By George, Dragon St really does capture the imagination

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As with many places in Britain, Newbold Verdon has a connection with the Normans, after their conquest of Britain in 1066.

William the Conqueror rewarded his supporters with massive grants of land.

In many places, they became lords of the manor in place of the previous Saxon incumbents – this being in return for a requirement to provide troops when called upon to do so.

In the 1086 Domesday Book, which was a register of who owned what before the Conquest and afterwards, and its value beforehand and afterwards, Newbold is spelled Niwebold.

The Verdon was added in the 1100s when Bertram de Verdun (in Northern France, and of 1914-18 war fame) became Lord of the Manor.

It is possible that the base of the church tower is also of this age, though the rest of the stonework is Victorian, the church having being rebuilt in 1899.

The squat wooden spire is a 1960s addition.

The village is a pretty one, with the main street lined with old buildings, including a couple of pubs and ending in a dead end at Manor Farm. However, there was considerable housing expansion in the inter-war and post-war periods, for the collieries in Nailstone, Ellistown and the two in Bagworth were expanding and needed more labour.

When I passed through the village recently, what really captured my interest was the street called Dragon Lane, in which is the primary school and community centre.

It is on the right of the drawing, leading back up to the main road, which passes the village on its northern side.

Dragons are a feature in the mythology of only a few countries, China and Wales predominantly, though, of course, St George, the English patron saint is supposed to have slain one.

What on earth would give rise to a Dragon Lane in a Leicestershire village, I wonder?