

CROSSHILT LANE



Crosshilt Lane and Soppell Village

Map Key

1. The Newerbridge
2. The River Wense
3. Measser's Farm
4. Crosshilt Lane
5. Stephensfall Corner
6. Old George Lane
7. Sheepswander Way
8. Netheralley
9. Vyntry Street
10. Langhill
11. Bread Street

Setting description

Crosshilt Lane runs northwards from the main street in the village of Soppell, towards Redmill, a hamlet scattered around the Frye family Watermill. Lined with farms and fields, it heads downhill from the village before crossing the River Wense by Measser's Farm. It was named for the famous battle fought along its length, up the hill into Soppell village. Baron Stephen fell at the junction of Crosshilt and Old George Lane, the broken hilt of the Blackword fatally piercing his guts. Of course, Soppell has found itself the centre of many a battle, both before and since. Little does a quarter of a century pass without the sound of fife and drum echoing along Crosshilt.

Ideas for Wars that could come to Crosshilt

- 1 **The Triplet's War**, a war of succession for the throne of King Phillippe X, fought by his children Cadda, Conomor and Childeric.
- 2 **The Grain War**, a small, regional conflict between the cities of Bishophorn and Eassinge fought mainly among the peasant classes despite the city councils' best efforts to broker peace.
- 3 **The War of the Electors**, in which nations skirmish ceaselessly, destroying vast tracts of land and many thousands of lives. The ten bickering Elector Princes drive the conflict while their Empress watches on.
- 4 **The Symondian Conquest**, in which Symond the Conquerer slowly takes the country, bit by bit, from his nephew King Davy the Grim.

Folk found on Crosshilt Lane today

- 1 **Forbar Westyms**, a hop-farmer, who is panicked as Randall Comyn's bull has got into the hop garden.
- 2 **Malin Crannidge**, from the buttery, off to fetch a sack of salt from Low Marsh Farm. Her demonic donkey Ribbons is refusing to enter Sheepswander Way.
- 3 **Titus Ramberidge**, a peddler who sells hand-drawn maps, home-brewed potions and crudely cast metal charms depicting local saints or animals. His boots have worn through.
- 4 **Bugler Roger Chandler**, who returned from the wars in the West to find his parents dead of the flux and his hovel torn down. With a bad leg, he finds it hard to work in the fields and is left to beg by the roadside.
- 5 **Rosie Docket and Pip Plockett**, best friends born on the same day and aged 9¾. They work as birdscarers in the fields and are searching for their dog Cheeky.
- 6 **Alyss Pitt**, a strawplaiter. Furious and fresh from a fist fight with Elinor Measser over who will 'walk at the head' in the summer parade.
- 7 **Gillam Tarte**, who is up a ladder pruning a tree. He is being annoyed by a pair of blackbirds that keep attacking him.
- 8 **Bevil Peaseley**, a drover from Gitch Farm out by Redmill, walking his geese to Pem Market. The gaggle of geese are hissing and highly irritable and are blocking the lane. Peaseley is rolling smokes and leaning on a wall, disinterested.

Events that could happen today

- 1 A rider in scarlet will gallop up the lane, pursued by three calvary officers in olive uniforms.
- 2 Baron Stephen VI will attend a memorial service to his ancestor who died on Crosshilt. His guards will watch for protestors as the unpopular baron lays flowers and sings the Hi-a-Lay.
- 3 Olyn Frye and a gang of millhands will approach the village brandishing weapons and shouting for the head of the Soppell baker Hew Creake.
- 4 Joanna Bobins of the Weavers' Guild will streak down Crosshilt Lane in protest at the Loom Taxes. Scandalized by public nudity, the monks from nearby Frogmoor Abbey plan to attend and prevent the streak. The women of the Weavers will stop them at any cost!