



In addition to this she was also four times champion at the Royal Show and also established a noted herd of beef shortorns called the 'Wing Herd'.

The village was home to two pubs, the Kings Arms

and the Cuckoo. The Kings Arms dates back to 1649 and remains open today. The Cuckoo Inn, closed in

2004, may well have been named by reference to local legend that the people of Wing once tried to

keep spring in the village forever by erecting a fence around a cuckoo to stop it from leaving. Naturally,

it flew over the fence and away, and as a result people from the village were known as 'Wing fools'.

Amelia Woodcock was another notable resident of Wing who in the early 19th century became famous

as the 'wise woman of wing'. The wife of a labouring man, she obtained a reputation for healing every

variety of disease including cancer. At first she relied on herbs gathered in the fields and woods, but later

she made up her medicines from drugs purchased from a chemist. She was visited by many persons of

wealth, and it is said she was consulted by medical men. At times she had so many patients that they

had to take lodgings in the neighbourhood until she could attend to them. Although she died sometime

around 1850 her remedies were still for sale at Boots the Chemist in Uppingham until the 1950's.

Wing Maze

The turf cut maze situated on the edge of the village is reputed to be mediaeval in origin and is one of just eight surviving in England today. Although called a maze it is actually a labyrinth, unicursal in structure and 14 metres in diameter, with just one grass path that winds and back tracks in a circle before finally leading to the centre. The origin of the turf maze is unclear and there are many myths and legends surrounding the reasoning behind their existence, including references to the classical Cretan labyrinth. The Wing maze follows the 'Chartres' pattern which, as its name suggests, copies the design of pavement mazes found in European Cathedrals.

It has been said that the maze was followed by penitents on their hand and knees in atonement for their sins. They have also been connected to fertility rights and used for warding off evil spirits. Whatever their origin they remain a unique and fascinating conundrum. However, by the 19th century the maze at Wing seems to have lost some of its magic and is described in the Leicester and Rutland directory of 1846 as 'an ancient maze, in which the rustics of the parish run on feast days'.



Travel

Road: Wing is situated near to the junction between the A47 and the A6003, between Oakham and Uppingham.

Bus: Service RF1 from Oakham.

T: 0871 2002233 **E:** www.traveline.org.uk

Rail: The nearest railway stations are Stamford and Oakham.

Ordnance Survey Maps

Landranger 130, 141 Explorer 234

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The village of Wing stands on the brow of a hill overlooking the valley of the river Chater and the Oakham to Norwich railway line. Like many villages in Rutland it is built around four roads, forming a square, with the road on the ridge being called Top Street. The settlement name first appears in the 12th century when it was known as 'Wenge' which probably originates from the Old Norse 'vengi', meaning field. Farming has been at the centre of life in Wing for many centuries, but more recently this way of life has started to be replaced by other trades. Former farm buildings have now taken on new roles and the influence of tourism and the proximity of Rutland Water are evident everywhere. The chair makers, fellmongers and wheelwrights of the past have been replaced by professional people.



Wing is home to a variety of old and interesting buildings, many of them built in the 17th century from local Clippsham stone, and roofed in either Collyweston slate or thatch. The Old Hall in the village centre and the newer Wing Hall on the outskirts both stand as testament to the wealth that has been in the village. Wing Hall was built between 1885 and 1891 by Edward Worrell, a Victorian gentleman whose family made its fortune developing a technique for dyeing velvet. Just outside the village stands Wing Grange, former home of the remarkable Miss Brocklebank, famous in the early 20th century as the horsewoman who drove her tandem pair Optimist and Illumination to win the Championship at Dublin Horse Show three times in 1912, 1913 and 1919.

Wing Walk Number 1

Start from the Kings Arm Inn.

- 1 Standing with your back to the Kings Arms Inn cross over the road so you're standing at the top of Middle Street. Continue down the hill and turn right at the junction with Bottom Street. Very soon you will see a stile on your left, climb over the stile and make your way along the fields' edge to the bottom of the hill. Turn right to walk parallel with the railway until you reach a gate marking the crossing. Cross the railway with care and continue along the fields' edge before turning to head directly across the field to a waymark post on the opposite side. Now follow the river bank to an old stone bridge.
- 2 Cross the stone bridge and, ignoring the footpath on your right, continue straight ahead to join the bridleway and follow the fields edge to the junction with Lyndon Road at the top of the hill. On the opposite side of the road you should see the old Lyndon Lane leading down to the nature reserve.

- 3 Follow the road down to the nature reserve. Pass through a hand gate and turn right at the foot of the hill. Continue along the stone track for around 500 metres with Rutland Water to your left, watching for a footpath sign on the right. Turn right at the sign, pass through a kissing gate and bear left as you make your way to the top of grass field. Make your way to a gate in the corner, go through it onto a track and opposite you will see another gate. Go through the second gate and make your way along the fields edge until you reach the junction with Manton Road.
- 4 Cross Manton Road with care and turn left to walk along the verge for about 200 metres until you see a bridleway sign. Turn right and follow the bridleway as it winds its way through Lyndon Wood. Bear left after passing through a field gate at the bottom of the hill and as you walk across the field you will see a gate in the hedge that will bring you out on to Church Road, Lyndon. Turn left and follow the road past the entrance to Lyndon Hall and through the village. Pass Luffenham Road and Post Office Lane and as you reach the edge of the village you will see a footpath sign on your right.

- 5 Take the footpath across an arable field, with views of Lyndon Hall to your right. On the opposite side of the field pass through a small spinney and use the stepping stones to cross a small stream. As you emerge from the spinney turn left and then follow the path around the edge of the next two fields. You will soon arrive at the old stone bridge you crossed previously.
- 6 Cross the bridge and stay left as you make your way to the gates at the railway crossing. Take care crossing the railway and follow the track to the top of the hill where it meets Morcott Road.
- 7 Turn right and follow the road through the village until you reach your starting point at the Kings Arms.



Wing Walk Number 2

Start from the Kings Arm Inn.

- 1 Standing on Top Street with your back to the Kings Arms Inn, cross over the road and walk down Middle Street. Turn left at the junction with Bottom Street and after a short walk you should find a footpath sign and a stile on your right.
- 2 Climb the stile and as you begin making your way across a paddock head over to the left and look for an old stile and a waymark post in the fence ahead. After you cross the stile turn right and keep to the edge of the field as you continue down the hill, crossing a temporary haul road on your way. As you near the bottom of the hill a wooden bridge over the river Chater should come in to view.
- 3 Cross the bridge and immediately bear left. Look for a gap in the hedgerow where you should find an old gate and a waymark post. Passing through the gap will bring you out in the corner of another pasture field. Head straight across the middle of the field to the opposite corner, crossing the temporary haul road once again, where you will find a wooden field gate alongside the remains of an old stile.
- 4 Pass through the gate and ahead of you will be a brick arch railway bridge, but in front of that is another wooden field gate with a hand gate at one side. Go through the gate and under the bridge, and then follow the track to its junction with Wing Road / Station Road.
- 5 Take a left at the junction then follow the road downhill to Crown Well Bridge and Wing Hollow. Cross over the river Chater once more and after passing small row of cottages look for a bridleway sign on your left.
- 6 Join the bridleway and pass through a number of gates as you make your way across a small paddock towards another brick arch railway bridge. Pass under the bridge and you will immediately see a bridle gate. Make your way through the gate, and then another just a short distance ahead before starting to make your way back up the hill towards the village.
- 7 After crossing three more pasture fields separated by yet more gates you will eventually arrive at a set of metal gates marking the end of the bridleway and its junction with the corner of Bottom Street and Reeves Lane. As you enter the village turn right on to Reeves Lane and make your way up the hill. Turn left at the junction with Top Street and after a minute or two you will be back at the Kings Arms Inn.

