

Turn left at the bottom of the lane by **The Forelands (8)**, a fine example of 18th century architecture, and along RED LION STREET was twisted for rope making.

of the lane is the site of the **Ropewalk (plaque E on wall)** where twine narrow brick footpath to the cobbled PUNCHBOWL LANE. At the top of worship for the Particular Baptists from 1820 to 1927, and along the the raised flowerbed, the site of **Townfield Chapel (plaque D)**, a place climbing the steep steps and instead continue along TOWNFIELD, past The Balks can be seen more clearly from **Lowndes Park (24)**. Avoid that they could farm land and unaffected by the springs and marshes below leads up to **The Balks (7)** – cultivation terraces made by the Saxons so steps known as **Jacob's Ladder (plaque C on right of first steps)**. This Walk up into TOWNFIELD. At the corner, notice the steep flight of scoring by the pupils' slate pencils.

Free School founded in 1828 with 150 pupils. The bricks show **(plaque B at 18a RED LION STREET)**. This was Chesham's first At the junction with TOWNFIELD is the **Old British School (6)**. Turn right along EAST STREET. you will see the fine **Botley House** EAST STREET at the top. Ahead timber-framed house, currently an **Yard (5)**. Note the 17th century STREET and turn right into **Francis** Now head back up the HIGH



Francis Yard

1845 and merged with the Skipiton Building Society in 2010. interest. The **Chesham Building Society (plaque A)** was established in (4) which holds many items of historic original. At No.15 is **Chesham Museum** 1992, a replica of the 19th century where you will see the clock tower built in railway. Continue into MARKET SQUARE for stagecoaches, before the arrival of the (3), on the right, was the departure point of the street. The **George & Dragon inn** (2) two of the many yards off both sides (Darcham Walk) right and **Laceys Yard** left Half way down, look out for **Lums Yard** of STATION ROAD turn left and walk down the HIGH STREET. down STATION ROAD. Cross over EAST STREET and at the bottom branch line terminus. From the station forecourt turn left and go The design of this Metropolitan Line station is typical of a country The trail starts at **Chesham station (1)** which was opened in 1889.



Laceys Yard

1000 Years in the History of Chesham



Chesham Heritage Trail

Chesham Walks
1

2 miles

to the fork in the road. Take the left hand fork, WATERSIDE, and walk only a few yards to a gateway by a plaque in a brick and flint wall, through which can be seen **Weedon's Almshouses (9)** dating from 1624. Cross WATERSIDE and return to the fork in the road. This is the site of **The Pound (plaque F)** where stray animals were impounded until a fine was paid.

Now follow the right hand fork, AMERSHAM ROAD. Before the petrol station on the left is **Mineral Cottage, (plaque G)**. This was built in 1820 by a committee trying to establish Chesham as a spa town, take the iron-rich waters. Return to the mini-roundabout and cross the road using the traffic island. Ahead of you are the **Meades Water Gardens (10)** where there is an interpretation board explaining the river restoration project.

Walk along this side of RED LION STREET to the plaque on the wall of Blaser Mills Solicitors which marks the site of **Nag's Yard (plaque H)**. The Nag's Head inn's yard was used as a cattle and sheep market, and later housed a skating rink. Look across to the opposite side of the road and you get a good view of both the Hinton Chapel of **Trinity Baptist Church (11)**, built in 1897 on land once occupied by the Punchbowl beerhouse, and further along the old **Zion Chapel (12)**.

At the Red Lion pub turn left into GERMALIN STREET. A short way down on the left you will see the old three-storey offices of **'The Bucks Examiner' (13)**, a newspaper first published in 1892 as 'The Chesham Advertiser'. The terraced cottages lead to DUCK ALLEY and the **Town Bridge (plaque I)** which crosses the River Chess. On your left is a fine Georgian townhouse, **The Meades (14)**. Turn left into KING STREET, named after the old **Kings Arms pub (15)** on the corner and cross over, passing on your right a row of 17th century cottages. Walk all the way along to a point opposite the entrance to MEADES LANE, then double back along NEW FOOTPATH to GERMALIN STREET passing on the left **Thomas Harding School (16)**. At the junction, look left up FULLER'S HILL, an ancient road with large puddingstones sunk deeply into its banks. In front of you is VEEY LANE, where examples of Roman pottery have been found, indicating settlement between the 1st and 4th centuries AD. On the corner, in what was once part of the workshop garden, are now some of the best kept allotments in town.



Trinity Baptist Church



Meades Water Gardens

Turn right into GERMALIN STREET, cross over and head back towards the **Town Bridge (plaque I)**. You will pass on the left **The Old School House (17)**, which was replaced by what is now **Thomas Harding House (17)**, which was replaced by what is now **Thomas Harding School (16)**, and **Weylands (plaque J)**, which once housed the parish workhouse and later a grammar school. In 1835 the inmates of the workhouse noted against a plan to move them to Amersham.

Before the **Town Bridge (plaque I)** turn left into WATER LANE, which follows the course of the Bury Brook, as the River Chess is known here. As the path turns to the left, you will see a large open area of grass to your right. This is the site of **Wright's sawmill (plaque K on low wall)**, once a wood mill and a tannery, demolished in 1965. The meadow at the bend of the river) which gave Chesham its name. Continue along the path to the **Queen's Head (18)**. Note the outbuildings' sandstone foundations. You have now reached CHURCH STREET. To the left, on the other side of MISSENDEN ROAD, notice some pretty cottages built for the Lowndes Estate workers.

Opposite the **Queen's Head (18)** cross CHURCH STREET and enter PEDNORMEAD END, which you should follow into PEDNOR ROAD. Pass the entrance to **Chesham 1879 (19)**, one of the oldest Tennis Clubs in the world, and carry on to **The Bury Farm (20)** at the junction with DRYDELL LANE, where there is a view into the Pednor Valley, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Return along PEDNOR ROAD to CHURCH STREET noticing to your left a sight of the west elevation of **The Bury (21)**, a fine example of a Buckinghamshire town house. Turn left and walk past many old buildings, several of which were once shops. CHURCH STREET was, until the beginning of the 19th century, Chesham's main commercial street. The back of No.80 used to be a brewery. You can see **The Bury (21)** as you pass its main gate. No.73 was once a boot factory and No.54 is Chesham's oldest house, dating from the 14th century. Continue along the street, past St Mary's Church Rooms on the left, formerly the **National School (plaque L on side of building)** and on to **Ebenezer Cottages (22)** where you can see the site of the **Bidwell (plaque M on low wall)**, an ancient holy well, where parishioners would wash before entering the church. The cottage just after the **Temperance Hall (23)** once housed the town's first Police Station.

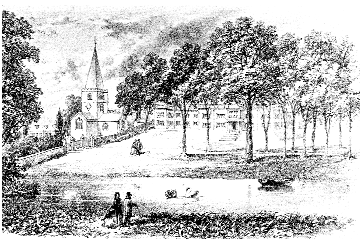
Walk a short way back up CHURCH STREET and turn right into BURY LANE. Note the **Sixpenny Houses (plaque N)** on the right before arriving in **Lowndes Park (24)**. Turn left towards **St Mary's Church (25)**. On your way to the



Church Street

church you pass through an iron gate beside which you can see a boundary stone to the Lowndes Estate – marked WL, William Lowndes. The Lowndes family presented the lower part of the Park to the town in 1953. Before turning right into the main churchyard entrance, notice the small enclosed area of land to your left, the burial ground of those who died in an outbreak of typhoid in 1871. The main features of the church are described on the map overleaf.

Return to the Park and turn left to walk up the footpath to the site of **Bury Hill House (plaque O on Guide Hut)** which belonged to the Skottowe family, owners of the Park in the 18th century. Head back down to walk across **Lowndes Park (24)** via the long avenue known as RUE DE HOUILLES. Notice the hillside across the valley – **The Balks (7)**, described earlier. At the end of the avenue, take the path down to **Skottowe's Pond (plaque P on far wall)**.



Bury Hill House in the 18th century

Now take the pedestrian crossing over ST MARY'S WAY and walk straight ahead to **Broadway Baptist Church (26)**, built in 1902; the first Baptist Chapel on this site was erected in 1712. Opposite is **No.1 Blucher Street (27)** where you can walk through the cobbled passageway to re-emerge in ELGIVA LANE. The car park of the Sainsbury's store to your right is known as **Saffron Meadow (plaque Q on right-hand corner of Library)**, as autumn flowering crocus was grown here to produce a dye. **The Malt House (plaque R on brick arch opposite Library)** stood on this site until 1998 and housed the offices of the Town Council. The building's name recalled the town's brewing history.

Walk all the way down ELGIVA LANE and exit the car park to the side of Sainsbury's, turn right along ST MARY'S WAY. Use the pedestrian crossing to reach the car park of the **Elgiva Theatre (28)**. This building is named after The Lady Elgiva, who created the first record of Chesham in bequeathing her estate of Ceasteleshamm to the abbey at Abingdon in 970 AD. Take the footpath, called **Parrotts Path (plaque S on brick pillar)**, which runs along the right-hand side of the Elgiva Theatre car park. This was the site of the Town's End, where the hamlet of Bellingdon bordered on Chesham. At BELLINGDON ROAD turn left until you see the **Friends (Quakers) Meeting House (29)** and burial ground on the left, The Meeting House was built in 1786 and is typical of its period except for a small modern extension. Retrace your steps along BELLINGDON ROAD noting the **Methodist Church (30)** on your left and the

attractive Edwardian houses further on. Continue onwards until you see the **Mosque (31)** on your left, a new building opened in 2005. Go through the Chesham Cemetery entrance opposite and take the lower path below the **Cemetery Chapel (32)**. A diversion to the top of the Cemetery will give you a great view over the north side of the Town. (If the Cemetery is closed take SUNNYSIDE ROAD).

At the end of the path turn right into BROAD STREET. Note the 19th century **Emmanuel Church (33)**, with its modern extension. Take the pedestrian crossing opposite the **Salvation Army building (34)**, built in 1898. Cross here and double back towards the town. Take a further pedestrian crossing over WHITE HILL to enter the upper HIGH STREET by the arch. Walk down the HIGH STREET and shortly before THE BROADWAY you will pass the old Post Office building on the left, now the **Misty Moon** public house (35), built in 1625 – note its particularly fine chimney; also the **United Reformed Church (36)** on the left, rebuilt in 1886. Pass through THE BROADWAY, with the **War Memorial (37)** at its centre. Continue on to STATION ROAD, the first turning on the left, to take you back to where the trail started, **Chesham Station (1)**.



17th century chimney in the High Street

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Go to: www.chesham.gov.uk and click on the Walkers Are Welcome logo





The Chesham Society is the local amenity Society for Chesham town and the surrounding parishes. It consists of a group of people who care for the Chesham area. Formed in 1957, it is a registered charity, affiliated to the Civic Trust. The Society is not political and cooperates with other groups working for the good of the town and acts as a forum for debate.

www.cheshamsociety.org.uk

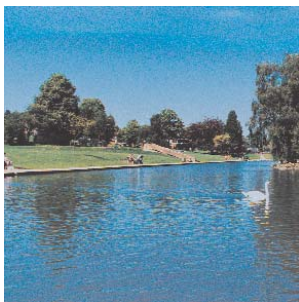
St Mary's

Built in the 12th century on a sacred site of great antiquity. The south doorway was added to the original building in the 14th century, the tower in the 15th century and the spire in the 18th century. A monument to Thomas Harding 'Chesham's martyr' is in the churchyard.



Lowndes Park

The Park used to contain the grounds of Bury Hill House. The house was bought from the Skottowe family and then demolished by the Lowndes family, who owned the Bury. The Park covers an area of 28 acres. Part of it was given to the town in 1953 by the Lowndes family.



The Bury

Completed in 1716 for 'Ways and Means' Lowndes who was Secretary of the Treasury to Queen Anne.



Chesham Environmental Group is an independent voluntary group affiliated to the Town Council. It plays a major role in maintaining the river in the Impress the Chess campaign. The aims of the Group are to be proactive in implementing improvements to the environment and quality of life in Chesham and conserving the local heritage, both natural and man-made.

www.cheshamenvironmentalgroup.org.uk

The Broadway

Lying at the centre of town, the wide expanse of the Broadway was formerly the setting for Chesham's horse market. Fairs were held here until 1938. In 1883 the 17th century cage, pound and stocks, which gave this small area its old name of Pillory Green, were removed.



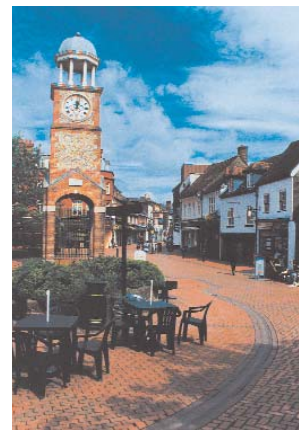
High Street

Chesham's major shopping street, which benefited from pedestrianisation in 1990. The yards, which lead off the High Street, are a particular feature of the town. Note the glazed brickwork of many of the buildings, the upper window detail and varied line of the roofs.



Market Square

Contains some of Chesham's oldest buildings. The Town Hall used to stand in the middle of the Square but was demolished in 1965 as part of a road-widening scheme. It was replaced in 1992 by the Clock Tower as part of Chesham's pedestrianisation scheme. Visit Chesham Museum at No.15, which relocated here in 2009.



The trail map and text refers to 19 heritage plaques (as shown), commissioned by Chesham Town Council. For further details of the sites featured, see *Chesham Town Talk* issues 24 and 29 in Chesham Library. For further historical information there is a wide range of books available on local history. Find out more at Chesham Museum www.cheshammuseum.org.uk



Other notable historic dates

- 970 First record of Chesham: The Lady Elgiva's will
- 1085 Domesday Book records five entries for Chesham
- 1100s Building of St Mary's Church
- 1257 Establishment of Chesham's weekly market
- 1532 Martyrdom of Thomas Harding
- 1680 Roger Crabbe, Mad Hatter of Chesham, died
- 1701 Origin of Trinity Baptist Church
- 1796 Friends Meeting House built
- 1843 Arthur Liberty, founder of Liberty's stores, born in Chesham
- 1854 First Girl's School started

- 1869 George Gilbert Scott's restoration of St Mary's Church
- 1870 Cottage Hospital opens
- 1878 Chesham Town Football Club founded
- 1894 Formation of Chesham Urban District Council
- 1914 First council houses built by Chesham UDC
- 1929 Start of the Pond Park housing development
- 1946 Chesham High School founded
- 1960 Electrification of the railway
- 1974 Formation of Chesham Town Council
- 1990 Completion of town centre pedestrianisation
- 1998 Opening of the new Elgiva Theatre and the new Town Hall
- 2004 Opening of Chesham Museum

