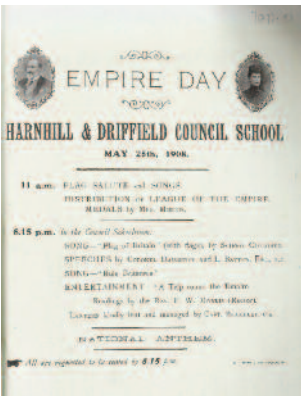
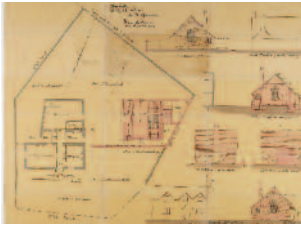




Old School
Driffield

History



Education. Education. Education.

Next door to the Old School is the 'School House' where up to 10 children were 'schooled' in the loosest terms until the late nineteenth century.

During the Victorian era, more enlightened people tried to improve conditions for the poor through education and moral guidance. The Elementary Education Act of 1870 made education compulsory from 1880. Most importantly, it demonstrated a commitment to provision on a national scale for Britain.

New board schools were set up to fill the gaps in provision, or where church or voluntary schools did not exist. Because parents had to pay, some families still kept their children at home. The Free Education Act of 1892 provided for the state payment of school fees up to ten shillings per week and helped ensure better access to education for all children.

The Harnhill & Driffield Council School (Old School) was planned following this announcement as a larger venue (for up to 25 pupils) for the surrounding area and built in 1894. The original architectural plans can still be seen on the wall in the house along with detail of boys' and girls' hat racks, schoolroom, playground and latrines.

Changing times

The school was open for less than a generation, during which it hosted local Empire Day celebrations in 1908 and saw its pupils sent off to World War 1 in 1914 (plaque can be seen in the village church).

From then onwards the 'Old School' was used as a dance hall, village hall and meeting area, and site of the village fete and Tug O'War over the years. The building became dilapidated with no funding available from the village to be able to service its upkeep.

In 1999, the house was sold by the 'Driffield and Harnhill Free School Foundation' to a developer – along with planning permission to convert it to a dwelling.

A first floor, which had not existed before, was built inside the shell and two bedrooms created with triangular windows, but maintaining the school windows at either end of the house.

In 2000, the house was bought by Mr Arkell of Arkell's Brewery fame, the original 165 year-old Cotswold family brewer. When staying in the Cotswolds you will be hard pushed not to come across an Arkell's pub or pint amongst over 100 venues in the area. Just look out for the Arkell's name when exploring the area and try their beer.

The Arkells sold the house in 2003 to its current owner.

The Floods

On 20 July 2007, Gloucestershire received a month's worth of rain in less than 24 hours. It was the wettest month since records began, which peaked on this day. Authorities described the rescue efforts as the biggest in peacetime Britain. On 21 July an amphibious rescue was used to ferry fish fingers to over 100 school children who were stranded in a Gloucestershire school. On 22 July Tewkesbury was completely cut off with no road access, parts of the town were under around three feet of water and flood waters entered the abbey for the first time in 247 years. On 23 July 50,000 Gloucestershire homes were left without electricity. By 24 July 420,000 people were without drinking water.

Old School, Driffield did not escape the flood.

As a result in 2008 the owner decided to take on remedial work, and at the same time make planning gain to the house – designing an extension and waterproofing programme that would assure the building's second hundred years of history.

What was a small village school/cottage is now a moderate house having added a porch, an extra bedroom, sitting room and cloakroom. The foundations have been raised either end of the building and the entire ground floor has been 'tanked'. If the 100-year flood comes again the house is now more likely to float than flood. The house was gutted (90%) and sympathetically refurbished with its history in mind. It is now fit for 21st century living.

House

Accommodation

Three double bedrooms.

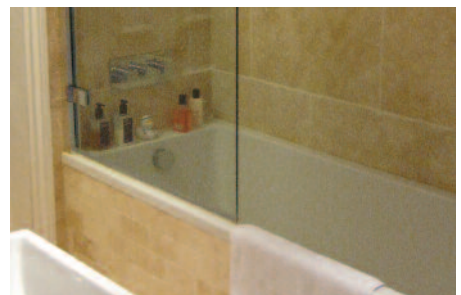
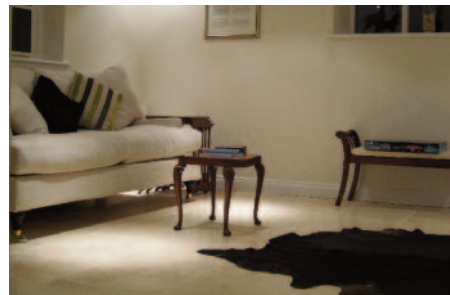
Two bathrooms. One with fixed shower & bath, one with hand-held showerhead & bath. One bathroom being a 'Jack & Jill' shared en-suite for two bedrooms, the other being an en-suite for the master bedroom. Airing cupboard and storage.

Facilities

Every room in the house (including the three bedrooms) have built in TVs. The kitchen has built in washer/dryer, double electric oven, electric hob, extractor, fridge/freezer and half-size dishwasher.

Outside

Parking for up to 4 cars in front. Back garden terrace and grassed garden. Mature trees include apple, cherry, plum, kiwi, peach, and pear.

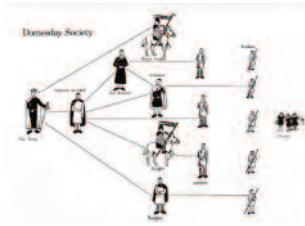


Village



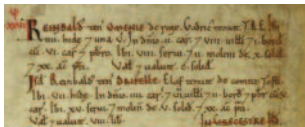
Driffield lies three miles south east of Cirencester, which apart from London, in 200AD was the largest Roman city in England. Here at last was civilisation outside Italy for the Romans – not in the strange people who lived here, but in the soft and beautiful rolling countryside.

Driffield village itself was first cited in the Domesday Book – a countrywide survey commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1086. At that time there were a total of twenty-six residents in Driffield. Eight were 'villeins' – unfree peasants who owed their lord labour services (two or three days a week), but who also farmed land for themselves. These were the wealthiest and most numerous of unfree peasants. There were two 'borders' in the village – a lowly peasant with less land. And fifteen 'slaves', who were the property of the lord. They had four ploughs between them and two mills rendering five shillings.



One priest ministered over Driffield residents at the time. But the ultimate land-owner was Regenbald, a Lotharingian priest who entered into the service of King Edward the Confessor and was accorded Episcopal status in his capacity as the King's chancellor. The word 'chancellor' occurs only once in the Domesday Book, relating to Regenbald of Cirencester. This is believed to be the first ever documentation of such a position – one which we now take for granted as the Prime Minister's most important advisor.

The church in Driffield was first built in the 12th Century at around the same time as Cirencester Abbey, with which it shares its name, St Mary's. The abbey, founded by King Henry I, was demolished in 1539 at the order of King Henry VIII. But Driffield church remained, even though as time moved on it fell into decay.



Many improvements to the church followed over the centuries by various owners of Driffield Manor. Most notably by 18th century squire Gabriel Hanger.



Hanger, the self-proclaimed 4th Lord of Coleraine, rebuilt the Driffield church, adding the tower. Many old stones, including fragments of coffin lids and window tracery, are built into the walls of the porch. A Norman lintel carved with stars and stem work shelters the entrance.

The Hanger family of Driffield were known as outrageous socialites. Son George, who is buried with his father and other relatives at the church, was a frequent companion of King George IV. Legend has it that His Royal Highness once filled a glass of wine and wantonly threw it in Hanger's face. Hanger, without being disconcerted, immediately filled his glass and threw the wine in the face of the person who sat to the other side of him, bidding him "pass it round".



The industrial revolution of the early nineteenth century began to necessitate the education of the working classes, and Driffield was no exception. A free school was built and opened in 1894 (now the Old School), as according to the Church "elementary education is a necessary instrument for the moral elevation of the poor."

But in 1914, Driffield's sons left for The Great War. A memorial stands outside the church today, and inside a Roll of Honour from their school in memory of "the old boys who fought and fell".

In nearly 1,000 years Driffield has only doubled in size. Still surrounded by miles of working land farmed by the residents, and without shop or pub, it has retained a tranquillity and friendly sense of Cotswold community seldom found anywhere in England nowadays.



The latest person to rent the Old School was The Marquess of Bath (rented 2014–2017) to house his nephew and children – the granddaughters of the 10th Earl of Sandwich. So, the colourful history of the village, house and occupants continues to this day...

Area



Supermarkets

Tesco (3 miles, 4 mins)

A huge, 24hr, Tesco Extra is 4 minutes drive from the house (closed Sunday night).

Aldi (3 miles, 4 mins)

Right next to Tesco. A new supermarket only a year old.

Turn left out of drive, left at off-set crossroads (end of Harnhill) – over the bridge – turn right on A417. In half a mile there is a roundabout. Turn left into Tesco.

There is also a Tesco in Cirencester town centre.

Waitrose (4 miles, 7 mins)

Turn left out of drive, left at off-set crossroads (end of Harnhill) – over the bridge – turn right on A417. In half a mile there is a roundabout. Take second exit, then second exit again at the next two roundabouts. You will see Waitrose on your right.

ASDA (10 miles, 17 mins)

A massive ASDA supermarket. Gret prices and more choice than you need.

Recommended Pubs & Restaurants

The Crown of Crucis Inn (1.5 miles/3 minutes)

Barnsley House, Barnsley (4 miles/10 mins)

The Village Pub, Barnsley (4 miles/10 mins)

Old Spotted Cow, Marston Meysey (6.5 miles/9 mins)

The Wild Duck, Ewen (7 miles/15 mins)

The Bathurst Arms, North Cerney (8 miles, 15 mins)

The Swan, Southrop (10 miles/20 mins)

Shopping

Cirencester (3 miles/5 mins)

The capital of the Cotswolds. This is a market town with interesting and independent shops, cafes, a roman museum, local crafts people and markets. First referenced in 150AD, Cirencester is dominated by the Church of St. John the Baptist, which dates back to 1115AD. Cirencester was known to be an important early roman area, the largest outside London.

Cheltenham (20 miles/25 mins)

The town is famous for its Regency architecture and is said to be "the most complete regency town in England". It has two pedestrianised shopping centres and very many chain shops, two theatres and the famous horse racecourse.

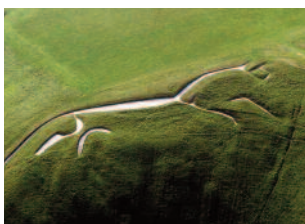
Swindon Designer Outlet Centre (15 miles, 20 mins)

Swindon Designer Outlet is Europe's largest covered designer outlet, occupying the restored Great Western Railway (GWR) works, near Swindon town centre. There are 105 stores, including a John Lewis Home Outlet, LK Bennett, Hobbs, Polo Ralph Lauren, Next Clearance, Tommy Hilfiger, Jaeger, Whittard of Chelsea, Gap Outlet and Skechers.

Tetbury (14 Miles/20 mins)

Tetbury is renowned for its antique shops, mostly found on and near Long Street, making it a stop-off for coach tours through the Cotswolds. The town centre also has a number of banks, estate agents, a branch of the auction house Bonhams and the lifestyle fashion brand Overider. Notable buildings in the town include the Market House, built in 1655 and the late-eighteenth century Gothic revival parish church of St Mary the Virgin and much of the rest of the town centre, dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Activities



Walks

There are many fields and walks around Driffield – you can walk for an hour along national trails and not see anyone for an hour. It starts in the village – left by the pond. Along the track which bends left. Continue along the track and then right between the fields and into the forest. Left along the forest, over the brook bridge and straight up to the path. Turn left to the farmhouse. Left at the farm house and take the track over another footbridge and along the path back to the village through a farm gate. Ask for more detailed directions.

You may also want to go further afield. In which case you should try:

Woodchester Park (20 miles/30 mins)

Nymphsfield, near Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3TS

Woodchester Park is situated in a stunning secluded valley near Stroud. The entire valley is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Buzzards, woodpeckers and owls breed in the woodland and coots, moorhens, mallard and mandarin ducks live in the lakes. Woodchester Mansion is a 19th Century Victorian Gothic Masterpiece mysteriously abandoned mid-construction in 1873. Hidden in a secluded Cotswold valley, it is untouched by time and the modern world. This Grade 1 Listed Building has been saved from dereliction, but will never be completed. You can walk around the park for well over an hour and find interest in every step.

Uffington White Horse & Dragon Hill (20 miles/30 mins)

A mile and a half south of the village of Uffington, Oxfordshire, walk the high Ridgeway of soft grass and chalk tracks, through an ancient area steeped in fascinating folklore. Uffington white horse was thought to date from the Bronze Age (1000 BC). This is by far the oldest of all the white horses, and is of an entirely different design to the others. In legend it is the place where St George slew the dragon, its blood spilling on the hilltop opposite (Dragon Hill) and leaving for ever a bare white patch where grass cannot grow.

Coln St. Aldwyns to Bibury (5 miles/10 mins)

6 Mile walk – there and back in a circular walk

There's the variety of landscape so typical of the Cotswolds; beech woodland, rivers, meadows and little cottages. It's flat and easy to follow, perfect for those new to outdoor walking. A pleasant circular walk that can be done in either direction as both Bibury and Coln St Aldwyns have good places to eat before or after your walk, though if starting from Bibury an early start is advised to grab one of the parking spaces.

Sightseeing

Cirencester Church (3 miles, 7 Mins)

Whether flying buttresses stretching in an arc, from high on the tower down to the ground, or the Anne Boleyn cup is what you want to see – it is worth a visit. Also, don't miss the abbey grounds behind for a walk.

Corinium Museum (3 miles, 7 Mins)

Home to one of the largest collections of Romano-British antiquities in the country. Corinium, Roman Cirencester, was the second largest town in Roman Britain.

Bibury Village (5 miles, 10 Mins)

Bibury was once described by William Morris (1834-96) as "the most beautiful village in England". Bibury is a popular Cotswolds' visitor attraction that can become very busy on a sunny summer afternoon, and even attracts visitors on the coldest winter day.

Cotswold Wildlife Park (17 miles, 25 Mins)

Cotswold Wildlife Park is set in 160 acres of parkland and gardens around a listed Victorian Manor House. The Park is home to a fascinating and varied collection of mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates from all over the world and aspires to show animals to people - so that they can come to understand and respect all forms of wildlife.

New Brewery Arts Centre, Cirencester (3 miles, 7 Mins)

New Brewery Arts is Gloucestershire's hub of visual and performing arts and crafts – inspiring learning and culture for the enrichment of all, regardless of age, ability or privilege. Why not take in an exhibition or visit the resident makers in one of the 12 world-class craft studios? Glass blowing, weaving, sculpture and more.



Sport

Cheltenham Races

Cheltenham Races is a major part of Cotswold life. If there is a race meeting during your stay it is worth going.

Cirencester Polo Club

The club is set amid 3,000 acres of parkland and woodland on one of England's most beautiful estates. The number 1 ground is the famous Ivy Lodge ground, often said to be "the best all weather ground in England".



Swindon Greyhound Racing

Great evening racing on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday eves. A very different type of sport and event.

The Cotswold Water Park

At 40 square miles the Cotswold Water Park is about the same size as the island of Jersey. Gravel extraction began in the area over 50 years ago. So far, 147 lakes have been made: almost 1,000 hectares of open water. If you are looking for a combination of activities, then check out one of the activities centres. You can participate in windsurfing, archery, raftbuilding, low ropes, sailing, kayaking, orienteering, canoeing, snorkeling, swimming (on a warm day!), angling, paintballing, cycling, walking and golf.



Cotswold Leisure Centre

The building opened in April 2006, and we believe it is one of the best Leisure Centres in the area. The Centre features both wet and dry facilities, spread over two floors, offering a varied programme of activities for people of all ages and abilities including swim, squash and gym.



Entertainment

Cirencester (10 Mins)

The Sundial Theatre at Cirencester College was opened in January 1998 as a professional and community venue. The professional programme incorporates drama from top touring companies, classical and folk music, lectures and celebrity evenings. The auditorium seats up to 275 depending upon the style of the performance.



Swindon (23 Mins)

Dance, comedy, drama and music venue with a 635-seat auditorium plus 2 bars, one with pre-show food.



Cheltenham (25 mins)

The Everyman is Gloucestershire's theatre - and has been serving the county (and beyond) since 1891. See ballet, opera, drama, dance, comedy, music events or our traditional family pantomime.

Stratford-upon-Avon RSC (45 mins)

The RSC is one of the world's best-known theatre companies. It's their job to connect people with Shakespeare and produce bold, ambitious work with living writers, actors and artists. This is after all where Shakespeare was born and lived. Visit his house and museum while you are there.



Oxford (45 mins)

The theatre is owned by The Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) who are the biggest theatre owners in the country, owning 40 theatres across the UK. Audiences at the theatre can see leading opera and ballet companies and of course sell-out pop concerts.

