

High Wycombe Society Historical Quiz

Starting at the Guildhall



1 Which organisation was founded here in May 1965?

2 At the Little Market House, just across the road, there is a table of charges for various stalls in 1874. What was the borough name at this time?

3 As you walk along the High Street you will see the Red Lion standing proudly on the portico where there was once a very famous coaching inn. Later it became the first hotel in Wycombe. To the left, at the same height, are two smaller Red Lions attached to the wall showing the length of the hotel's frontage. How many circular columns are there between the two 'lion cubs'?

4 On the building next door there is a grey plaque on the wall indicating that the Royal Military College was set-up here in 1799 by Lt-Col John Gaspard le Marchant. What former inn once stood here?

5 On the south side No 33 was probably the grandest house in the street. This tall three storey building has a highly ornate frontage and

a parapet on the roof. Above the central first floor window there is a keystone showing what?

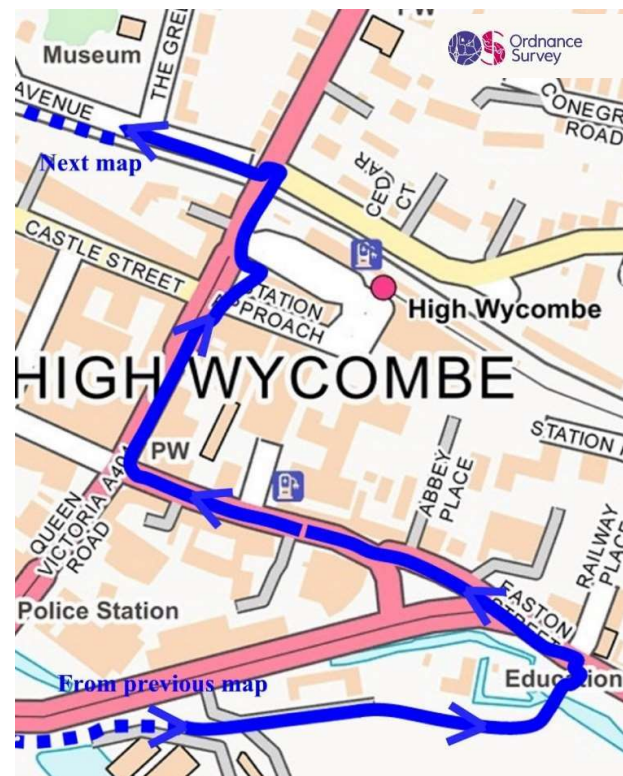
6 Walking on and turning right down Queen Victoria Road we come to the Town Hall with the council offices opposite. On the front of the council offices you will see the Wycombe Coat-of-Arms featuring a ..?.. wearing a duke's coronet round its neck and chained. Turn right at the bottom after crossing the R Wye and continue right into St Mary St past the Wycombe Swan theatre.

7 At the fork in the road turn left and you will soon come to the underpass to Bucks New University. On the two walls can be seen many objects, places and animal life which featured prominently in the town's history. The university mascot features here. What kind of animal is it?

Carry on through the university to Queen Alexandra Road and bear left to use the crossing before another across Marlow Hill and then turn left and follow the pavement with a wall on your right. Approaching Wycombe Abbey School you will see some plaques by the entrance.

8 One plaque commemorates William Petty, Lord Shelburne, PM 1782/3 later created Marquis of ..?.. He was the first Irish-born PM and one of only two men to have been prime minister and an army general. He is buried in the parish church..

9 It was here too that Dame Frances Dove set up Wycombe Abbey School in 1896, one of the most successful and prestigious girls' schools in the country. Look across the road to find the name of the street you are standing in.



10 Continue along keeping the school to your right and when the wall bends round to the right carry straight on past the Busy Bees nursery until you reach The Rye and then Pann Mill. Walk into the mill grounds. How many mills in Wycombe were listed in the Domesday Book of 1086?

11. Use the crossing outside the mill to cross over the A40 and then turn left along Easton Street until you come to the ruins of the Hospital of St John the Baptist. The hospital was an early form of the mediaeval welfare state. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries under King Henry VIII, the borough council acquired the land from the Crown to convert the hospital into a grammar school.

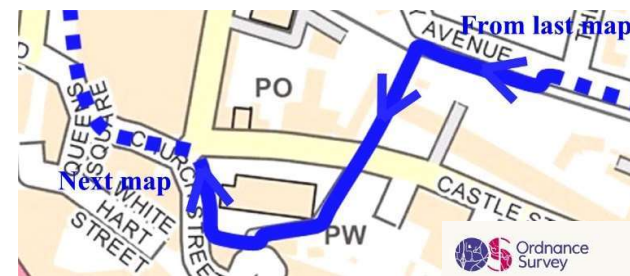
Look behind the ruins to find the facade of the Victorian school building with the date of its formation in Roman numerals. What date was this?

12. Continue to walk along Easton Street and on the RHS after the Magistrates Court on the left you will come across a flint building with the Royal Coat of Arms above the door. This was once the local post office until 1934. Take three steps to the right and look up to find the year when it opened.

13 Turn right at Crendon Street and walk up until you reach the Brunel Engine Shed. This was the original railway station just across from the present one. Walk round between those two buildings to find out the year of its opening in the 19th century.

14. Move back to continue to walk up Amersham Hill and on the bridge look down on the railway station. What is unusual about the platforms here?

15. With care, cross over Totteridge Road and then cross over Amersham Hill to move along Priory Avenue until you come to Wycombe Museum on the right side. What object can you see on the left-hand side looking into the museum grounds?

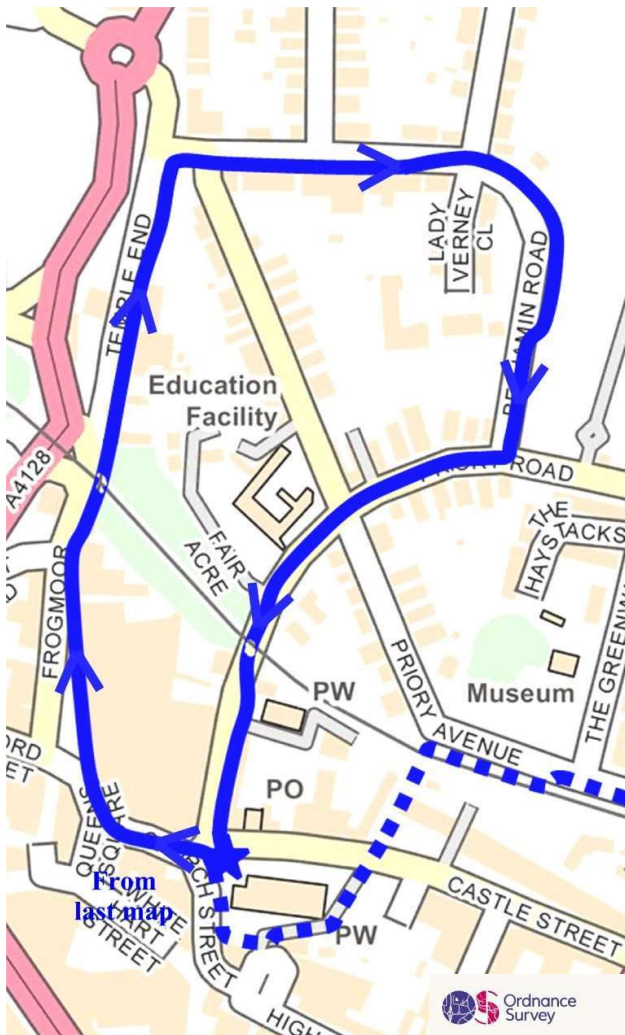


16. Continue to walk along Priory Avenue and cross to the railway side. On the corner, cross over the pedestrian bridge over the railway and continue down. What is the name of this lane?

17 Cross the road and enter the graveyard keeping the church on your right. When you reach the south porch of the church above the door you will see the 4 evangelists. Which one is holding a book in two hands?

18 Exit through the gates and take the lane immediately right. At the end turn right to a small square where you will find the name of the town twinned with High Wycombe. What is its name?

19. Carry on along Church Street and turn right up towards the west door of the church and here on the left you will see the War Memorial. Very close to it there is a stone on the ground with the name of a Wycombe man who was awarded the Victoria Cross. Who was he?



20. Return to Church Street which now turns left and keeping to the left side you will see a grey plaque ahead of you to ..?.. who set up the first Sunday school in England in 1769.

21. Continue round to the right and on the next bend look right and up across the road and you will find The Hen and Chickens. In what year was it restored?

22. Cross the road into Frogmoor and on the right above Subway you will see the name of Wycombe's serial criminal (Jacob) Poppis. In what colour is his name painted?

23. The dark red brick building 'The Clock House' at the end of Frogmoor was once the High Wycombe Technical Institute (formerly the School of Science and Art) where many youngsters were trained in furniture design and manufacture. When was it erected?

24 Carry on under the railway viaduct and then move over to the open space with trees on the left. Look around and you will see a

street named 'Glenisters Road' named after one of Wycombe's great furniture manufacturers. Close by another road mentions another furniture company. Which one?

25 There was a 3 month long strike in the Wycombe furniture trade 1913/14 which was eventually settled with an agreement which meant that chair makers would now work a 6 day week of 9 hours a day and were paid on average 8d per hour. In today's decimal currency how much did a furniture maker earn in a week?

26 Carry on walking along this street and you come to the Victorian Terrace at Temple End. No 28 is the first house in the terrace but what is the last number?

27 At the end of Temple End, on the corner, you will see the old county police station built in yellow brick. In what year was it completed?

28 Now walk up Benjamin Road until the right hand bend when you will see the entrance to the cemetery. Just inside the gate there is a gravestone remembering the first head-mistress of Wycombe High School, Mary Christie. The school motto is also mentioned in 3 Latin words. What are they?

29 Continue along Benjamin Road to Priory Road where you turn right down the hill to the town centre. On your way you will pass Priory Road School which was opened in 1873. Who Laid the foundation stone?

30. Carry on down Priory Road where just after going under the railway bridge you will pass a church where Hannah Ball's desk is to be found along with John Wesley's clock. What denomination is the church?

Proceed down the hill to the town centre.

Your historical tour is complete at the Parish Church

You can check your answers on our website

www.thehighwycombesociety.org.uk



© 2024 High Wycombe Society

Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2024

