

Explore Cardinham - Hwithrewgh Kardhinan

Location

Welcome to the Parish of Cardinham which nestles on the southwestern edge of Bodmin Moor to the north east of Bodmin. It is one of the largest in Cornwall with a boundary of about 26 miles enclosing 9612 acres of land and 22 acres of water, and has a population approaching 600, mostly concentrated in Cardinham village around St. Meubred's Church and in the nearby hamlet of Millpool about 1½ miles to the north, as well as scattered in farms, houses and cottages in the Parish. The area boasts several Holy Wells and Monuments, and some fine ancient crosses notably in St Meubred's churchyard, and at Deviock and Treslea. There is a small airfield at Cardinham which is home to the Cornwall Flying Club. Visitors can enjoy peaceful walks and rides through beautiful countryside on the Moor and in Cardinham, Laneskin, Leball and Cabilla Woods.



History

Cardinham comes from the Cornish "Car" or "Caer" meaning "enclosure" or "fort," and "dinas" also a "fortress." Cardinham Castle was built in 1080 to the motte and bailey design on White Hill southeast of the Church by the Sheriff of Cornwall for the then Earl of Cornwall, Robert de Mortain who was William the Conqueror's half-brother. Not content with the estates he already owned after the Norman Conquest of 1066 he also seized much of the land in the Parish which had formally belonged to Bodmin Priory. This was very unpopular with the local moorland folk so he built the castle to keep them subdued. At this time he also built castles at Lostwithiel and Launceston where he lived. The Castle was occupied by Robert Fitz-Turold and his descendants for several hundred years, who adopted the family name "de Cardinan," after the village. Unfortunately almost nothing now remains of the Castle which is on private land.

Points of Interest

Millpool Chapel was built in 1860 and extended in 1991 with a large Sunday School and kitchen which has now become Millpool's Community Room. An entrance porch was added at a later date and finally the disabled toilet which allowed the kitchen facilities to be enlarged. The Chapel has always had a strong tradition of music; the Millpool Chorale, a group of approximately 20 lady singers, practises in the Community Room on Monday evenings. Cardinham Primary School sits between the mid 19th century Old Forge and the former 1901 Methodist Chapel, and up the road from the 1838 Old School House, all of which are now private dwellings. Built in 1882 the original Victorian building still forms the main part, with an annex and its own playing field close by. Cardinham Parish Hall opposite the Church is used for a variety of community activities and can be booked for private functions at reasonable rates. Situated on private land to the north of Cardinham at Trezance are the remains of a Holy Well, believed to have been one of the largest and most important in the area. Treslea or Wydeyeat Cross to the east of the village, dates from the 11th century and originally marked the eastern boundary of Cardinham Glebe, whilst to the south there are two early Christian inscribed stones near Welltown. Bury Castle Iron Age hillfort, inhabited from 400BC to 50AD, is on the south western edge of Bodmin Moor, and nearby are the alleged remains of a small chapel at St Bellarmin's Tor, dedicated to St Bartholomew who reputedly lived and preached there. Cardinham Woods is a beautiful mixed woodland of over 250 hectares managed by the Forestry Commission. It has a large carpark and Café, and miles of waymarked trails and tracks to take walkers, cyclists and horse riders deep into the woods to discover stunning viewpoints and an intriguing history. Overall Cardinham Parish has much to attract visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy. For more information: www.cardinhamparish.net

