

# THE QUEEN'S WALKWAY



*The Louis Baylis*

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Windsor & Eton  Express



OFFICIAL GUIDE





# INTRODUCTION

The Queen's Walkway is a 6.3km (approximately 4 miles) self guided walking trail connecting 63 of Windsor's most significant attractions. It was designed by The Outdoor Trust, in partnership with local people, to recognise the moment on 9 September 2015 when Her Majesty The Queen had reigned for 63 years and more than 7 months to become Britain's longest reigning monarch.

The Queen's Walkway will help you explore this historic town with its theatre, its churches, its parks and gardens, its elegant residential streets, its many historic monuments, its railway stations, and the River Thames.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh have enjoyed a long association with Windsor.

The Queen and her sister, Princess Margaret, spent most of the Second World War in the Castle.

After King George VI died in February 1952, the Queen and the Duke opened some rooms in the Castle, and it became their weekend retreat from London. They are there for the Easter Court, for the Garter Ceremony and Royal Ascot in June, and since 1969 there have been occasional State Visits to Windsor, with the procession passing along the High Street.

Since 1917 Windsor has also been the name of the Royal House.

In ancient times the Anglo-Saxon Kings held court in a palace at Old Windsor, but William the Conqueror saw the advantage of building a tower on high land above the Thames to help guard London. His son, Henry I, built a residence within the Castle walls and first held court there in 1110.

Most sovereigns have lived in the Castle since then, and many Kings and Queens of England are buried in St George's Chapel.

The Queen's Walkway celebrates the town of Windsor. The original town was largely laid out by 1170. "New Windsor" had rights as a free borough and was made into a royal borough under a charter of Edward I in 1277.

William Shakespeare knew Windsor well and it inspired his play, The Merry Wives of Windsor.

The present Guildhall was built between 1687 and 1691, and since 1778 when George III moved to Windsor, the town has profited from its royal associations. Since the English Civil War Windsor has been a garrison town with a military presence that continues to this day.

Windsor Bridge formed a permanent link to Eton in 1822 and the arrival of the Great Western Railway in 1849 made Windsor more accessible to London.

This official guide introduces each of the 63 points of interest and provides a map to show how they are connected. It has been designed to be as accessible as possible and takes approximately 2 hours to complete. We hope that you enjoy The Queen's Walkway.

# THE QUEEN'S WALKWAY

## *Our walk begins at the Henry VIII Gateway of Windsor Castle.*

1

**Henry VIII Gateway of Windsor Castle** is the symbolic link between the Castle and the town and the main entrance to the Castle. Originally there was a moat and drawbridge. Today the great oak gates are secured with a heavy bar against the cobblestones when closed. Henry VIII built his gateway in about 1511. The panel above the archway displays the heraldic badges of the King, with the pomegranate of Queen Catherine of Aragon, his first wife.



William the Conqueror built a fort high on a mound above the Thames in about 1070. Henry I was the first King to live here. Henry II built the shell keep (now the Round Tower) and began to develop the new town of Windsor. Edward III rebuilt much of the Castle and Edward IV began the building of the present St George's Chapel in 1475, completed by Henry VIII in 1528. Charles II lavished money on the Castle after the Restoration. Queen Charlotte encouraged George III to live there, and they established a comfortable residence in the Castle after 1786.

George IV turned the Castle into a Victorian Gothic dream. Essentially today's Castle is as he left it, with improvements from James Bedborough who built so much in Windsor.

## *Near here, you can see Changing the Guard.*

2

**Changing the Guard** takes place between 10.45 and 11.30 every day in the summer, and every other day in the winter (but never on a Sunday). Windsorians welcome the disruption of traffic as they respect any kind of ceremony. The new Guard marches from Victoria Barracks up to the Castle and then the old Guard marches back again. Changing the Guard normally takes place on the Parade Ground within the Castle, and can be watched by visitors within the Castle precincts.

The regiments normally on guard are the five different Foot Guard regiments, which are stationed in Windsor in turn – Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards and Welsh Guards. The Irish Guards are usually led by their mascot, an Irish Wolfhound, and unless it is raining each regiment is accompanied by a band. Sometimes other regiments such as the Gurkhas mount guard at Windsor Castle.



## *Cross the road opposite the Henry VIII Gateway into Church Street and passing the Heritage Garden.*

3

**Heritage Garden** is in Church Street, one of the narrow streets parallel to the High Street, and originally laid out in the 13th century. It is the smallest open space in Windsor, built on the site of cottages burnt down in 1800. The fireplaces of the old cottages can still be seen on the back wall. A copy of the death warrant for Charles I is on the wall of The Old King's Head opposite. Nell Gwynn, mistress of Charles II, was given Burford Lodge, in St Albans Street, and she lived there for a time.

These streets were built on the site of the original market place, part of the plan for the town of New Windsor, set out in about 1135. Church Street was known as Fish Street from the 14th century until 1736, having been the location of the town's fishmongers. The present Heritage Garden was formerly Church Street Gardens, but transformed into a sanctuary for residents and visitors alike. The traditional hopscotch game has been specially designed for the garden and shows the shields of some of the monarchs connected with Windsor. Details of how to play the game can be found on the back of the sign.

## *Turn right into Church Lane and on the corner is the Masonic Hall.*

4

**The Masonic Hall** is a baroque building, originally thought to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and bearing signs of his influence. It stands on the corner of St Albans Street and Church Lane (formerly Drapery Row). It was built in 1723 to house the Royal Free School, with £500 left by Theodore Randue (1643-1724), former Keeper of Windsor Castle.

The school was founded in 1705 for the children of the poor of Windsor who were taught in the vestry. With the new schoolhouse, 40 boys and 30 girls were taught basic reading, writing, arithmetic and Bible studies. The boys were also trained in practical skills such as woodwork, while the girls learned to sew and knit to prepare them for domestic service, or to be good housewives.

The hall has been a Masonic Lodge since the freehold was bought for £500 by the Windsor Castle Lodge, no. 771, in 1864. The Windsor Castle Chapter of the Royal Arch and the Victoria Lodge, no. 2,671, and the Commercial Temperance Lodge, no. 3,144, held their meetings there. John Piper and John Betjeman hailed the hall as 'the most distinguished of all these late 17th-century buildings.'

Look left and you will see an archway (formerly part of the fire station) leading to the Parish Church. There is a plaque above.





*Continue down to the High Street, where, on the right is the Windsor Guildhall.*

5

**The Windsor Guildhall** was designed by Thomas Fitch (1636-88), and built by John Clark. The foundation stone was laid in 1687 and the work completed by 1690.

There had been previous Guildhalls since the Middle Ages, one outside the Lower Ward of the Castle, built before 1369. A wooden Market House was constructed in the High Street in 1592, but by the middle of the 17th century it was derelict.

In 1828 James Bedborough extended and renovated the Guildhall to the east, over the old butchers' shambles, creating more rooms above. Four columns were moved into the centre of the Corn Exchange but a gap was left at the top, perhaps to show that the structure did not need extra support. Further restoration work was undertaken in 1852.

Since then the Guildhall has served as a Magistrates' and Coroner's court, a food hall in the Second World War, and a council chamber for the Royal Borough of New Windsor until 1974, when the council merged with Maidenhead. The council still take meetings there today.

In December 1998 the Guildhall was licensed as a place for weddings. Thus The Prince of Wales married Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles here in 2005 and Sir Elton John entered into a civil partnership with David Furnish later the same year.

The Guildhall houses the Windsor and Royal Borough Museum collection and next door is the Crooked house and a stone drinking fountain.

*Turn left and after a short distance, on the left, stands Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist.*

6

**Windsor Parish Church of St John the Baptist** was built on the site of an earlier church dating back to the days of Henry I. The vaults of the earlier church are still below the floor. This church was designed by Charles Hollis and building began with Robert Tebbott and James Bedborough in 1820. It was consecrated on 22 June 1822.

In 1870 the chancel and apse were built by the Gothic revivalist architect, Samuel Teulon, with mosaics made by Italian workers. The screen was added in 1898 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee the previous year.

Near the altar, on the south side, is the Royal pew, which contains two magnificent thrones given to the church by Princess Augusta, 2nd daughter of George III, who worshipped here regularly. George III gave the church an altar rail from St George's Chapel, carved by Grinling



Gibbons. Behind the pew is a door through which members of the Royal Family could enter, unseen by the congregation.

Outside the Parish Church is the Windsor Town Memorial, at which wreaths are laid on Remembrance Sunday. In the West Gallery of the church hangs the 17th-century painting, The Last Supper, by Francis Cleyn, originally in St George's Chapel. The register of the church dates back to 1559. On the other side of the road is 13 High Street, which served as Windsor's first photographic studio established there in 1852.

*Continuing along the High Street you see the Irish Guards Statue.*

7

**The Irish Guards Statue** stands on the corner of Park Street, High Street and Sheet Street. It was unveiled on 24 June 2011 by The Duke of Cambridge, Colonel of Irish Guards, one of the first engagements he carried out with the Duchess of Cambridge, following their wedding.

The Irish Guards had recently returned to Victoria Barracks, Windsor, from a six-month tour of Afghanistan, where they had suffered three casualties.

The statue depicts modern combat gear and Osprey body armour, as used in Afghanistan. The 6ft [1.8m] figure was sculpted by former Army officer Mark Jackson, using bronze from statues salvaged during the conflict in Iraq. It stands on a plinth surrounded by cobbles from Afghanistan.

Behind the statue is a blue postbox, commemorating the first aerial post flight from Hendon to Windsor in September 1911. The original is in the museum. Next to the blue postbox is an old well.

*Behind the statue is the entrance to the Royal Mews of Windsor Castle.*

8

**The Royal Mews of Windsor Castle** is not open to the public. Here there is a large riding school, stables for The Queen's horses and ponies and garage space for carriages and cars. Normally the Ascot landaus are housed here, and a number of royal cars, including the one which The Queen normally drives when at Windsor. Often there are horses ridden in The Queen's Birthday Parade in London.

The Royal Mews occupies a large area of Windsor Castle, and has access to the Home Park and the Great Park beyond it. In 1839 Parliament voted £70,000 for the building of the stables. The Royal Mews has been on its present site since roughly 1846.



*Head straight on into Park Street, which leads into the Long Walk.*

9

**The Long Walk** is the great ceremonial route from the Castle into Windsor Great Park, stretching 2.65 miles to the Copper Horse, the equestrian memorial to George III. Originally laid out by Charles II in 1685, it was an approach of 'great magnificence', a double avenue of oak and elm trees. The King used it for walking and also hunting stag in the Great Park. Queen Anne added a central carriageway in 1710. Jeffrey Wyatville redesigned it in 1824 as a ceremonial route to the Castle. State Visit processions enter the Castle via Park Street and the Long Walk. When President Gorbachev of Russia lunched with the Queen in 1989, he arrived by this route in a convoy of 36 cars.

The Copper Horse depicts George III in the dress of a great Roman Emperor and was commissioned by George IV. The statue, which is 26 feet high, was sculpted by Sir Richard Westmacott, RA and stands on a rocky pedestal. It was unveiled in 1822. A feature of the statue is that the King has no stirrups and various suggestions are made as to the reason for this.

*Turn right down the Long Walk. This is part of Windsor Great Park.*

10

**Windsor Great Park.** There are two parks – the Home Park, which adjoins the Castle, and the Great Park. The latter consists of 14,000 acres of land, including 8,000 acres of forest.

The Great Park developed from Windsor Forest which, it is said, William the Conqueror reserved for hunting. Only much later were its parameters defined by the creation of deer parks. Because it has been well run for many centuries and because it permits little traffic, the Great Park has retained its magic.

The Great Park is administered as part of the Crown Estate. Its Ranger is The Duke of Edinburgh, but the day-to-day work of the park is undertaken by the Deputy Ranger.

In 1886 the 18th-century artist, W. J. Loftie wrote: 'Everything is sweet and soft, green and grey, full of broad sunshine and deep shadow, full of old age and echoes of long time, and full, also, of freshness and youth – young trees growing up to be to our children what the old ones have been to us.'

*Proceed down the Long Walk and in the distance, on the left is Frogmore & the Royal Mausoleum.*

11

**Frogmore & the Royal Mausoleum are concealed behind the trees in Home Park.** The green copper roof of the Mausoleum is sometimes visible. The house and grounds are only open to the public on certain days each year. The Royal Mausoleum is not open to visitors.



Frogmore House was bought by Queen Charlotte in 1787 and converted into its present Grecian style by James Wyatt in 1794. It was later the home of Queen Victoria's mother, The Duchess of Kent.

A lawn and a lake lead to the Mausoleum built by Queen Victoria for The Duchess of Kent, who died in 1861, a circular temple in granite stone by A.J. Humbert. He went on to build the Royal Mausoleum for Prince Albert, who also died in 1861. Queen Victoria visited it frequently and was buried there in 1901. John Piper and John Betjeman wrote: 'The Queen's grief still throbs through its interior as though she had left her sorrow on earth to haunt this rich, forbidding temple to her loneliness.'



Beside the Royal Mausoleum is the Royal Burial Ground where members of the Royal Family have been buried since 1927. Amongst them are The Dukes and Duchesses of Windsor, Gloucester and Kent.

*Presently turn to the right and pass through the Brook Street Allotments. After emerging from Brook Street, almost opposite are the Victoria Barracks.*

12

**Victoria Barracks** were built for the Foot Guards in 1795. During the 19th century many other infantry regiments were quartered there along with the Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards and the Scots Guards. Today, five Guards regiments come to stay in Victoria Barracks in turn, to do guard duty at Windsor Castle. The Irish Guards who were formed in 1900, and the Welsh Guards who came into existence in 1915, are also now stationed there.

If you wish to follow the Changing the Guard procession, they set out from these Barracks at about 10.45, with the returning Guard arriving back at about 11.30. This does not happen every day so it is important to check the timetables.

*Turn left down Kings Road.*

13

**Kings Road** is adjacent to the Long Walk. Here there are a number of fine terraces, which originally appeared on Sheet Street and had been part of the Keppel estate. The first was York Terrace named after Frederick, Duke of York (1763-1827), and was constructed by Robert Tebbott and James Bedborough in about 1823. Brunswick Terrace was built in 1825 by Thomas Adams and named after Queen Caroline, wife of George IV, born a Brunswick princess. The final terrace in the Kings Road was Adelaide Terrace, built in 1831, and named after Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV. The lower part of Sheet Street from Brook Street onwards was renamed Kings Road in 1838.





*Adjacent to the Long Walk, on the corner of Adelaide Square, in Kings Road is the Royal Adelaide Hotel.*

14

**The Royal Adelaide Hotel** is in the Kings Road, on the corner of Adelaide Square, near Adelaide Terrace. All are named after Queen Adelaide, wife of William IV. She was born Princess Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen. She also gave her name to the city of Adelaide in South Australia, though she never visited that continent. Queen Adelaide also played an important role in Valletta, Malta, where she wintered for some months in 1838. She paid for the building of St Paul's Cathedral there in 1848.

The Royal Adelaide Hotel has been a hotel for many years and was favoured by the American boxer, John L. Sullivan (the first heavyweight champion of gloved boxing). He trained in Windsor in 1883 before a big fight with Charley Mitchell, the actual fight taking place in Chantilly, France, on the private estate of Baron Alphonse de Rothschild. Such was Sullivan's celebrity that Queen Victoria came to watch him train while he was based in Windsor.

The hotel is an archetypal Georgian building, displaying neoclassical sensibilities, with pillars and triangular pediments above the windows.

*Continue along Kings Road, past Queen's Terrace on the right to the roundabout where the statues of two horses stand.*

15

**The Windsor Greys** were placed on the roundabout leading to the Great Park, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation in 2013. They were unveiled by The Queen on 31 March 2014, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh and by The Duke of Cambridge, Patron of the Windsor Greys Appeal.

Two life-size Windsor Greys (Daniel and Storm) were sculpted by Robert Rattray, both horses having pulled The Queen's carriage on the day of her Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Queen Victoria began the tradition of owning Greys, housed in the Royal Mews at Windsor Castle, and only moved to London in the reign of George V. They must be at least 16.1 hands at the withers and are chosen for their steady temperaments and their stamina.

They only draw carriages in which members of the Royal Family are seated, two of them drawing The Queen's barouche at the Birthday Parade.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands gave King George VI five Greys to thank him for housing her in Britain during the Second World War. All five were part of the team of eight that pulled the Gold State Coach at the Coronation in 1953.



*Turn right into Osborne Road, where, on the left, Fountain Gardens marks the site of the Golden Jubilee Fountain (1887).*

16

**The Golden Jubilee Fountain (1887)**, now removed, was a gift from Henri C.J. Henry, the first Director of the Royal Windsor Tapestry Manufactory between 1876 and 1890, and Art Director of Gillows in London, who lived around the corner in Queensmead, later to become the Brigidine Convent. He built most of the mansions on the west side of Kings Road.

The fountain was made of Portland stone, a tall pillar, 23 feet high and weighing 7½ tons. It was presented to the town by Henri Henry to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, but was removed in the 1930s when the new roundabout was built following several accidents that had damaged it. It is thought that the dismantled fountain was taken to the Corporation Nursery which in those days was in Maidenhead Road, near the present day Wells Close.

The inscription on the monument read: 'In remembrance of fifty years of Queen Victoria's reign. Long live the Queen 1837-1887. Presented to the Royal Borough of Windsor by H. Henry - G.H.PETERS, Mayor, June 1888.' One of the troughs was moved near to the Holy Trinity Garrison Church. The inscription read: 'Presented by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association.'

*Also on the right is the Queen Anne Royal Free C of E First School.*

17

**The Queen Anne Royal Free C of E First School** was opened in September 1988 for children between the ages of 5 and 9. It is a Royal Free Foundation School, an organisation founded in 1705 with donations from Queen Anne and her husband, Prince George of Denmark, to give education to the children of Windsor.

Queen Anne became fond of Windsor Castle on succeeding to the throne in 1702 and it soon became her favourite summer residence. In 1704 she heard the news of The Duke of Marlborough's victory at Blenheim, in what is now the Print Room at the Castle. But mostly she lived at the Queen's Lodge.

The school is a maintained school under the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Learning and Care Directorate, associated as a Church of England school with the Diocese of Oxford. It takes 149 pupils, and is consistently over-subscribed. The school aims to give children a good introduction to school life, and consists of classrooms and a large outdoor area with ponds, a woodland walk, play areas and playing fields.

The Queen Anne Royal Free School has close ties to All Saints Church in Frances Road, where the pupils worship on Wednesdays.



*Still in Osborne Road, on the right is the Princess Margaret Hospital.*

18

**The Princess Margaret Hospital** is one of two hospitals in the town. It is privately owned by BMI Healthcare and has 78 beds. Built in 1980, its glass entrance extension was completed in 1990. The site was previously a market garden. It was turned into flats, but later the developer sold the site to the hospital.

It is named after Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon (1930-2002), younger sister of The Queen. Both princesses knew Windsor well since their earliest days and were housed in the Castle during most of the Second World War. There they staged pantomimes. The hospital was opened by Princess Margaret on 16 April 1980.

Princess Margaret died in London, following a stroke, on 9 February 2002. Her ashes rest near the coffins of her parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, in the King George VI Memorial Chapel in St George's Chapel.

*Walk on to the roundabout, with Frances Road to the right and you will come to the King's House School.*

19

**The King's House School**, at 77a Frances Road, is an independent Christian school, under the wing of King's Church International. Amongst other things, it offers foreign languages to its pupils at an early age. It was formally registered as a school in September 2012.

*In view on the far side of Frances Road is All Saints Church.*

20

**All Saints Church, Frances Road** is a brick structure in the modern style, consisting of a chancel, a nave of six bays, a south aisle and a central tower, containing one bell.

In 1862 Canon Henry Ellison (1813-99), Vicar of Windsor, noted that many of his poorer parishioners were unable to attend church because of the extortionate pew rents in operation at St John's (the Parish Church), only 200 of the 1,700 being free. This church was built to accommodate more people in free seating. Queen Victoria contributed £300 towards the building costs.

John Piper and John Betjeman described it as 'polychrome Early English in the big-boned manner of Brooks and Butterfield by Sir Arthur Blomfield, 1868.' Sir Arthur was one of England's most eminent architects, but it was his apprentice, Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), later the well-known novelist, who visited the proposed site and made the necessary plans and drawings. Empress Frederick (then Crown Princess of Germany), eldest daughter of Queen



Victoria, laid the foundation stone on 21 November 1864. In 1931 the church was given a new organ and the west gallery built. The new Parish Hall was opened by Princess Anne on 12 April 1989.

*From Frances Road, turn left into Alexandra Road, leaving All Saints Church on the right. Presently pass Prince Consort Cottages.*

21

**Prince Consort Cottages**, formerly called Model Cottages, were built in 1855 under the direction of Prince Albert who took great interest in farming techniques and the living conditions of farm workers.

He founded the Royal Association for Improving the Conditions of Labourers in 1851, and purchased some land near Victoria Barracks. He invited Henry Roberts, RSA to plan a small new estate incorporating his model housing scheme. The houses were built with hollow bricks to reduce condensation and damp, though, later, standard red bricks were used. Instead of wood, iron was used in order to minimise the risk of fire damage. There was a wash house and good sanitation. This site was originally a proposed railway line to run from Windsor to Ascot.

Prince Albert often walked down from the Castle to inspect the building work. Then he offered rewards to encourage the residents to take pride in their dwellings. After his death in 1861 Queen Victoria continued the tradition.

Until 1969 Prince Consort Cottages were owned by a Trust. By then they needed considerable modernization. The only exterior changes were new slate roofs, while garden areas made way for cars.

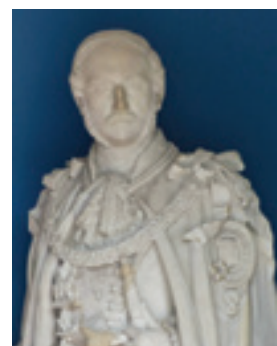
The quadrangle of cottages has now been declared a conservation area, each cottage being listed as of Historic and Architectural Interest.

*Further along Alexandra Road is the Crispin public house.*

22

**The Crispin Pub**, on the corner at 56 Grove Road, was a popular venue with live singers on certain nights, but is presently closed.

It is named after St Crispin, the Patron Saint of Cobblers and his saint's day is celebrated on 25 October. Shoes were traditionally handmade until the engineer Marc Brunel, (father of Isambard Kingdom Brunel), developed machinery for the mass-production of boots for soldiers. In 1812 The Duke of York supported the production of strong, cheap, durable nailed boots for the army fighting in the Napoleonic War.





*Turn up Grove Road to the left and then right into St Leonard's Road. Opposite is the Firestation Centre for Arts & Culture.*

23

**The Firestation Centre for Arts & Culture.** An arts centre and venue for comedy shows, music and theatre in the Old Court Building. The Old Court first opened in 1907 as the first purpose-built magistrates' court, police station and fire station on a site previously occupied by a row of Georgian cottages called Keppel Terrace. In 1966 the fire station moved to new buildings in St Mark's Road and the police station to Alma Road, while this building was used for offices.

The old police holding cells for criminals can still be seen in the basement which is open for parties.

*Not far along, past East Berkshire College, slightly to the left and standing on its own island between Italianate white brick and stucco houses is Holy Trinity & Garrison Church.*

24

**Holy Trinity & Garrison Church** is one of England's finest garrison churches. It was founded by Queen Victoria with a gift of 200 guineas, due to her concern for the spiritual welfare of her troops, garrisoned at Combermere and Victoria Barracks. They were spending too much time in ale houses and with ladies of the night. She also wanted the church to serve the poor who lived in the slums by the river (now Ward Royal and King Edward Court). Donations came from her mother, The Duchess of Kent, other members of the Royal Family, Eton College, St George's Chapel and others.

James Bedborough donated the land, but he also stipulated that he should build it. A new parish of 'Clewer Within' was created and the new church originally stood in the middle of a field. It was designed by Edward Blore (1787-1879) who also built Buckingham Palace.

Prince Albert laid the foundation stone on 4 April 1842. The church was consecrated on 25 July 1844 with military bands playing.

Prince Harry worshipped here with his regiment when based at Combermere Barracks.

The church is not regularly open to the public, but can be visited by arrangement.

*Turn left towards the Church and then right via Trinity Place to Clarence Road and ahead is Clarence Crescent.*



25

**Clarence Crescent** was built in 1829 by James Bedborough, and named after the Duke of Clarence (later William IV). It has its own communal garden, and there remains a crater (now grassed over), caused by a bomb that dropped there on 24 October 1940 at 5.30am, but causing only slight damage.

From 1865 until 1896, the novelist Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897), author of some 120 works, lived in Clarence Crescent, first at number 6, and then at number 9 (Oliphant House). She was one of Queen Victoria's favourite authors, but is out of fashion today.

Nearby in Clarence Road, the Clarence Villas properties were bought by Princess Christian and she built the Princess Christian Nursing Home there (now 12 Clarence Road) in memory of her son, Prince Christian Victor, who died in Pretoria in 1900. The nursing home, opened in 1904, survived for 100 years, before being closed. After a somewhat chequered phase, it has now been converted into luxury flats and is called The Residence. Princess Christian's cypher can still be seen above the main door.

*Turn right, returning to St Leonard's Road, and cross left into Peascod Street at the crossing. Observe the heritage building at Queen Anne's Court.*

26

**Queen Anne's Court** standing on the corner of Oxford Road East and Peascod Street. Before this building was constructed, there were fine old 16th-century buildings here as can be seen in those housing Oxfam and Martyn Crossley. Sadly Windsor has lost many such old buildings.

Queen Anne's Court itself used to be an old inn and is named after Anne Boleyn who lodged there while she was the secret lover of Henry VIII. On 1 September 1532 he created her Marchioness of Pembroke. This was the first hereditary peerage ever bestowed on a woman. The King did so in order to make it possible for him to marry her less than a year later. But when she failed to give him a male heir, he turned against her and she was executed on Tower Green at the Tower of London on 19 May 1536.

*Follow Peascod Street and to the right on the wall of the Post Office is Fred Fuzzens' Blue Plaque.*

27

**Fred Fuzzens' Blue Plaque** commemorates Fred Fuzzens (1921-1995), a Windsor postman, who was passionate about local history and contributed many stories of Windsor past to Windlesora, the magazine of the Windsor Local History Group. Of him it was said: 'He strove for a perfect Windsor.' He much disliked Ward Royal (1969) and was astounded when it won a medal and diploma from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.





His father, Fred Fuzzens, won the Military Medal in May 1915, during the First World War, for staying at his post during a gas attack. He served with the Labour Party, undertaking Trade Union work, became a Councillor and Alderman, and the first Labour Mayor of Windsor in 1947, during the year of Windsor's worst flooding in recent times.

Fred was born at 21 Albert Street. In an early Saturday job he pushed a Tate & Lyle wooden sugar box on two pram wheels to the gasworks. He was at school in Windsor, and a choirboy at All Saints, Frances Road. As a boy, he spent his spare time in the Great Park, the Castle and at the riverside.

Fred Fuzzens was also head of the Windsor Branch of the British Legion.

*Nearby in William Street is Christ Church, United Reformed Church.*

28

**Christ Church, United Reformed Church** was built in 1979. The origins of the church date back to the Act of Uniformity of 1662. The first Congregational Church was built there in 1832 – ‘a fine, proud chapel’ of neoclassical elegance, with pediments, a Tuscan porch and arched windows. Under redevelopment plans, this fine building was pulled down and replaced with its present modern incarnation. The church is licensed for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

*Turn left after the Church and on the left, behind it, is Chariott Place and opposite is Joseph Chariott's Charity Home.*

29

**Joseph Chariott's Charity Home** is named after Joseph Chariott, the Victorian philanthropist, who came to Windsor as a young carpenter and became a successful builder and property developer. He was a member of the Congregational Chapel in William Street and in his will he gave land and money for a school and an almshouse.

The British School, an elementary free school, on Victoria Street was demolished during the 1970s, but the almshouse, built in 1863 and named Chariott's Charity, still provides homes for Windsor pensioners at a reasonable rent. (In 1924 there were almshouses for eight persons and they received five shillings a week).

Apparently Joseph Chariott did not trust banks and kept all his money in his house. After his death in 1848 at the age of 91, sacks of coins were loaded onto a cart to be taken to the bank; on the way there, the bottom fell out of the cart due to the weight of the coins.

It is also claimed that the upper floor of the British School on Victoria Street was haunted by Chariott's footsteps.



*Keep right and along Hibbert's Alley to Bachelors Acre.*

30

**Bachelors Acre** is now officially a 'Town Green'. There have been celebrations there to mark the Golden Jubilee of The Queen in 2002 and the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. It survives as an open space due to the tireless efforts of Miss Doris Mellor, MBE (1894-1981), who, with the support of the Windsor and Eton Society, prevented planners from turning it into a multi-storey car park in 1972. Miss Mellor researched the history with great diligence and found the necessary evidence to convince the courts that Bachelors Acre should never be developed.



The area was first mentioned in a town plan dated 1615 as 'Bachelors Acre' and in a lease of 1629 granted to John Fishbourne of New Windsor: 'The Provost of Our Blessed Lady of Eaton in Windsor' leasing him 'three acres of arable land in a field called The Worth, adjoining at one side to pitts called Bachelors Acres.'

Bachelors Acre was a place of recreation for the bachelors of Windsor, hence the name.



*In Bachelors Acre you can see one of Windsor's more unusual statues.*

31

**The Windsor Lady (The Queen & her Corgis)** is one of the four memorials to The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. That jubilee was celebrated in Windsor with street parties and a walkabout from the Castle to the Guildhall.

The Windsor Lady was a gift from a Maidenhead sculptor, Lydia Karpinska, who works in bronze in the figurative tradition. The statue depicts The Queen somewhat informally dressed and surrounded by six Corgis.

The Welsh Corgi came originally from the hilly counties of Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire. Once described as 'an odd little animal with a face like a fox, a rump like a guinea-pig, and front legs which are always short and usually somewhat bowed', the Corgi was not recognised by the Kennel Club as a breed of championship status until 1928.



Most people had never heard of Corgis until 1933 when they saw a photograph of seven-year-old Princess Elizabeth holding a Corgi puppy at Glamis Castle.

The Queen has had Corgis and the cross breed, Dorgies, ever since. She still has four, but in 2015, she let it be known that she would not be getting any new ones.





*You can also see a more formal monument, **The Jubilee Obelisk**.*

32

**The Jubilee Obelisk** in Bachelors Acre commemorates the Golden Jubilee of George III in 1810. These celebrations formed the template for the celebration of future monarchical jubilees. It was an occasion of special magnificence for Windsor with a great ox roast held on Bachelors Acre. The King himself was too ill to attend, but Queen Charlotte came down from the Castle to join in the festivities. The roast was to be distributed to Windsor's poorest inhabitants, but the Queen tasted the beef and evidently 'appeared highly amused by the novelty.'

Queen Charlotte enjoyed herself so much that she returned to the throne following her attendance at a special service in St George's Chapel. A contemporary report also stated: 'The Duke of Sussex, with his hat off, held the tray from which The Queen took two or three pieces of beef and bread. The Duke of Clarence distributed the plum pudding.'

The obelisk was erected on this spot on 19 May 1810.

*Turn left after the Obelisk around the back of the park and here can be found the office of **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award**.*

33

**The office of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award** stands in Madeira Walk. This is the regional office for the charity in the South East of England. Prince Philip launched his award scheme in 1956 in order to cope with 'the increasing need to provide further opportunities for young people to achieve a balanced development of their character.' The scheme has now been adopted in 140 countries. The awards are given to adolescents between the ages of 14 and 18 who have completed various self-improvement exercises. Today some 300,000 people take part in the United Kingdom, variously achieving bronze, silver or gold medals. Winners at the gold level are received at a reception in St James's Palace. When possible, The Duke of Edinburgh attends these occasions to congratulate the winners in person.

The scheme developed from Kurt Hahn's solution to the problem of the Six Declines of Modern Youth. It was designed by John Hunt (later Lord Hunt, KG), the first Director.

In 1992 The Earl of Wessex became Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award International Council.

*Very nearby is **Western Cottage**.*

34

**Western Cottage**, in Madeira Walk, was built during the reign of Queen Anne in 1702, on what was then Crown land, at the back of the former Royal Mews. Between 1863 and 1870 it was the home of Rev. J.S. Stone when he was curate of Windsor Parish Church. Stone was the author of the famous hymn, 'The Church's one Foundation', while



living in Windsor. This hymn inspired Rudyard Kipling's 1896 poem, 'Hymn Before Action', published in his Seven Seas collection, which consolidated his reputation as Laureate of the Empire. The house is Grade II listed and was sold in 2013 for £482,500.

Next to Western Cottage is the grave of Charles Knight (1791-1873), founder of the Windsor Express, in the overflow from the Parish Church graveyard. The wrought iron gates were erected to his memory.

*Follow **Madeira Walk** across the park to **Mellor Walk**.*

35

**Mellor Walk** leads from Bachelors Acre towards the Library car park. It is named after the feisty Miss Doris Mellor, MBE (1894-1981), who saved Bachelors Acre from the planners. There is also an image of her on Mellor House, above the restaurant at 83-84 Peascod Street, depicting her as an old lady wearing a cloche hat.

*Turn right towards the back of the **Macdonald Windsor Hotel**.*

36

**The Macdonald Windsor Hotel** is one of Windsor's best hotels. Originally, in April 1823, number 19 High Street was taken over by John Caley. The Caley family were originally dressmakers and milliners and ran their business in Windsor until 1919 when the next in line to take it over died in hospital after serving in World War I. It was then bought up by Selfridge Provincial Stores.

In 1940 John Lewis bought up Selfridge's businesses along the High Street, and added a jewellery store. Caley's held Royal Warrants for supplying The Queen and The Queen Mother with 'household and fancy goods', The Queen Mother adding 'millinery' to the citation. Eventually the location, size and layout of the shop made profitable trading impossible. They closed in July 2006.

In 2010 the site was redeveloped to include the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, entered where the jewellers' shop used to be, as well as a TK Maxx department store and Esquires coffee shop. The hotel is known for its green initiatives and offers a range of 2,500 digital newspapers and magazines. Bees are kept on the roof to provide fresh honey for the guests.

*Continue through the narrow **Acre Passage** into **Peascod Street**.*

37

**Peascod Street** is one of Windsor's oldest streets and now pedestrianised during office hours. It was first mentioned as early as 1177 as the road between the Market Place (where Queen Victoria's statue stands) and Clewer Lane.





Considerable variations in the name of the street occur in the surviving 13th-century leases, such as 'Puscroftstrate' and 'Pescroftstrate'. The unusual name of Peascod (pronounced pes-cot) originates from the field where peas were grown, a staple diet in medieval times.

By 1607 Peascod Street was a largely residential area, remaining so into the 18th century. In the next century it changed into a commercial centre and today it is known for its many shops. In the early 1960s the Rolling Stones played in a pub called The Star and Garter (since closed down). It stood at 133 Peascod Street. In earlier days it had a gym and was a venue for boxing matches. Sugar Ray Robinson trained there before his fight with Randolph Turpin in London in 1951.

*Once in Peascod Street turn left, and some way down on the right is Daniel Department Store.*

38

**Daniel Department Store** was opened at 120 Peascod Street in 1918; Charles Daniel, son of the founder gave it to his sister Mabel to run. Daniel Stores was founded by W.J. Daniel in 1901, originally trading as a small drapers' shop in Ealing, where it still trades today. There are stores in Ealing, Chiswick, and Windsor. The Windsor store is the largest of the three and is currently Windsor's only department store. It remains a privately-owned business and holds The Queen's Royal Warrant for supplying gifts.

Until recently it was a warren of tiny rooms, Bill Bryson describing it as 'the most extraordinary place with low ceilings, tiny obscure departments selling the oddest assortment of items.' He thought that it had emerged from several different buildings with differing floor levels. Daniel had expanded gradually in exactly that way as neighbouring properties came up for sale. After King Edward Court was built, it became the modern store it is today. You can walk through it from Peascod Street to King Edward Court on the other side. Upstairs there is a Lego soldier, dressed as a Coldstream guardsman, and Le Suquet is a tearoom on the first floor.

*Further down again, set into the ground is the Royal Windsor Seal.*

39

**The Royal Windsor Seal** is surrounded by the words, WYNDLESORIE + COMMUNE BURGENSIIUM and can be found in several locations up and down Peascod Street and is known as the Borough Seal. It was used by Windsor officials when dealing with matters about the town. One of its earliest recorded uses was in 1342, when it was appended to a conveyance of rent for the repair of a local bridge.



Part of Windsor's own Coat of Arms is represented in the seal by the three-towered castle. This castle is not a representation of Windsor Castle. It comes from the coat of arms of Eleanor of Castile. She was the wife of Edward I, who made Windsor a Free Borough in 1276. Edward I reigned from 1272 to 1307 and also gave Windsor its first Charter. Also in the seal are three lions 'passant guardant', the royal coat of arms of the Kings of England.

*Here, turn right up into King Edward Court Shopping Centre.*

40

**King Edward Court Shopping Centre** is a pedestrian area containing a plethora of shops and restaurants with an adjoining multi-storey car park, and was built on part of the site of the Goswells, previously a slum area. It is named after Edward VII, the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. At the entrance from Peascod Street, there is a message: 'You can burn about 20 calories daily during a 5-minute walk.'

King Edward Court itself was formally opened by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh on 8 April 1980.

Edward VII (1840-1910) was sixty years old when he ascended the throne, having been Prince of Wales for a long time, though Prince Charles (the present Prince of Wales) now holds that record. He entertained grandly at Windsor Castle from time to time, but he preferred London and his Norfolk home, Sandringham. Nevertheless his memory is well celebrated in the town.

*This area contains another unusual memorial to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.*

41

**60 Spheres Jubilee Statue** is one of the four Diamond Jubilee memorials in Windsor. It was designed by Caroline Basra, a 15-year-old pupil from Windsor Girls' School, who won an open competition held by the Windsor and Eton Society. According to the competition winner, it took just ten minutes for her to come up with the design. It was created by Crauford Ltd of Slough.

The sculpture comprises 60 spheres rising upwards, each sphere representing a year of The Queen's reign. 59 of the spheres were made from stainless steel, except for the crowning sphere which is made from glass and is in the shape of a diamond.

The Queen unveiled the statue on 9 October 2012.





*Proceed up the ramp or steps into Windsor Royal Shopping, part of which is the Great Western Railway station - Windsor Central Station. Standing next to the platform is the Queen's Train.*

42

**The Queen's Train** is a full-size replica of a Dean 4-2-2 of the Achilles Class, no 3041 used as part of Madame Tussaud's 'Royalty and Empire' exhibition, a display specially created for Windsor to recreate the celebrations of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The original steam locomotive conveyed Queen Victoria to London on the day of her Diamond Jubilee – 22 June 1897. It pulled six new carriages and was adorned, then as now, with Queen Victoria's coat of arms.

The Great Western Railway links Windsor to Slough as it has done since December 1849. When it was built, it made a great difference to the life of Windsor, since people could now live in Windsor, but travel to London daily for work. Queen Victoria frequently travelled by train, having become, in 1842, the first monarch ever to take a train ride. Evidently she did not enjoy the experience as much as the Prince Consort. It was when leaving the station in March 1882 that a deranged man tried to shoot her.

*Turn right towards the Windsor Tourist Information Centre.*

43

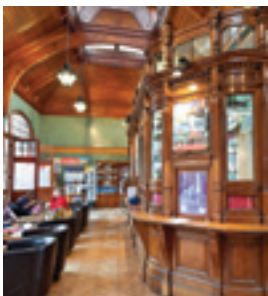
**The Tourist Information Centre (and Central Station).** The building of the Great Western Central Station in 1849 meant that people could live in Windsor and travel to London to work, arriving at Paddington Station. (At the same time the London & South Western Railway's Riverside Station was built, their trains conveying passengers to Waterloo Station). The Windsor Tourist Information Centre is housed in what was formerly the booking hall. This fine building replaced the original station, which was little more than a train shed. The company therefore decided on a complete replacement and the large structure still standing today was erected. It was built to a standard design by A. Handyside and Co. of Derby, a large and well-known iron founders of the time and completed in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

The Queen's train was often drawn up in the station alongside the Royal Waiting Room, now the All Bar One restaurant.

*Emerging from the station area opposite the Castle, turn left down the hill, walking over the Footway Clock*

44

**The Footway Clock.** Windsor's Pavement Clock has been the subject of much interest and speculation in the town over the years. The original clock was installed by



Sir Cyril Dyson on 15 May 1950 outside his premises, 9 Thames Street. Dyson was a clockmaker (and former Mayor of Windsor) and he had the idea of putting a clock in the pavement as early as 1938. The war delayed its installation. He used it as a marketing ploy, advertising his shop as 'the firm with the clock in the pavement.' Some years later the clock mysteriously vanished. It is thought that the clock was removed for maintenance purposes after Dyson & Sons, who were clockmakers to The Queen, closed in the late 1980s.

In January 2010 a replacement clock was installed in the former location at the behest of Councillor David Burbage. Furthermore, a time capsule was placed underneath the new landmark, containing contemporaneous information relevant to the town: photographs, film clips and tour guides.

*Proceed down the hill to the King Edward VII Gateway.*

45

**King Edward VII Gateway** is next to the pub, The King and Castle. The gateway leads in turn to an alleyway with steep steps down to the Goswells and presently to Alexandra Gardens and the River Thames.

In 1921 Sir Jesse Boot (of the pharmaceutical company, Boots the Chemist) donated a bust of Edward VII, which was placed above the archway and subsequently unveiled by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone (a granddaughter of Queen Victoria and thus Edward VII's niece) in January 1921. The head and shoulders of the King are now protected by a mesh to prevent the unwelcome attentions of birds.

Just inside the Gateway, at the top of the narrow alleyway, is a handsome reproduction in ceramic tiles showing Windsor Castle as it used to be – the Prospect of Windsor Castle, based on the engraving by Wenceslaus Hollar AD 1663. The image does not fail to advertise Boots, noting in archaic language: 'On this place now standeth Boots Cash Chemists 1917.'

*A step free route continues around to the left past the Old Garden on River Street.*

46

**The Old Garden on River Street** was formerly a mass of houses, shops, and inns near the walls of the Castle. There were also homes in the castle ditch. Severe overcrowding led to unsanitary, slum-like conditions. Eventually the Windsor Castle Town Approaches Act was passed in 1848, during the reign of Queen Victoria. This cleared the 'castle ditch' properties.

Today the 'castle ditch' has reverted to green grass. It now has a low wall, since the higher wall that used to keep it private was removed in the early 1960s.



47

### *Turn left at the River Street car park.*

**River Street** forms part of Windsor's historic past, dating back to the 13th century. At that time it was known as New Street. The name was then changed to Beer Street, possibly owing to the presence of a local brewery, brewing playing a large part in Windsor's history. By 1791 the name had changed again to Bier Lane, possibly a corruption of the word 'beer', but it may also be because funeral biers passed this way on barges for burial at Clewer Churchyard (a church close by the Thames). River Street took its present name in 1883.

Several rows of houses filled River Street for a time. Amongst these was St Saviours Church, built in 1878 and demolished in 1923. The lychgate was moved to Clewer Memorial Gardens in Dedworth where it still stands.

In 1926, however, the houses were removed due to severe dilapidation. The land was subsequently flattened and turned into Windsor's first car park.

### *Continue through to the Goswells.*

48

**The Goswells** is the low-lying area of Windsor next to the River Thames. Formerly in the parish of Clewer, it was named after goose fields. In Victorian times it frequently flooded.

Edward VII contributed £500 of his own money towards the purchase of the land lying between Thames Street and the River Thames in order to protect the view towards Windsor Castle. In the end it cost £3,000 to protect the view. In 1920 the land was handed over to the National Trust.

In the 1960s some of the land nearby was cleared to make way for the King Edward VII Shopping Centre.

### *Turn right walking through an avenue of pollarded oaks to the Jubilee Fountain and Maze.*

49

**The Jubilee Fountain and Maze** stand in Goswell Meadow, on the land purchased for the National Trust in 1910.

The fountain, designed by Mark Oliver, one of the four memorials to the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, consists of jets of water that form St Edward's Crown. There is a sceptre like canal leading to the fountain, which, appropriately, has 60 jets.

In 1922 land was leased to the Windsor and Eton Bowling Club. There is a footway avenue of plane trees, hung with lanterns, and opposite the bowling area is a free tennis club with three grass courts. The surrounding ground is some of the finest greensward in the town.



The Royal Windsor Maze is based on a chess board. You enter via a pawn and head eventually to the castle in the middle. It is a one-way maze, designed by Adrian Fisher Maze Design, based in Portsmouth.

Just outside the railings is the Berkshire Yeomanry War Memorial, dedicated in 1923 to the memory of the Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Men of A Squadron (Windsor, Maidenhead and Wokingham) who died in the 1914-18 war, many at Gallipoli. It was erected by comrades, relations and friends.

### *Cross the road to Alexandra Gardens.*

50

**Alexandra Gardens** is a fine park, bordering the Thames. The site was originally a meadow, belonging at one time to Middlesex Hospital. It was bought by Windsor Authority in 1889 for £3,000 'for the purposes and subject to the provisions of the Health Act, 1875.' In 1902 it was mortgaged to Sarah Ann Taplin and Sir Francis Tress Barry, Bt, MP, to become pleasure grounds commemorating the Coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. Later Sir Francis bought further land and extended the gardens. The gardens were designed by E.A. Stickland, the Borough Surveyor.

Princess Christian opened Alexandra Gardens on 15 July 1902. A year later, a commemorative London plane tree was planted to further celebrate the coronation of Edward VII and his Queen. It is still there. The extension to the gardens was opened by Prince Christian on 28 July 1905. Simultaneously a roadway was constructed between the gardens and the river thanks to Arthur Stovell and Colonel Gerald Stovell, and named Barry Avenue, after Sir Francis Tress Barry.

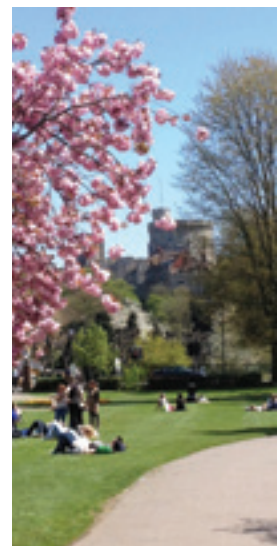
In Edwardian times a bandstand was erected in Alexandra Gardens with entertainment provided by various military and local bands. This was removed in the 1950s but recreated as a celebration of The Queen becoming Britain's longest-reigning monarch, in 2015. It was reopened by The Queen on 20 April 2016.

### *Bear left to the edge of the coach park passing ShopMobility Windsor.*

51

**ShopMobility** is just inside the coach park and provides manual and powered wheelchairs and scooters for use in Windsor for anyone who has difficulty walking.

Outside the ShopMobility office stands the brick viaduct, known as 'The Arches', over which the Great Western Railway transports passengers to and from Slough. The branch line from Slough crosses the river by a bowstring bridge designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, one of England's greatest engineers. It opened in 1849, and is the oldest wrought iron structure still in commercial use anywhere in the world. It formed a model for the Royal





Albert Bridge at Saltash. The line was originally carried on one of Brunel's famous timber viaducts but the present brick structure replaced this in the 1860s. The Windsor bridge was Grade II listed in 1975.

*At the far end of the gardens is a Hawker Hurricane.*

52

**Hawker Hurricane**, a replica of the fighter plane from the Second World War, commemorates its designer, Sir Sydney Camm (1893-1966), who had grown up in Windsor, one of 11 siblings, in a small terraced house in Alma Road.

Sydney Camm was educated at the Royal Free School in Bachelors Acre. As a boy, he designed model aeroplanes and sold these to Eton boys under cover of darkness. In the First World War he joined the Martinsyde Aircraft Company, and in 1922 moved to the Hawker Engineering Company in Kingston, becoming their Chief Designer. He was appointed CBE in 1941 and knighted in 1953.

This replica Hawker Hurricane was Camm's design and bears the markings of Marshal of the RAF Sir John Grandy, one time Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle. The Hurricane first flew in 1935 and entered RAF service in 1937. Rugged, easily repaired, with widely-spaced undercarriage wheels for stability on rough terrain, Hurricanes flew in almost every theatre of the war. Over 14,000 were built. Only a few remain airworthy today but replicas such as this remind us of the considerable contribution that they, and their designer, made to the war effort in 1940.

*Now turn back towards the town to the right, joining the Thames Path National Trail.*

53

**The Thames Path National Trail** is a national trail footpath running 180 miles alongside the banks of the Thames. The source of the river is in Kemble, Gloucestershire. From here to the East, the Thames Path passes Runnymede, where Magna Carta was sealed in 1215, and continues to the Woolwich Estuary in London. It therefore joins the Jubilee Walkway at Lambeth Bridge, continuing to the Tower of London, while the Jubilee Greenway follows it as far as the Woolwich Ferry.

The Thames has played a significant part in Windsor's history, proving to be a useful transport artery in the days before steam and rail travel.

Windsor would not have its name without the Thames, for the name derives from its Saxon spelling, Windlesora, meaning windlass (or winch) on the river bank.



54

*On the opposite bank exclusive flats have replaced the old school Boat House on the land of Eton College.*

**Eton College** was founded by Henry VI as a religious institution in 1440. It was originally a secular college of priests, clerks, choristers, and 25 poor scholars who would learn grammar from a schoolmaster. A further 25 paupers would be housed at Eton, but were charged with the task of praying for its founder's soul after death. King Henry hoped that his grand, religious designs for Eton would smooth his way to Heaven.

It soon changed its purpose and became a school with provision made for 70 scholars in 1443.

Today, Eton College is Britain's most famous public school, having educated no less than 19 British Prime Ministers and other men of great standing, including: Percy Shelley, Ian Fleming, Aldous Huxley, and the British explorer, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who supposedly climbed one of Eton's ancient buildings during his time here, leaving only the faintest mark of a signature. Members of the Royal Family including The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry were educated here.

The boys still wear black morning coats as their school uniform in respect for George III, whose birthday is celebrated on or near the Fourth of June each year.

*To avoid any steps, turn right and left, looking out for the Dyson Clock.*

55

**The Dyson Clock** is mounted onto the wall of the public toilet block in River Street car park. It was made by the Dyson Company, clockmakers to Edward VII. Dyson made many clocks of varying design, but ceased to create any after 1905.

It is worth saying that these toilets (which can be accessed free of charge) are of an unusually high standard, their wall tiles decorated with the scenes of Windsor life.

*Continue to the traffic lights passing the pedestrianised road to the left onto Windsor Bridge.*

56

**Windsor Bridge.** Windsor and Eton have been linked by wooden bridges since at least 1236. The current bridge was built in 1822 and opened in 1824. It crosses the Thames and links Windsor to Eton. It is 200 feet long and 20 feet wide, supported by three arches of cast iron, the middle one spanning 55 feet, all resting on piers of granite. At one time it was a toll bridge, meaning that tolls had to be paid by vehicles passing over it and boats passing under it,



but these were abolished in 1898. Originally open to carriages and cars, it has been a pedestrian bridge since 1970 when serious structural faults were discovered.

A blue plaque indicates that it was built by Charles Hollis, the architect of St John the Baptist Parish Church.

Lower down the Thames, there are two other bridges – Victoria Bridge, a one-arch bridge linking Windsor with Datchet, and Albert Bridge, linking Datchet to Old Windsor.

*Cross the road to the right and in front is the George V Memorial.*

57

**King George V Memorial** commemorates the first monarch of the House of Windsor. The memorial fountain was executed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A. It was paid for by public subscription, mainly locally, but funds also came from Windsor, Ontario in Canada.

George V (1865-1936) founded the House of Windsor in 1917, replacing the previous name of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, due to the anti-German sentiment prevalent during the First World War (1914-18).

The memorial stands on land presented by Viscount Wakefield, near the site where three Windsor men were martyred for their faith on 28 July 1543 – Henry Filmer, Anthony Pierson and Robert Testwood.

King George VI, second son of the King, unveiled the fountain on 23 April 1937. He arrived by car as the carriages were in London for the Coronation. The King said: 'This memorial will be a new link in the long chain of associations which has bound together my House and the citizens of Windsor.' John Piper and John Betjeman wrote: 'The mouldings are bold and simple, the proportion graceful, with its insistence on horizontal lines.'

The garden area here was created by the Windsor Heritage Committee and sponsored by Marks & Spencer in 2008.

*Now walk up the hill on the left hand side of the road, passing the Old Bank House.*

58

**Old Bank House** was formerly Windsor's oldest bank, set up by Richard and John Ramsbottom when they bought the Isherwood brewery in 1780. Bank House was built on the site of the brewery, which covered most of lower Thames Street. Both the bank and the brewery were taken over by John Ramsbottom junior in 1796, MP for Windsor from 1810 to 1845.

Today the building is used by St George's School, which provides choristers for St George's Chapel and is situated opposite Windsor and Eton Riverside Station.



*Almost immediately afterwards is the Prince Christian Victor Statue.*

59

**The Prince Christian Victor Statue** commemorates HH Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein (1867-1900), a grandson of Queen Victoria. He was the son of Princess Helena and of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. He was born at Windsor Castle on 14 April 1867, and lived with his parents at Frogmore, and then at Cumberland Lodge. He was educated at Wellington and Magdalen College, Oxford, where he excelled more at cricket than in the classroom. He once wrote: 'I always had a more intimate acquaintance with square leg than square root.'

He entered the 60th King's Royal Rifle Corps and served in various campaigns including Sudan in 1898 and Natal in 1899. In the Transvaal he contracted enteric fever and died. He was buried there. Prince Christian Victor's death caused great distress to Queen Victoria, herself approaching the end of her life.

The statue was designed by the Welsh sculptor, Sir William Goscombe John (1860-1952), and unveiled in a private ceremony by Field Marshal Earl Roberts, KG, on 6 November 1903. The Prince had served Lord Roberts as an extra ADC in 1900.

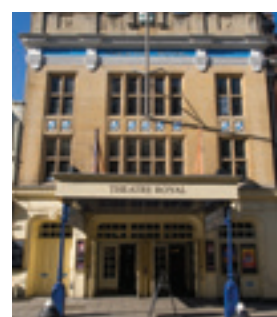
The plaque on the statue lists his honours and decorations.

*Continue up the hill, looking out on the right hand side of the road for the Theatre Royal.*

60

**The Theatre Royal** was built in 1910, replacing a previous theatre, built in 1815, but destroyed by fire in 1908. The façade of today's theatre exactly matches that of its predecessor.

The Theatre Royal did not have an easy early life, and by 1929 it had been turned into a cinema. It was rescued by John Counsell (1905-87), actor-manager, who worked for it with vision and devotion all his working life. There were numerous setbacks, but he founded the Windsor Theatre Company on 21 March 1938. They performed a play one week, and rehearsed next week's production simultaneously. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth attended a performance of *The Rose Without a Thorn*, Counsell's second production, and the Theatre Royal soon became an integral part of Windsor life. In 1939 John Counsell married a young actress, Mary Kerridge (1914-99) and she kept the company going while he was away serving during the war.





In the mid 1960s Counsell founded the Theatre Royal Windsor Trust with The Queen as Patron. Carl Toms completely redecorated the theatre.

Later the theatre was taken over by Bill Kenwright. In 2015 a repertory company was again formed, undertaking six plays in six weeks.

*Proceed up the hill, turning the corner immediately beneath the Curfew Tower of Windsor Castle.*

61

**The Curfew Tower** stands within Windsor Castle at its most westerly point and is not open to the public. Originally called Clewer Tower and later the Bell Tower, it was built between 1227 and 1230 to buttress the castle's defences following a siege during the reign of King John. It is one of the oldest surviving parts of the Lower Ward, with walls 13 feet thick and 100 feet high.

The Curfew Tower contains a dungeon where prisoners were held and executed. The bodies of traitors were hung from the battlement as a warning to miscreant townfolk. In more recent times the former dungeon was used as 'the Dungeon Club' during the Windsor Festival, as a site for exhibitions and parties and also for meetings. It still contains a set of stocks. In one corner is evidence of excavation when prisoners attempted to escape only to emerge in the guard room.

The remains of a sally port also survive. The Curfew Tower houses the castle bells (the belfry of St George), with a gigantic timber frame inside supporting the bell cage. This medieval timber frame has remained intact since 1447, when the bells were first moved there. The clock on the tower was made by John Davis, a Windsor clockmaker, in 1689.

Three times a day, at 9am, noon and 6pm, the chapel bells chime the tune of St David's.

*Also behind the great walls of the Castle is St George's Chapel.*

62

**St George's Chapel** is not visible from the walk at this point. It is open for services and on most days, except Sundays, it is open as part of the Windsor Castle tour.

Edward IV built this chapel beside the old one in 1475. It was completed by Henry VIII in 1528. The Quire contains the stalls of the Knights of the Garter, above which hang their banners, each stall also bearing the stall plates of most of the 1,000 holders of the Order. Each June the Knights process through the Castle to the Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel, and often new Knights are installed.

St George's Chapel contains the tombs of Edward IV and Queen Elizabeth Woodville, Henry VI, Henry VIII and his third



wife, Jane Seymour, and the executed Charles I. George III built the Royal Vault and he, Queen Charlotte, George IV, William IV and Queen Adelaide lie there. Edward VII and Queen Alexandra's tomb is on the south side of the High Altar, George V and Queen Mary are on the north side of the Nave, while King George VI and Queen Elizabeth are buried in the King George VI Memorial Chapel.

*Continuing up to Castle Hill and standing not far from the Henry VIII Gateway of Windsor Castle, where the walk began, is the Queen Victoria Statue.*

63

**The Queen Victoria Statue** was placed here in 1887 to mark her Golden Jubilee. The bronze statue was designed by Sir Edgar Boehm and stands about 15 feet high on a base of Aberdeen granite. It depicts Queen Victoria, draped in Maltese lace, wearing her small diamond crown.

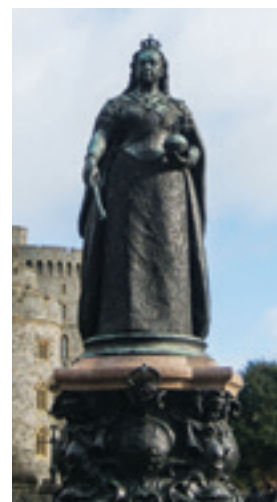
On 22 June 1887 Queen Victoria arrived in Windsor, accompanied by her four surviving daughters. The streets were covered with bunting. A guard of honour was drawn up. The bells of St George's Chapel and of the Parish Church rang out. Seated in her open carriage, Queen Victoria listened to the Address, which thanked her for 'the many acts of personal kindness and Royal bounty which we of this town and district have received at the hands of our Sovereign.'

Contrary to popular belief, Prince Christian did not unveil the statue himself. He directed it to be unveiled by the MP, Robert Richardson-Gardner.

In January 1901 the statue looked down on Queen Victoria's funeral procession as the hearse was drawn up the hill.

New monarchs, including The Queen, are proclaimed in front of the statue on their Accession. The Queen outreigned Queen Victoria on 9 September 2015. She is now Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

*To end the walk, cross the road carefully and inspect the panoramic panel that describes The Queen's Walkway. With Queen Victoria gazing imperiously down Peascod Street into the town of Windsor, and with the memory of the trumpeters sounding and the styles and titles of The Queen being proclaimed before it at her Accession in 1952, it is here, appropriately, that our walk comes to an end.*



# COMMONWEALTH WALKWAYS



Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, unveiled the panoramic panel of The Queen's Walkway on her 90th Birthday, 21 April 2016, marking the official opening of Windsor's walkway.

This walkway draws on the success of the Jubilee Walkway and the Jubilee Greenway in London, and is the inspiration for a parallel network of walkways in all the 71 nations and territories of the Commonwealth recognising The Queen's service as Head of the Commonwealth for over 64 years.

Her Majesty launched the first fully completed Commonwealth Walkway in Valletta, Malta, during her visit to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November 2015. A dozen such walkways are now in various stages of development in places such as Glasgow, Wellington & Auckland (New Zealand), Rarotonga (the Cook Islands), Samoa, Perth (Western Australia), Banff (Canada), Stanley (the Falklands), Georgetown (Ascension Island), and plans are well developed to expand further with interest from St Helena, Accra, Johannesburg, Nassau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Dominica, Bermuda and even the most remote part of the Commonwealth, Tristan da Cunha.

By 2018 it is hoped that there will be 100 Commonwealth Walkways, connecting 5,000 rich and diverse points of significance, further uniting the Commonwealth with an appropriate legacy that is accessible for everyone to share and enjoy.

The scheme is the joint endeavour of Hugo Vickers (Chairman) and Jim Walker (Director), representing the Outdoor Trust. Together they are travelling the Commonwealth to inspire these walkways, mapping out the routes, writing the material for the directional apps, and coordinating the installation of the discs.

HRH The Prince of Wales unveiled a disc in Wellington, New Zealand in November 2015, and HRH The Princess Royal unveiled a disc in Stanley in January 2016.

Visit the Trust's website, Facebook pages and Twitter account for the latest news and to lend your support.





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 All details in this guide were believed correct at the time of printing.  
 First Edition, April 2016.

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- 5 The Windsor Guildhall
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- 7 Irish Guards Statue
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- 11 Frogmore House & Mausoleum
- 12 Victoria Barracks
- 13 Kings Road
- 14 The Royal Adelaide Hotel
- 15 The Windsor Greys
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- 17 The Queen Anne Royal Free School
- 18 Princess Margaret Hospital
- 19 King's House School
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- 21 Prince Consort Cottages
- 22 The Crispin Pub
- 23 Firestation Centre for Arts & Culture
- 24 Holy Trinity & Garrison Church
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- 27 Fred Fuzzens' Blue Plaque
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