



Parts of the original Upper Manor House, now known as the Old Manor House, still exist. Although the visible structure of this house was built as recently as 1629 the cellars are the original ground floor of the 9th Century house. These comprise of five rooms including carcass preparation area and even a plugged well. It was common practice in the seventeenth century for the foundations of previous buildings to be used in this way. The walls are 4 foot by 4 foot sandstone block quarried within the village and not only form the cellar walls, but also the plinth on which the cantilever timber frame structure for the three floors now above ground rest.

OUR HOME TOWN

by
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The village of Hartshorne nestles in the lower tip of Derbyshire at a point where the County narrows so that Staffordshire (Burton-on-Trent and Repton) is two miles to the west and Leicestershire (Ashby de la Zeuch) two miles to the east.

The village dates back to at least the 800s when it was a thriving part of the Saxon empire, in fact nearby Repton was the capital of the Saxon Kingdom of Mercia. Despite continued invasions by Vikings and Danes over the next hundred years it maintained its Saxon name. The Domesday book records the Manor of Heorteshorne, to give its original spelling, as being in the Wapentake of Walecros, later called the Repton Wapentake. A Wapentake was an area of a County.

The Old Manor House is the only Grade II* listed building in South Derbyshire and stands at the highest point in the village next to the historic 18th century Bull's Head Public House and St Peter's Church. These three buildings remain the focal point of village life.

The Church dated back to the early 14th Century although it was extensively rebuilt in 1835. It contains many historical artifacts including a hand-printed bible written in Greek and Latin dating from 1612. Of the 5 bells in the Church Tower 2 date from before the reformation and the other 3 were cast in 1792. A number of the benches, memorials and silverware date from the late 16th Century.

Water plays a significant part in the history of Hartshorne. The Brook, which feeds the river Trent, provides irrigation for the farms, which still constitute a major part of local industry, and also powers the Screw Mill. The natural water, trapped by local Gypsum deposits, also formed the basis of a thriving brewery industry.



In 1066 Hartshorne was an Anglo-Saxon estate under Edward the Confessor and was valued at £4. This was revised to 10 shillings in the Domesday survey of 1086. Readers of our last magazine will remember that Wantage was valued at £61 at the time. The North/South land price divide is not a new phenomenon!

Unusually the Domesday Book records Hartshorne as having two Manors, the Nether (Lower) Manor and the Upper Manor. Both manors were given by William the Conqueror to one of his followers, Henry de Ferrers. A name that still exists locally.

Both manors were recorded as being under the control of Aluric prior to the Norman Conquest. Although the lower (Nether) Manor House does not exist in its original state the name continues to be used by a number of buildings including Nether Hall (now a retirement Home), Nether Mill and the rebuilt Nether Manor House.

Below:
16th Century map
showing location of
the village

