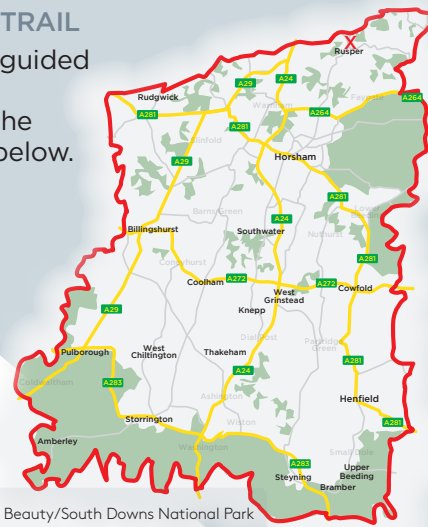




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## ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self-guided walking trail. Please read the information below.



## HOW TO FIND US

**Start point:** Parish Car Park RH12 4PX



## ACCESS & FACILITIES

**Walking grade:** Easy

**Distance:** 500m



**Refreshments:** Rusper Village Stores



**Toilets:** None available.



**Dogs:** Please keep dogs on leads and clean mess up.

Please respect the privacy of local residents.

**Photos:** Thank you to David Stevens, George Sallows and Ian Mulcahy [www.iansapps.co.uk](http://www.iansapps.co.uk)

## FIND OUT MORE:

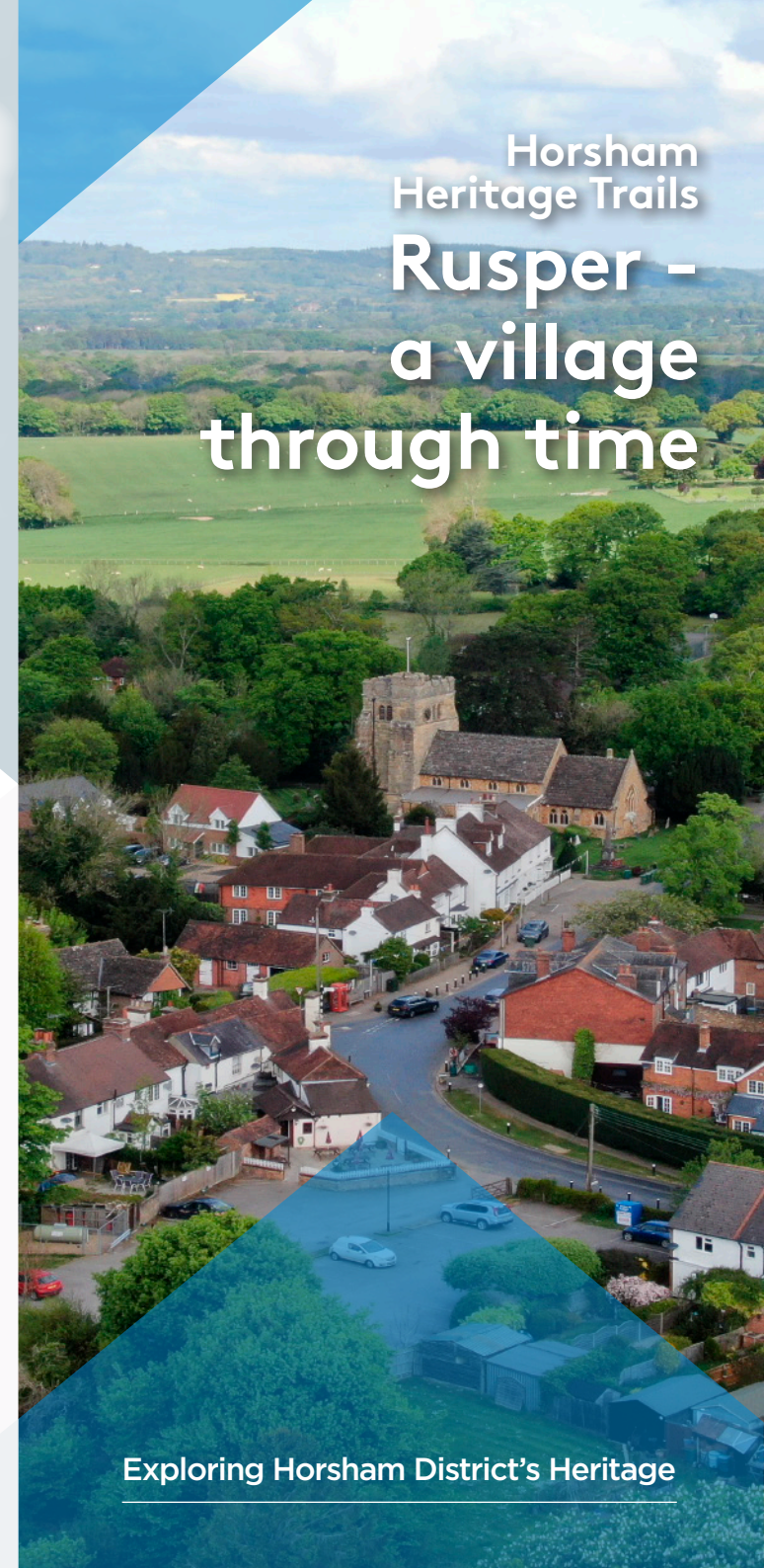
To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit [www.horshammuseum.org](http://www.horshammuseum.org)

Created by Rusper Chronicle Group.  
Supported by Horsham District Community Partnerships Forum and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Information is correct at time of going to press.

# Horsham Heritage Trails Rusper – a village through time



Exploring Horsham District's Heritage



# A Village through time

Welcome to Rusper- still a quiet village even in these busy times.

Eight thousand years ago ancient people roamed the ridge on which Rusper sits, leaving some of their tools behind! There were lots of trees – Rusper means a rough enclosure – so charcoal burners camped here, huntsmen came up from the coast to hunt deer and farmers brought their pigs to feed on acorns.

Nuns came to Rusper when Rusper Nunnery was founded a mile from the village in the 1100s. They were scolded for talking, spending too much on hospitality and allowing the buildings to get in a bad way. Closed by Henry VIII in 1536, nothing remains of the original buildings. But the bodies of some nuns were found in 1840, together with a very early chalice, and were reburied beside the church tower – a plaque marks the spot. The chalice, a rare example of Limoges Ware, is on show in the British Museum!

Below the ridge, iron was worked on an industrial scale, changing the landscape in the 1300s and 1400s, cutting down the trees and filling the land with smoke and noise. An early iron master is remembered with a brass in Rusper Church.

Now all is peaceful and the golden stone of Rusper Church glows in the sunshine – the tower dates from the fourteen hundreds but the church itself was rebuilt in 1855 by the Broadwood family, famous piano makers, living at Lyne House, a mile north from Rusper on the Capel Road. Lucy Broadwood, famous collector of English folk songs, is buried in the churchyard.

Rusper Village grew up around the church in the fifteen and sixteen hundreds as a self-sufficient community with shops, a blacksmith and a windmill. The windmill burnt down in 1894 – the flames could be seen in Horsham – and was replaced by a steam mill in Avey's barn. Forty-five of the original seventy-eight houses shown on the Tithe Map of 1840 are still here. Three big landowners owned most of Rusper in the 1800s – the Broadwoods from Lyne House, the Hurst family who owned the Nunnery and the Duke of Norfolk.



Smugglers! Rusper was on the route up from the coast – we have a Smugglers Lane at Lambs Green, a mile from the village, and a Green Lane two miles down the road towards Horsham. (The book of Walks around Rusper will take you to both of these.) The roads were so bad in the 1600s that the village was cut off for months at a time during the winter.

Trains came to Rusper in 1848 with the opening of Faygate Station two and a half miles south of the village. This changed farming for ever. Grapes were grown at The Vineries in Lambs Green to send up to London. Milk too was sent on the train. But life was not easy for the villagers. Imagine taking water from a muddy pond or a pump full of all sorts of wriggly things! It was like that in Rusper until the 1930s when mains water (and mains electricity) finally came to the village. The pump where much of the water came from can be seen outside The Star Inn.

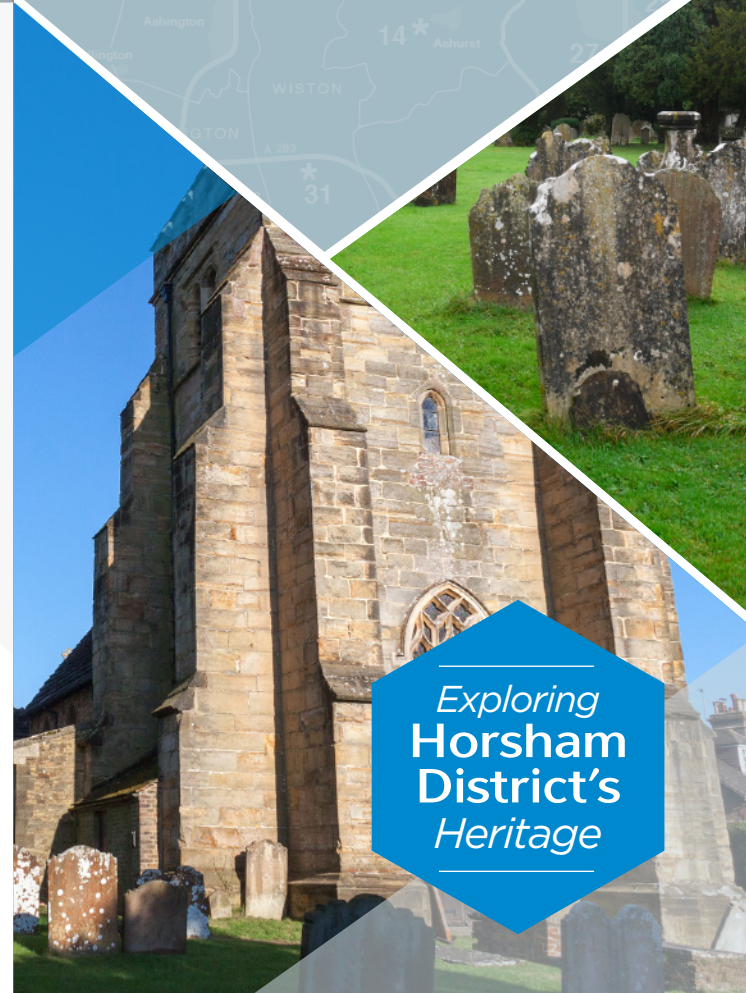
A new school was built in 1872, paid for by public subscription and replacing the former National School and Dame Schools. The present school is still using the original building with one hundred children attending. Two World Wars saw new housing estates being built. Canadian troops were billeted at Lyne House in WWII and used the newly extended village hall as a NAAFI. Servicemen from both Wars are remembered on the War Memorial and several buried in the churchyard have War Grave Commission headstones.

At the centre of the village is Rusper Stores, built about 1900, run by Walter Martin until the 1920s and now a community shop managed by a village committee. You can have a coffee here before heading to the children's playground, close by, for a picnic.

Rusper is the hub for three separate hamlets – Faygate which grew with the coming of the railway; Lambs Green developed by an Edwardian entrepreneur from London; and Friday Street, a mile north of the village, still a quiet lane with ten of its original timber-framed houses shown on the Tithe Map in 1840.

In part a farming community, Rusper is still rural and is a friendly place to live.

Enjoy your visit!



Exploring  
**Horsham  
District's**  
Heritage



1 Rusper car park – free parking. Look out for the Millennium Trail Plaque at the entrance

2 St Mary Magdalene Church stands on the highest point of the village at over 135m. At the foot of the tower are reburied the remains of nuns from Rusper Nunnery. The church was rebuilt in 1855 by the four sons of James Broadwood, famous piano makers, who lived at Lyne House. Inside the church the unusual east window with scenes of Rusper marks the rebuilding a hundred years later. Also look out for the marble bust to Lucy Broadwood, famous collector of English folk songs, early brasses to John of Kingsfold and his wife Agnes (1380) and to Thomas Challoner and his wife Margaret (1532).

3 The churchyard is a peaceful place. Lucy Broadwood is buried here, while other Broadwoods are in the vault under the nave of the church. Look for the 'Swiss Roll', the curious rounded grave of curate Thomas Smith who kept detailed records of the villagers in the early 1800s. There are also several War Graves Commission headstones, together with names recorded on the War Memorial. The fence around the churchyard was traditionally paid for by land owners in the parish – the Church Marks. The box tomb close to the church porch is the grave of Allen Wallis, dated 1718 – he was High Sheriff of Sussex in 1708.

4 Church Cottages were rebuilt in the early 1900s – the drawing by Osborn Pigrome, son of the schoolmaster, shows how they looked in 1900. Widow Boxall opened the first post office here in 1851 in her general store.

5 Wayside (see back cover) was Rusper's original garage with petrol pumps in the front garden and run for many years from the 1920s by the Brooking brothers. It moved over the road in the 1950s – now demolished for new housing.

6 Averys was the blacksmith's for over 200 years, but when Rusper Windmill burnt down in 1894, the miller Benjamin Jupp opened a steam mill in the barn – see him standing in front of the house in 1900. In 1913 an intrepid lady mountaineer, Miss Tomasson, moved in, together with her big horse which she rode side-saddle down the village street. Going towards the school, Rusper Windmill was up Millfield Lane opposite.

7 Rusper School was built through public subscription in 1872 by Thomas Potter of Horsham. The school still serves the village with over 100 children enrolled. Memorable head teachers include the long serving Mr Pigrome, Herbert Adams who joined up in WW1 and served with The Bantams and Mr and Mrs Miller, post WWII, still well-remembered in the village for their school orchestra. Every child in the school could read music and the orchestra broadcast on national radio.

8 Walking back up to the village centre the row of cottages were originally almshouses but are now Star Cottages. The Parish Workhouse was at Lambs Green, a mile from the village. Each village had to provide its own workhouse until the Union Workhouse was built at Roffey.

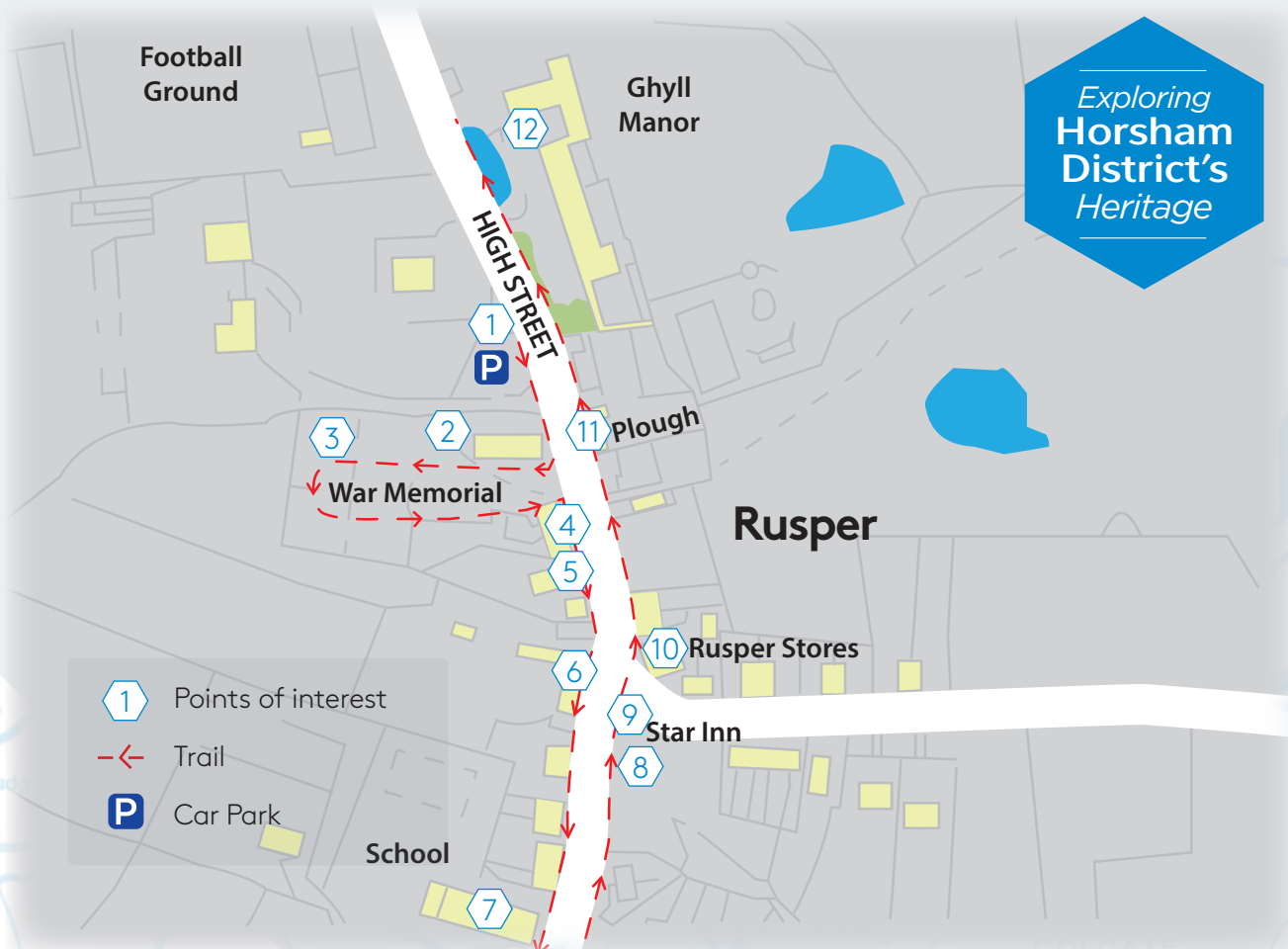
9 The Star Inn dates from the 1600s. Horse-drawn carriages are often seen nowadays on Sundays outside the inn, reflecting its past history as a coaching inn. In an upstairs bedroom, the publican John Moore, in the 1760s, recorded the names and dates of birth of his children on the wall (not open for public viewing).

10 Rusper Stores has been serving the village since the end of the 1800s. The original owner, Walter Martin, ran the shop till 1922 when it was bought by a small chain of shops called Forrest Stores. Mr de Bow came as manager for very many years and after his retirement often sat in the churchyard talking to visitors. The shop is now a community shop with villagers having shares and is run by a management committee. A coffee bar, refurbished post office open during shop hours and well stocked shelves tempt customers.

11 The Plough is Rusper's second hostelry. Originally a beer house attached to the wheelwright's shop in the eighteen hundreds, many of the pop stars famous in 1980s, including Queen, Oasis, Muse and Ozzy Osbourne, visited the pub from the Ridge Farm Recording Studio two miles over the border in Capel. Nearby is the popular children's playground with picnic tables.

12 Ghyll Manor Hotel was originally called Hile and Butts. "Butts" may mean it was an overnight stopping place for the cattle drovers who came through the village on their way to market.

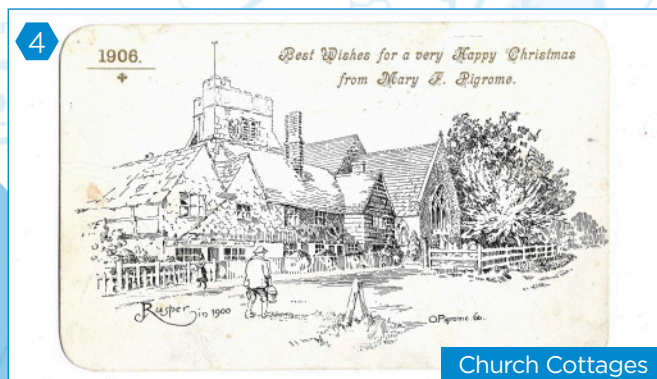
And so back to the car park.



St Mary Magdalene Church



The Churchyard



Church Cottages



Averys



Rusper School



Star Cottages



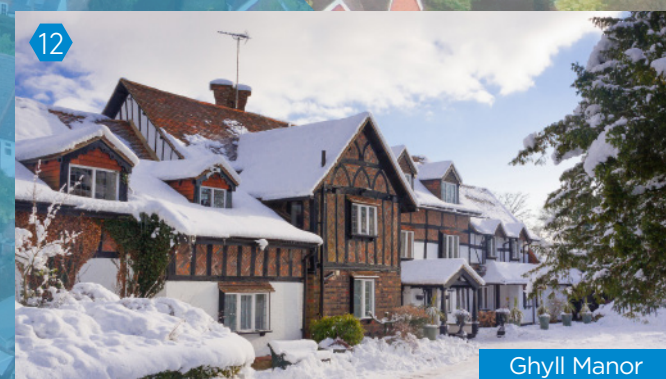
Star Inn



Rusper Stores



The Plough



Ghyll Manor