

Horsham Heritage Trail



Horsham
District
Council

Introduction

In 2000 as part of the Millennium celebrations Horsham District Council was awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop the 2000 Heritage Trail. The project consisted of 32 plaques put around the district at sites where there was something of historical interest worth seeing, or being aware of. The basic aim was providing a short overview for the casual visitor who doesn't have the time to consult books. Obviously this was produced before the age of the tablet or mobile phone with its ease of access to the internet; however over the years the trail has proved to be very popular with residents and visitors alike. As well as the plaques a booklet was produced along with a travelling exhibition. This booklet, the second edition is different from the first in that it now includes photographs, both historical and recent, of the places, something which could not be considered for the first edition.

For further information about the trail please contact Horsham Museum and Art Gallery (see back cover for details)

AMBERLEY

Home to Bishops and Artists

The Village centre lies less than one mile along the road. Owing to narrow roads in the village it is recommended that you walk there. The origins of Amberley go back to Saxon times when in 680AD the King of the South Saxons, gave it to the exiled Bishop of Northumbria who was living at Selsey, near Chichester. From then on Amberley's fortunes have been tied to those of the Bishops of Chichester. The Bishops of Chichester are linked to the two main buildings in the village centre, the parish church and the castle. The church was probably built by Bishop Luffa (1091-1125) with substantial changes made by Bishop Neville, some 100 years later. It was at this time that the walls were decorated with paintings, traces of which can still be seen. The castle was originally an undefended house belonging to the bishops. In 1377 Bishop William Rede got permission to build walls around his house to create a castle. In the mid-1500s the bishops stopped using the castle themselves and let it out to various tenants. In 1643, during the Civil War, the castle was badly damaged by General Waller and his troops. They had been sent by Cromwell to seize unpaid taxes from the Royalist tenant, John Goring. The village and castle saw very few changes until 1863 when the railway and station were built. The railway opened up trade routes, resulting in the expansion of the village's chalk



pits near the station, for lime quarrying. The chalk pits are now an open-air industrial museum. In 1872 the castle was sold by the church commissioners to Lord Zouche of Parham, who 21 years later sold it to the Duke of Norfolk. It is now a private home and hotel. A number of artists have had homes in the village - Fred and Hilary Stratton, Edward Stott, Gerald Burn - and the writer, Arnold Bennett, and his family spent a holiday here in the late 1920s.

Directions: Plaque is by the Railway Station.

ASHURST

Local author and Hollywood actor

Margaret Fairless Barber, better known by the pen-name of 'Michael Fairless', died in 1901 and is buried in Ashurst churchyard, her grave is marked with a tall wooden cross. She was author of *The Roadmender*, written at Mockbridge House, Shermanbury, during her last two summers. It was published after her death and went through 31 editions in its first decade. The book with its mystical view of life and sacramental view of nature was so popular that this whole area of the Adur Valley became known as 'The Roadmender Country'. Sir Laurence Olivier, actor, film star and director, lived in Ashurst parish and his funeral service was held in 1989. His ashes were later buried in Westminster Abbey. **Directions to the Church:** By car turn right at the next junction and follow the signs for the parish church. On foot the public footpath opposite the Fountain pub is more direct.

Directions: The plaque is next to the Village Hall, near the Fountain Public House on the B2135.



Photograph by M Barker of Henfield

SALTINGS FIELD, BEEDING

Medieval salt making

The field in front of you contains the remains of medieval 'saltern' (saltmaking) mounds. Salt preserved food before refrigeration, in cooking and dairy processes, and is a necessity of life. Sand in the Adur estuary became salty from the sea-water. This sand was scooped up, washed out, and the salt-laden water or brine boiled, leaving salt and mounds of left-over sand. These then provided raised platforms for further boiling hearths or kilns. Salt-making was a part-time summer activity in the area after about 900, lingering on until the 1400s or even early 1500s. Owners of land that included salterns often took rents paid in salt. The Domesday Book (1086) records at least 58 salterns in the Adur valley. Today eight groups of saltern mounds have been identified along the valley, including to the south and east of nearby Bramber Castle.



Directions: Turn into Saltings Way in the village centre, about 300 metres on the left is a cul-de-sac, the plaque is by the field gate.

BILLINGSHURST

From Saxon origins to Votes for Women

The name of this village contains echoes of a Saxon settlement from before 1066 – 'the wood of Billa's people' - although it is not found in a written record until 1202. Dating on the hedges of the northern parish boundary has shown it to be about 1,000 years old, and the main street runs on the line of the Roman Stane Street. The parish church of St Mary's is the oldest building in the village with some parts that date



to the 1200s. The Unitarian church, originally Baptist, dates from 1754, and the tank which was then used for baptism by full immersion is still within the building. There are many timber-framed buildings on the main street, although most have been re-fronted or tile-hung. Some of the oldest were pulled down in the 1960s to make way for Jengers Mead, a shopping precinct taking its name from an old building called Gingers. While the nearby Library car park was the site of a windmill until the 1850s. The last house on the left of the road leading north out of the village is called The Manor House, and has a Georgian front on an older building. It was the principal house of the Manor of Bassett's Fee - only one of several medieval manors or estates in Billingshurst parish.

One of the many crafts and trades that took place in medieval Billingshurst was cloth making. The Six Bells in the High Street was originally a farmhouse on land called Taintlands. This was a corruption of 'Tenterfield', a place where dyed cloth woven in the village was stretched on tenterhooks to dry. In the centre of the village, just east of the High Street, is the Women's Hall. This was given to the women of the parish by the Beck sisters, Edith and Ellen, who were friends of Mrs Pankhurst, a leader of the campaign for votes for women. It

was officially opened by Mrs Bruce, wife of the then Prime Minister of Australia. Although now used by all sections of the community, the Women's Institute has been meeting there since 1923. In more recent times, during World War Two, there was a prisoner-of-war camp in Marringdean Road, which housed first Italian, then German prisoners. A display about the history of the village can be seen inside the village hall.

Directions: The plaque is near the village sign, next to the Village Hall.

BRAMBER

A Ruined Norman Castle

The ruined remains you can see above the village are of a castle built by the powerful de Braose family, who were lords of the Rape of Bramber for over 300 years from about 1080. Bramber Rape was a wide belt of land extending from the coast at Shoreham as far as the Surrey border near Crawley. The castle was built by William de Braose on part of a huge earlier Anglo-Saxon estate centred on Washington (to the west, beside the A24) which was given by William the Conqueror to him and his family. At that time the Adur was fully navigable to this point, and there was a port below the castle. The third William de Braose was favoured by King John, but they fell out, and his wife and



heir were imprisoned in a dungeon at Windsor and starved to death. William escaped, disguised as a beggar, and fled to France. The castle was allowed to decay into ruins after the last de Braose who owned Bramber died in 1394 and is buried in Horsham church. Just down the street is St Mary's, the timber-framed remains of an inn built by the bridge in the mid-1400s, close to the port that once existed at Bramber. Both the Castle and St Mary's are open to the public.

Directions: The plaque is in the main village car park.

BRINSBURY

Stane Street and Agricultural College

Brinsbury College lies next to the Roman road from Chichester to London, known as Stane Street. Hilaire Belloc, who lived at Shipley,



wrote a book full of information about the road. The A29 from Pulborough through Billingshurst to Alfoldean roundabout shadows the Roman road, although it is not on the exact line. 'Posting stations', the Roman military equivalent of today's motels, have been excavated at both Hardham (near Pulborough) and Alfoldean (7 miles north of here). The idea of agricultural education first began in West Sussex in 1912. In 1939 the first farm, which had been set up in Chichester in 1919, moved to Brinsbury and the Women's Land Army were trained here. In 1965

Brinsbury received government recognition as an agricultural college although it had continued training people since the war. It is now one of the country's top agricultural colleges.

Directions: The plaque lies on the A29 at the start of the public footpath that runs through the College estate.

THE BLUE IDOL, COOLHAM

William Penn and a Quaker Meeting House

The Blue Idol, a Quaker meeting house, was originally a farmhouse, built in the mid 1600s. It is possibly named after a small blue ceramic figure found in the garden, or because it was once colour-washed blue and stood 'idle' or empty. In



In 1682 William Penn, whose home was Warminghurst Place in nearby Ashington, sailed from England and founded the state of Pennsylvania and the city of Philadelphia. On his return around 1691, Penn helped to establish a Quaker meeting house here, where he worshipped. Part of the farmhouse was altered so that it was suitable for Quaker meetings, and it has its own burial ground close by. Penn also attended Monthly Meetings at Coneyhurst, Horsham and Warminghurst, and was a friend of George Fox, founder of the Quakers, who was imprisoned for his beliefs in Horsham Gaol for over three months in 1655. In 1707, Warminghurst Place was sold to James Butler who once owned Amberley Castle, and he demolished the house so as to 'leave no trace of the old Quaker'.

Directions: The Blue Idol is along Old House Lane, just off the A272, between Coneyhurst and Coolham. The plaque is near the car park layby.

COWFOLD

Medieval Prior
and Victorian
Monastery

In St Peter's
Church lies the
monumental brass
of Thomas Nelond,
Prior of the Cluniac
monastery at



Lewes from 1421 to 1429. Members of his family probably brought it here, after the destruction of the Priory at Lewes around the 1540's. The brass is one of the finest in the country, but it can only be seen by appointment. The upkeep of the churchyard fencing was once the responsibility of the local farms and the farm names that appeared on a list in the 1600s are still cut into the modern fence posts. St Hugh's, Parkminster, a couple of miles south on the A281, was the first Carthusian monastery to be built in England since the Reformation of the 1530s. French architects designed the building, the foundation stone was laid in 1877 and the final cost was about £200,000. The spire is 203 feet high. The monastery where the monks spend two thirds of their time in strict silence is not open to the public.

Directions: The plaque is on the lych gate of the Parish Church in the village centre.

HAWKINS POND

Medieval hammer ponds

If you walk carefully along the road for 50 metres you will have walked over the medieval dam of Hawkins Pond. This hammer pond is one of many apparently natural sheets of water throughout St Leonard's Forest that are a reminder of a time when this was the 'Black Country' of England. During the second half of the 1500s new techniques

were introduced from France, including the blast furnace, which revolutionised working the iron-rich clay that had been locally mined from bell-shaped pits for centuries. There was a growing demand for armaments due to conflict between Spain, France and England building up to the Spanish Armada. Natural watercourses were dammed and directed to power huge hammers that pounded the ore, which was heated in furnaces that would be kept going for up to forty days at a time. Large expanses of woodland were especially managed for fuel. About 20 furnaces were still active in Sussex in 1717, compared with about 140 a hundred years earlier, but the competition of the Midlands with its coal and newer technologies eventually proved too strong.

Directions: Take St Leonard's Road off the A281 to Brighton outside Horsham. Turn right into the forest road pointing to doomsday Green. Do not turn off for around 2 miles. Just before Hawkins Pond is a lay-by on the right hand side where you will see the plaque.



HARDHAM

Early wall paintings
and Roman sites

Hardham Church was probably built c.1050, and has one of the finest series of wall paintings in the county, painted in the 1100s. It is one of a



group of six churches including West Chiltington where the surviving paintings can be compared with contemporary illustrated manuscripts. A single group of painters may have been responsible for these wall paintings. Re-used Roman bricks and tiles in the walls of the church, remind us that Hardham is close to the line of Stane Street, the Roman road. Several Roman sites have been found in the vicinity, notably a military staging post, bath house and villa. From this site anyone in power could control the tidal waters of both the River Arun & River Rother. A bridge built in 1785 over the River Arun, and by-passed in 1936, can be found on the east side of the present road crossing into Pulborough. This is a small version of the medieval bridge further west at Stopham.

Directions: Travelling South on the a29 just past Pulborough, Hardham lies just off the left-hand side. The plaque is by the church.

HENFIELD COMMON

Fairs and cricket

In front of you lies Henfield Common perhaps one of the last 'common' areas to remain more or less intact from before 1066. It was part of the Bishops of Chichester Stretham Palace estate that lay south of the village. The common was used by the bishop's tenants to feed their animals, collect wood and cut peat. Until 1886, much of the 46



acres was very boggy, but this has not stopped it being the focus of many kinds of gatherings. Henfield Fairs were held here annually on May 4th, and troops and militia trained here from 1790s to 1940s. Further along the A281 at the edge of the Common is the Cricket Club founded in 1837, although cricket has been played on the common since at least 1746. Its original Rules, Articles and Regulations still exist, including a penalty of 2/6 to be paid by any Member who got drunk before the end of a match. The pavilion was built in 1926, and the Club's centenary was celebrated by a match with the County XI on the Common.

Directions: The plaque is opposite Mill Drice on the A281 to Brighton, out of Henfield. **Note:** Henfield has its own village museum

HORSHAM

Ancient houses and notorious crimes

Horsham was first mentioned in 947AD as a place where horses were pastured and bred. In the centre of the town lies the Carfax originally a huge and empty triangular market place. In 1524 it was called The Skarfolkes - probably meaning 'a place scarce of folks'. The passageways between the market stalls eventually became alleyways between the buildings. Around the Carfax are a number of medieval buildings, these are built on plots of land that were laid out when

Horsham became a Borough in around 1200. Borough status allowed the owners of these plots to run the town and elect MPs to parliament. In the 18th and 19th centuries Horsham was known as a 'rotten borough' because of its political corruption.

In 1779 if you walked along East Street you would have seen a brand new gaol built to the ideas of John Howard, the penal reformer. The Gaol which was pulled down in 1845 was the last in a line of County Gaols stretching back 400 odd years, from when the first gaol was in the Carfax. In 1949 Horsham hit the headlines with the trial of John Haigh, Acid Bath murderer, in the Town Hall.



The Causeway leads to the ancient parish church of St Mary's that dates to the Norman period. To the east of it lies Chesworth, Horsham's 'manor house'. Catherine Howard, the fifth wife of Henry VIII, had an affair here with a musician before she married the King. It was this affair that led to her execution. Horsham is unusual because of its Horsham Stone roofs, the stone was quarried locally and is in fact the remnants of a hundred million year old lake shore. Many of the medieval buildings were modernised in the 18th century and the town saw the building of three fine town houses, Park House in Horsham Park, Springfield and what is known as the Manor House in the Causeway.

At Horsham Museum in the Causeway there are displays on the history of the town and Percy Bysshe Shelley the famous poet for whom the fountain at the end of West Street was erected in 1996.

Directions: The plaque is adjacent to the Bandstand in the Carfax.

PARHAM

Golden Pippins and Victorian Adventurer

This name first recorded in 959AD comes from words meaning ‘the pear tree settlement’, but the fruit most associated with Parham is the Golden Pippin Apple, which probably originated here in 1629. Robert Palmer, a citizen and mercer of London, bought Parham in 1540. His son Thomas, who sailed with Francis Drake, laid the foundation stone for the present house in 1577. It was sold to Thomas Bishop of Henfield in 1601, and his descendants lived there until 1922, when Baroness Zouche sold to the Pearson family. In the 1830s the 14th Baron Zouche, Robert Curzon, visited monasteries in the Near East rescuing many historic biblical manuscripts that are now in the British Library. He wrote one of the best travel books of the Victorian era ‘Visit to the Monasteries in the Levant’ retelling his adventures.

There have been pleasure grounds and orchards here since earliest times, and the park is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with ancient trees and rare lichens. Deer have roamed here since at least 1628, and in the early 1700s, workers were paid 6d a night for ‘watching’ to guard against poaching. For most of its history Parham has been a quiet peaceful place, though it was sacked during the Civil War like nearby Amberley Castle. The church of St Peter in the grounds of Parham House was mostly rebuilt in the early 1800s, although there are remains from the 1500s in the vestry. There are box pews, with a fireplace in the one belonging to the lord of the manor, and the pulpit and screen are Georgian. The 6th baronet is said to have demolished the village, then sited around the church, and rebuilt it at Rackham, but archaeologists have found nothing to support this story.

Directions: The plaque lies just inside the gates to Parham House on the A283 just past Storrington to Pulborough. Parham House is open to the public.

PULBOROUGH

Pulla's hill and coaching stop

In front of you is the lush floodplain of the Arun abundant with fish and wildfowl, one of the main reasons Pulborough has been settled for over 200,000 years. The evidence for these early settlers are the flint tools that they left behind and locally found examples can be seen at Horsham Museum.

Roman settlements lie under modern day Pulborough, and appeared at the junction of Stane Street, the road that linked London to Chichester, with the Roman road from Barcombe east of Lewes. It was the Saxons, who followed the Romans, which gave Pulborough its name meaning Pulla's hill or the hill by the pool. By the time the Domesday Book was written in 1086 there were 2 churches, 2 mills and 100 households rich enough to be recorded. The early settlement was built around the parish church, and two manor house sites can be seen at Old Place, now an empty moated site and New Place where part of a medieval building still survives. As you walk or drive down the hill into Pulborough you will be following the shift of the village's focus, as by 1600 it was strung out along Lower Street away from the parish church. This shift increased with the construction of a new bridge across the



Arun in 1785, the opening of the Arundel to Petworth turnpike in 1803, and the railway station in 1859. Pulborough apart from being a suitable coaching stop at inns like the old Swan, between London and Chichester, was also a centre for the local leather industry. Whilst Pot Lane that now lies on Pot Common was probably the site of a local pottery.

Directions : At the roundabout where the A283 joins the A29, turn onto the A29 towards Billingshurst. At the top of the hill opposite the Church, turn into the lane on the right hand side by the inn. The plaque lies around 200 metres along by the footpath.

ROOST HOLE, ST LEONARD'S FOREST

Ancient forest and a mythical dragon

St Leonard's Forest was once part of a large belt of woodland known as the Weald that stretched from the North Downs to the coast. By the Norman invasion the woodland was already settled with numerous small hamlets, these were linked settlements on the coast and provided them with woodland pasture for grazing.

The Normans introduced the idea of a Forest; an area of land set aside for hunting controlled by strict laws. This world of hunting and restricted access led to the creation of myths and legends about the Forest. The most well known myth is of a dragon that lived in the forest. The dragon was first reported in 1614 in a "newspaper". The Forest was described as "a vast and unfrequented place, full of unwholesome shades and overgrown hollows where this serpent is thought to bred". The dragon was thought to be "nine feet or rather more in length" with a red underbelly. In 1547, Sir Thomas Seymour, Lord High Admiral, put forward a plan to build a new settlement in the Forest, but it was never carried out. The Forest itself was a well managed economic resource for over 1,000 years providing fuel for the Wealden iron industry and timber for construction.



Directions: Take the St Leonard's Road off the A281 to Brighton outside Horsham. Turn right into the forest pointing to Doomsday Green. Do not turn off the road until you pass the tip of Roost Hole pond. At the top of the hill on the left hand side is Roost Hole car park. The plaque is to the edge of the car park.

RUDGWICK

Ancient houses and unique Dinosaurs

The name Rudgwick - pronounced Ridgick by local people - means 'farm on a hill', and gives a clue to the site of its early settlement. The main village with its church is built against the ridge that marked the original boundary between the old counties of Sussex and Surrey. The earliest part of the church is its tower, built in the 1200s. There are over 90 timber-framed houses in the parish dating from before the 1750s, and a group of these lie in Church Street in front of the church. Part of Church Gate House, west of the entrance to the church, is a small building of about 1450, once used for churchwardens' meetings. The Kings Head, built in 1733 with a cellar to store the stalls for an annual fair held nearby, was not originally a public house. The house opposite, called Woes, dates from about 1375, and has the steeply pitched roof typical of other early buildings in the parish, suggesting it was originally thatched.

Rudgwick had a station on the Horsham to Guildford line that existed from 1865-1965. The village Health Centre is now on the site, and the redundant trackway is a long distance footpath linking the North

and South Downs – Downslink - using as its symbol the double bridge over the Arun at Rudgwick. The higher bridge had to be built before the railway could be opened, because the gradient from the lower bridge was too steep. The existence of a station stimulated a local brick industry, which still operates, using the clays laid down millions of years ago when Rudgwick was on the shore of a giant prehistoric lake. It was in the 1980s, while excavating brick clay, that the bones of a unique dinosaur known as *Polacanthus Rudgwickensis* was found. It walked on all fours and looked a bit like a giant armadillo with a spiky tail. These bones, and two fossilised dragonflies found at the same time, can be seen in Horsham Museum.

Directions: The plaque lies opposite the church along the main high street of Rudgwick (B2128) at the top of the hill.

RUSPER

Medieval Nuns and High Fashion

Some time around 700AD farmers on the coast were moving into this area taking livestock to summer pastures. They created areas of woodland pasture or 'rough enclosures' that were known as 'ruh spaer', the origins of the name Rusper. Near Rusper is Roffey that is derived from the Anglo-Saxon rogh (deer) and hay (fencing), or hunting park. This area was therefore being settled by the Saxon period and was well established by the Norman Conquest in 1066. In the 12th century a small Benedictine convent, known as Rusper Priory, was founded for no more than ten nuns. The convent no longer exists, but the gates to the Nunnery can be seen on the road from Rusper to Horsham.

When the house that now stands near the convent site was being extended in 1840, the workmen stumbled on the convent's cemetery. Amongst the 40 odd female skeletons were various grave goods, including a unique 12th century Limoges enamelled chalice that can be seen today in the British Museum. The bones were re-buried in two coffins in the churchyard. The convent was closed down by Henry VIII in 1536. Opposite this sign is the Ghyll Manor Hotel, a modern name as it is not a manor house.



The Stone family who lived in the old Priory in the 1600s owned the buildings. In 1626, a certain John Stone was reported by the churchwardens for keeping his former servant, Elizabeth Charman, in a separate building as his mistress. Was the hotel, the oldest part of which dates back to the 1600s, that building? A short walk east of the Star is a house called Normans, which in part dates from the 1400s. In Edwardian times, the de la Rue family, famous printers of bank notes, made considerable additions. In the dying years of the 20th century the house attracted worldwide media attention as the home of Italian fashion Paolo Gucci.

Directions: Next to the Parish church is a small car park, the plaque lies there.

SEDGWICK PARK

Alice in Wonderland's castle

In Sedgwick Park is the site of a 'castle' built soon after the Norman Conquest of 1066. The lords of Broadwater, in Worthing, who owned the 'castle' used it as a hunting lodge. The road to the west is still called Broadwater Lane. John Mansel, chancellor to Henry III, was given permission to build stone walls around the lodge in the 1250s during the Barons' War. The Dukes of Norfolk, who owned it from the

end of the 1500s, let it fall into disrepair. Alice Liddell, who as a young girl was the model for Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland', spent her honeymoon at Sedgwick Park. This was the home of her sister-in-law, Emma Henderson. Emma created famous gardens for the house which were featured in Country Life in the early 1900s. Her son, Neville, was British ambassador to Germany at the outbreak of World War 2. Both the castle site and Sedgwick Park are privately owned, but public footpaths from Sedgwick Lane cross the Park giving occasional views of the house's main facade.

Directions: On the A281 leaving Horsham towards Brighton, just past the garden centre, on the right hand side is Sedgwick lane. About 1.5 miles down the lane are the gates to Sedgwick Park. The plaque lies near the gate. The house and grounds are private, but there are public footpaths.

MOCK BRIDGE, SHERMANBURY

An ancient crossing point

There has been a bridge across the Adur at Mock Bridge since the end of the 1200s. 'Mock' probably comes from 'moke', an old word for a donkey. In 1301, the landowner, Thomas Peverell, seized carts belonging to the monks of Sele Priory, Beeding, who were trying to avoid paying his bridge tolls. After lengthy legal proceedings, it was agreed that the monks could cross freely, but their tenants had to pay. The river from Shoreham was navigable this far until the early 1800s. Downstream from the bridge is a late 1500s malthouse and brewery. These were still working until the turn of the 20th century, but are now converted into homes. Behind them, is one of the oldest surviving houses in the district, Bottings Farm. A private home, it dates from about 1260. Just over Mock Bridge can be found Shermanbury's little church that was first recorded in the Domesday Book (1086). The names of farms in the parish are still painted on the backs of the church's pews.

Directions: On the A281 is Shermanbury, just over the bridge is the Bull Inn, next to which is a large triangular piece of grass where the plaque lies.

SHIPLEY

Knights Templar and Belloc's windmill

A church was first mentioned at Shipley in 1073, though it was rebuilt by the Knights Templar soon after they were given land at Shipley in 1139. The Knights Templar was an order of military monks who fought in the Crusades. Although the Templars owned the land they didn't live at Shipley, the land was managed from an 'estate office', possibly Kingsland Farm to your left. The income from the estate went to the Templars to fund their activities until 1308 when the order was banished from England in disgrace. Shipley was home to two literary talents, Hilaire



Belloc and Wilfred Scawen Blunt. Belloc lived at Kingsland from 1906-53, where he wrote many of his novels, essays, poems and histories including *Stane Street*. Shipley windmill was restored as a memorial to the author. Scawen Blunt, famous poet, diplomat and breeder of Arab horses, moved to New Buildings which lie to the north of here in 1895. New Buildings became a magnet for literary characters such as Oscar Wilde and W.B. Yeats. He died in 1922 and was buried in the grounds. The house is the private home of his and Lord Byron's descendant, Lord Lytton.

Directions: The plaque lies near the entrance to Kings Windmill, which itself lies in the village centre off the A272.

SOUTHWATER

Dinosaurs and bricks

The fossilised bones from an Iguanodon that were found at Southwater, now in Worthing Museum, remind us that 100 million years ago, this region was part of a huge fresh-water lake, around which roamed dinosaurs such as the Iguanodon and the Rudgwick Polacanthus. Originally this was the part of Horsham parish 'south of the water' - meaning the river Arun, hence its name. A railway station was opened in 1861, but not until the brickworks expanded and grew from the 1890s did Southwater really take off. A brickfield north east of the railway was operating by 1874, and a works on the south west side by 1890, which became the Southwater Brick Tile Terra Cotta Pipe & Clay Co., founded by William Wenban Smith, a name still associated with builders' merchants. This merged with the Sussex Brick & Estates Co. Ltd of Warnham, in 1907, and continued operating until 1982.

Directions: The plaque is in Southwater Country Park, near Cripplegate Lane.

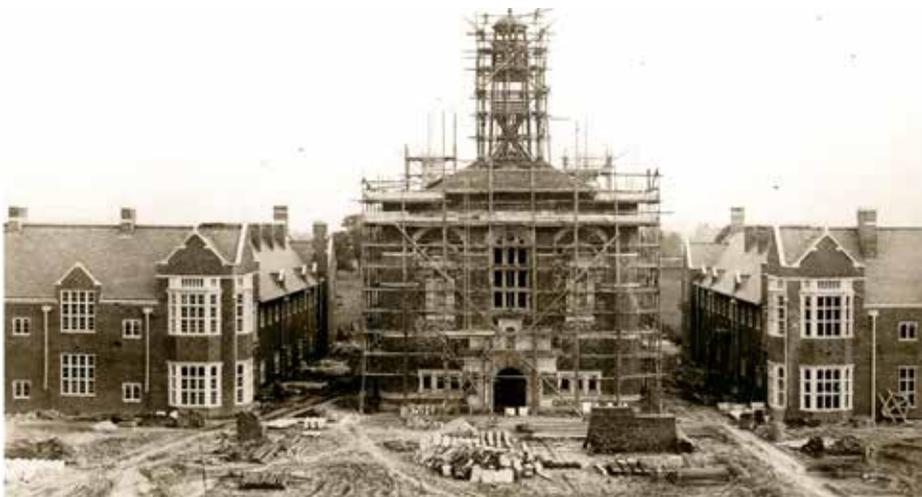


CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, STAMMERHAM

Horsham Stone and Blue Coats

The name 'Stammerham' means 'settlement by the stone lake' - a picturesque description of a quarry. Horsham sandstone was formed from the clay laid down around the edge of a giant fresh-water lake that once stretched as far as France over 100 million years ago. The 'ripple' effect in the stone bares witness to its past life, when the shoreline was home to dinosaurs and insects whose remains can be seen in Horsham Museum. Since the late 1200s the sandstone has been quarried for roofing and paving stone. Many Horsham men were 'stone-healers', that is, specialist roofers. There were numerous small 'stonepits', and one quarry at Stammerham finally closed in 1911. By the 1890s, 1200 acres at Stammerham, which belonged to the Aylesbury Dairy Company, were sold to Christ's Hospital. The foundation stone for a new school was laid in 1897, and five years later, over 800 boys moved in from London. The history of Christ's Hospital can be seen at the school museum, which is open to the public on selected days.

Directions: The plaque is at the visitor's entrance to the school, opposite the farm buildings. Photo of Christ's Hospital being constructed By kind permission of Christ's Hospital'



Note: Christ's Hospital visits can be made by prior arrangement and details of the 'Verrio' tours and the museum collections can be found on the school website www.christs-hospital.org.uk

STEYNING

Saxon Borough

Steyning's origins lie in the period of the Saxon invasion of Sussex in about 500AD. It grew into an important town for two main reasons: its port that allowed sea-going vessels access well inland, and the reputation of Saint Cuthman who built a church here in the eight century. King Ethelwulf, father of King Alfred the Great, was buried in Cuthman's church in 858AD.

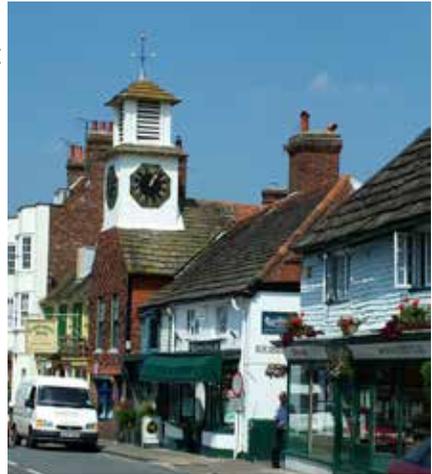
Further evidence of Steyning's importance was its licence to mint money, probably at the site of the Stone House in the High Street opposite the junction with Church Street. St Cuthman's wooden church was replaced by a magnificent building by the Normans who viewed Steyning as an important port. Part of the Norman nave can be seen today in the present church.

As a port, Steyning became an important market town. In the 15th century the port declined due to coastal changes which reduced the wide estuary to a river. The town continued to decline till 1861 when the railway arrived reviving its market and agriculture.

Tudor buildings in Church Street are still used by Steyning Grammar School that was endowed in 1614, and is now a community technology college.

In 1555 Church Street witnessed the death of a protestant martyr, John Launder. Parnell, the celebrated promoter of Irish independence, married his former mistress Kitty O'Shea in Church Street. This marriage ended a scandal that had destroyed Parnell's career and any hope of Irish freedom from Britain.

W.B Yeats, poet and dramatist, lived and wrote in Chantry House in the last two years of his life. The High Street is rich in timber-framed buildings, most of them later given brick facades. The White Horse and The Chequer were coaching inns until about 1800. Until the beginning of the 20th century, the town was practically self-sufficient with mills, tannery, brewery, forge, gasworks, joinery and wheelwright businesses.



Directions: The plaque is in the village bus shelter in the High Street.

Note: Steyning has its own village museum - www.steyningmuseum.org.uk

STORRINGTON

Storks and artists

In 1086 the Domesday Book records Storrington as 'Estorchestone' a place well-known for storks. The history of Storrington has little to do with storks, and more to do with being a flourishing market place, with a fulling and tanning industry.

In the early part of the 20th century it was also a centre of an artistic community. Storrington was given permission to hold a regular market from 1399, as well as a twice-yearly fair. These continued until the end of the nineteenth century. With the markets went inns and public houses, the White Horse was recorded as an inn in 1666, and the Half Moon in 1844.

Rabbit breeding was also once an important local industry, and is still indicated by various place names ending in 'warren', signifying a place where rabbits were kept.

Until the 1800s there were three working windmills and three watermills, and there was at least one earlier fulling mill down Chantry Lane. Fulling was a part of a process of preparing cloth that needed running water.

At the end of the 19th century Horsham District became the home for a number of Roman Catholic orders forced to flee persecution in France. At Storrington the White Canons built a priory. This became the home for a number of artists including the poet Francis Thompson (1859-1907) who spent two years trying to beat opium addiction, and Hilaire Belloc who stayed there in 1906. The area attracted Wilfred Meynell, the poet and writer, as well as Arthur Bell (1875-1918) the disabled poet. Bell lies buried in the churchyard, his headstone was carved by the then up and coming sculptor Eric Gill. Sir Arnold Bax, the composer lived at Storrington until his death in 1953.

At nearby Sullington lived the writer A J Cronin and various artists including Edwin Harris, some of whose watercolours can be seen at Horsham Museum.

Directions: The plaque lies alongside the footpath through the park mill area at the centre of Storrington. Storrington has its own village Museum.



STRETHAM MANOR

Moated Bishop's Palace

The site of Stretham lies about a mile north of here. Although nothing remains there today during Saxon times it was a major complex of buildings, lying near the site of Roman and Saxon river crossings.

Around 770AD a Saxon nobleman gave the land to the Bishops of Chichester who used its rent to build St Peter's church, Henfield and the palace. Bishops were staying there on at least eight occasions between 1274 and 1374, when cases for excommunications (banning people from the benefits of the church) were heard. One action in 1374 was against a priest called Reginald Mottay, who was declared a 'notorious fornicator', who then made death threats against the bishop and his servants.

In 1647 Thomas Bellingham lived in the house that replaced the 'palace'. In that year it had a great barn, two stables and an 'old decayed dove house'. Part of this complex, now a private residence, can be seen from the South Downs Way which passes close by.

Directions: The plaque lies on the Downs Link footpath near Stretham Manor.

THAKEHAM

Domesday church and an attempted murder

This is the heart of an ancient parish, the church was listed in the Domesday survey of 1086, when herds of over 400 pigs were pastured nearby, and a retired soldier worked his land with a yoke of oxen. In 1257, near Champions Farm opposite the Abingworth Hall Hotel on the Storrington Road, the rector was brutally attacked and nearly killed by a group of men led by the rector of neighbouring West Chiltington, probably as the result of a disagreement over the church tax known as tithes. In the 1600s, Champions was owned by the Shelley family,

ancestors of the Warnham-born poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley. The church contains an impressive series of 16th century memorials to some of the Apsley family who lived at Thakeham Place, just to the south, and one to James Butler of Amberley Castle.

Directions: Thakeham lies off the B2139 which joins the A272 at Coolham and A283 at Sorrington. The plaque lies near the parish church.

WARNHAM

Shelley's Birthplace

In 1792 the famous radical poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was baptised in the parish church behind you. On the walls of the church you can see various memorials to the Shelley family including one to Shelley's son Charles, who died in 1826 aged 11.

Shelley was born at the nearby family home of Field Place, a 15th century house with substantial mid 17th century additions. The house is a not open to the public, but at Horsham Museum you can see first and early editions of the poet's work.



On the outside of the church is an unusual monument to the Pilfold family. John Pilfold, Shelley's uncle, was a naval hero at the battle of Trafalgar, where he was in command of the Ajax. The memorial traces the Pilfold family back through the centuries to 1686. In the mid-19th century the Lucas family established an internationally famous herd of red deer at Warnham Park. The herd was immortalised in the natural history books written and illustrated by J G Millais, son of the famous Pre-Raphaelite painter John Everett Millais, who lived at Compton's Brow, Horsham.

Directions: Opposite the parish church in the centre of the village is a village map, the plaque is next to the map. **Note:** For a display on Shelley please see Horsham Museum.

WASHINGTON

Bronze Age graves and Armada Beacons

Washington was once at the heart of a huge Anglo-Saxon estate that stretched 15 miles northwards to Horsham and Ruspur. After the Norman invasion, William the Conqueror gave this estate to his trusted friend William de Braose. De Braose moved his centre of power from Washington to the castle he built at Bramber.

Dominating the hilltop above Washington are the earthworks of Chanctonbury Ring. Over 3,500 years ago a young woman with a bronze dagger was buried there. A thousand years later an Iron Age hillfort was built on the prominent spur, giving superb views of the area. The hillfort was abandoned after the Roman invasion around 50AD. Some three hundred years later a temple was built inside the earthwork. The excavations showed the temple had been used for a mixture of Roman and British beliefs.

In 1588 beacons were sited at the Ring to warn of the Spanish Armada. In the 18th century the Gorings of Wiston Park planted a ring of trees at the centre of the earthwork. This was decimated by the great storm



in 1987, but was replanted by Henry Goring, descendant of the original ring's creator.

Directions: Washington village lies just off the A283 near the A24. The plaque is near the bus stop before entering the village itself.

WEST CHILTINGTON

St Mary's wall paintings

Prehistoric and Roman remains have been found in the parish, and the Sinnocks, a curious local road name, was a medieval common field. You can see the old village stocks and whipping post prominently placed by the churchyard wall. A church was recorded in the Domesday record (1086), probably on this site, but the present building dates mainly from the 1100s. Entering the church you will see paintings in the south aisle, on the arches and south wall of the nave that have been dated to the 1150s. These include an Annunciation and Nativity with shepherds, both appropriate for a church dedicated to St Mary. There is evidence for new paintings being made over these in the 1300s, and a Christ with tools and a St Christopher date from the 1400s. The colours are still remarkably fresh, and remind us that early churches were often a riot of colour.

Directions: The plaque lies next to the village church.

WEST GRINSTEAD

Shelley's parents and Belloc's grave

The oldest parts of the parish church dates to the 11th century and have the names of local farms painted on the backs of the pews where their occupants sat.

The parents of the poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley, married here in 1790. In the 16th and 17th centuries the Caryll family were important local landowners who lived at West Grinstead Park, just to the north of here. The Carylls remained staunch Roman Catholics, called 'recusants', after the Protestant Reformation of 1558. In 1671 they established a centre there for Catholic worship and built the Priest's House with a so-called 'secret' chapel in the attic. This still stands today beside the Catholic church built in 1875 on the corner of the B2135 and Park Lane. Hilaire Belloc, the author who lived at Shipley, is buried in the churchyard.

In 1825 the Baybridge Canal Company was formed to widen and straighten the River Adur up to Bay Bridge, just to the west of here beside the A24. A wharf had already been constructed here in 1811 to



West Grinstead Station Post Office. c1907.

unload lime, Chalk and coal and this survived until 1982. The company gradually declined after the opening of the Horsham-Shoreham railway in 1861, which itself closed in 1966.

Directions: Take the lane on the right, pointing to the parish church on the B2135 the Partridge Green, Steyning Road just past the A24/272 junction going south. If you pass the Roman Catholic Church you have passed the turning. The plaque is in the car park.

WISTON

Elizabethan adventurers

In front of you lies Wiston House and Park nestling at the foot of Chanctonbury Hill with its prehistoric earthwork. The house was built by Thomas Sherley (1542-1612) who had six daughters and three sons. He like his sons was a colourful character, becoming an MP for nearby Steyning, even though he owed debts to the Crown.

In 1597 he was finally made bankrupt and was flung into the Fleet Prison in 1603. To restore the family fortunes his three sons turned to piracy in 1596, but without success. The sons continued their adventurous lives. Thomas, the eldest, was imprisoned on numerous occasions, married twice and had eighteen children. Anthony, the middle son, served under the Earl of Essex and Walter Raleigh, was thrown into a Venice dungeon and died in poverty in Madrid. The youngest, Robert, married a harem girl while he was an ambassador for the Shah of Persia, where he eventually died. By 1620 the Lord Treasurer of England, Lionel Cranfield, owned Wiston.

The Royalist John Tufton, who succeeded him had to flee abroad during the Civil War, leaving his pregnant wife and family behind. In 1649 a 20 year old Parliamentarian, Sir John Fagge bought the estate. His great-grand-daughter Elizabeth married Sir Charles Goring in 1743, and their descendants still live at Wiston today. After 1951 most of the house was leased to the Foreign Office who used it for conferences. The house is not open to the public.



Directions: The plaque lies in the large lay-by on the left hand side by the A283 between Steyning and Wiston Park House sign. The lay-by offers fine views of the park, house and pond.

WOODMANCOTE

Protestant Martyrs

A short walk up the road is Woodmancote Church and a good view of Woodmancote Place and Park.

The church, like nearby Shipley, was held by the Knights Templar, an order of military monks who fought in the Crusades, before they were thrown out of England in 1308. It was totally rebuilt in 1868 apart from a few medieval features. Woodmancote Place, behind the church, has the remains of a house built in the 1300s. Considerable alterations have been made to the house from the 1600s until the 1920s.

In 1928, a picture hung in the hall showing the martyrdom in Lewes of two local men, Thomas Harland and John Oswald, during the reign of Mary I (1553-58). They were among a number of Sussex men and women burned for their Protestant beliefs while Mary was queen. They were said to have lived in a cottage that still stands in a nearby lane.

Directions: The plaque is next to the village hall which lies on the left hand side of the A282 to Brighton, just past Woodmancote Church.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF BLUE HDC LOCAL HISTORY PLAQUES:

October 2014

Note between 2000 and 2014 some additional heritage plaques were mounted in Horsham town. These are identified on this list here but not in the text above.

Village	Position	Location	Grid Ref.
AMBERLEY	Wall-mounted (large)	On the exterior wall of the Railway Station facing the car park.	TQ 026118
ASHURST	Post-mounted (small)	On the grass verge by the Village hall (near The Fountain PH) facing the car park	TQ 181163
BILLINGSHURST	Post-mounted (large)	On the grass verge near the new village hall close to village sign – facing the footway/pavement.	TQ 088264
BRAMBER	Post-mounted or wall-mounted (large)	In the village car park on the exterior wall of bus shelter/toilets near the Tourist Information sign facing the pavement.	TQ 188106
BRINSBURY	Post-mounted (small)	Next to the public footpath on grass verge - facing into the college grounds.	TQ 069223
COOLHAM	Post-mounted (small)	Old House Lane Side off A272 opposite the Blue Idol to face the footpath/driveway at car parking area.	TQ 107215
COWFOLD	Post-mounted (small)	By the left hand side of lych gate (facing the church), parallel to the wall, facing the road.	TQ 213226
HORSHAM, East Street	Wall -mounted (small)	On wall of passage recess in East Mews	TQ 173305
HORSHAM, Causeway	Post-mounted (small)	On verge outside Horsham Museum, The Causeway.	TQ 172304
HORSHAM, Denne Road	Wall -mounted (small)	On front façade of The Drill Hall, Denne Road	TQ 173303

HORSHAM, Worthing Road	Post-mounted (small)	by old pillbox alongside R Arun (Prewetts Mill)	TQ 169304
HAWKINS POND, St Leonard's Forest	Post-mounted (small)	Alongside of Hammerpond Road by layby (the plaque parallel to the road) just before the dam on right hand side of road leaving Horsham.	TQ 217292
HARDHAM	Post-mounted (small)	By the entrance gate into church on grass verge off A29	TQ 038177
HENFIELD COMMON	Post-mounted (small)	By the seat on the Common opposite Mill Drive on the A281 (NB: HDC owns the Common)	TQ 217158
PARHAM	Post-mounted (large)	Just inside the Parham estate main drive at Cootham, sign facing the road.	TQ 070146
PULBOROUGH	Post-mounted (large)	Along lane E off A29 at top of Church Hill past Chequers Hotel and next to the footpath fingerpost sign and fence, facing the road.	TQ 049188
ROOST HOLE, St Leonard's Forest	Post-mounted (small)	Alongside of Hammerpond Road, at far edge of car park by one of the footpath exits sign to face into car park, sign parallel with car park	TQ 207298
RUDGWICK	Post-mounted (large)	By the seat on the grass bank opposite the church and PH on W side of B2128. [at right angles to pavement and face down the hill].	TQ 090343
RUSPER	Post-mounted (large)	On existing post by church and small car park	TQ 205372
SEDGWICK	Post-mounted plaque (small)	By the left hand side of the gates near public footpath, facing the road	TQ 186274
SHERMANBURY	Post-mounted (small)	On the A281 next to the telegraph pole on the grass triangle near the Bull PH, facing Mock Bridge.	TQ 211181
SHIPLEY	Post-mounted (small)	By the access gate next to fingerpost on grass verge by Shipley windmill.	TQ 218145

SOUTHWATER	Wall-mounted (large)	In S'water Country Park, mounted on Visitor Centre building facing the lake	TQ 159256
STRETHAM MANOR	Post-mounted (small)	On Downs Link path near Stretham Manor overlooking the site.	TQ
CHRIST'S HOSPITAL	Post-mounted (small)	At public entrance to the estate, opposite the Farm buildings on a post next to a brick pier with letter box.	TQ 149288
STEYNING	Wall-mounted (large)	Inside wall of bus shelter in High Street	TQ 175113
STORRINGTON	Post-mounted (large)	Near site of sign by footpath across grassed area that lies alongside Old Mill Drive; plaque faces footpath	TQ 089144
THAKEHAM	Post-mounted (small)	By verge near church car park/lay by near Parish notice board	TQ 108175
UPPER BEEDING	Post-mounted (small)	By the side of the gate into Saltings Field facing the houses – to be read before entering the field.	TQ 193110
WARNHAM	Wall-mounted (small)	Next to village map and notice board opposite the Parish Church	TQ 158338
WASHINGTON	Post-mounted (small)	By bench/village sign, near the bus stop from A24 roundabout going into Washington; plaque faces out from the village.	TQ 123130
WEST CHILTINGTON	Post-mounted (small)	On grass verge by church between entrance and village stocks.	TQ 090182
WEST GRINSTEAD	Post-mounted (small)	Off B2135 just S of A24/A272 junction, W of RC church. Church car park by wall along path leading to church.	TQ 168215
WISTON	Post-mounted (large)	On metal post in the large car pull-in area overlooking Wiston Lake facing in the direction of Wiston House	TQ 105127
WOODMANCOTE	Wall -mounted (small)	On the village hall near the Doomsday plaque (or other side of plaque)	TQ 232147



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**Horsham
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