



Historic Pubs close at hand.

1 The Park View (formerly The Lamb), Salvington Rd, Durrington, Worthing, BN13 2JR. It was said that the pub was first run by a retired shepherd, hence its original name. The local friendly society, cricket club, and football club, all used to hold their annual dinners at the pub.



The Park View

2 The Coach and Horses, Arundel Rd, Worthing, BN13 3UA. According to local legend, when the wealthy and profligate Walker brothers of Michelgrove (see '8' below) were forced to sell their great mansion after squandering their inheritance, their canny butler used the money he had saved to buy the Coach and Horses, employing his disgraced former employers as barmen!



The Coach and Horses

3 The World's End (formerly the Horse and Groom), Arundel Rd, Patching, BN13 3UQ. Today's pub has been expanded to include a row of cottages to the east. Local gamekeeper Frank West, who was born in one of these cottages in the early years of the



The World's End

last century, celebrated his eightieth birthday with a pub lunch in what was once his old front room! To the east of the World's End is **Patching Pond**, a local beauty spot popular with both residents and visitors alike for over 200 years.



Patching Pond

4 The Bull's Head, Goring Street, Worthing, BN12 5AR. This is probably the oldest local pub, dating back to at least 1770, and possibly far earlier. In the seventeenth century, puritan magistrates closed 'the inn at Goring' on account of the lewd conduct of its patrons. In 1907, an inquest held in the pub into the deaths of two young farm labourers who had been killed by lightning.



The Bull's Head

5 Whitebeam Woods, Worthing BN13 3PS. As Durrington expanded westwards, so planners understood the need to retain something of the old rural character in the advancing urban area.

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Parkland within Clapham Woods

Clapham Common, is situated to the south of the village and borders the A27 and was once an area where villagers could graze their livestock and collect winter firewood. However, in the early nineteenth century the common was 'enclosed', becoming the property of Captain Pechell MP, owner of Castle Goring. Pechell was unremitting in his determination to prosecute villagers who continued 'trespassing' on his land and collecting firewood during the winter.

11 St. Mary the Virgin Church, BN13 3UU. The church is found along a unmade road that exits Clapham Street to the left and is signposted. On reaching the church you will find a car-parking area. The isolated location of the church, coupled with the medieval farm buildings close by, may suggest that an earlier village was once situated around the church. A house in the woods called

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St. Mary the Virgin Church

century. This restoration has created a curious mix of the medieval and the Victorian, which is especially obvious in the interior of the church, where the rather 'heavy' decoration and patterning, popular in the later nineteenth century, sits uneasily with the less showy craftwork of an earlier age. Further information can be found at <https://sussexparishchurches.org/church/clapham-st-mary/>

Lee Farm, the outlier of the parish to the north-west of the village, which has been part of Angmering parish since 1933, was a leper colony in medieval times. The narrow window in the south wall of Clapham church is believed to be a 'lepers' window' through which those from the colony could receive the Holy Sacrament.

Folklore and Mystery

Few parishes in Sussex are more steeped in stories of superstition and the supernatural than Clapham.

During the 1970s and '80s, stories started circulating of black magic rites taking place within the woods at night-time. People walking their dogs in the woods reported their pets disappearing; it was observed that birds never sang in the woods, and that 'foul odours' would often waft across the footpaths. It was even claimed that a local clergyman may have been a victim of this dark cult. These stories appeared in books, national newspapers, and magazines, and even on television.

The old woodmen, who had spent all their lives working in the woods, who were not interviewed by these writers and journalists, had more rational explanations for all these incidents. They explained that gamekeepers took a dim view of people from Worthing who let their dogs off the lead in the woods, allowing them to run amongst the nesting pheasants. As for the lack of birdsong, they explained that birds never nested in coppiced woods; and the 'smell' was coming from a 'keeper's



Ancient beech tree

gallows,' where gamekeepers hung up 'vermin' they had killed to rot so as to scare away other animals (and, as it turned out – people too). The retired clergyman who had 'mysteriously' disappeared was very unwell and his death was not suspicious.

The stories did, however, begin to have a self-fulfilling effect, with weird and colourful people being attracted to the woods by all the publicity. One night the local policeman was dismayed to find naked people dancing around the church!

The loneliness of the church and the quiet of the woods certainly creates an environment which is in complete contrast to the hustle and bustle of Worthing, one of the largest towns in Sussex. The **ancient beech tree** that can be found off the northern footpath through the woods is very impressive, and particularly in winter, devoid of leaves, it presents an atmospheric and 'spooky' spectacle.

Clapham village was one of the last places locally where the community punishment of 'rough music' was carried out. To hear one old villager talk about that night, visit, <https://southdownsgenerations.org.uk/history-and-folklore-topics/>, and scroll down until you find the rough music article and audio interview with Victor 'Nobby' Kinnard.

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High Salvington Windmill, BN13 3AT. Standing 320ft (98m) above sea level and commanding a fine view south over Worthing and the sea, stands the black post mill at High Salvington. Adjacent to Mill Lane, an old roadway into Worthing, this is the last remaining mill to have served the Worthing area and the oldest working mill in Sussex. High Salvington Mill has a long history, probably being built about 1756, although the first map showing a mill on this site was printed in 1724. An even older mill, believed to have burnt down in a fire, existed on this site in 1615.

The mill worked for at least 150 years until the death of the last miller, Samuel Coote in 1898. In 1907/8 the old timber roundhouse was replaced with a concrete structure that was used as a tea room well into the 1950s. 'High Salvington' is a relatively modern name for this part of Worthing. Older residents of the district referred to 'Durrington Mill,' although the current name is now ubiquitous.

The mill was purchased by Worthing Town Council for £2,250 in 1959. Restoration work was carried out in the early 1960s with much of the heavy timberwork in the main body of the mill being replaced. In 1976, an inspection of damage caused during a gale revealed the middle of the mill to

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High Salvington Windmill

be in need of considerable restoration, and in response the High Salvington Mill Trust was formed to raise funds. Today, only the great wooden 'post' in the centre of the mill is original.

The Great Storm of 1987 unexpectedly brought the mill back to life. The mighty gusts of wind turned the single pair of sails for the first time in ninety years, in spite of them having been locked into position. New internal mechanisms, including millstones, were added in the years that followed and grinding recommenced on 4th April 1991, with flour being produced for the first time in 94 years.

Open Days and other public events are held at the mill during the summer months, and more information can be found at: <https://highsalvingtonwindmill.co.uk>

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St. Peter's Church

BN13 3BP. As houses began to be built along Salvington Hill after the First World War, the Rev. Penfold, Vicar of Durrington, raised funds for the building of a 'mission church' at High Salvington. The church, constructed using corrugated iron, was consecrated in 1928. Interestingly, its 'tower', which is detached from the building, predates the church having originally served as a water tower. It was built to provide drinking water to the scattering of dwellings here before the coming of mains water following the incorporation of Durrington into Worthing Borough in 1929.

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St. Peter's Church

Introduction

Nowhere in the Borough of Worthing has changed so greatly in recent years as the area now known as West Durrington. This trail leaflet is for everyone – visitors and residents – but it is particularly aimed at those who have just moved into the area, who and learning to live in a large and new urban setting. Well within living memory, the whole of West Durrington was fields, trees, ponds, and streams. Creating a sense of community among hundreds, even thousands of new residents is a challenge. In creating this trail leaflet, we hope to help that process of fostering identity by showing what wonderful and fascinating heritage is to be found within a mile of West Durrington.

If you enjoy exploring your local area with this leaflet, we also recommend that you follow neighbouring trails, covering, **Durrington & Salvington, Highdown Gardens and Tarring Village**. Details can be found at <https://timeforworthing.uk/worthing-heritage-trails>. For more information on **Whitebeam Woods** see www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/parks/conservation-and-countryside/whitebeam-woods/

Walking is simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier. Walking briskly can help you build stamina, burn excess calories and make your heart healthier. Getting out in the open air and in nature has many health benefits for everyone.

The Worthing Heritage Alliance is an umbrella organisation of the towns historical, archaeological, geological, and amenity societies, and exists to promote and protect Worthing's heritage – past and present.

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Uncover Worthing's historic past and explore the local area with a choice of trails:

- ▶ Worthing Town
- ▶ Cissbury Ring
- ▶ Pier, Parks & Seafront
- ▶ Highdown Gardens & Hill
- ▶ Tarring
- ▶ The Blue Plaque Trail
- ▶ Durrington & Salvington



'Patching Pond in 1858,' courtesy West Sussex Record Office

We hope you enjoy exploring Worthing's rich heritage. For details of other trails in this series, plus more local area information: timeforworthing.uk and timeforworthing.uk/worthing-heritage-trails. For details of local train and bus timetables and routes see www.westsussex.gov.uk/travelinfo



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