

## **A WALK IN TEDDINGTON: 1 *Start and finish at St Mary with St Alban Church. Approx 2 miles in total***

The old village of Teddington stretched from the river to the railway bridge, which was the site of the village pond through which the railway was built in the early 1860s.

The **church of St Mary (1)** was the old parish church, parts dating from the 16th century. During the incumbency of the Rev Stephen Hales (1709-61) much rebuilding was carried out, the north aisle and the tower being added. The church was too small for the increasing population and in the 19th century more enlargements were carried out until a new church seemed to be the only solution. So the **church of St Alban the Martyr (2)** was built on the opposite side of the road.

The building, which is in the French Gothic style on the scale of a cathedral, was opened in July 1896. However, plans were over-ambitious and the money ran out before the west end of the nave was completed. When the new church was opened the old one was closed, but not everybody liked the new church so St Mary's was repaired and services were held in both churches until 1972. By this time the number of worshippers had diminished and running expenses had risen so much that two churches could no longer be maintained.

St Alban's became redundant and was to be pulled down. Vandals damaged what remained of the internal fittings and part of the copper roof was taken before the destruction was stopped. The building was eventually renovated and the Landmark Arts Centre opened in 1995.

Walk through the churchyard noticing some of the older tombstones. At the end turn right and cross at the traffic lights towards the Landmark. Walk along Kingston Road past the **Old Vicarage (3)** and you will see St Mary's University playing fields on the other side of the road. Beyond is a new development of flats and town houses which have been built on the site of Teddington Studios where many popular TV programmes were made: for example *This is Your Life*, *The Morecambe and Wise Show* and *Birds of a Feather*.

Walk through the small park called **Udney Hall Gardens (4)**. This is the site of Teddington Place, a house built around 1700 by Sir Charles Duncombe, said to have been one of the richest men of his day. It was demolished in 1946. The gardens still give the impression of the grounds of a fine estate with some very attractive trees. Leave the gardens via Langham Road, named after Sir James Langham who lived at Teddington Place in the 1860s. Turn right and return to the High Street.

Turn left along the High Street keeping on the south side. Look at the older property on the north side. Most buildings on the south side date from the 1900s. Before this, much of the land on the south was attached to just four large houses. Once they were demolished, several parades of shops were erected and many still retain their Edwardian frontages.

**Peg Woffington's Cottage (5)**, one of a terrace of three dated 1759, is opposite Langham Road. These houses may have been built before this date since cottages were on this site at least 100 years earlier. Peg Woffington was a famous 18th century actress who started her career in Dublin. She is believed to have lived at Teddington Place for a few years and to have entertained David Garrick (who lived in a magnificent house overlooking the Thames at Hampton) there. She collapsed on stage and died at the early age of 40. She is buried in St Mary's Church, where a memorial plaque is dedicated to her.

Almost next to these old houses and overshadowed by garage premises and a funeral directors is **Oak Cottage (6)**, possibly the oldest house still standing in Teddington. Part of it is said to date back to Elizabethan times.

The old buildings which stood on the High Street between Oak Cottage and the King's Head on the corner of Cambridge Road were pulled down around 1860 and desirable homes were built – **Harrow, Eton and Oxford Villas (7)**. Next to these is the Royal British Legion premises, once **Cambridge House (8)**. The adjoining row of houses, now all offices, were called Cambridge Villas.

On your left you will pass Trinder Mews, named after the Rev Daniel Trinder who was vicar of St Mary's from 1857 to 1878. Next on the left is Royal Oak Mews. The houses here were built on the site of an old pub, the Royal Oak, which was set back from the road. The Côte Brasserie was also built at the same time on what was the forecourt of the pub.

Cross over Kingston Lane. This was originally the road to Kingston. Udney House, so named after one of its owners, was a large house on the corner of Kingston Lane. Udney Park Road was built after the house was demolished at the end of the 18th century.

**The King's Head** on the corner of Cambridge Road dates from the 18th century. A pub by this name on this site is mentioned in the manor records of 1689 **(9)**. Cross over Udney Park Road.

Several old cottages can be seen on the corner of Watts Lane, named after the blacksmith who lived there in about 1802. **Shambles Wine Bar (10)** (Shambles is an old name for a slaughterhouse) was a butcher's shop and house for more than 200 years and parts of the building date from the 17th century. The two houses next door, of three storeys with hipped roofs behind a parapet, were built in the early 18th century. The shops were built in the front gardens later. They are of interesting design with a staircase going up the centre of each house with one room to the front and back on each floor.

On the corner of Wades Lane is the King's Arms pub, dating back to the 1850s. One of the landlords in the 1870s was John Marshall Wade, who gave his name to the adjoining road.

Cross over **Field Lane, an ancient pathway (11)** which led to the barrow in Sandy Lane, and then to Bushy Park and Hampton Court. The position of the barrow is marked by a Teddington Society plaque, to be found near 88 Park Road opposite Bushy Park and near Shaef Way.

The brick wall you are passing on your left was in front of a house called The Cedars, which gave its name to the next road. On the opposite side of the road you can see **Grove Villas (12)**. These houses were built between 1840 and 1850 but by the end of the century they had seen better days: their front gardens had disappeared and their front parlours were hidden by the single-storey shops.

Behind Chase Buchanan estate agents, at 2-4 Vicarage Road, is part of the **old Vicarage (13)** built in 1837; you can still see some of the original windows on the first floor. Part of the Vicarage was demolished in 1881 when land was sold to make way for Vicarage Road and the houses along it. **A dairy** used to be on the other corner of Vicarage Road **(14)** and in the early part of the 20th century cows were kept behind the shop. Teddington Pool in Vicarage Road was opened in 1931, originally as an open air lido. It closed in 1976 and reopened in the present building in 1978. At the end of Vicarage Road is Teddington Lawn Tennis Club, founded in 1908.

The High Street must have looked very different before the shops were built and when a number of large houses were still there, particularly between the old Post Office and Elmfield House. When these houses were first pulled down, a cinema was built on the corner of Elmfield Road where Harlequin House is today. The cinema closed in 1960. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and you will find an information board about Teddington, and the Poppy Sculpture which marks the centenary of World War I. Both the board and the sculpture were put in place by the Teddington Society.

**Elmfield House (15)** on the corner of Waldegrave Road was built about 1700. It was bought by Teddington Urban District Council in 1895 but latterly has been in private ownership.

Round the corner in Waldegrave Road is **Teddington Library**, completed in 1906 and now a Grade II Listed Building **(16)**. This was one of 660 libraries in the UK financed by Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-Canadian philanthropist. There are two English Heritage blue plaques further down Waldegrave Road – Sir Noel Coward was born in number 133, and lived there until he was five. Number 82, now the Waldegrave Clinic, was home to the mountaineer Edward Whymper, who in 1865 was the first man to conquer the Matterhorn. However the expedition ended in tragedy when three of his team were killed on the descent. Cross the road by the **Pizza Express restaurant (17)**, which was formerly the Horse and Groom pub built on the site of a blacksmith.

Continue on over the railway bridge and straight ahead into Broad Street, which has larger shops. This road was not built up until after 1800 and is therefore not as old as the High Street. You will pass the ‘Powder Rooms’, once public toilets but now an architects’ practice.

Turn left at the traffic lights into The Causeway. Teddington Town Hall was built on the junction of The Causeway and Middle Lane in 1886, to the left of the present **Fun Factory (18)**. The building was privately owned and boasted a theatre and a ballroom as well as the Local Board Offices. But it didn’t survive for long: it was burned down in 1903.

Between Middle Lane and Park Lane are two early 19th century three-storey houses – **Adelaide House and Clarence House (19)**. The former is slightly older.

**The Police Station (20)** on the other corner of Park Lane is on the site of an old house, Teddington Lodge. The drinking fountain on the corner here commemorates Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. In 2002 the Teddington Society raised £5,000 to have the fountain cleaned and restored, in time for Queen Elizabeth II’s own Golden Jubilee. The fountain commemorates this, and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee in 2012 as well.

**The Park Hotel (21)**, on the opposite side of Park Road, was previously called The Clarence and was rebuilt in about 1840 on the site of a much older building called The Greyhound. It originally had a big garden but in the late 1950s The Cedars development of 19 ‘Span’ houses, designed by the celebrated architect Eric Lyons, was built there. You will see this in Adelaide Road as you approach the station; three large cedar trees still survive and are in fine fettle.

*(You may wish to short cut to the station down Adelaide Road at this point)*

Continuing down Park Road, you will see two old houses on the right – No 22, **The Elms (22)**, is an early to mid-18th century house of red brick. No 24, **Old Manor Cottage (23)**, also 18th century, is of whitewashed brick with modernised windows. Originally, this house was probably much like No 22 in character and date. These two houses both have fire insurance plaques high up on the front walls between the windows, dating from between 1790 and 1800. Houses which were insured displayed these signs so that the fire brigade would arrive quickly to put out any fire, knowing that there would be compensation for their efforts. Uninsured houses were often left to burn.

**Homestead (24)** a little further down the road, now an old people’s home, was built in the grounds of **Park House (25)** which is still on the corner of Queens Road and Park Road. The house once had extensive grounds stretching along Queens Road to Park Lane.

On the other side of the road **between Adelaide, Albert and Clarence Roads** is a very pleasant row of houses built about 1860 **(26)**, several of which are dated. The names of these roads recollect the royal connections in Teddington. The Duke of Clarence, later William IV, lived in Bushy House, first with the actress Mrs Dora Jordan and then with the Duchess. They were popular in the area and Teddington sent

condolences to Queen Adelaide on the death of the King. Queen Adelaide supported local charities and gave donations to the school and church. **The Adelaide pub (27)** dates from about 1863.

Cross the road and walk up Clarence Road. **Craig Hall**, now two private dwellings, **(28)** was built in 1859 as a Wesleyan chapel. In 1879 a new church was opened on the corner of Stanley Road, but this was destroyed by a bomb in World War II. Craig Hall was used next by the Baptists before they moved to Church Road. Then it served as a court house for some time.

Turn left into Victoria Road. **The railway station (29)** and the **Railway pub** opposite **(30)** are both in Victoria Road. The railway branch line completing the loop between Kingston and Twickenham was opened in 1863. Teddington Station is the earliest example of an Italianate villa-style station built by the London and South Western Railway. The pub from the same period was originally the Railway Refreshment Rooms. Cross over the railway footbridge at the station into Station Road.

Turn left passing the **Teddington Cheese shop (31)** which is housed in the old Coal Office building next to a coal yard where domestic consumers could buy coal. Further along Station Road you can see Christ Church, which is being converted into flats. The upper part of the tower has been constructed recently (the original plans were for a spire which was never completed.)

Turn right into Bridgeman Road which is a reminder of one of Teddington's most famous residents, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Lord Keeper of the Seal from 1667 to 1672, whose house was between here and the High Street. Blackmores Grove, a turning off to the right, commemorates another resident – RD Blackmore, author of *Lorna Doone*, which he wrote in Teddington. He lived at Gomer House which was situated where Doone Close is today. He wrote his books to finance his main interest, market gardening and fruit growing. The orchards were near the house but all that remains today are the cottages in Field Lane and Blackmores Grove, said to have been built for the workers on his estate.

Look left and you will see an old school building which has its entrance in Cedar Road and now houses a private nursery. This was originally called Station Road School and run by Sarah Collis from 1865 to 1906 and afterwards by her niece Mary Collis. In 1936 it became Christ Church Primary School, with a name change to Collis in 1960; it moved to its present location in Fairfax Road in 1972. Continue along to the end of Bridgeman Road where you will see another old pub – the **Builders Arms (32)**, built in 1865. Turn left into Field Lane which goes back to the High Street.

Cross the road and turn right, look in some of the small shops and stop to have a look across to the south side of the street from the Kings Head. The **Grand Parade (33)** between Udney Park Road and Kingston Lane was built around 1900. It has remarkably decorative brickwork and is more elaborate than the parade of shops that you passed at the other end of the High Street. It still has several original shop fronts.

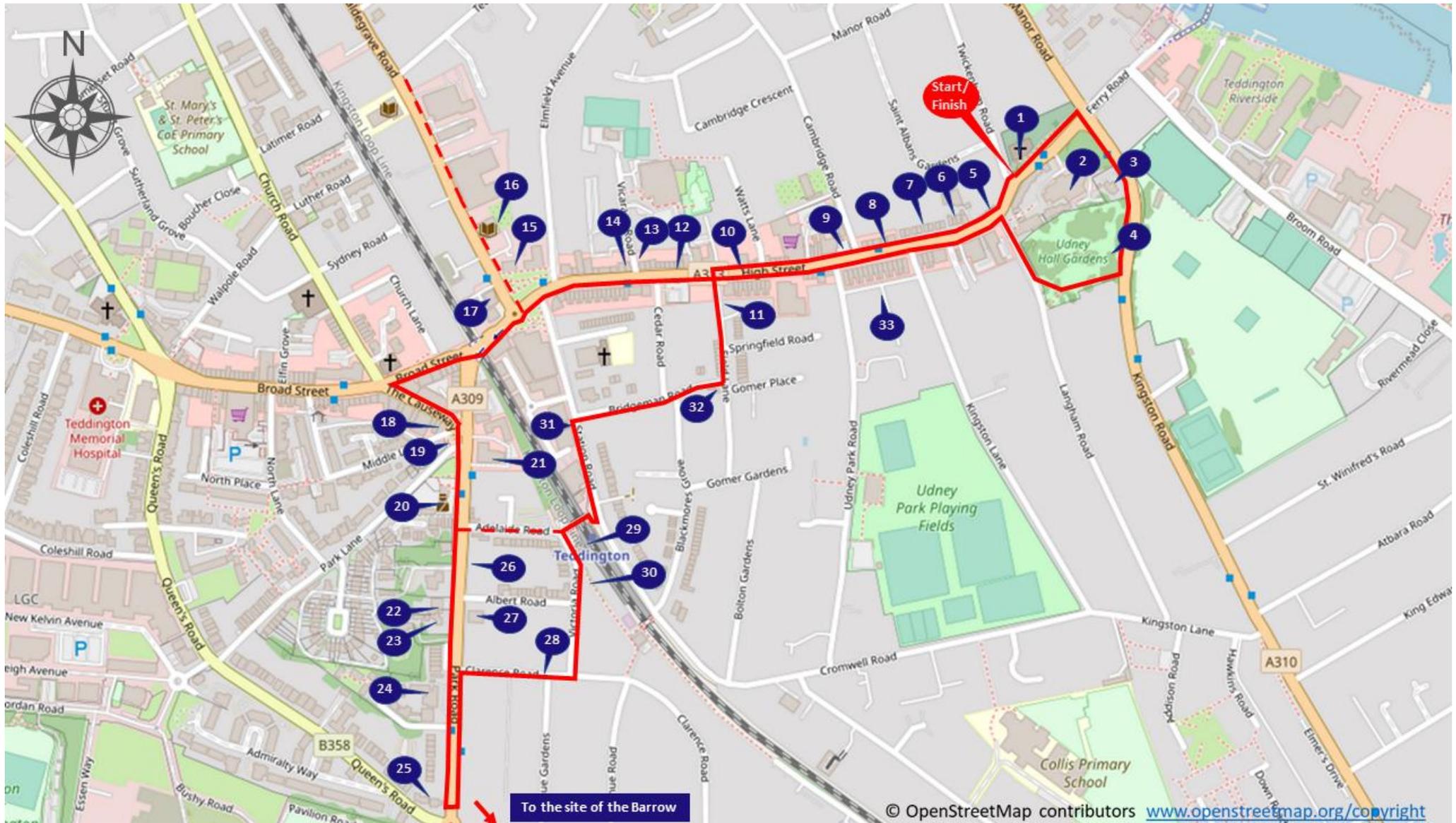
Continue walking along the High Street and you will arrive back at your starting point – the parish church.

*This Teddington Society guide is based on part of a previous walk created in 1990 by **Paddy Ching**, one of our Vice Presidents, and has been updated and added to by **Jenny Michell**. We hope you have enjoyed it, and if you have any comments please email [info@tedsoc.org.uk](mailto:info@tedsoc.org.uk)*

*If you are not yet a member of the Society, do please consider joining us – because the more members we have, the stronger our voice becomes. You'll find an application form on our website:*

[www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk)

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## KEY

1. St Mary's Church
2. Site of St Alban The Martyr's Church
3. Site of Old Vicarage
4. Udney Hall Gardens
5. Peg Woffington's Cottage
6. Oak Cottage
7. Harrow, Eton and Oxford Villas
8. Cambridge House
9. The King's Head
10. Shambles Wine Bar
11. Field Lane, an ancient pathway
12. Grove Villas
13. Site of another former Vicarage
14. Site of old dairy
15. Elmfield House
16. Teddington Library
17. Pizza Express restaurant
18. Site of old Teddington Town Hall
19. Adelaide House and Clarence House
20. The Police Station
21. The Park Hotel
22. The Elms
23. Old Manor Cottage
24. Homestead
25. Park House
26. Between Adelaide, Albert and Clarence Roads
27. The Adelaide pub
28. Craig Hall
29. The Railway Station
30. The Railway pub
31. Teddington Cheese shop
32. The Builders Arms
33. The Grand Parade