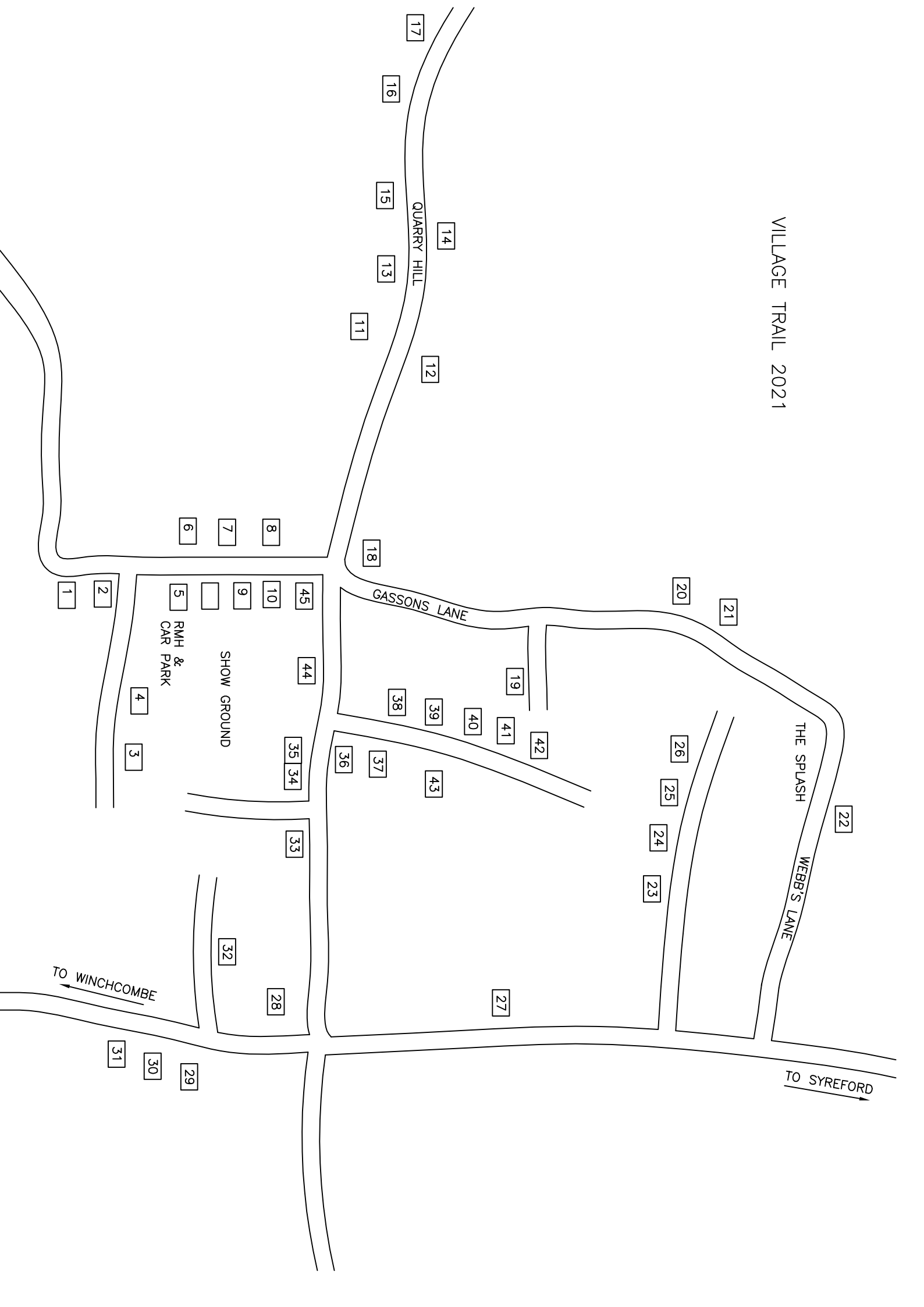


# VILLAGE TRAIL 2021



## Village Trail 2021

With so many residents new to Sevenhampton and Brockhampton, my idea was to write a trail, pointing out places of interest along the way, to give you an idea of the two villages in bygone times.

Look out for show exhibits on your way around.

I have used information from the following sources

- 1.The booklet, Brockhampton 1900-1950, produced by Gill Lanfear and her late sister Val Smith in 2012.
- 2.The Story of Sevenhampton, written by Ros Stewart who lived in Donneywell Cottage, near The Craven Arms, for 36 years.
- 3.The Village Treasure Hunt, produced by Sue Tallents for the Village show last year.

**THE TRAIL STARTS ON THE CORNER ALONG FROM THE VILLAGE HALL AND FINISHES AT THE SHOWGROUND BEHIND THE VILLAGE HALL.**

**2.East Lodge** Was the estate Game Keeper's house. He looked after the shooting dogs for the Rhodes family. The small dwelling in the ground of the lodge used to be the dog kennels.

**1.** There was no mains water. Colonel Fairfax Rhodes had water supplied to the hall end of the village by pressing a button by the lion's head on the wall by East Lodge. This was restored in 2020.

**3.Spring Cottage.** The alley down to Spring Cottage was originally the main way through the village. There was a spring (now under the garages) where locals fetched their buckets of water daily. In the past it was the Park carpenter's house and workshop.

**4.**There was originally a row of small cottages down the left side of the lane (The Alley) by the hall which were demolished when '**Sunnyside**' was built.

**5.The Rhodes Memorial Hall** was originally one single room. It was purpose built as a school room by Mrs Georgina Craven of Brockhampton Park, to educate the children of the estate workers. It closed when she died, but was reopened seven years later in 1887 by her husband. It became known as The Reading Room, where the men could read daily papers supplied to the hall by Brockhampton Park. It became a club for men and was known as the

Brockhampton Institute. Later women were allowed to join, but only in the daytime.

In 1900, Colonel Fairfax Rhodes bought Brockhampton Park Estate, which included all of Charlton Abbots and the hall end of the village, including Violet Cottage, next to the hall. He also added the cottage to the side of The Reading Room for a caretaker. When his only son was killed in 1902 in the Boer War, he extended the Reading Room by adding the main hall and including a white pargetted plaque, to his son's memory. A Rifle Range was built along the back of the hall, which was demolished to make the car park. It is said that at one time there were eighty members of The Institute.

Gill Lanfear says that the hall was a haven for the village children, a meeting place where they could play table tennis, darts etc. All through the war there were Whist drives and dances every fortnight, raising money for St. Dunstan's and other wartime charities. The music was gramophone records and an amplifier, whilst prizes were an oven ready chicken or a hare or, as a real treat, a sponge cake.

In 1991 the Hall Management Committee dispensed with the services of a caretaker and the ex-caretaker became a tenant. In 1999 the tenant moved to Cornwall. The cottage was updated and the large garden at the side was made into a car park for the hall.

The last village Post Office was housed in the porch of the Reading room from 1997 to 2008.

**6 & 7.** In 1904 **Sundial Cottage** and **Oakfield Cottage** were built.

**8.Field House** was built in 1928 and for many years housed the second village post office in the entrance hall.

**9.'Woodview'**. Four or five cows were kept there with a milking shed where the garage is now and a dairy at the back of the house. Customers went twice daily with jugs or containers to collect milk. Later a van was acquired and it was delivered around the village in churns and ladled out into jugs.

**10.The Old Post Office.** This was the site of the first village post office, opened in 1900. The first post master was also carpenter, wheelwright, undertaker and taxi driver (he took people shopping in his pony and trap). The actual post office was in the living room and consisted of a chest of drawers with a big book of stamps, a set of scales and an oil lamp.

## **TURN LEFT HERE AND CONTINUE UP THE HILL**

**11.Allotments.** Up until the 1990s there were allotments in the field opposite Hillview.

**12.Hillview.** In 1988 a converted room here became the third village Post Office. Also sold groceries and vegetables. It closed in 1996.

**13 to 17 Brockhampton Quarry.** There was a working quarry behind the houses on the left from **Merlin Cottage** up to **Hill Cottage**. Stone from that quarry was used to build the first part of St. Andrews church.

There were originally eight cottages built for the quarry workers. The original road through the village ran down the back of the houses beside what is now The Old Chapel, on down and ending where the farm yard of Manor Farm now stands.

The tap in the wall by the post box would have been the water source for the houses in the quarry. There is another further down opposite Hillview.

**14.The Old Chapel** Bethel Chapel opened on this site in 1834. Closed in 1966

**15.Sunnyview.** Once a shop.

**16.Hunters Rest** Once The Stag and Hounds pub. When Cheltenham Brewery took over Flowers Brewery, they closed this pub because there was no car park.

## **TURN AROUND AND GO BACK DOWN THE HILL AS FAR AS THE TELEPHONE KIOSK.TURN LEFT**

**18.The Old Farm House.** Once a working dairy farm, selling milk, eggs and garden produce.

The yard opposite The Old Farm House is known as **The Rick Yard** and **Arrow Shed**. Always a busy place, filled with ricks of hay and corn. Every autumn a threshing machine was brought there.

**19.The Old Cow Shed** Originally just that!

**20.School House.** Built as a school in 1870 for local children and those from neighbouring villages and farms. Closed in 1974.

**21.Honey Acre** Built for Peggy Barnard, a P.E. teacher who taught at the village school from time to time. She was responsible for planting trees and snowdrops along Gassons Lane and other parts of the village.

**22.Brook Cottage** Once a small shop run by the Webb sisters, hence the lane leading down to **The Splash** became known as **Webb's Lane**.

**CONTINUE UP THE HILL, TURN RIGHT AT THE TOP, THEN TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT INTO CHURCH LANE**

**23. Sevenhampton Church.** The architecture of St. Andrews Church is of many styles, Norman 11-12<sup>th</sup> Century, Early English 12-13<sup>th</sup> Century. Decorated or Early Gothic 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century, perpendicular 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> and Tudor 15th- 16<sup>th</sup> century. Records show that it was restored in 1891-2 for £1,400!

**24.The Old Vicarage** This was the site of the Tithe Barn built to house the Tithe which inhabitants had to pay by law. It was a tenth of each inhabitant's actual produce. Since it was paid in kind, eggs, grain, wool, fruit, animals etc, somewhere was needed to store it all. The present house was built in about 1860. Home to the incumbents of the church. It was sold in 1997.

In the grounds between The Old Vicarage and **Lea House (25)** were once small cottages. One of these was used as a Dame School, which provided limited education for children of the poor. Run by elderly ladies, who might teach reading, sewing and other useful aids.

**26.Forge Cottage** The second of the two forges closed in 1925

**GO BACK UP CHURCH LANE, THEN TURN RIGHT**

**27.Sevenhampton Manor** Dates back to about 1590. There was a Country Club there until the right-hand gable which housed the club, was destroyed by fire in about 1950.

Now divided into three dwellings.

**28.Brockhampton Park** Built by Paul Pert between 1639-1642, extended over the years to its present form.

In 1832 house passed to The Craven Family and remained with that family until 1890s

From 1906 -1931 owned by Colonel Fairfax-Rhodes

1939-1945 used by the Government to house wounded service officers.

Later in the war it was used to house pupils of Cheltenham Ladies College.

After the war it became an hotel and then a Country Club which then moved to Sevenhampton Manor.

In 1955 it was bought by Sir George Dowty of Aircraft Engineering fame. It was used as offices for his Research and Development Company called Dowty Nucleonics.

Sir George Dowty died in 1975. The house was eventually sold and converted into luxury apartments. The assembly rooms downstairs and the beautiful staircase were left untouched for communal use of the apartment owners.

The three gabled Edwardian Houses opposite the Park were built by Col. Fairfax- Rhodes for his staff.

**29.Park Rise.** Built in 1906 for the under-gardener. His wife did the fine laundry for the house, e.g. delicate lace, tablecloths and napkins. They were washed in a wood fired boiler in the kitchen. The old red tiles in the kitchen still bear the scorch marks and chips from chopping the wood for the boiler.

**30.Park Lodge** Built in 1904. Previous owners think that this might have been built for the estate coachman.

**31.Coln House** was built for the head gardener at the park.

**TURN AROUND HERE AND HEAD BACK TOWARDS THE CROSSROADS.**

**32.Brockhampton Mews** The single-story houses here would have been homes for employees at Brockhampton Park.

**TURN LEFT AT THE CROSSROADS**

**33.Brockhampton Court** A grade two listed building was originally built for dealing with law and order on the estate. It was used as an Estate Office controlling the affairs of the whole of Brockhampton.

**34 &35. Court Cottage and Rose Cottage.** Both were originally part of the Park Estate. At one time a tailor had lived in one of them.

**TURN RIGHT**

**36.Grange Farm** was just the farm yard and farm buildings.

**37.Grange Farm Studios and Grange Farm House** in the past these were just one house.

**38.The Forge.** With so many horses in the villages this was a very busy place. There were only five or six cars in the village, people travelled by bicycle, motorbike and side car, horse, pony and trap or more often walked.

In 1947 it was bought by Brian Shawe-Taylor (a racing driver) and converted into a house.

**39.Bell Cottage** Named after Arthur Bell an artist who ran the Youth Club for many years. He was the Art Master at Cheltenham Gentleman's College.

**40.The Craven Arms** named after The Craven family who at one time lived in Brockhampton Park. It was just a small village pub, with its customers all locals, the only food on sale was crisps and sweets, but the landlord at one time also sold goats milk and vegetables. Beer was supplied by Cheltenham Brewery which later became Cheltenham and Hereford Brewery.

**41.Brewery Cottage** was a very small two bedroomed cottage where the Chief Drayman for the Brewery lived.

**42.The Old Brewery and Malt House.** The Malt House was built in 1769. Although it closed as a brewery in 1927 it did continue to make malt and Combes Home Brewed Beer which was delivered in packets to local shops and as far away as Bosbury in Herefordshire. At one time the farm house was a bakery.

The packets contained malt, hops and a sachet of yeast, the buyer just added sugar and water. This ceased at the beginning of the war due to sugar rationing.

In 1939 the buildings were taken over by the MOD.

In 1940 the 50<sup>th</sup> Northumbrian Division were billeted there when they came back from Dunkirk. They slept in the Malt House and the Brewery was their cookhouse.

When the troops left, the buildings were used for storage by the MOD.

Later the old malt house kiln and fire was used for corn drying.

It was an ideal situation for a brewery as there was a well which always had plenty of water which was pumped up by a petrol pump.

Electricity wasn't brought to the village until the 1940s.

Mains water was installed in 1953

**43.New Row** The name given to the row of houses opposite the Craven Arms. Built in 1869 to replace the tumble-down row of cottages, Old Row, in the lane beside the village hall. There was no water laid on so residents had to go down the lane at the side of Donneywell Cottage to fetch it in buckets from Donneywell Spring.

At the bottom of Number 4 New Row there was once a Fish and Chip shop, until the owner bought a car and it was turned into a garage.

**TURN AROUND AND GO BACK TO THE T-JUNCTION.**

**TURN RIGHT**

**44.The Old Shop** Once the village shop, a very dark house with sheds around it. The shop door was off the road to the right of the present window.

**45. Chapel End** Originally Salem Baptist Chapel and Sunday school founded in 1849. It closed in 1990

**CONTINUE UP TO THE TELEPHONE KIOSK. TURN LEFT ALONG TO THE SHOWGROUND.**