

# Hello Heritage...

## Whitwick's Early History



Castle Hill, the site of Whitwick Castle

Whitwick is first recorded as Witewic in the Domesday Book in 1086. Later a Norman motte and bailey castle was built in the area now known as Castle Hill.

By the end of the 14th century the castle was out of use and a ruin by 1427. The construction of the railway in the 1880s destroyed what was left.

In 1846 four alms-houses were built on the site. This is now one private residence.



Whitwick Parish Church – St John The Baptist

[www.whitwickhistoricalgroup.org.uk](http://www.whitwickhistoricalgroup.org.uk)

The parish church, The Church of St John The Baptist, dates from the 13th century and is the oldest building in the village.

The building was extensively restored and redecorated in 1848 – 1850 but original features remain.

The font and the tomb of Sir John Talbot date from the 14th century.

The tower is almost 20 metres tall. A natural spring rises beneath the crypt at the east end.



Whitwick Market Place - Timber cruck truss

Inside the purpose-built porch entrance to Whitwick Co op store stand two huge timber cruck trusses. They come from an early 17th century single storey building which stood in the Market Place. Tree-ring dating shows that the timber was felled in 1620.

In the 1830s, part of the building became The Beaumont Arms.

After many changes, the building was eventually home to the Whitwick Sports and Social Club.



Whitwick Wake June 1959

In 1293 Whitwick's Lord of the Manor purchased a Charter from Edward I. This allowed a market to be held in the village. Revived in 1836, trading ceased 100 years ago.

The Charter also established an annual fair which lasted for four days in June at the feast day of St John The Baptist.

This became Whitwick Wake when a travelling fair came to the village. It was very popular and attracted visitors from a wide area.

## Heritage on your doorstep...

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