

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'.

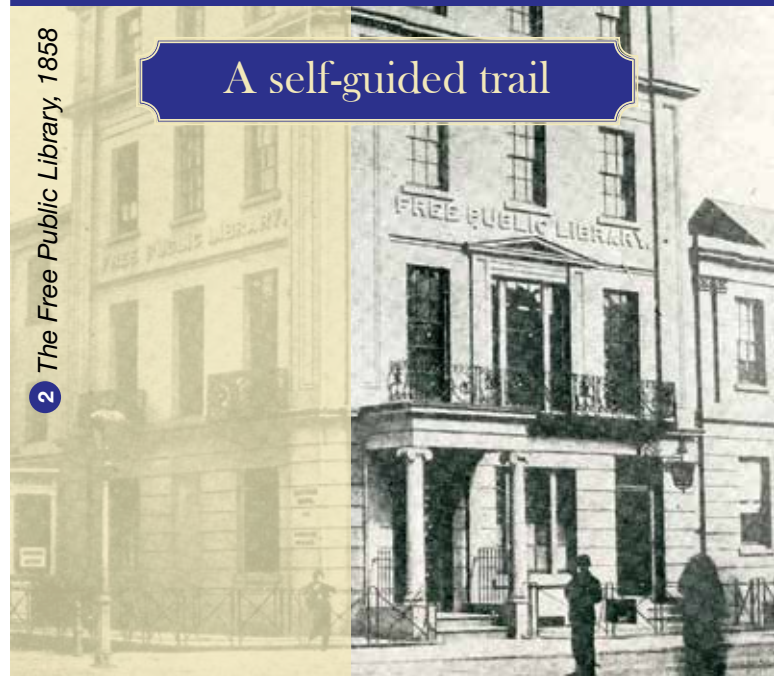


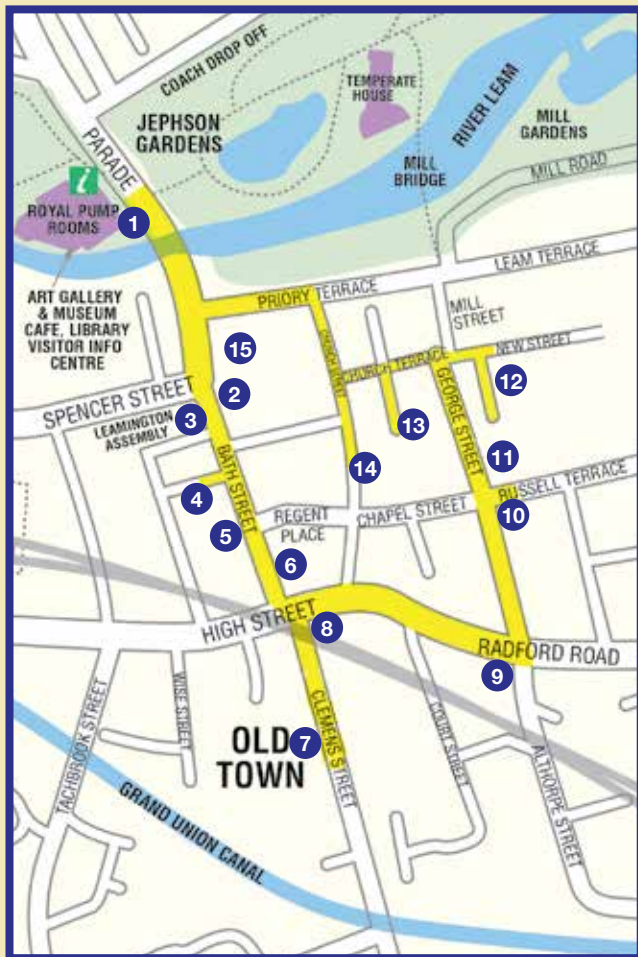
8 Coppins' Royal Hotel

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.

Rules for drinking the waters

*'At early dawn prepare to rise,
And if your health you really prize,
To drink the waters quick repair,
then take a walk to breathe fresh air,
Hie thro fields – or promenade
Round pump rooms grand, or colonnade.*

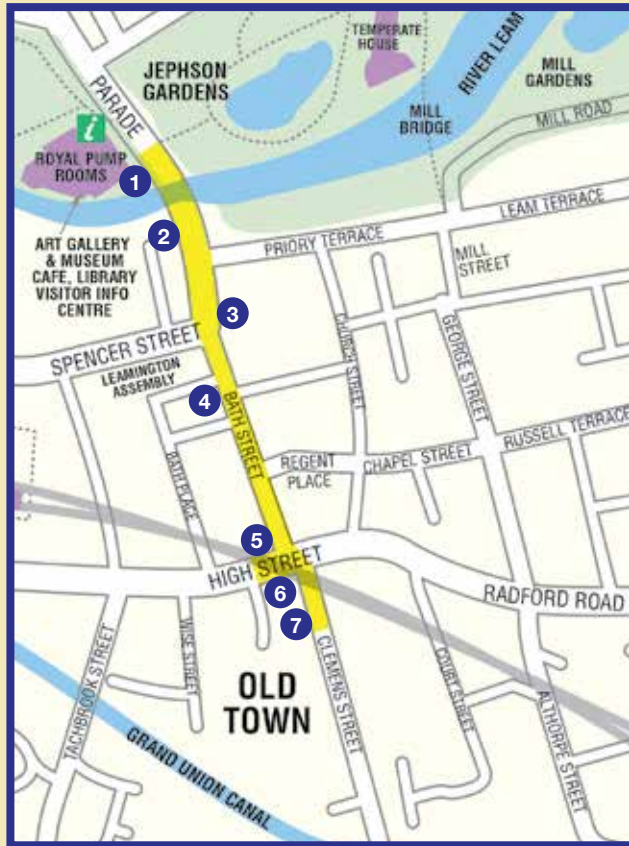
*A second glass now take – what then?
Why! Take a pleasant walk again,
The Waters, exercise and air,
Will brace your nerves, your health repair.*

*Then to your breakfast haste away,
With what keen appetite you may.'*

These 'Rules' were published by James Bisset in 1814. He was a Scottish businessman who moved to Leamington in 1811 and wrote a guidebook and verse promoting the new spa resort and its attractions.



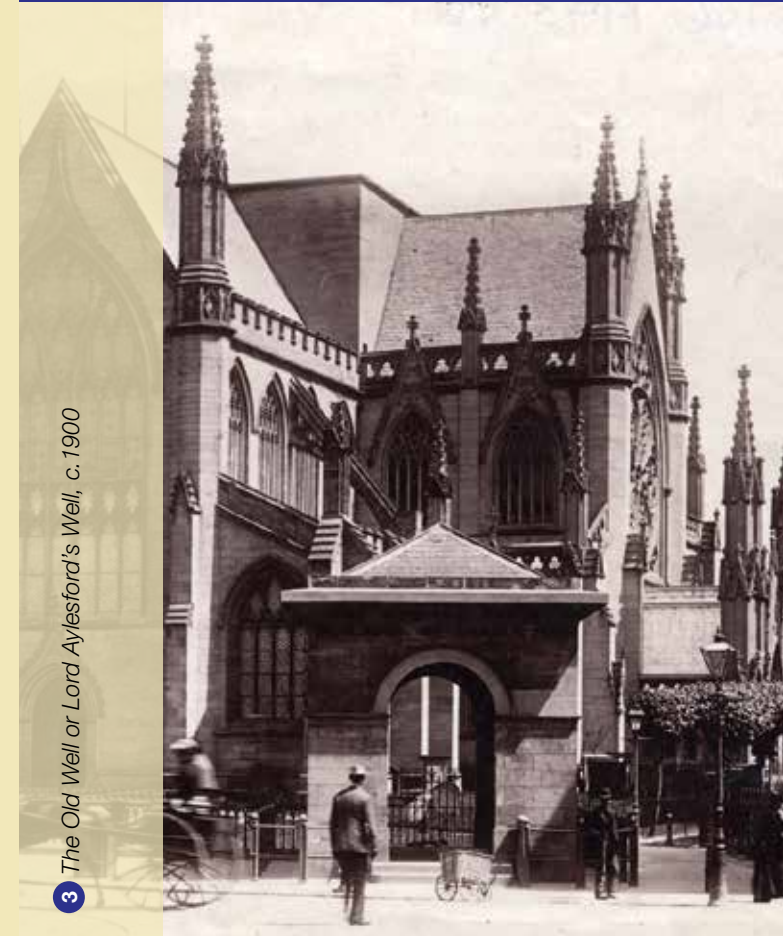
Portrait of James Bisset by an unknown artist, 1793



This walk should take approximately 20 minutes.

'TAKING THE WATERS'

A self-guided trail



3 The Old Well or Lord Aylesford's Well, c. 1900



www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms

The Route

This trail takes you around the sites of the bath houses frequented by rich visitors 'taking the waters' for the benefit of their health. A mineral spring was first recorded in Leamington in 1480, but the waters were not developed commercially until more springs were found at the end of the 18th century. By 1816 five more had been discovered south of the river Leam and one just north, at the Royal Pump Rooms. The exploitation of spa water springs led to the transformation of the small agricultural village called Leamington Priors into a fashionable resort which, in 1838, was permitted by Queen Victoria to call itself Royal Leamington Spa.

(P) Information plaque



The Royal Pump Room and Victoria Baths, c. 1840

1 Royal Pump Rooms

The Royal Pump Rooms opened in 1814 as the 'Pump Rooms Baths'. It offered the chance to drink and bathe in the spa water. There was also an assembly room used for dances, concerts and other entertainments. Later a Turkish Bath and swimming pools were added. Today the building houses an Art Gallery & Museum (including displays about the history of Leamington), Library, Visitor Information Centre, café and assembly rooms. Outside, near the bridge over the river Leam, is a fountain providing the only publicly accessible spa water in Leamington. Cross the bridge to Robbins' Well public house.

2 Robbins' Baths (P)

Robbins' Well public house is on the site of the fourth bath house established in Leamington. A spring was discovered here in 1804 and the baths opened in 1806; they were later rebuilt as part of Victoria Terrace. There were six marble baths with dressing rooms, a large cold bath, children's baths and reception rooms. Robbins' Baths eventually closed due to competition from the Royal Pump Rooms. Cross the road to All Saints' Church.

3 Lord Aylesford's Well (P)

In front of All Saints' Church is the site of the Old Well or Lord Aylesford's Well. A spring used for bathing and drinking was recorded here in 1480. It became renowned for the treatment of hydrophobia (rabies). In 1803 the Earl of Aylesford built a small stone well house; there was a charge for spa water dispensed inside while that outside was free. A new well house was built in 1813, improved in 1828, and rebuilt in 1891. It was demolished in 1961. Since 2007 the sculpture 'Spring' has marked the site of the original well. Cross the road and continue along Bath Street, stopping opposite Gloucester Street.



Bath Street, Bath Hotel, Theatre and New Assembly Rooms, 1822

4 Abbotts' Baths (P)

William Abbotts and Benjamin Satchwell found Leamington's second spa water spring here. The original single storey bath house was opened in 1786 and rebuilt 40 years later, providing eight baths for hot

and cold bathing, shower baths, a douche bath, a hot air bath and a vapour bath. The business was later taken over by James Gould and renamed Gould's Original Baths and Pump Rooms. Continue up Bath Street to the junction with High Street.



Cops' Hotel, High Street, The Market and Wise's Baths, 1822

5 Wise's Baths (P)

The baths were built over a spa water spring found in 1790 on the property of Matthew Wise. They were later enlarged and became known as Curtis's Baths, after Mrs Curtis who managed them. They were closed in 1847 and demolished three years later to make way for the new railway line. Cross High Street to the corner where it meets Clemens Street.

6 Read's Baths (P)

This is the site of Reads' Baths (later Lee's Baths), which were founded in 1806. They were refurbished to provide Leamington's first Turkish Bath in 1861. Continue a short distance along Clemens Street.

7 Apollo Rooms

Number 6, the Apollo Rooms, was previously known at different times as Smart's Marble Baths, Imperial Sulphuric Baths, New Marble Baths or the Imperial Fount. The building opened in 1817 and included an assembly room and a library as well as baths.

This brings you to the end of the trail around the sites of Leamington's old bath buildings.