



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 stay on the right hand side of the road.

As you walk down the High Street, you will reach Budworth Hall which stands at 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.

Next is the King's Trust Cottages which are typical 17th century timber framed cottages with 19th century shop fronts, after which is The King's Head, a 17th century ale house. Note that it also has a pub sign on the opposite side of the road!

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

Continue walking down the High Street and 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.

Now cross over the High Street. Almost, at this point, you will see the United Reformed Church. David Livingstone, the famous explorer, trained here in 1838, before embarking on his African mission and exploration.

Continue walking back up the High St. until you get to The Bottleneck again and you will see 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 15th century, while the chancel roof dates from the 13th century but was strengthened and repaired in 1643.

Then, just set back from the High St. in a small lane, is Wren House. This is an elegant 18th century timber framed house with an original shop window. On the opposite corner of the lane is a 17th century building with a blocked doorway dated 1642.

Further up the High St. you will see a footpath sign, near the library, 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 Street, turn right, pass the car park, then cross over Shakletons and then Love Lane where you then cross over the High St. finally going left into Station Approach and back to the station.

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.