

The house was, by a very credible tradition, garrisoned by the Parliamentary army, and a skirmish took place there in 1642. Before that, the Russells had made Woburn their chief seat, and by the middle of the 18th century, Chenies had become the residence of a tenant farmer, Mr Davis. This gentleman, without the Russell's consent, converted part of the south wing into five tenements for his labourers and this was not discovered until about 25 years later when he was made to reinstate the building at his own expense. The fenestration of the house was extensively restored (copying the originals) in about 1815, when the present front porch and door were added, and the west and south elevations of the north wing cased in Georgian brick.

The house has been called by various names (Chenies House, Chenies Place, even Chenies Palace!) but the Manor House is the oldest name recorded, having been in use in Tudor times.

**THE VILLAGE SCHOOL** stands to the west of the village green. It was built in 1846 to educate the children on the estate by Anna Maria, wife of the 7th Duke.

**THE BAPTIST CHAPEL**, situated to the south of the Red Lion, was built in 1778. Chenies Baptist Church was first formed in 1760 as an independent church and continues to be independent in its government to this day. For nearly 19 years meetings were held in a small room until in 1775 Mr William Davis, steward to the Duke of Bedford, who resided in the Manor House, bought two cottages and the field on which the Chapel stands, from the Duke. He subsequently resigned his office with the Duke, helped to build the Chapel, and gave the land and the Minister's house to the Church. He retained the cottage between the Minister's house and the Chapel, where he spent the rest of his days. In 1821, the Minister, then the Rev. Ebenezer West, started a school "for 4 or 5 young gentlemen under 12 years of age", together with his two sons, one of whom, Charles (later Dr Charles West), was the founder of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

**CHENIES PLACE**, to the north of the village, overlooking the river Chess, and originally known as Woodside House, was enlarged for Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, widow of the 10th Duke, in 1897 by Kempe the glass painter, from a smaller late 18th century house formerly a girls' school.

Proceeds to Church Funds.