

- 1902: W. A. Copinger's History of Buxhall

Buxhall is an interesting but somewhat scattered village in the hundred of Stow and county of Suffolk, three and a half miles west by south-west of Stowmarket station, on the Great Eastern Railway, twelve miles from Bury St. Edmunds, fifteen from Ipswich - the county town - and eighty-four miles from London. It is in the eastern division of the county, and in the diocese of Norwich, but for County Council purposes is in East Suffolk and the Combs division. It forms, in fact, with Combs, Finborough Magna, Finborough Parva, Onehouse, Harleston, and Shelland, the Combs division of the Stow Union (East Suffolk), and with Finborough Magna, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland, the Buxhall polling-station of the North-Western or Stowmarket division of the county for Parliamentary purposes, the place of election being Bury St. Edmunds.

Buxhall is surrounded by six parishes. If one begins from the south and proceeds eastward, the adjacent parishes are Finborough, Onehouse, Shelland, Rattlesden, Brettenham and Hitcham. The Parish contains 2,560.093 acres of land, and the rateable value is £3,991 15s. 6d. At the time of the Domesday Survey the population was 200. The increase has not been rapid, for in 1800 it had a population of 385. In 1811 the population was 415 (a note in the Parish Books says 412), in 1821 457, in 1831 466, in 1841 533, in 1871 488, in 1881 476, in 1891 424, in 1901 402. The number of houses in 1794 was 70. The majority of the houses and cottages forming the village are of picturesque design and well situated. They are mostly built of the clay of the neighbourhood and thatched with straw. Originally the mode of covering these dwellings seems to have been by heaping on the roof sods or fern or heath, which apparently answered the purpose of keeping off the inclemencies of weather; but this mode gave place by degrees to the laying on of straw or haum in a more regular manner. The first refinements in roofing were shingles, which are very ancient. Tiles until recently, though commonly in use from the beginning of the sixteenth century, found no place on the roofs of the Buxhall cottages.

Buxhall is called in Domesday Book *Bukessalla-buresalla*, from *Bur*-bures, a Bower or dwelling and *hala*-healthy, or sal, the hall, the bower of health, or healthy hall. *Bukes-salla*, the hall of flagons. The one meaning has reference to its elevated and salubrious situation, and the other to its hospitable owner.