

# WALKING HISTORY TRAIL OF CAMBRIDGE - FROM ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL TO MARKET SQUARE



**history**  
*works*



## ABOUT CREATING MY CAMBRIDGE

'Creating My Cambridge' is a public art project led by Professor Helen Weinstein to share historical sources about Cambridge's people and places, past and present. It uses histories to inspire creativity and cultures of belonging. The aim is to give voice to school pupils, singers, musicians, poets, rappers, storytellers, filmmakers and composers. Historyworks is working with top poets like Michael Rosen & witty lyricists like CBBC's Horrible Histories song writer, Dave Cohen. Historyworks organizes workshops and events for people to get creative. Do use these resources and contribute subjects and creative pieces. We will be tagging artworks to the topics in the trails. To find further trails, please go to:  
<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails/>

## ABOUT HISTORYWORKS

Historyworks delivers top quality media products for museums, galleries, archives, libraries, community groups, academics, schools, colleges, universities, radio and television companies.

Historyworks supports the practice and theory of Public History and Public Art in the UK by promoting education programmes and partnerships. Historyworks bridges the gap between knowledge and public engagement with creativity and impact.

Historyworks produces made-to-measure documentary films, radio programmes, podcasts, vodcasts, stills, sound installations, websites, apps, radio and tv tasters and show reels. To get in touch with our team email us at [historyworkstv@gmail.com](mailto:historyworkstv@gmail.com)

This walking trail will lead you from St. Luke's Primary School gate down Castle Hill and into the Market place in the heart of Cambridge, exploring the important stories along the way including Chesterton Mills next to the school, tales of World War I, the iconic Red Phone Box, the Abolition of the Slave Trade, Newton's discoveries, the Castle and Prison that used to sit on Castle Mound and much more! You will also find a few additional Points of Interest labelled 1,2 & 3.

Michael Rosen has composed poems about Cambridge people and places pinned to the history trail which Historyworks has recorded with some new songs performed by local primary children to entertain you on your journey. The trail lasts approximately 90 minutes. To find further trails and an electronic copy of this leaflet please go to:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails/>

## The Audio Trail

Audio Trail downloadable in MP3 format available on the web at: [www.audioboom.fm/historyworks](http://www.audioboom.fm/historyworks)

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This trail & accompanying audio have been devised and produced by Helen Weinstein, to whom all suggestions for revisions should be directed ([historyworkstv@gmail.com](mailto:historyworkstv@gmail.com)).

Narration of the trails by Michael Rosen. Michael Rosen is a poet, novelist, broadcaster, famous for his poems like 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'Chocolate Cake', and for this project his poems include 'The Fitzwilliam Lions' and 'Coldham's Common'. Photos from Cambridgeshire Collection, Michael French and Historyworks.



### 1 Histon Road Cemetery



By 1843, because of the growing population and a disease called cholera which killed many adults and children too, dead bodies needed to be buried further away from town in new burial grounds. Two Cemeteries were set up outside the town: Mill Road for the Church of England and Histon Road for the other Christian Churches. This site, then just open fields, became Histon Road Cemetery. Imposing gates, a Lodge for a Caretaker and a Chapel (now gone) were built. Paths were put down and trees planted where we see them today. Only the wealthier people could afford headstones and memorials so many graves are unmarked. There have been 8200 burials, so the Cemetery is now full.

### 2 St Luke's Church War Memorial

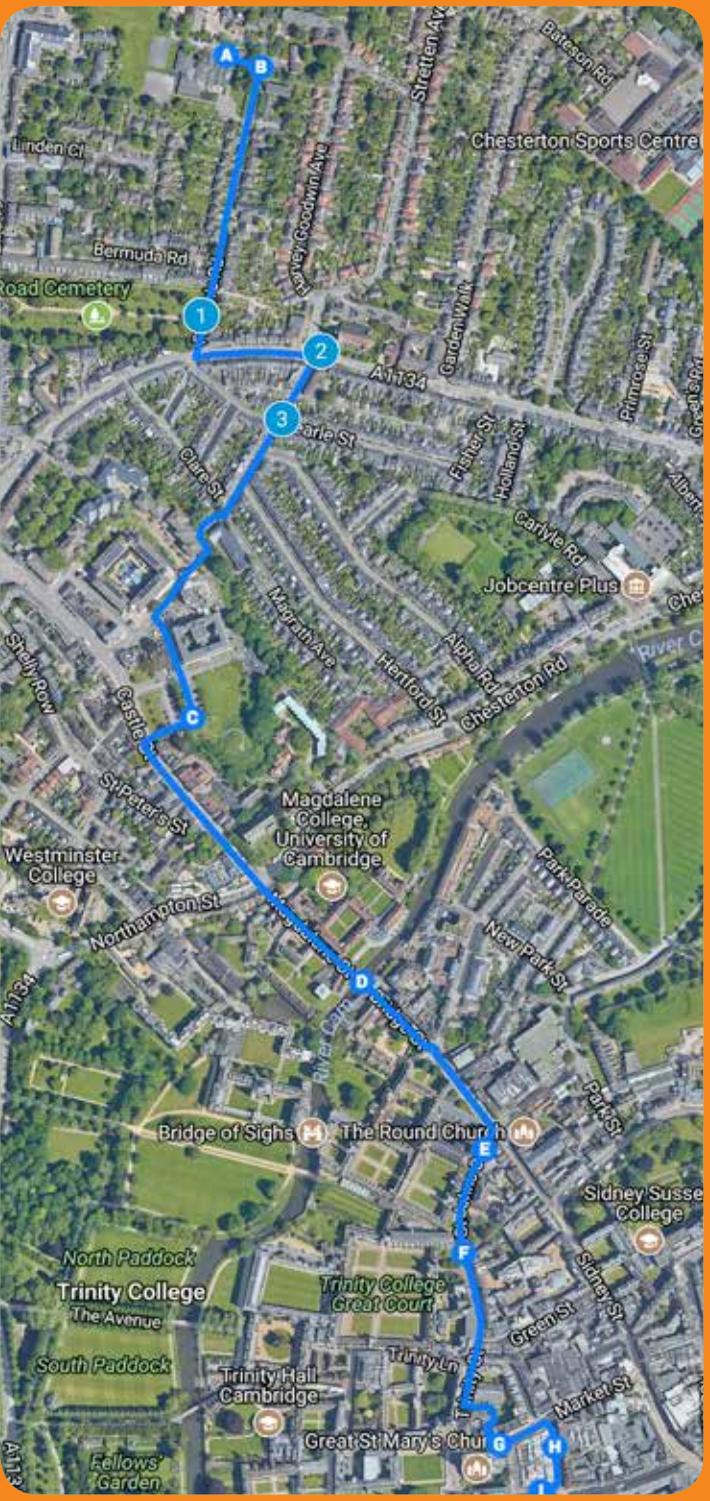


St. Luke's Church has a memorial to honour the 168 men from the local area who died on the battlefields in World War I. The names of each of the men who served are inscribed in gold on the memorial and every year people bring wreaths and poppies on Remembrance Day. One of the families who lost their son was the Dorban family from 57 Searle Street, who ran the local grocer's shop. Their son Edmund John was a stretcher bearer who tragically died on the battlefield in France in October 1917, aged 23. His name can be found on the memorial inside the church.

### 3 Searle Street Bakers



Frederick William French; son of William French, moved to 74 Searle Street with his wife Abigail on his return to England, following a period in America. By 1885 they were in business as a 'Baker and Corn Merchant' at 74 Searle Street, where they lived with their 9 children. Frederick took advantage of his connection to the Mill by working in a related trade. He was likely to have been able to buy flour and grain at favourable prices. His shop was one of many serving this small neighbourhood, including a Grocer's Shop across the road at Number 57, later home to the Dorban Family.



**A St. Luke's School**  
 The original St Luke's School was founded in 1874 attached to the Church of St Luke's on Victoria Road which was a new street and neighbourhood opened to mark Queen Victoria's Coronation in 1837. The school was so popular that within months there were 197 children from 3 to 14 all squashed together with just one full time teacher, a student teacher, and six monitresses! You can still see the one-room school building today, which is now part of the David Kindersley workshop. In 1969 the school moved to French's Road, on the site of the former farm surrounding French's Mill.



**B Chesterton Mills**  
 Around 1850 William French bought the recently built windmill which then stood in open fields. By the mill there was also a granary to store the grain, stables for the horses that pulled the delivery wagon and a cottage to live in. Wheat from local farms was ground between millstones, turned by the sails. The flour produced was sold to bakeries to be made into bread. Wind power was unreliable, so in 1868 a steam engine was installed in a new building with a tall chimney. The Windmill sails were removed in 1911. Milling continued on the site through both World Wars and finally stopped in 1955.



**C Cambridge Castle**  
 A Norman Castle used to stand on the site of Castle Mound and was built in 1068 by order of William the Conqueror. This wooden castle was built in the same location as the previous Roman Fort and was later rebuilt from stone in the 12th Century following the Cambridge fire of 1174. The castle was later used as a prison from around the 14th Century. A new prison was then built in the early 19th Century, but was demolished in the 1920s. It was replaced by Shire Hall. Now only the castle mound and earthworks remain, but it is worth walking up to the top because you get great views over the city!



**D Magdalene Bridge**  
 Magdalene Bridge used to be known as "Great Bridge" and marks the site of an important Roman era river crossing. During Roman times the River Cam could be navigated from the Wash, all the way to Cambridge and all routes met at this crossing point, for trade during peaceful times and also armies and supplies in times of war such as the English Civil War. The river continued to be an important trade route delivering goods to places such as Stourbridge Common for the Fair until the opening of the railway in 1845, which became the dominant route from the seaside in Norfolk at a place called 'the Wash'.



**E Equiano**  
 Olaudah Equiano wrote an important book saying he was born in Africa in 1745, in a place that's now called Nigeria. Equiano played an important role in the fight for the abolition of the slave trade. Having lived as an enslaved African himself, he had first-hand experience of what the conditions of slavery were like and wanted to do something to change this. Equiano came to live in Cambridgeshire much later in his life, when he married his wife Susanna Cullen in Soham, in 1792. They had two children, Anna Maria and Joanna. Anna Maria's memorial stone can be found on the side of St Andrew's Church in Chesterton.



**F Isaac Newton**  
 Newton is famous for his discovery of gravity following a visit to his mother's garden during his Cambridge days in the late 1660s. He observed an apple fall from a tree and then began to consider the mechanism that drove the apple towards the earth, that is now named gravity. The apple tree outside Trinity College is of the "Flower of Kent" variety and a grafted descendant of the original tree where the discovery was made, at the home of Sir Isaac Newton's mother in Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire. It was planted at Trinity College, the college he attended, to commemorate his famous discovery. We've a funny song to commemorate Isaac Newton's discovery of gravity!



**G The Red Phone Box**  
 The iconic "K2" red telephone box was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, an English architect, who was born in 1880 in the Victorian Era. His iconic "K2" red telephone boxes went into production after he won a design competition in the 1920s. This design was later used as the inspiration for the mass production of the "K6" telephone box, a slightly smaller version of the original design. He also designed a number of famous buildings including the Cambridge University Library and Battersea Power Station, now better known as the Tate Modern, and also rebuilt the Common's Chamber in the Houses of Parliament in 1944 after it was bombed in World War II.



**H The Fire of 1849 in Market Square**  
 On the night of Saturday 15th September 1849 there was a huge conflagration which came to be known as the Great Fire of Cambridge Market. It started in a textile shop but became out of control once a chemist caught fire, because the chemicals for the medicines blew up like a firework display! The townspeople tried to put out the fire with buckets from Hobson's fountain, but the key was missing, so water had to be brought up from the River Cam behind King's Chapel in a long human chain which took too much time. All the old timber structures of the area were destroyed, which is why you see stone and brick buildings by the market today.



**I The Guildhall and Roll of Honour**  
 In the entrance of the Guildhall on Market Square there is a Roll of Honour to remember those who died on the battlefields in World War I. When the war ended in 1918 the bells of Great St Mary's on Market Square rang out across the city and local citizens rejoiced. The Roll of Honour at Cambridge Guildhall names the 1,414 local men who lost their lives in battle, a sacrifice that the city has never forgotten. The residents of Cambridge experienced violence and hunger during the First World War, whilst local women and children had to take on lots of new responsibilities.