

WELCOME TO BOLSTERSTONE

STOCKS AND WHIPPING POST

The village stocks are situated to the left of the lych gate against the Church Wall. Originally they would have stood alone on what was probably the village green and is now part of the Churchyard. They consist of two stone uprights and a wooden fall side with provision for three occupants. The largest of the uprights has an iron ring near the top as would be required for use as a whipping post. The iron railings which protect the stocks and whipping post were erected during the late 19th Century and were probably made by the local blacksmith.



1

THE BOLSTERSTONES

These stones once stood in the middle of the village on what was probably the Green but were brought into the Churchyard for safekeeping in the 19th century. The archaeological record states that the twin mortise holes in the upper stone may have supported twin Anglo Saxon crosses. Local legend, however, gives the stones to be either the base of a gibbet or to have provided the structure for some other means of execution.



2

ST. MARY'S CHURCH and the LYCH GATE

The Church stands on the site of earlier places of worship and was built 1872-1879. The lych gate was erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.



3

HERITAGE TRAIL

The village originated as an Anglo Saxon settlement and lies on a Salt Route between Cheshire and Yorkshire. How Bolsterstone got its name is open to conjecture. It may be a corruption of the name Walder, a local Saxon Chief. Walder's Low is the name of the mound that lies to the south east of the Village. Alternatively its name could be derived from the existence of the two huge stones now situated in the Church yard and generally known as the "bolster stones".



4

JUBILEE TREE

The sycamore tree which stands between St. Mary's Church and the Castle Inn was also planted in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.



5

THE PORTER'S LODGE

This building is believed to be mainly of 19th Century construction but does incorporate the arch and doorway of another, older building. The plaque to the right of the door stating the date to be 1250 is a more recent addition and it is now believed that both the Arch and the Doorway are probably 16th or 17th Century. Notice the carved stone head with a moustache to be found on the east gable.

CASTLE COTTAGE

Believed to be one of the oldest buildings in Bolsterstone the south and south west walls show blocked doors and windows which probably date back to the 16th and 17th Century. The original building belonged to the Earl of Sturminster and may have formed part of the fortified Manor House known as Bolsterstone Castle. The best views of its ancient features are from the Village Playing Field.



6

Local Heritage initiative

