

## 1. Parish: Stowmarket

**Meaning:** Meeting place with market (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Stow

**Deanery:** Stow (- 1972), Stowmarket (1972 -)

**Union:** Stow

**RDC/UDC:** Stowmarket U.D. (- 1974), Mid Suffolk D.C. (1974)

### Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary changes (1926 and 1968)

Civil boundary change (1934)

Stowmarket Petty Sessional Division

Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 990 acres land, 9 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:** Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

### 5. Types of farming:

1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley, with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp
1813	Young:	Large acreages of hops grown
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

### 6. Enclosure:

### 7. Settlement:

1858 Urbanised small market town development. Expansion has engulfed Chilton hamlet. Railway crosses parish from NW-SE.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 248, 1801 – 273, 1851 – 678, 1871 – 833, 1901 – 962, 1951 – 2,263, 1981 – 4,038

## 8. Communications:

- Road:** Roads to Haughley, Onehouse, Gt. Finborough, Combs, Stowupland, Creting St. Peter and Needham Market
- 1844 Situated on main Ipswich – Bury St. Edmunds road  
3 horse and gig letters  
Coaches meet London train at Colchester daily to Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds daily  
Omnibus meets London steamer at Ipswich Monday and Thursday  
Carriers to London Monday and Thursday to Bury St. Edmunds daily  
to Cotton Tuesday and Friday  
to Debenham on Tuesday and Friday  
to Haughley on Monday, Thursday, Saturday to Ipswich daily  
to Norwich daily  
to Rattlesden on Thursday  
to Sudbury Tuesday and Thursday  
to Thetford Tuesday and Friday  
to Walsham Le Willows Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- 1891 2 carriers to Ipswich daily  
Omnibus and hackney carriage proprietor listed
- 1912 Omnibus meets trains  
Carriers to Bacton Thursday  
to Bildeston and Ipswich daily  
to Brettenham Thursday and Saturday  
to Debenham Friday  
to Drinkstone Thursday  
to Elmswell, Haughley and Wetherden Thursday  
to Mendlesham Thursday and Saturday  
to Rattlesden daily except Wednesday and Sunday  
to Stonham Thursday  
to Wetheringsett, Woolpit and Wyverston also on Thursday
- Rail:** 1891 Stowmarket station: Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1846), line electrified (1985)
- Water:** River Gipping: Gipping navigation Act (1790). Navigable to Ipswich Wharf in Stowupland Street, Stowmarket (1838) in existence.  
Decline began with advent of railways (circa 1846)

## 9. Population:

1086 — 129 recorded  
1327 — 49 taxpayers paid £4. 19s. ¾d.  
1524 — 94 taxpayers paid £22. 16s. 10d.  
1603 — 780 adults  
1674 — 261 households  
1676 — 854 adults  
1801 — 1,761 inhabitants  
1831 — 2,672 inhabitants  
1851 — 3,306 inhabitants  
1871 — 4,097 inhabitants  
1901 — 4,162 inhabitants  
1931 — 4,297 inhabitants  
1951 — 7,325 inhabitants  
1971 — 8,676 inhabitants  
1981 — 10,940 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Vicarage

### Stowmarket with Stowupland

1254	St. Peters:	Valued £30 to the vicar £1. 6s. 8d.	<u>£31. 6s. 8d.</u>
	St. Marys:	Valued £8 to the vicar £1. 10s. 6d.	<u>£9. 10s. 6d..</u>
1291	St. Peters:	Valued £30 to the vicar of the same £5. 6s. 8d.	<u>£35. 6s. 8d.</u>
	St. Marys:	Valued £8	
1535		Valued £16. 15s.	
1831		1 curate, stipend £75 p.a. Gross income £75 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Boyson	
1844		Rectorial tithes commuted for £33 p.a. (Stowmarket only) Vicarial tithes for £186 p.a. Consolidated with Stowupland (1845) Old vicarage (parts date from 16 <sup>th</sup> cent.) house exchanged for more commodious residence (1870)	
1891		Valued £380 p.a. 3 acres glebe	
1912		Nett value £230 p.a.	

**Patrons:** Richard Howe (1603), Wilcox (1831), Church Patronage Society (1912)

**11. Church      Saints Peter and Mary/Saints Peter and Paul**

**Saints Peter and Paul**

(long chancel, N.chapel, nave, aisles, N. & S. porches, W. tower and spire)

- 1086      Church predating 1066 + 1 carucate free land  
Church holds ½ burial fees for all times and 4<sup>th</sup> part of what  
alms are made  
(Mother church of Thorney – includes Stowmarket,  
Stowupland, Newton, Gipping and Dagworth)
- 14<sup>th</sup> cent.      Chancel, chancel arch and tower
- 1443      N. porch described as newly built
- 15<sup>th</sup> cent.      Clerestory, aisles and porches
- 1675      Wig stand of iron
- 1643/44      Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) ordered 70 superstitious  
pictures broken, chancel leveled, 2 crosses taken down and  
removal of inscription

Note: at demolition of St. Marys church Saint Peter and  
Pauls assume the name Mary (circa 1546)

**Saints Peter and Mary**

- 1712      Lead spire
- 1875      East Window destroyed in gun-cotton factory explosion
- 1885/1894/  
1864/1865      Restorations

Seats: approximately 800

**St. Mary (Town church of Stowmarket)**

- 1473/78      Recorded as rebuilt
- 1481      New work of church of Blessed Mary of Stowe
- 1546      Demolished – at this time Mother church assumes name  
Saints Peter and Mary

**Chapel of Our Lady in Stowe:**      recorded (1524)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

24 recusants (1611)  
3 popish recusants (1627)  
9 nonconformists (1676)  
John Meadows having been ejected from Ousden, lived  
in Stowmarket and preached in his own house (1670-  
1689). Congregational Chapel said to occupy the site of  
this house  
Independent chapel formed (1720)  
4 houses set aside for worship (1740-1839)

## 12. Nonconformity etc. (cont'd):

	Baptist congregation formed (1797)
	Congregational chapel founded (1719), building erected (1861), rebuilt (circa 1953), seats 1,000
	Baptist chapel founded (1695), building erected (1813), enlarged (1836), seats 580
	Baptist chapel converted to Parish rooms (1890)
1912	Catholic church of Our Lady of Seven Dolours
	Primitive Methodist chapel, 2 Plymouth Brethren chapels

## 13. Manorial:

### Thorney

1066/1086	Manor of 5 carucates belonging to the King
1066	Manor of 1 carucate held by Roger of Candos from Hugh
1086	Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Hugh de Montfort

### Stowmarket al Abbot's Hall

12 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Abbot of St. Osyth owns
1538	Sir Thomas Darcy owns (linked to Shimpling and Cavenham)
1557	John Howe owns
1610	Richard Broke owns (linked to Bucklesham, Nacton, Blythburgh and Creeting St. Peter)
circa 17 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Edward Lynch owns
1836	John Edgar Rust owns
1910	George F. Beaumont owns (linked to Haughley)

### Sub-manors:

### Columbine Hall al Thorney Columbers

	Anciently held by Philip de Columbus (no dates)
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Tyrell family own (linked to Cotton, Gipping and Shelland)
1559	John Gardiner owns (linked to Winston)
16 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Robert Carey owns
17 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Sir John Poley owns (linked to Boxted, Somerton, Freston and Hartest)
18 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Earls of Ashburnham owns (linked to Combs)

### Thorney Hall

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Roger de Huntingfield owns (linked to Alderton, Pettistree and Cookley)
1316	Sir Richard Amoundeville owns
1513	Inquis p.m. of Edward Ufford
1537	Thomas Woodhouse owns (linked to Freckenham)

**13. Memorial (cont'd):**

**Thorney Hall (cont'd)**

mid 16<sup>th</sup>  
cent. Henry Reppes owns  
1808 Tyrell family own  
Custom of gavelkind prevails

**Thorney Campsey**

1545 Given at early date to Abbess of Campsey (no dates)  
Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous  
manors throughout Suffolk)  
Alienated in the same year to Robert Downes  
1552 Lionel Talmash owns  
1560 Stephen Keble owns (linked to Lt. Finborough)  
1598 Sir Stephen Soame owns (linked to Cavendish, Bures,  
Freckenham and Herringswell)  
1764 William Villiers owns  
19<sup>th</sup> cent. Charles Tyrell owns (absorbed by Thorney Hall)

**Thorney Kebles**

1619 Sir Stephen Soames died seised (Copinger specified this  
could be another form of Thorney Campsey)

**Clements**

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Richard Clements owns  
No dates Bishop of Norwich owns  
1538 Tyrell family (absorbed by Columbine Hall)

**Cardons**

1538 Tyrell family (absorbed by Columbine Hall)

**Thorney Lizon's al Liesnes**

1543 Robert Downes owns (absorbed by Thorney Campsey)  
1606 Robert Broke owns (absorbed by Abbot's Hall)  
1835 Edward Beck owns

#### **14. Markets/Fairs**

- 1086 Market listed for Thorney Manor  
Grant of fair and market to Thorney Hall Manor (1338)  
Abbot of St. Osyth held sole right of holding fair and market on Abbot's Hall Manor (1348)
- 1679 Market held on Thursdays  
Fair held on Feast of St. Peter. Said to be frequented by those of above ordinary rank – drawn there by the excellence of the fruit to be found in the 'Cherry-yard' adjoining the fair.
- 1844 market held every Thursday, extensively supplied with corn, well situated for barley trade. Also cattle market held on same day (1912)  
2 fairs for toys and pleasure held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, for lambs and sheep held on 12<sup>th</sup> August (both held over two days) – abolished (circa 1891)
- 1984 Livestock market closed, had been in existence 150 years

#### **15. Real property:**

- 1844 £6,043 rental value  
1891 £10,789 rateable value  
1912 £14,865 rateable value

#### **16. Land ownership:**

- 1844-1912 Land always sub-divided

#### **17. Resident gentry:**

- 1679 Joseph Crane, Eyre (gent), and John Keeble  
1844 Rev. A.G.H. Hollingsworth M.A.  
1891 C. Marriott M.A., Oakes and E. Wells  
1912 B.B. Booth J.P., G.J. Gostling J.P., H.D. Longe J.P., J.C. Ody J.P., Lt. Gen. P. Story J.P. and W. Wade J.P.

#### **18. Occupations:**

- 1381 Earliest known basket maker – Johannes Hoo of Stowmarket
- 1500–1549 1 cordwainer, 1 smith, 1 vicar, 1 marker
- 1550–1599 13 yeomen, 1 musician, 1 carpenter, 7 husbandmen, 4 tailors, 1 clothier, 1 ash burner, 1 wheelwright, 1 weaver, 1 spinster, 1 carpenter, 2 cordwainers, 1 woollen weaver, 1 potter, 2 smiths, 2 labourers, 1 joiner, 1 clerk, 2 blacksmiths, 1 goldsmith, 2 shearmen, 1 mercer, 1 barber
- 1600–1649 17 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 4 husbandmen, 2 inn holders, 2 clothiers, 2 wheelwrights, 2 spinsters, 3 cordwainers, 1

	slaughterman, 1 woollen weaver, 1 joiner, 1 felt maker, 1 blacksmith, 1 grocer, 1 saddler, 1 tanner, 1 draper, 1 glazier, 1 linen weaver, 1 distiller of aquavite, 1 cloth maker
1650–1699	5 butchers, 9 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 5 inn holders, 1 tailor, 1 cooper, 1 oatmeal maker, 1 spinster, 1 pump maker, 3 cordwainers, 1 slaughterman, 5 bakers, 1 soldier, 1 miller, 1 joiner, 1 felt maker, 1 clerk, 2 blacksmiths, 1 locksmith, 1 bricklayer, 6 grocers, 1 tanner, 2 drapers, 3 woollen drapers, 4 apothecaries, 4 worsted weavers, 1 dyer, 1 maltster, 1 chirurgeon (surgeon) 1 collar maker
1679	Trade in Tammey's and other Norwich stuffs
1844	considerable river traffic in corn, malt, coal and wool. Formerly small manufacture of worsted stuffs Manufacturers of linen ('Suffolk hempen cloth'), sacking, rope and twine Extensive nurseries/market gardens Hop grounds, once extending 150 acres, reduced to 32 acres Manufacture of white bricks Pipe maker, dyers, fishmonger, gunmaker, farrier, umbrella maker, hatter/dyer, 2 clothes dealers, bank manager, musical instrument maker, 5 merchants, surveyor, millwright, cutler, copperplate printer, 2 clerks, supervisor, traveller, wine merchant, brewers, hay dealer, vet, turner, fruiterer, 13 schoolteachers, 4 attorneys, 3 auctioneers, 10 bakers/flour dealers, 3 bankers, 3 basket makers, 4 blacksmiths, 1 bookseller, 23 boot/shoemakers, 3 brazier/tinners, 1 brick/tile maker, 5 bricklayers, 8 butchers, 5 cabinet makers, 2 chemists, coach maker, 6 confectioners, 2 coopers, 4 corn millers, 2 curriers, 9 farmers, 7 fire and life officers, 3 furniture brokers, 5 gardeners/nurserymen, 2 china/glass dealers, 2 glovers, 5 grocer/drapers, 4 hairdressers, 6 hatters, 3 horse and gig letters, 15 inns/taverns, 6 beerhouse keepers, 2 ironfounders, 4 ironmongers, 11 joiner/builders, 1 linen/woollen draper, 2 linen manufacturers, 7 maltsters, 11 merchants, 10 milliners, 4 painter/plumber/glaziers, 5 rope/twine manufacturers, 4 saddlers, 11 tailors, 2 tallow masons, 7 straw makers, 4 surgeons, 11 tailors, 2 tallow chandlers, 1 tanner, 3 watchmakers, 1 wheelwright, 3 whitesmiths, 4 wine/spirit merchants
1873	Suffolk Iron Works, Bury Street, employed approx. 100 men
1912	Trade in corn, malt, coal, slate and timber Large wholesale/retail wine/spirit business (importers/bonders) 2 banks, extensive chemical manure manufacture. Gun-cotton and cordite manufacture. Agricultural implement manufacture and iron foundry.



Cycle , motor and engineering works. Public offices, officers of the Court, railway staff. 3 coach builders, 2 boat repairers, 4 hairdressers, 4 insurance agents, 5 butchers, 9 solicitors, 2 carriers, 4 butchers, bill poster, 3 commercial travellers, 8 beer retailers, 10 bakers, 2 stationers, 2 police officers, 4 dressmakers, 2 basket makers, dentist, 8 grocers, 5 tailors, gun maker, 6 shopkeepers, 7 builders, 2 cycle agents, 5 hotel owners, 4 apartment owners, 2 chimney sweeps, 2 electrical engineers, harness maker, manure agent, medical officer, brick/tile manufacture, furnishing ironmonger, linen/woollen draper, silk mercer, 3 maltsters, 11 publicans , 3 vets, greengrocer, 4 plumbers, 2 engineer/millwrights, vet/chemist/dental surgeon, brewers/maltsters, wheelwright, 6 confectioners, 5 surgeons, timber/iron merchant, 5 farmers, farm bailiff, 2 general dealers, 3 milliners, boot/shoedealer, 3 auctioneer/valuers, tax collector, registrar, dairyman, watchmaker, wholesale/retail tobacconist, travelling draper, tinsplate worker, nurseryman, 3 engineers, hardware dealer, 4 coal merchants, printer, 3 bootmakers, painter/decorator, cabinet maker, wardrobe dealer, tea dealer, outfitter, 2 general smiths, stay manufacturer, Berlin wood repository, 2 tobacconists, 2 photographers, district nurse, ironmonger, market gardener, monumental masons, picture frame maker, 2 millers, 2 stamp distributors, cycle manufacturer, Inspector of corn returns, 2 agricultural chemists, timber merchant/saw mills, publishers, 2 corn chandlers, 2 manufacturing chemists, mineral water stores, saddler, wine/spirit merchant, furnishing draper, furniture broker, jeweller, draper, 2 clothiers, blacksmith, umbrella repairer, fish curer, architect.

## 19. Education:

1818	6 poor children educated on legacy of 4 guineas National school (217 attend) Independent and Antipaedobaptist Sunday School (100 attend)
1833	14 daily schools (249 attend) 3 day and boarding schools (98 attend) 1 day and Sunday National school (106 attend) Independent Sunday school with lending library (240 attend) Baptist Sunday school (40 attend)
1844	10 academics, 1 Grammar school, 1 National school
1891	National school in Churchyard (built 1849) British School at Violet Hill – closed (1982) Day school run by Miss Osborne Boarding and Day school

## 19. Education (cont'd):

- 1891 cont'd Private day school, Ipswich Street  
Secondary school built (1900) (150 attend)  
Childer Road school, enlarged (1908), average attendance (1912) 175 boys, 135 girls, 100 infants  
Churchyard school (built 1835), enlarged (1852, 1872 and 1886) average attendance (1912) 150 boys, 121 girls, 110 infants
- 1912 Woolby ladies and boys school  
Chilton Primary school opened (1962)  
Stow Grammar school opened (1956) (renamed High school 1971)  
Abbot's Hall school opened (1982), replaced former British school at Violet Hill  
Hillcroft Prep school established (1913), transferred to present site (1953)  
Senior Mixed Council school (1913), became Stowmarket Middle school (circa 1971), modernisation plans announced (1983)  
Oakwood school opened (1975), for handicapped children  
National church school established (1835) on site of present St. Peters Church Hall, closed (1913), merged with British school in Childer Road.  
Eastwood Ho College established (circa 1914).  
Advertised as Boarding school preparing for Oxford and Cambridge Locals. Closed (1925)

## 20. Poor relief:

1776	£478. 13s. 0d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£1,377. 20s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£1,899. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£1,471. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,629. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£1,139. 4s.	spent on poor relief

## 21. Charities:

### Charity Estates and Rent Charges:

- 1840 numerous properties and rent-charges to be applied to education, apprenticing and for distribution among poor

## 21. Charities (cont'd):

### Poors Estate: (in and with Stowupland)

1840 Small house, outbuildings + 22 acres let at £35 p.a.  
Cottage + 21 acres let at £30 p.a.  
Rents applied to coals distributed among poor of  
Stowmarket and Stowupland  
Chilton Hall Meadow (10 acres 1R 32P) + cottage, let at  
£39 p.a. to church repairs  
Wyles (1 acre 3R 23P) let at £16 p.a. to poor relief  
Cross Pytles (1 acre 1R 30P) let at £8. 10s. 6d. to  
purchase of coals  
Perry Field sold for £284 and invested: used for  
purchase of coals  
Common Weal land, called Spoonmans, Stowupland (19  
acres 3R 26P + 10 acres and barn let at £38 p.a.) to  
National and British schools  
Old White Lion estate to providing clothing  
Richard Shute's bequest (1686): £100 for land purchase  
William Kent's bequest (1712): Messuages in Ipswich  
Street to provide clothing  
Numerous other small rent-charges applied to various  
uses.

## 22. Other institutions:

Guilds of Our Lady, St. Margaret, St. Peter and St. John  
(1450)  
Guildhall listed (1460), in use part as schoolhouse (1619),  
part for housing the poor, with 20 feoffees  
Isolation hospital for smallpox victims (17<sup>th</sup> cent.), gave  
name to Sick House Lane  
First Fire pump (1734), first steam fire engine (1914), fire  
station opened (1960)  
1776 Workhouse – 85 inmates  
New theatre recorded (1793)  
1803 11 Friendly Societies listed (414 members)  
Corn Exchange built (1835)  
Court house built (1850/51), originally police station.  
Fever hospital built for scarlet fever victims (1896),  
extended (1924), demolished (no dates)  
Conservative Club opened (1907)  
Cinema built (circa 1914)  
Museum of East Anglian Life opened (1965)  
Co-op Hall (formerly Explosives Works) closed (1954)  
St. Mary's Church Hall and Community Centre  
established (1966)  
Mid-Suffolk Sports Centre opened (1973)  
Health Centre opened (1972)  
Home for handicapped in Iliffe Way opened (1975)

## **22. Other Institutions (cont'd):**

	Assembly Rooms built (circa 1835), occupied by YMCA (1912)
1844	Gas works built to light town (1835/6) Petty Sessions held every alternate Monday, held at Court House (1891) 7 Fire and Life officers 3 banks Post office opened (1890) County Court held every alternate month in Institute Hall (1891) Ipswich Street
1891	Stowmarket Literary Scientific and Arts Institute – seats 400/500, foundation stone laid (1874) by Lady Frances Pettiward Arises from amalgamation of Literary Institute and Young Man's Association (no dates) Freemasons Lodge held at Fox Hotel. Warrant dates from (1845) (43 members) 2 Odd Fellows Lodges + Junior Lodge Foresters Court held at Parish rooms – 420 members Provident Society established (1832). Re-organised (1841), 1,090 members Greene King and Sons have artesian well for supply of town's water (330' deep) Bury and Suffolk Bank Penny Savings Bank
1912	Odd Fellows Hall, originally Catholic school, bought for Odd Fellows (1892), seats 200 Book Club in existence since (1796) Workhouse Children's Home – 24 inmates Fire Brigade Mid-Suffolk Liberal Association Parish rooms established in former Baptist chapel in Bury Street (1890), used for social meetings.

## **23. Recreation:**

	Earliest inn holders listed (1600)
1844	15 public houses, 6 beerhouses, 7 maltsters, Rose Inn (dates 1461)
1891	10 public houses, 16 beerhouse/retailers, 4 maltsters West Suffolk Rifle Volunteer Corps, Fox Hotel poeting house, Stow and Central Suffolk Farmer's Club, White Hart Hotel Boys Brigade formed

### **23. Recreation (cont'd):**

1912            11 public houses, 9 beer retailers, 5 maltsters, 5 hotels  
Bathing and Swimming Club, Conservative and unionist  
Club, Cricket Club, Football Club, Suffolk Yeomanry,  
YMCA  
Scouts (1909)  
Girls Brigade formed (1922)  
Football team (circa 1933)  
Regal Cinema opened (1936)  
Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (circa 1922)

### **24. Personal:**

Dr. Young:    tutor to John Milton (who is said to have stayed at the vicarage)  
and one time vicar of Stowmarket. Mulberry tree in ground of vicarage said to  
commemorate Miltons visit (1891)

George Crabbe: (1754-1832), poet, educated in Stowmarket

Rt. Hon. Sir John Barnard Byles: (1801-1884), Justic of Common Pleas  
(1858-73), author of book on Parliamentary Bills. Byles Walk named after  
him.

Spencer John Bent: (1915), first Suffolk man to receive Victoria Cross (born  
at Pickerel Inn, Stowupland Street, 1891)

Harry Double: local historian, collator of memories of Albert E. Double (his  
father) who was also a local historian (1987)

### **25. Other information:**

'A book of Records' by harry Double (no date)

Abbott's Hall: originally residence of Abbot of St. Osyth. Stands on site of  
Grange owned by monastery. Present building (18<sup>th</sup> cent.)

3 cases of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest (1844)

Town armoury situated in Church Lane (18<sup>th</sup> cent.)

Fire destroyed 18 houses in Bury Street (1868)

First section of by-pass opened (Stow/Claydon) (1975)

Queen Elizabeth II visits Stowmarket (1961)

Old Vicarage: Now houses Town Council offices and Thorn Tree Day Centre  
for the elderly

Town was anciently a borough and possessed chartered incorporation

Thorney Hall: remains of converted into malting (1912), said to have been the seat of the Kings bailiff (1086-12<sup>th</sup> cent.)

Parish pump: formerly situated in market place, removed (1902)

Railway station footbridge: erected (1890's), dismantled (1981), purchased by Colne Valley Railway Preservation Society

Rent revolt by Violet Hill Road council tenants against 50% increases in charges (1936)

Rose Inn: (dating from 1461) reputedly held prisoners being transported to Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich jails

25. Other information (cont'd):

Serious outbreak of smallpox (1678), 51 soldiers quartered in the town, died.

Site of mass grave known as Soldiers Hill

Severe famine in the district (14<sup>th</sup> cent.)

Extensive case of flooding (1912)

Explosion at Gun Cotton Company (established 1866) (1871), had undertaken trials of gun cotton in (1864). 28 employees died, 56 injured

3 hop grounds mentioned (1738), earliest record of hopground (1635)

Reservoir constructed and mains water laid on by Green King & Sons (1887).

Purchased by Urban District Council (1921)

Wine Vaults established (1785)

Edgar's Farmhouse: (14<sup>th</sup> cent.) aisled house, reputedly only such ground plan known to exist in Suffolk. PSIA Vol. VIII p. 54

'The 1<sup>st</sup> 100 Years – The Church of Our Lady' (1980)

'The 1<sup>st</sup> 300 Years – Congregational Church' by E. Banyard (1970)

'A Pageant in Pictures' edited by Harry Double (1982)

River frozen over for more than 16 weeks (1895)

'History of Stowmarket' by Rev. A.G.H. Hollingsworth

Roman pottery kiln found (1970)

Tape recording called 'Stowmarket Scrapbook – a Town in Sound' played to the public (1954)

Princess Anne visits Family Centre on Violet Hill Road (1985)

Tradition states that Robert Wolsey, butcher of Stowmarket, was father of Cardinal Wolsey

Town paid Matthew Hopkins (Witchfinder general) £28. 0s. 3d. to find its witches (1645): recorded that two old women, Mills and Lowe, were swum to ascertain guilt (parish folder)

Employees of Explosives Company came out on strike (1913), protest

Meetings held on Dukes Head Meadow, strike lasted over 2 months

Deed to Girlings Bakery dates from (1768)

Maltings in Station Road converted into Night Club (1983), previously entertainments centre (1976)

Reception for Lord Kitchener held at Railway station (no dates)

New library opened (1981)

Danecroft: on Finborough Road. Reputed site of Danes camp prior to attacking area (circa 870)