

Go back on yourself and turn left on to Church Terrace, then turn left on to Church Street.

14 Leamington's oldest houses

Just before the cross roads, on the left, lie the oldest houses in Leamington. They are next door to the house where Thomas Baker lived. (P) Return along Church Street to All Saints' Church.

15 All Saints' Church

This originated as a small medieval parish church. It was enlarged and rebuilt during the 19th and early 20th centuries to meet the needs of the growing town. It is now one of England's largest parish churches.

This brings you to the end of your trail around Old Leamington.

Bath Street, 1846



1 Royal Pump Rooms, 1816



The origins of Royal Leamington Spa

During the Middle Ages the village of 'Lamintone' was owned by Kenilworth Priory and came to be known as Leamington Priors. The original spa water spring was near All Saints' Church. Following the discovery in the late 18th century of more springs the village became an important spa resort. In 1838 Queen Victoria granted a charter allowing the town to adopt the name Royal Leamington Spa.

Urban Development

The first modern development took place south of the village, with two new streets laid out running towards the Birmingham-Napton canal (opened in 1795). Many commercial and leisure facilities were developed in what became known as 'Old Town'. They included a reading room in 1809, the Stoneleigh Hotel in 1812, a theatre in 1813, and the Parthenon Assembly Rooms in 1821. A market opened in Bath Street in 1813 and several residential developments were laid out including Charlotte Street and Brunswick Street. A Town Hall was built in the High Street in 1831. This was replaced by the Town Hall on the Parade in 1884.

After 1808, although development continued south of the river in the 'Old Town', the main focus for the growing resort was north of the river, in the area which became known as the 'New Town'.

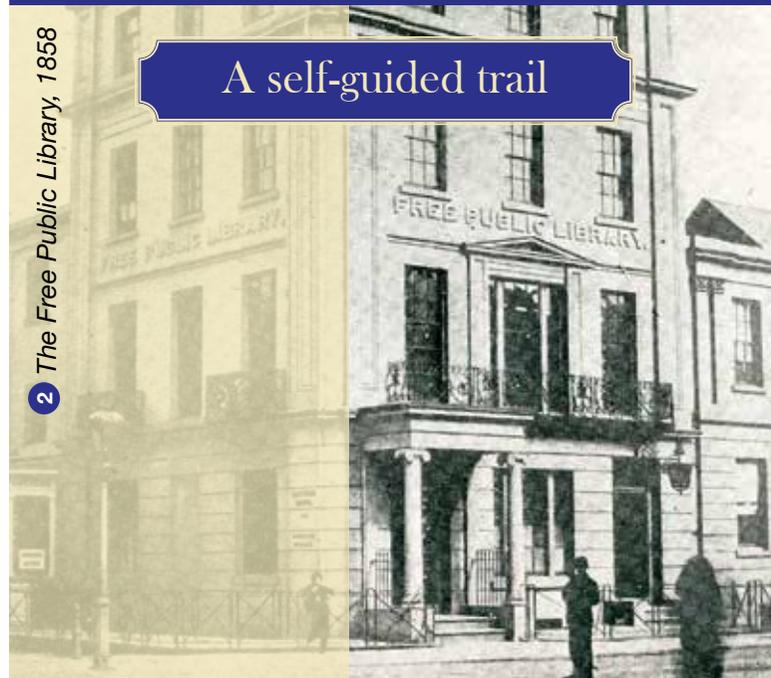


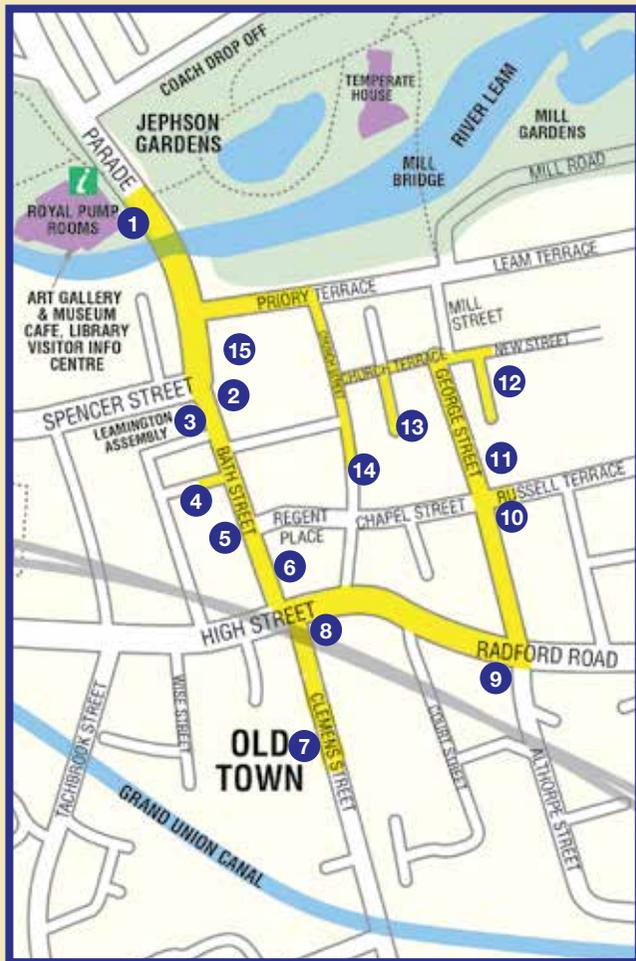
8 Capps' Royal Hotel

DISCOVER OLD LEAMINGTON

A self-guided trail

2 The Free Public Library, 1858





Duration of this walk is approximately 45 minutes.

The Route

(P) Information plaque

1 Royal Pump Rooms

The trail begins on the Parade outside the Royal Pump Rooms. This building opened in 1814 to offer spa water baths and an assembly room. Walk towards the spa water fountain by the bridge across the river Leam. The original bridge was widened and renamed in honour of Queen Victoria in 1840. Cross the bridge and follow the road on to Bath Street.

2 Jug and Jester

Cross Bath Street and walk to the Jug and Jester public house. The part of the building nearest to All Saints' Church was for a time the public library; another part was the first theatre in Leamington. Return across Bath Street.

3 New Inn (P)

As you continue down Bath Street, the Spar supermarket and Post Office are on your right. This was the site of the New Inn, Leamington's oldest hotel built in 1793. Taking a small diversion, turn right up Abbott Street.

4 Leamington oldest shop front

The tattoo parlour on the left has Leamington's oldest remaining shop front. Return to Bath Street.

5 The Parthenon (P)

Continue down Bath Street. On your right lies the Iceland supermarket, originally called the Parthenon Assembly Rooms.

6 The Old Post Office

Continue down Bath Street. On the left hand side of the road is the Millennium Balti, on the site of the old Post Office, opened in 1846. Cross the High Street and continue down Clemens Street.

7 Headquarters of Automotive Products (P)

The bicycle shop on the right was once the headquarters of Automotive Products, until recently one of Leamington's biggest employers. The building had previously served as a chapel and a theatre. Turn back to the junction with High Street, passing underneath the railway bridge.

8 Copps' Royal Hotel (P)

On the corner of High Street and Clemens Street is the site of Copps' Royal Hotel. Walk along High Street towards Radford Road.

9 Old Town Hall

On the corner of Radford Road and Althorpe Street is the Polish Centre. This building, opened in 1831, was once the Town Hall and Police Station. Cross Radford Road and walk down George Street.

10 John Ruskin's House (P)

Turn right on to Russell Terrace. Look at the houses to your right: John Ruskin, the art critic and reformer, stayed in 8 Russell Terrace in 1841. Return to George Street.

11 Roman Catholic Church

Just beyond the cross roads, on the right, is the first modern Catholic Church in Leamington, opened in 1828. It was attended by Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte while he stayed in Leamington (1838-39) during his exile in England, before he became Emperor Napoleon III of France. This is now The Mission Church. Continue down George Street.

12 Satchwell Place

Turn right on to New Street and look on your right. This is Satchwell Place, named after Benjamin Satchwell who was the local Postmaster and with William Abbotts promoted the development of the spa. Satchwell's daughter built these houses as lodgings for visitors to the spa. Return to the junction with George Street.

13 Frank Whittle Mews

Walk along Church Terrace. Before you reach the church, turn left on to Clinton Street and walk down to Frank Whittle Mews, named after the inventor of the jet engine. Frank Whittle (1907-1996) was a student at Leamington College for Boys and gained his engineering experience under his father, the owner of the Leamington Valve and Piston Company.