

Begin your Trail...

The circled numbers refer to those on the map overleaf. The * denotes buildings designed by Henry Rice.

① At **Stuart House** or **The Museum** ask to be directed to the ornamental **Fountain*** in the middle of the **Parade**, to begin your tour. In the 19th Century and until 1905 the market was held here, and for a long time, a Bull Post and Bull Stone, stood where the Fountain is now.



Market Day on the Parade c1900



The Fountain

This fountain was presented to the town by the then Mayor, Michael Loam, in memory of his father, who had been involved in the invention of the Man Engine, a revolutionary device that allowed miners to safely travel up and down mine shafts. Across the road, the imposing Webbs House, previously Webbs Hotel, designed by Foulston in 1832, was the centre of town life until 1990. The refurbished building now houses the offices of the Cornish Times newspaper. Opposite Webbs is The White Horse Inn. Until the early 19th Century, a row of cottages came out across the road, making this an almost closed square. Look above the door to the opticians on their left: this is the Star of David, however it does not signify a Synagogue but rather the Masonic Hall which is located on the upper floors. To the left is Lloyds Bank*.

② Turn to your right and walk back past the Fountain; notice Parade House on your left, which was built in 1818. At the entrance to West Street, the equilateral gothic arched windows with tracery bars of the Council Chamber, can just be seen. This forms part of the Public Hall and Town Council complex, designed by Otto Peter and opened by the Earl of St. Germans in 1890. In the foyer of the Hall is a bust of Charles Buller, MP for the Borough 1832 - 1848, other historic items can also be seen. Coming back down from the Public Hall, you pass the former Fountain Hotel, which was built in 1787 and became a coaching inn. The building below it, No.2 The Parade, used to boast five windows across but nearly half of it was demolished in 1958 to widen the road.

③ Across the road in Pike Street, is Barclays Bank*, originally Bolithos, a Cornish Bank, faced with granite with two elegant buildings* just below it. The first building on the right, behind the back of Webbs is **The Foresters Hall***. In 1835 the East Cornwall Savings Bank had

sufficient funds to build their own premises. This was their chosen site, as the old coaching inn, The King's Arms tavern, had been demolished when Webbs Hotel was built. In 1838 The Liskeard and Scientific Institution for the 'Acquirement and Promotion of Useful Knowledge', built a lecture room to accommodate about 170 people on the remainder of the site. In 1861 the now prosperous Savings Bank rebuilt and enlarged the building. In 1896, The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society purchased the building for £375. In the 20th Century it fell into decay and became a home for pigeons until purchased and restored by the Town Council. **HRH Prince Charles, Duke of Cornwall**, officially opened The Museum and Tourist Information Centre in 2002. *Admission is free.*



Further down on that side and on the corner of Fore Street, is the **Guild Hall***, built on the site of an earlier (1703) building, in 1859. The arcade beneath it has, in the past, been used as a prison, a butcher's shambles and a fire station. The weather vane was given by Samuel Bone (Mayor in 1859) and the clock by John Isaac (Mayor in 1868). The Market Hall, opposite, was built in 1822 and pulled down in 1953 and was replaced by the yellow brick building. It had housed the first cinema in the town showing silent movies in the 1920s.



The Market Hall

④ **Market Street** is the continuation of Pike Street, and is where the medieval market was held, but turn right here briefly into Well Lane to look at the **Well**.

⑤ This is the historic centre of the town and was known variously as the Well of Lyskirret, St. Martin's Well or, as now, The Pipe Well. It is fed by four springs and the water is said to be 'good



The historic Pipe Well

for the eyes' and to have 'matrimonial powers'. Unfortunately the supply is now much reduced and not fit to drink. The town prison was nearby.

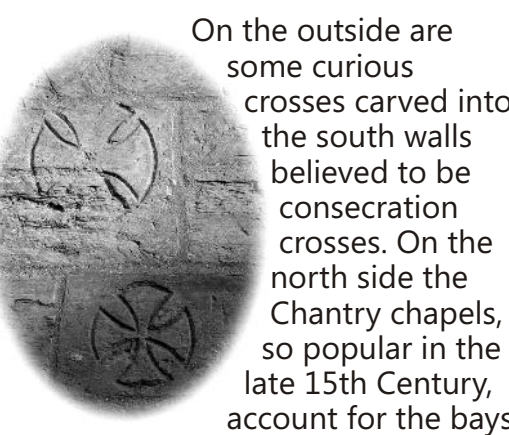
Now turn back into **Market Street**, and you will see Goldsworthy's shop* in front of you to your left, with its date 1853, one of the best examples of Henry Rice's style. Turning right along Market Street, on your left is the Constitutional Club. It has two date stones, one from the original building which burnt down. Ahead of you is the bow fronted shop, Oughs* (pronounced 'O's). It was, in the same family, a grocer and chemist shop from 1847 to 1988 and keeps some of that traditional style today.

⑥ Take the road to the right of Oughs and continue up the hill on **Church Street**. The Ancient House, on your left, has fine granite pillars of late medieval date. Opposite and down a little, is the Salvation Army Citadel, a striking piece of early 20th Century architecture. Walking further on up the hill, some of the houses have dates, as does the former Barley Sheaf public house on your right. You are now in the area which may have been the market place in the 12th Century.

⑦ Opposite the former Barley Sheaf, go up Church Gate on the left to **The Church**. The main part of St. Martin's was built in two phases, 1428-1430 and 1478 and replaced an earlier Norman church. It is the second largest church in Cornwall after Bodmin. The tower was built in 1901, replacing an earlier tower but preserving the west door, originally built in 1627.



An even earlier Norman arch is preserved on the inside of the tower. The church is usually open to visitors, between services, during weekday daylight hours. Guide sheets to the church, with translations, are available inside.



⑧ Leave the church via the Lych Gate into **Castle Street**. Pass the Eliot House Hotel on your left. This was originally the town house of the Eliot family who dominated politics here in the 18th and early 19th Centuries.



Opposite the Eliot House Hotel can be seen the first Methodist Preaching house in Liskeard. In 1776 it was described as a low, thatched outhouse with stables beneath. Worshippers were liable to be pelted with rotten eggs and stones! John Wesley is said to have rested here on one of his visits to the town.

Go along Castle Street but realise that the houses to your left used to have quite deep, railed front gardens; so the road used to be much narrower than it is today.



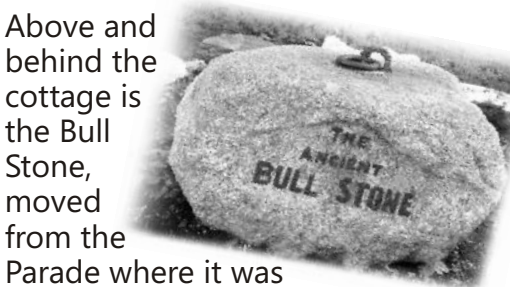
Castle Street with the pillared houses on the left having front gardens

⑨ Opposite the end of this terrace and up to your right is Castle Park. You are encouraged to go up the railed slope to the **War Memorial** and behind it, the stone cottage, which, at one time and another, has been a school, a police station and house. This is the site of



The old police station

the castle built in the 13th Century by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the brother of Henry III. It was more of a fortified manor house than a real defensive castle and it fell into ruin between 1480 and 1530. It was likely a wooden structure and, despite recent archaeological digs on the site, no remains can be seen.



⑩ Now leave the castle site, retrace your steps, cross the road, and go straight down the very steep Castle Hill and come again into Market Street by Oughs shop.

Continue up and into **Fore Street**. This was and remains the main shopping street in the town. As you walk raise your gaze above the shop windows. Looking up to your left, you will see the remains of part of the old Market Hall building.



A little way along on your right is an old house with the owner's name and the date 1686. It still has its original black oak staircase. Almost opposite is a Victorian shop front, this was for many years the town's jeweller and clock repairer. It was built in 1882 at a cost of £575.



⑪ You emerge at the end into **Baytree Hill**. Looking to your left you can see down the hill and the steep rise on the other side. The far side is called Cannon Hill as a cannon from the Napoleonic wars was there until taken off to Plymouth in the mid 19th Century, after some youths got too excited and fired it! The dip at the bottom of the hill was very much deeper and had a pond in it, which became the source of disease and foulness in the mid 19th Century. The hill going down is still called Pondbridge Hill.

⑫ Cross the road ahead and walk up the left hand pavement of Baytree Hill and you come to **The Methodist Church**. This, Liskeard's fourth chapel*, was built in 1845 after the previous one on this site was destroyed by fire. Designed by Rice, it was embellished both inside and out by J. Sansom in 1909. It is a very fine example of chapel architecture and still contains many of its original furnishings. Opposite is the impressive, three storey building which was Blamey and Morcom's warehouse. They were Agricultural and Wool Merchants, and had one of the most important businesses in Liskeard in the early 20th Century. The road from Barras Street was only cut through in 1863, yet again work designed by Henry Rice.

⑬ Go up the passage between the dentist and the former Rapson's butcher's shop and into the old **Cattle Market**. This opened in 1905, and was a busy market on two days a week and one of the biggest in Cornwall for much of the 20th Century. It



The Blamey and Morcom building today



The old Trehawke House

Further on still on your left is the Malcolm Barnecutt bakery*. This used to have a fine spiral staircase; another piece of Rice's design work.

⑭ Half way up the market turn right into Fairpark Road, go down to **Dean Street**, and turn right. Beside the pedestrian crossing is Rosedean* which was built especially for a doctor in 1855 and has been used as a doctor's surgery since 1864. Now use the crossing and walking to your left note numbers 19/21* which are good examples of Rice's work.

⑮ Take the second lane on your right, **Westbourne Lane**, and note the cottages and then the buildings further up on your right. These were some of the poorest people's houses in the 19th Century, built for the miners. Cut through into the car park from where you can look back at Westbourne House at the top of the Lane. The House was bought and restyled by a self-made man, Richard Hawke. He had been the copper miners' barber on Caradon Hill and made his fortune from the inside knowledge he had gleaned from his customers. There is a large stone memorial at the bottom of the garden where his ashes are buried. He was the first man in Cornwall to be cremated in modern times and his body had to be taken to London.

⑯ Now cross the car park to **Pig Meadow Lane**, previously Coach Horse Lane, as it housed a blacksmith's shop until 1945. In Pig Meadow Lane there is a mural, giving many scenes from the town's history. Now return to the Parade and, turning right, cross over. The Library on your left, was a gift to the town by the great Cornish philanthropist, John Passmore Edwards.

⑰ Next to it you end your tour at **Stuart House**, the second oldest building in the town and the house of the then MP Joseph Jane when King Charles I stayed during the Civil War. Now the Art and Heritage Centre for the town, it has its own Guide and facilities available. They can also provide other leaflets and books on the work of Henry Rice. *Admission is free.* Please take time to enjoy a cup of tea here at the end of your long walk.



who had lived here when place names were first written. The origin of the name Liskeard is obscure but 'Lis' meant a court and the second part, sometimes spelt 'kerret' probably derives from the name of the leader or the people conserving it. came greater prosperity and now an awareness of the past and our responsibility for countered by an increase in the appreciation of Liskeard's heritage. At the same time, demolition of parts of the historic fabric took place. Fortunately, this has now been a sharp decline with the slump in agriculture after the First World War. Gradually, South Africa. After that the town's pace of development slowed and then went into the engineers, went abroad to be hard rock miners in Australia, the Americas, Canada and South Africa. The mining boom lasted from about 1840 to 1880 after which, many of the miners and period when he was the Borough Nuisance Officer and Turnpike Surveyor. character. He was also instrumental in improving living conditions in the Victorian designed over a 100 of the houses and buildings which still exist and give the town its sprang up. The principal architect in the town at that time was Henry Rice and he Its wealth grew rapidly as did its population and both grand houses and squalid slums lead, silver and tin mines in the district. the 19th Century when it became a boom town with the development of the copper, were periods of decline, it continued to be one of Cornwall's major towns until early in King Charles I made his headquarters here briefly during the Civil War, although there both a three-day fair and a castle in that century. It was prosperous then and became a Coinage Town in the 13th Century, a place where Liskeard is over a 1000 years old and had a market at the time of the Domesday Book.

Liskeard's History



Liskeard HERITAGE TRAIL

W E L C O M E to the ancient market and coinage town of LISKEARD.

You are invited to follow this Heritage Trail through the town using the number guides on the map and throughout the text. This walk through our historical town should take at most 1½ hours to complete.

Enjoy your walk and please come back and revisit Liskeard and all it has to offer.





Key To Map:

-  Siting of Trail Posts
 -  Tourist Information Centre
 -  Public Toilets
 -  Ladies Only
 -  Disabled access
 -  Changing Places Disabled Access - available during building opening hours only.
- Circled numbers refer to text overleaf.