

in about 1733 by Leoni, an Italian. The grounds in which the mansion stands have been acquired by the Rickmansworth Council, who have laid out a public golf-course in it. Two other courses are leased by the Moor Park Club, who use the mansion as their club house. An uphill path runs over the park from Rickmansworth to Batchworth Heath. The stroll over the park to Batchworth Heath and back—revealing the mansion down in the vale—makes a pleasant little ramble for the less energetic visitor to Rickmansworth.

CHURCH END, SARRATT consists of an ancient church (notes and sketches can be seen inside), a row of almshouses, and the Cock. In the garden of the inn are some old cherry-trees of remarkable girth and still bearing fruit. Only the stump remains of one tree claimed to be the oldest of its kind in England.

BELSIZE consists of a farmhouse (now a private residence), the Plough, and some cottages, with Under the Heaven to the right. But for the trees, Bridges' lines might apply:

Betwixt two billows of the downs

The little hamlet lies,

And nothing sees but the bald crowns

Of the hills, and the blue skies.

THE POND OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES is a pool in the woods of Chipperfield Common. Around the verge are twelve limes, eleven of them ancient trees with heavy projecting branches, the other a replacement. This pool is a sylvan gem, more beautiful, more appealing—when the 'tide' is in, at any rate—than even the Silent Pool at Albury in Surrey.

COMMONWOOD COMMON is a grass slope patched with gorse and fern. Open to it on the west is the long, rambling façade of a modern half-timber mansion in the Elizabethan style—Commonwood House.

SARRATT VILLAGE. The cottages, which line a long green, are quite picturesque. The green is said to have been a resting-place for drovers and their cattle in the days of the Marching Herds.

How to get there and back

RICKMANSWORTH by Green Line Coach route 703; or Metropolitan Line train from Baker Street Station.

Walk 10a

RICKMANSWORTH TO CHIPPERFIELD (5½ miles)

Crossing from RICKMANSWORTH Station into Rickmansworth Park, take to the path (beside Chorley Wood Road), and in a few yards bear half-right from it over to the Lime Walk. Follow the Walk and the continuing avenue to the lodge gates of the Royal Masonic Institution. Proceeding by the hedgeroad footwalk for 260 yards, take to the Loudwater path, which drops down beside the woodland fringe of the park towards the Chess, and runs out into the road at Loudwater (1¼ miles). Here turn at once left and after 30 yards pass through a right-hand swing-gate, and so by an enclosed path. This veers round beside woods and then keeps straight ahead, presently running between modern houses and a hedge on the right, then leading into fields with a fence on the left and the willow-screened Chess away to the right. The path emerges by a hedgeroad track into Solesbridge Lane (2¼ miles).

[*Curtailment.* By turning left up Solesbridge Lane, Chorley Wood Station is reached in a mile by way of Chorley Wood Common, a charming stroll of 3¼ miles in all thus being had from Rickmansworth. The Gate Inn, in the Upper Road close to the end of Solesbridge Lane, is the stopping-place of the Green Line Coach.]

Turning left, go through the white gate on the right (by old Solesbridge House) and continue forward by the Chess—through a long meadow, then by firs and larches, and *forward* in another meadow—out by a cottage in North Lane (3 miles). Turn right here, over the Chess at Sarrattmill Bridge from Bucks to Herts, and continue for another 180 yards to a left-hand stile, by a line of old trees. From the stile a path runs along the lower slope of