

HIDDEN CHELTENHAM

Follow the trail



The Hidden Cheltenham trail highlights the stories of the people, places and communities of Cheltenham that have been overlooked, forgotten and sometimes even written out of history.

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1

THE MAYFLOWER



Cheltenham's first Chinese restaurant, Ah Chow, was opened by Soo Yow in 1958. The restaurant was initially located in half the current building. They served Chinese and English food and quickly built up a regular clientele.

2

HEPWORTH BRONZES (ABOVE WAGAMAMA)



This bronze relief, Themes and Variations, by leading 20th century sculptor Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975) complements the curved nature of the building designed by architects Healing and Overbury.

3

ST MARY'S CHURCH YARD



Hidden away in the path are two brass markers. They could have been used for measuring rope or fabric to sell in the weekly market.

4

CENTRE STONE (F HINDS)



The centre stone marks the official centre of Cheltenham. Travelling distances were measured from this point. Later, fares for cabs and taxis were calculated from here.

5

THE BREWERY QUARTER



Cheltenham's first proper brewery was founded in 1760 by local maltster and baker, Thomas Gardner on this site. Gardner's Brewery flourished and expanded and in 1888 was registered as Cheltenham Original Brewery Ltd.

6

BRIAN JONES (FORMERLY THE ODEON)



Brian Jones was born 28th February 1942 in the Park Nursing Home, Cheltenham. He played here with the Rolling Stones in 1964 and 1965 when it was the Gaumont Cinema.

7

GEORGE JACOB HOLYOAKE (MARKS AND SPENCER)



On this site in 1842, George Jacob Holyoake became the last man to be arrested for blasphemy in England. Holyoake was a famous social reformer and radical thinker who promoted secularism.

8

GLOSTER AIRCRAFT (REGENT ARCADE)



Britain's first successful jet aircraft 'Pioneer' was assembled on this site in 1941. The aircraft was designed and built by the Gloster Aircraft Company at Hucclecote.

9

SARAH BURNEY (PIZZA EXPRESS)



Little known English novelist, Sarah Harriet Burney, moved to this former boarding house in 1841. Her career as a writer, although successful, was overshadowed by her more famous elder sister, the novelist and diarist Frances Burney.

10

THE BANDSTAND (MONTPELLIER GARDENS)



The first successful parachute descent by an Englishman, John Hampton, was made on this site in 1838. Hampton jumped from his hot air balloon at a height of 6000 feet in a descent lasting 12 minutes 40 seconds.

11

J N MASKELYNE (SPA PHARMACY)



This shop was once the home of J N Maskelyne, world-famous magician, inventor and watchmaker. Maskelyne is known for inventing the coin-operated toilet, from which we get the British phrase, "to spend a penny".

12

THE OBSERVATORY (CHELTENHAM LADIES COLLEGE)



Although astronomy had been taught at Cheltenham Ladies College since the 1850s, the Observatory that stands on top of Princess Hall was not erected until 1897.

