

## Manorfield Detectives.



Tudor Cottage, Carey Hill Road.

Other than the church, this is probably one of the oldest buildings in Stoney Stanton. It is believed to have been built in around 1600 as two joined cottages.

Tudor houses, like this one are called timber framed houses, that's because the black lines you can see are heavy wooden beams that make the frame of the house, as this model shows.



In between those beams are panels of wattle like this.



Then daub is pressed into the wattle to create a draught proof layer which dries out and can then be plastered and painted.



Tudor Cottage has 3 bays, meaning 3 sections, and if you look at the photograph the frame was built on a stone plinth or base. This was mainly to prevent damp and also keep vermin such as rats and mice out of the house originally.

Quite often in later years, as they became more affordable, the wattle and daub might be replaced by bricks. The bricks might only have been used for repairs or when extensions to the home were made.

In this view of the back of Tudor Cottage the large Tudor chimneys can be seen clearly. There was no central heating and the fires were needed to keep a house as warm as possible in the winter months.



In 1670, a new tax was introduced, Hearth Tax, a hearth is the name for a fireplace. So, people were taxed on the number of fireplaces they had in their home-just like being taxed on the number of radiators in your house today.

Villagers were taxed 1 shilling for every fireplace, twice every year; once on Lady Day (March 25<sup>th</sup>) and again on Michaelmas (September 29<sup>th</sup>).



So, here is the list of the people from those tax records we know were living in Stoney Stanton in 1670, along with the number of hearths or fireplaces in their homes. You could work out how much tax they paid every year.

John Bent 3  
William Greene 2  
Isaac Griffin 2  
Thomas Wood 1  
Widow White 1  
Thomas Bunning clerk, 3 (this means vicar)  
William Bennett 1  
William Bent 3  
John Perkins 3  
Mr Mees 3  
Edward Parker 1  
Mr Cooper 5  
Richard Bent 2  
John Orton 3  
Richard Fosill 1

John Biddle 2  
Nathaniel Reade 1  
Thomas Moore 1 and forge 3  
John Brown 1  
William Vann 1  
Mrs Benskyn 5  
John Perkins 3  
William Blackshaw 2  
William Grace 3  
William Perkins 1  
William Pegge 2  
Mr Clarke 4  
Richard Norton 1  
William Reade 3

George Durden, Widow Thompson, Widow Moore, Sylvester Vann, Ann Mortimer, Widow Bright, William Pope, Thomas Reade along with 6 others not named, all had 1 hearth each but were considered too poor to pay the tax and were presented with a certificate from the parish. This had to be signed by the vicar or a churchwarden.

In all, the records show there were 42 houses in Stoney Stanton in 1670. We know that Tudor Cottage was where one of those families lived.....probably one of those with more hearths, but which one we'll probably never know for sure.

Maybe, try working out what you would pay for the number of fireplaces and radiators in your home if we paid the tax today? Try the link below for a currency converter, it shows you what money of the past is worth today and what you could have bought with it.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/>