



Pershore & District u3a

21ST Anniversary History Trail

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This History Trail was put together to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the formation of Pershore & District u3a, in July 2001. It contains 21 facts about our lovely town of Pershore and 21 questions, which you can answer by looking for the 21 clues that you will find as you follow the trail. Spend some time exploring our charming Georgian market town and if you have time during or after your walk, enjoy refreshments in one of Pershore's excellent coffee shops.

Please take care at all times when crossing the roads

START- Chapman Court (Clue 1). With Asda behind you, turn left into High Street.

Did you know - Pershore derives its name from Persc- a broad ridge and Osiers – a willow for basket making

- 1. Chapman Court is named after William T Chapman, which school was he Headmaster of?**

Pershore is twinned with Plouay in France and Bad Neustadt in Germany

Follow High Street (Clues 2&3) and then Bridge Street (Clues 4&5) towards Evesham as far as the bridges (Clue 6).

- 2. Who lived at Number 29 High Street?**

The building where the Tesco store now stands was the site of the Plaza Cinema, originally called the Empire. It closed in 1958 and was demolished in 1969.

- 3. Which Pershore organisation meet at the Angel Inn?**

There is a painting of a woman dated around 1580 on the wall of the lounge leading to the restaurant, it is thought to be a painting of Queen Elizabeth the 1st.

- 4. Belle House was originally a warehouse and was restored in 1973 eventually becoming the Council Office, but why do you think it has a Bell hanging outside?**

Judge Perrott who lived at Perrott house, number 17, disliked the black and white Elizabethan buildings in Pershore, thinking them offensive. He was responsible for introducing Georgian Facades to the front of buildings around town.



5. What was the date an aircraft crashed into number 25, once the site of the Brandy Cask?

Numbers 35, 37 & 39 used to be a pub called the Maidenhead until 1809, when it came under the ownership of a barge owner and backed on to the town Quay.

Number 59 used to be the Quaker Meeting House.

The Mill was mentioned in the Domesday book 1086 and burnt down in 1976.

6. What was the purpose of the cylindrical concrete blocks across the pavement by the old bridge?

The old bridge was built by monks in 1413, after the Abbott drowned using stepping stones to cross the river

[Go over the old bridge to the car park \(Clue 7\).](#)

7. When has the first reference to a bridge here been noted?

In 1644, during the Civil War, the central arch was demolished by retreating Royalists, unfortunately many of their own men were on it and drowned.

[Go through the car park to the entrance and turn right to follow the main Road back towards Pershore.](#)

[Go over the road bridges \(Clues 8&9\) and return along Bridge Street on the opposite side using the crossing point before the Toll House \(Clue 10\).](#)

8. When did Worcestershire County Council build the current road bridges?

After it was destroyed in the War of the Barons, stone from the Castle at Elmley (red sandstone) was used to repair sections of the old bridge.

9. Which 3 years did Pershore Plum Festival win best Tourism Event?

The large building, Manor House, was once a hotel and was gutted by fire in the 1990s. It is supposedly haunted by a maid with untidy hair wearing a mop cap.

10. What is the toll for a soldier on the march to enter Pershore?



There was an illegal betting shop down the alley by the Millers Arms and gambling was only legalised in 1961.

The building on the corner of Broad Street was the Royal Three Tuns and once had three barrels on the portico. Now named Claude Choules, after a Pershore service man who was the oldest combat veteran from the First World War.

Continue to the junction of Bridge Street with Broad Street and turn left into Broad Street (Clues 11&12).

11. What year did Princess Victoria (later to be queen) visit the Royal Three Tuns?

When the annual Fair was moved from the churchyard to Broad Street in mid 1800s six houses in the centre were demolished. Before the 19th century market stalls and a shambles were sited where the cars park now.

12. The Baptist Church was built in 1658, who was the minister from 1724 – 1779?

Broad Street was also the site of growers markets until 1910, when new auction sheds opened in Defford Road until 1980s, when the buildings were demolished and Mason's Ryde replaced the site.

Leave Broad Street in the top left corner to follow Defford Road as far as the milestone (Clue13).

13. What is the total mileage to Upton, Evesham and London?

Milestones and Old School Close are built on the site of the National School, created in 1840, giving free education for poor children.

Continue along the Milestone side of Defford Road until opposite a side entrance to Abbey Park. Cross carefully and enter Abbey Park. Follow the path across Abbey Park and the information boards (Clues 14,15,16 & 17)

14. When was the Abbey restored by Gilbert Scott?

Abbey grounds and ponds were used by the monks from the Abbey for fishing and growing fruit and vegetables



15. How many families were in Pershore in 1653?

16. How much did the local population raise to buy the remaining parts of the Abbey to use as a Parish Church?

17. What year did King Aethelred grant the land to Oswald to build a monastery?

Leave Abbey Park past the Horse Memorial (Clue 18) into Church Row and follow Church Row and Church Walk to the Abbey gate (Clue 19).

18. How many horses, mules and donkeys died in World War 1?

The Almonry where monks distributed alms to the poor was restored in 1973 but dates from the 17th century, some beams are said to come from parts of the Abbey demolished at the dissolution in 1540.

19. The 2 shields on the Abbey gate posts are of Pershore Abbey and Westminster Abbey. How many Tudor Roses are there?

St Andrews Church was deconsecrated in 1971 and is now a Community Centre. The rent of a pound of plums is paid at the Plum Festival. The two-faced sculpture of a moon goddess in the garden is by Peter Inchbald.

Cross the road into St Andrews Garden and walk down the side of the Town Hall (Clues 20 & 21) to return to the beginning.

20. What do you think the reason is that the wall on the right of the footpath is shaped as it is?

The Town Hall building was previously the main Post Office and sorting office until 2002

21. When was the Town Hall building built?

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE TRAIL AND WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED IT

Pershore & District u3a is a group for those no longer in full time employment. We offer a welcoming, sociable environment where members come together to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Our vision is to make lifelong learning a reality, through the experience of u3a. For more information, go to:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/pershore>