= Bentworth =

Bentworth is a village and large civil parish in the East Hampshire district of Hampshire , England . The nearest town is Alton , which lies about 3 miles (5 km) east of the village . The parish covers an area of 3 @,@ 763 acres (15 @.@ 23 km2) and at its highest point is 712 feet (217 m) above sea level . According to the 2011 census , Bentworth had a population of 553 .

Bronze Age and Roman remains have been found in the area and there is evidence of an Anglo @-@ Saxon church in the village . The manor of Bentworth was not named in the Domesday Survey of 1086 , but it was part of the Odiham Hundred . During the Second World War , Bentworth Hall was requisitioned as an outstation for the Royal Navy and nearby Thedden Grange was used as a prisoner of war camp .

The parish contains several manors including Bentworth Hall , Hall Place , Burkham House , Wivelrod Manor , Gaston Grange and Thedden Grange . The 500 @-@ acre (2 @.@ 0 km2) estate of Bentworth Hall was split up as a result of various sales from the 1950s . St Mary 's Church , a Grade II * listed building which parts of which date back to the late 11th century , lies at the centre of the village . The village has two public houses , the Star Inn and the Sun Inn ; a primary school ; and its own cricket club . Bentworth formerly had a railway station , Bentworth and Lasham , on the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway until the line 's closure in 1936 . The nearest railway station is now 3 @.@ 8 miles (6 @.@ 1 km) east of the village , at Alton .

= = History = =

= = = Prehistory to Roman = = =

The village name has been spelt in different ways , including : Bentewurda or Bintewurda (12th century) and Bynteworth (c . 15th century) . The original meaning of the name Bent @-@ worth may have been a place of cultivated land , or a way through land such as woodland . The Swedish scholar Eilert Ekwall argues that a derivation from the Old English bent @-@ grass is unlikely , and suggests a derivation from The t?n of Bynna 's people .

In October 1935 a Neolithic basalt axe @-@ head was found near Weller 's Place Farm , indicating occupation in prehistoric times . Pot sherds and faunal remains from the Iron Age and several coins have been discovered , including a Bronze coin of Valentinian I , discovered in 1956 . The Romans built a road between the Roman town of Silchester to the north of Old Basing , and the Roman settlement of Vindomis , just east of the present @-@ day town of Alton , which measured 15 Roman miles .

A Bronze Age cremation urn was found in 1955 just north of Nancole Copse , approximately 2 @.@ 5 miles (4 @.@ 0 km) from St Mary 's Church . The urn is now displayed in the Curtis Museum in Alton , together with a bronze Roman coin of Valentinian I that was found in a garden about 0 @.@ 6 miles (0 @.@ 97 km) south of St Mary 's near Tinker 's Lane . Belgic pottery and animal bones were found in 1954 at Holt End , a hamlet south of Bentworth . Pottery , bone objects , spindle @-@ whorls (stone discs with a hole in the middle used in spinning thread) and fragments of Roman roofing tiles were unearthed at Wivelrod Manor .

= = = Medieval = = =

Bentworth was not mentioned separately in the 1086 Domesday Survey , although the entry for the surrounding Hundred of Odiham mentions that it had a number of outlying parishes that included Bentworth . Soon after Domesday , Bentworth became an independent manor . Between 1111 and 1116 it was granted by Henry I to Geoffrey , Count of Anjou .

The earliest mention of Bentworth village was in the charter of 1111 ? 1116 from Henry I to the Archdiocese of Rouen of " the manor of Bynteworda and the berewica (outlying farm) of Bercham (present day Burkham) " . St Mary 's Church was not included in this charter but in 1165 King Henry

II granted it to Roturn , then the Archdiocese of Rouen . When King John began losing his possessions in Normandy he took back the ownership of several manors , including Bentworth . He then ceded Bentworth manor to Peter des Roches , the Bishop of Winchester , in 1207 ? 8 . The manor was returned to Rouen , who held the property until 1316 , when Edward II appointed Peter de Galicien as its custodian .

Some time after 1280 a new stone hall house was built at Bentworth , a typical medieval hall house and has been variously called Bentworth Hall (until 1832) and Bentworth Manor House . Since 1832 it has been known as Hall Place . In 1333 the property owner was granted the right for a private chapel on the premises . Maud de Aula was given permission to hold services at Bentworth Hall chapel from 1333 to 1345 ; the remains of this building can be seen today immediately to the southwest of Hall Place . In February 1336 to manor was granted to Peter , Archbishop of Rouen , but he appeared to subsequently have nothing to do with it , as four months later ownership of the manor passed to William Melton , the Archbishop of York . Upon his death in 1340 he left his possessions to his nephew William de Melton , the son of his brother Henry .

In 1348 , William de Melton obtained King Edward III 's permission to give his manor to William Edendon , Bishop of Winchester . The ownership of the manor of Bentworth was then passed by marriage to the Windsor family , who had been constables of Windsor Castle . The Bentworth Hall estate was evidently returned to the Melton family , because it is mentioned among their possessions in a document dated to 1362 . It then passed to William 's similar @-@ named son , Sir William de Melton . Sir William 's son , John de Melton , who inherited the house in 1399 , was recorded as owner of the manor of Bentworth in 1431 . He died in 1455 , and was succeeded by his son until the latter 's death in 1474 , then finally his grandson John Melton . After the death of the last , the manor of Bentworth remained in the possession of the Windsor family for at least 150 years .

Elizabethan to Georgian

In 1590 , Henry Windsor (1562 ? 1605) , the 5th Lord Windsor , sold the sub @-@ manor of Bentworth to the Hunt family , who had been tenants since the beginning of that century . Ownership passed in 1610 to Sir James Woolveridge of Odiham and in 1651 to Thomas Turgis , a wealthy London merchant . His son , also Thomas , described as one of the richest commoners in England , left the manor of Bentworth to his relative William Urry , of Sheat Manor in 1705 . In 1777 William Urry 's daughters Mary and Elizabeth married two brothers , Basil and William Fitzherbert of Swynnerton Hall , Staffordshire . Their sister @-@ in @-@ law was Maria Fitzherbert , the secret wife of the Prince Regent , later King George IV . In about 1800 , Mary Fitzherbert (who had eleven children) became owner of Bentworth Manor and Manor Farm .

19th century to the Second World War

In 1832 the Fitzherbert family sold the Bentworth Hall estate at an auction in London to Roger Staples Horman Fisher for approximately £ 6000 . Almost immediately Fisher started building the present Bentworth Hall . In 1848 the estate was sold to Jeremiah Robert Ives . The Ives family later shared ownership with the author George Cecil Ives who lived for a time at the hall with his paternal grandmother . In 1898 a station for the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway was proposed which would serve Bentworh , Lasham and the village of Shalden . Land was taken from the villages of Bentworth and Lasham to provide for the railway station . In 1870 ? 72 the Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales by John Marius Wilson described Bentworth as

... a village and parish in Alton district , Hants . The village stands 3 ½ miles WNW of Alton r. station , and had a post office under Alton . The parish comprises 3 @,@ 688 acres (1 @,@ 492 ha) . Real property , £ 4 @,@ 091 . Pop . , 647 . Houses , 123 . George Withers , the poet ; sold property in Bentworth at the outbreak of the civil war (1642) , to raise a troop of horse . The living is a rectory in the diocese of Winchester . Value , £ 760 , Patron , the Rev. Mr. Mathews . There is a dissenting Chapel .

In 1897 Emma Ives died and ownership of the Bentworth Hall estate passed to her son Colonel Gordon Maynard Gordon @-@ Ives , who had in 1870 had built Gaston Grange as his residence . After his mother died he continued to live there , leasing Bentworth Hall to William Nicholson , the Member of Parliament for Petersfield . Gordon @-@ Ives died on 8 September 1907 and the estate passed to his son , Cecil Maynard Gordon @-@ Ives , a Captain of the Scots Guards in the First World War , who occupied it until his death on 23 July 1923 . The Bentworth Hall Estate was then purchased by Arthur d 'Anyers Willis in 1924 and was sold again to Major John Arthur Pryor in 1932 , who lived at Bentworth Hall until the estate was taken over by the military during the Second World War .

= = = Second World War = = =

Bentworth Hall was requisitioned for war use and was where a number of organisations were based . In 1941 it was used by the Mobile Naval Base Defence Organization (MNBDO) and it was later an outstation of the Royal Navy 's Haslar Hospital in Portsmouth , the bedrooms being used as wards . Later , it was occupied by officers from the airfield at Lasham ; one commander kept an aircraft in a field towards New Copse and used it as transport to Lasham Airfield . From 1942 ? 44 Thedden Grange was used as a prisoner of war camp . During the war nissen huts were built on what is now the Complins housing estate . The War Department had occupied the Holybourne property and constructed 26 nissen huts and other structures on the grounds , some of which were converted into civilian housing after the war . In 1966 the property was sold and 41 homes were built on the former site of Complins estate and brewery .

= = = Post @-@ war = = =

In 1947 the Bentworth Hall estate was bought by Major Herbert Cecil Benyon Berens , who was a director of Hambros Bank in London from 1968 . In 1950 Berens built two new lodge houses at the junction of the drive to Bentworth Hall towards the main road through the village . The Berens family arms included a bear , and when Berens acquired the Bentworth Hall estate , carvings of bears were put up in various places . Two of which can be seen at the entrance to the Bentworth Hall drive , between the two lodge houses . Herbert Berens died on 27 October 1981 , and the remaining estate was put up for sale . Initially Bentworth Hall was offered as a single property , but its outbuildings were divided into a number of separate dwelling units and other parts were sold to local farms . In June 1982 , the Bentworth Conservation Area was established , incorporating many of the local buildings of note , extending along the main lane and around the church .
Bentworth was awarded a gold postbox in 2012 after Peter Charles , a resident of the village , won a gold medal in the equestrian event of the 2012 Summer Olympics . A postbox in Alton was incorrectly painted gold in Charles ' honour , until the Royal Mail later painted the correct postbox in Bentworth .

= = Governance = =

In elections for the United Kingdom national parliament , Bentworth is in the constituency of East Hampshire , which since May 2010 has been represented by Damian Hinds of the Conservative Party .
In local government , Bentworth is governed by Hampshire County Council at the highest tier , East Hampshire District Council at the middle tier , and Bentworth Parish Council at the lowest tier . In County Council elections Hampshire is divided into 75 electoral divisions that return a total of 78 councillors ; Bentworth is in Alton Rural Electoral Division . In district council elections East Hampshire is divided into 38 electoral wards that return a total of 44 councillors ; Bentworth is in Downland Electoral Ward , together with the parishes of Beech , Chawton , Farringdon and Wield .

= = Geography = =

Bentworth village and parish lies on high downland about 4 miles (6 @.@ 4 km) northwest of the town of Alton and about 8 miles south of Basingstoke , the largest town in the non @-@ metropolitan county of Hampshire . By road , Bentworth is situated 9 @.@ 4 miles (15 @.@ 1 km) south of Basingstoke , 16 @.@ 7 miles (26 @.@ 9 km) northeast of the county town of Winchester and 32 miles (51 km) north of Portsmouth . The parish covers an area of 3 @,@ 763 acres (15 @.@ 23 km2) ; the soil is clay and loam , the subsoil chalk . In 1911 about 280 acres (1 @.@ 1 km2) of the parish were woodland , and the most prominent crops were wheat , oats , and turnips .

The lower ground to the south @-@ east of Bentworth and to the south of the nearby villages of Lasham and Shalden drains towards the River Wey which rises to the surface near Alton . Near Hall Place is the village duckpond , with cottages opposite it dated to 1733 . Such names as Colliers Wood and Nancole Copse in the parish point to the early operations of the charcoal burners , the colliers of the Middle Ages . Other woods in the area include Gaston Wood , Childer Hill Copse , Miller 's Wood , Thedden Copse , Well Copse , North Wood , Wadgett 's Copse , Bylander 's Copse , Nancole Copse , Widgell Copse , South Lease Copse , Stubbins Copse and Mayhew 's Wood . The names of Windmill Field and Mill Piece indicate the site of one or more ancient mills .

Parish background

The civil parish of Bentworth , starting to the north and working clockwise , extends from north of Burkham House , then runs south east along the A339 , turns south to Thedden Grange and the hamlet of Wivelrod , then west to north of Medstead and north again to Ashley Farm and back to the Burkham area . Historically , Bentworth 's parish was considerably larger than it is today , incorporating nearby settlements like Bradley , Beech , Moundsmere , Medstead and Lower Wield . The parish has lost large amounts of land over the years , but gained a further 95 acres (38 ha) in 1991 by regaining the Home Farm country park from the parish of Bradley .

Bentworth was the largest parish within the Hundred of Odiham , after Odiham itself . At the time of the Domesday Survey the area of the Hundred of Odiham were included in two separate hundreds , Odiham and Hefedele (also known as Edefele and Efedele) . The former comprised Lasham and Shalden and half a hide which had been taken from the nearby village of Preston Candover , and the latter included Odiham , Winchfield , Elvetham , Dogmersfield , and a former parish named Berchelei . For the manors of Bentworth , Greywell , Hartley Wintney , Liss , Sherfield @-@ upon @-@ Loddon , and Weston Patrick , there are no entries in the Survey , but they were believed to have been included in the large manor of Odiham .

Villages and hamlets

Within the Bentworth parish are several hamlets , the largest of which is Burkham to the north of the village . Other hamlets include Wivelrod to the southeast , Holt End and New Copse to the south , Thedden to the east , Ashley to the west and Tickley to the north .

Burkham

Burkham (also known as Brocham (14th century) ; Barkham (16th century) ; Berkham (18th century)) is a larger hamlet on the north side of the parish of Bentworth that lies about 2 @.@ 4 miles (3 @.@ 9 km) northwest of the village . Burkham was first mentioned in 1111 , and was later mentioned as part of the Manor of Bentworth in documents of the Archbishop of Rouen around 1115 , in which it is described as a " berewite " (an outlying estate) of the Bentworth Manor Tickley is a smaller hamlet that lies approximately 1 @.@ 1 miles (1 @.@ 8 km) south of Burkham , which includes a manor house named Tickley House .

Burkham is where Georgian Burkham House is located . It was first recorded in a document dated 1784 in which there was a reference to a " Manor or Mansion House of Burkham " , owned by Thomas Coulthard (1756 ? 1811) . Burkham House was acquired in 1882 by Arthur Frederick

Jeffreys , later a member of parliament for Basingstoke . Ownership was retained by the Jeffreys family until 1965 when the estate was put up for sale .

The Home Farm area consists of 336 acres (136 ha) of farmland , copse and uncultivated land . Part of this area between Burkham and Bentworth was bought by the Woodland Trust in 1990 . Before the Woodland Trust purchased the property , it was scheduled to become a landfill . The Trust planted trees in 1993 . This is the only nature preserve in the area .

= = = = Holt End and New Copse = = = =

Holt End and New Copse are two areas of Bentworth that lie to the south of the village . The word Holt means " a small grove of trees or wood " , and Holt End thus means the end of a wooded area . A long road to the south , called Jennie Green Lane , branches off the main road in Bentworth and runs northwest from Medstead to Lower Wield . Gaston Grange and Holt Cottage , a small thatched cottage dating from 1503 and a Grade II listed building since 1985 , both lie within the hamlet .

= = = = Thedden = = = =

Thedden is a hamlet and part of the parish of Bentworth between the villages of Bentworth and Beech . Thedden Grange is about 1 @.@ 5 miles (2 @.@ 4 km) south @-@ east of St Mary 's Church and is a country house that was formerly part of the Bentworth Manor estate . During the Second World War , Thedden Grange was used as a prisoner of war camp . Thedden derivatives from the Anglo @-@ Saxon name of " Tedena " and was first documented in 1168 . The earliest map of Thedden was produced in 1676 by Lewis Andrewes , a surveyor for Magdalene College . At the time of the late 12th century , Thedden comprised 1 @,@ 000 acres (400 ha) of " fertile land " .

= = = = Wivelrod = = = =

Wivelrod is a hamlet in the extreme south @-@ east corner of the parish of Bentworth . Wivelrod was first mentioned in documents dating to 1259 . In the 18th century Wivelrod Manor belonged to the owner of Bentworth Hall , although some land , excluding the farm , was sold in the 1830s for £ 900 , when the estate was bought by Roger Staples Horman Fisher .

= = Demographics = =

In the 2011 census Bentworth parish had 228 dwellings , 211 households and a population of 553 (270 males and 283 females) . The average age of residents was 43 @.@ 3 (compared to 39 @.@ 3 for England as a whole) and 20 @.@ 3 % of residents were age 65 or older (compared to 16 @.@ 4 % for England as a whole) .

At the time of the 2001 UK census , Bentworth had a total population of 466 . For every 100 females , there were 94 @.@ 2 males . The average household size was 2 @.@ 50 . Of those aged 16 ? 74 in Bentworth , 33 @.@ 6 % had no academic qualifications or one GCSE , lower than the figures for all of East Hampshire (37 @.@ 1 %) and England (45 @.@ 5 %) . According to the census , 29 @.@ 9 % were economically inactive and of the economically active people 1 @.@ 3 % were unemployed . Of Bentworth 's 466 residents , 18 @.@ 5 % were under the age of 16 and 14 @.@ 2 % were aged 65 and over ; the mean age was 42 @.@ 05 . 78 @.@ 8 % of residents described their health as " good " .

The Domesday Book entry for the Hundred of Odiham surmised that the hundred in 1066 was very large with 248 households and recorded 138 villagers . 60 smallholders and 50 slaves . Tax was assessed to be very large at 78 @.@ 5 exemption units . 56 ploughlands , 16 @.@ 5 lord 's plough teams and 41 men 's plough teams were recorded . The Lord of the hundred in 1066 was Earl Harold . In 1808 the population of Bentworth was 425 . Bentworth had reached its population peak in 1951 , with 614 people living in the village .

= = Education and activities = =

St Mary 's Bentworth Primary School is immediately west of the church together with a school hall and playing field that are used for events such as the annual village fete . The school was built in 1848 with a single classroom ; a second room to accommodate more pupils was added in 1871 . The gallery was added in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1891 . As of 2015 , the school had 87 pupils , not only from Bentworth but also from surrounding villages .

The school hall is used for other village activities such as Bentworth Garden Club meetings , performances by the Bentworth Mummers (a local amateur theatrical group) , other meetings , and as a polling station for elections . In November 2010 , the Bentworth Mummers put on a performance of Hans Christian Andersen 's The Snow Queen . Bentworth Cricket Club is just south of the village . The village has five tennis courts , one just to the south of the church and school , one just further to the southeast on the main village street , another at Hall Farm , and two more either side of the Sun Inn on Sun Hill .

= = Notable landmarks = =

= = = St Mary 's Church and war memorial = = =

The church of St Mary lies at the centre of the village immediately east of the Primary school , located about 150 metres (490 ft) north @-@ east of the Star Inn . There is evidence to suggest that an Anglo @-@ Saxon church was located here and was rebuilt . The present church has a chancel (the space around the altar for the clergy and choir) that is 27 feet (8 @.@ 2 m) by 17 feet 4 inches (5 @.@ 28 m) , with a north vestry measuring 48 feet 7 inches (14 @.@ 81 m) by 17 feet (5 @.@ 2 m) . The nave roof and chancel arch date from the late 12th century and the chancel itself was built in about 1260 together with the lower part of the tower . The church suffered what historian Georgia Smith describes as a " fire happening by lightening from heaven " , and some of the earlier structure was damaged . It was repaired in 1608 .

The present church has flint walls with stone dressings and stepped buttresses , a plinth , and corbelled tracer lights in the nave . The west tower was rebuilt in 1890 and has diagonal buttresses with an elaborate arrangement of steps (some with gabled ornamentation) , and at the top is a timber turret , surmounted by a broach spire . A small mural monument at the south @-@ east of the chancel is to Nicholas Holdip , " pastor of the parish " in 1606 , and his wife Alicia (Gilbert) . The north aisle wall contains another mural tablet dedicated to " Robert Hunt of Hall Place in this Parish " , 1671 , with the arms , Azure a bend between two water bougets or with three leopards ' heads gules on the bend . The crest is a talbot sitting chained to a halberd . There are four bells ; the treble and second by Joseph Carter , 1601 , the third by Henry Knight , 1615 , and the tenor by Joseph Carter , 1607 . The church celebrated the coronation of King George V by adding a clock to the building . It became a Grade II * listed building on 31 July 1963 .

= = = = Memorials = = = =

In Elizabethan times , the poet and writer George Wither (1588 ? 1667) was born in Bentworth and baptised in St Mary 's church . In Victorian times , the author George Cecil Ives lived at the post @-@ 1832 Bentworth Hall with his mother Emma Gordon @-@ Ives . A memorial to the Ives family is in the churchyard close to the school and has a stone slab for George Ives that reads " George Cecil Ives MA , author , 1867 ? 1950 , Late of Bentworth Hall . " The stone slab for his mother reads " The Honourable Emma , wife of J.R. Ives , Daughter of Viscount Maynard Lord Lieutenant of Essex , died March 14 , 1896 aged 84 . "

The Hankin Family Tomb in the churchyard , was Grade II listed in 2005 . It was made in 1816 of Portland stone and is a " rectangular chest tomb on a moulded base , with a two @-@ part cover

consisting of a low hipped top slab and lower moulded cornice . " The panels at the sides contain various inscriptions including the one on the south panel which reads : " Sacred to the memory of John Hankin who departed this life January 12 , 1816 , aged 55 years " , and the one on the north side which reads : " Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth , widow of John Hankin , who departed this life September 13 , 1831 , aged 67 years . "

= = = = = War Memorial = = = = =

The War Memorial in the churchyard of St Mary 's Church , made of Doulting limestone , was erected in 1920 by Messrs Noon and Company of Guildford on behalf of the parish to commemorate the local men who had lost their lives in the First World War . The decision to build a memorial at the church was decided during a parish meeting on 7 February 1920 and it was formally dedicated on 28 November 1920 by the Reverend A.G. Bather and unveiled by Major General Jeffreys of Burkham , officer in command of the London District . The war memorial has a four @-@ step base , with a " tapering octagonal shaft on a small square plinth block " placed upon it and a Latin cross at the top of the shaft .
The dedication inscription on the top west facing step of the base reads : " Sacred to the men of Bentworth who fell in the Great War 1914 ? 1918 leaving to us who pass where they passed an undying example of faithfulness and willing service . " There are four names inscribed on the top step panel facing south including the name of Lieutenant Colonel Neville Elliot @-@ Cooper of the Royal Fusiliers (whose father lived in Bentworth) and several names on other steps . On the third step facing west , is the inscription : " 1939 ? 1945 . And in second dedication to the memory of those others who passing later also fell leaving no less glorious name . " The memorial was Grade II listed on 8 December 2005 .

= = = = Manor and Hall = = = =

Hall Place , formerly Bentworth Hall or Manor , is a Grade II * listed medieval hall @-@ house , located south of the road to Medstead just south @-@ west of Tinker 's Lane . It was built in the early 14th century with additions in the 17th and 19th centuries . The hall is believed to have been constructed by either the constable of Farnham Castle , William de Aula , or ' John of Bynteworth ' . The de Aula family are documented as being the first owners , followed by the de Melton family .
The hall has thick flint walls , gabled cross wings , with a Gothic stone arch and 20th century boarded door and two @-@ storey porch . The west wing of the house has a stone @-@ framed upper window and large attached tapered stack . The east wing has sashes dated to the early 19th century . The old fireplace remains in the north , facing room with it roll moulding and steeply pitched head . A chapel in the grounds was part of the house complex .
In 1832 the Bentworth Hall estate was sold to Roger Staples Horman Fisher and he started building the present Bentworth Hall . Bentworth Hall is located approximately one mile south of the old hall at , some 500 metres (1 @,@ 600 ft) east of hamlet of Holt End at the end of a 800 metres (870 yd) private drive . As of 2015 , the lodge originally at the entrance to Bentworth Hall is no longer considered part of the property . The great house was divided into four separate homes in 1983 . The eastern wing of the property became Bentworth Court , the central portion of the house is now known as Bentworth Mews and the coach house and stables were offered separately .

= = = = Gaston Grange = = = =

Gaston Grange is north of New Copse and south of Gaston Wood . This area was part of the Bentworth Hall estate and is now privately owned . In the late 19th century , Emma Gordon @-@ Ives owned Bentworth Hall and in 1890 her son Colonel Gordon Maynard Gordon @-@ Ives built Gaston Grange to the east of Bentworth Hall . Gordon @-@ Ives inherited Bentworth Hall upon the death of Emma in 1897 , but continued to live at Gaston Grange until his death . In 1914 , his son Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Gordon lived in Gaston Grange . He served in the First World War

and was a Ulster Unionist Party Member and Senator in the Parliament of Northern Ireland , dying in April 1967 . After his death , the Bentworth Hall Estate was offered for sale by Messrs John D Wood & Co. and at this time consisted of 479 acres (194 ha) . Gaston Grange has been extensively renovated and modernised in recent times ; new inclusions are entrance and reception halls , three reception rooms and a grand staircase . Today , the Gaston Grange estate consists of 198 acres (80 ha) .

= = = = Mulberry House = = = =

Mulberry House is a late Georgian building , dated to 1818 . It served as Bentworth 's rectory and became a Grade II listed building on 31 July 1963 . The house has stucco walls , with painted brickwork and a slate roof . It is a square two @-@ storey building , with a symmetrical front consisting of three windows , a doric columned porch , half @-@ glazed doors and a low @-@ pitched hipped roof , with a raised lead flat in the centre . The current rectory is a smaller , modern house on the other side of the main road through the village , opposite Mulberry House .

= = = = Ivalls and Holt Cottages = = = =

Ivall 's Cottage , a Grade II listed building since 1985 , is located opposite the post box near the village green . The cottage was originally built during the 16th century , with late 18th century and early 19th century additions with contemporary extensions at the sides . The cottage is built from red brick and flint in Flemish bond , with cambered openings on the ground floor with a part @-@ thatched , part @-@ tiled roof . The roof is hipped at the west end , with lower eaves at the rear intercepted by eyebrow dormers .
Ivall 's Farm House is on the south side of the road near the Star Inn . It is a timber framed and cruck @-@ built (A @-@ frame) tiled roof building with a lobby entrance , previously a farmhouse , originally built around 1600 . The south end dates to the 18th century.The tiled roof , with four small gabled dormers , half @-@ hipped at the north west angle , was restored in the late 20th century . It became a Grade II listed building on 31 July 1963 . Holt Cottage is a small thatched cottage situated on the edge of the village and was built in 1503 . A Grade II listed building since 31 May 1985 , much of the current building dates to the 17th and early 19th centuries . The roof is half @-@ hipped at the south end and hipped at the north , with painted brickwork in monk bond .

= = = Public houses = = =

Near the centre of the village are two public houses : the Star Inn , which was licensed in 1848 , opposite the village green , and the Sun Inn , which was licensed beginning in 1838 , which sits at the top of Sun Hill , on the road to Alton . There was a third pub in the village called the Moon Inn (also known as the Half Moon) which was demolished around 1948 ; just north of the church in Drury Lane .

= = Transport = =

The nearest railway station is 3 @.@ 6 miles (5 @.@ 8 km) east of the village , at Alton .
Between 1901 and 1932 Bentworth and Lasham station was available to passenger traffic on the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway . It was located just north of the present A339 road between Bentworth and Lasham and was designed by John Wallis Titt . The station opened on 1 June 1901 and closed during the First World War on 1 January 1917 . The line was reopened in 1924 as area residents pressed for the reopening of the railway . It stayed open until 1931 when the railway announced it would no longer carry passengers . The railway transported only goods until its final closure in 1936 .
Alton was on the line from London Waterloo to Winchester , and Basingstoke was on the main line from Waterloo to Salisbury .

In the 1960s , the connection between Alton and Winchester was broken because of railway closures and the construction of the M3 motorway east of Winchester . As of 2015 , the line continues west of Alton to Alresford as the " Watercress Line " or Mid Hants Railway , running historic steam engines . The level crossing between Bentworth and Lasham appeared in the 1929 film The Wrecker and the line was also used in the 1937 film Oh , Mr Porter ! . The small station waiting room was demolished in 2003 .

= = Notable people = =

The poet and satirist George Wither (1588 ? 1667) was born in Bentworth . He was baptised in St Mary 's Church and later , supporting Oliver Cromwell 's cause during the English Civil War , sold land in the parish to raise a troop of horses for the Roundhead (anti @-@ Royalist) cause . The Wither family lived in Bentworth until the 17th century . In his 1613 satirical poem Abuses Stript and Whipt , Wither mentions his early life in Bentworth and alludes to the " beechy shadows " of the village .

George Cecil Ives (1867 ? 1950) , an author , criminologist and homosexual law reform campaigner , spent time at the family home at Bentworth Hall .