

Old Leckhampton

The name – Leckhampton. Home farm where leeks are grown.

We'll start from the parish pound, but to make sense of that, you need to imagine this as a small village surrounded by around a dozen or more farms. Largely agricultural, livestock and arable fields.

This little lane was once much more important and in fact was a more major thoroughfare than the Church Road it turns off. Look at the line that heads straight through the lych gate and up to the manor, and it comes from an another manor just behind and then runs on beyond that. But more of that later.

As we go through this gate, we rise up onto the moat of what is now a designated ancient monument. This was the site of the second manor of Leckhampton. Not much is known about it. There was a stone and timber building in the middle, from around the 13th/14th century. The crossing was around where we're standing now. Older residents can recall there being ice skating on the moat!

To our right stood one of those farms we mentioned earlier. This was known as Manor Farm, or Mr Nurse's Farmhouse. From 17th to mid 19th century.

We are now in the heart of the oldest part of the village. This meadow was known as The House Ground. If you look back to the hill, this is a great spot to see the quarries that led to so much of the wealth of the manor of Leckhampton Court for the Norwoods and Tryes.

Moat Cottage. The oldest surviving house in Leckhampton. True cruck construction. 16th century.

Note the line of the old hollow way.

Field Cottage. A little later, probably 17th century.

Crossing Kidnapper's Lane (nobody knows!) we enter what is now known as Lotts Meadow. An old water tower can be seen in the far corner that would have served the large number of nursery gardens and the watercress beds that were a feature of this area.

We've now reached one of two main streams through the parish, the Moorend Brook. Beyond it is Burrow's Field, provided as a recreational ground of the staff of Edward J. Burrow publishing company in Cheltenham (circa 1930).

As we walk up the Brook, we're walking along an old borough boundary of Cheltenham. The allotments have been there a long time.

We'll walk along to the war memorial and then work our way back.

This memorial stands where the old village well was situated. The village Post Office was across the road. The village school, dating from around 1840 is still just here. The village hall was built at the start of the 20th century from a design by H.Prothero.

Just over there stood Cromwell Cottage, sadly demolished in 1962. There was a lot of action in the civil war around here, but no one is sure of the origin of the name.

Norwood Cottages, formerly two dwellings, dating back to the 17th century. Linked by name to the famous Norwood family who were lords of the manor from 1500 through to 1750.

Old Farthings dates back to the 18th century. It was sadly neglected up until the 1970's when a great restoration took place. Formerly the working men's club, it had a rifle range, including a women's section.

Thatched Cottage and Box Cottage date back to the 17th century.

Collum End Farm is possibly the oldest farm in Leckhampton and was central to village life. Late 16th century.

'Homelands' behind us was built by Alf Bendall, and his family lived there until quite recently. Veranda from Trowscoed Lodge,

Home Orchards was built by Alf's father J.D Bendall, who also built the school.

'Old Lodge', one of three lodges to Leckhampton Court. Early 19th century.

And on another day we'll do Leckhampton Court. Largely the three families from the 1300's – the Giffords, the Norwoods and the Tryes.

The Old Rectory, built in the 1830s by Charles Brandon Trye (a contemporary of Edward Jenner) for his son Charles Brandon Trye, the Rector.

Over in the field, you'll see large concrete plinths and the odd step. This is the remains of the German prisoner of war camp. The small stone structure is all that remains of a memorial gardens they created with a water fountain at its centre.

The church itself dates back to the 13th century.

And finally, to Church Cottages, constructed of stone from an older set of dwellings in the middle of the churchyard. The lych gate is worth a mention, designed by Leonard Barnard.