

# The Dirty Habit.

**King Ethelred** the unready gave land over to the monk's use around  
AD 980-1015.

The monks' ale was a popular brew here even in those times.

**The Dirty Habit**, formerly known as the Pilgrims' Rest and prior to that **The Kings Head** dates back to the 13th century and is most certainly even older than that.

The Inn was a popular resting place for pilgrims travelling along the **Pilgrims Way** to Canterbury and Dover and to Winchester. **The North Downs Way** also converges above Hollingbourne, which meant that travellers in need of accommodation and quality refreshment kept the inn thriving over many hundreds of years. It is interesting to note that equestrian term 'canter' derives in its origin from the term '**Canterbury Gallop**' an easy gallop used by the pilgrims along **The Pilgrims Way**. It is reputed that **King James II** stayed at the inn whilst making his way to France via Canterbury and Dover.

**Katherine Howard** one of the unfortunate wives of **King Henry VIII** was born to a Culpeper, the esteemed family of **Hollingbourne Manor**, and spent many years of her childhood in the village of Hollingbourne.

The spring waters above the village were known throughout the region as being of particularly high quality, having been filtered naturally through the chalk downs. This water was also the source of the tasty **local ale** which the pilgrims drank in abundance.

The settlement of Hollingbourne was originally named after its Anglo Saxon Jute founder '**Hola**' and 'bourne' was the Anglo Saxon word for stream. Hence Hollingbourne means in fact **Hola's stream!**

There were four working mills in the village until the 19th century which was a thriving hub of activity for hundreds of years. With the advent of the railway the need for local mills declined and they eventually closed and fell into disrepair.

Hollingbourne lies in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty and there are many walks from the pub.

The pub was recently taken over by a local family from **Chegworth**. The complete re-furbishment and restoration of the building was the main priority with the intention of bringing it back to its full glory. Profusely wealthy in original oak beams and Georgian oak panelling of the highest quality now restored by local craftsmen. **The Dirty Habit** is an ideal place to savour your ale, wine or locally farmed produce, as it has been for pilgrims over the centuries.

Enjoy the unique atmosphere of this **gem of history** and ancient resting place whilst pondering all those most interesting characters that have visited **The Dirty Habit** over the centuries.