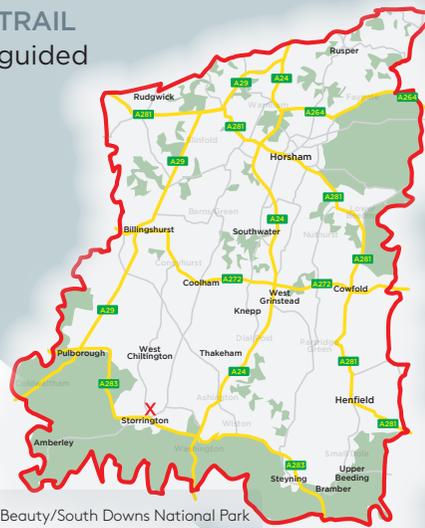




ABOUT THE TRAIL

This is a self guided walking trail.



HOW TO FIND US



Storrington is on the A283 about two miles west of the junction with the A24 at Washington. Pay and display car parking is available off North Street maximum stay 4 hours. Entering the village from the A24 take the first road on the right after the pedestrian crossing. Coming from Pulborough or the B2139 Amberley Road take the street first on the left after the pedestrian crossing. The Library Car Park is the first turning on your right and is signposted.



ACCESS & FACILITIES

Anyone able to walk without assistance or with walking sticks should be able to go on this self-guided walk. It is unsuitable for mobility scooters and unaccompanied children. Casual footwear suitable for urban walking is suggested. There are short flights of steps in the walk. Dogs on leads can be taken on the walk. Several of the roads have no pedestrian footpaths and are sometimes busy. Exercise care when using and crossing all roads. Traffic in the High Street and West Street can be especially heavy. The walk is about 1 mile long.



FIND OUT MORE:

To learn more about the heritage of the wider district and discover additional trails, please visit www.horshammuseum.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all who have provided material for background reading, particularly Joan Ham, Florence Greenfield and R L Hayward (and his illustrator Maud Randall) through their books, and the Historic Character Assessment Report on the Village by Roland Harris. The Local History section of the Reference section of the Storrington Library has copies of these books. There are short guides to the Parish Church in the church. The article on excavations at Dean Way in the Sussex Archaeological Collections 140 (2002) by Christine Howard-Davies and Bryan Matthews is fascinating, as is the Historical Atlas of Sussex edited by Kim Leslie and Brian Short. Thanks also to the Storrington Museum, particularly Sue Setford and to all who have provided originals of the photographs used.



Information is correct at time of going to press.

Horsham Heritage Trails

A walk round Storrington's heritage

Designed and Printed by Treetop Design and Print. Tel: 01293 863131



Exploring Horsham District's Heritage

A walk round Storrington's heritage

This walk celebrates the writers and composers who have found their home in Storrington over the last 150 years. Along the way, you will also discover one resident who became President of an African State. After the walk, you will be able to tell friends what connects Daisy, Tintagel, and Flower Fairies with Barchester. In addition, the trail explores other interesting parts of the heritage of the Village.

For more information about it visit the local Museum (www.storringtonmuseum.com), Facebook's 'Bygone Storrington' and the local history section of Storrington Library.

Although people have been living in Storrington for at least five thousand years, the villagers of most of that time left little trace of their existence. Only a few buildings were built more than about 300 years ago.

By the 1950's, writers and musicians who had come and stayed in the village for varying lengths of time had built up a significant literary and musical heritage for you to enjoy today. You may like to consider what the heritage of Storrington will be in 2120



Monastery



Directions for the walk

Points of interest

From the start point North Street (Library) Car Park make for the footpath at the bottom from the right hand corner of the car park. After crossing a footbridge, walk to Old Mill Drive and turn right.

① Look out for The Millennium plaque for a short history of the village. There is also a display panel containing information about the adjacent former Bine Mill, millpond and its wildlife. See photograph of this area and the village before it was developed in the 1970's

Walk to Place Villerest at the junction with High Street.

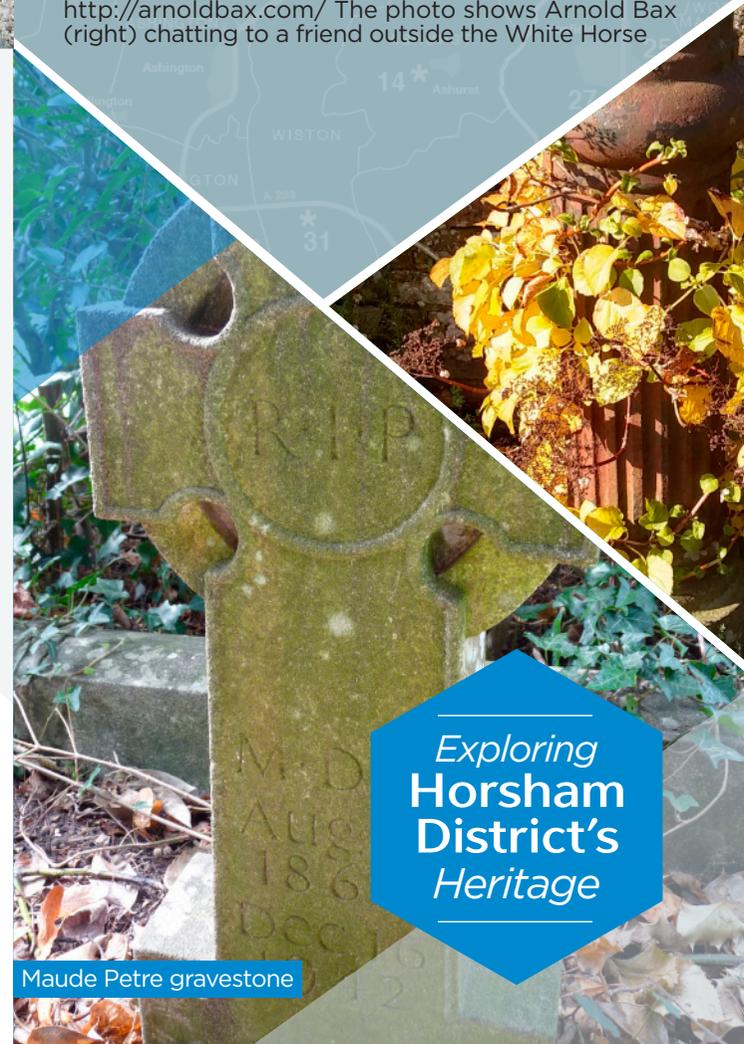
② Look to your left to see "The Anchor" Public House on the other side of the road. Jomo Kenyatta ("Jumbo" locally) - Kenya's first President - would entertain his fellow customers here by pretending to stalk and kill a lion. He came to Storrington just before World War II and worked in horticulture, but returned to Kenya in 1946. For more information about him see <https://www.lindfield.org/1997/02/jomo-kenyatta/>

③ Gas works stood here from the 1860's to 1958. Storrington pioneered gas lighting and was the first English village to be lit by gas. Look out for what's left of a couple of the old gas lamp posts on this walk, one of which, in School Lane near the church, see photo.

Turn right to walk up the High Street to the junction of North Street and High Street (The Square) and Mulberry House

④ In the 1920's, the eighteenth century Mulberry House (see photo) was the home of Maude Petre, a controversial Roman Catholic writer. She was heavily involved in public life in the village becoming chair of the Parish Council and President of the Women's Institute. She also set up a cottage hospital at Mulberry House, as well as a soup kitchen in the village. When she died in 1942, the Roman Catholic Church would not allow any Catholic Priest to officiate at her burial. You pass her simple grave in the Storrington Anglican Churchyard later in this walk. You can find out more about her works and views at <https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/805/>

⑤ The White Horse in the High Street is opposite Mulberry House. Sir Arnold Bax, Composer and of the evocative piece "Tintagel" and Master of the King's Music, lived here. Here he wrote "Morning Song" for the pianist Harriett Cohen, one of his mistresses. You can listen to it on YouTube. See <http://arnoldbax.com/> The photo shows Arnold Bax (right) chatting to a friend outside the White Horse



Maude Petre gravestone

Exploring
Horsham
District's
Heritage

Cross North Street, turn left then bear right into West Street. Cross at the pedestrian crossing, turn left and then right to walk up Church Street.

Church Street is the most extensive part of Storrington's pre-1800 architectural heritage. The Old Forge on the right hand side was built before 1600, and there are several houses that were built in the 1700's.

6 Manor Court on your left hand side has now replaced Manor House Hotel, where Cicely Mary Barker - the writer and illustrator of "The Flower Fairies" - lived in the 1960's. Look at <https://flowerfairies.com/>

7 The artist Paul Hardy lived for many years at various addresses in Church Street until his death in 1942. He illustrated editions of novels including Jane Austen's "Northanger Abbey" and Anthony Trollope's "Barchester Towers". The weather vane which you can see on top of the church tower is a faithful copy of that made by him and a local blacksmith. See <https://bearalley.blogspot.com/2018/04/paul-hardy.html>

8 On the corner of Church Street and Browns Lane is a copy of a Burmese (some say it is perhaps Punjabi) door. Alfred Bethell who lived at "the Abbey", the large house opposite the church, placed it there in 1911. There is an 1895 portrait of him at <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw258504> with the mysterious title "Go, Gas and Gold"

On your right, a little way up the street from the Burmese Door, steps lead up to the left and the Parish Church and church yard.

The church dates back to before 1066 but only a little of the early building remains. See <https://sussexparishchurches.org/church/storrington-st-mary/>

Follow the path through the graveyard initially alongside a wall.

9 Maude Petre's small grave stone is on your left shortly before a small gate.

Continue through the gate along sandy path then past the back of the former Monastery and the present Roman Catholic Church.

10 Monks expelled from France founded the Monastery in 1880. In 1888, the poet Francis Thompson came here to beat his opium habit. He wrote his poems "Daisy" and "The Hound of Heaven" (Richard Burton reads it on YouTube) and others here. Some people say he was Jack the Ripper. For more information about him, try <https://www.henrywilliamson.co.uk/bibliography/a-lifes-work/francis-thompson> There are many pictures of this troubled man accessible through Wikipedia.

Hilaire Belloc, a prolific poet who died in 1953, wrote his poem "Courtesy" about pictures he saw at the Monastery.

Turn right into Monastery Lane.

(If you wish to avoid the steps up to the church yard, walk past the church on your right and into School Lane. Pass the former village school - now the Storrington Museum - on your left. The former Monastery and the present Roman Catholic church are on your right. Bear right into Monastery Lane.)

11 In Monastery Lane pass "Lady Place" on your right.

This house was built in the 1600's. A Malthouse (producing malt for beer and other food and drink) once stood in its grounds. In the 1880's a Mr Hemingway occupied the house. Unsurprisingly, old names for the lane were "Maltinghouse" and "Hemingway's" Lane.

After the 1914-18 war, Lady Place was the home of pacifist writer Max Plowman. In late 1914, although opposed to the war, he had reluctantly joined up. In 1916, while fighting in France, he was badly injured. Look at <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/max-plowman-from-army-officer-to-conscientious-objector> for information about his psychiatric treatment, resignation as an officer, dismissal from the Army and his subsequent registration as a conscientious objector. You can find further information at <https://spartacus-educational.com/ARTplowmanM.htm>

At the end of Monastery Lane, bear right into West Street. Just past the Village Hall cross West Street at the traffic island.

Walk up the path (or locally "twitten") in front of you.

The stables of a former dairy date back at least to the 1700's and now house "Stable Antiques"- on your right at the start of the twitten.

At the end of the twitten turn right into North Street

12 In the late nineteenth century Edwin Brigden, a harness maker, made rope in North Street by walking backwards from a wheel at one end of the street paying out fibre from a large hank wound round his waist. He may have used hemp or flax. These plants were grown in the area and their fibre was used for centuries for rope making. Search Google for "Rope making in Kerala" and see YouTube videos for modern demonstrations of this technique.

Keep straight on until you reach the last of a row of terraced cottages on your left.

Turn left down Ryecroft Lane and then walk down a short flight of steps on your right to return to the Library Car Park and your starting point.



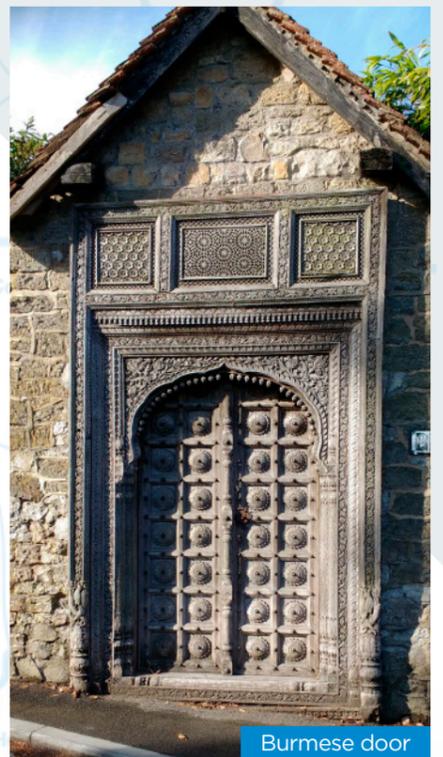
Storrington Bine Mill



Weather Vane



Manor House Hotel



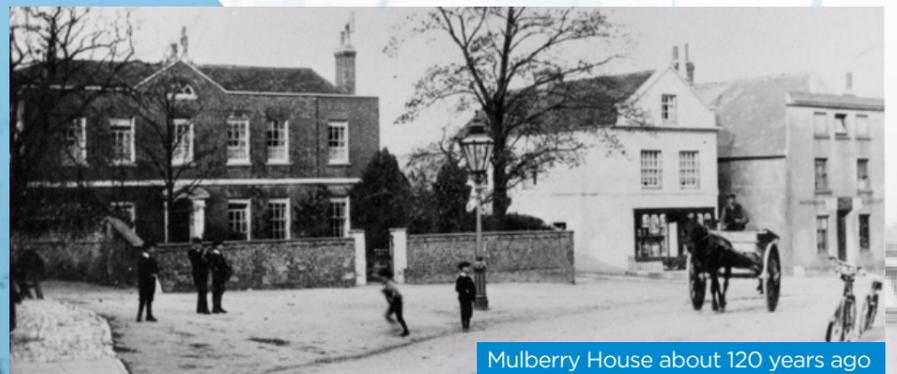
Burmese door



The Anchor



Gas lamp base



Mulberry House about 120 years ago



Arnold Bax



Storrington Church