

The 'Discovering Wellington' Project presents:

VICTORIAN WELLINGTON

A heritage walking trail
around an historic
Shropshire market town

Uncover the stories of people
and events in the era when
Wellington turned from an
overgrown village into a modern town

WELCOME TO VICTORIAN WELLINGTON



The Victorian age represented the most important turning point in Wellington's history since the town received its first market charter, in 1244. Although Wellington had enjoyed prosperity in the latter years of the late 1700s, thanks to the industrial boom in the east Shropshire coalfield, the Nineteenth Century ushered in a period of unparalleled development. Quite simply, Wellington was transformed from an overgrown village into a thriving market town that, after Shrewsbury, was the most important urban centre in Shropshire. But why did this happen? For the answers, read on...

USING THE BOOKLET

Wellington experienced many changes during Queen Victoria's reign. But why just sit and read about the events that occurred between 1837 and 1901 when you can see the results for yourself? This booklet not only charts the story of Wellington's remarkable rise to prominence during the 19th Century but also invites you, the reader, to get out and view many of these changes first hand via a specially designed walking trail.

There are many sites of historic interest to view on the Victorian Wellington Trail. In the booklet, each

attraction is colour coded according to its function. Schools and other educational establishments, for example, are marked in brown. So, if you are interested in, or are studying one particular aspect of Wellington's Victorian heritage, using this guide could not be easier. Just refer to the map in the centre of the booklet for more details.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Victorian Wellington Trail is divided into two routes. The short distance (yellow) route covers the town centre and could take anything from 20 minutes to an hour to complete. The longer (orange) route takes approximately two hours to walk and encompasses many hidden Victorian treasures in Wellington's suburbs. Alternatively, you could just pick one part of the trail and use it to discover exactly what Victorian Wellingtonians did for us in that particular area – the choice is yours... Just remember to look above the shop fronts!

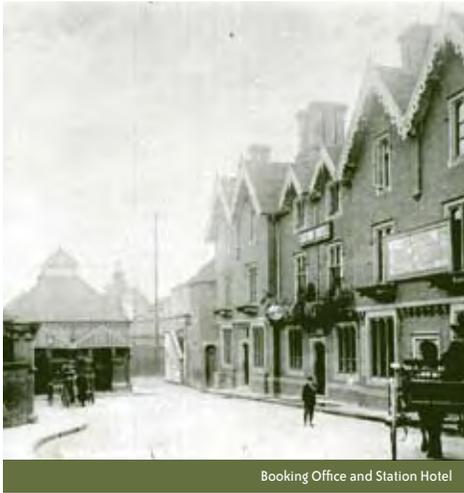
You can also visit

www.wellingtonla21.org.uk where you will find many more details about Victorian Wellington.

AND LOOK OUT FOR... The plaques attached to many of the sites of interest by the Wellington Civic Society, which contain many interesting facts about the buildings themselves.

THE MARCH OF INDUSTRY

In Wellington, like many Victorian towns and cities, the coming of the railways gave rise to the growth of manufacturing and production industries on a scale never before seen. In the west of the town, a number of large, rail-side businesses became established, including the Crown and Waterloo furniture works in Orleton Lane and the Groom family's timber business at the Shropshire Works, off Bridge Road. Malting and Brewing also became an important local industry in the latter half of the 19th Century, the largest example of which was the Wrekin Brewery in Market Street, which closed in 1969.



Booking Office and Station Hotel

INTO THE RAILWAY AGE

Wellington opened as a joint station of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham, London and North Western and Shropshire Union Railway Companies, on 1st June 1849. Although the first trains only ran to Shrewsbury and Stafford, by the late 1860s Wellington was an important junction with direct services to many destinations, including Wolverhampton, Crewe, Craven Arms and Coalport.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Not everyone in Wellington benefited from the coming of the railway. In the early 1800s, the coach and horse was still one of Wellington's principle means of communication with the outside world. In 1828, no fewer than 13



The Cock Hotel and Mill Bank in the 1930's

London-bound coaches passed through Wellington every day, with many of them making scheduled stops at either the Falcon Inn or the Cock Hotel, on Watling Street. By the Victorian era, the introduction of Tarmacadam onto British roads meant that the capital could be reached in about 18 hours. This effectively reduced Wellington from an overnight stop to a stabling facility for changing horses, a job that could take as little as a minute. In fact, Queen Victoria is rumoured to have once waited in the yard of the Falcon as this process took place, after a visit to Shropshire. The reduction in Wellington's coaching status was made much worse by the coming of the railways and, by 1856, The Falcon was forced to close its doors and did not re-open until 1971.

AND LOOK OUT FOR... The weather vane on top of the booking office roof. You will notice that it incorporates a cross - a mark of respect to the area's former occupants! Part of the station site occupies land that was once part of All Saints Church burial grounds and bodies were removed from the graveyard during the construction work. The Station Hotel, which stands opposite the booking office, originally served as a buffet for hungry rail passengers!

THE RISE OF A MODERN MARKET TOWN

Throughout the Victorian era, agriculture was an industry in decline. Fewer people were working on the land and the rapid growth of the manufacturing and service industries helped to lure many people away from the countryside, with the promise of better wages and shorter working hours. In Wellington, the railway helped to stimulate the local Agricultural economy. After the establishment of the new Smithfield market, during the 1860s, the town's extensive rail links meant cattle could be sent to and from many destinations. By 1900, Wellington was not only one of the most important cattle markets in Shropshire, but in the whole of the country.

JOHN BARBER'S SMITHFIELD

At the start of the Victorian period, Wellington had a number of separate cattle fairs that dated back to medieval times. The fairs took place at various



John Barber

points around the town (including The Green and Walker Street) and created a great public nuisance, with cattle, sheep and pigs being driven into the town from all directions. In 1855, the Auctioneer John Barber acquired

some land behind New Street (between The Parade and Victoria Avenue) where he opened a Smithfield - possibly the first outside of London. This was



a hugely important moment in Wellington's development as a market town. Not only did it help to improve the town's public health problems but also paved the way for the improved facilities off Bridge Road. The new livestock market opened in 1868, after the Wellington Market Company had acquired the site from property speculators who had bought up the land in the area during the 1840s, when it was widely believed Bridge Road would be the location of the new railway station.

THE GENERAL MARKET

Wellington's industrial and commercial boom created an unprecedented demand for goods and services as more people began to visit the town than ever before. The Wellington Market Company took advantage of this newfound popularity to introduce facilities that are still a vital part of the local community today. They constructed a new town hall at the east end of Market Street in 1848. A general outdoor market continued to be held in The Square until 1866, when the Company then opened the current market hall, followed two years later by a new corn exchange.

AND LOOK OUT FOR... The site of Barber's horse repository—now part of the car park in Market Street. The facility was opened in 1891, with 'first class stabling and loose box facilities for 200 horses'. Since medieval times, horse fairs had been held at a number of venues around the town, including on the site of New College in King Street.

THE NEW SUBURBANITES

Wellington's rise to prominence as a market town helped to establish a large and affluent class of people around its outskirts. They were hugely influential in introducing a wide range of public services and amenities for the area, from schools to local parks. This feat was achieved through a combination the town's newly democratic system of local government, yet another innovation of the Victorian era, and the philanthropy of these wealthy individuals and families.

SUNNYCROFT

Sunnycroft, in Holyhead Road, is perhaps the best surviving example of the social aspirations of late Victorian Wellington's wealthy mercantile classes. JG Wackrill, who was then the owner



Sunnycroft

of the Shropshire Brewery on Watling Street, originally began the house in 1880. However, Sunnycroft was rebuilt to its current plan in 1899 by Mary Jane Slaney, whose husband was a wine and spirits merchant in The Square. The new property was designed to function as a self-sufficient mini-country estate, complete with kitchen gardens paddocks, stables and pig sties. Today, the house belongs to the National Trust and is open to the public from March to October on selected afternoons.

UPWARD MOBILITY

Wellington's wealthy suburban classes also helped to provide many of the town's public buildings and facilities. Richard Groom began his commercial life in New Street, as a basket weaver, before founding Groom and Sons, timber merchants, in 1835.



The Bowring Gates

PATERNAL INSTINCTS

Groom's sons later took over the business, which moved to Bridge Road in the 1860s, becoming the largest industrial concern in Wellington and, reputedly, the biggest timber buying firm in England. Richard and Thomas Groom were involved in all aspects of Wellington public life and, as prominent Wesleyan Methodists, were trustees of the Prince's Street School, which they opened in 1857. Another New Street businessman, John Crump Bowring, was typical of the many entrepreneurs of the era who exploited technological advances to offer the public new services, by using the railway to bring fish from Grimsby. Bowring made a lasting contribution to the life of the town in 1897, when he provided the gates for All Saint's Church, to mark the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. After his death, Bowring's wife, Ann, founded Wellington Cottage Hospital in her husband's memory, and donated land for the Bowring Recreation Ground in Haygate Road, opposite their former home, Bradleymoor House.

THE ADVENT OF CIVIC PRIDE

The Victorian period witnessed a huge expansion in government intervention in all aspects of daily life. This was predominantly the result of rapid industrialisation in Britain's towns and cities and the public health problems that it created. In spite of this trend, the provision of public services in places like Wellington still depended on local people.

Shropshire Archives



The Fire Station (right), Walker Street

THE BIRTH OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

At the start of the Victorian period, Wellington's affairs were still in the hands of the Lords of the Manor, the Foresters of Dothill Park. The government of the town was controlled through a manorial court, made up of 22 of Wellington's wealthiest inhabitants, who ruled largely in their own self-interest. By the mid 1850s, the court could no longer cope with the demands placed upon it by Wellington's expansion, so the town's ratepayers sought to gain an Act of Parliament to establish a local Improvement Commission for the area. This was achieved in 1854, when 15 Commissioners were elected to improve the public health of the

town. Over the next 40 years, some of the town's worst slums were demolished, a new cemetery was consecrated, building regulations for new houses were introduced, and Wellington's gas and water supplies were extended and improved.

LAW AND ORDER

Many of the public services we take for granted in 21st Century Wellington began in the Victorian era. The town became a divisional headquarters of the County Constabulary in 1840, when a Superintendent and two Constables were charged with upholding local law and order.



The Police Station, Plough Road

A police station later opened on The Green in 1853 (next to the current National Westminster Bank) and eight officers were stationed there by 1885. The building also contained a Courtroom and cells (which probably replaced the lock-up that formerly stood next to the Bowring Gates) and was home to one of the fire brigade's horse drawn tenders.

AND LOOK OUT FOR... The former Police Headquarters and Magistrates Court on the corner of Plough Road and Church Street. It replaced the station on The Green in 1896.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO WALKER STREET

Walker Street was undoubtedly the centre of civic administration in Victorian Wellington. At various times during the 19th Century it was home to the town's council chamber, workhouse, debtor's gaol and police headquarters. Wellington's first fire station also opened there in 1883, in the same building that was later home to the local Urban District Council. Wellington UDC continued the work of the Improvement Commission from 1895 onwards, when a national system of district councils was introduced.

LIFE BEHIND BARS

Until 1844, Walker Street was the location of the Bradford Hundred Court's Debtors' Gaol, which probably stood somewhere behind the current Lloyds Bank building. The Gaol housed individuals who were unable to pay their debts at civil cases in the court. The prison was situated in the house of the gaoler himself and the final custodian was one Robert Garbett who, in 1840, was granted £8 a year for his services by the local Court of Quarter



The Shropshire Bank (left) and Journal Offices



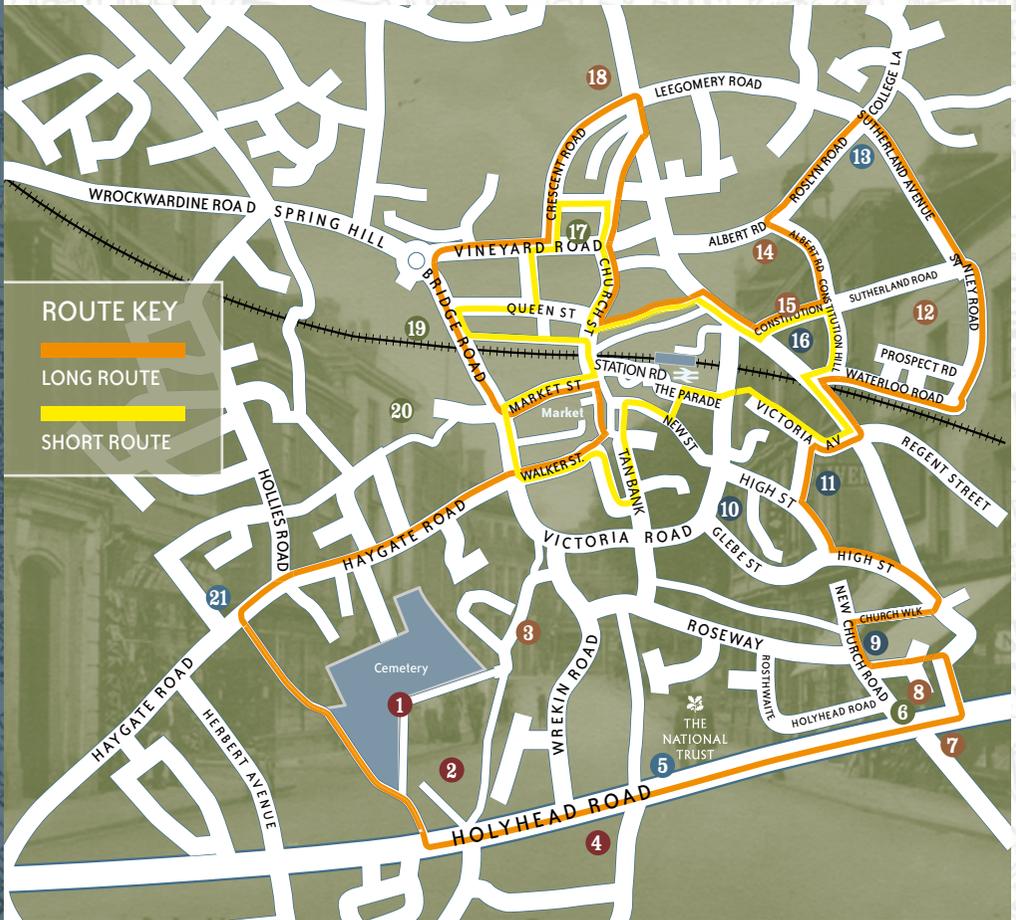
Love me Tender: Wellington's fire brigade in action

Sessions. During the 1830s, the gaol housed, on average, 11 prisoners a year, who it appears were forced to endure some appalling conditions; in 1829, a man died in custody there. A commentator, writing in 1806, described the gaol as consisting of 'five rooms... three of which are totally dark' having 'no water, no sewer... with straw worn to dust on the floor'. The facility finally closed when imprisonment for debts under £20 was abolished.

AT YOUR SERVICE...

Victorian Wellingtonians introduced many other essential services that we still use today. Robert Leake founded the Wellington Journal in 1854 and, from its Church Street offices, it went on to become the biggest selling local newspaper in the county. The business relocated to Ketley in 1965, where the Shropshire Star was eventually produced. Further along from the old Journal Offices is the former Lloyds Bank building, originally the home of the Shropshire Banking Company which opened Wellington's first regular banking service in 1836. The business was formed by the Registrar General of Shropshire, Thomas Eyton, who committed suicide in 1816 after running up crippling personal debts. After the arrival of the railway, John Barber relocated his business from Mill Bank to Number 1, Church Street, where it has been ever since.

A WALK AROUND VICTORIAN WELLINGTON



ROUTE KEY

LONG ROUTE

SHORT ROUTE

WELLINGTON MAP KEY

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Cemetery | 11. New Hall |
| 2. Union Workhouse | 12. Wrekin College |
| 3. Wrekin Road School | 13. Wellington College Hotel |
| 4. Hollybush Inn | 14. Sunfield House |
| 5. Sunnycroft | 15. Constitution Hill School |
| 6. Shropshire Brewery (site) | 16. Congretional Church |
| 7. Old Hall | 17. Corbett Ironworks (site) |
| 8. Prince's Street School | 18. Crescent House |
| 9. Christ Church | 19. Smithfield (site) |
| 10. Wesleyan Chapel | 20. Shropshire Works (site) |
| | 21. Bradleymoor House |

SOME PLACES OF INTEREST

4. Hollybush Inn

Unlike the Falcon and the Cock Hotel, which were traditional coaching establishments, the Hollybush catered for travelling merchants. The Inn closed in the 1860s, after the railways had decimated the local coach trade. Today, the Hollybush is a private house, but the yard and stable buildings can still be seen behind the cottage.

6. Shropshire Brewery (site)

Richard Taylor founded the Shropshire Brewery in 1851. After changing ownership a number of times, brewing finally ceased around 1912. OD Murphy transferred his mineral water manufacturing plant on Mill Bank to the site, which became known locally as the 'pop works'. The premises were sold during the mid 1960s and later demolished.

9. Christ Church

Christ Church was consecrated in 1839, after the site was bought from Lord Forester. Thomas Smith of Madeley, who was also responsible for

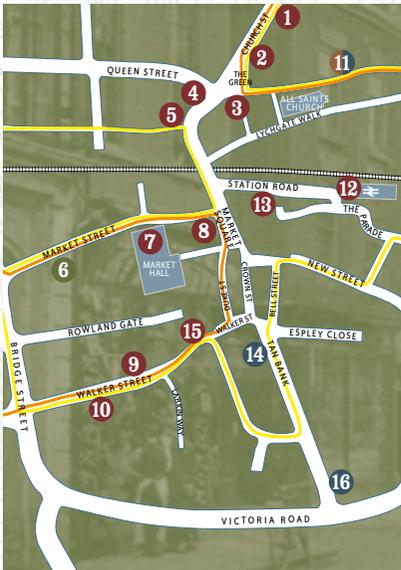
St Luke's Church, Iron-Bridge, designed the building in a gothic style. Christ Church has only one bell, 'Great George', which was cast in 1838 and known locally as the 'Gruel Bell', due to its sombre tone.

16. The Congregational Church

The Congregational Church on Constitution Hill opened in 1900, replacing a chapel at the bottom of Tan Bank that still stands today. The building was designed in a gothic style, by Inghall and Sons of Birmingham, and later became known as the Union Free Church from 1920, after the closure of the King Street Baptist Chapel.

17. Corbett Ironworks (site)

Samuel Corbett set up his ironworks at the Lawns before 1850. By the end of the Victorian era the company had established itself as one of the best known manufacturers of agricultural implements in Great Britain and exported many products around the world, including their world famous grinding mills. The business closed in 1974.



CENTRE MAP

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1-2. Police Stations | 10. Workhouse |
| 3. Bowring Gates and Lock-Up (site) | 11. National School and Almshouses (site) |
| 4. Journal Offices | 12. Railway Station |
| 5. Shropshire Bank | 13. Station Hotel |
| 6. Wrekin Brewery (site) | 14. Congregational Chapel |
| 7. General Market | 15. Debtors Gaol (site) |
| 8. Wrekin Hotel | 16. Former Primitive Methodist Chapel and Schoolrooms |
| 9. Fire Station and UDC Offices | |

KEY

- Industrial sites
- Religious establishments
- Historic houses
- Public/commercial buildings
- Educational Facilities

VICTORIAN SCHOOL DAYS

When the Victorian era began, education for children was not compulsory and whether a child went to school depended very much on individual circumstances. Many poor families sent their children out to work and, in many cases, could not afford to pay the fees charged by voluntary schools. Even for the better off, private schools and home tutoring offered no guarantee of quality. However, in Wellington there was still a broad range of schools catering for most classes of people.

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

At the start of the period, Wellington was home to a number of small private schools, including Crescent House, which stands on the corner of Park Street and Crescent Road. In 1841, eleven boys were educated there, but only ten years later, it was the private residence of a local doctor, John Ryder. More successful was Old Hall School, on



Wellington College Hotel, Roslyn Road: *It originally opened to cater for parents visiting their children at Wellington College during term time.*

Watling Street, which is still in existence today. Old Hall originally opened as a school for girls, after being leased from the Forester family, who built the hall in the late 15th Century. Edward Cranage later established a boys' school there in 1845, starting

with only five pupils. Cranage was only 19 years of age at the time but had already managed to complete an MA and a PhD. By 1851, Old Hall had over 50 pupils and Cranage remained in charge as the school's head for 50 years.

GIRLS ALLOWED

Another local schoolmaster, John Bayley, left his post at Constitution Hill School in 1880, to establish a school for boys. Wellington College was originally based in a pair of houses in Albert Road and gradually became established on its current site, in Sutherland Road, over the proceeding years.



Wellington (later Wrekin) College

In this respect, the success of the college was aided by Wellington's flourishing reputation as an important market town and its increasingly affluent population. The foundation later became known as Wrekin College, after being sold to the evangelical parson Percy Warrington in 1921. Sunfield House, in Albert Road, was one of a number of independent schools for girls that existed in Wellington during the Victorian period. These included Hiatt's Ladies College, which opened in 1847 (from which Hiatt Avenue takes its name) and Brooklyn House, which stands at the Cock Hotel crossroads.

EDUCATING THE MASSES

The provision of education for working class children became an important national issue in Victorian England, as successive governments sought to increase state intervention in both the running of schools and what was taught in them. For many poorer families, sending their children to study the Bible at one of the Sunday Schools run by Wellington's local churches and chapels offered them the best chance of learning to read and there were at least ten in the town by 1837. However, by the end of the period the situation had dramatically changed...

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL

The largest educational establishment in early Victorian Wellington was the National School in All Saints churchyard. It was originally a charity institution supported by voluntary donations and managed by the local Vicar. By the mid 1800s, the school had become severely overcrowded, when nearly 300 pupils were crammed into the two-storey building. With the exception of the infant pupils, the school moved to Constitution Hill in 1855.

WELLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD

Locally, the most significant development to arise from increased state intervention in the running of schools was the formation of the Wellington School Board in 1872. It was the first of its kind in Shropshire and was empowered to build and manage schools for children aged from 5 to 13, which were then paid for by the local ratepayers. The Board took over most of Wellington's voluntary schools, including the National School on Constitution Hill and, in 1881, built a new school in Wrekin Road. Thanks to the work of the Board, no other town in the



The National School: The building was situated on the far right of the churchyard, pictured here in 1952



Hiatt College Playing Field: The Constitution Hill School can be seen in the background in the centre of the picture

County had so many publicly funded schools by the end of the Victorian era, by which time all children under the age of 11 finally had the right to a compulsory, free education.

AND LOOK OUT FOR... The Constitution Hill School. The surviving building, now a Masonic lodge, was the Infants school that moved from All Saints churchyard in 1897. The school closed in 1961.

MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO

In Wellington, numerous individuals and organisations attempted to improve the well being of the town's Victorian inhabitants. Although this was to some extent motivated by good will there was widespread concern, particularly amongst Britain's suburban classes, about the economic and political implications of having an unhealthy and poorly educated population.



The former Wesleyan Chapel, High Street

TO THE CHAPEL...

Religious worship played a prominent role in the lives of people from every background in Victorian Wellington. A number of churches and chapels were erected in the town during the period, many of which still survive today. Perhaps one of the best examples is the former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in High Street, which opened in 1836, with seating for 500 worshippers. It replaced a smaller building in Chapel Lane, after it was felt that a more imposing edifice on one of the town's main streets was required. A minister's house (or Manse) was also erected behind the Chapel in St John



The Wrekin Hotel (left)

Street, together with a Sunday school, which had 143 pupils by 1851. However, the Wesleyans then erected an even larger chapel, this time at the top of New Street, in 1883. The old building in High Street was later converted into the Chad Valley Toy Works, when a new frontage was constructed on the site of the former chapel's graveyard.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

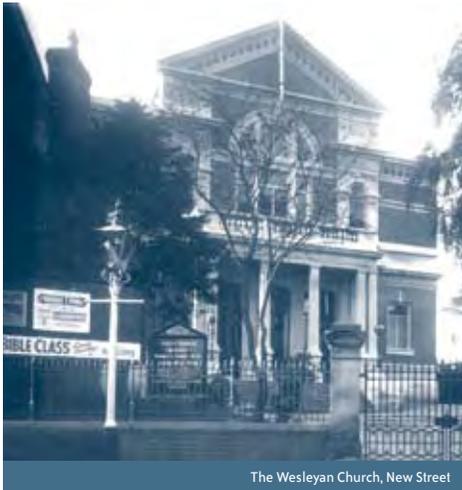
During the 19th Century, the consumption of alcohol came to be seen in some quarters of society as a wasteful and immoral form of entertainment that caused many social problems. The temperance movement aimed to control drunkenness and alter society's lenient attitude to alcohol abuse. Wellington had a number of temperance hotels, including the Wrekin Hotel in the Market Square, which had been the leading commercial venue of the period. The town was also home to a 'tent' of the Independent Order of Rechabites, a branch of the Teetotallers movement that was originally formed in Salford during 1835. The group's presence in the town is recorded in the name of the 'Rechabite Hall' in Tan Bank, which was originally opened as a Theatre in 1927.

THE MISSION AT NEW HALL

One man who attempted to address Wellington's spiritual needs was the Anglican Preacher Dr JE Cranage. In 1862, he opened the New Hall, (after which the modern day road takes its name) as a non-denominational mission for the town's poor, where meetings were held every day at noon. New Hall was also home to a temporary school, for uneducated poor children, between 1873 and 1874, which was opened by the local School Board. Cranage died in 1891 and the building was later sold for other uses.

HELPING THE AGED

Another foundation offering sanctuary to vulnerable members of Wellington society were the almshouses belonging to All Saints Church. It is unclear how long the houses had stood for but they were certainly in existence in 1772 and were rebuilt at the same time as the church itself in 1790. According to the 1841 census, they were home to



The Wesleyan Church, New Street

six elderly widows, aged between 70 and 80. The buildings appear to have been demolished by the 1880s, when proceeds from the sale of materials from the site were used to form a new charity.

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

One of the dominant concepts in Victorian society was the link between a healthy body and mind. This idea became popular in the second half of the 19th Century, when economic conditions and new technology allowed recreational activities to be more widely enjoyed. Affluent suburbanites who were concerned that all activities should be 'productive' and 'respectable' predominantly led the leisure movement. In Wellington, the horticultural society (formed 1850) began its 'annual show



The Charlton Arms Bowling Green

and athletic sports' in 1874, which was followed, five years later, by the foundation of Wellington Town Football Club (now AFC Telford United). Bowling was another popular sport of the era and there were a number of greens around the town, including one that opened in June 1860 on land behind the Charlton Arms in Church Street.

AND LOOK OUT FOR... The site of the almshouses in All Saints churchyard. Although the buildings no longer exist, the perimeter wall that surrounded them still stands in the area between the church and the Charlton Arms car park.

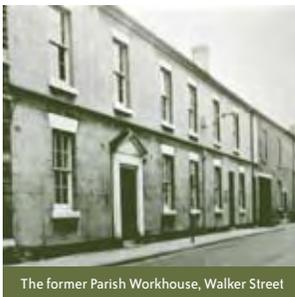
TALES FROM THE VICTORIAN WORKHOUSE



The former Wellington Union Workhouse on Holyhead Road in the 1970's

Workhouses are one of the Victorian era's most enduring symbols of poverty. At the start of the period, they were designed to act as a deterrent and conditions inside were meant to be worse than anything a person might experience in the outside world. The later 19th Century is often associated with a more caring approach towards poverty and a new Workhouse was opened in Wellington during 1876, to replace the town's antiquated facilities. But was there really such a change in attitudes to the lives of the destitute?

LIFE AS AN INMATE



The former Parish Workhouse, Walker Street

Most people who entered the workhouse were too poor, sick or old to support themselves and many residents ended up living- in permanently.

However, the institution was not a prison and people could leave when they liked. After admission, inmates were bathed, issued with a uniform and segregated according to gender and age; families were not allowed to stay together. Wellington had two Workhouse buildings during the Victorian

period, both of which still survive. The first, in Walker Street, stands next to the Library and was opened in 1797. It was capable of holding 160 inmates but rarely appears to have been full. On Census night 1861, only 70 inmates were recorded as living there. The building was later replaced by new facilities on Holyhead Road, which contained a separate infirmary and schoolhouse. But had things really changed?

THE WORKHOUSE MASTER

Edward Lawrence was appointed Master of Wellington Workhouse in September 1890 and kept a diary charting the events of his time in charge.

IN GRIM REALITY

Lawrence was already a veteran in local government circles who, unlike many of his contemporaries, campaigned on a platform of social justice for the poor. It is clear that conditions in the Workhouse were far from satisfactory when he arrived in post. Inmates were forced to eat contaminated food and many of them had diarrhoea. On one occasion, Lawrence described 'night soil as Eau de Cologne in comparison' to the smell of the putrid mutton being prepared for the inmates' dinner. The institution's gas supply was in a dangerous condition, the inmates were not allowed electric light in the evenings and Lawrence also accused his assistant of treating the male residents 'like dogs'. The new Master's frustrations quickly led him to become disillusioned with both the workhouse system and the inmates themselves. After just one month in charge, he described the male inmates as 'bone idle' and their female counterparts as 'thieves, liars and false as hell'. Lawrence's refusal to follow established practices soon led him into conflict with his superiors, the Local Board of Guardians, a course of action which ultimately resulted in his dismissal in 1891, after only a year as Master.

A TOWN WITH A PAST... AND A FUTURE

After you have finished your walk around Victorian Wellington, we are sure that you will agree it is a town whose heritage is worth protecting. Many of the buildings that have been included along the course of the walk are not listed and it will need your help to ensure that they continue to be enjoyed and admired by future generations of Wellingtonians. You can be involved in helping to ensure that this happens...

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Wellington Local Agenda 21 Group is a voluntary organisation that aims to encourage local people to get involved in issues which impact on all of our everyday lives. Decisions made on our own doorsteps can make a real difference and the Local Agenda 21 process exists to help individuals and groups work together to find solutions to a range of problems affecting the local environment, from litter picking to developing sustainable transport projects.

The group maintains a long term commitment to helping support and protect the natural and historic heritage in and around Wellington. If you would like to learn more about our work and how you can get involved, visit us at:

www.wellingtonla21.org.uk

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Written by: Marc Petty for Wellington Local Agenda 21 Group.

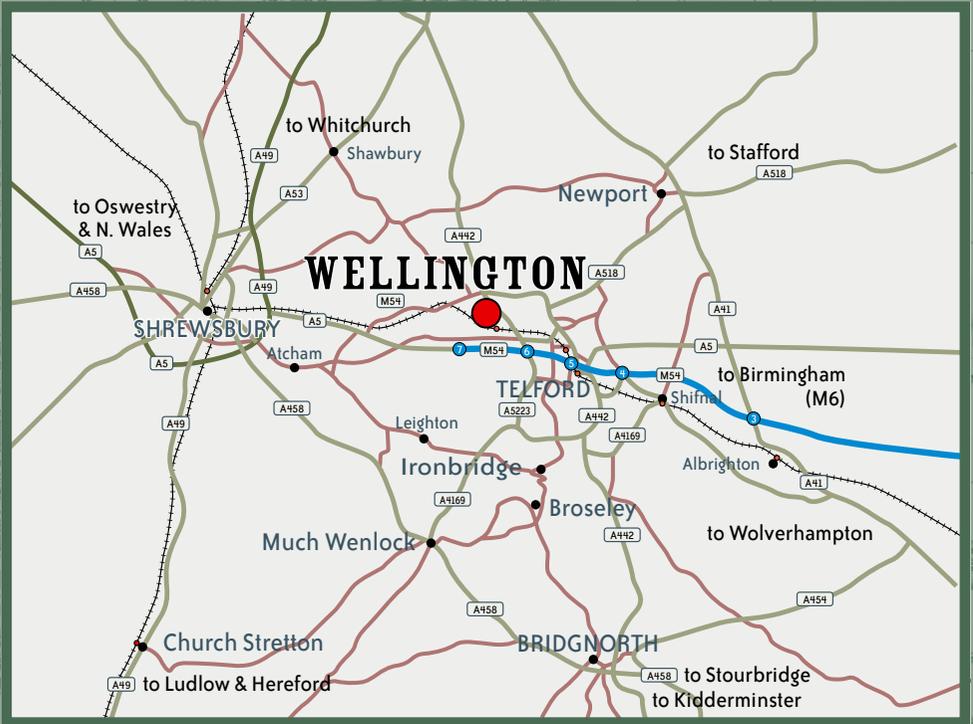
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VISITING VICTORIAN WELLINGTON

BY TRAIN OR CAR...

Wellington is a traditional market town located near to the centre of Shropshire, ten miles from the County Town of Shrewsbury and four miles from Telford Shopping Centre. If you are visiting the area for the first time, why not take advantage of our excellent rail facilities? Wellington Station is located in the centre of the town with regular services to and from the Midlands and Central Wales. It is also an ideal location to begin your Victorian walk or to visit the town's market and the many specialist shops in the area. Wellington is also close to the M54 motorway and can be accessed from either junction 6 or 7. From the north, take the A442 south from Whitchurch, or the A518 from Stafford.

OR ON TWO WHEELS...

Wellington is located on Route 81 of the National Cycle Network and secure parking facilities are available at a number of locations around the town centre. If you are staying in the area, you may also wish to investigate our 'All Round The Wrekin' cycle trail. Pick up a booklet at the local tourist information office in Crown Street for more details, or visit us online at:

www.wellingtonla21.org.uk

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