

Town Trails: Activity 2 - Horsham

TEACHERS' NOTES

Learning Objectives

- Learn about Victorian architecture in Horsham
- Gain an understanding of some typical features of Victorian architecture

Sources



Sources 1 - 17 are Word documents, each containing a selection of modern photographs of a Victorian building in Horsham, including general views and sometimes close-up details:

The notes which follow may be used to accompany a walk (directions *in italics*).



Source 1. Parish Church of St Mary's



Source 2. Causeway Lodge



Source 3. Nos. 5 & 6 Causeway



Source 4. West Sussex County Times Office



Source 5. Town Hall



Source 6. Market Square

Town Trails: Activity 2 - Horsham

TEACHERS' NOTES



Source 7. Bar Vin



Source 8. Carfax



Source 9. Grandford House



Source 10. Bank Buildings



Source 11. Bandstand



Source 12. Site of County Gaol



Source 13 St Mark's Church Spire



Source 14. Jubilee Fountain



Source 15. Railway Station



Source 16. Westminster Bank and Lloyds Bank

Town Trails: Activity 2 - Horsham

TEACHERS' NOTES



Source 17. West Street



Source 18. Maps

Note: These maps are extracts from the West Sussex County Council Interactive Map (iMap) and are copyright of the Ordnance Survey. They may be used in the classroom but must not be reproduced for any other purpose.

To access the iMap website, click this link:

<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/imap>

- Click 'Launch the iMap'
- Search 'city, town or village' for 'Horsham'
- Close the pop-out box by clicking the x on its top right hand corner
- Reduce the scale of the map by clicking the minus sign on the scale bar twice
- Under the 'Local Information' heading to the left of the map, select 'Town Trails'
- The various buildings will be displayed on the map, with each one numbered.
- If you can't see them all, you can use your mouse to "drag" the map to the right position.
- To identify a building, click the symbol on the map, and a pop-out box will display information about it.

Note: the numbers of the buildings listed in the sources are the same as the numbers for these buildings on the iMap Town Trail.

Town Trails: Activity 2 - Horsham

TEACHERS' NOTES

Source 1. Parish Church of St Mary's



The Church of St. Mary's was mostly 750 years old by the 19th century. Like many churches it was restored during this period, particularly in 1864 and 1865 at a cost of £8,000. The architect was SS Teulon, who managed to jack up the walls, and stop a definite lean caused by a gallery on the south side. Henry Burstow, who was a notable bell-ringer, rang a 'shoemakers' peal' with his fellow shoemakers all day long on his wedding day in 1855.

Continue up the Causeway on the east side.

Its appearance has changed very little. Victorian Horsham residents would have been familiar with both the medieval cottages and the grand Georgian houses we see today.

Source 2. Causeway Lodge



Dorothea Hurst, who wrote the first history of Horsham in 1868, lived at Causeway Lodge on the right.

Source 3. Nos. 5 & 6 Causeway



At the top of the Causeway, no. 5 and 6 are Victorian.

Continue to the right.

Source 4. West Sussex County Times Office



On the left is the building that holds the West Sussex County Times.

Source 5. Town Hall

The Town Hall dominates the Market Place. In the 1700s a market was held under its ground floor arches, but it was improved by the Duke of Norfolk in 1812, and the space was lost in favour of proper court rooms. In 1888, the whole building except the front, was rebuilt.

Town Trails: Activity 2 - Horsham**TEACHERS' NOTES****Source 6. Market Square**

Market Square was where elections took place. They were very public until 1832, and Horsham was considered a 'rotten borough'. The people were so pleased with the Reform Act in 1832, and celebrated with a march round the town and dinner of cold beef for 3,000.

Source 7. Bar Vin

At the Bar Vin, look up for the sign Anchor Hotel and the date 1899. *On the corner of East Street and the Carfax is the King's Head, which was already old in Victorian times.*

Source 8. Carfax

The Carfax is a large open space, shaped like a triangle, used for holding markets and fairs, from about 1200. Now it is pedestrianised, but in Victorian times there was both an inner and outer road for traffic. The north side was mainly occupied by big private houses.

Source 9. Grandford House

Grandford House (next to King & Chasemore, which was the Lamb Inn in the 19th century) was the home of Henry Michell, a leading Horsham businessman in 1841. The house was named after the plot of land on which it was situated, to the north of the Carfax, and later the adjacent block took the same name. The Carfax was home to lawyers and banks.

Source 10. Bank Buildings

On the inner ring, the Bank Buildings were built in 1897, and were designed by a noted London architect, Frederick Wheeler FRIBA, who had an office in Horsham.

Source 11. Bandstand

The Bandstand was erected in 1891, on the site used for bonfires on 5 November.

Town Trails: Activity 2 - Horsham**TEACHERS' NOTES****Source 12. County Gaol**

The County Gaol was originally near the corner of the Carfax and North Street, and the gaoler's house was on the corner itself. In 1830 the Assizes moved to Lewes, and the gaol (which had moved to Queen Street by then) closed.

In 1844 John Lawrence was executed for murder on a scaffold erected beside the gaol; this was the last public hanging in Horsham, and was witnessed by c.3,000 people. The building was sold in 1845 to Henry Michell, who demolished it to make use of its 2½ million bricks, 15,000 ft of Horsham paving stone, 100 doors and 150 windows. Some of these turn up in other buildings around Horsham. The new railway was built right through the Queen Street site.

Continue into North Street and then Chart Way, which has the Sun Alliance headquarters on it. Just before that is St Mark's Church Spire.

Source 13 St Mark's Church Spire

The spire is all that is left of this church, built in 1840 as a chapel of ease to the parish church. The tower and spire were added in 1870. The parish library was housed here in 1855. The rest of the church was pulled down in 1989.

The National School for Boys was opened here in 1840; originally it was in the Trinity chapel of the parish church. At the same time, the girls moved into a school room in the lodge at the north end of Denne Park, but in 1862, a purpose-built school was erected for 120 girls on the south side of St. Mark's church. Other Board schools were opened from 1873, and Collyers, although rather run down at the beginning of the 19th century, was revived. In 1857, the number of paying pupils was increased to 80. It became a grammar school in 1889.

Source 14. Jubilee Fountain

Further on over the bridge is the Jubilee Fountain, originally put up in the Carfax, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It was a drinking fountain, and had a metal cup used by all and sundry. It has had several resting places. By 1947 it had become a traffic hazard, and was taken down. In 1977 it was put up in Copnall Way, to mark the present Queen's Silver Jubilee. The wrought-iron scrolls holding the Globe were made from old town signs.

Source 15. Railway Station

At the top of North Street is the railway station. It is modern, and not worth seeing in this context. However, it had a strong influence on the development of Horsham. It was first built in 1848, and was part of a branch line from Three Bridges. It would have taken two hours to reach London, and the ticket cost 4s 6d. When the first train left Horsham, a large crowd assembled to see it depart, but the wheels failed to grip, and the engine refused to move. Horsham was the end of the line until 1857, when the next section to Pulborough and then Portsmouth was built. A new station was built in 1859, but the present station was built in 1938.

In 1859 a locomotive left Petworth without a crew. It ran for 17 miles, and crashed through the level crossings at Hardham, Cray Lane and Billingshurst, but it was forced to slow down as it climbed uphill towards Horsham. An engine cleaner at Horsham was able to jump aboard and stop it, for which he received promotion and £3.

Come back into the Carfax, and make your way into West Street.

Source 16. Westminster Bank and Lloyds Bank

On the corner of West Street and South Street are the Westminster Bank and Lloyds Bank. In the Victorian period the premises were occupied by Hunt Brothers, whose drapery business became renowned for its quality. A little further down on the south side (left-hand side) a number of shops are in a building originally known as Clerkenwell House, built in 1878. It includes the jewellers once owned by Jury Cramp.

Source 17. West Street

West Street has a number of other Victorian buildings, which can be spotted by looking up to the roof line and upper floors. For example, First Choice has a date of 1896 above the shop. At this time, Horsham was expanding as a retail centre, and the shop frontages reflected this.

References

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