

16. Medieval Bridge

bad junction.

17. Archbishops' Palace

is site was described in the he Archbishop of Canterbury at 'Maddestane'. The medieval Pal e needs of the time.

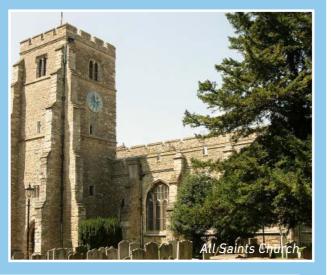


ter expropriated the property for the Crown. It was ctoria's Golden Jubilee and is now used as a aister Office.

18. Infirmerer's Garden

bublic. Note the Dove of Peace statue.

19. All Saints Church



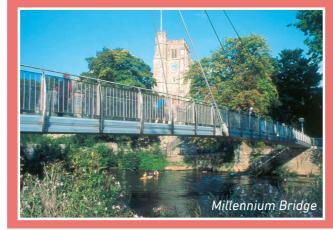
20. College of All Saints

ne property was much neglected until the late 17th century when it came into farming use. is now leased as private offices.

21. Maidstone Millennium River Park

One of the largest projects in the South East mark the new Millennium. Maidstone's Millenni liver Park opened up access to the River Medway ong a 10km path from Teston to Allington. The of the landmarks of the new park.

nce the main crossing point for the River Medway. e opposite bank is Lockmeadow, home to Maids ulpture was erected in London in 1963 and now rms part of the River Art project, which also incl e Dove of Peace and the Totem positioned alongsi



22. Riverside

e riverside was once a hive of industry. Local stone was shipped down the River Medway to d the Roman wall of the City of London, and late e Tower of London. After 1739 upriver navigation vas enhanced to enable Maidstone to trade with the hole of the Weald.

River traffic was still considerable in 1900, but s roads improved river transport went into rminal decline. Today, the River Medway is used or recreation and visitors can enjoy the beautiful cenery on board a river boat.

Continue along the riverside path.

23. Maidstone Bridge

he first bridge to occupy this site was probably built the 14th century to provide a more direct route to e commercial heart of the town than the ford located rther upriver. It was one of a number of similar ossings constructed of local ragstone during mediev mes at Aylesford, East Farleigh and Teston. The origin ridge was finally declared unsafe in the 1870s.

e current bridge was built in 1879 by Sir Joseph

zelaette, the engineer ponsible for the T nbankment and the ondon sewerage syste alk under the bridge



24. Fairmeadow

airmeadow became notorious during the ersecution of Protestants by Queen Mary, when even Protestant martyrs were burned at the stake ere in June 1557. These executions may have ccounted for the Puritan backlash in the town in ucceeding decades.

A tree-lined embankment was laid along the place to stroll and providing one of the first public walks outside of London.

Read more about the Marian persecutions and the development of Fairmeadow on the historic panel here. urn right and go through the underpass. Then turn left and walk towards the Fremlin Walk shopping centre

25. Corpus Christi Hall

This 14th century building was originally owned by the Corpus Christi Fraternity, a society of local tradesmen who regulated business, observed certain religious services and provided for elderly and infirm members. The Fraternity lasted until 1547 when it was dissolved by the crown during the suppression of religious guilds. The town then bought the hall and it served as Maidstone Grammar School from 1549-1871. It is now available for private hire.

Cross the road towards Fremlin Walk

26. Fremlin Walk

remlin Walk shopping entre is built on the site f the Fremlin brewerv. owned by Ralph Fremlin who, by 1861, was Kent's argest brewer. Fremlin's connections in East India vere symbolised by his

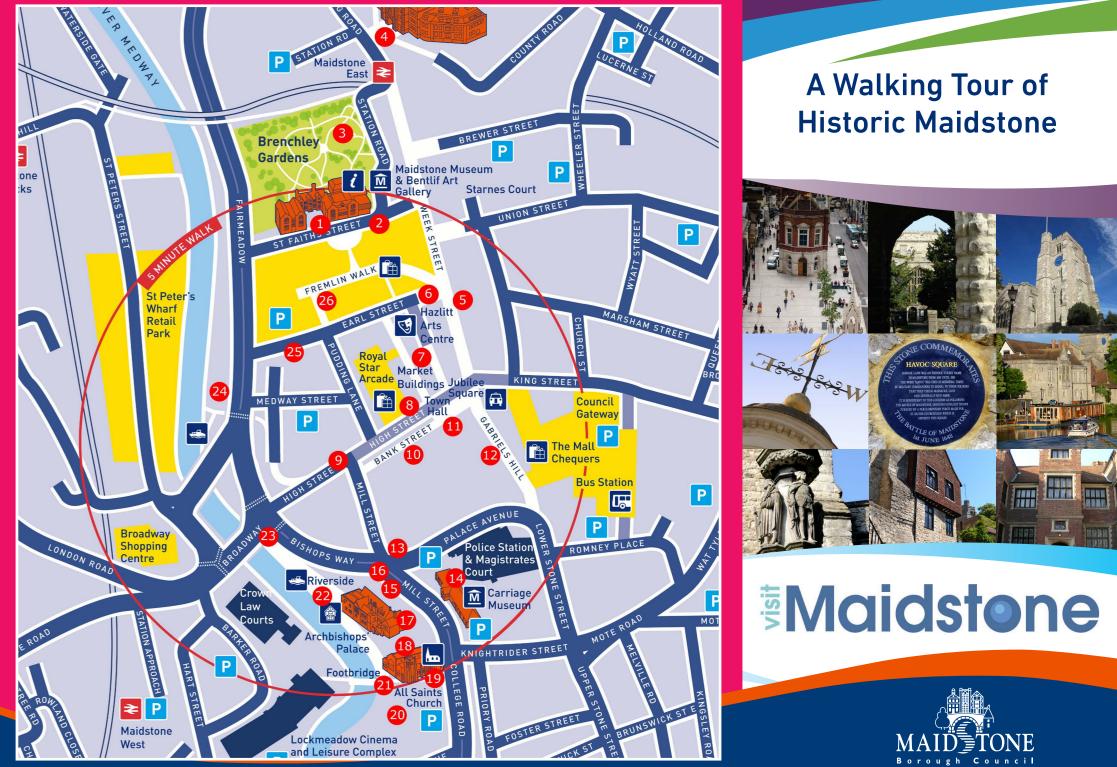


rademark elephants and weathervane, examples of which are on permanent display in the shopping cent

limb the steps under the arch and cross the shopping entre to return to Maidstone Museum and the Visitor nformation Centre.

Maidstone Visitor Information Maidstone Museum St. Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LH Tel: 01622 602169/ 602048

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A Walking Tour of Historic Maidstone

In Maidstone, there are centuries of history waiting to be discovered. You just need to know where to look. Follow this short walking tour to discover more about the hidden history of Maidstone, Kent's County Town. There are also a number of historic panels along the route offering more details.

Your walk starts from the Visitor Information Centre located at Maidstone Museum in St Faith's Street.



1. Maidstone Museum

nestic architecture from the late Tudor period e core of the present house was built betwe 55 the Manor's then owner bequeathed his

it the museum and walk down towards the w head back up St Faith's Street

2. St Faith's Street

Georgian almshouses. These were donated i

100 by Sir John Banks, who live ter Brenchley Gardens

3. Brenchley Gardens

ormerly the grounds of Chillington Manor, the iet municipal gardens were opened in 1871

4. County Hall and Maidstone Prison

essions Square is dominated by the 1826-7. Maidstone Prison is located behind can be found on the historic panel in the Square

5. Week Street

nking Rochester with the ironworking areas of the Weald and the port of Lympne. Foundations The street also provides some notable example of external lime plaster in a decorative manne ito decav.

6. Earl Street

he whole area. A double-fronted town house o's 31-33) was owned by Andrew hton. Mavor of Mai

e death warrant of ing Charles I in 1659



From at least the year 1261 until the 1820s, the High Street was the original market-place of Maidstone. New market buildings were erected in 1825 and, in 1835, a new Corn Exchange was built.

Stop at the historic panel on the right hand side as you enter Market Buildings. Then turn right into the entrance to Roval Star Arcade.



8. Royal Star Arcade and High Street

Now an exclusive shopping arcade, the Royal Star was once Maidstone's leading hotel, frequented by the gentry during the town's Georgian heyday. Princess Victoria stayed here in 1836. The following year, on winning his first seat in Parliament as the town's MP, Benjamin Disraeli addressed the electors from the hotel's balcony overlooking the Town Hall on the High Street. *Valk through the arcade then turn right towards* he Lower High Street

In 1869, a concert hall was erected in Earl Street. Known today as the Hazlitt Theatre, after William Hazlitt who was born in nearby Rose Yard. Today, William is renowned as the first major drama critic in Enalish.

A little further down the street, no. 32 was constructed in 1882 as the Conservative Club and features over its entrance the carved head of Beniamin Disraeli, once MP for Maidstone.

Turn into Market Buildings

7. Market Buildings and Corn Exchange

9. Lower High Street

On 28th January 1554 Sir Thomas Wyatt rode into the High Street and called on the men of Kent to aid him in preventing Queen Mary's marriage to Philip of Spain. He found ten housand men ready to protest, but like previous Kentish uprisings, the revolt failed, Wyatt was executed and Maidstone lost its Roval Charter.

The Russian Gun, 'the Cannon', was captured in battle during the Crimean War and was presented to the town in 1858 by Lord Pamure, the Secretary of War.

Turn around and head up Bank Street.

10. Bank Street

Bank Street was formed by the encroachment of properties in Middle Row into the former broad market-place. It is probably the most complete nistorical street in Maidstone and most of the buildings in it are listed for their architectural or historical interest.

Many shops here date from the 15th to 17th centuries and can still be recognised by their over hanging upper floors, a feature kn<u>own</u> as jettying.

Notice four white statues set into niches in the first floor above no's 89-90. From left to right these are: ord Avebury; Sir Lawrence Washington; William Caxton and Archbishop Courtenay.



No. 73 has a flamboyant Queen Anne style shop front, while the gilt crossed guns at no. 85 are a 19th century trade sign. The Brenchley was built in 1927 by F.C. Palmer and is an excellent example of a Georgian Bank, being originally home to the NatWest & Kentish banks, and features a fine domed interior.

Bank Street was also the location of a distinctive industry - gin distillation. By 1809, the Bank Street distillery was the town's largest manufactory producing 5,000 gallons a week by 1818

11. Town Hall



A fine Georgian building dating from 1763, the Town Hall served many purposes, as market space, magistrate's court, council chambers and gaol. The gaol was located in the loft and can still be visited today; its walls covered in 18th century graffiti.

The statue of a young Queen

Victoria in Jubilee Square dates from 1862 and stands on the site of the ancient market cross.

Discover more about this area's role as a market place on the historic panel located just to the side of the Towr Hall (at the top of Bank Street)

Walk past the Queen's Monument to the top of Gabriel's

12. Gabriel's Hill

Here you will find a plaque commemorating Samuel Pepys, the diarist, who visited Maidstone in 1669.

Gabriel's Hill was the site of the climax of the Battle of Maidstone, fought on 1st June 1648 during the English Civil War. Described as being one of the most fiercely contested battles of the whole Civil War, Parliamentary forces, commanded by General

irfax of Leeds Castle. clashed with Rovalist ops. After hours of fierce hand-to-hand fightin ere killed here in one night and 1300 taken priso

/alk down the hill to reach the next historic pane th more details about the Battle. ocated towards the bottom of Gabriel's Hill, e Golden Boot, with its 🛛 🦳 📉 nctive Wellington b ade sign, has been rur the same family since 790 and is believed to be ie oldest shoe shop in t

t the bottom of the hill, tu iht into Palace Avenu valk along to the junct ith Mill Street

13 - Mill Street

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Maidstone ha x mills; at least one of these was probably on this te. Certainly until 1900 there were two mills here hat originally served the Archbishops' Palace. You

earn more about Maidstone's mills on the historic anel located in Palace Avenue Cross Palace Avenue

14. Carriage Museum

riginally named the 'Tithe Barn', this building as where visitors to the Archbishops' Palace lodo tresses may well be of the same date as All Sa <u>hurch (1397)</u>. Today the Archbishops' stables are me to the Maidstone Carriage Museum, opened 1946 by the eccentric Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake 2 times Mayor of Maidstone. It houses his unique llection of horse-drawn vehicles, widely regarde s the finest in Europe.





Cross the road carefully then pause outside the Gatehouse. Here you will see a map by local artist Graham Clarke illustrating Maidstone's historic town centre. There is also an historic panel giving more details on the development of the Archbishops Palace.

Return to the crossing and follow the footpath along the main road. Stay on the path until you almost reach the main road bridge then take the steps down towards the river. Discover more about trade on the River Medway on the historic panel located just to the ight of the steps.

Head back towards the Archbishops' Palace taking the footpath through the archway and into the Palace gardens.

15. The Peasants Revolt

As Lords of the Manor, the Archbishops were esponsible for maintaining law and order and had their own gaol at the Palace. Among its nmates was John Ball, the so-called 'Mad Pries' of Kent', whose preachings infuriated the church nierarchy. Kent was one of the main centres of ebellion during the Peasants Revolt in 1381. Rebels, led by Wat Tyler, released John Ball before storming the Tower of London and beheading the Chancellor. Confronting King Richard II, Wat Tyler was stabbed and killed by he Mayor of London.

You can read more about the Peasants Revolt on he historic panel located in the Palace gardens. escend the steps.