

SHELLEY

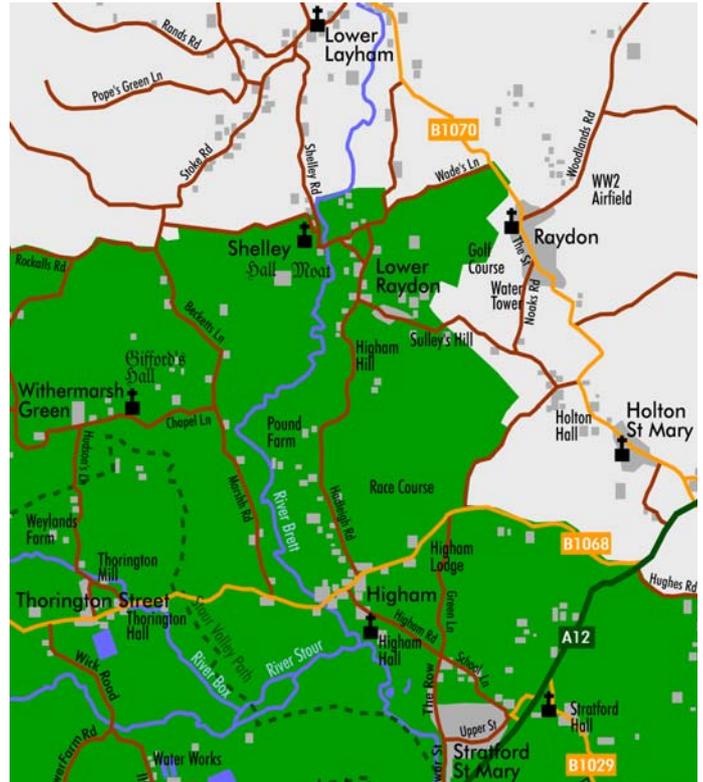
The village of Shelley stands on the west side of the River Brett approximately three miles south of Hadleigh, in the County of Suffolk.

The original houses and All Saints Church were built in and around 1520 under the inspiration of the Sir Philip Tilney, whose family lived in 'The Maner of Shelleigh' until 1627. Sir Philip was a kinsman of Queen Elizabeth 1st who visited the house on 11th August 1561. However Sir Philip's only son Charles was executed in 1586 for his part in the Babington Conspiracy, a failed plot encouraged by King Philip of Spain to assassinate Queen Elizabeth and replace her with Mary Queen of Scots. For most of the intervening years the land in the Parish of Shelley was farmed by the Partridge family until the estate went back into private ownership at the beginning of the 20th Century.

A census in the early part of the 19th century revealed a population of around 120; it is now approximately 40 living in exactly the same number of houses as existed previously. One third of the male population were killed in The Great War. Shelley is now one of the three smallest villages in Suffolk, containing no shops, no pub, no village green, and one letter box which can be found about 1.5 miles from the centre of the village.

Little has changed in the life of the village save the almost total disappearance of those who worked on the land. The number of fields in the 19th century census was well over 100 whereas there are now probably less than 20, with an enormous number of hedges and ditches being removed in the interests of 'modern farming'.

A burst of fame came to Shelley in 2005 in connection with the first successful colony being established in The United States in 1607. Archaeologists discovered the remains of one Bartholomew Gosnold, captain of The Godspeed, the ship which had carried the colonists



The village of Shelley lies on the edge of the Dedham Vale AONB which is marked green

across the Atlantic. In order to prove the identity of the body using DNA, The Church of England gave it's permission for the body of Bartholomew's sister, Elizabeth Tilney (nee Gosnold), to be unearthed in the chancel of Shelley Church. Permission of this kind has never been granted before or since, and a plaque commemorating the event can be seen in the church.



All Saints Church, Shelley