

## A short history of Langley, Hampshire

### **What does the name of the village of Langley mean?**

The name Langley is from the Anglo-Saxon period and means "long wood/clearing".

### **History**

#### **The Roman occupation**

At the time of the Roman conquest in AD 43, most of the island of Britain was inhabited by a peoples referred to as the Celts. Hampshire was one of the first areas to fall to the Roman invasion. The territory became the Roman province of "Britannia".

The modern road from Lepe Country Park to Totton travels on or very close to, the course of a Roman road. Romans generally built their roads in straight or close to straight lines. Sections of the Roman road can still be seen, it is shown on various maps and in some cases in the landscape:

- Starting at Lepe shore, south of Stone Farm
- Crossing Stanswood Lane, across what is now fields and woods before joining the current Lepe road.
- Continuing adjacent to the Langley Tavern, roughly along St Francis Road and onto the top part of Chapel Lane, before continuing across the small ford and what is now open heathland to Bell Lane.

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- Continuing through by Little Holbury, then through Hardley enclosure, before joining the Roman Road at Dibden Purlieu (near the turn at Butts Ash Lane).

In Roman times, it is likely to have been a busy through route to the channel and the Roman Empire in Europe and beyond!!!

### **The Anglo-Saxons**

The settlement of Britain by Germanic peoples referred to as the Anglo-Saxons, changed the language and culture of most of what became England, from the Romano-British to Germanic. This happened following the end of Roman rule around 410 AD.

At the time of Anglo-Saxon settlement, the area of modern Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was occupied by Jutish tribes.

The Jutes had founded kingdoms with names such as Wihtwara (Wight), Meonwara (Meon Valley) and Ytene (an area similar to the site of the New Forest).

Hamunscir (after Hamtun, the original name for Southampton) was one of the first Saxon shires to be recorded in 755 AD.

*Hamunscir* over time evolved to be pronounced *Hampshire*.

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Between 613 and 1017 the Saxons continually divided their shires for administrative, military and judicial purposes into “Hundreds”. The area of Langley was part a *‘hundred’*.

### **What was a “Hundred?”**

A Hundred approximately translates to enough land to support:

- around one hundred households
- headed by a hundred-man or hundred eolder (old English for an elder or chief)

Prior to the Norman Conquest, Langley was listed as the land of Wulfgeat (the hunter), but after the Norman conquest it passed to Hughe de St Quentin, an ally of “William the Conqueror”.

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### **The Normans**

After the Norman Conquest of 1066, William the Conqueror decided to document all of his new lands- the towns, villages, the people etc..

This was recorded into what is known as the Domesday Book and it was completed around 1086. It is a very good historical record of England from that time.

Langley was listed as a settlement in Domesday Book, “*in the hundred of Redbridge and the county of Hampshire*”.

Hughe de St.Quentin was *gifted* Langley amongst other lands, across Essex, Dorset and Hampshire as a reward for supporting the now King William and the invasion.

Hughe de St Quentin’s family originated from Saint-Quentin, near Coutances, in the Cotentin, or Saint-Quentin, the capital of lower Picardy in France.

### **Details from the Domesday book listing for the “Land of Hughe de St Quentin”**

- Households: six villagers and seven smallholders.
- Land and resources: two ploughlands with two men's plough teams.
- Valuation: annual value to the lord, 1 pound 10 shillings

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### **After the Normans**

Langley is listed in 1372 as being under the ownership of John Baron.

The estate passed to Richard Goolde in 1413.

John Ludlowe held the land in 1482. In 1500 the right of the Ludlowe's to hold the manor (so-called for the first time) was fiercely disputed in court by William Fletcher. The Ludlowe's won!!!!

In 1609 Sir Edward Ludlowe sold the manor of Langley to Sir Walter Longe, uniting the manor of Langley with the manors of Cadland (now beneath Fawley Refinery) and Holbury.

One part of the merged estate eventually became Langley Farm held by the Stanley family at the beginning of the 20th century.

The modern village lies on the site of the old manor house.

### **Modern History**

During World War II, with the threat of the invasion of Great Britain by the German military, much of the coast had to be protected by soldiers.

During the build-up to D-Day, the area around the southern New Forest was a hive of activity, which included construction of the Mulberry Harbours at Lepe. Alongside

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this, there were a number of military camps with soldiers, tanks and other weapons which were gathered in preparation for D-Day. Many of those brave young people left from this area.

Few reminders of that period remain but some are still visible, such as the wide concrete laybys along the Lepe Road, used for passing points for the large military traffic convoys and some as entrances to what were then military camps.

### **Impact of the Refinery**

The Esso Petroleum Company obtained a significant part of the former Cadland Estate, to build their *new* oil refinery in the early 1950's.

At the beginning of the twentieth, century Langley and Fawley were the only two villages in the parish. With the increase in workers for the refinery and a demand for local housing for these workers, more homes were needed, and the area quickly expanded from a sleepy country backdrop, similar to what we see today.

With the growth of the village of Blackfield in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, the name for the ward changed to the Fawley, Blackfield, and Langley Ward.

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### Famous former residents of Langley

#### **T.E. Lawrence, also known as Lawrence of Arabia.**



The young Ned Lawrence first came to this area as a five-year-old when the family moved here from Brittany in 1894. They spent three summers living at Langley Lodge. Langley Lodge Gardens at West Common was built on the site of this former house.

Whilst living at Langley Lodge, the young Ned and his brother befriended the children of a neighbouring family, the Laurie's.

Perhaps you are related to this family?

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### Tommy Cooper, did you know he was *Hardley* educated?



Although Tommy was born in Caerphilly in Wales, his family moved to Langley in Hampshire, when he was about two years old.

*“I lived with my aunt and uncle at 40 Hampton Lane, Blackfield, and it was from there that I first went to school at Fawley Primary School. We later moved to Hythe, where I joined Hythe Primary School. From there, at the age of eleven, I moved on to the secondary school at Hardley.”*

Tommy Cooper`s biography recounts that when he left school, he got a job at a shipbuilders yard in Hythe, before joining the army.

His comedy career began whilst serving in the Middle East during WWII, where he joined a concert party to entertain the troops.

And *“just like that”* history was made...



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## Map of the area from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century



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## **The Romans**



# A short history of Langley, Hampshire

## The Anglo-Saxons



# A short history of Langley, Hampshire

## **The Normans**



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Tommy Cooper image, from The Sun <https://www.thesun.co.uk/tvandshowbiz/7997316/tommy-cooper-death-in-his-own-words-documentary/>

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<https://editalconcursosbrasil.com.br/noticias/2023/12/tem-um-destes-20-sobrenomes-seus-ancestrais-eram-do-imperio-romano/>

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