Bletchingley Conservation and Historical Society

That's the Worst Spell of Bletchingley I have ever seen....

Residents of Bletchingley will already know that they usually have to spell out the name of the village when asked for their address and will also know that letters received are sometimes just addressed to "Redhill" as it is easier for other people to spell. This always assumes that there is no muddling up with Bletchley (Park).

Uvedale Lambert noted **forty-seven** variants whilst researching the history of Bletchingley:

Spelling and where found, if known	Date Used		Spelling and where found, if known	Date Used
Blachingelie (Domesday Book)	1086		Blachingelia	(temp under King Stephen)
Blachingelee	1170		Blachingeleg	1201
Blechingelee	1225		Blechingley	1229
Blecchynglegh	1236		Blachingeley	1251
Blechingelegh	1262		Blessinglee	1260
Blachingel	1260		Blechinglegh	1271
Blascgingel	1280		Blescingeleye (grant of fair)	1283
Blachynggeleye	1296		Blechingleye	1296
Blechingeley	1304		Blachingelegh	1307
Bletchingle	1313		Blecchynggelagh	1314
Bleachingeleghe	1318		Blecchyngligh	1320
Blechingley	1328		Blechynglie	1328

Blecchyngelegh	1332		Blecchingleye	1350
Blecchinglegh	1329-54		Blecchingleleye	1366
Blecchinglegh	(most common before the 15th Century)		Bletchingleye	1381
Blecchynleye	1398		Blecchinglye	1407
Blacchingligh	1409		Blechyngly	1458
Blecchinglee	1435		Blechinglee	1476
Blechyngley	1509 & 46		Blechyngly	1522
Blecchyngly	1522 & 40		Blechynglygh	1538
Blechynlygh	1543		Blecchyngly	1558
Bletchingleigh	1567		Blechingley	1575
Blechinglie	1596		Blechyngley	1597
Blechingley	1609		Bletchingligh (Pendell Map)	1622
Blechingley	1626		Blechingley (free school premises deed)	1631
Bletchingley (free school premises deed)	1631		Bletchingley (grant of arms to rector)	1662
Bletchingly (deed re charity)	1671		Blechingley	1677
Bletchingly (Glyd brass in St. Mary's)	1700		Bletchingley	1708
Blechingley (published arms of Boroughs)	1708		Blechingley (Court Roll of present day)	1785
Blechingley (Award under Enclosure Act)	1810		Blechingley (Tithe Map)	1841 – 3

Uvedale Lambert also notes the spellings of Blechingfeld, Bleching Lee and Blecchinggeleghe. In his Parish History of 1921, **the reader is left in no doubt of his views on the official spelling of modern day Bletchingley**:

"But the "t," it will be noticed, appears late and sparingly till eighteenth century days, and it may be truthfully said that the natives did not use it. It appears far more frequently where the name has been written by strangers, London lawyers and the like, and as deeds increased in number and length – of course lawyers never left out anything they could put in – so it gradually became commoner , and at last in an evil hour the Post Office, either by chance , or the malignant fate that dogs officialism, adopted it for the spelling of telegrams, and so has saddled the ancient borough, presumably for all time, with a letter which is etymologically untrue, historically inaccurate, in pronunciation useless, in appearance displeasing, and in practice confusing. Those whose parcels and letters have gone to Bletchley will agree with this practical objection; but as in the matter of place names nowadays the majority have neither knowledge nor conscience, but take them as dealt out by railway porters and post office officials. It is not surprising that the Parish Council has adopted the vicious letter in their official spelling, and the population of Blechingley follow like sheep."

Given the choice, **how would you spell it?**

Please note that for the purposes of this website we have used the "t". This is partly because it is (currently) the official name of the village and anyone who has tried to search the name on the internet, will know that the least number of variants the better.