

Abbey Heritage Trail

A medieval jester and minstrel will be in the Market Place to provide entertainment for the launch of the Abbey Heritage Trail – a series of interpretation boards at the main medieval abbey sites in Abingdon.



1. Abbey Gateway
2. St Nicolas church
3. Roysse Court (for the school and hospital)
4. Abingdon Bridge
5. Abbey Buildings
6. Abbey Gardens (two existing boards)
7. Abbey Millstream (describing the mills)
8. Barton Court ruins



The Trail has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with contributions from Abingdon JET, the Friends of Abingdon, the Vale of White Horse District Council and West Waddy Architects and Planners. The interpretation boards were designed by volunteers from Abingdon Archaeological and Historical Society. This Heritage leaflet was funded by Abingdon JET - run by Abingdon Town Council.

Activities	Saturday	Sunday
Children's Activities	10.30 - 16.00	
Jester & Minstrel walkabout	10.30 & 14.30	
Jake the Jester Show	13.30	
Abbey Heritage Trail Launch	11.00	
Abbey Heritage Trail Walk	11.10 & 14.00	14.00
Model Railway	11.00 - 16.00	14.00 - 16.00
Morris Men	11.30 & 12.30	
St Ethelwold's History Talk	12.30 & 14.30	
Michael Hambleton's Book	10.30 - 12.00	
Victorian Walk	14.00	
Lost Pubs Walk	18.00	
MG Cars		From 12.00
1556 Boundary Walk		11.30 - 13.30
Fun in the Park		14.00 - 17.00
Underground Abingdon Tour		14.00 - 15.30

Market Place Information Stall : **Find what's on.**

Market Place Events : Jester and Minstrel Show - Abingdon Traditional Morris Dancers – Local History stalls - **Children's Activities** - Museum plans.

Launch of Abingdon Abbey Heritage Trail with walks from the Abbey Gateway and entertainment .

Victorian Walk: led by the Town Archivist Jackie Smith. Duration: 60 minutes. Book at the Information Centre (01235-522711 or info@abingdon.gov.uk).

Model Railway: Abingdon Junction in the Guildhall.

Lost Pubs Walk: visit the locations of pubs that are no more. Book at the Information Centre

MG Cars: MGs will be on the Market Place

1556 Boundary Walk: leaves from Market Place

Fun in the Park: Abbey Grounds. Stalls, fairground rides, brass band, arena entertainment, inflatables.

Rev Michael Hambleton will be signing his book on the history of Abingdon Baptist Church at 35 Ock Street.

Abingdon Cellars – Ask at Saturday Information Stall.

September 10 -11 2011



abingdon heritage open days



*“Abingdon Hear Ye! ...
Explore for free
England's Oldest Town
New Abbey Heritage Trail*

abingdonheritage.co.uk



Open Properties

Abingdon has a large number of historic buildings. Heritage Open Weekend is an opportunity to visit some of them free of charge. Start at the Market Place.

Saturday Sunday Details

1. Abbey Buildings	14.00 - 16.00	Remains of the domestic buildings of the medieval abbey. There will be a rehearsal of the Abbey Strings in the Unicorn Theatre.
2. Abingdon School Chapel	12.00 - 14.00	The Chapel has windows by Nicholas Mynheer. No wheelchair access.
3. Carswell School	10.00 - 12.00	A school was established on the present Carswell site in 1865, designed by Edwin Dolby. The old school hall is open.
4. Christ's Hospital Hall	10.30 - 16.00	14.00 - 16.00 This panelled meeting hall is lined with interesting portraits, and artefacts, and contains a Jacobean oak table.
5. Helensbourne	10.30 - 16.00	Dates from the 16th or 17th century, timber framed with garden to the River Thames.
6. Magistrate's Court	13.00 - 16.00	Since the closure of the courts and cells in 1999 the building is now used by the Abingdon Music Centre.
7. Merchant's House	10.30 - 16.00	A beautiful medieval town house with splendid 16th century wall paintings. Owned by the Oxford Preservation Trust.
8. St Ethelwold's House	10.30 - 16.00	Run by a charitable trust - an interesting building dating back to the 15th century. Slide show of history. Tea and cakes.

Some of Abingdon's old churches are open

Saturday 10:30 - 15:00.

9. **St Edmund's** is an elegant church - first dedicated in 1865.

10. **St Helen's** dates from the 13th century and is wider than it is long.

11. **St Michael's** was built by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1867.

12. St Nicolas is one of the oldest buildings in the town, and survives from the Great Benedictine Abbey.

13. Trinity was opened in 1875. It has a spire rivalling St Helen's, and a fine stained glass window.

Some of Abingdon's pubs will display heritage artefacts and pictures - some specially put on for the weekend. Visitors are welcome during normal weekend opening hours.

14. The Brewery Tap opened in a former brewery building at **Morland's Brewery**.

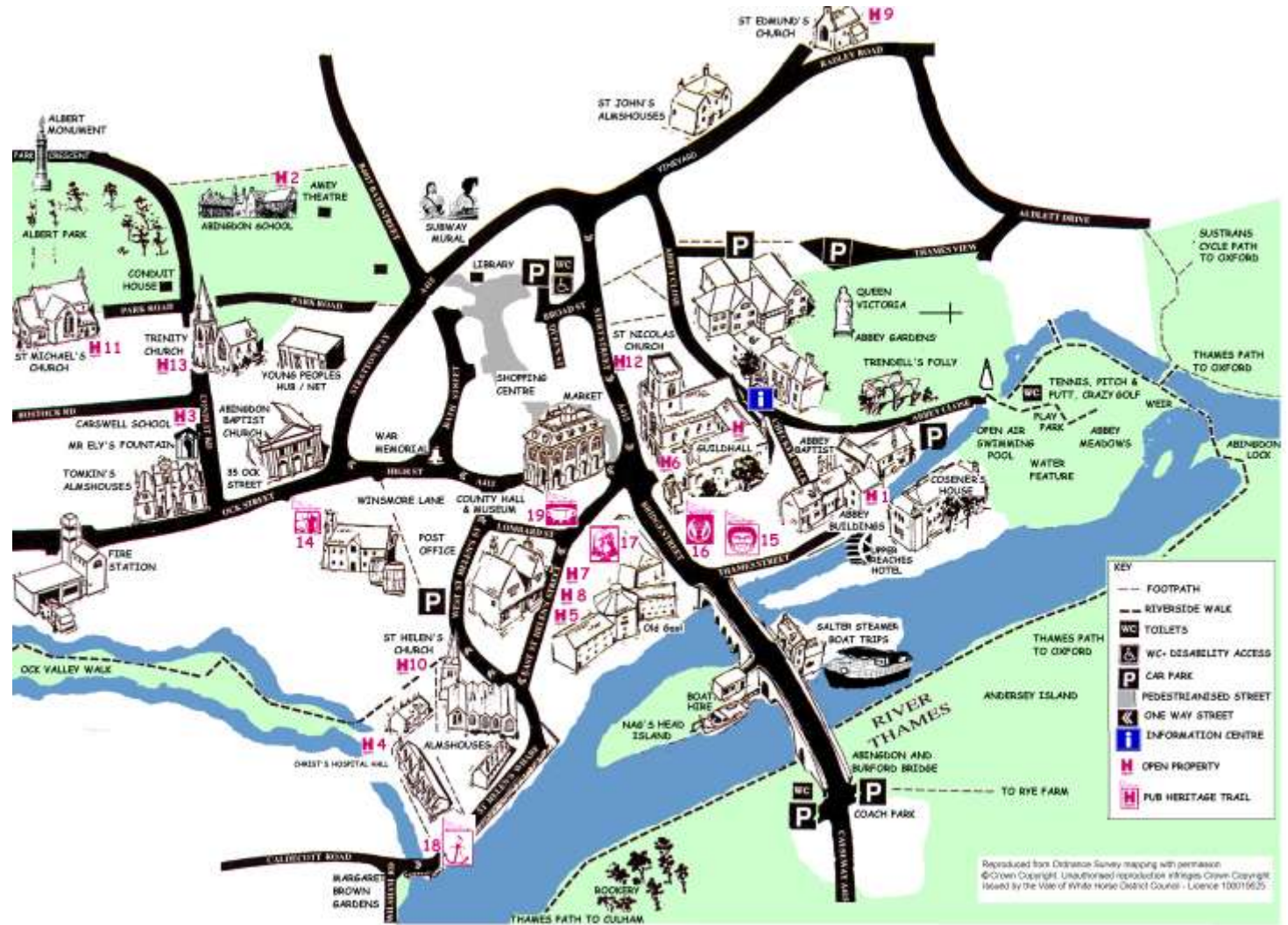
15. The Broad Face building dates from 1840 but the previous building dated back to 1688.

16. The Crown and Thistle dates from 1605 and has a fine cobbled courtyard - once the centre of an old coaching inn.

17. **The King's Head & Bell** is a coaching Inn with courtyard - earliest date 1554 - where King Charles I may have held a war council during the English Civil War.

18. The Old Anchor Inn is a riverside public house (opening dependent on refurbishment completion).

19. The Punchbowl could date from the 15th Century and *'the lounge has a 16th Century atmosphere.'*



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