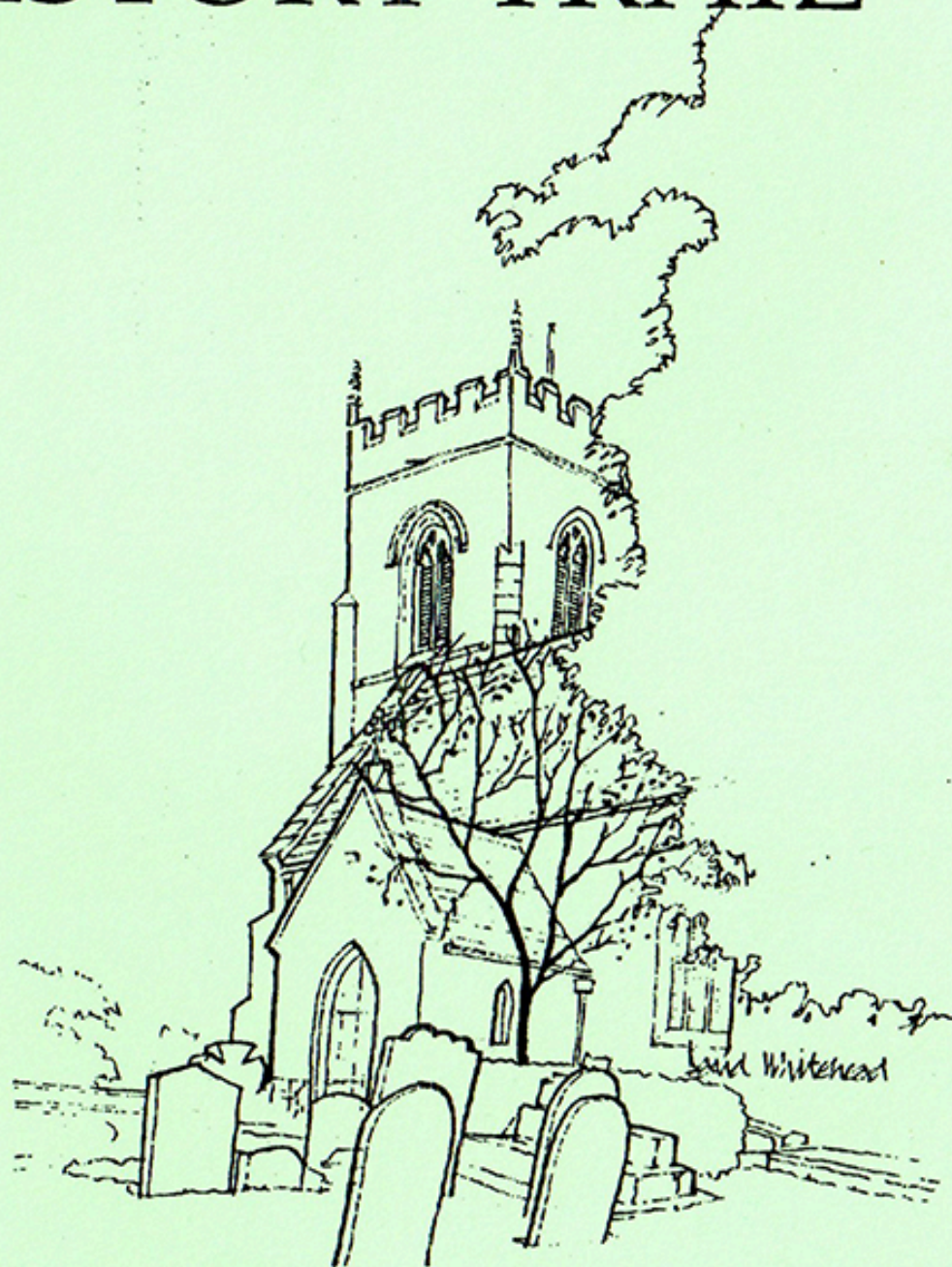
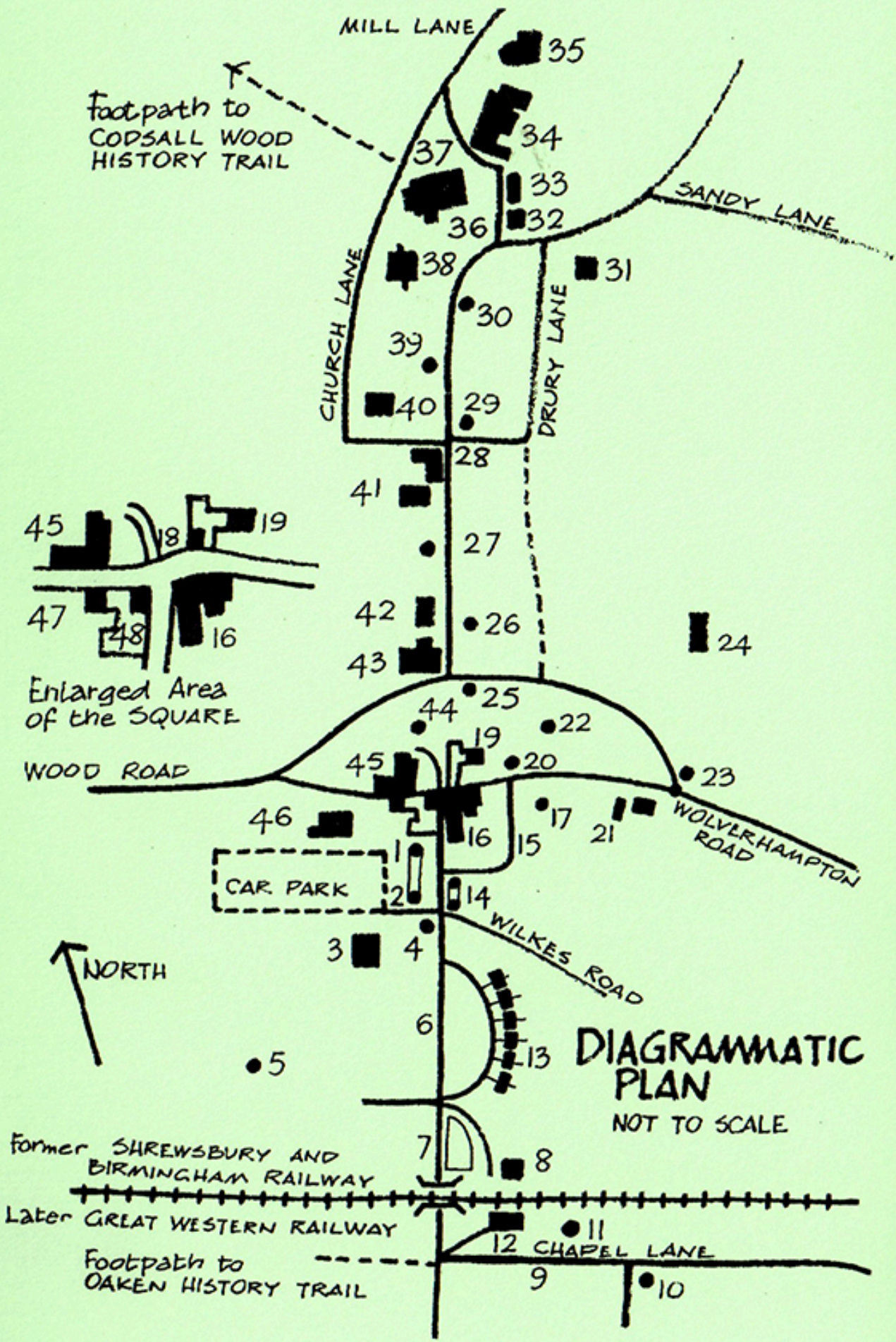


CODSALL VILLAGE HISTORY TRAIL



**CODSALL & BILBROOK
HISTORY SOCIETY**





A brief history of Codsall Village.

In 1086 the Domesday survey recorded six people in Codsall. They were probably the heads of households so the population would have been a little larger. The Church of St Nicholas is the oldest building. It has a Norman doorway thought to date from the 11th century. Since medieval times the area around the church, on the top of the hill, was the hub of the village with a windmill, village pound, forge, bakery and public house. The administration of the village would have been conducted from the Church through the decisions of the Vestry. The History Trail tries to show the fabric of the community as a rural village.

Agriculture was the mainstay of the village and even now the strip field system of cultivation can be seen to the west and north-east of the church.

Later on, the southern limit of the village was marked by a cluster of buildings around the junction of the roads to Codsall/Oaken and Wolverhampton/Ivetsey Bank. It included two public houses one of which, the Crown, was a coaching inn. Houses and a few small shops fronted onto parts of Church Street, now called Church Road, between the road junction and the Church.

There was a significant change after the station, on the Shrewsbury to Birmingham railway line, opened in 1849. The station became the commercial hub of the village with a goods yard, coal yard and cattle pens. Development took place along Station Road and beyond with some substantial properties being built to accommodate wealthy businessmen from Wolverhampton and the Black Country.

Gradually the focus of activity changed from the area around the Church and the station to the crossroads or 'Square'. Emphasis on the Square was increased after 1900 when Baker's Nurseries expanded on the site of Old Hall Farm in Church Street.

The growth of public transport, with a terminus for buses into Wolverhampton in the Square, the coming of electricity and the digging of the deep sewer all in the 1920s, helped to change the function of the village from an agricultural centre into a dormitory for Wolverhampton. This has been reflected in the development of several housing estates, new schools and improved roads. The centre of administration is no longer based in the church vestry but in the new District Council offices.