

Ashover

Ashover in Derbyshire can be found in the Amber Valley. It is at the centre of a large tract of land, approximately 10,000 acres, mainly comprised of woodland and hills. A good number of Bagshaws were born in the Ashover region and a notable home for some was Goss Hall.

Ashover history includes a Roman influence with one of their main roads, Ryneld Street, running approximately two miles from the village. There is a great belief that the Romans had lead mines in the area. Three families came to own most of the area with their bases at Goss Hall, Eastwood Hall and Eddlestow.



All Saints parish church is a resting place for a few of our Bagshaws. The church was built in the late 14th and early 15th centuries but still has signs of an earlier incarnation in the south doorway, created in 1275 by Margaret Reresby with the tower added by Thomas Babington in the 16th century.

Goss Hall

Goss Hall can trace its history back over 900 years. Purchased by Robert Perpoyn (Pierpont or Pierrepoint) in the reign of Edward 1 (1272-1307) it was known as Pierpont's Manor.

Around 1500 it passed into the ownership of the Babingtons, a staunch Roman Catholic family known to Queen Elizabeth. The Hall became known as Babington Manor. An heir Anthony was born in 1561. As a boy he served the Earl of Shrewsbury, gaoler to Mary the captive Queen of Scots. Anthony was devoted to the Catholic Queen and set in motion a conspiracy to set her free. He secretly visited Mary during her captivity at Wingfield Manor disguised as a gypsy, his face and arms stained with walnut juice. After she was moved to Staffordshire, spies discovered she was sending and receiving letters hidden in beer barrels. A letter from Babington revealing a plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth was intercepted. There are stories that he hid in the cellars of Goss Hall, but he was arrested and thrown into the Tower of London and tortured. Although he petitioned Queen Elizabeth for mercy and an offer of £1000 was made to procure his pardon it was to no avail. He was hung, drawn and quartered on 20th September 1568 at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

There is a rumour of a tunnel built between Goss Hall and Edelstow constructed by the Babingtons

to avoid capture should their plotting be discovered but this has never been discovered. The Queen then gave his forfeited Babington Manor to her then favourite Sir Walter Raleigh.

In 1601 Sir Thomas Reresby a favourite of the court of Queen Elizabeth and King James bought Babington Manor and 1140 acres out of the 1330 acre estate. In 1612 Reresby mortgaged the property but unable to repay, had to sell it in 1620.

In 1623 Goss Hall and some of the manorial estate were purchased by Immanuel Bourne of Ashover; it was passed to his son Obidiah Bourne but around the 17th century it was sold to the Bower family who owned it for many generations. In 1817 Goss Hall passed to Sarah Bower who married Samuel Dutton Esq. He was eight times Mayor of Chesterfield. Sarah died in 1856 and Goss Hall was split into two and tenanted and farmed whilst the new owner Samuel Bower Dutton lived in Monyash. In 1890 their daughter Sarah married Alfred McDougall, a wealthy printer from Sheffield. Goss Hall continued to be tenanted until 1937 when Allan McDougall converted it back to one dwelling and took up residence. In 1947 the mortgage taken out by his parents was transferred to Allan. Upon his death ten years later Goss Hall by-passed his two children and against his wishes ended up in the hands of a reckless and extravagant stepson; the following year it was sold out of the family, breaking the Barratt Bower connection.



Goss Hall

The Rev Immanuel Bourne was the first in a long line of rectors of the parish church. He took the position in 1624 and either a Bourne, Bourne-Nodder or Reresby held the office for over 600 years.