

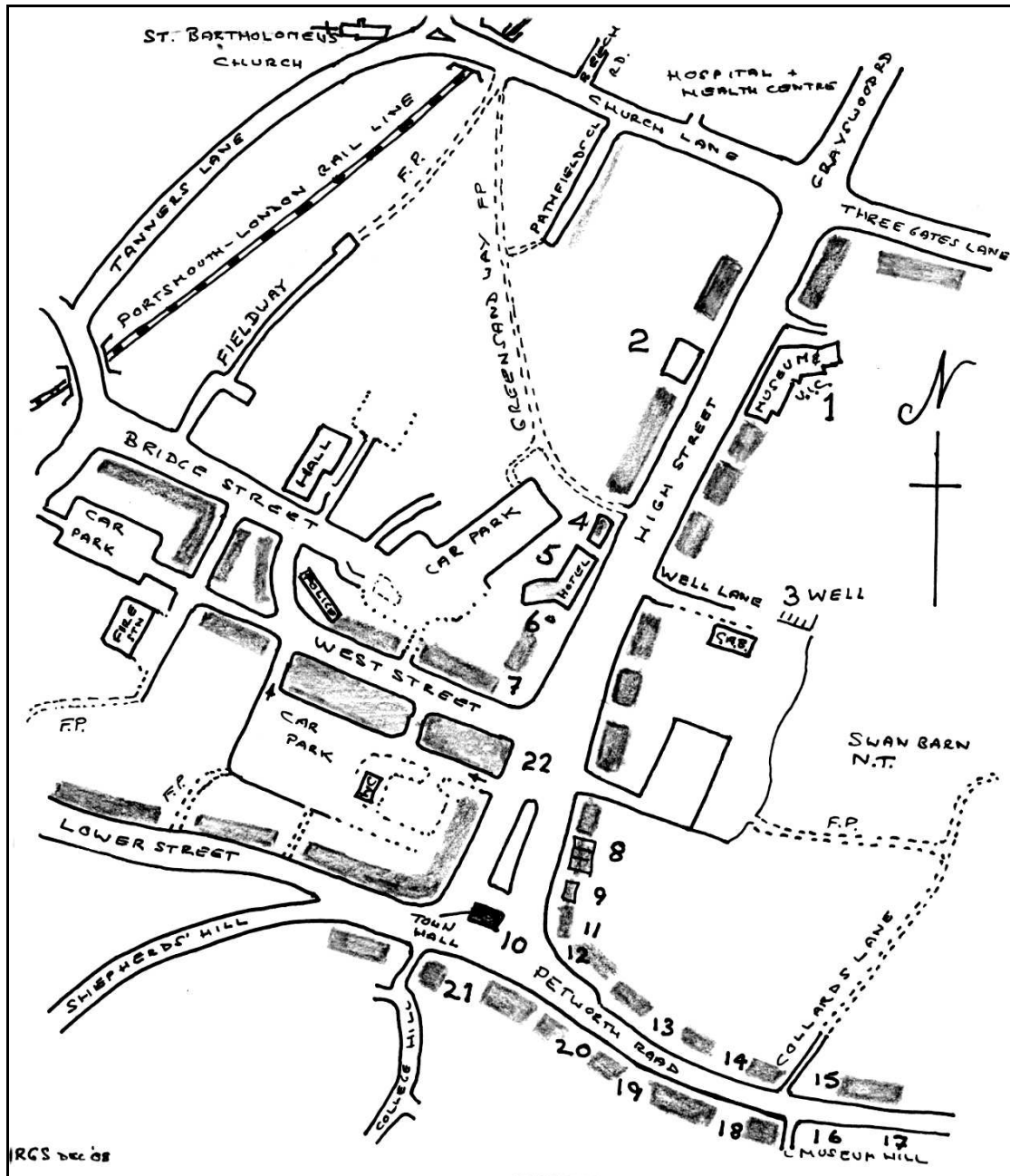
HASLEMERE TOWN TRAIL No.1 High Street & Petworth Road



Town Hall

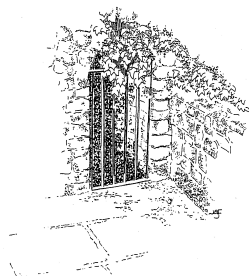
The name Haslemere first appeared in 1220 when, as part of the Manor of Godalming, it was granted by Henry III, together with its market, to Richard, Bishop of Salisbury. In 1393 Haslemere was given an annual fair by Royal Charter, as well as a weekly market. In 1596 Queen Elizabeth I granted two fairs a year and a market every Tuesday. With its burgesses paying rent to the Lord of the Manor from mediaeval times, the town returned no fewer than two members of Parliament until the Reform Act of 1832, when it lost its status as a borough.

Until the opening of the railway line from London to Portsmouth in 1859 the population had remained below 1,000. By 1897 it had grown to 2,000 and in 1903 it had risen to 2,650. Haslemere stood in two parishes – the south and west area was in Thursley, but curiously the main part was a mere Chapelry in the parish of Chiddingfold until 1868 when it became an independent parish. Tanning was a long established trade, along with iron and glass making, which were both prominent industries in Elizabethan times. Other occupations were turnery, hoop and brush-stock making, spinning, weaving and farming. Today there are still some light industrial estates; at one of these the Dolmetsch factory for early musical instruments is prominent.



This walk begins at the Haslemere Educational Museum (1) founded by Sir Jonathan Hutchinson in 1888. In 1926 it was moved from Museum Hill to the present building, formerly a private house, The White Lodge. Opposite is Town House (2) with its Queen Anne front added to an earlier building, after which the top floor was a further addition in 1800. A very fine feature is the oak panelled staircase said to have been inspired by Inigo Jones. Owned in 1747 by one of our more famous MPs, General James Oglethorpe, who established the American Colony of Georgia, the house was later occupied by Rev. James Fielding, reputed to have been a highwayman, and subsequently by the Victorian artist Josiah Wood Whympster and his son, Edward, the famous mountaineer who in 1865 was the first person to climb The Matterhorn.

On the same side of the road as the Museum, in a recess next to an estate agents, stands a stone trough once used by the blacksmiths whose forge stood here in the 19th century. Also notice here the "fish-scale" tile-hanging below the gabled windows, a feature characteristic of many buildings in and around Haslemere. A little further down is Well Lane on the left, a short walk along which (bear left by the CAB car park) brings you to the old Town Well (3) and the start of Swan Barn Walk with its views across National Trust land.



Street, constructed in 1899 to give access to the new school in Chestnut Avenue. This part of the High Street marks the watershed between the streams draining east into the Sussex Arun and those flowing west to join the River Wey. The buildings lying back from the road between the hotel and West Street are known as Causewayside, marking where once an open stream flowed at the side of the street. Angel Buildings (7) on the corner of West Street is a fine example of 1920s 'Tudoresque' architecture, the Angel was a public house which once stood on the site.

Further along on the east side of the High Street is a very old three-gabled house, now Lloyds Chemists (8), which was once the Red Lion Inn. Inside the shop there is an inscription dated 1613 on a beam above the perfume counter. The White Horse (9) was once the town's main coaching inn. Near the site of the War Memorial stood an old timber market-house and butchers' shambles with a pillory in front. The present Town Hall (10), built in 1814, was originally open with arches at ground floor level where there was a lock-up. There are several memorial plaques to famous local people on the front of the building which now houses the offices of Haslemere Town Council. One plaque recalls Police Inspector William Donaldson who was struck down and killed outside the Kings Arms public house (now Kings House (11) next to the White Horse) in 1855 by drunken navvies employed to build the new railway.

Turn left into the Petworth Road, formerly called Cow Street and later East Street. The buildings from the corner (12), known as the Old House, along to Collards Lane have changed very little since the town map of 1775 was drawn. The restaurant at No. 14 (13), once the Cow Inn, was infamous in the Parliamentary Election of 1754 when the freehold was sub-divided to give eight votes instead of one. The Cow was built in the 17th century (note the cross-set chimney), as were the houses nos. 16-22. Pincotts (14) was once the house of Selwyn Dunn, a well-known artist-craftsman. Collards (15) was built in about 1540 by Thomas Billinghamst. Two hundred years later a descendant, Richard Billinghamurst, lived here; he was a lawyer and Steward of the Godalming Hundred. On the opposite side of the road is Thursley End (16) built in 1639 by Francis Jackman, a carpenter. Originally this marked the furthest extent of the Parish of Thursley. A short distance up Museum Hill you can see one of the numbered 18th century boundary stones on the left (No. 2 on its side) that marked the Borough of Haslemere. Next door to Thursley End was the first Police Station (17) now, amusingly, called Old Coppers.



Returning towards the town, you come to East Garden (18) built in 1605. No. 21 Petworth Road was built in the 17th century, with the upper storey overhanging the ground floor, but in Georgian times the front was refaced with stucco and made flush by thickening the wall at ground floor level. Further along, the estate agents (19) at no.7 occupies a building that was The White Lion public house until the 1970s but originated as three small tenements, new windows being added early in the 20th century. The nearby opicians (20) was formerly a barn dating from 1619. Woolworth's is of modern construction, but it is worth noting that in deference to local preservationists, it was the first of their stores not to display the standard red fascia. Behind the Town Hall is Half Moon House (21), originally a farmhouse and dating from the 15th century, it is perhaps the oldest building in the High Street. Notice the carved jetty above the barbers' shop, also the timber and herring-bone pattern brick infill along the alley to the left. Continue west, passing "Objets d'Art", a 17th century building which protrudes over the pavement. At the bottom of Shepherds' Hill cross to the pavement on the other side above a small green.

At this point Walk No. 2 begins.



To complete Walk No.1, walk round the corner and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and return along the pavement to the High Street. Continue north, back towards your starting point, passing a group of shops between the car park entrance and West Street known as the Broadway (22). These were the first shops built in Haslemere specifically for retail use and opened in the 1890s. Across the High Street note the wider view of the buildings, in particular the very irregular roofline behind the three gables above the chemists' shop. Cross West Street and continue up the High Street, back towards the Museum. Here there is a better view of the replica Penfold letterbox and plaque.

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For information on Haslemere, the local area and other walks contact:
Haslemere Visitor & Local Information Centre
(Funded by Haslemere Town Council & Haslemere Initiative)
At Haslemere Museum, 78 High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2LA
Tel: 01428 645425 www.haslemere.com/vic

For local train and bus information call Traveline on
08706 082608/0871 200 2233 www.traveline.org.uk

Parking, refreshments & accommodation available in Haslemere town.

On the opposite side of the High Street is the little alleyway, Pathfields, which marks the start of the 108 mile Greensand Way. Beside this is Tudor Cottage (4), one of the oldest houses in the High Street. Notice the tile-clad upper storey and the huge blocks of sandstone from which it is constructed. Next door is the Georgian House Hotel (5) with its beautiful chestnut tree planted in 1792. It was formerly The White House, and was owned by William Cobden, a tanner, in the 18th century. Underneath the chestnut is an unusual green letterbox (6), a copy of the boxes designed in 1866 by architect John Wornham Penfold. Below this is West