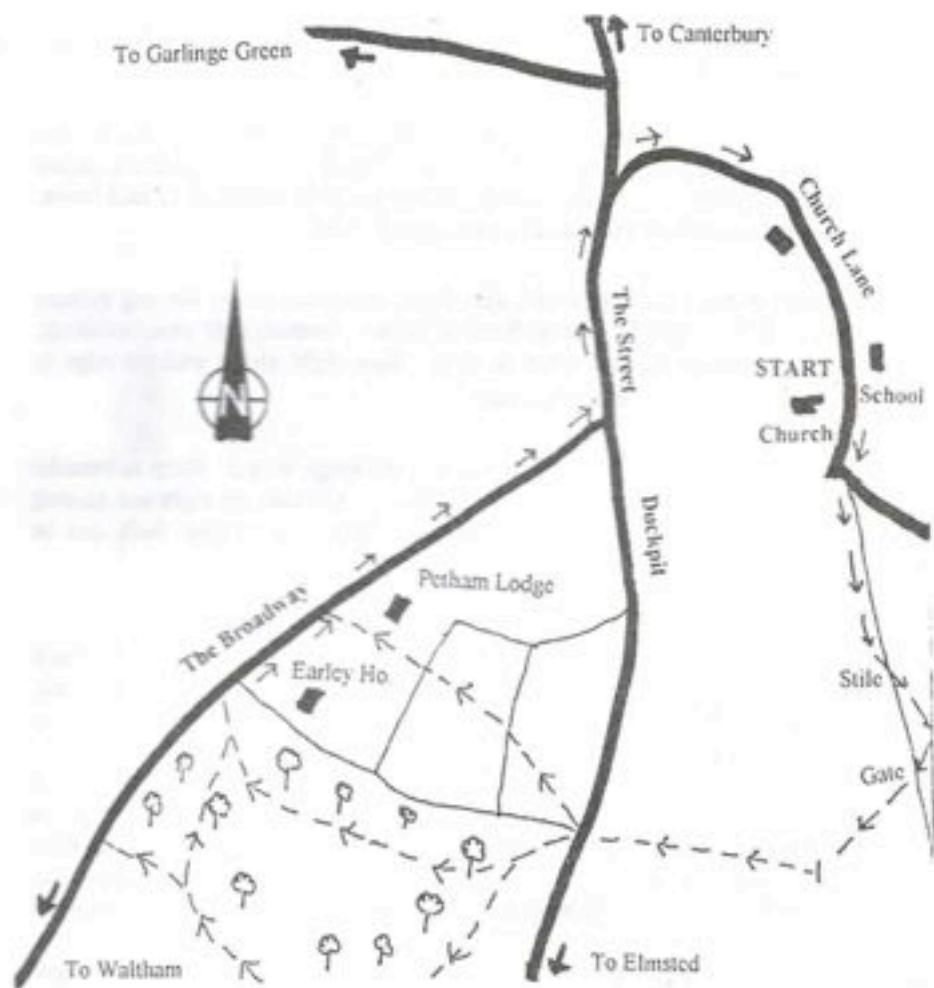


Walk 2: A Field and Woodland Walk.

A 2 ½ mile circular walk with some uphill walking and fine views, especially pretty at bluebell time.

- From Petham Church follow Church Lane uphill. Where road swings downhill left, continue ahead over stile (or through gate) uphill along ridge. Fine views back towards village and down into valleys. Continue as far as stile on left.
- Although cart track continues, the public footpath crosses stile to go slightly left and downhill to meet a bridleway. At this T-junction turn right uphill again. Go through gate at top and follow bridleway diagonally left across cultivated land. At the next gate continue downhill to join the Duckpit (i.e. road in valley bottom).
- Cross road. Alternative routes are now available:
- *Via Earley Wood.* Take path through gate on left with Woodland Trust sign. For shortest route bear right at first fork within wood, or continue ahead for route around wood. All uphill paths lead eventually to The Broadway, the main Petham/Waltham road.
- *Or:* Take stile into field immediately right of Earley Wood entrance. Cross diagonally uphill to next stile, and continue in direction of arrow. From here follow marked track to The Broadway.
- Whichever route has been taken, turn right on to The Broadway. **Note lack of pavement for 200 yards if emerging from wood.** Take care of children or dogs. Follow road back through village, turning right into Church Lane and going uphill to Church.

Map for Walk 2: Field and woodland



Walk 3: From Kenfield to Bonsai Bank Nature Reserve

A circular walk of about 3½ miles through fields, orchards and woodland to Bonsai Bank Nature Reserve in Denge Wood.

Start from Kenfield Cricket Ground i.e. turn off The Street, Petham, uphill towards Garlings Green & continue for about ½ mile.

- Across road from cricket pavilion a bridle way leads across fields into woodland & then along edge of orchards. From corner of orchard follow clear signs (yellow) to right and then left immediately before detached house. Cross short stretch of woodland to join unmade road.
- Bear right along road to gate of Capel Farm, down driveway, leaving granary to left and bear right to pass in front of house. Immediately past buildings, turn left uphill along cart track to stile. Turn right along orchard edge to corner, then left to reach another stile.
- Cross stile and follow broad track to left into Denge Wood. Keep to broader right fork where path enters wood. In about 200 yards on right are kissing gate and notice-board for entry to Bonsai Bank. A circular walk can be followed within the fenced area.

To return:

- **Shorter route:** Retrace steps to where you entered the fenced area. Go back as far as stile. Do not cross it but continue down track to meet unmade road, past Denge Wood Farm (on right) and Charing Cottage (on left) as far as Garlinge Green. Turn right at T-junction back to cricket ground.
- **Longer route** (about another ½ mile): Leave Bonsai Bank by kissing gate at foot of slope. Bear right along track through Denge Wood. Keep straight on where path joins from left. At next fork keep left on level track; at third junction (with Woodland Trust sign) keep right. Right again at T-junction. Eventually broad track leads uphill with coppiced area below left. Keep left at top of rise. Farm track leads to Garlinge Green, passing Garlinge Court Farm on right. At the green itself bear right on to Garlinge Green Road and back to cricket ground.

Walk 4: To Garlinge Green via Swarling Manor & Kenfield Hall

A circular, fairly level, 3½ mile walk through fields and woodland, with views of fine, historic houses.

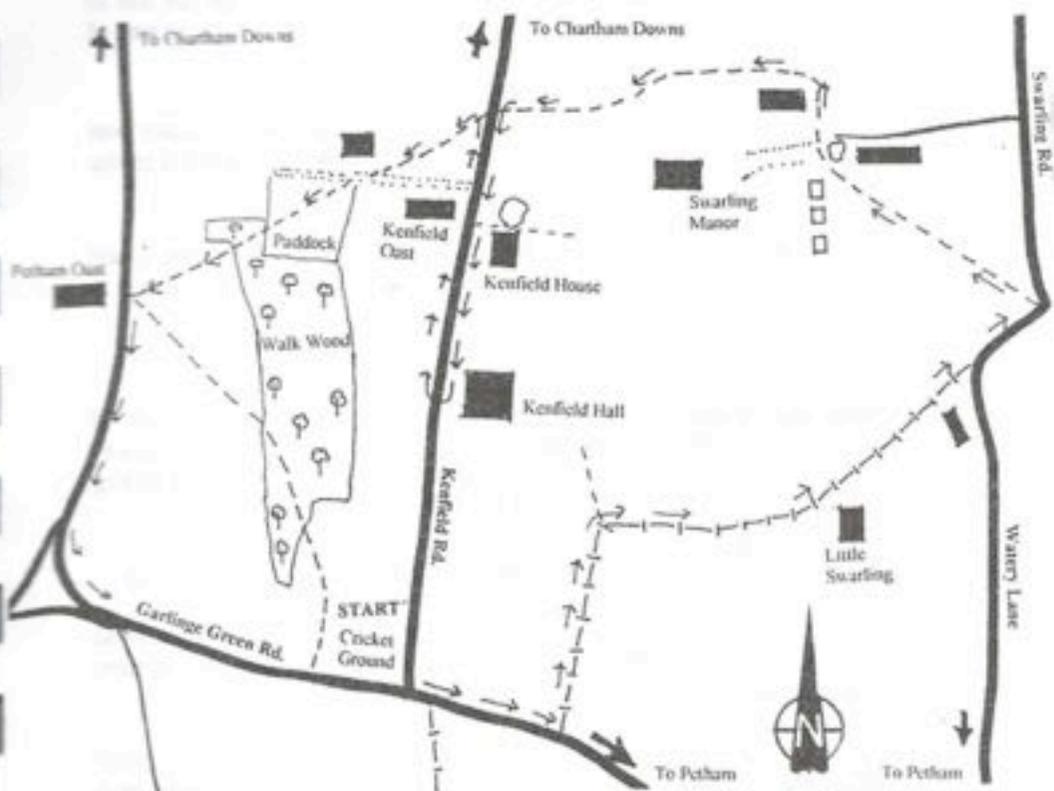
Start from Kenfield Cricket Ground. From Petham centre, turn up Vicarage Hill towards Garlinge Green for about ½ mile. *See Page 14 for notes on places of interest in bold type.*

- Walk back towards Petham village. In about 200 yards you will see a bridleway sign on left. Take this path. It leads gently downhill, bearing right to pass between woodland (on left) and hedgerow, giving way to open field (on right).
- In about ½ mile the path joins a broad cart track. Bear right downhill past **Little Swarling** (cottage on right) to join **Watery Lane**.
- Turn left into lane for about 80 yds. Follow footpath signed left across stile, diagonally across a small field, to pass between grain silos on left and a row of cottages on right.
- Continue ahead, leaving Swarling Manor's duckpond to right, and look for broad grassy track leading left beyond a beech hedge and converted oast house block. Take this path to pass in front of **Swarling Manor** before crossing a stile and following the track through fields towards the group of buildings (Kenfield) ahead in the valley bottom.
- Cross another stile to reach road. Take a small diversion left up the road to look at **Kenfield Oast, Kenfield House & Kenfield Hall**.

Return to footpath sign on left. Cross stile and walk towards corrugated barn, passing to its left to cross a track to another stile, leading into a paddock. Head diagonally across the paddock, keeping below woodland, & look for another stile into field.

(Continued on Page 13)

Map for Walk 4



(route notes contd.)

From here track crosses field corner to enter woodland. Follow yellow banded trees through corner of wood to another field. Track crosses field to Petham Oast. Turn left and follow Garlinge Green Road back to Kenfield - or turn sharp left onto footpath and return via field & woodland to Cricket Ground (See map)

Notes on Places of Interest.

Little Swarling: the house stands on what is believed to be the site of the chapel for Swarling Manor, mentioned in Domesday Book as one of Petham's two churches.

The single storey cottage on the right as you reach Watery Lane was once a kitchen providing for East End hop-pickers who camped in the area annually.

Watery Lane is well named. The Nailbourne bed runs alongside it and in earlier times it must have been even more prone to flooding than it is today.

Swarling Manor: There was Iron Age and Roman occupation of Swarling, and the manor is mentioned in Domesday Book. The present house dates from 1760, and the surrounding cottages and oast building now form a complex of holiday accommodation.

Kenfield Oast : built in 1857, with five kilns, now a private dwelling.

Kenfield House: a former farmhouse and, at one time, Dower House for Kenfield Hall. Very little of the early house remains, the present building dating from the eighteenth century.

Kenfield Hall: present house built in 1730 on the site of an earlier building. A painting *Cricket at Kenfield*, by William Pratt, dating from 1760, hangs in the pavilion at Lords, though the representation of the house does not match what we see today. During its history the house has been family home, boys' preparatory school, wartime base for the Royal Army Medical Corps, the home of a religious charity, Subud, and, since 1982, a private nursing home.

Petham Oast : originally two oasts, built in 1836 & 1883, outbuildings to Sappington Farm, later becoming separate cottages and converted to a single house in 1960.

Follow the Country Code

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work

Guard against all risk of fire

Fasten all gates

Keep dogs under close control

Keep to public paths across farmland

Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges & walls

Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone

Take your litter home

Protect wildlife , plants and trees

Take special care on country roads

Make no unnecessary noise

