

"THE LIVE AND LET LIVE."

CODDENHAM, SUFFOLK.

This old house, which dates from the 15th century, stands in the centre of the village, in a street just past the church on its northern side. It is the next house to the Crown Inn, and is situated on the left-hand side of the street. It consists of a long two-storied building, at the end of which is a projecting wing with a gable end intersecting the main roof. The fabric is strongly constructed of oak with clay daub filling, standing on a base of brickwork and masonry, the roof being covered with plain tiles. The upper floor overhangs the lower story, and is carried on beams supported by uprights, having pilasters with ornate caps and bases, from which spring moulded brackets. Originally all the timber construction shewed externally, but later, probably about the 17th century, it was covered with pargetting, ornamented with geometrical designs in low relief.

Till recently it was used as an inn, called the "Live and Let Live," but the license being extinguished, it was divided up into tenements and let as cottages. The iron frame for the sign can still be seen.

By reason of the many structural alterations which it has undergone, much of its interest has been lost, and there is little of note internally. Remains, however, of the old Tudor headed windows can be observed at the western end, and the oak beams and other constructive details are visible inside so that it is not difficult to reconstruct the original disposition and size of the rooms.

The history of this interesting building, like so many of the same period, is veiled in obscurity, and the scanty information that we have has to be supplemented by conjecture. It may have been an ancient hostelry in the days when the church was served by the Priory of Royston, the Great Tythe of Coddenham Parish having been granted at an early period to that Priory. At the dissolution the tithe passed into other hands, but was restored to the vicars of Coddenham some 150 years or more ago.

The village church and the houses generally, are worthy of a visit, and the Crown Inn adjacent to the "Live and Let Live," contains many interesting features. It is practically the same period as the latter on a more elaborate scale, but it has been altered in character by injudicious reconstruction and rearrangement. Nevertheless, it is a fine specimen of timber construction, and some of the interior details remain intact, shewing it to have been a place of considerable importance in size, and beauty of decoration.

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