

THE ALMONRY



The name derives from when the building on this site became the farmhouse of 'Almonry Farm'; until then, it was a freehold messuage held in 1433 by the heirs of Robert Knight. It never served as an almonry, a building where alms were dispensed to the poor – this was at the opposite end of the High Street at what is now the Pilgrim's Rest.

There has been a building on this site since 1090. Parts of the current building date from the 15th century, with additions made over the next couple of hundred years. It is now the home of Battle Town Council.

Its fortunes have fluctuated over the centuries – at some times, multiple families lived within its walls; at others, it was a private home. The last private owner, Miss Mimi Holloway, seen raising a glass below, lived here until her death in the 1970's.



The front garden was a tennis court and the back gardens stretched well beyond the current boundary down to a stream: these included a cutting garden, ensuring that she always had fresh flowers at home. Here we picture Mimi's gardener and chauffeur, Derek Ellwood, at work in the garden:



Battle Museum of Local History occupies what was once the slaughterhouse of the farm and then in later years the garage and gardener's shed of Mimi Holloway's private home (with an extension added in 2003 to allow the Museum's collections to be fully displayed!)

The gardens are nowadays maintained by Beautiful Battle, a group of over 20 volunteers, who also look after 12 other gardens throughout Battle, as well as maintaining hanging baskets and containers in the High Street and surrounding areas.