



The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

HORMEAD



Location: 2 miles east of Buntingford. **Ordnance Survey grid square:** TL4029.
Postcode: SG9 0AD. **Access:** B1368 or B1038. **County:** Hertfordshire. **District:** East Herts.
Buses: 20 (Mon to Fri) to Bishop's Stortford; 331 (Mon to Sat) - Hare Street to Royston or Hertford; 386 (Mon to Sat) between Stortford & Stevenage
Population: 682 in 2001, 743 in 2011, 760 in 2021.

The parish of Hormead comprises Great Hormead, Little Hormead and Hare Street. Running from north to south through the parish are the valley of the River Quin and the B1368 road. Further south, the Quin joins the River Rib. The B1368 meets the east-west road B1038 at the staggered crossroads in Hare Street. From here the land rises to Great and Little Hormead, a little east of Hare Street. The parish's two churches stand on the higher ground.

The little Grade I-listed Church of St Mary at Little Hormead dates from the 11th century and has a superb door from the 12th century, ornately decorated with ironwork including a dragon. It is one of the oldest doors in England, albeit not as venerable as the one at Hadstock in the north of the Hundred Parishes. A major preservation project on the door was halted through lack of funds and the church is now permanently locked to protect what has been done. It is hoped that the church, which is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, will be able to reopen before too long. Another unusual feature of this church is this coat of arms of King Charles II. It is dated 1660, the year he became king on the restoration of the monarchy.



It is less than half a mile to the Church of St Nicholas, Great Hormead, which now serves as parish church for the whole of Hormead. As can be seen from the photo below, this a more substantial building, and dates from the 13th century.



The church has memorials to at least two former residents of Great Hornead Bury, the 17th-century former manor house that stands behind the church. The first is to Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Stables who died in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo where he commanded a battalion of the Grenadier Guards. His horse was brought back to Hornead where it spent its final years. The second is to Betty Romer who died in 1916. She was the daughter of Mark Lemon, editor of *Punch* magazine from 1841 to 1870, and wife of Sir Robert Romer who was a Lord Justice of Appeal. Both their son and grandson subsequently served in this senior position in the judiciary.



Hornead abounds in listed buildings with no fewer than 75 spread amongst its population of around 500. A considerable number date back to the 16th or 17th century, including most of the 13 listed barns. The listings include both milestones on the B1368, installed around 1742 by the Wadesmill Turnpike Trust.

The Old Swan, pictured on the left, was built 500 years ago as an open hall house, spent most of its existence as an inn or tea room but is now closed.

Visitors may find refreshment in Hare Street at the Beehive pub.

Opposite the Old Swan stands 15th-century Oak Cottage, shown here. This is probably the oldest building in Hornead apart from the churches.

Hornead is not all about old buildings - Hare Street and the Horneads Cricket Club has also been around a long time – founded in 1900. Meanwhile, Hornead Hares Football Club was formed as recently as 2000 and has blossomed to the extent that it now has over 200 registered players.

During 2014, the parish undertook a major project – demolishing the old village hall in Great Hornead and building a replacement.



Hospitality:

Beehive, Hare Street, SG9 0DX – 01763 289355

Hundred Parishes Society walks include . . .

Circular walk 147 which covers 6.7 miles around Hornead plus some of rural Buntingford parish.

Adjacent parishes:

Braughing, Westmill, Buntingford, Wyddial, Anstey, Brent Pelham, Furneux Pelham.

Links:

Parish Council: www.hornead.org.uk

Great Hornead Church: www.quintetchurches.com

Hertfordshire Genealogy & History: www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk/data/places/places-g/great-hornead/!-great-hornead-frame.htm