

Rushden & District History Society

Blue Plaque Walk

Get To Know Rushden Week 2013



The walk does not visit all the existing plaques although they are marked on the map so that people can detour and visit them afterwards if they wish.

Red numbers relate to plaques on our planned route

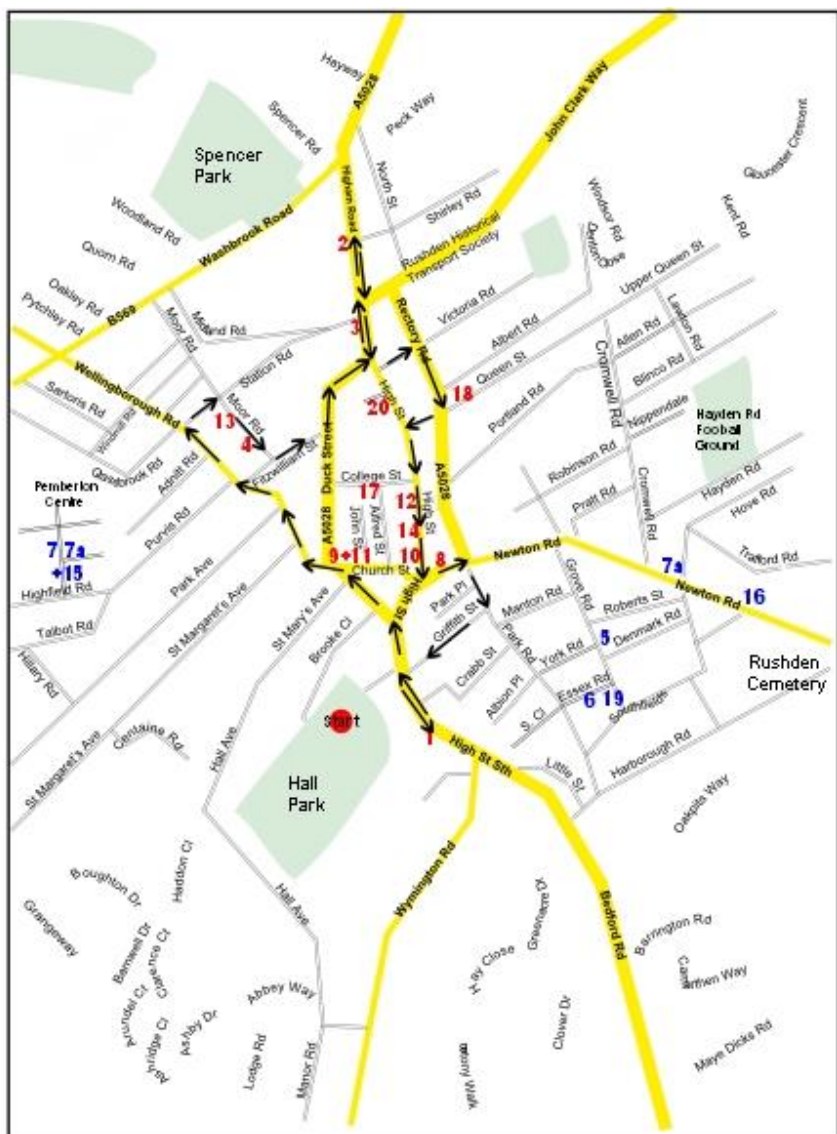
Blue numbers are for plaques not on the route.

*The numbers on the map link to the order the plaques are listed on the **Hearts and Soles** website <http://www.rushdenheritage.co.uk>.*

The walk will follow the route marked on the map. More information about the plaques can be found on the website as can the 7 plaques not visited on this walk.

X Start outside Rushden Hall

Turn left out of the park gates and walk towards Skinners Hill. Stop near the bus stops opposite Church Street.





a) Plaque 9 – on the side wall of Venezia on the corner of Church Street and Duck Street this plaque is mounted near the site (now a car park) of the premises of Lightstrung Co. Ltd. Well-known manufacturers of cycles between 1891 and 1970.

b) Plaque 11 – is mounted on the front of Venezia and commemorates the site of John White’s second factory opened in 1920 and his head office



c) Plaque 4 – Walk up Wellingborough Road and cross over between Purvis Road and Adnitt Road. Continue along Wellingborough Road as far as Station Road. Turn right then right again into Moor Road. Continue along Moor Road to Heather Court where the plaque to Benjamin Ladds Shoe Factory is located. The factory was on this site from 1891 to 1971



d) Plaque 13 -

The plaque is on number 17 Moor Road and commemorates Reg Norman who lived there. He composed "Air Ada" as a regular feature in the local paper and wrote poetry in the Rushden dialect.

- e) Plaque 3 – turn left into Fitzwilliam Street then left into Duck Street turning left into the High Street at the Railway Inn. The plaque which commemorates the grand late Victorian building known as Stonehurst is on the wall of the empty premises that were occupied by B M W Windows. In WW1 Stonehurst was used to house Belgian refugees and in WW2 was bomb damaged on the same day as Alfred Street School.



was built on the site.

- f) Plaque 2 - continue along High Street towards Higham Ferrers. Plaque 2 is located inside ASDA on the wall on the left in the lobby area. It is often hidden by various displays as it is not very high on the wall. It commemorates Thurston's Fairground. During feast week the arrival of the fair in "Franklin's Fields" was a highlight for local people. Later the Royal Theatre



g) Plaque 18 – return along High Street as far as Victoria Road. Turn left and then right into Rectory Road. Continue along Rectory Road to the junction with Queen Street. The plaque is mounted on a cement wall which now replaces the first Salvation Army hall built in 1888 and later demolished in 1947 for the widening of Rectory Road.

h) Plaque 20 – use the footpath to cut through to the High Street. Turn right and walk up High Street to the junction with West Street. The plaque is mounted on the wall above the Prime Choice offices. It commemorates local boxer Jack Harrison who was British Middle Weight Champion and holder of the Lonsdale Belt in 1912.



i) Plaque 17 – return down High Street as far as the junction with College Street. Turn right into College Street and walk towards Alfred Street. The plaque is mounted on the school wall and commemorates 7 children killed by a bomb on 3rd October 1940. There is a small memorial garden that can be accessed via a gate in the boundary wall.



- j) Plaque 12 – is very near plaque 14 and is mounted above the now empty Telegraph offices. It commemorates the original shoe factory opened by John Cave and burned down twice before he relocated to College Street.



- k) Plaque 14 – return to High Street and turn right. This plaque is not a blue plaque but is one of only 100 special plaques put up throughout the country to celebrate 100 years of the British Cinema. It is in the form of a still from a real of film and is sadly in a poor state of repair. It is mounted below the burglar alarm on Mrs B's cake shop which occupies the site of the original entrance to the Palace Cinema built in 1910.

- l) Plaque 8 – is on the opposite side of the road and is mounted above Net Affairs. The building is one of the oldest premises in Rushden High Street and was used in 1849 by John Radburn a dealer in lace. Later it became a butcher's.





m) Plaque 10 – is also in the High Street and is mounted above the premises occupied by Forest Floor Reptiles. It commemorates the original Rushden Industrial Co-operative Society store opened by 1878.

n) Plaque 1 – at the bottom of the High Street turn left and walk up Newton Road as far as the traffic lights at the junction with Rectory Road and Park Road. Cross over and walk along Park Road as far as Griffith Street. Turn right down Griffiths Street to join High Street South. Walk along High Street South. The last plaque is



mounted on the wall of a cottage on the same side of the road as Hall Park and commemorates Lt. Col. Bernard W. Vann VC who was born there in 1887. He was killed in September 1918 4 days after being awarded the Victoria Cross.

Return along High Street South to Hall Park and the start of the walk.

We hope you have enjoyed the walk and feel inspired to look on the website for more information as well as try to visit the other 8 plaques listed below (marked in blue on the map)

- Plaque 5 is located at 51 Grove Road and is where H E Bates was born
- Plaque 6 and 19 are located at 15 Essex Road and is where H E Bates lived from 1914-1931
- Plaque 16 is located at 103 Newton Road to commemorate the work of Alice Unwin Muxlow a tireless WVS worker during WW2.
- Plaque 7 is located at the Pemberton Centre and is a tree planted by H E Bates widow in 1995.
- Plaque 7a is in fact a photograph of HE Bates located in the entrance hall to Newton Road School which he attended as a child.
- Plaque 15 is also at the Pemberton Centre site of the former Tennyson Road School sports field.



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