



## **SOME POINTS OF INTEREST IN CHIPPING ONGAR**

Ongar is a town that originated during the Saxon period and became an important market town in Medieval times. The High Street is an historic thoroughfare and includes more than 70 listed buildings. The following is just a brief introduction to some of the delights of Ongar High Street.

Turn left out of the station, walk up Station Approach and at the top, turn right into the High Street and cross over to the left hand side of the road.

As you walk down the High Street, you cross over Love Lane and then Shakletons, eventually coming to a car park and the library where you will see a footpath sign pointing to Ongar Castle. It is a relatively short path which leads to the Motte and Bailey constructed castle which was built in 1081. The castle is privately owned and so you can only view it from the footpath.

Return to the High St and continue to the Wren House which is set back from the High St. in a small lane. This is an elegant 18th century timber framed house with an original shop window. On the opposite corner of the lane is a 17<sup>th</sup> century building with a blocked doorway dated 1642.

You are now at the point where the High Street narrows, known locally as The Bottleneck. This is where, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a town gate guarded the entrance to Ongar. This gate allowed entry through the earthworks which surrounded the town.

Also, at this point, is St Martin's Church which dates from around 1080. It received a number of additions and improvements over the years. For example, the belfry is 15<sup>th</sup> century, while the chancel roof dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century but was strengthened and repaired in 1643.

Continue walking down the High St. and you will come to the United Reformed Church. David Livingstone, the famous explorer, trained here in 1838, before embarking on his African mission and exploration.

Now cross over and start walking back up the High Street. You will come to St Helen's Church which was opened in 1870. It has a stained glass window dedicated to Father Byles who was the incumbent priest from 1905 and who died while praying with others on the ill fated RMS Titanic in 1912.

Further on you will arrive back at The Bottleneck after which is The King's Head, a 17<sup>th</sup> century ale house. Note that it also has a pub sign on the opposite side of the road!

Next you will come across the King's Trust Cottages which are typical 17<sup>th</sup> century timber framed cottages with 19<sup>th</sup> century shop fronts. Next to them is Budworth Hall which stands on the junction with Basons Lane. The hall was built in 1886 in memory of Captain Budworth of nearby Greensted Hall and is a Grade 2 listed building. Note the three dial clock that was added in 1887

Well that concludes our list of notable buildings that can be found along Ongar High Street. It is certainly not all, but some of the more notable ones.

We hope you enjoyed your walk through the history of Ongar High Street.

*Allow approx. one hour for this walk*