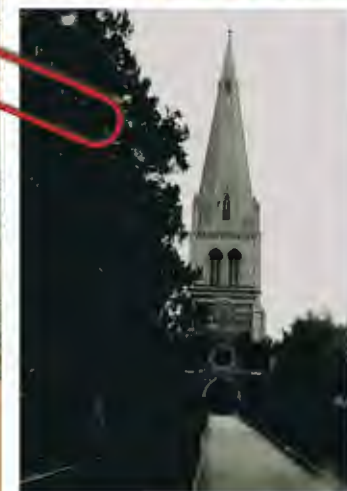
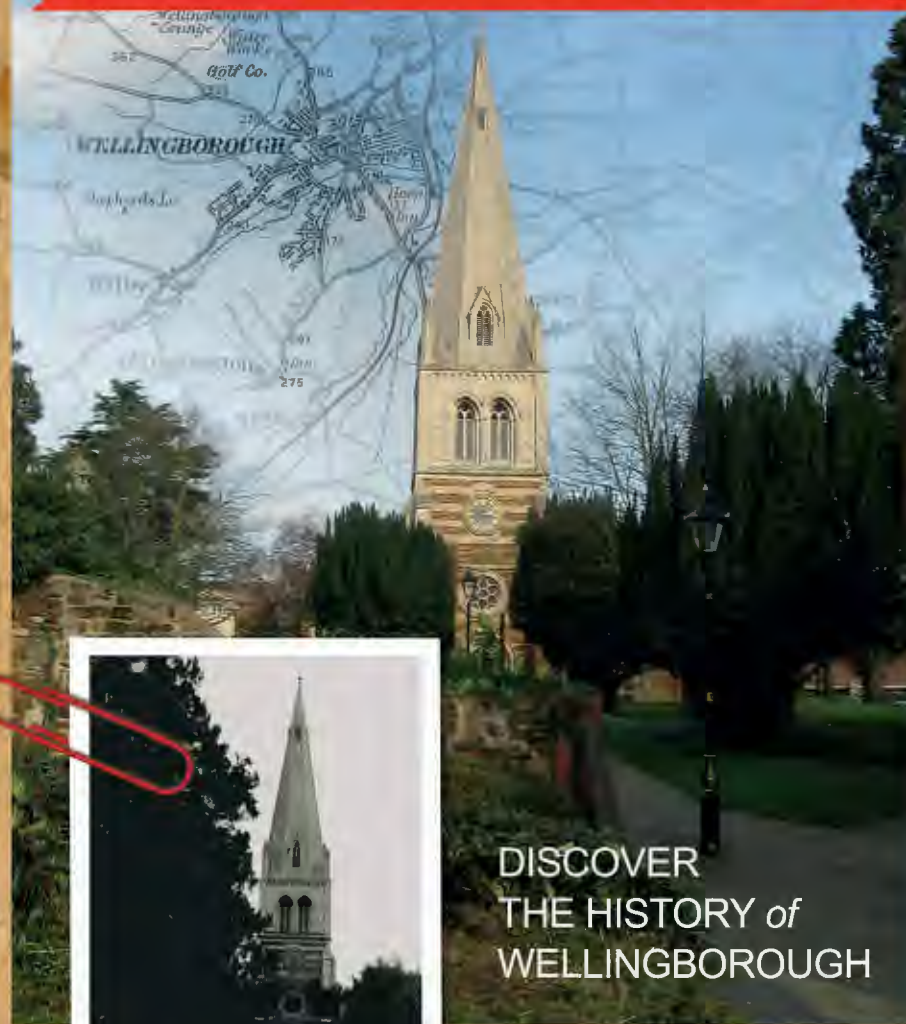


## Town Heritage Trails

Long Walk  
3 miles



DISCOVER  
THE HISTORY of  
WELLINGBOROUGH

All Hallows Church

Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Borough Council of  
**Wellingborough**  
Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of

## Long Walk (3 miles)



The River Nene and once fenland terrain of Wellingborough provided an attractive landscape for early settlers. In 43 AD, the Romans invaded Britain and built a small town on the bank of the river near Irchester (Chester Farm). Later the town became a walled 'Castrum' and an influential Roman outpost.

During the 6th century an Anglo Saxon warlord named Chief Waendel came to settle on the opposite side of the river bank, leaving the Roman town on the other. Waendel's people flourished here and the Roman settlement disbanded. It is at this time that the town we know as Wellingborough came into being.

**Waendel's burh or Wendlingburgh is a Saxon term meaning 'stronghold of Waendel's folk'.**

The town went on to be shaped by the cultural and economic lead of the 9th century monks of Crowland Abbey, noted in the 1086 Domesday Book as 'Wendleburie'.

In 1201 King John granted a market charter and the town and its name evolved into a thriving market town. After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541, the land passed into the hands of the crown.

By the early 1600s, influenced by a royal visit from King Charles I, the town became well known for its many wells.

As the centuries moved on, Wellingborough grew, supported by a healthy boot and shoe industry, several breweries and iron works.

Your walk will reveal some of the influences from these past eras and the architecture they left behind.

**Ing - derived from the Anglo Saxon for Inga or Ingas meaning 'belongs to or people'.**

**Borough - derives from the Anglo Saxon for Burh meaning 'fortified place'.**

**\*\*Blue boxes within this booklet indicate places of interest beyond the boundaries of this walk.**





## Useful Websites:

[www.wellingborough.gov.uk/THI](http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/THI)

[www.wellingboroughmuseum.co.uk](http://www.wellingboroughmuseum.co.uk)

[www.wellingboroughcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.wellingboroughcivicsociety.org.uk)

[www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk)

Full details of the Library Service can be found on the 'Libraries' page of the Northamptonshire County Council website at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)

This heritage trail booklet has been funded by the Wellingborough Townscape Heritage Initiative.

A Heritage Lottery Funded project.





# Notes

1. Dulley's Baths  
(Wellingborough Museum)
2. Cattle Market  
(Castle Theatre)
3. Castle Fields Park and  
Bandstand
4. The Park Hospital and  
Workhouse (Isebrook Hospital  
and the Cloisters)
5. Wellingborough School
6. London Road Cemetery  
and Chapels
7. Tank Barriers
8. Swanspool Pavilion,  
House and Gardens
9. Boot and Shoe Warehouse  
and Factory
10. Tudor House
11. Croyland Abbey and  
Croyland Hall
12. Zoo Park
13. Tithe Barn
14. Burystead Place
15. Silver Cinema
16. Oxford Street/High Street  
Corner
17. The Town Hall  
(The Red Well pub)
18. Rowlatts Store
19. Leighton House and  
Coach House
20. Former Post Office  
(1 Church Street)
21. The Parade (Warwicks)
22. St Helier's Hall and  
Queens Hall
23. United Reformed Church
24. The Old Bakehouse
25. No.26 Broad Green and the  
Manor House
26. Hatton Hall
27. Hatton House
28. Cenotaph, Broad Green
29. The Religious Society of  
Friends (Quakers) House
30. The Salvation Army
31. Herriotts Lane
32. Tabernacle Baptist Church
33. Park Road
34. Wesleyan Methodist Chapel  
(Zion Christian Chapel)
35. Park Junior School
36. Cannon Pub
37. Co-operative Shop
38. Cambridge Street
39. The Palace Theatre/Cinema
40. 'Hog Hill'
41. Rafferty's
42. The Old Kings Arms
43. Granville Chambers
44. Old Post Office
45. Boots Store (Nationwide)
46. Library
47. All Hallows Church
48. Former Vicarage
49. The Memorial Cross
50. The Old Grammar School  
(Church Hall)
51. Tresham College
52. 28 Church Street  
(Bewicked Café)
53. Former Cinema (Laser Maze)
54. Orient House
55. Market Square
56. Hannah Sparke and the Great  
Fire of Wellingborough
57. Five Wells
58. The Hind Hotel
59. The House that Jack Built
60. Horseshoe Inn
61. Rose Cottage
62. Ye Golden Lion
63. The Chequerboard House
- END: Wellingborough Museum





### (Start) Castle Way/Castle Street

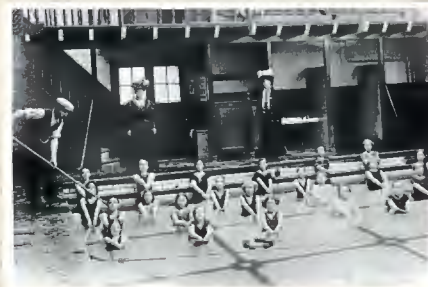
From the 1600s Wellingborough became known for its spring waters. Several of the town's breweries used these waters in the brewing process during the 1800s and 1900s.

In 1892, one brewery, William Dulley & Sons, used the surplus warm water from the brewing process to supply the town's first covered public swimming pool.

The pool manager gave swimming lessons by means of a long pole with a leather loop at one end, which went under the bather's arms to keep their heads above water. As the week progressed the price of the admission became cheaper as the water became dirtier. At the end of the week, the water was drained into the Swanspool Brook and the pool was refilled.

The pool closed during the First World War and in 1918 the building was purchased by George Cox & Co, who operated a successful boot and shoe factory from the premises until 1994.

Since 2007 it has housed the **Wellingborough Museum** where sections of the old pool are displayed inside.



**Leaving the museum, turn immediately right towards the Castle Theatre and out on to Castle Road.**

### (End) Castle Way

## Wellingborough Museum

Ever since it opened in 2007 the museum has been a welcoming place for all ages. Unique local history and heritage activities take place throughout the year, finding new and exciting ways to bring history to life.

The museum is free to visit and offers a wide choice of refreshments and a gift shop.

Visit [www.wellingboroughmuseum.co.uk](http://www.wellingboroughmuseum.co.uk) for more details.





This chequerboard house with its white and red brick façade and slate roof is a fine example of early 19th century architecture and was once a stylish three-storey home to the Dulley family. Mr William Dulley established one of the town's breweries in 1840, which was located to the rear of this house.

## 63. The Chequerboard House



The Dulley family owned many properties in the town, and benefited local residents with employment, business and community facilities such as the public swimming baths (Dulley's Baths - now the Wellingborough Museum).

The town's breweries benefited from the waters of the Red Well which was pumped from the spring itself into a reservoir on the northern side of the town and from there it flowed to Sheep Street and the breweries.

The motif of the Dulley Brewery was a swan which was carved in stone and could be seen on the old clock tower of the brewery offices. The rendering was saved when the former brewery was demolished in the early 1970s and is now on display in the Swansgate Shopping Centre.

Although the swan was the brewery's motif, it was a raven that became the brewery's mascot. In the early 1900s a bird called Jack, belonging to the brewery manager, had the freedom of the brewery yard but often flew into the town centre. It is said that Jack's owner, a staunch supporter of the Liberal Party, taught his bird the words "No Tariff Reform, No Tariff Reform" which Jack would squawk whilst perched on the steps of the Conservative Club in Silver Street.

In 1920 Dulley's brewery was sold to Campbell, Praed and Co (a family of London bankers) who owned the adjoining brewery which itself closed in 1954. The Swansgate Centre (formerly called 'The Amdale Centre') was built on the site.

**At the end of Sheep Street, use the traffic crossing to head back to the museum, along Castle Way.**

## 2. Cattle Market (Castle Theatre)



By the end of the 1800s the popular cattle market had outgrown its location on the Market Square and was relocated to this new site and purpose built accommodation in 1905.

The buildings included a corn exchange, auctioneer's offices and a refreshment room.

During the 1960s, use of the cattle market declined and the site was closed.

A new supermarket building was erected in front of the buildings, which survived until the 1980s when Tesco, the last operator, relocated and the building was demolished.



In the early 1990s, the Wellingborough Arts Association became the force behind establishing a theatre on the site. By this time, the cattle market buildings had gained historic importance and so were incorporated into the theatre design.

**The Castle Theatre was officially opened on 30 March 1995 by its then patron, actor Jeremy Irons.**

**Turn left and walk down the road and into Castle Fields Park through the large iron gates.**





### 3. Castle Fields Park and Bandstand

**Evidence of 'ridge and furrow' shows us that the park was once ancient farmland.**

**In John Cole's account of Wellingborough's history (1837) he alludes to a medieval castle being located on this site or near to it. The surrounding street names however, are of Victorian or more recent origin. The true location of the castle or whether there ever was one at all has long been debated.**



To commemorate the coronation of George V and Queen Mary in 1911, an avenue of oak trees were planted in Castle Fields and a 'Schools Treat' was held. Local school children walked in procession to the park in their Sunday best, where a feast of tea and cake was provided.

Castle Fields Park lies on the eastern side of the town's conservation area and is regarded fondly by residents because of its fine Edwardian bandstand. It is one of two centenarian bandstands in the town (the other is at Bassetts Close to the west, off Oxford Street).

The Castle Fields bandstand was built in 1913 at the demand of the four major bands of the time: The Salvation Army, Temperance, Volunteers and Town Silver Band. The Temperance band was the first to play there on Easter Weekend 1914.

The bandstand was restored by the council and officially re-opened on 9 September 2012.

**Take the right hand path (bandstand on your left) and join Irthlingborough Road. On the other side of the street you will see the hospital and The Cloisters.**

### 61. Rose Cottage

**This attractive house consisting of squared course and regular course ironstone and slate roof is a 'Grade II listed building, reputedly built around 1603. It was remodelled in the mid-1700s with further brick extension in the 1800s and a few adjustments in the 1900s. Also worth noting is the attached cottage at 18 Sheep Street which is an equally attractive 17th century Grade II listed building.**



### 62. Ye Golden Lion

**Ye Golden Lion is a house of ancient origin and great charm. It stands at the point where three ways once joined, known as 'Ham Joint Glose'. Thought to date back to 1540, the building has been constructed with enormous timber, mostly stout English oak, incorporated into the exterior. The house was owned and lived in by farmer Thomas Roane who died in 1676. The Roane family are buried in All Hallows Church yard.**

It is said that the house was the first place in Wellingborough that served tea, known as 'Chinese Soup' at the time.

In the early 1800s the house was the residence of Mr A Wilkin, printer and artist. The house became an inn during the mid-1800s.







## 59. The House that Jack Built

"This is the House that Jack Built" states the large date stone within the gable. It was built in 1886 by John 'Jack' Wallis, then the owner of the Hind. The house and shop is Grade II\* listed, due to its proximity and relationship to the Hind Hotel.

The three storey stylish red brick building sits comfortably between the hotel and the Horseshoe pub, featuring a large pair of wooden bay windows over a traditional shop entrance.

It was once the home of Wharton's, a printers and stationers who occupied the store from the 1920s when they moved from their original shop at 27 Silver Street.

Mr W D Wharton came to Wellingborough in 1902 to manage the printing department and stationery business of the Northamptonshire Printing and Publishing Company. A short time afterwards, he purchased the business and developed as his own. Wharton's shop closed in 2000.



## 60. Horseshoe Inn

**This is another three storey building, though not as imposing as its neighbour. It was built in the early 1800s with a slate roof and stuccoed brick, a lime, sand and water mix. It has been recently renovated and retains much of its traditional character.**

**The Wellingborough town directory of 1849 presents the Horseshoe under Inns & Taverns, run by H Tilley.**

Continue down Silver Street into Sheep Street.

'The Cloisters' was originally built as a workhouse, which was authorised by the Poor Law Commissioners in 1836-37 for the sum of £5,000. Architect James Clephan, who was responsible for several workhouse designs in surrounding counties, was appointed to deliver a building to house 250 people.

His design was a popular gothic cruciform, which can be seen from above.



1869 Infirmary and union house in the gardens of the former workhouse.

## 4. The Park Hospital and Workhouse

(Isebrook Hospital and the Cloisters)

Children who were unfortunate enough to be at the workhouse attended the nearby All Saints School when it opened in 1881 and Victoria School from 1895.

In 1869, a detached infirmary was also built to hold 52 invalids. After 1930, the site was officially known as the 'Wellingborough Public Assistance Institution' but was renamed the Park Hospital in 1938.

It catered mainly for the elderly and had two main units 'The Home of Rest' and 'The Castle Home', but there was also a maternity unit. The hospital later became known as 'The Isebrook Hospital' and in 2008 some of the buildings were converted into luxury apartments known as 'The Cloisters'.

### \*\* The Cottage Hospital - Doddington Road

In 1900 a small cottage hospital was built in Doddington Road.

In 1908, in an effort to raise funds, this small hospital put on a town parade, known as 'Red Rose Day'. The event was such a success that it became an annual tradition. The town carnival still takes place every summer, although no longer in aid of the hospital which closed in the 1980s.

The building was converted to residential accommodation for Shaftesbury Society Housing.



Continue walking along the right hand path. You will pass Wellingborough School (on your left), before reaching a gate to London Road Cemetery (on your right).





5. Wellingborough School

The entrance to Wellingborough School is on London Road.

Established in 1595, the school moved from buildings within All Hallows churchyard to this location in the 1880s. The building was erected at a cost of £6,000 and in 1888 an additional boarding house for 44 boys was added as well as a further 6½ acres of land.

It has been extended further over the years and in 1970 the school accepted its first female students, becoming fully co-educational in 1979.



#### **\*\*London Road**

At the corner of London Road and Irthlingborough Road is a fine avenue of lime trees called 'The Walks', which were planted in the 1840s. The Walks lead to The Embankment and the River Nene.



When you reach the gate of the cemetery, enter and follow the path towards the chapels and gatehouse.





## 58. The Hind Hotel

This grand building was constructed in 1645 from the designs of William Batley of Wellingborough. The new inn replaced an older guest house had previously occupied the site as part of the Croyland estate.

Before construction of the new hotel had finished, Oliver Cromwell's army reputedly marched through the town on route to the Battle of Naseby and the Ironsides supposedly rested here before the battle, led by General Thomas Fairfax. A town book of Wellingborough holds this entry of 1645:

**'Paid towards a charge laid upon the hundred and twenty fat sheep and thre fat heyfers for Genl. Thomas Fairfax army. &1. 0's. Od.'**

There is a room on the upper floor, known as the Cromwell room, which has a secret door behind one of the panelled sections in the wall to the right of a large fireplace. Today it reveals a shelved recess but was once an escape route to the roof!

The name of the hotel was in honour of Sir Francis Drake's ship, the 'Golden Hind', which was sponsored by Sir Christopher Hatton. Hatton was Lord of the Manor of Wellingborough. The gilded deer was added to the entrance porch in the late 19th century and was cast by Reynolds Iron Foundry at Little Harrowden. The annex on the left side of the hotel was built in the mid 1800s and became part of the Inn in 1872 and is an attractive addition to an already commanding building.

**It is said to be haunted by a 'Woman in White' and a soldier. Many ghost hunts have taken place here.**

In 1806, 'the Hind Flyer' coach service began. It ran three times a week, picking up at 5am, arriving in London on the same day!

This was a huge achievement in those days and the service ran until the first railway station opened in Wellingborough in 1845. The Midland Railway used the hotel as a 'stop' for their horse drawn coach service from the town centre to the railway.

In January 1921, the Dulley family made the decision to sell a number of their properties following the death of several family members. The Hind Inn was one of these properties and so it was auctioned by Messrs Pendered & Son. Mr J Pendered informed the crowd that; "the hotel was one entirely by itself in age, respectability and character".

Mr A E Burrows purchased the hotel for £14,000. He left the Northumberland Hotel in London to come to Wellingborough and was soon involved in the local sports clubs (namely golf, bowling and tennis). He quickly became a popular local figure, but sadly, died suddenly just two years later in January 1923.

## 6. London Road Cemetery and Chapels

**When visiting this historic graveyard, you are immediately struck by the twin gothic style chapels.**



**The two chapels were built in the 1850s to accommodate divided practices, Church of England on the right and Non-Conformists on the left. They were designed by Northampton architect Edmund Francis Law.**

The twin chapels and the gate lodge are Grade II listed. Consecrated in 1856 by the Bishop of Peterborough, the cemetery's original area was three acres. Another three were added in 1874.

Among the notable Wellingburians buried beneath this soil is John Askham who died in 1894 aged 69. He was a local shoemaker and self-educated poet. He continued to work long hours throughout his life, despite his literary notoriety, always believing in the value of hard toil.



***"Literature, with me, must, under the present circumstances, come second; and I can truly say that I have never let it interfere with the labour which wins the bread, although the temptation is often great."***

John Askham

### **\*\*Doddington Road Cemetery**

**A 25 acre cemetery was opened in Doddington Road on 31 May 1906. This cemetery has been extended over the years and continues to be the place of rest for town residents.**

**Leave the cemetery past the Gatehouse onto Castle Road and join London Road. Cross the road (there is a traffic crossing to your left). Take the set of steps leading to Swanspool Gardens. Alternatively, continue down London Road (marked on the map with dots), following the path round to the left, in front of Swanspool House, where you will find a sloped access to the gardens.**





## 7. Tank Barriers

Adjacent to the steps leading up to Swanspool Parade are several concrete blocks lining the pavement. These were used as road blocks during the Second World War, intended to act as barriers to advancing tanks.

## 8. Swanspool Pavilion, House and Gardens

### The Pavilion

The pavilion was built in 1929 as a sports facility, but during the war it was used as 'The British' restaurant for service personnel and townspeople.

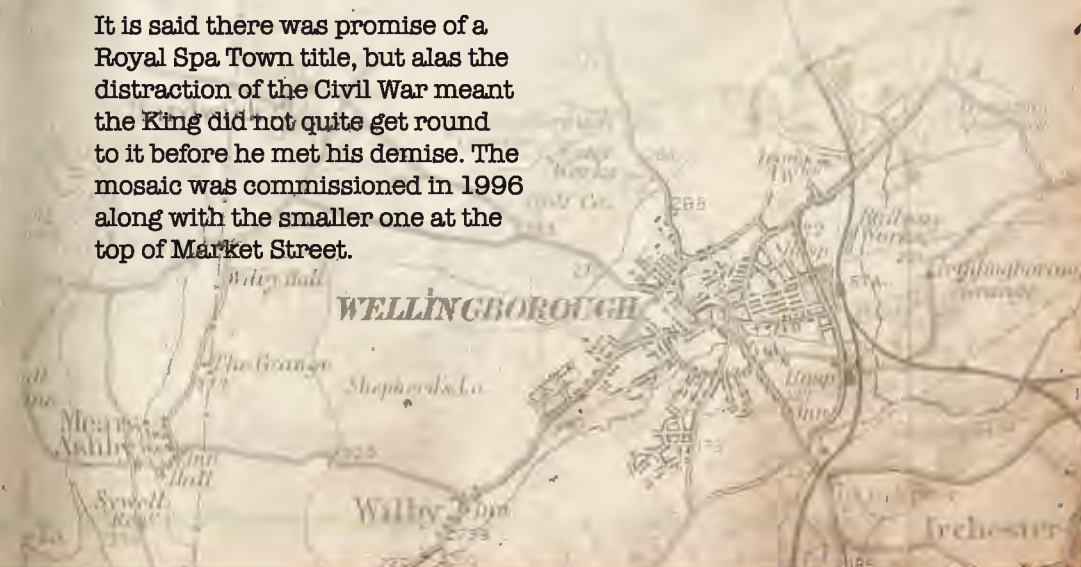


## 57. Five Wells

At one time Wellingborough had 14 significant wells placed around the town. Five of these wells; Stanwell, Whytewell, Buckwell, Ladywell and Red Well appear on the mosaic.

The 'Red Well' gained recognition when King Charles brought his new Queen to visit in 1626. The young bride, Queen Henrietta, spent her first full summer in England in Wellingborough and resided here for nine weeks on hearing that the waters had fertility properties. The Queen visited two further times in 1627 and 1628, camping close to the source of the pure spring water. The waters may have had some effect on the Queen, she went on to have her first child in May the following year.

It is said there was promise of a Royal Spa Town title, but alas the distraction of the Civil War meant the King did not quite get round to it before he met his demise. The mosaic was commissioned in 1996 along with the smaller one at the top of Market Street.







## 56. Hannah Sparke and the Great Fire of Wellingborough

**On Friday, 28 July 1738, behind an old dyers shop in Silver Street, a boy sat drying oats in the midday sun.**

**A small cinder from his open fire drifted next to the wall of a nearby barn, which instantly caught fire, along with the neighbouring 'Peacock Inn' and was burnt to the ground. Soon, the dry thatches on every house and stacked fire logs in each courtyard were engulfed by the flames.**

Equipped with only buckets, the blazing heat overpowered the fire-fighters and townspeople took shelter in the parish church on Market Street. The heat was so intense it melted lead from the church roof creating panic from within. The fire seared through Market Square, consuming Market Street and into Cambridge Street.

Word was sent to Kettering and nearby by parishes for help.

**A small row of houses in Butchers Row laid a pathway for the fire towards the Church.**

**60-year-old Hannah Sparke, owner of the ale house in Butchers Row, quickly ordered all the liquors and ales from her cellar to be thrown on to blankets. These beer soaked blankets successfully quenched the flames, stopping the fire reaching the church and saving the lives of everyone inside.**

**The aptly named heroine was recognised as the town's major celebrity for her actions and hailed a hero until she died in 1785, aged 107! She is buried in All Hallows Churchyard.**

By the time the fire had been extinguished, the people of Wellingborough had escaped with their lives, though not much else. Over 200 homes and 800 shops, along with outbuildings and barns, had been totally destroyed and all worldly possessions, food, stock and money lost to the embers. This small town with a then population of 2,600 was left in ruins. Neighbouring townsfolk of Northampton, Kettering, Oundle and others sent contributions of 560 guineas to help re-build the town.

**Re-join Market Street here and walk towards the large blue 'Five Wells' mosaic. You will also get the best view of the Hind Hotel from here.**

## The House

**Swanspool House dates from 1779. The limestone façade and large central doorway provides the building with an air of grandeur within the ornate gardens.**

Owned by four generations of the Sharman family, it was sold following the death of Nathaniel Pearce Sharman in 1918. The council purchased the property including the house and 49 acres of land, at auction, for £8,300 in February 1919, proposing to use the land for housing.

The sale of the house sparked a local outcry. The local newspaper, Wellingborough News, put out an appeal to wealthy residents to buy the property and gift it back to the town. Local boot and shoe manufacturer Mr Frederick C Chamberlain stepped forward and submitted an offer for £2,500, with the condition that the house and gardens be retained for the benefit of the town.

The offer was accepted and all other tenders were returned unopened with a thank you letter from Mr Chamberlain. The letter began:

**"For some years I have cherished the hope that someday I might be given the opportunity to do something for my native town that would give pleasure to my fellow townspeople....."**

The house and grounds were officially opened to the public on 10 June 1919 by Mr Chamberlain.



Swanspool House is currently home to the registry office and council chamber. The grounds remain a public formal garden including tennis courts, bowling green and a children's nature walk.

## Jotto's Fountain

Situated in front of Swanspool House and brook is a drinking fountain known as 'Jotto's Fountain'. It was given to the town by James 'Jotto' Page, Chairman of the Urban District Council, in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII.

The brook running in front of the house has been known as the 'Swan's pool' for hundreds of years. John Cole in his History of Wellingborough (1837) notes that in this location swans and their eggs were protected by several statutes, during the reign of King Edward IV (1461-1470) "a person may not own a swan if they did not own free-hold land".

Jotto's fountain in its original place on the Market Street. The Corn Exchange is in the background.



**Leave Swanspool Gardens and walk past House to Doddington Road. Turn right and cross the road at the corner of Doddington Road and Sheep Street. Directly in front of you will be the old boot and shoe factory (now several small shops) and to your right on the opposite side of the road is Ye Golden Lion pub.**





Trafalgar House and Works of Sharman & Ekins, Sheep Street.



## 9. Boot and Shoe Warehouse and Factory

**It is thought that the shoe industry started in Wellingborough before 1760 and in the following years spread to the surrounding areas of Earls Barton, Wollaston, Irthlingborough, Higham Ferrers, Raunds and Rushden in the following years.**

The shoe industry grew slowly but steadily in the town until the principal manufacturer, Samuel Sharman, was described in the Baileys British Directory (1784) as a 'contractor for the Army and Wholesale Manufacturer of Shoes'. This statement was not noted by any other supplier and is an indicator of the businesses success.

At this time, the shoe industry for Northamptonshire was not run in factories like it is today. Shoemakers collected their work from the employer's premises and completed it at home, then returning to the warehouse to collect more work and their wages. Until machinery was introduced in the 1850s, all processes were done by hand.

One of the earliest warehouses was built in Sheep Street in 1850 and was owned by the Sharman family (of Swanspool House) who had established their boot and shoe business in 1749.

With the coming of mechanisation, the warehouse was turned into a factory and named 'Trafalgar Works'. The ironstone building (at the bottom of the left hand side

of Sheep Street) is now divided into shops and flats, but the original upper façade of the warehouse and factory can still be seen.

Between 1851 and 1861, the introduction of machinery likely contributed to the decline in the number of male shoemakers whilst machine closing increased opportunities for young women, not only as machinists, but also as fitters.

Wellingborough's development as a shoe manufacturing centre is described in extracts from the 1889 Kelly's Directory of Northamptonshire which states:

**"The town has long been celebrated for the manufacture of boots and shoes, the females being employed in the manufacture of thread lace, the latter trade, however, seems gradually dying out, having given place to machine upper closing for the London boot manufacturers, now very extensively carried on."**

**Follow the road up until you reach the thatched Tudor House**

**Cattle Market outside All Hallows**



**Corn Exchange Market Square**



**Pagoda on Market Street - non market day**



## 55. Market Square

In 1201 a Market Charter was awarded to the town by King John. It is thought that the area for the market was laid out at this time, making use of existing Roman roads.

The road linking High Street, Silver Street and Sheep Street was the important north-south route to London.

Similarly, the roads running west to east mark the Oxford to Cambridge route.

The Medieval Wellingborough Market was held on the steps of the 'Market Cross', a monument located on a triangular piece of land in front of the Hind Inn. At this time the market was hemmed in by buildings and extremely busy as traders from out-of-town came to buy and sell goods.

By 1719, the cross had fallen into decay and a new one was built by George Shepherd, then Lord of the Manor of Hatton. It is said to have been quite ornate, having had a 'stepped base with a beehive shaped rotunda; and an octagonal, fluted shaft with a vane.'

In 1798, the cross was dismantled. It seems it became a hazard to coaches swinging round into the entrance of the Hind.

The Corn Exchange (a large stone building with hall) was built in 1861 relieving the Hind Inn of its custom as people left it behind to trade in the new building. It later became The Electric Theatre and then The Regal Cinema. It was demolished in 1959 by the owners and replaced with a Fine Fare supermarket which was also demolished in 1995.

In 1874 a row of houses on the northern side of Market Street, called Butchers Row, were demolished to accommodate the growing market. In 1905 the main market moved to its current location outside All Hallows Church, when the cattle market relocated to Castle Road. Iron rings can still be found along the church wall, where the animals were tied.

**Markets are still held here every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.**  
[www.wellingborough.gov.uk/market](http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/market)

Continue through Market Square and head towards the newsagent kiosk (known locally as 'The Pagoda', which was built as a bus shelter in 1915). Here you will see a plaque from the Civic Society commemorating the lives lost at this bomb site. During the Second World War, on Bank Holiday Monday, 3 August 1942 at 6.10pm, the air raid sirens blasted out and the town was hit, by four 500 kilo bombs. Many buildings in the town centre were damaged.

Below the memorial plaque is another brass plaque acknowledging a major disaster suffered by the town 200 years earlier; Hannah Sparke and The Great Fire of Wellingborough. The plaque forms part of children's heritage trail.



## 10. Tudor House

The foundations of the Tudor House are believed to have been laid prior to 1000 AD. The lower ground-floor walls are from the 1200s and the upper floor would appear to be late 1500s or early 1600s. This building was originally part of the Manor of Crowland (Croyland).



Pre 1910 - with 4 gables

In 1920 the houses were bought by Herbert Dulley (a member of the brewing family) when they were in danger of collapsing. He extensively renovated the houses, using as much of the original material as possible.

The buildings are reputedly haunted, with one eye-witness claiming to have seen a hooded monk walk through the wall of the upper floor room from the direction of the Abbey. The figure is said to be dressed in a grey habit with a hood. He walks the length of the room to sit in the same corner every time.

There were originally four gables in the thatch, but during restoration the roof was altered reducing the gables to three. It is the last remaining thatched house in Wellingborough.



Take the path to the left of the Tudor House (the old Zoo Park entrance), towards Tithe Barn Road. Walk across the road and follow the path between the council office building (left) and Croyland Abbey (right). This will bring you into Croyland Gardens.





## 11. Croyland Abbey and Croyland Hall

**In 948 AD, King Aedred bestowed 6 ½ hides of land (around 700 acres) to the Abbey of Crowland (or Croyland) in Lincolnshire. The Abbot later planted a mission here. The abbey or farmhouse was built circa 1280 for the Abbot Richard de Crowland.**

The abbey or farmhouse was built circa 1280 for the Abbot Richard of Crowland. A fragment of the original doorway remains along with the floor of a chapel which adjoined the hall to the west.

The abbey was remodelled in the 1860s by architect Edward Sharman who lived in the house. The adjoining Croyland Hall also became a farmhouse.

As the building is not technically an abbey, there is divided opinion on whether any monks actually resided here, but they certainly managed the land.

The monks of Croyland brought with them a tradition of beer brewing, utilising the town's flurry of natural springs and the rich barley crops.

In the grounds of Croyland Gardens is a Roman stone coffin which came from Chester House, Irchester (*the site of a Roman Town*). The coffin was placed in the gardens during the 1920s and used as a garden ornament.



## 53. Former Cinema (Laser Maze)

**On the corner of Church Street and Orient Way is an ironstone building that was originally built as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in 1791. It was used for this purpose until the 1870s when it became a Drill Hall for the local Volunteer Force (a forerunner of the TA). Around 1904 it became the 'King's Palace Theatre' and in 1910 it became the first cinema in the town.**



**Turn left at Bewicked Café, and follow the path around the back of the café, returning to the church yard. Continue along this path through the yard, out on to Market Square noting Orient House on your right.**

## 54. Orient House



**This Grade II listed building was built as a house in 1889.**

**It has squared coursed ironstone with ashlar dressings and a slate roof. It is currently used as offices and has been extended at the rear.**





## 51. Tresham College

In the late 1890s new government imposed a strict tax on alcoholic liquor in a bid to compensate publicans who lost their licences under an initiative to reduce the number of pubs. However, it was declared that public money should not be used in this way and the funds were reallocated to fund new technical institutes.

This became known as 'Whiskey Money' and Wellingborough was one of only three towns to utilise the grant, building the technical college and council chambers in Church Street with the proceeds in 1898. The latter was demolished in 1968 to accommodate the new college building.

In 1898 classes included boot and shoe classes, Ambulance classes for men and lectures in Science and Art. Mechanical engineering was added in the 1920s.

**This college campus is one of three, the others are in Kettering and Corby.**



## 52. 28 Church Street (Bewicked Café)

In the 1920s the fire station house was on the Tresham site, next to the old Institute building. It is thought that 28 Church Street was used as the station's storage. It was later used as storage for the Market and then in 2009 it was converted into stylish new premises for a café.

## Croyland Gardens/ Burystead Place

## 12. Zoo Park



**On 12 June 1943, Mr H J Stevens, a local pet shop owner, opened his private collection of exotic animals to the public. Using the 'holidays at home' fund (a government scheme aimed at boosting morale during WWII), he turned the house and grounds of Croyland Abbey into the Wellingborough Zoo Park.**

**The zoo exhibited monkeys, lions, panthers, a baby elephant, a giant tortoise and many more. At the centre was a penguin pool, which was surrounded by an eclectic menagerie of large cats, sea lions, birds of prey and a bear. The original entry price was seven pence.**

Mr Stevens and his family lived in the abbey and the zoo's lion, Simba, was treated like the family pet. Simba was taken to the cinema, the local park and occasionally the pub!

The zoo expanded during the 1950s, before being sold to animal lovers Miss Smith and Miss Such. In 1968 the zoo was sold again to Mr Robert Royston Clarke for £7,000. Unfortunately, poor investment led to the zoo's closure in October 1970.

An animal auction was conducted by Martin Pendered at the end of the year and new homes were found for many of the zoo's residents.

Edinburgh Zoo's oldest resident is a chimpanzee named Cindy, who is recorded as moving to there from Wellingborough Zoo in 1971.

After the zoo's closure the buildings became council offices and the grounds became public formal gardens.

In 2011 a small play area was created to the rear of Croyland Hall, which includes wooden sculptures of Simba and his companions. A series of animal carvings also decorate the stepping stones and boulders in the play area, designed by local primary school artists, to commemorate the zoo.

[www.wellingborough.gov.uk/zoopark](http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/zoopark)

**Follow the path to the right, passing Croyland Hall and towards the Tithe Barn.**





## 13. Tithe Barn

The barn was built shortly after the abbey (circa 1280) at the request of Richard de Growland to collect the tithe from the lands. It was constructed using mainly local ironstone and thin courses of limestone.

A major fire in the 1970s left the barn in desperate need of repair and it was scheduled for demolition. Thankfully, campaigns by a local community group managed to raise the necessary funds to restore it and the building was saved for future generations.

Today, the barn is owned by the council and can be hired for public and private functions.

## 14. Burystead Place

Burystead House and buildings, which were located here, were thought to be part of the Manor of Wellingborough Hatton. A small, former farm building still remains at the end of Burystead Place. It bears a plaque in the form of a partially unrolled scroll which reads:

"These Premises were rebuilt by C.G Thornton Esq. of Marden Hill, Herts, to replace those destroyed in an accidental fire, 21st August 1847".



Above the plaque is a clock which originally came from the offices of Campbell Praed & Co brewers (now demolished), which once adjoined the Tudor House in Sheep Street.



Walk through Burystead Place and past Cromwell's Bar. Turn left and continue up Silver Street.

## Church Street

## 50. The Old Grammar School (Church Hall)



This is a 400 year old school house in an ecclesiastical setting, sitting in contrast to its modern cousin, Tresham College on the opposite side of the street.

It was founded in 1595, and rebuilt in 1620. An early account of its conception reads:

"In the 16th year of King Richard II, it was suggested by a survey that as Wellingborough was the King's town and had a good market it might please his Majesty to erect a free school..."

The school was the Grammar and Lower Free School, supported by an individual benefactor and fee paying pupils. In 1880 it became just the Lower School, after a new school was built in London Road. It then became the church hall in 1903 and is now a Grade II\* listed property.

The building adjoining the hall is thought to have provided accommodation for some of the boys attending the school and is known as Priory Cottage. It was later divided into two properties and is one of the oldest houses in the town.

It has date stone of 1608. The Heritage Lottery Fund recently supported some ironstone restoration work to these buildings.



Take the path on the right side of the church hall on to Church Street. Turn left (Tresham College will be on your right).





## 48. Former Vicarage

**The Vicarage is a town house built in the 1800s, set back from the road and adjacent to All Hallows Church. It is now private apartments.**

## 49. The Memorial Cross

**Located in the grounds of the parish church is the Cavalry Cross, which was dedicated in 1918 and gifted to the town by Mrs Sotheby of Ecton Hall.**

**The sculpture stands at 23ft tall. The western face represents the crucifixion with attending Virgin Mary and St John, and the eastern face is the image of Our Lady and her Divine Child.**



The memorial is sculpted from stone, designed by Wellingborough architects Messrs Talbot Brown & Fisher and the carving was carried out by Messrs Reynolds & Son of Northampton. This gift was to commemorate the 500 servicemen and women of the town who had given their lives during the First World War. Upon the rise of one of the steps is an inscription:

***"Pray for the gallant men who from this town gave their lives for truth and freedom in the Great War 1914."***

## Silver Street

## 15. Silver Cinema

One façade in Silver Street stands out from the rest of the shop fronts, due to its large brick fronted, arched first-floor window. This is the remains of the former Silver Cinema which was open from 1920 until 1957. It was for a time one of four cinemas in the town.



## 16. Oxford Street/High Street Corner

On the corner of Oxford Street and High Street stands a large, three storey ironstone house, which became the Liberal Club in 1900. The club originally included a large hall suitable for meetings and concerts and both the Wellingborough Liberal Association and the Women's Liberal Association used to meet here.

Army personnel were accommodated here during the First World War and dance bands would provide entertainment for the guests and townsfolk.

In November 1920, Princess Helena Victoria (*Queen Victoria's granddaughter*) opened the club as a new YMCA. A huge crowd awaited the royal visitor with streamers hung across the roads whilst electrical lights from the building helped to brighten the proceedings. The Marquis of Northampton, also in attendance, clearly concerned for the values of the youth, impressed on the crowd **"besides dancing and billiards, they should see that there are also educational activities...it should be the object of everyone to educate himself, both mentally and morally"**.



***On the opposite side of the street is The Red Well pub.***





## 17. The Town Hall (The Red Well pub)

The 'Red Well' is actually one of many wells situated on the edge of town, but the pub is the old town hall, built in 1831. It was also the police station and Court. Wrong doers would be held there in one of the two 'lock ups' behind the town hall.

A police station and superintendent's house were built on the adjoining right side of the town hall, (which later became part of the neighbouring, former Angel Hotel) and were used until the 1860s. The former town hall building was then converted into shops. The Red Well pub was opened in 1996.

## 18. Rowlatts Store

Rowlatts is the oldest shop in the town. The family business established in 1751 sold kitchen hardware and ironmongery. It meets today's demands, maintaining traditional values and services. The store is still run by a member of the Rowlatt family.



The ironstone part of the building in Church Lane, to the rear of the store was originally the parish workhouse, until the new workhouse was built in Irthlingborough Road in the 1830s. It was then used as a girls and infants school during the mid-1800s, before becoming part of the store.

### High Street

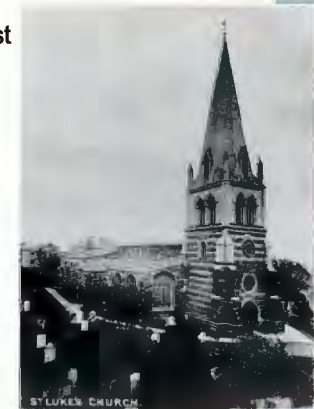
As you move into High Street, to your left you will notice a fine row of buildings from the 1800s. The first two buildings are both three-storey red brick of very different character. The first has a formal style with five sash windows along two levels and was built as solicitors' offices in 1800s. The second was built in 1882 as the Conservative Club and is more elaborate with arched entrance, balcony above and gables. It later became the British Legion Club and has now been converted into apartments. Next to these is Leighton House

## 47. All Hallows Church

All Hallows is an old dedication which means the same as All Saints. In the mid-1800s the church became widely known as St Luke's, although there seems to be no evidence that it was officially dedicated as this. Around the time of the First World War it reverted to the name All Hallows.

The parish church is the oldest building in the town (the door at the south end dates from 1170) and includes a wide variety of ecclesiastical detail. The most striking feature is the three stage tower with a banded limestone and ironstone spire.

The 13th century spire rises to a height of 165 feet which dominates the surrounding area. Like so many of Northamptonshire churches, All Hallows was originally Saxon but probably suffered damage after the Danish invasion in 1069.



There is a large ironstone porch over the entrance leading to Market Square. This south doorway is Norman with almost all the rest of the church being built during the 1200s and 1300s. Small additions were then made in the following centuries.

One of the many stained glass windows tells a sad tale of Thomas Jones, a rector of the church. He was a staunch royalist, who was twice thrown in prison for his beliefs during the Civil War. On one occasion he was apparently arrested and dragged by soldiers to Northampton, harnessed on the back of a bear! He eventually died in prison.



To the right of the church is the old vicarage, partly hidden from view. Straight ahead is the church hall and the memorial cross, (on the left is Orient House). Walk through the church yard, towards Church Street.





## 45. Boots Store (Nationwide)

The Tudor style building on the right, which is currently home to Nationwide Building Society, was actually built in 1907 for Boots the Chemist with a lending library on the first floor.

The rest of Market Street is home to many banks which were built during the late 19th century.

**Turn right into Pebble Lane, past the library, through Market Square, towards All Hallows Church.**



## 46. Library

The Wellingborough Library building was constructed in 1973 in a style typical of the time.

In the early 1800s Literacy and Mechanic Institutes were established in the town and would loan their members books. The current library houses a wide range of resources including local and family history material.



**Full details of the Library Service can be found on the 'Libraries' page of the Northamptonshire County Council website at:**

**[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)**

## 19. Leighton House and Coach House

The main house is a Grade II listed building. It was once the home of John Woolston, owner of one of the first main breweries in the town in the 1800s (his brewery became Campbell Praed & Co following Mr Woolston's death in 1878).

The house is an impressive ironstone building with treated corners and painted stonework. At one time a stone wall accompanied the house leading to the coach house set back on the right.

The coach house has a central carriage entrance, limestone and ironstone gable and back elevation. Once part of an extensive garden, it is now only visible through a narrow access between the neighbouring shops.



**Looking over to the opposite side of the street you will see an ironstone building on the corner of Church Street, slightly tucked behind Warwicks shop. This was once the old post office.**

## 20. Former Post Office (1 Church Street)

If you look closely above one of the archways you will see a small carved crown. This denotes the fact that it was built as a post office in 1880. It closed in 1908.

The building was sold in November 1919, and re-opened as the Wellingborough ex-service men's club. Run by members of the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers (NFDDSS), the building was extensively renovated and offered members snug pleasant rooms. It was used as an ex-service men's club until early 2000s.





## 21. The Parade (Warwicks)

This long shop front offers a nice example of Victorian arched windows, although the lower section has been modernised. Built in 1888 and originally known as 'The Parade', the building provided a full line of retail outlets from Warwicks tailors (est. 1868) at the front and corner plot, continuing up the High Street with an array of other general stores.

In 1900 Warwicks store sold hats, suits and men's underwear. As the business expanded the owners took over the rest of the building to create the large clothing store that remains today, still run by the Warwick family.

High Street  
Wellingborough  
1900.

*Continue up the  
High Street.*



## 22. St Helier's Hall and Queens Hall

St Helier's Hall was built in 1887 and used as a gymnasium and meeting hall for a private school located next door (set back from the road). The school later became the Drill Hall. In 1902 the smaller Queens Hall was added as a public library and by 1914 was reputed to hold some 4,100 volumes. The 'Free Library' title is carved above the entrance door. It was used as a library until 1973.



*Look across the street to view the remarkable United Reformed Church.*

## 42. The Old Kings Arms

Now a bakery, this building was a public house until the 1960s. In 1887 a temporary decorative arch was erected in front of the King Arms, across Midland Road, for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee Show and another in 1897 for the Northamptonshire Agricultural Show. The Old Kings Arms motif can still be seen above the bakery shop sign.



*The road leading down the hill opposite the Old Kings Arms is Midland Road. In 1857 Midland Road was constructed to link the town to the new railway station. As a result houses were built along the road with larger Victorian housing estates further down.*

## 43. Granville Chambers

Now a large prominent corner store, it was originally opened by the Wellingborough Public Coffee House Co. in 1883 as a Temperance Hotel, named the Granville Hotel Ltd. The copper dome (now painted black) at the top of the building was considered as a 'lavish' and 'ostentatious' expense at the time, but a feature that is still enjoyed today.



## 44. Old Post Office

The construction of Midland Road with the coming of the railway line provided a prime location for a new post office. The red brick building was built in 1908, with stone dressings and mahogany fittings inside. Telephone booths were installed in the foyer for public use. It was still being used by the postal service in the 1970s but no longer open to the public. The building is now in private ownership and a small post office counter operates next door.



*Still on Market Street move a few yards towards the ring shaped mosaic in front of the Swansgate centre. This mosaic was installed in the early 1990s to celebrate the relationship between Wellingborough and its twinned towns Wittlich in Germany and Niort in France.*





#### **Gloucester Place/ Market Street**

The building on the corner of Gloucester Place (now 'Cutters') was the home of the last fulltime cinema in the town.

### **39. The Palace Theatre/Cinema**

The Palace was built in 1911 on the site of the Empire Music Hall (a wooden building which had opened in 1909 and burnt down in 1910). The replacement red-brick building provided theatre space for 1,100 people. With the rise of the cinema, the Palace stopped theatre productions and showed just films. Between 1973 and 1982 many alterations were made, introducing a snooker hall and three cinema screens. The cinema closed in 1999, but some of the original features still remain inside.

### **40. 'Hog Hill'**

Gloucester Place was originally known as 'Hog Hill' as pigs were sold here on market days, as were sheep in Sheep Street and corn in Cornhill. In 1820 HRH The Duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh came to Wellingborough and stayed overnight at the Hind Hotel. His journey onward to Cambridge took him through 'Hog Hill' where he was thrown from his carriage. The area was renamed 'Gloucester Place' in honour of this incident.

#### **Market Street**

### **41. Rafferty's**

The pub was originally named the 'King of Prussia'. By 1849 the Wellingborough directory listed it as the 'Globe Inn'.

In the early 1900s a customer reputedly saw a phantom dressed in 'old fashioned' attire, thought to be that of a Quaker or member of The Society of Friends. He wore a black jacket and white knee high socks and was seen moving quietly along the alley at the back of the premises before entering the pub. The ghost has not been seen since.

The business later established itself as an Irish themed bar and was renamed Rafferty's in late 1990s. It is now called 'Raff's Bar'.



## **23. United Reformed Church**

Occupying a central point in the High Street, between the corners of Salem Lane and Queen Street is the impressive United Reformed Church, known locally as the 'pork pie' church due to its shape.



It was built in 1874 as the Congregational Church. Designed by Edward Sharman and Caleb Archer, it is reputed to be the finest example of a Free Church in England.

**\*\*To the rear of the church, along Salems Lane is Salem Hall (formerly the Congregational Chapel built in 1812). It is currently used as a community hall for the church and local groups. A mural on the wall of Salem Hall depicts the history of Congregationalism in Wellingborough and the church. The painting was completed by Marjorie Radford in 1979.**



Salem Hall



Mural

**Continue up High Street until you reach Broad Green.**



### Broad Green

On your left you will see an old ironstone building between two red brick buildings. This was once a bakehouse.



### 24. The Old Bakehouse

This three-storey, 18th century house with formally arranged front and central doors was once the town's bakehouse, run by the England family.

The England family were resident bakers from the early 1900s until the 1970s when they were one of only a few left in the county who produced their bread from a coal fired oven in the traditional manner. The bakehouse floor was made of large blue bricks and it is said that the Rockwell Spring runs under this floor (hence the name of 'Rock Street' on the corner).

Over the years, alterations have taken place to make the properties residential, but one of the ovens and other original bakehouse structures can still be found inside.

Continuing along the street, there is a three-storey ironstone building next to the Oak House Hotel. This property was formerly The New Inn and later the Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes Club. It was recently renovated into residential apartments.

Further up the street, on the left hand side of Broad Green, is a row of terraced houses. If you look to the first floor level you will notice a date stone and some carved heads. They represent: writer and preacher, John Bunyan (1886); Politician, philanthropist and social reformer, Lord Shaftesbury (1890); and writer, newspaper editor and politician John Morley (1890).



Continue up to the top of Broad Green.

### 38. Cambridge Street

During the Victorian period, there were 10 drinking establishments in this vicinity alone.

There was also a beer house at 21 Cambridge Street and a wine merchant at number 31.



Cambridge Street is representative of how homeowners turned their living rooms into shop fronts. Some of the current façades hide older structures beneath. As you walk down the street, look up at the façades above the shops windows.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery funded Townscape Heritage initiative, shops along Cambridge Street, Market Street and others can receive grants to help restore and repair lost traditional features to their shop fronts.



At the bottom of Cambridge Street, turn left into Market Street, noting Gloucester Place on your right.





Class 1909

### 35. Park Junior School

**The school was built in 1873 along with another Board School in Rock Street, to accommodate government requirements for free schools following the Education Act of 1870.**

The Act made school attendance compulsory for children up to the age of 10 years.

**Turn right on to Regent Street, follow the path to the end of the road then turn right again on to Cannon Street. Follow the path to the right.**

#### Cannon Street

Cannon Street and Cambridge Street form part of the town's ancient road system, originally termed 'East End' (whilst Oxford Street was at one time called 'West End'). The surrounding streets are indicative of an industrial age, exposing the Victorian expansion of the town with linear rows of terrace houses.

Many pubs and the old working men's club in Cannon Street would have provided the required end-of-day refreshment to the working masses living in these homes and who worked in the nearby boot and shoe factories, breweries, iron works and on the railway. With the development of the iron ore industry in the 1850s, blast furnaces were constructed on the site of the current Waendel Leisure Centre. The furnaces were closed in 1876.

### 36. Cannon Pub

**It is a three-storey Georgian building and designated as a building of townscape merit. Until the mid-1700s it was the last dwelling on the road out of town until you got to Finedon. The pub was known as 'The Swan and Nest' in the mid 1800s, when the landlord was a Mr Bird.**



### 37. Co-operative Shop

**On the corner of Cannon Street and Cambridge Street is the old Co-operative fried fish & chip and wet fish shop. It first opened in the early 1930s. It has an elaborate style frontage which was typical of local Co-op buildings of the time.**



### 25. No. 26 Broad Green and the Manor House

After the Hatton lands were divided up in the late 1700s a number of large ironstone houses surrounding Hatton Hall started to appear. One such house is No. 26 Broad Green, located on the left corner of Broad Green triangular junction. The house has two-storeys and was built in 1648, but thought to be mostly 18th century.

Although not a stately home, with its modest entrance doors and low beamed internal ceilings, it is still full of character and charm.



26 Broad Green



Manor House

**\*\* If you wished to venture off course, the path to the left would lead you to Westfield Road and on to the Victorian park in Bassett's Close which has a fine example of an Edwardian bandstand.**

On the opposite side of the road is the Manor House built with ironstone in the 1600s. It is Grade II listed, with dormer windows and a central door. It was part of the estate given to Sir Christopher Hatton and was awarded its listing in 1948.

The house was acquired by a family in the late 1960s and while renovating the interior walls they discovered a large wooden beam, which indicates that the walls were actually of external design. This suggested that the house may have originally had a carriageway leading through the to the rear courtyard.

The house is thought to have been the steward's residence for the Hatton family (who were based at Kirby Hall near Gtretton).



Broad Green

**Cross the road here to join the path in front of the Manor House and continue along to the right in front of Hatton Hall.**



## 26. Hatton Hall

**The Hatton Estate was formed after Queen Elizabeth I gifted the Croyland (Crowland) Abbey estate to her two favourites; Robert Dudley (Earl of Leicester) and Sir Christopher Hatton, in 1574. Hatton bought Dudley's share of the estate in 1576 and consequently became the Lord of Wellingborough Manors. The estate passed down through the Hatton family until 1640, when it was bought by Francis Gray. It remained in his family until 1800.**



The hall was built by William Lester in 1783, but records start in 1825 when it became the residence of Mr A. Roddick, a partner at Wellingborough Bank. The bank marked an affluent spell for the town. But, by the end of 1825 the bank was bankrupt and quick departures ensued.

After several wealthy owners, the Hatton Hall came into the possession of Rev. Charles Pasley Vivian, whose family were Lords of the Manor of Wellingborough from 1801 to the mid-1900s.

The building is in a Tudor style, with triangular pediments and squared leaded windows. In 1837 the property had a main hall or billiard room and to the west a large conservatory featuring mostly

pointed windows and elevated cornices.

Hatton Hall passed through several hands in this state, including a spell as a girls' boarding school in the late 1800's. It was finally given over, by Mrs Alice Harrison, to the English Waifs & Strays Society in 1913, spending the next 40 years as a home for orphaned boys, known as Hatton Home for Boys.

## 33. Park Road

**Park Road was constructed in the 1880s and was known to locals as 'The New Cut', who used the tree lined avenue as a short cut through to Gloucester Place from Yew Gardens and Box Gardens.**



In 1917 Messrs Henry and Jack Sudborough located their new boot and shoe factory in Park Road. The factory was a model of its kind with many new innovations and operations all carried out on one floor. Many of the boots and shoes made here were sent over to Russia and worn by the army of 'White Russia' who were fighting the Bolsheviks during the Russian revolution.

**Cross Park Road and continue up Great Park Street. Ahead of you is the Zion Christian Chapel (where the road bends left).**

## 34. Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

(Zion Christian Chapel)

**This chapel was built in 1872 from red brick. It has an elaborate front, including an entrance of three arches in red and yellow brick flanked by two turrets. Since 2014 it has been a Zion Christian Chapel.**

*The event fundamentally celebrated the practice of non-drinkers. Ironically, many of the early chapels, including the Zoar Chapel, were built with funds from wealthy brewery owners such as the Dulleys and Woolston families.*

During the 1800s, Wellingborough had a large non-conformist community who provided the town with an annual parade known as the Wellingborough Tea Drinking Parade.

*The parade involved Sunday School children walking in a procession around the town with banners flying and bands playing. They would carry a tea cup and saucer wrapped in a handkerchief, ready for a feast of bread and butter, tea and cake at at Bassetts Close Park or Castle Fields.*



**Continue up the street until you reach Park Junior School on the right hand corner.**



**Herriotts Lane/Great Park Street/Park Road**

## 31. Herriotts Lane

**In the early 1960s, a number of houses adjoining those on the corner of Herriotts Lane and Church Street (called Little Silver Street and Church Lane respectively) were demolished in order to make way for the new technical college car park.**

Whilst excavating, workmen discovered an enormous well, forty feet deep and almost square. Ironstone bedrock formed on one of the sides and the other three sides were of medieval stone. No record of the well's history has ever been found.

### Great Park Street

Great Park Street begins with two traditional corner shop fronts.

In the early 1900s Mr Ephraim 'Clocky' West ran a watchmakers business from no. 2 Great Park Street (pictured). In 1910 'Clocky' relocated the shop to the newly built premises on the opposite corner which featured a fine new clock at its front. Meanwhile, 'Wilson's store' opened up in no. 2 Great Park Street, run by Mr John Butler Wilson, the hosier. Samuels the Tailors is another long standing business in the town and now occupies the old watchmakers shop (pictured).



'Clocky West' outside No. 2 Great Park Street - C1900



Samuels the Tailors (No.1 Great Park Street)

**Turn left in to Great Park Street.**

**Further along the street, past a former Victorian boot and shoe factory is the former Tabernacle Baptist Church.**

## 32. Tabernacle Baptist Church



The site behind this chapel was originally occupied by the Zoar Chapel (a Calvinist Baptist Chapel) and burial ground, which survived from 1808 to 1863. It was replaced by this current building, which was built by Mr Thomas Slinn Snr. in 1863.

The hall was sold to K G Laurence group in the 1950s and then again in 1972 to the Roman Catholic Trust. After struggling with the cost to maintain it, the Trust applied to have it demolished for redevelopment.

A four-year battle ensued between local campaigners, the owners and the council before the building's fate was determined. In 1979 a compromise was reached and the now Grade II listed hall was incorporated into a large development of flats. Sadly most of the original hall is no longer intact, but the retention of the main façade of this remarkable house provides a commanding entrance to the site.

**Venture further around the road and you will find Hatton House.**

## 27. Hatton House

**A fine example of an 18th century town house is Hatton House (to the right of Hatton Hall). Built in the 1780s, the house is of Georgian design. It is situated in the centre of two smaller but still three-storey ironstone buildings.**



**The two adjoining properties mark the end of Broad Green and the beginning of Hatton Gardens.**



**Cross at the traffic lights to re-join Broad Green. Follow the path back down the road towards the War Memorial (Cenotaph) at the front of the green. You will pass the Queens Head on your left, a pub since at least 1779.**



## 28. Cenotaph, Broad Green

This memorial was built in 1924 to commemorate those who gave their lives in the First World War.

**Frank Thompson is named as the last Wellingborough soldier to be killed in the Great War. His ill-fated death is recorded at 10.45am on 11 November 1918, just 15 minutes before the Armistice.**



Another fallen soldier named on this stone is Major Edward Corringham 'Mick' Mannock, who was regarded as one of the greatest fighter pilots of the First World War. He moved to Wellingborough as a young man to work for the National Telephone Company and quickly became a key figure in the community; a keen cricket player, a violinist in the local orchestra and secretary of the local Independent Labour Party.

He joined the Wellingborough Territorial detachment of the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1915, and soon transferred to The Royal Engineers. By November 1916 he was a pilot with the Royal Flying Corps.



Major Edward Corringham  
'Mick' Mannock

Pilots in those early days were pioneers of flight and many had never flown or seen military action before the war. An engineer by trade, Mick Mannock was understandably fearful in his early experiences of air combat, but within a year he had earned a reputation as a ruthless pilot. The war hardened his attitude, but his determination and prudent leadership skills earned him a succession of commendations. In the remaining years of the war he claimed 76 victories, but on 26 July 1918, aged just 31, he flew too low into ground fire and was killed. Following a campaign by his comrades and friends, Major Mannock was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

The Second World War brought more names to the stone and many more stories of heroes and tragedy. Additional names from town residents who have died in conflicts since 1945 have also been added to the memorial.

**Continue down Broad Green heading towards High Street. You will pass Outlaw Lane on your left. Outlaw Lane was named after Doctor Outlaw who lived here in a large house (now demolished) adjacent to the Queens Head. He died in 1853 aged 68 and is buried at All Hallows Church. Turn left at St John's Street.**

## St John's Street/Havelock Street

In a survey of land taken in 1533, prior to the dissolution of the monasteries, there is mention of a hospital of St John the Baptist, serviced by land in Wellingborough. The hospital, situated on what became St John's Street, had two wells on the south-east side. It is thought that this ancient institution, along with aiding the poor, was also a hospice for pilgrims travelling to Croyland (Crowland) or Peterborough.

## 29. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) House

Quakers were active in Wellingborough as early as the 1650s when they would hold meetings in private houses. They built a new meeting house in Finedon in 1690.



The meeting house in St John's Street was built in 1819. It has a simple ironstone design with a burial ground at the front.

A little further up the street is an apartment building set back from the road. At the front door is a stone tablet featuring an eroded carving of a crucifix. The tablet was discovered by a local contractor, who discovered foundations of an ancient building on this site. He built his house here and added the stone tablet to the facade. When this building was subsequently demolished the tablet was saved again. It is suggested that this may have been the site of St John's Hospital.



**Continue along this street and into Havelock Street.**

## 30. The Salvation Army

Wellingborough was one of the earliest towns to have its own corps established because there was already a branch of the Christian Mission here, from which the Salvation Army arose. The Salvation Army first had a presence in the town in the early 1870s.

Originally, the Mission met in a tent and the 'Citadel' in Havelock Street, which opened in 1874. It was taken over by The Salvation Army in 1878. The services have been led by their own brass band since this time.

The Founder of The Salvation Army, General William Booth, visited Wellingborough in 1907.



**Turn right on to Herriotts Lane.**