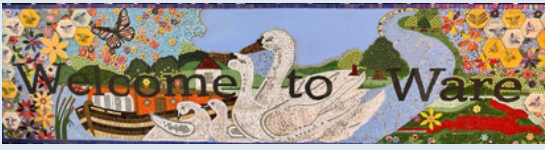


# Ware's Story



This picture welcomes people at Ware's train station today. It was created by adults with disabilities.



Ware is a small town in Hertfordshire, near London.

6000 B.C.



People have lived here for more than 8,000 years!



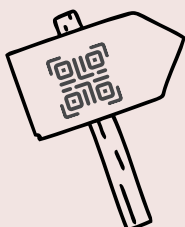
That's really unusual. That means Ware one of the oldest communities not just in the UK but in all of Europe.



The area's river, wetlands and hunting grounds were important reasons for why people have lived here so long.



People back then weren't writing down histories and they weren't speaking English then. So we have to use our imaginations a little.



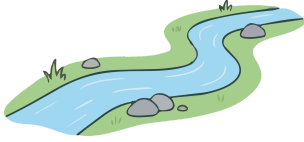
In Ware today, there are places that could help us imagine that story. Someday soon we hope to do more to showcase those places.

2800 B.C.



A very long time ago, people learned how to make tools and they started farming here. They brought new languages.

1200 B.C.



The River Lea was named after an ancient god, Lugh - for the shining or bright river.

750 B.C.



An old Roman road called Ermine Street ran through Ware.



Ware was called 'Waras' then for 'weirs' or little dams.

1066



It was mentioned in the Domesday Book, one of the earliest historical public records we have.



Ware was smaller then. It had 125 households.



Over time, Ware continued to grow. It became a model medieval English market town.



Cambridge



Ware



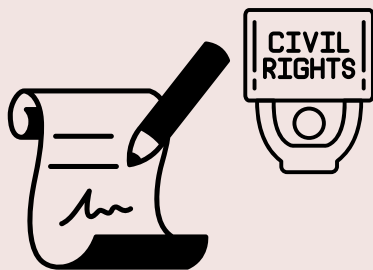
London

Ware was then (and still is) an important stop between Cambridge and London.



Famous people have been part of Ware. One man who owned land in Ware, Saer de Quincy (Earl of Winchester) helped create the Magna Carta.

1215



The Magna Carta is one of the most famous documents in the world. It protects the rights of people.

1381



The Ware Priory was founded as a stopping point for religious pilgrims. (You can still visit the Ware Priory today!)

1381



People from Ware helped fight for more rights for poor people. They took part in the Peasants' Revolt and attacked Hertford Castle.



Over the centuries there were debates about religious freedom across England - mostly between Catholics and Protestants.



That happened here in Ware too. Thomas Fust was burned to death at the Ware marketplace for his religious beliefs.

1553



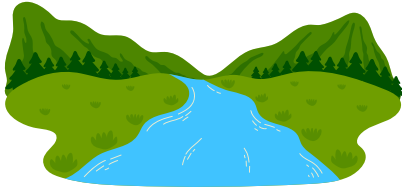
To stop the Catholic Mary from becoming Queen, the Protestant Lady Jane Grey was declared Queen - right here in Ware!



9 DAYS QUEEN

She was only queen for 9 days.

1613

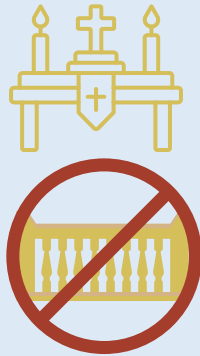
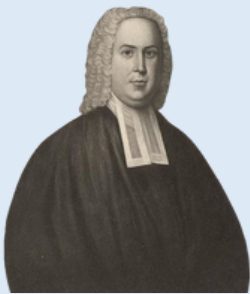


Ware became important in other ways. The New River was built to supply London with water from Ware.

It still does this today!

(You can walk a path from Ware that goes all the way to London.)

1627



Charles Chauncy was a Puritan vicar of Ware's St Mary's Church. He tore down an altar rail in the church (which was previously Catholic).

He did this because the religious reformers believed people should be able to be closer to god and not kept separate.



Chauncy later helped to found Harvard University in the USA, one of the oldest universities in the States.



(And of course today one of Ware's secondary schools is named for him.)



Since it is on the way between Cambridge and London, Ware was a good place to rest, it had lots of inns and stables for horses.

1700



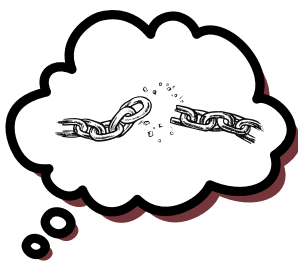
Gazebos first appeared on Ware's river as a way to encourage tourists to visit when it started to cost a lot to travel on the Cambridge-London road (but the ones we have today are newer and weren't there then).

1785



Historic England Archive: CGHPL\_01\_0070

Another famous incident happened when Thomas Clarkson, who was traveling from Cambridge to London, stopped at Wadesmill, just outside of Ware.



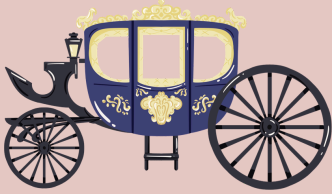
Clarkson decided there that he would devote his life to ending the slave trade. This decision helped change many lives.

1833

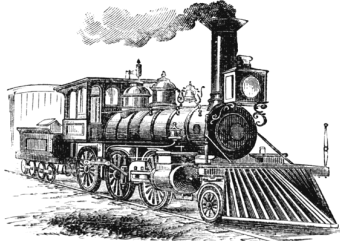


He and others did it! Eventually, all slaves in the British empire were given their freedom.

1843



Queen Victoria was one of the last travelers to come through Ware in a horse-drawn coach. The coach traveled at 14 m.p.h.



Trains came to Ware, and changed things forever. With the train it only takes about an hour to get to London, by horse it took a day.



Ware developed more industry. It became famous for maltings to dry grain that was important for making beer and especially for a special kind of dark beer called porter.



At one time there were 150 maltings in Ware. Today there are a few left, including the Southern Malting, which is now an arts-based community centre.

1898



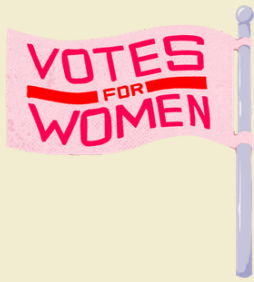
Then



Now

Other science-based industry came to Ware including Allen & Hanbury's, which later became GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). This remains one of the world's leading drug companies.

1900S



in 1913 an important women's march came through Ware on the way to London during a national campaign for the right to vote for women. It worked! Women first voted in the 1918 election.



People from Ware fought in the World Wars and other wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

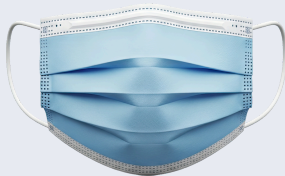


Ware continues to play an important role in our nation's story.

We have lived through lots of important history recently.



Brexit.



COVID.



And today's struggles over national identity.

TODAY

♡ WARE ♡  
NO PLACE  
FOR HATE  
ON THIS WE ALL AGREE

The people of Ware have always come together when times get difficult.



Ware is full of creative, caring and diverse people who do a lot to make this a wonderful place to live.



Our small town, where people have lived for 8000 years, has helped to make England what it is today.

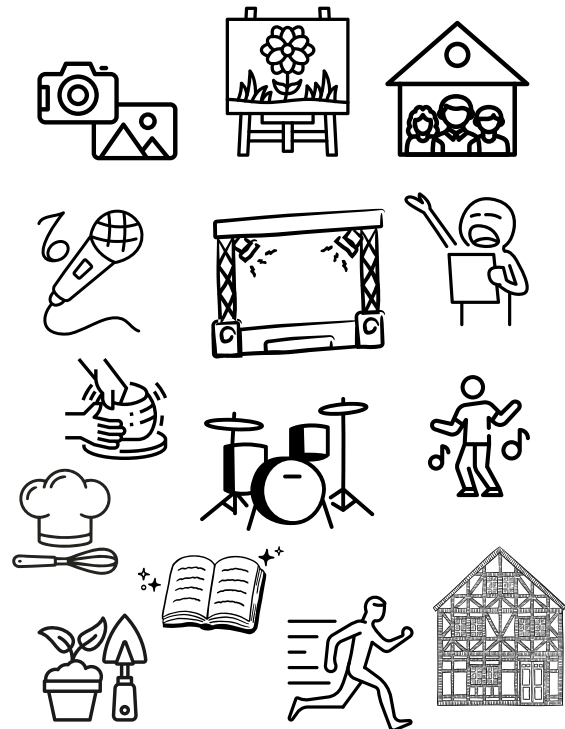
BUILD  
YOUR  
OWN  
FUTURE

And we all look forward to helping build the future.

WARE  
NEXT



Ware has entered a competition. We hope to win £3 million to be UK Town of Culture 2028.



Culture is the arts, ideas, and customs of a community.

## We want to celebrate Ware's 8000 year history and its future

Join us!



@warenextcic



@ware.next



If we win, we plan to use the arts to help us celebrate

- Ware's tremendous culture
- Our unique history and heritage (what we have learned from our past)
- Our rivers, roads and location
- Our exceptional community spirit
- Our hopes for Ware's future