

# Charlwood

A GENTLE VILLAGE STROLL TAKING IN SOME  
OF OUR MANY PERIOD BUILDINGS



*Providence Chapel*



A FREE BOOKLET PRODUCED FOR YOU BY THE PROVIDENCE CHAPEL  
CHARLWOOD TRUST AND FUNDED BY THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND



THE PROVIDENCE CHAPEL  
CHARLWOOD TRUST



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We hope you enjoy this stroll around our village which will take about an hour.

Set off from the Café (52 The Street).

Turn right out of the shop and go past the newsagents, then turn right into Rosemary Lane. Here you will see



**1. THE CAGE.** This was an overnight prison, the next day the prisoner was taken to Reigate for trial. Constables' bills show the Cage was used in the 1790s. The Cage was repaired in the 1960s, previously there had been an earth floor and wooden partitions for two prisoners, no glass, only bars at the windows, and bars on the roof to prevent escape. Note the Charlwood stone, the galleting (little stones in the mortar) and the use of bricks.

**2. SUN COTTAGES,** ahead to the left, form a pretty group with timber framed houses on the right.

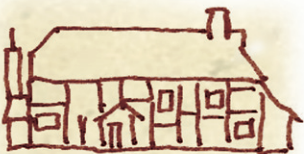
Turn around and take the lane on your left, known as Rosemary Lane or Cony Lane.



**3. TUDOR COTTAGE** on your left belongs to the late 16th century. Originally a one bay open hall, then a large timber chimney was added in the open bay, and later a brick chimney inside the timber chimney and the upper floor completed.

Further down the Lane

**4. OLD ROSEMARY COTTAGES,** only slightly later, also show their timber framing. Charlwood is on the weald clay, which grows excellent oak trees. There is no stone suitable for building in this area, so Charlwood's early houses are all timber framed. The right one now has additions.



At the end of the Lane is

**5. CHARLWOOD SCHOOL,** built in 1913. It is now a primary school.

Turn left to see two open hall houses. The term 'open hall' refers to houses built without chimneys. The largest room, the hall, had a fire in the middle of the room and no chimney, nor room above, the smoke escaped through the roof. This was the normal pattern until about 1550.



- 6. MORES** on the left has a Horsham stone roof. The rafters are still smoke blackened from the open fire. As with many open halls, around 1600 the fire was re-sited at one end of the hall, and part of the hall was floored over, the fire end we call the smoke bay. Later a proper brick chimney was built. There is now a later addition on the left.



- 7. SWAN COTTAGE** on the right also had an open hall. Notice the steep roof which suggests it was once thatched. Thatch sometimes caught alight, so long fire hooks hung outside ready to pull the thatch off.



Return past the school and turn left down the unmade road.

- 8. CHAPEL FARM** on the left was a small timber framed house built with a chimney and an outshot at the back which contained the stairs and kitchen, this is a usual pattern. The wing on the left was added. Within living memory the low building on the right housed cows!



**9. PROVIDENCE CHAPEL** Beyond is the recently restored PROVIDENCE CHAPEL a curious ranch like boarded building, erected here in 1816. It came from Horsham where it was the guard room of a barracks for troops defending the South coast from possible invasion by Napoleon. The wide verandah was usual for a guard room.



**10. PROVIDENCE COTTAGES.** Turn directly back up Chapel road, passing the row of four 19th century PROVIDENCE COTTAGES, built of bricks using a decorative pattern of red and brown with some black headers. The red bricks were made in a kiln and the brown bricks were made by mixing coal dust into the clay before burning outside in a clamp.

**11. HARROW HOUSE,** with its fine timber framing and Horsham stone roof, is opposite. It was the Plough and Harrow Inn until the 1820s, when the land across the road was still common land.

Carry on up Chapel road and take the narrow path on your left between two hedges, which leads to the main road through the village.

**12. THE MILL** faces you across the road, standing well back. The top of this tall smock mill was burned down in 1901, and the base has been converted into a cottage. An earlier mill at Charlwood was blown down in the great storm of 1703. The miller awoke in the night and, hearing the wind, he rushed off to turn the mill to face the wind. In his haste he forgot to take the key and had to go back—by the time he returned his mill was no more.



Turn right, cross the road and walk diagonally across the Recreation Ground, which was once part of the common. When the commons were enclosed these four acres were awarded to the parish for exercise and recreation. At the far corner of the Rec, cross the road and look at

**13. DOLBY GREEN,** it is formed (from left to right) by a barn adjoining an open hall house which was jettied to the front, a later timber framed house, and a modern house built to replace a Victorian house. The barn was once the head quarters of the volunteer Fire Brigade.







Glance down the road going south, you will see a small nonconformist Chapel which opened in the 1890s, and closed a few years ago. It is now a house. Further along this road there are houses of all periods, three are circa 1450, all are interesting as typical of their time. Enjoy them if you have the time and energy, then go back to the

**CHARLWOOD STONE** path that runs on the right hand side of Dolby Green, known as BLACK DITCH. Under your feet is Charlwood stone or Paludina limestone, dug from Stan (Stone) Hill. This stone is made up of tiny fossilized snails and was formed millions of years ago, when the weald was an enormous freshwater lake. A very hard stone, it is suitable for paths but is too hard to work for building purposes. There were many of these paths radiating out from the centre of the village (the church). BLACK DITCH leads to the Half Moon public house and St. Nicholas Church. Look at the interesting group of houses here, three are open halls. This area was the centre of village life.



**14 .THE COTTAGES** opposite the Half Moon, are both 15th century. The one nearest the church has smoke blackened rafters, and once had a jetty (an over hanging first floor) facing the church. The adjoining cottage was also jetted to the front as can be seen from the timber framing at the side.

**15. The HALF MOON's** Victorian façade also hides a timber framed house.



**16. TEMPLE BAR HOUSE**, beyond the Half Moon, has a steep roof and brick front, but hides another pre 1500 hall house with smoke blackened rafters. Notice the unusual sliding windows upstairs.



**17. ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH** Turn around and head back toward ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH which has been the centre of the village for over 900 years. The north aisle and the base of the tower are Norman, with a fine Norman arch and windows. Important wall paintings circa 1300, tell the story of St. Margaret of Antioch. The medieval screen is the finest in Surrey. All the present

structure of the church was completed by the time of Henry VIII and has remained relatively unchanged until the beginning of this century when a fine meeting hall has been added.

You can easily return to the café from here if you wish, or continue the walk by following the church path until you reach

**18. THE GLEBE HOVEL** (an open cattle shelter) in a field on your left, it is about 200 years old. Notice it is slightly curved. This was once glebe land which was farmed by the Rector as part of his living. Major repairs have been done by voluntary labour.



Turn left at the end of the church path; around the brook there are three houses. All had open halls.



**19. TANYARD FARM** is on your left. (the lowest part is the old house). It belonged to the religious Society of Friends (Quakers). The field beyond the farm, on the corner of Ringers Lane, is a Friends burial ground. One hundred and eleven Friends are buried here, many of them from Ifield.

**20. PRIMROSE COTTAGE** stands back from the road on your right. It is a small house with exposed timber framing and a Horsham stone roof and a Horsham stone roof and is perhaps the oldest house in the parish.

**21. ROBINS FARM**, just beyond the brook, is another open hall house although the wing on the right is relatively modern. It too has exposed timber framing and a Horsham stone roof. The large diagonal braces are typical of the 15th and 16th centuries.



Retrace your steps to the corner of Glovers Road, which leads to GLOVERS WOOD, but do not go down the road. Unfortunately there is not enough time for everything. Glovers Wood is a large Ancient Woodland. Nearly a hundred acres belongs to the Woodland Trust. Through it runs Welland Gill which has cut a steep sided valley full of hornbeam trees and in the spring, daffodils, primroses and carpets of bluebells flower in profusion.

Now follow the main road, to the left you will see several interesting houses:

**22. PAGEWOOD HOUSE** lies well back. The external timbers are covered but it is yet another open hall house with a crown post roof. Elderly Charlwood people can remember it divided into three cottages. There is a timber framed Herefordshire barn in the garden.



**23. PAGEWOOD COTTAGE** with its pretty front, almost symmetrical with half hipped roof has a large chimney at the back of the house, which rises through the rear outshot. The outshot is still the kitchen.



**24. BRISTOWS OR SCHOOL COTTAGE** stands well back from the road. This charming low cottage was built about 1620 by the Rev. Bristow as a school. It remained a school until 1852. It is still owned by a local charity and the rent charged on the cottage still goes to help educate local children.



**25. LAUREL COTTAGE** is a small open hall house. The chimney was added at a later date, with the stack well away from the house. Note the large braces which are a feature of early houses. The village chimney sweep used to live here.

Carry on and as you round the bend

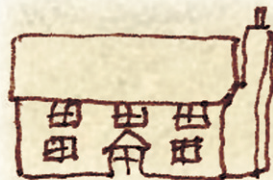
**26. THE PARISH HALL** is in front of you. this was built in 1852 as a school for the infants and girls. When a new school was built in 1913 the old school became the Parish Hall. Notice the stone, and the pointed windows at each end.

Cross the road and turn right, back toward the centre of the village.



**27. HUNTS** is a substantial timber-framed house, the front clad with weather tiles. The parlour wing on the right hand side with its interesting outside chimney was added in 1600 (during prosperous times). The verandah is the remains of a butchers shop here earlier.

**28. ELM COTTAGE** lies back from the road. This small brick fronted late 17th century house has timber framed internal walls.



Notice the chimney stack stands well away from the house, which suggests that the roof was once thatched.

**29. COMMON LAND (NOW THE REC)** the centre of Charlwood was common land, on which people could graze their animals but could not build there.

The tithe map of 1840 shows all the houses stood round the outside of the common. Charlwood House opposite the recreation ground was built soon after the common was enclosed in 1846.

Make your way back to the starting point at The Café (52 The Street) for a well earned rest and cup of tea!



## THE PROVIDENCE CHAPEL CHARLWOOD TRUST

The Providence Chapel is owned and managed by a charitable trust, which relies on donations and income from any bookings of the Chapel for events, groups, etc. to pay for on-going maintenance and running expenses in preserving this beautiful and unique building. The Chapel holds occasional open days and can also be opened for special interest groups by prior arrangement.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to assist with Open Days and associated activities of the Trust. If you would like further details then please contact us at

**[www.providencechapelcharlwood.org](http://www.providencechapelcharlwood.org)**