



2016

Walking Cambridge Trails with Michael Rosen



Helen Weinstein
Historyworks



Walking Cambridge Trails with Michael
Rosen: Creating My Cambridge
Report on s106 funding
By HistoryWorks

S106 public art grant mid-point evaluation form

(summer 2015 grants)

Please complete and return this evaluation form mid-way through your project. This will help us understand how the project is progressing and if it will be completed during the timeframe proposed at the start of the project.

1. Your Organisation	Historyworks
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2. Project title	History Trails – Creating My Cambridge
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3. Project grant	£15,000+£5,000 for Michael Rosen events/recordings = £10,000 received/ 10,000 to be reimbursed on completion
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4.	£15,000 received & additional £5,000 agreed to pay for Michael Rosen events/recordings in addition to the funded recording sessions with schools, the trail research, writing, design, recording, maps, printing for series of ten trail leaflets by Historyworks with voice of Michael Rosen as narrator of the Cambridge trails
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5. Project progress so far
<p>Historyworks has worked closely with the poet Michael Rosen and with 8 participating primary schools for co-creating history trails to start at the front door of the primary schools leading into the centre of Cambridge, stopping off at historically interesting places in neighbourhoods along the way.</p> <p>Historyworks commenced the project by leading singing and poetry sessions in the primary schools and then leading the Year 5s on walks into the city, stopping off at places where Michael has created bespoke poems for Cambridge schools on our project, sharing a new poem about Coldham's Common, Coprolite Mines, the Pterosaur Poo, the story of Newton and Gravity, Stourbridge Fair, and the stone lions at the Fitzwilliam Museum. You can view Michael performing his new poem about Coldham's Common commissioned by Historyworks here:</p> <p>http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/multimedia/featured-films/#coldhams-common-by-michael-rosen</p> <p>All the participating schools' Year 5s were included in a special workshop with Michael Rosen where he encouraged the students to write about the 'history beneath your feet'.</p>

See the kick off event at Abbey Meadows Primary on Wednesday 16th March written up on our blog here:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/events/2016/03/16/creative-workshop-with-michael-rosen-at-abbey-meadows-school/>

Since then we've worked with the schools to create bespoke trail routes, and have drafted maps and trail content. We've already finished the first trail 'from Abbey Meadows to the Guildhall' and this trail is voiced by Michael Rosen and has acted as the inspiration for the other primary schools to join the project and to participate in our workshops with Michael Rosen and the team at Historyworks. Here is the first completed trail voiced by Michael Rosen from Abbey Meadows to the Market:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails/from-abbey-meadows-to-market-square/abbey-estates/>

Next, the children have chosen topics inspired by Michael Rosen and with the additional funding provided by the £10,000 for 'Creating My Cambridge' via Michael Corley's funding from Norwich and Norfolk Festival Bridge) we've been able to spend £5,000 on specific events for schools and a community event on Coldham's Common, in order to followup on Michael's idea to take the children on fieldtrips to the Common and into the City, and have them helped by Mario and Helen of Historyworks to rehearse and record their own poems and raps and songs inspired by the local theme of 'the history beneath your feet'. Subsequent to the drafting of the trail routes and the making of further history resources and powerpoints for the children to use to help them with information for writing their own poetry, we uploaded the resources for the teachers and young people and their families to freely use here:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/songs-creative/resources/other-cambridge-projects/>

Therefore, we've had all the 8 schools visited by Helen Weinstein and Mario Satchwell of Historyworks to learn the songs inspired by the Michael Rosen bespoke poems, about the Fitzwilliam Lions, and the Flying Pterosaurs, the Newton Red Apple Tree, and the Darwin Species song. We've invited the children to create their own pieces about these subjects, and using their five senses, write an imaginative song or poem on a Cambridge theme. The classes have made these into books to present to Michael Rosen. For example, see St Matthews' Year 5 poetry book performed:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/multimedia/schools-poetry-and-songs/st-matthews-primary-school-year-5s-coldhams-common-songs-poems/>

The additional poetry and song writing and recording sessions for Year 5s at the participating schools was not part of the original design of the project, but was suggested by Michael Rosen in our first workshop with the youngsters, and so we've had the additional funding via Michael Corley from Norwich and Norfolk Festival Bridge to use towards our 'Creating My Cambridge' project at Historyworks, which funding has paid for the additional time from Helen Weinstein and Mario Satchwell for singing, rehearsing, and recording at the participating primary schools and editing the poems and song performances for the schools to showcase in their school foyers, schools assemblies, and school fete events. You can view a selection of the childrens' albums of work for our Michael Rosen 'history beneath your feet' project here:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/multimedia/schools-poetry-and-songs/>

In discussion with Jane Wilson from 'My Cambridge' we cut down the number of participating primary schools from the original 10 listed in the funding application to 8 participating primary schools. The 8 participating primary schools in our Michael Rosen history trail project this year have been: Abbey Meadows, St Philip's, Morley, Ridgefield, St Paul's, Milton Road, Bewick Bridge St Matthew's.

Instead of a further two primary trails, we've made further resources requested by the young students and teachers involved the project– namely Historyworks has provided online materials about the Coprolite Mines and the Pterosaurs on Coldham's Common, and more information about the Pumping Station (now called the Cambridge Museum of Technology) and the Leper Chapel and Stourbridge Fair, so have created powerpoints with illustrations for the youngsters to use as inspiration for their pieces in addition to the fieldtrips and prepared all these materials freely online. You can see the online powerpoint materials here: <http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/songs-creative/resources/other-cambridge-projects/>

Further, we are now creating bespoke trails on those subjects at the Leper Chapel and Pumping Station, and installing Bluetooth beacons for all to use. To find the Bluetooth beacon trail produced and installed at the Cambridge Museum of Technology, go to: <http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails/cmt/pumping-station-trail/>

Because we've prepared geo-located trails and will have two published using Bluetooth beacon technology, we've agreed with Jane Wilson to make 8 trails for participating schools, and this means that we will wait to work with Shirley and Chesterton another year, as we found out during 2016/2017 was not good timing for these schools.

To round-off the poetry trail task with Michael Rosen, we invited all the participating Year 5s to walk their trail routes into Cambridge to convene for a special event with Historyworks and Michael Rosen at the University of Cambridge Union Debating Chamber on Wednesday 6th July. It was a huge success, with the big screens used to showcase the poems and songs the children had composed and recorded with us, the debating chamber decorated with balloons to make it child-friendly, and our choir leaders Mario Satchwell and Tizzy Faller getting the children warmed up and using their voices with all the history songs they now have in common from our project! This helped ease the excitement about working with Michael Rosen, who brilliantly engaged the young students and their teachers, and inspired them to the value of being playful with words and writing poems about Cambridge and 'the history beneath your feet'.

Therefore, instead of bringing children to the Big Weekend, for safeguarding reasons it was better for the youngsters to share their poems with Michael Rosen and receive his feedback in an environment just with their teachers and carers, and for Michael to share his enthusiasm for their work and to co-write a poem about 'My Cambridge' in the safe space of the Cambridge Union Debating Chamber, which event was led by Historyworks team of Helen Weinstein and Jon Calver, Mario Satchwell and Tizzy Faller. See:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/events/2016/07/06/creating-my-cambridge-creative-writing-workshop-with-michael-rosen-historyworks/>

For public events open to the whole community, we stuck to our offer in the grant proposal to participate in the Big Weekend, and for this we showcased the Bluetooth beacons and two trails, the Abbey Meadows to Great St Mary's and the 'Really Horrible History of Riverside: the Cambridge Pumping Station Tour', see our news blog piece:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/events/2016/07/09/big-weekend-on-parkers-piece/>

For reaching the families and communities closest to our trail routes on the east side of Cambridge, we organized for the first time, a BIG WEDNESDAY on Coldham's Common on 3rd August, to entertain young people for free in the holidays with making and music activities, and promoted the trail leaflets for Coldham's Common at all the participating primary schools. It was a first event in partnership with ChYpPS and Abbey People and Sustrans and Make-Do-and-Mend and Cambridge Scrap Store, the Cambridge University Museums and Cambridge United. See poster invitation here:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/events/2016/08/03/big-wednesday-on-coldhams-common/>

The Cambridge Mayor opened our drumming workshop part of the event, and our band under the direction of the Historyworks team of Mario Satchwell, Tizzy Faller, and Bethany Kirby, played a special rendition of Michael Rosen's Rap called 'Pterosaur Poo, Pterosaur Poo'. We had good coverage from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and Cambridge News, and over a thousand participants for kite making and music making and other activities on offer. See the press piece in Cambridge News:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/multimedia/newspaper-articles/#big-wednesday-cambridge-news-article-4th-august-2016>

6. What are the next steps towards completing the project

For completing the project, we are in the process of completing research and design of the trails to lead from the primary schools into the historic centre of Cambridge. The schools are all invited to participate in a mass 'Singing History' event at Cambridge United Football ground on 18th February to launch the CD of our Cambridge history songs in the public domain, and following on from this the recordings of the trails will be completed with Michael Rosen late Spring ready for the individual schools who have chosen bespoke launch dates with Historyworks for their own summer fetes, school concerts, and 'My Ridgefield' week of school and community arts events.

7. When do you expect to complete the project?

July 2017 – The project will wrap-up with a concluding celebratory press event with Michael Rosen and the 8 participating primary classes at Cambridge Union Debating Chamber on July 5th 2017 - there will be invitations to attend made to BBC News and Cambridge News, and to the 'My Cambridge' board and the S106 funding board.

What we would like to launch for 2017/2018 is a mirror application for S106 public art funding to cover workshops with Historyworks and Michael Rosen for other primary schools and their communities in Cambridge, with 8 further history trails voiced by Michael Rosen, to include schools we did not reach this first year, for example Shirley and Chesterton, Trumpington and Queen Edith's, Arbury and Kings Hedges, Mayfield and Newnham. And the final two trails to be circular routes from Cambridge Market and a STEM trail of central Cambridge, voiced also by Michael Rosen, for schools outside Cambridge to use to explore the historic centre on their arrival in the city.

Poet and youngsters team up

PRIMARY school children wrote a poem inspired by Cambridge – with a little help from an acclaimed wordsmith.

Michael Rosen was on hand to lead a creative workshop as part of an on-going Historyworks project to get children excited about their city's history.

Rosen also read a poem he wrote about Coldham's Common.

Helen Weinstein, creative director at Historyworks, said: "This project has been enormous fun to see the children be creative with words, with song, with rhythms.

"I don't think any of the children will ever forget having such an astonishing time with Michael Rosen."

INSPIRED:
Michael Rosen led a workshop with hundreds of children to help write a poem about Cambridge.
Pictures: Warren Gunn



More pictures online at
cambridge-news.co.uk



Walking pupils along trail route



Participants in Creating My Cambridge



Michael Rosen Workshop at the Cambridge Union



Big Wednesday on Coldham's Common

All images are freely available for reuse in publicity and other media via our flickr page:

Creating My Cambridge Participants:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/historyworks/albums/72157669488120262>

Creating My Cambridge Illustrations:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/historyworks/albums/72157668480125115>

Michael Rosen at Cambridge Union:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/historyworks/albums/72157671219724055>

Big Wednesday on Coldham's Common:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/historyworks/albums/72157669004354593>

history
works presents

CREATING MY CAMBRIDGE:

POETRY, SONG, & BODY PERCUSSION WORKSHOP



Children are invited to this exciting creative writing workshop with Michael Rosen in the Debating Chamber at the historic Cambridge Union, a hidden gem in Cambridge city centre, tucked behind the Round Church.

Wednesday 6th July | 10.30 - 12.30
Cambridge Union Society: Debating Chamber
9A Bridge St, Cambridge CB2 1UB



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
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Bridge Organisation

Working with Arts Council England
to connect young people with great
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Creative Writing Workshop with Michael Rosen & Historyworks

Wednesday 6th July | 10.30 - 12.30pm

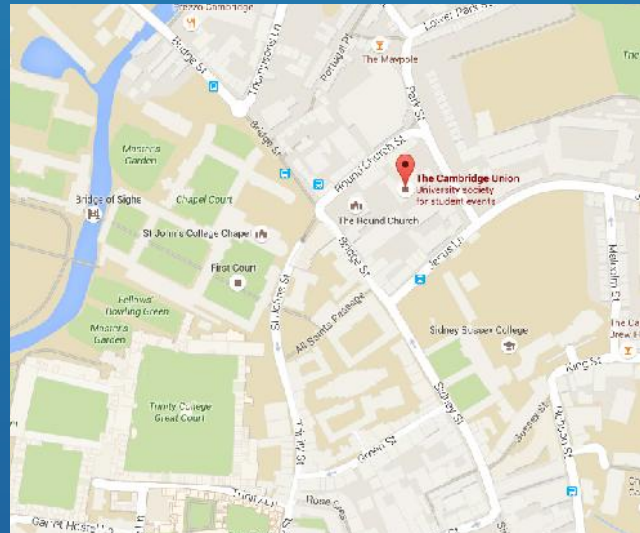
The event will offer participating Year 5/Year 6 Primary School children and their teachers the opportunity to be inspired by the history beneath their feet through Michael Rosen's poems about local Cambridge history, including fantastic new poetry commissioned by Historyworks about our River Cam, Isaac Newton & Gravity, the Lions of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and Coldham's Common & the extraordinary Victorian story of mining Dinosaur Pool!

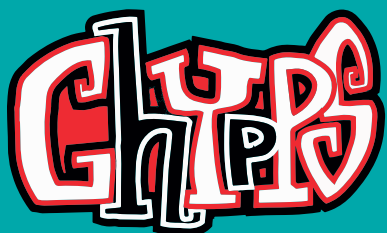
This Historyworks event will include the children learning more about body percussion to help them with rhythm and rhyme and the new songs about Cambridge local history co-written by CBBC's Horrible Histories Song Writers and the Historyworks team. Importantly, the children will co-create a poem together with Michael Rosen on the subject of 'My Cambridge'. Also, children will be given an opportunity on this day and afterwards to record their co-created works. They will showcase their own pieces of poetry and share artwork they have created inspired by the amazing stories of Cambridge's history and to have feedback from Michael Rosen alongside Helen Weinstein and the Historyworks team.

For more information visit: www.creatingmycambridge.com

To request to be involved in this project contact Helen Weinstein:
historyworkstv@gmail.com

For a map of the entrances please visit: www.cus.org/about/where-find-us





and

history
works

present

BIG WEDNESDAY ON COLDHAM'S COMMON



To celebrate National Play Day

Please join us for creative, sporting and musical activities

4pm Performance of Junk Band, Drumming, Songs!

Wednesday 3rd August | 1pm - 4pm

Coldham's Common (Abbey Pool end)

Activities: FREE



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Bridge Organisation

Working with Arts Council England
to connect young people with great
art and culture

BIG WEDNESDAY

Drop in any time 1pm - 4pm

Junk Band & Singing Performance at 4pm

Activities planned include:

- Junk band making & performing
- "Sweeper" obstacle attraction
- Flying lizard drawing & kite-making
- Close-up magic trick entertainer
- Pop-up tennis & ping pong
- Bicycle skills workshop
- Abbey People activities & Orchard Plant Stall
- Wildlife Walk & Geo Cache Trail
- University Museums Object handling & activities
- Face painting and Under 5's area
- Craft activities with Community Scrapstore and Amey
- Cambridge Community Circus Workshop
- Family Fun Run
- Cambridge United Sports Zone

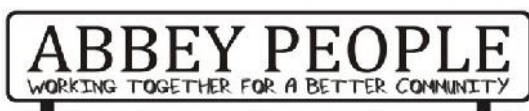
For more information please contact us:

Tel: 01223 457873 email chypps@cambridge.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: This is not a childcare facility. Children are free to come and go as they please. Under 5's must be accompanied by an adult.

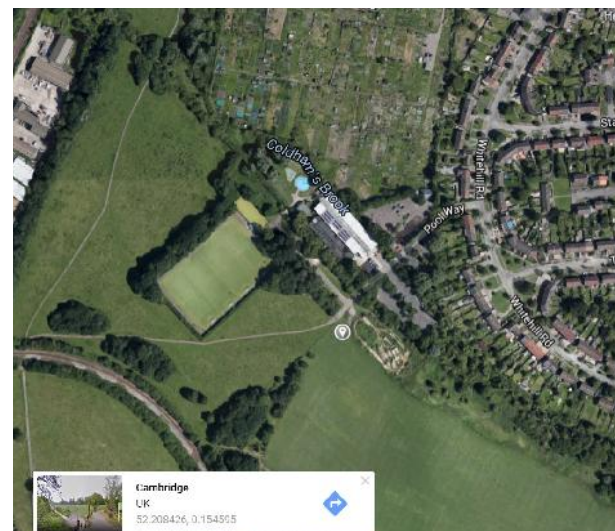
Pop-up Street food area provided by foodPark (cash only)

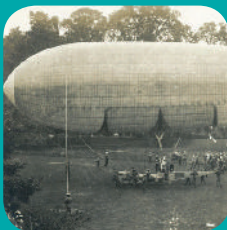
In Partnership with:



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MUSEUMS
& BOTANIC GARDEN

Activities will be located in and around popup tents next to the BMX track near the Abbey Leisure Centre, Whitehill Rd, Cambridge CB5 8NT





G Marshall Company

Marshall of Cambridge is well known today for the aerodrome and runways at their business located at the top of Newmarket Road. However, the original site of Marshall was closeby the River Cam, when the company

was established in 1909 by David Gregory Marshall as a car vehicle business, and their garage was in Brunswick Gardens. Importantly, their first opportunity to get involved in aviation came in 1912 when a British Army airship made an emergency landing on Jesus Green closeby their garage. Their mechanics helped repair the engine of the Airship called a Beta II.



H 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, when the town was divided between supporters of the King and supporters of Parliament. The river continued to be an important trade route, until the opening of the railway in 1845, which then became the dominant route.



I Guildhall and Market Square

The Market was an important place for the Jewish Community who had a synagogue on the site where the Guildhall was later built. The Coat of Arms of Cambridge shows Seahorses, the Great Bridge, the River Cam with boats and is set above the Guildhall door.

In Tudor times Thomas Hobson made an important improvement to the market. He helped fund a conduit to bring fresh water to a fountain in the middle of Market square, for drinking water. The remains of the fountain can be seen today in the centre of the market square and look like a giant flower pot!



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

User Guide

This walking trail will lead you from the Abbey area along Riverside into the Market place in the heart of Cambridge, exploring the important stories along the way including the prehistoric flying lizards of Coldham's Common, the 800 year old Leper Chapel, the stinkiest place at the Victorian sewage pumping station, and give you insights into the Cambridge Coat of Arms, the story of football, and much more!

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

© Historyworks 2016.

This trail & accompanying audio have been devised and produced by Helen Weinstein, to whom all suggestions for revisions should be directed (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'.

www.creatingmycambridge.com

WALKING HISTORY TRAIL OF RIVERSIDE - FROM ABBEY MEADOWS TO MARKET SQUARE



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Bridge Organisation
Working with Arts Council England to connect young people with great art and culture

history works



A Abbey Meadows Estate & School

Cambridge is growing! There are already 123,000 people living in Cambridge, with nearly 30,000 more expected by 2020. Therefore new houses and flats are being built all around the city! But this isn't the first time this has happened. In 1801 there were just 252 people living in Abbey Ward, but by 1851 there were almost 12,000! In the 19th Century new homes were needed for railway workers, craftsmen and shopkeepers. In the 20th Century an estate in east Cambridge was newly built, including Abbey Meadows School, with many working at nearby Marshall's Aerospace and Pye Electronics.



B Coldham's Common

Today cows still graze on Coldham's Common, as they did when peasants worked on the land in the Middle Ages. In 1594 people fought to keep the land public as a Common for everyone to use. But did you know that millions of years ago pterosaurs and ichthyosaurs used to live where the common is now? This amazing discovery happened in the mid 19th Century, when coprolite (fossilised poo) was discovered! The coprolite was used as fertiliser to help crops grow and the industry was revived during the World War One food shortages.



C Cambridge United

The team was established in 1912 and originally named "Abbey United" after the Abbey area. The team settled in Abbey Stadium and became professional in 1949, after years of playing in local amateur leagues, Cambridge United then joined the football league in 1970. Cambridge has been playing football for centuries, going back to Roman times when they played harpastum, an early form of football. In 1848 football teams met to agree on one set of rules to prevent disagreements. The rules were fixed to the trees on Parker's Piece and then adopted by the Football Association when it was founded in 1863.



F Barnwell Priory

Barnwell Priory was founded in 1092 and is the Abbey that Abbey ward is named after! It hosted numerous medieval Kings and even a Parliament. However it was not always popular, as back in 1381 it survived a revolt of angry locals and 150 years later was shut by Henry VIII, leading to most of the Abbey being dismantled. Only the Exchequer (storehouse for coins, fish and grain) now remains, which can be seen on Beche Road. However the Abbey is memorialised by the naming of Abbey Meadows School and street names in Abbey Ward named after previous Priors, like Peverel.



E Cambridge Museum of Technology

As the Cambridge population grew, so did the problems of sewage and smells in the River Cam! Not only did it make it unpleasant to breathe, it also led to disease spreading. The terrible state of the river was noticed by Queen Victoria on a visit to the city in 1843. She was shocked by the filth floating in the Cam. However following campaigns to improve hygiene and living conditions, the pumping station was opened in 1894, pumping sewage out to Milton village, powered by steam pressure. The area also had gas, brick and tile works to build more houses and businesses in the Victorian Era.



D The Leper Chapel

The Leper Chapel was built over 800 years ago and is one of the oldest remaining building in Cambridge (even older than King's College Chapel!) It formed part of the Leper Hospital in the Middle Ages, where victims of leprosy lived in isolation. The chapel was given permission from King John (of Magna Carta fame) to earn income from the annual Stourbridge Fair, held on Stourbridge Common. The fair became extremely popular and meant the chapel became immensely wealthy. The leper colony closed at the end of the 13th Century and the chapel was handed to Cambridge town.

WALKING THE REALLY HORRIBLE HIDDEN HISTORY OF RIVERSIDE - THE PUMPING STATION TOUR



Cambridge Museum of Technology, CB5 8LD

User Guide

This walking trail produced by Historyworks will lead you around the Cambridge Museum of Technology Pumping Station exploring some of its forgotten stories. At each of the stops along the trail, listen along to the audio narrative provided. These can be accessed via our Bluetooth Beacons or an online audio trail.

The Beacons Trail

The Bluetooth Beacon trail created to use en route can be accessed via your web-enabled apple or android device and following the instructions below.

1. Install the Physical Web App (Available from Apple App Store or Google Play)
2. Enable Bluetooth on your device
3. Launch the Physical Web App
4. Refresh Beacon list by pulling down on the list.

The Audio Trail

Audio Trail downloadable in MP3 format available on the web at: www.audioboom.fm/historyworks

The Leaflet & More Information

To find this leaflet, more information on this trail, or to find further history trails by historyworks, please go to www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails
© Historyworks 2016.

This trail and accompanying audio have been devised and produced by Helen Weinstein, to whom all suggestions for revisions should be directed (historyworkstv@gmail.com). Expertise and Narration of the trails by Cambridge Museum of Technology Curator, Pam Halls.

With thanks to Pam Halls, Curator at the Cambridge Museum of Technology and all the volunteers for contributing to the content of the audio tour; also to Jon Calver for the recording and editing of the audio trail; Mario Satchwell for design of the leaflet; Interns Alex Calver and William Snell-Mendoza for contributing to the photography and writing for the leaflet; Tizzy Faller for transcribing the audio tour; Jon Harris for the illustration of the pumping station site; and to Jonathan Austin of ARM for the technical introduction and facilitating the beacon aspect of the audio trail.

9 DESTRUCTOR FLUE

The flue is a tunnel underneath the boilers where all the smoke accumulated from burning the rubbish, and coke was directed up the chimney. As soot gathered in the flue workers had to sweep annually all areas and shovel out the soot. However, the boilers could not be turned off so the workers would have had to put wet sacks over themselves and run in, do their shovelling, and then run out very quickly. The workers took turns in carrying out this job to keep the area clear.

10 ASH TUNNEL

Ash had to be cleared from the furnaces every 2 hours to ensure oxygen circulated and the rubbish could continue to be burnt. It was raked out by the workers into little trucks on rails and then pushed by hand outside where they were hauled up the hill to a top site using a winch engine which was powered by steam. The ash could be used as a building material and during the Second World War it was used to build roads and airfields. Metal was not burnt because it could be sold for use again.

11 TIPPING/TOP BAY

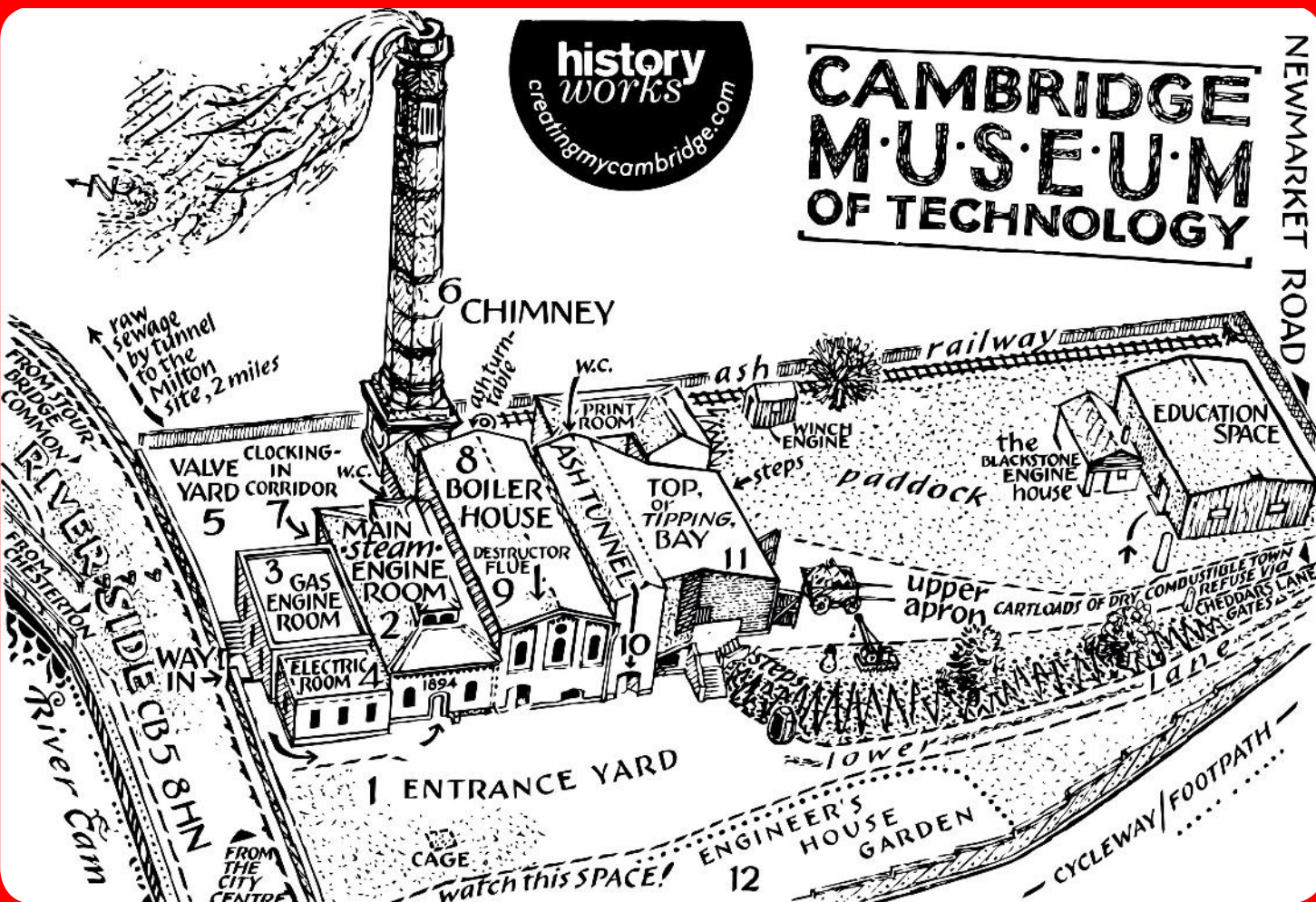
This is where all the rubbish from Cambridge was brought and tipped into the destructor in the boiler room, initially transported by horse and cart and later on by motorised vehicles. First, the rubbish would be sorted because metal and bottles could be recycled and sold whilst metal was flattened by the corporation steamroller to be converted into neat bales to be sold on. During the Second World War, a wooden frontage was built around the tipping bay to ensure that the flames from the destructors were not shown during the night. If an enemy bomber could see the light, they would have bombed the area, and they could have guessed that the railway was nearby.

12 THE ENGINEERS HOUSE

This is where the Engineer in charge of the pumping station lived with his family so that he was available at all times if there were any problems. The house was built in 1898, a few years after the pumping station opened in 1894. It had everything the 19th century family could wish for including electric lighting, powered by electricity generated using steam from the pumping station, a bathroom, a kitchen range for cooking, a copper for doing the washing and an outside toilet.

The Historyworks trail is based in Cambridge's old sewage pumping station, which was closed down in 1968. Up until 1894, untreated sewage was flowing into the River Cam through a network of collapsing and overused sewers, and many people, including students dumped their chamber pots of pee and poo straight into our river. This tour introduces visitors to the glorious Victorian steam pumping station designed to pump the sewage to a new sewage farm at Milton. The original building was built in 1894 and shows a progression of the development of power, from steam, through internal combustion, to electricity. The site is one of the earliest examples of recycling because the city's rubbish was burned here to produce steam which powered the steam engines to pump sewage to Milton.





1 ENTRANCE YARD

The two cages at the entrance of the pumping station were used to filter the sewage that was pumped in from people's homes. The cages would be dropped into the flow of the sewage and they were wound up by one of the workers twice a day. The unfortunate worker had to remove anything that might have blocked up the pumps such as large bits of wood or dead dogs. It has been said that on one very upsetting occasion the workers found a live crocodile on site, which had been asleep and then woke up!



2 PUMPING/MAIN ENGINE ROOM

The two Hathorn Davey engines in this room were installed in 1894 when the pumping station was built and they spent every day - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until 1967-pumping sewage out to Milton. Each engine alternated their operations on a weekly basis so they could be properly serviced. The gantry crane here was used to do maintenance on these engines, it had to be very powerful to pick up the big lumps of metal. It has been suggested that the Victorians built the engine room to be very beautiful with its many colourful tiles in order to hide the fact that its sole purpose was to pump poo.



3 GAS ENGINE ROOM

The gas engines were installed in 1909 and their role was to pump sewage into some large storage tanks when the steam engines could not cope after a period of heavy rain which flowed into the sewers having nowhere else to drain. Once the rain had passed, the steam engines would take over and pump the excess sewage to Milton. The main advantage of the gas engines was that they could start up within 10 minutes which meant that they could react quickly to a sudden increase in demand.



4 ELECTRIC ROOM

The pumping station became a beacon of light in this part of Cambridge because there was no mains electricity at the time. They built a small generating station that used steam to produce electricity and illuminate the pumping station. This room was added in 1937 and it is noticeable that they cared much less about how the room looked in contrast to the main engine room. The electric motor was made by Crompton and Parkinson and was not used much because electricity was extremely expensive at the time. When the pumping station first opened they used oil lamps as lighting and later gas lighting.



5 VALVE YARD

The purpose of the valves in this yard was to control the flow of sewage which ran into a network of piping under the pumping station. Each valve has its own little plaque to show where the sewage would be directed if you used it. For example, one says 'Gas Engine to Holding Tank' which made it clear that by using this valve sewage would be directed from the gas engine room to a holding tank. It was important not to get the sewage directions wrong otherwise it could have ended up overflowing in residential areas and causing disease.



6 CHIMNEY

The chimney reaching an impressive 180 feet was used to release all the smoke that was produced from burning the coal, coke and rubbish. It was important to be tall because it was necessary to have a nice pull for the furnaces and to release the noxious gases as far up into the sky as possible. The pumping station was used to burn trade waste from businesses and the local council and one element of this was secret documents. They would be fed into the furnaces and on one occasion there was a bit of draft which sucked the papers up the chimney and distributed them all over Cambridge for people to see. A grill had to be built to prevent this from happening again.



7 CLOCKING-IN CORRIDOR

Although the clocking-in machine was not used here, it was used by workers in other industrial buildings to record how much time they were working each day to pay them correctly. They would bring a card which could be stamped at their time of arrival and departure so that their working hours were counted accurately.



8 BOILER ROOM

The boiler room was completely different to the engine rooms in that they were very dirty, very smelly and very hot. Originally, there were three boilers in a row and their purpose was to boil water to make steam to pump the sewage. This was done by burning both coal and the town's rubbish. Each boiler had a destructor cell on each side which is where the town's rubbish was poured and burned to make steam. Rubbish was not collected on Sunday, and therefore, coal and later coke had to be burnt to compensate.