

CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE WALK ALONG THE STREET- PART 5



25. **The Abbots House.** King Charles II was to stay here for one night on September 22nd 1651 whilst waiting to escape across to France. The wife of Stephen Limbry who was to take him in his boat found out earlier and locked him in their house. When he finally got out to meet the King he had gone on to Bridport and eventual freedom. The ancient house was built by Thomas Charde, Abbot of Forde, whose initials can be seen above the doorway.



26. **The Pharmacy.** Harry Pryer, who went by the nick name of Pussey, was a successful mason and house builder who ran his business until his death in 1931 in a large yard on the corner of The Street and Lower Sea Lane known as Pear Close. His office had earlier been a carpenter's workshop and in 1776 was rented by the steward from the Lady of the Manor. Today it has survived as "The Pharmacy". A number of shops and garage were built on Pear Close.



27. **The Old Village School.** This building formerly housed the school, which was opened by Mrs. Breton, the Rector's wife in 1869. It was to be here until moving further down Lower Sea Lane to a new site in 1993. The old building has since been converted into housing.



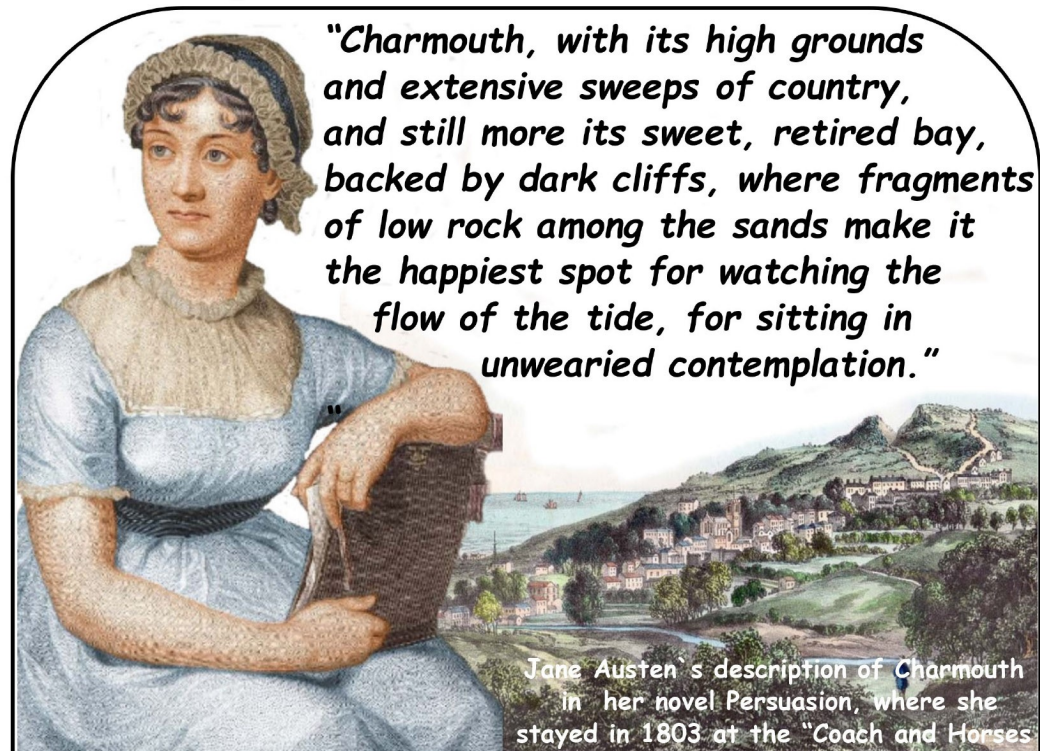
28. **The Heritage Centre.** George Freen, a Plymouth flour mill owner purchased the Manor of Charmouth in 1854 and built the Cement Works for his son in law Michael Morcome. Stones from the beach were crushed and "Roman Cement" was obtained from them. After a decline it closed in 1872.



29. **The Look Out.** This unusual stone shelter was built in 1804 as part of the coastal defences along the south coast in anticipation of an attack by Napoleon. It is a very rare survival from these times and still to this day acts in its original function as a coastal watch run by local volunteers. From 1853 it was rented by the Admiralty.



30. **The Jurassic Coast.** J.M.W. Turner, the famous English artist visited Charmouth in 1811 and painted this beautiful view of a squall looking towards Lyme Regis, which now hangs in the Kelvingrove Gallery in Glasgow. There are 3 drawings in his sketchbook, now held by the Tate Gallery, which records the village in that year.



"Charmouth, with its high grounds and extensive sweeps of country, and still more its sweet, retired bay, backed by dark cliffs, where fragments of low rock among the sands make it the happiest spot for watching the flow of the tide, for sitting in unwearied contemplation."

Jane Austen's description of Charmouth in her novel Persuasion, where she stayed in 1803 at the "Coach and Horses"

DISCOVER CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE

Jane Austen was just one of the many famous people who have enjoyed Charmouth. Many of the old buildings along The Street are associated with these figures from history. This guide provides a circular route from The Heritage Coast Centre (see map). Read about King Charles II, Florence Nightingale, Conan Doyle, G.K. Chesterton, Rider Haggard, Sir John Hawkshaw, James Warden, Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, and many others who left their mark here.

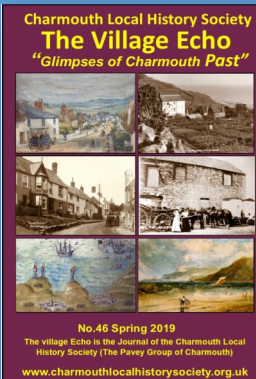


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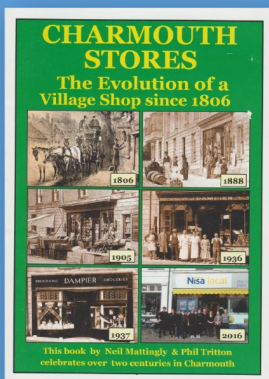
DISCOVER CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE

The old village of Charmouth was designed as a Borough by the Monks of Forde Abbey in 1295. It was built parallel to the coast along The Street. Each property was to have 1/2 acre of land and the original stone boundary wall can still be seen at the bottom of Barr's Lane. Many of these Burgage plots have survived. The village flourished under the monks with a market, grange, court and church. This came to an end in 1539 with the dissolution under King Henry VIII and the village went into decline. It later derived its income from Sail Cloth manufacturing. It's position on the Dorchester to Exeter road attracted visitors to the Fountain, Coach and Horses and George Inns. At the beginning of the 19th century it shared with Lyme Regis a position as a watering place and attracted wealthy visitors some of whom built fine villas, still to be seen today. Many old pictures of the village have been used to reveal how it once looked with relevant stories about them.

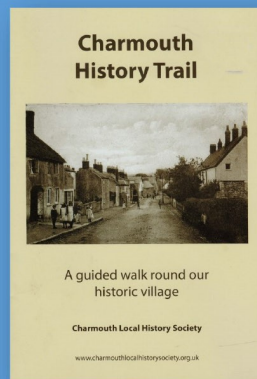
This leaflet has been published by the Charmouth Local History Society to encourage visitors and villagers to see more of what this beautiful village has to offer in its many fine buildings, often associated with famous people. With limited space we can only cover a few of these and their history. For a more comprehensive view we recommend our publication- "Charmouth History Trail" which can be purchased for just £2 from most local outlets. You can also visit our website: charmouthlocalhistorysociety.org.uk or freshford.com for even more information on both the Trail and other topics relating to it. The Society also publishes a number of other booklets and "The Village Echo" annually which is £2 for non members. It is £6 to join. Contact us at: Charmouth Local History Society, The Elms, The Street, Charmouth.



The Village Echo is published annually by the society at £2. Free for Members,



The story of one of the oldest grocers shops in the country for £2



The History Trail is just £2 and is recommended with this leaflet.

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CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE WALK ALONG THE STREET- PART 4



19. **The Little Lodge.** The original house on this site dating back to the 14th century was called Yandover. In the 18th century it was to be the site of a Sail Cloth Factory. After Jacob Ridley Kitt went bankrupt in 1815, his daughter briefly opened a shop there. In time it was used as a school room which was run by the Whittington sisters.



20. **Charmouth Lodge.** Dick Whittington is remembered today as a pantomime, although the origins go back to the middle ages. He was famous as a Mayor of London. In 1900 Richard Whittington who was a direct descendant purchased the house, which was then called "The Limes". His family were to live there for nearly 70 years.



21. **The Parade of Shops.** In 1894 Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Homes stories, and two companions visited a haunted house in Charmouth where the corner shop is today. The family who lived there were plagued by unexplained noises and activity. On the second night a fearsome noise broke out, but they were unable to find the cause. Doyle went on to write that a year later the house burnt down and an old skeleton of a child was found buried in the garden



22. **The George Inn.** Charmouth is very fortunate in having today one of the oldest continuously run inns in the country. It has a remarkable history stretching back to the Middle Ages when the village was owned by the monks of Forde Abbey. By the 18th century it was a coaching inn and signs of this can be seen with its entrance that jetties out into the street so customers could see the oncoming coaches.

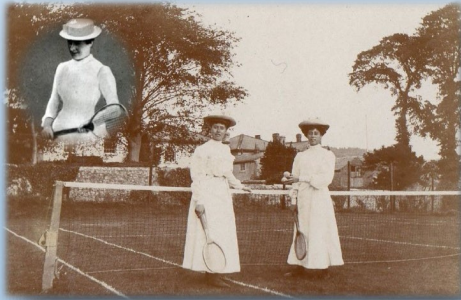


23. **The Mill.** The photograph shows the ancient mill in its heyday when it was operated by Mr. John Toms seen here by the wagon. The adjoining bridge was widened in 1957, but still has its sign recording that "Any person willfully injuring the bridge will be liable to be transported for life by the Court".



24. **Mill View.** John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, has a link with Charmouth. His great grandfather was the Rector here from 1645 until 1660. He and his son John lived in a house where Mill View is today until they sold it in 1668. It was rebuilt after a fire in 1850 and rented by the Coastguards.

CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE WALK ALONG THE STREET- PART 1



1. **Charmouth Tennis Club.** Maud Watson MBE was an English tennis player and the first female Wimbledon champion. She lived at Hammonds Mead House, which was demolished in 1993 and was a member of the Tennis Club run by the Whittington sisters shown here in this photo, founded in 1880.



2. **The Coach and Horses.** Jane Austen stayed here in the summer of 1803. It was then called "The Mail Coach Inn" as it was a popular stopover for coaches between Dorchester and Exeter. The original thatched building was destroyed by fire in 1882 and rebuilt. It was later converted into apartments.



3. **St. Andrew's Church.** James Warden was Lord of the Manor in 1792 when he died in a duel with a neighbour, Norman Bond, over his dog. His large Stone Tomb is near to the door of the church. The present structure designed by Charles Fowler in 1836 replaced a 14th century building. He was the Architect of Covent Garden Piazza, so popular today.



4. **The Elms.** Captain Marryat was the author of the famous children's novel "Children of the New Forest". His daughter Emilia married Dr. Henry Norris in 1862 and lived at The Elms where they had 3 children. Her aunt Ellen Marryat lived nearby at Fernhill. The deeds refer to a house here in 1564. It is now the offices for the Parish Council.



5. **Langley House.** Edward Day, The geologist who worked with Sir John Hawkshaw on surveying the first Channel Tunnel and other projects, lived here from 1861-1865. It was later to be the site of the village Post Office run by George Holly, It is now a shop and private residence



6. **Little Hurst.** Florence Nightingale was a friend of Lord Herbert who was to open the convalescent hospital here in 1857 which had 20 beds and a resident matron. It was later the home of James Harrison of the famous firm of printers. He was to give it the name of Little Hurst, after his London home.

CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE WALK ALONG THE STREET- PART 2



7. **The Royal Oak.** The large sign above the entrance is a link in 1651 when Charmouth was the base from which King Charles attempted his escape to freedom in France. After it failed he travelled on to Bridport and the painting is of the stone commemorating it outside the town.



8. **Charmouth House.** Lucy Rossetti nee Madox Brown stayed at Charmouth House in the summer of 1878 with her children. It was then run as an hotel by George Holly. Her painting shows it on the right with Portland House opposite, alongside which can be seen a standing tap for the village water supply.



9. **Melbourne House.** Ann was the daughter of James Warden, who died in a duel in 1792. She married Matthew Liddon, four years before they had 5 children. Her husband died in 1803 and she later moved to Melbourne House with her daughters. She was to own the Manor of Charmouth until her death in 1849.



10. **The Cottage Hospital.** In 1867 a house was taken over next to the New Inn and converted into a Cottage Hospital by Dr. Norris. Funds were raised at the time by voluntary subscription. The Committee included Mrs Marryat (1800-1883), who was Captain Fredrick's widow and mother of Emilia Marryat, wife of Dr. Norris.



11. **Portland House.** A grocer's shop was opened here in 1824 by Joseph Cozens. It had previously been occupied by James and Mary Collier, whose marble memorial is in **St. Andrew's**. By 1871 John Stevens ran his business here. It was later owned by Miss Tarr until 1938 and then was "Mediterranea".



12. **Dolphin House (Lynwood).** Sir Charles Alexander Innes served as Governor of Burma from December 1927 to December 1932. He lived at Lynwood and the adjoining properties were owned by other members of his distinguished family. There are memorials in **St. Andrew's** to them.

CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE WALK ALONG THE STREET- PART 3



13 The Court. Alice, daughter of Vernon Hugh Schalh, married Alfred Haggard, brother of Rider Haggard, author of King Solomon's Mines who was a frequent visitor at 'The Court'. When he required names for the novel "She" that he was writing in 1886, he chose Leo Vincey after Edward Vince the owner of Charmouth Stores and L. Horace Holly after William Holly, the owner of "Wistaria"



14. Luttrell House. Edward Bragge built this fine house in 1735. He and his father before him were rectors of Charmouth for 74 years. There is a magnificent memorial to the latter by the altar with the family's coat of arms. When Edward died he is reported to have had his coffin made from his dining room table as he enjoyed his food so much.



15. Nos. 1-3 Hillside. Sir Jeffry Wyatville was the architect chosen by the owner Joseph Wilson in 1824 to design the three identical Villas. He was famous for the work he carried out at both Windsor Castle and Chatsworth and other stately homes.



16. No. 3 Hillside. In 1858 James Harrison, living at no.3, found fossils from the cliffs of Black Ven that were quarried for raw material at the Cement Works owned by George Freen. Amongst them were bones from the first dinosaur found in England which he sent to Professor Richard Owen who named it Scelidosaurus Harrisonii after him.



17. The Manor House. William Ellesdon, whose family memorials are in the church opposite, bought the Manor and its house in 1649. It was he who attempted to secure the escape of King Charles II from Charmouth. As a reward he was given a pension of £300 a year. His son Anthony was to live there for nearly 80 years until his death in 1734.



18. Charmouth Stores (Nisa). G.K. Chesterton of Father Brown fame was a frequent customer. One of the verses he was famous for was "The Wicked Grocer", which reflected badly on the trade. As a recompense to the Dampiers he penned a new verse in 1929 which he dedicated to William called "The Good Grocer" that is full of his praises.

DISCOVER CHARMOUTH OLD VILLAGE



The circular walk is along Lower Sea Lane and then left at the junction with The Street. It is in numerical order, although one can begin from anywhere along the circular route. We are hoping that the many visitors who now come to enjoy our beautiful scenery and wonderful beaches can take time to explore the historic Old Village, which has so much to offer.