

# Hello Heritage...

## Hall Gate



Lilly's Cottage

### Lilly's Cottage

Overlooking The Cross, at the entrance to Hall Gate is one of Diseworth's most spectacular buildings. This half-timbered, thatched house, constructed in a style unusual for Leicestershire, was, in 1602, the birthplace of the infamous astrologer William Lilly. It was built by his grandfather in the later 1500's, replacing a cruck-built house that may have dated back to the 1300's – one cruck remains. Lilly's father, a farmer, went bankrupt in 1620 and Lilly left for London to seek his fortune – in which he succeeded and probably never returned. His father's will and the inventory of the contents survive.

### Lilly's Cottage

The gable end shows the ingenious construction. On the front of the house, just below the thatch, a row of small holes, 'wind eyes', can be seen. They let out smoke and date from a time when 'hall houses' were open to the roof, with a central hearth and no chimney. In the hall passage, there are 17th century graffiti scratched into the plaster. They include astrological and geometric symbols, the outlines of hands and the Church. Once home to the village blacksmith, there were the remains of two forges in the outbuildings by the road.



Lilly's Cottage



### The Plough Inn

This is now the only village pub. It is also one of the oldest buildings, its soot-blackened roof timbers having been dated some years ago to c.1403.



### No. 50 Hall Gate

This and the house opposite are typical examples of the local later 17th century cottage – square-framed with arch bracing. The old cruck beams were often reused..



### No. 31 Hall Gate

While both cottages sit on deep stone bases, the former has well-worked sandstone ashlar blocks, while this has courses of the rough local Diseworth stone.



### Hallstead Cottage

This is also one of the oldest cottages in Diseworth. Retaining its thatch, its internal timber structure suggests that, like The Plough, it dates from the 1400s.

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