

The Willingale-Loughton History Trail

The Map on the back page indicates the locations of the places of interest described in this text. To walk to all the places detailed, starting and finishing at St Johns Church, will take about an hour. This trail could be done by car, but parking may be an issue and cars cannot pass between York Hill & Baldwins Hill.

St Johns Church

St Johns Church is where we start. Thomas Willingale (1795-1870) who was instrumental in the saving of Epping Forest is buried in a paupers grave, somewhere in the Churchyard. A Blue Heritage Plaque, erected jointly by the WFS & Loughton Town Council is erected on the wall of the church yard in Church Lane. We have only been able to find one other gravestone in the



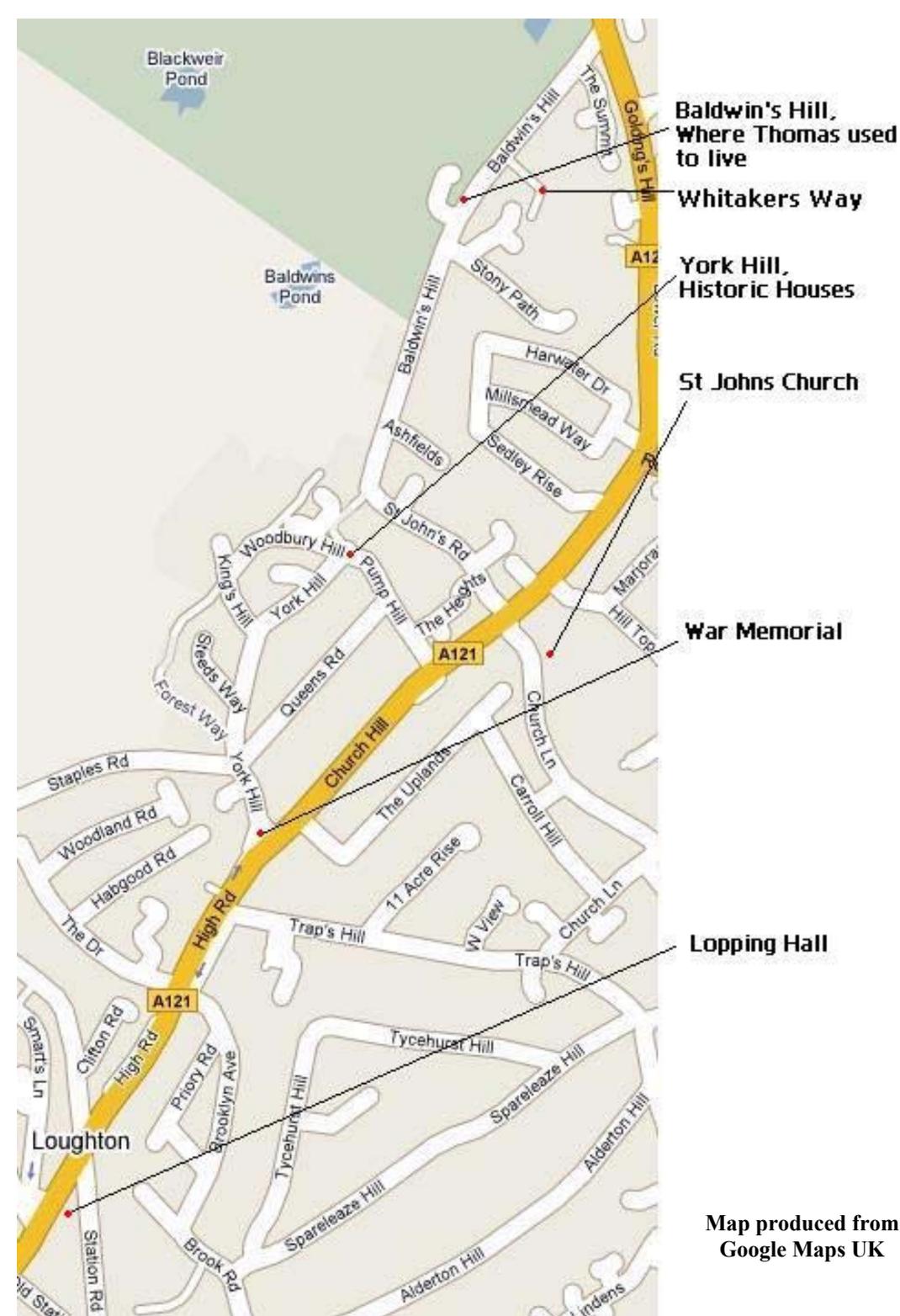
Historic Houses, York Hill

Next we move on to Baldwins Hill. We do this by going down Church Lane and turning left into Church Hill and then right into Pump Hill. (be warned Pump Hill is rather steep). At the top of Pump Hill, on York



Map produced from Google Maps UK

This is an abridged, and updated, version of a history trail that appeared in the first edition of the Lopping Times, the journal of the Willingale Family Society. Additional information from Chris Pond - 'A Walk round Loughton' and <http://www.hillsamenityociety.co.uk/detail/disctrail.htm>



Hill Green, is the Gardeners Arms pub. This pub and adjacent cottages are a mix of brick and timber construction and are thought to date from the 17th Century and would most definitely have been around in Thomas Willingale's day. Some other old houses, also probably dating from Thomas's time line the north of the green. Also of interest here is an old water pump and the panoramic views of Loughton, the Roding Valley, Essex and Kent.

Baldwins Hill, Site of Thomas' Home

At the end of York Hill is Baldwins Hill, where according to 1800's censuses various Willingale (and Higgins) families used to live. This area is much changed, with mostly modern housing, however about half way along the hill, to the west; it opens out on to Great Monk Wood, part of Epping Forest, affording yet another spectacular view.



Continuing along Baldwins Hill is Whitakers Way, an unmade road to the right, some distance after the



Woodcutters Arms. A short way down here on the left is a house, now "Woodcroft School", parts of which are 17th Century. The house was owned by the Willingale family in the nineteenth century, when Thomas Willingale had a wood yard on the site.

Baldwins Hill leads on to Goldings Hill, now the main A121 trunk road, but back in the 1800s it was home to more Willingales and Higgins.

War Memorial, T C Willingale & L W Willingale

Retracing our steps back along Baldwins Hill and then proceeding down York Hill we will eventually come to the junction with High Road and Church Hill. Situated here is the War Memorial which has

two Willingale names on it.



Leopold Walter Willingale, died in the Somme on 13 Aug 1915 and is buried at the Auchonvillers Military Cemetery at Somme in France.

Thomas Cedric Willingale is the son of Leopold Walter and he died on the 9th Jan 1944 in Italy.

Leopold Walter is also commemorated on the war memorial at London Liverpool St Station - as he was one of many Great Eastern Railway workers who left their jobs to support the war effort.

If we proceed down the High Road, towards Loughton tube station, we will come to our next point of interest

Lopping Hall

The Lopping Hall was paid for out of compensation money for extinguishment of the lopping rights, which Thomas fought so hard to protect . It contains a carved hornbeam memorial tablet to Willingale and its north entrance (in Station Road) includes a terracotta pediment illustrating loppers at work in the forest, whilst on the South side in the High Road is a Blue Plaque commemorating the ending of the Lopping rights.

That concludes our tour of Willingale places of interest in Loughton. To return to St Johns we must retrace our steps up the High Road, and then Church Hill.

