

David Pannett's History of Bickton part 36

What future for our past?

In recent years many older buildings discussed in Bickton have been restored and tastefully modernised, the Isle Court last month being but one of them. The local authority planners have generally encouraged such work.

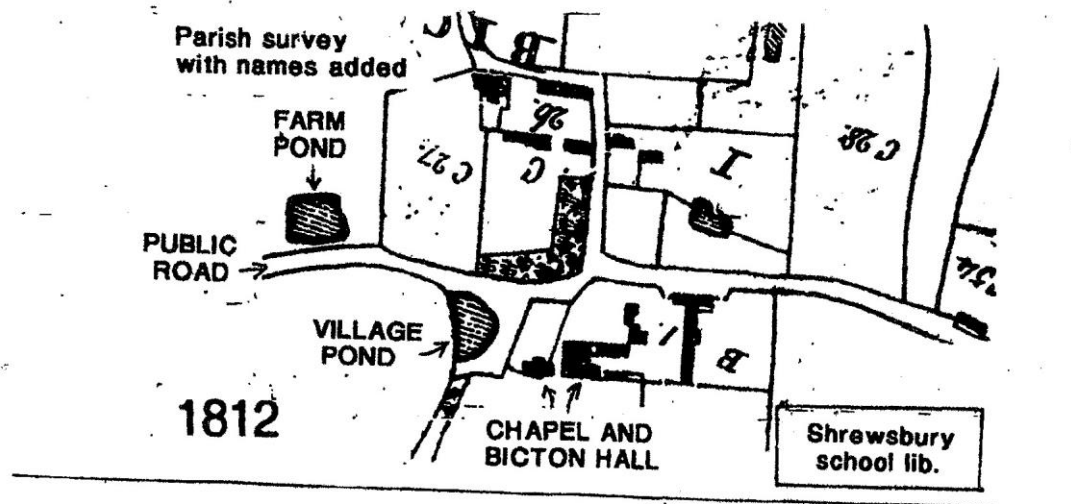
Restoration of the memorial church clock was one part of this trend.

Meanwhile in the neighbouring villages some landscape features have been preserved for the enjoyment of everyone both resident and visitor: Chirawardine 'Millenium Green' enhances the old castle ruins and has been the focus of much community activity; at Montford the village green and 'duck pond' have been brought back to life; at Great Ness some historic features have been both conserved and provided with interpretative signs. Here in Bickton a small patch of woodland by the church has been acquired for the benefit of both locals and wildlife.

However here in Bickton there still remains a 'blot on the landscape', arising from serious neglect of our heritage. The 'old church' and environs includes a mixture of public road and open space together with both private and ecclesiastical property and has suffered from confusion over ultimate responsibility. By its location it has been 'out of sight and out of mind' for most people in Bickton, so few have been stirred to say anything about it.

We know about the history of the site (see various maps and comments in this history series, e.g. March '08). We can see its present state, which has declined for several decades and now we must work towards a better future, which could include all those aspects shown by the work of our neighbours across the river.

The following illustrations make the point!



Rough sketch of old church and village pond area (2010)

