



Mansfield

Town Centre

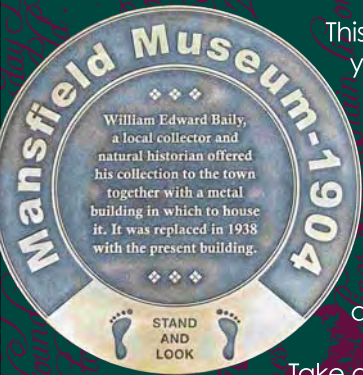
Heritage Trail

A tour round the
heritage of Mansfield.....

Mansfield

Town Centre Heritage Trail.....

Welcome to the Mansfield Town Centre Heritage Trail. This tour will guide you around some of the interesting buildings and monuments in this bustling market town and will help to build up a picture of life here during the last one thousand years. This trail is also available as an audio guide to download, see page 22 for details.



This walk has been divided into colour coded sections and you can decide what you want to see and how far you want to walk. If you have the time and energy to follow the entire route, it will last about two hours. There are places in each section where you can take a rest and get refreshments.

Look out for the bronze plaques set into the ground at some of the stops on the tour. These carry a little more detail about the buildings and monuments.

Take a moment to look at this guide before you set off to make sure you see everything that you want to. Please take care whilst walking around. Look around you for interest but watch out for the traffic. Some of the roads on the route are busy.

Enjoy finding out about the hidden stories that exist behind the façade of the town's buildings. This tour is by no means a complete record of the history of Mansfield and there is a wealth of information available at Mansfield Museum, the starting point of the tour.

While you are following the trail, take a few extra moments to look at the details on the buildings. There is a wealth of information to be discovered by looking up at the uppermost parts of a building. By piecing together the information from the buildings, monuments and plaques on this trail you can begin to learn more about the development of Mansfield through the ages as it grows from a small settlement to a thriving industrial market town.



Contents...

Overview of Mansfield	Page 3/4
Leeming Street - Area	Page 5
- Summary	Page 6
- Detail	Page 7/8
Market Place - Area	Page 9
- Summary	Page 10
- Detail	Page 11/12
Church Street - Area	Page 13
- Summary	Page 14
- Detail	Page 15/16
West Gate - Area	Page 17
- Summary	Page 18
- Detail	Page 19/21
Audio Trail Information	Page 22



A History of...

Mansfield

There is no certain answer to the origins of the name 'Mansfield'. In the Domesday survey of 1086 the town was recorded as 'Mamesfelde'. 'Mame' comes possibly from the Celtic 'Mamm' derived from a religious name for 'Mother Goddess' and referring to the life giving properties of the river that flows through the town. 'Mame' eventually became Maun the name by which the river is known today. 'Feld' is Old English for an area of open land. So, 'Mamesfelde' or 'Maunsefeld' as it was later known translates as 'open land beside the River Maun'.

Mansfield is a fine example of a town which has been important in the area for many centuries. A Neolithic stone axe made about 6,000 years ago, was unearthed during building work in the town centre and flint tools from the same time were found nearby. The remains of a Roman villa at Mansfield Woodhouse are only a few miles from the centre of the town.

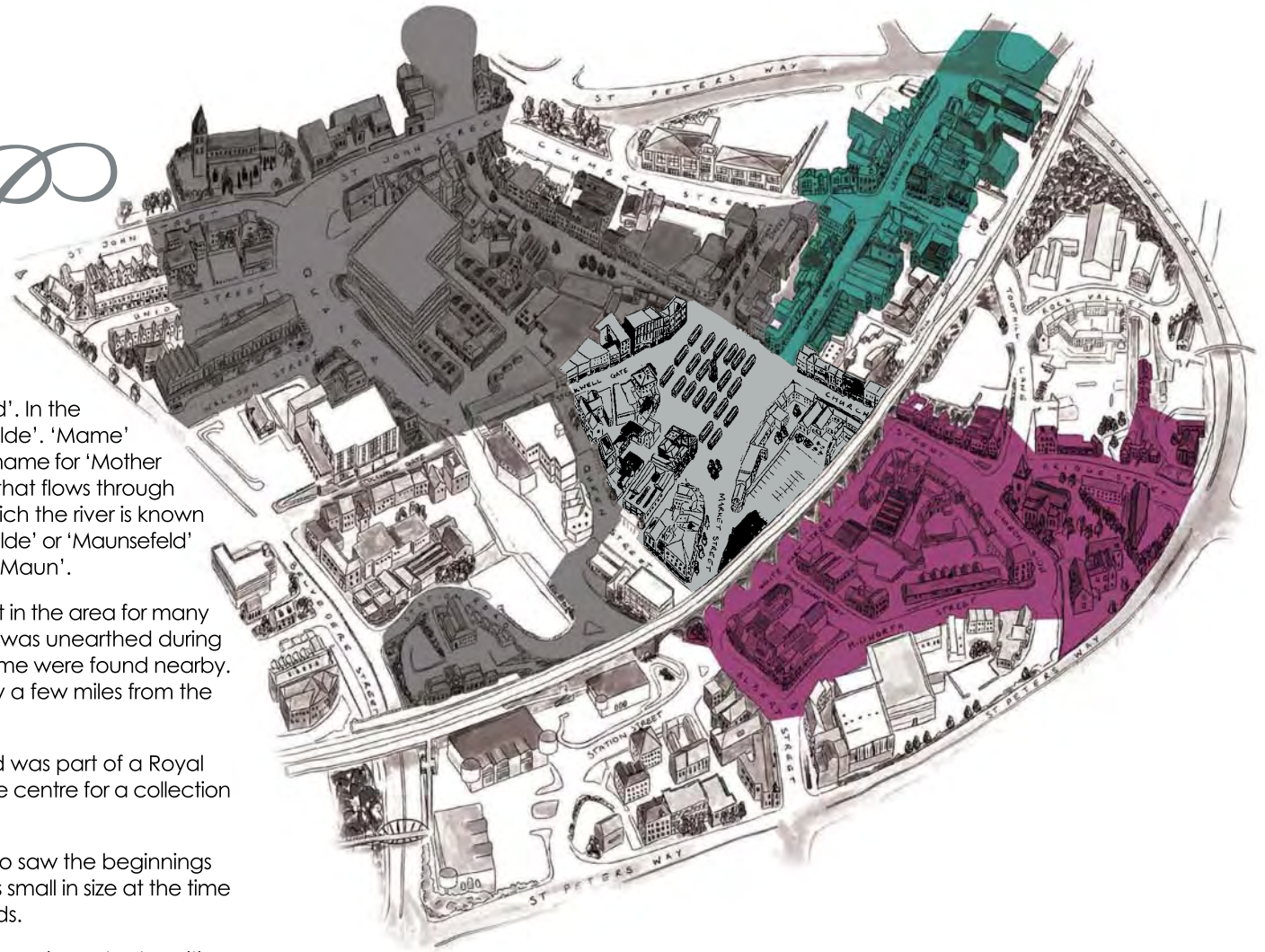
At around the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, Mansfield was part of a Royal Manor, owned by the King, and thought to be the administrative centre for a collection of estates stretching right across the north of the county.

In 1227 Mansfield was granted a market charter, this period also saw the beginnings of small-scale quarrying and textile manufacture. The town was small in size at the time with a few buildings surrounded by arable fields and woodlands.

Over the next few hundred years Mansfield grew slowly. It lay in an important position in the county, on the western edge of Sherwood Forest, offering direct routes to Nottingham, Newark, Worksop, Chesterfield and Rotherham and linking to a network of smaller roads.

In the eighteenth century, Mansfield underwent a period of rapid expansion with the onset of industry. Malting of hops for breweries was overtaken in importance towards the end of the century by framework knitting, a string of mills being powered by the waters of the River Maun. The population at this time had reached around 6,000 people.

The late eighteenth century saw the development of iron foundries and the first coal mines were sunk on the outskirts of the town. During the twentieth century new industries such as metal box manufacture and shoe making saw the population rise to over 50,000.



Leeming Street

Pages: 5-8

Market Place

Pages: 9-12

Church Street

Pages: 13-16

West Gate

Pages: 17-21





Leeming Street

Remnants of the medieval pattern of streets are still evident today, although many of the timber-framed buildings of the time were destroyed by two fires in the sixteenth century. There are a number of surviving buildings, from different periods that portray the colourful history of the town. Late seventeenth century grand houses and tiny framework knitter's cottages sit alongside the remains of Mansfield's industrial past such as water-powered mills and maltings.

1531 Mansfield...

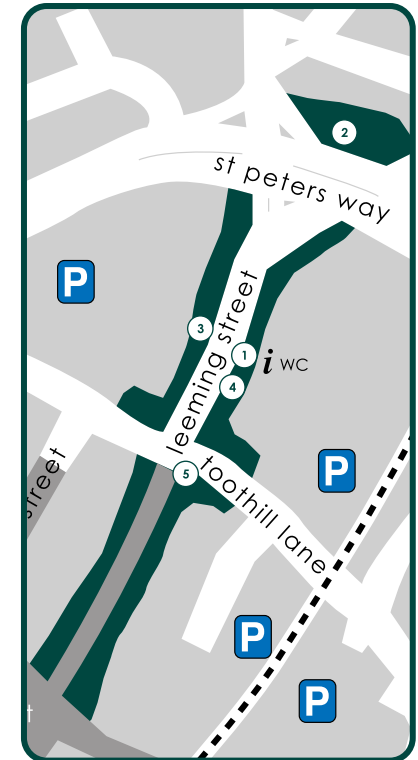
...was in great danger of being burned down. A fire broke out in Stockwell Gate in the early part of the year and one hundred and fifty bays of houses were totally destroyed.

Sights at a glance

- 1 - Mansfield Museum
- 2 - Miners Sculpture
- 3 - The Bowl in Hand Public House
- 4 - The Old Library
- 5 - Samuel Brunts Building

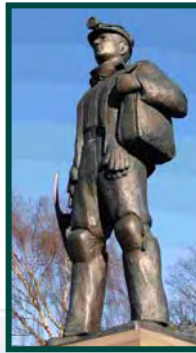
Key:

-  Leeming Street area
-  Built up area
-  Pedestrian walk way
-  Train line
-  Parking
-  Visitor Information Point
-  Public Toilets



"Tribute to the British Miner" 2

This three metre high sculpture by Nikolaos Kotziamanis celebrates Mansfield's coal mining heritage and the contribution that miners made to the economy of Great Britain and the local area. Over 35,000 men were employed in Nottinghamshire's pits early in the twentieth century when the industry was at its peak.

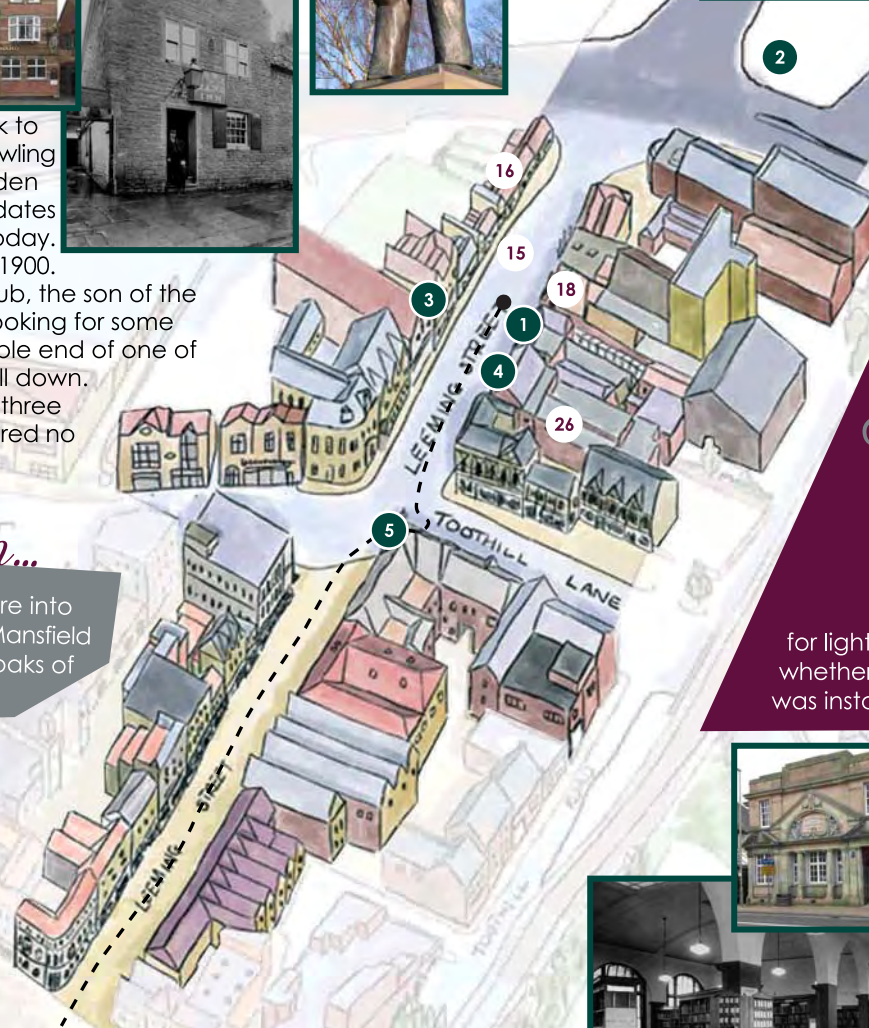


Mansfield Museum 1

William Edward Baily, a local natural historian donated his collection to the town, together with an old metal chapel in which to store it. The 'Tin Tabernacle' as it was known, was replaced by the present building in 1938 and houses exhibits telling the story of the town. Of particular interest is a collection of paintings by local artist, Albert Sorby Buxton which depict life in Mansfield around the turn of the twentieth century.

Bowl in Hand 3

The first pub on this site dates back to the 1750s and was known as the Bowling Green Inn. The bowling green hidden away behind the current building dates back to that time and is still in use today. The current building was finished in 1900. During the demolition of the old pub, the son of the landlord Thomas Doncaster was looking for some marbles in the cellar when the gable end of one of the buildings being demolished fell down. He was buried in rubble for about three quarters of an hour but luckily suffered no serious damage.



Mansfield Gas Works...

...was erected and finished on 10th July 1824. Whites Directory of Nottinghamshire 1832 is doubtful if gas was used for lighting by then as the commissioners had not decided whether to use gas or oil for the purpose. It seems street lighting was installed in 1825-6 in only a few of the town's main streets.

1598 3rd Jan...

A commission was set up to enquire into the condition of Sherwood Forest. Mansfield Wood at this time contained 480 oaks of more than 200 years growth.



Samuel Brunts Building 5

High up on the front of the building is a statue of Samuel Brunts who died in 1711 leaving much of his wealth in trust for charitable use. In his will he stated that the money was to be used to benefit poor people of the Mansfield area who "had been industrious and of sober life and conversation and feared the Lord". (See image on page 5.)



The Old Library 4

This public library was built with money donated by the Scottish born industrialist, Andrew Carnegie, who made his fortune from the American steel industry. It is one of 2508 such libraries built across the world with the aim of 'helping the industrious and ambitious to education'. The son of a weaver, Carnegie was perhaps the first to state publicly that "the rich have a moral obligation to give away their fortunes". During his lifetime, Carnegie gave away over £70 million.





Market Place

When the town was granted its market charter in 1227, Mansfield was a small settlement near the heart of Sherwood Forest. At the turn of the nineteenth century, Mansfield Market Place was a congested maze of small streets filled with shops and pubs. Space was so tight that there was little room for horses and carts to pass through. The town's population had grown to around 8,300, most of whom lived within a 10 minute walk of the centre. It became obvious that a major re-development was needed and in 1823 the newly appointed improvement commissioners decided to demolish the central area to make a more open market place.

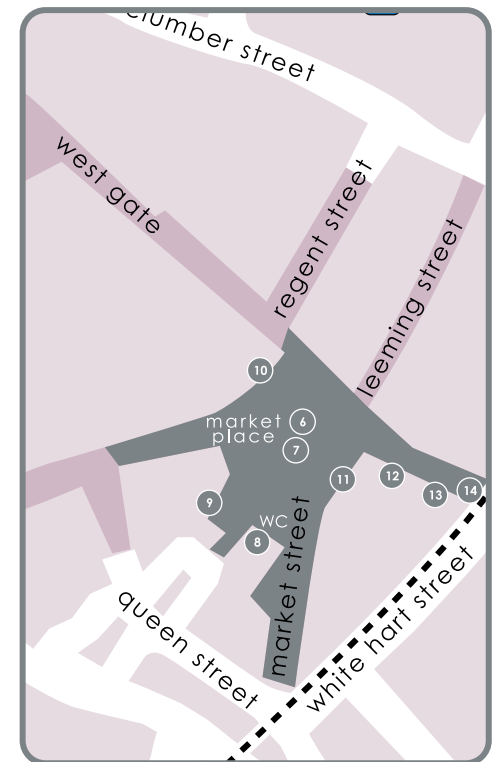
1838 Accession of Queen Victoria. The more opulent classes in the town provided dinners for nearly 600 men at different public houses and nearly 1,000 women and children were provided with tea and buns on the bowling green.

Sights at a glance

- 6 - Market Place
- 7 - Bentinck Memorial
- 8 - The Town Hall
- 9 - The Dial Public House
- 10 - Moot Hall
- 11 - Chad Building
- 12 - The Swan Public House
- 13 - White Hart Public House
- 14 - Railway Viaduct

Key:

-  Market Place area
-  Built up area
-  Pedestrian walk way
-  Train line



The Moot Hall 10

The current Moot Hall built in 1752 was paid for by the Lady of the Manor of Mansfield, Henrietta Cavendish Hoies who lived at nearby Weibek Abbey. The ground floor was used as a trading and meeting place whilst the first floor was originally one large room used for scientific lectures, dancing and card playing. These regular meetings often featured spectacular demonstrations depicting events such as great battles or volcanic eruptions. They were held at full moon, so people could find their way home, in an age before street lighting.



The Swan Hotel 12

At one time the foremost coaching inn in Mansfield, the Swan dates back to 1586 and replaces a building almost two hundred years older. The old building was destroyed by a fire which ravaged much of the medieval heart of the town. The Swan was a stopping off point for coaches travelling to London and York as well as many other destinations.



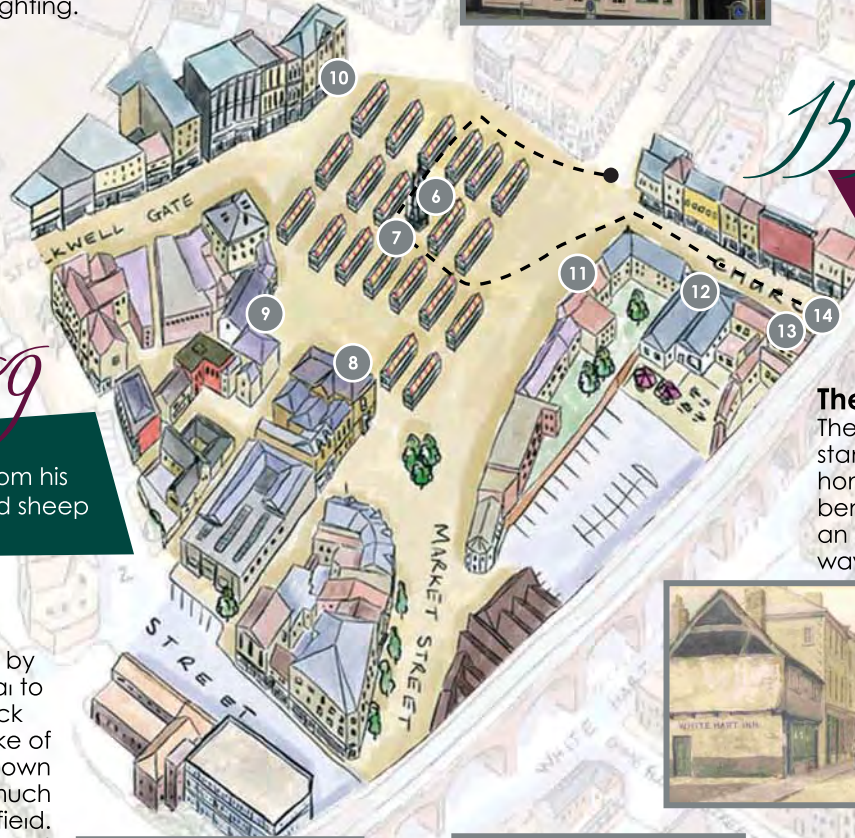
Dial Hotel 9

The Old Dial was built in the early nineteenth century and opened onto Stockwell Gate. It was demolished in 1841 and was replaced with a new building at the Market Place end of the Old Dial's yard. The main entrance of the new Dial hotel opened out into the Market Place to take advantage of its recent redevelopment.



1546 another fire...

...said to be wilfully started by Coll. Davey. 130 bays of houses destroyed. Coll. was tried and hanged.



The White Hart Inn 13

The present building dates from 1873 and stands on the site of the sixteenth century home of Dame Cecily Flogan, a local benefactress who died in 1521. It was used as an inn until it was demolished in 1872 to make way for the construction of the railway viaduct.

White Hart Yard behind the inn was one of many such yards and would have been full of small traders and businesses.



19th March 1789

To celebrate the recovery of George III from his mental malady, illuminations, bonfires and sheep roasting took place in the town.

Bentnck Memoria 7

The monument, erected in 1849 by public subscription, is a memorial to Lord George Bentnck of Weibek Abbey, the son of the fourth Duke of Portland. Bentnck was a well known politician and his family owned much of the land in and around Mansfield. The centre section of the monument was supposed to contain a statue of Lord George but money ran out and it was never made.



Town Hall 8

Designed by William Adams Nicholson, building of the town hall began in May 1835. John Coke laid the foundation stone in July of that year at a public ceremony attended by around 5,000 people. The building workers were then treated to "an excellent dinner and 3 pints of ale each" by members of the Town Hall Company. An illuminated clock, very rare in those days, was installed on the front of the building and attracted a huge amount of interest when it was first lit by gas on Thursday 4th February 1837.



Chad Building 11

The Chad building is a reminder of early Mansfield. A former "Backyard Bakehouse" it was once hidden away in Eclipse inn Yard.



The Railway Viaduct 14



One of Mansfield's landmark buildings, the railway viaduct was built in 1875 for the Midland Railway Company. The 15 brick and stone arches span the heart of the town and stand as a testament to the Industrial Age.



Church Street

Formerly known as Kirkgate, this is one of the oldest streets in Mansfield linking the church, the Moot Hall and the site of the old market place. Coaching inns provided rooms and refreshments for weary travellers and stabling for the horses. A tannery was established behind the Ram public house in the seventeenth century which was still in business in the late 1800s. An inn and a number of cave houses were cut into the limestone cliffs which can be seen behind the modern shop fronts.

1776 The bridge...

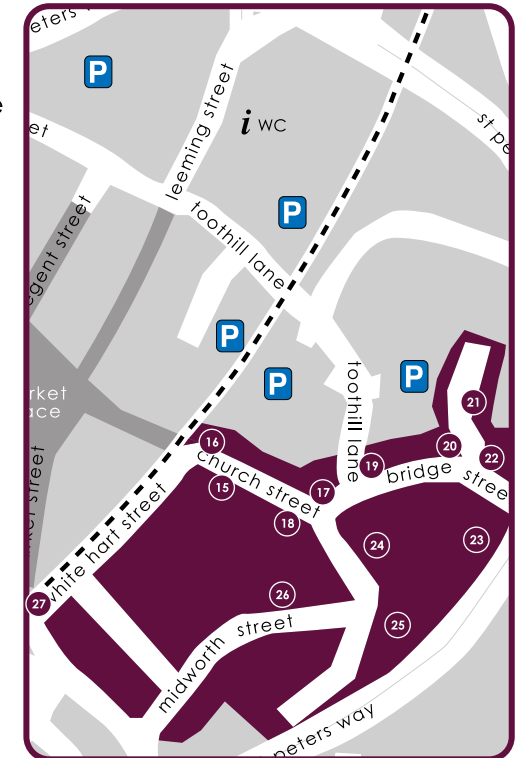
...from which Bridge St takes its name was erected in 1776. It was subsequently enlarged. Prior to the bridge being built there were stepping stones over which horses and carts were driven.

Sights at a glance

- 15 - The Post Office
- 16 - White Lion Yard
- 17 - Amphitheatre Sculpture
- 18 - The Ram Public House
- 19 - St. Peter's House
- 20 - The Sundial
- 21 - Rock Court/River Maun
- 22 - Methodist Church
- 23 - Town Mill
- 24 - St. Peter's Church
- 25 - Grammar School
- 26 - The Maltings
- 27 - High Heels Sculpture

Key:

- Church Street area
- Built up area
- Pedestrian walk way
- Train line
- P Parking
- i Visitor Information Point
- WC Public Toilets





White Lion Yard ¹⁶

This yard was named after an inn that was almost entirely dug into the rock face and contained cave houses that were lived in until 1901. Timbers that date back to the sixteenth century have been found here. The yard was restored in 1994 after a long period of neglect.

Post Office ¹⁵

This fine building dates from the 1920s. Of particular note are the magnificent Ionic columns topped with ornamented capitals.



The Maltings ²⁶

The Maltings is of typical design; a long, single-story building with a floor that slopes slightly from one end of the building to the other. Malt production here dates back to 1740 and was used to make beer for Mansfield

Brewery when it began brewing in 1855. Mansfield's malt was known for its high quality. Prior to the building of the railway, malt was despatched on pack-horses which returned with coal required for the malt production.



"High Heels" ²⁷

Renn and Thacker's seven metre high stainless steel and bronze sculpture makes reference to the shoe industry, prominent in Mansfield since the mid nineteenth century and the powerful image of the nearby limestone clad viaduct.



Church of St Peter and St Paul ²⁴

The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, is thought to date back to Saxon times and has been much added to over the centuries. In 1304 the church was partly burnt down but rebuilt soon afterwards in the Norman style with a fine arch at the end of the nave. The tower dates back to the twelfth century and is topped by a small spire which was added in 1666. St Peter's is the home to a set of fine bells, the earliest of which dates back to 1603. (See image on page 13.)



"Amphitheatre" ¹⁷

David Annand's sculpture is a place as well as a work of art. He says it is, "A contemplative amphitheatre for people and students to meet at, chat and argue and debate". The bronze life-size figure in the sculpture represents a leader physically holding up a broken amphitheatre. However, the underlying theme is the struggle to maintain the civilised infrastructure of society. Work by a local poet has been sand blasted onto the sculpture to give people encouragement to sit and contemplate.



Bridge Street Chapel ²²

This site previously occupied by Stanhope House, was bought by the Wesleyan Methodists from the Earl of Chesterfield in 1812. The chapel, built in 1864, was well known for having the 'best church music in Mansfield'.

Rock Court ²¹

This block of terraced houses standing beside the River Maun was built in the seventeenth century. In 1836 they were converted into a private school, known as Maltby's Academy. Principally for boys, the school, run by three generations of the Maltby family, remained here until 1887. The building is now a private residence.



Sundial House ²⁰

The painted sundial on the upper storey of this sixteenth century building serves as a reminder of a time when it was commonplace to structure the working day by the light from the sun.



St Peter's House ¹⁹

A grand late seventeenth Century house, this building has been occupied by a variety of businesses over the years.



The Ram Public House ¹⁸

This timber framed building dates back to the seventeenth century or maybe even earlier. Do not be deceived by the black and white timbered frontage, this was added in the 1920s when the building was restored. Some of the original timbers do still exist; hidden away inside the building.



Town Mill ²³

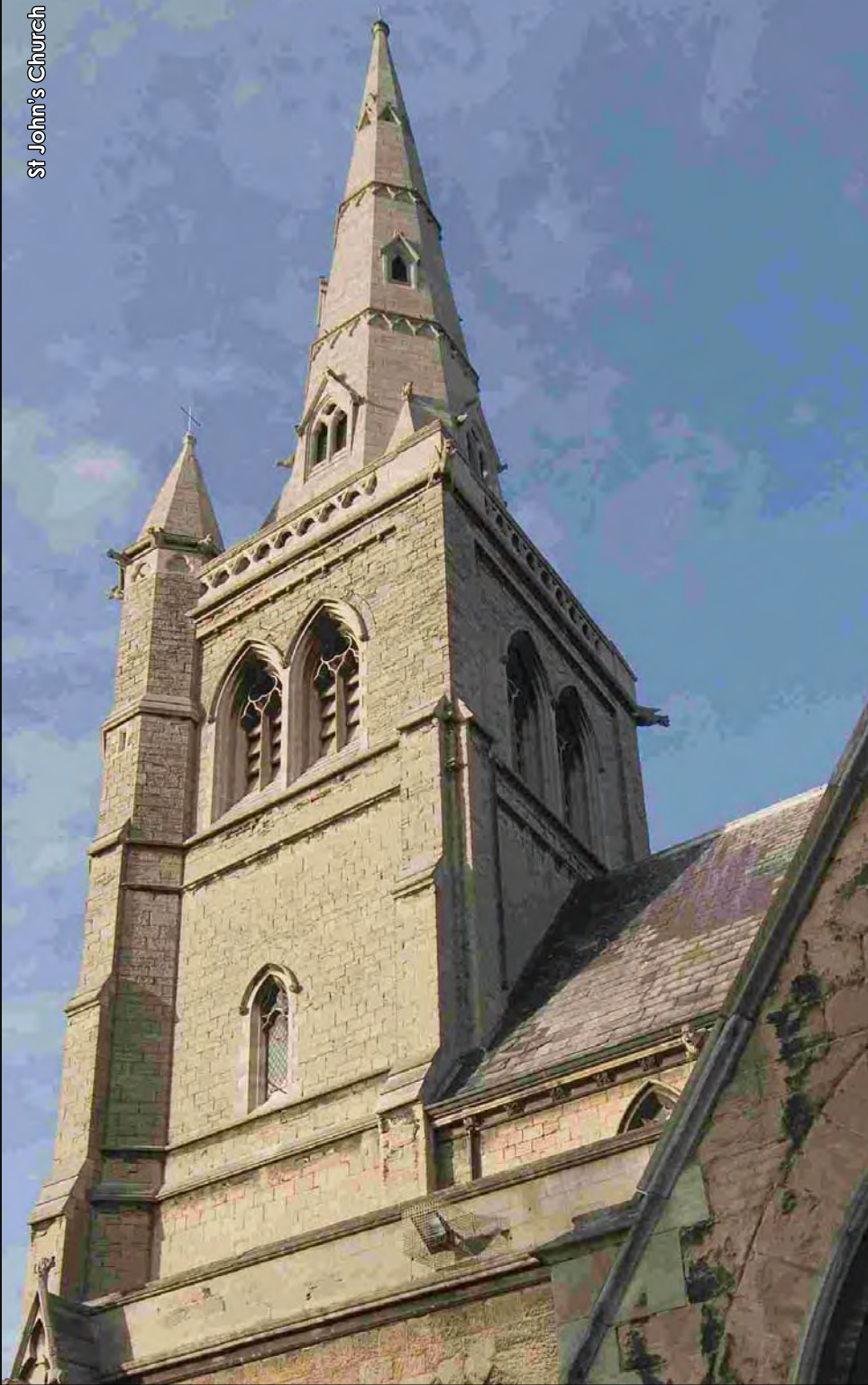
The Town Mill was built as a corn and malt mill in the 1740s and with the onset of the Industrial Revolution was converted to cotton spinning in 1795. Following a fire the two upper stories were demolished and the building served as a warehouse until it became a pub.



Old Grammar School ²⁵

The school was built after a charter was granted in 1551 by Queen Elizabeth I and was once the leading boys school in the town. At the time, there was no playground attached to the school and the churchyard was the only place the boys had for their games. Not only did the pupils play amongst the gravestones but the enclosure was also used as a grazing ground for cattle and a place where people hung out their washing to dry.





West Gate

Now one of the busiest streets in modern Mansfield, West Gate was the site of a cattle market until 1877 when it was relocated to Nottingham Road. The shop with the two horse's heads on the frontage is the site of the old Nag's Head Inn dating from the early 1700s, a meeting place for market traders and visitors. A number of seventeenth century houses survive at the northern end of West Gate and a stream, the Ladybrook, ran along the southern end and was home to an eighteenth century tannery.

1874

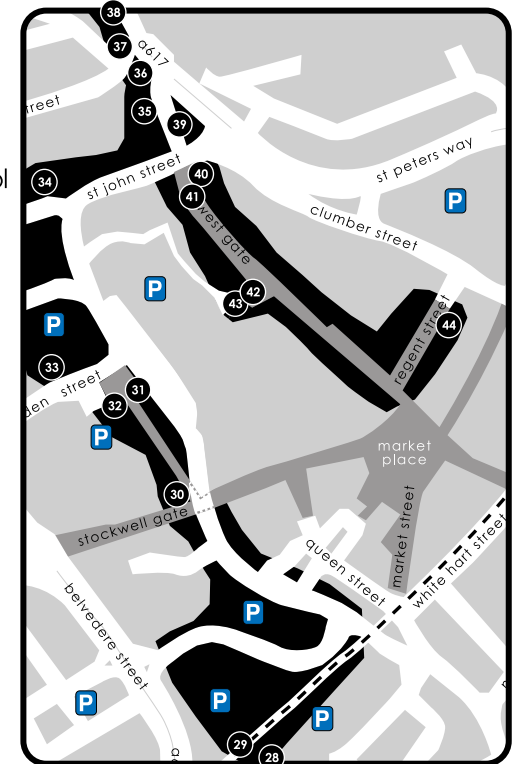
During this year an umbrella was first unfolded in the town of Mansfield. It was owned by a gentleman who had lived in the tropics for a long time. The astonishment was very great and the gentleman was an object of curiosity for a considerable time whenever a shower occurred and he was out with his umbrella.

Sights at a glance

- 28 - The Railway Station
- 29 - The Midland Hotel
- 30 - Old Meeting House
- 31 - Parsonage
- 32 - WW1 & WW2 Memorial
- 33 - Rosemary Centre
- 34 - St. John's Church & School
- 35 - Framework Houses
- 36 - Feather Sculpture
- 37 - West Gate House
- 38 - St. Philip Neri Church
- 39 - 72-74 West Gate
- 40 - Cromwell House
- 41 - Centre Tree
- 42 - Buttercross
- 43 - Waverley House
- 44 - Old Electricity Showroom

Key:

- West Gate area
- Built up area
- Pedestrian walk way
- Train line
- Parking



Children...

...often worked long hours in bad conditions in the hosiery trade. Children as young as four and five were winding yarn often while sat on their mother's knee. By 1800, 90% of the boys in Mansfield were apprenticed to become framework knitters.



72-74 West Gate 39

These former houses, now a shop, date from the late seventeenth century. After being refaced in the 1800s they were restored in the late twentieth century.

They probably survived as they are situated away from the redevelopment area of the town centre.

Rosemary Centre 33

This shopping centre occupies the building formerly known as Lawn Mills, which was established in 1906 by the Cash family. It was used to prepare cotton which was then sent for weaving in the damper atmosphere of Lancashire.



Framework Knitters House 35

Unlike in the large mills, framework knitting was a cottage industry and a very hard life for knitters and their families who lived in poverty. A framework-knitters used to exist behind the building to your left.



St John's Church & School 34

With the coming of industry to Mansfield there was a huge increase in the population of the town. In consequence there was a need for another parish church. St John's was built in 1855-6 at a cost of £8,000, £6,000 of which was donated by Henry Gally Knight. He stipulated that at least 500 of the 1000 seats were to be 'free seats' available to anyone that wished to worship there. 'Pew renting' was a common practice at the time enabling those who could afford it to have the best seats in the church reserved for themselves. (See image on page 17.)



The Railway Station 28

The Mansfield to Pinxton Railway opened in 1819 bringing coal from Pinxton Colliery into Mansfield. The line was a success and in 1833 was used to transport the Mansfield stone required to rebuild sections of the Houses of Parliament. In 1847, Midland Railway bought the line and two years later opened this station which served as the northern terminus for the service from Nottingham, until the viaduct was opened in 1875 giving a connection to Worksop.



Midland Hotel 29

Opposite the station is the Midland Hotel, originally built in 1805 and once known as Broom House. Prior to its purchase by The Midland Railway Company in 1862, it was a private asylum for men and surrounded by a very high wall to prevent escapes.



Old Meeting House 31

The Unitarian Church was founded by a group of Anglican clergy following the 1662 Act of Uniformity which dictated the way that all Church of England ministers should run their churches. Many of these ministers either left or were ejected from the church. The Old Meeting House is the oldest non-conformist church in the county, and one of the earliest in the country. It was opened on the 5th October, 1702, thirteen years after the passing of the Act of Toleration which permitted such places of worship to be built.



West Gate House 37

Now in use as offices, this fine building dates from 1780 and was altered and extended in the nineteenth century. The adjoining coach house and boundary walls are of the same period.



Old Parsonage 30

This house was occupied by the Reverend Robert Porter who was one of the ministers ejected from the Church of England following the Act of Uniformity. Meetings of the Unitarian community began here in 1666 and continued until the building of the Old Meeting House around 40 years later.



War Memorial 32

A memorial to the fallen of the World Wars can be found in the small garden to the left rear of the Parsonage.



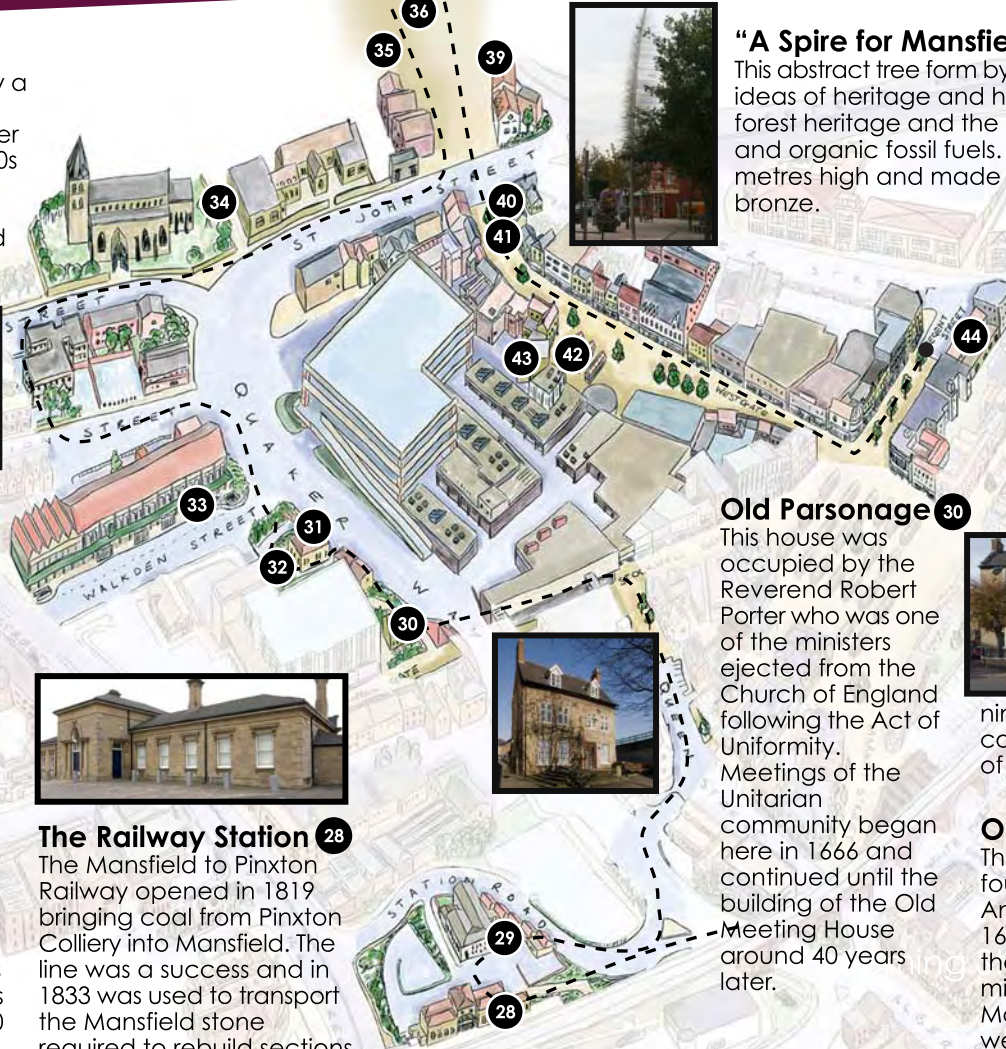
Church of St Philip Neri 38

This Roman Catholic Church was the first one to be named St. Philip Neri. As the congregation grew, a new church and convent was built on the site. By the 1920s it was clear that new premises would be needed, and this church was opened here in 1925.



"A Spire for Mansfield" 36

This abstract tree form by Wolfgang and Heron ties together ideas of heritage and hope. It acknowledges Mansfield's forest heritage and the evolution of ancient forest to coal and organic fossil fuels. A Spire for Mansfield is over 12 metres high and made from polished stainless steel and bronze.



Cromwell House 40

Cromwell House was built in the mid seventeenth century in what was then a rural location at the edge of the town. In 1788 Reverend Samuel Catlow who was a minister at the Old Meeting House established his "Literary and Commercial Seminary" at Cromwell House. This school was aimed at the mercantile and middle classes and its core teaching consisted of reading, writing, merchants' accounts, algebra, geography, and the continental languages. Fees were "£36 per annum, excluding washing and the boys had to provide two sheets, four towels and a silver spoon".

**Centre Tree** 41

A plaque on the wall of Cromwell House is reputed to mark what was once the centre of Sherwood Forest. A tree has now been planted a short distance away on West Gate to mark the spot.

Buttercross 42

The Buttercross dates from the sixteenth century and would in those days have been on the edge of the town. A sundial sits on the top surmounted with a stone ball. This area served as the cattle market until 1877, when a site on Nottingham Road was opened. This caused trade to fall off in the nearby pubs and so ordinary traders were allowed to operate here from shortly afterwards.

**Waverley House** 43

The building to the right of the Buttercross is Waverley House. It was built in 1754 from dressed stone left over from the building of the Moot Hall in the Market Place.

Old Electricity Showrooms 44

Opened to the public on 21st July 1939 the Electricity Showrooms was part of a handsome row of buildings erected in the business quarter of the town. A whole range of electrical equipment was on sale and cooking demonstrations were staged to encourage the town's folk to change their coal-fired ranges for modern electric cookers. With the onset of the Second World War the use of the buildings changed somewhat. The ARP (Air Raid Patrol) wardens had use of the basement; the mezzanine floor was still used as a showroom by the Electricity Board whilst the top floor was used as a council chamber and committee room.



Audio Trail Information

The Mansfield Town Centre Heritage Trail is also available as a pre-recorded audio guide to download on to your personal media player.

This self guided trail takes you on a tour around the historic buildings and monuments, interpreting the history in an informative and entertaining way.

As you walk around the town you can listen to local people relating personal stories of working life and past events in the town. Historians offer an insight into how Mansfield was transformed from being a small market town into the bustling hive of activity that it is today.

How to download...

To download the trail, visit the Mansfield District Council website; www.mansfield.gov.uk/heritagetrail and follow the instructions to save the files onto your computer or download direct to your MP3 player, ipod or compatible mobile phone.

If you have an MP4 player or video ipod you will also be able to view a number of old photographs and watercolour paintings of the town as well as historic film of a steam train crossing the viaduct and a royal visit to the town.

The great thing about this audio tour is that you can listen at your leisure. There are no time restrictions and you can create your own itinerary. Once you've downloaded the tour you can use it as many times as you want.

Mansfield District Council has collated the information contained in this leaflet in good faith. Every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. All maps and diagrams are artistic representations and are not Ordnance Survey based maps. Mansfield District Council cannot be responsible for omissions, inaccuracies or alterations.





In partnership with



**Mansfield
District Council**



Project Part-Financed
by the European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



Supported by
The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Heritage
Lottery Fund