

still recommended the demolition of the historic buildings on Low Pavement! Public protests on a scale never before seen in Chesterfield against both plans resulted in the Council abandoning these plans completely. Closed in 1974 as the Peacock Inn, its glazed tile facade hid an historic gem. In 1974 a fire caused by vandals at the now derelict former pub, revealed a timber framed building dating back to the 16th century.

Continue along the bottom side of New Square to the **Portland Hotel (6)** built in 1899 to serve the adjacent Market Place Railway Station. The Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, opened in 1899. The line only ever went as far east as Lincoln, and terminated in Chesterfield. The line closed to passengers in 1951 and Market Place Station was demolished in 1973. Notice the figure heads and the carvings above the main entrance of the Portland.

Return to New Square. The stone building on the upper side is the **Grace Chapel (7)** which was built in 1867 by the Sheffield Banking Company. It is a copy of an earlier stone house on the site which was typical of local buildings before the opening of the Chesterfield Canal in 1777, which allowed bricks and tiles to be imported and used in the building to its left.

Turn right to join the High Street on the upper side of the Market Hall. At the corner of Soresby Street is the grade II listed former **Post Office (8)** closed in 2014. Plans are being put forward to convert the upper floors into apartments. The windows on the first floor of the **Nat West Bank (9)** illustrate aspects of the town's historic manufacturing industries and the local stately homes when the bank was rebuilt in 1969.

Turn left up Glumangate, one of the oldest streets in the town. Turn right into Knifesmithgate and observe more of the attractive black and white **Tudor Revival buildings** of the 1930s. The **Premier Inn (10)** on Elder Way was built as the main branch of Chesterfield Co-operative Society. It remains an iconic building; as one of the largest department stores in the town, it was immensely popular. Unfortunately a drop in demand forced its closure in July 2013.

Elder Yard Chapel (11), a grade II listed building, was built 1692/1694. It was the first nonconformist chapel in the town. The roughcast render over coursed stone is visible on the west and south sides. The entrance is on the west side, with a walled churchyard forming an enclosure for the chapel.

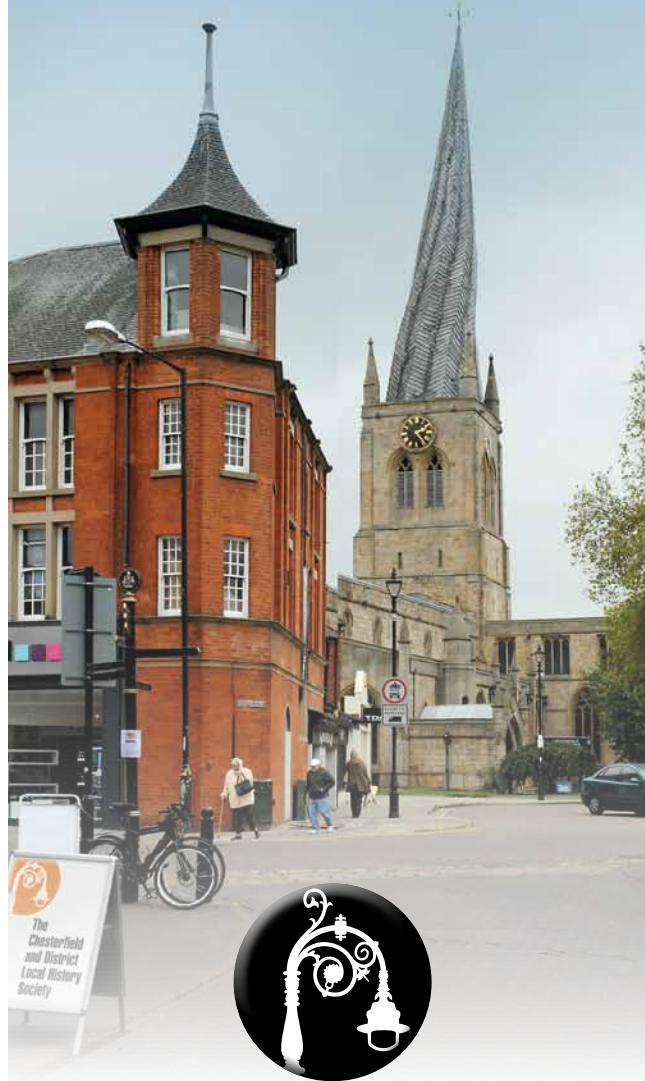
The Victoria (12) is fondly remembered in the town. The billiard hall is where the future world champion Joe Davis began his career. Many couples did their courting in the ballroom and cinema. The black and white buildings on the north side of Knifesmithgate were built when the road was widened in the 1920s. The colonnade was intended to keep the shoppers dry when it rained. Notice the grotesques at the head of the columns, which were originally coated with gold leaf.

Continue straight ahead and cross to Stephenson Place. This was originally a continuation of Knifesmithgate until it was widened and renamed at the beginning of the 20th century. Prior to that the Rutland extended half way across the street. Continue to the end of the street where it joins Holywell Street. Opposite is the **Winding Wheel Theatre (13)** which was opened as the Picture House in 1923. It later became the Odeon and the extension on the left was opened in 1932.

At the end of the street turn right to the steps through the churchyard. Opposite is the **Stephenson Memorial Hall (14)** built with the aid of money raised by public subscription in memory of George Stephenson, the railway engineer, who lived at nearby Tapton House, and was buried at Holy Trinity Church. It now houses the Pomegranate Theatre and Chesterfield Museum and Art Gallery, which are currently closed for a major refurbishment.

To return to the Visitor Centre either take the steps through the churchyard or return to Stephenson Place and take one of the alleys on the left leading to the churchyard.

Over sixty years ago plans, which would have demolished many attractive buildings, were changed and Chesterfield still has much of interest for the visitor.



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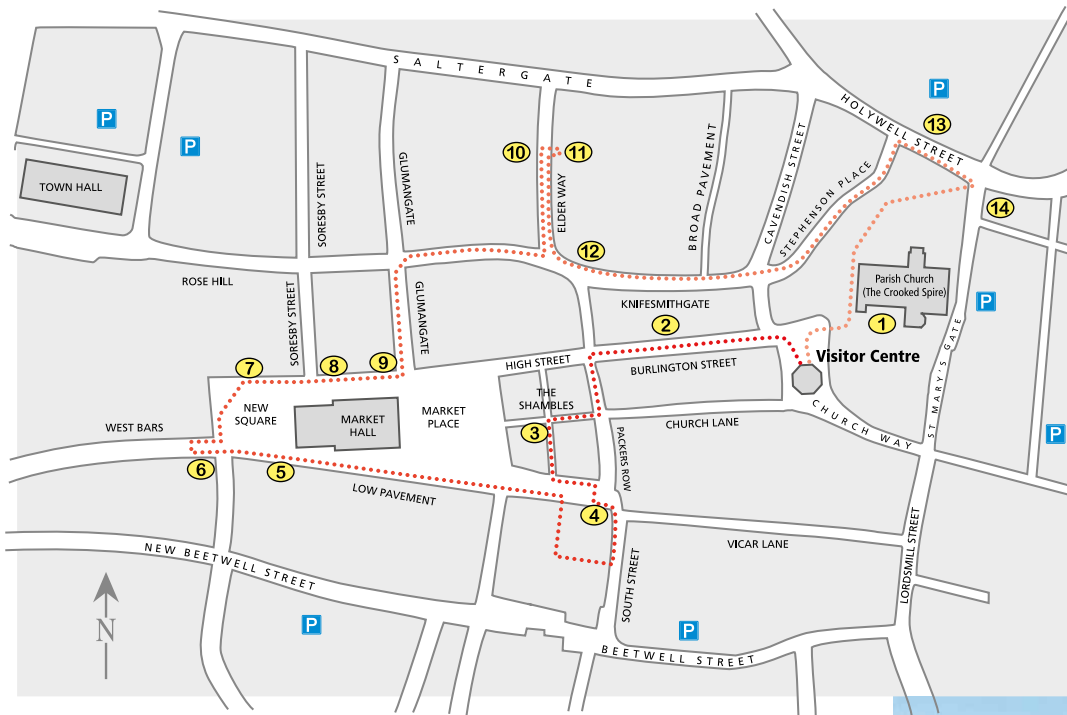
THE PARISH CHURCH FROM BURLINGTON STREET.

COVER PICTURE: THE FORMER FALCON INN DATING BACK TO THE 16TH CENTURY.



Explore Chesterfield

A 40 minute walk through the town's history



AN EFFIGY FROM THE FOLJAMBE CHAPEL IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS.



THE ROOF AND A CUT-AWAY SECTION OF WALL REVEALS THE CONSTRUCTION AND FORMER SECRETS OF THE PEACOCK (5)

When Chesterfield became a Municipal Borough in 1836 it occupied approximately a half square mile and the built area one third of that. The population increased rapidly from 1840 onwards following the arrival of the railways, the opening of coal mines and the growth of heavy engineering.

In 1892 the boundaries were extended into neighbouring townships. With the increase in vehicular traffic something had to be done about the narrow streets. There was much rebuilding in the 1920s and 1930s with a planning policy for Tudor Revival, which is partly why there are so many attractive black and white buildings in the town.

The trail round the town takes a minimum of 40 minutes. Allow extra time for visiting the church or taking refreshments in the numerous cafés around the town.

The Visitor Centre stands in an area which was a Roman fort, which is how the town got its name. Leaving the centre look right to the **Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints (1)**. A church was dedicated in 1234, but most of the fabric dates from the 14th century. It was extensively restored by Gilbert Scott in 1843–4. The crooked spire was fortunate to avoid destruction by fire in 1961.

Turn left and enter the pedestrianised Burlington Street. On the right are the **Burton Buildings (2)** now Greggs. Meshe Osinsky came to Chesterfield in 1911, changed his name to Montague Burton, and founded Burtons. When opened this building was the largest and the latest shop in the town.

Continue ahead to the cross roads, turn left into Packers Row and then right into the Shambles. The area retains the layout of about 1200 when the new market place opened because the market place north of the church had outgrown its space. Continue straight ahead to the **Royal Oak (3)**. There were several butchers in the area who slaughtered the cattle on site with the blood draining down the open drains in the centre of the passage (now covered by the oblong slabs). The timber framed section of Royal Oak originally housed two butcher's shops, which were heavily restored in the 1890s, and the timber framed section was joined to the brick built section. Unfortunately the building's plaque is mostly incorrect!



THE ROYAL OAK



THE MARKET HALL

Turn left down one of the alleys either side of the building and turn left again. Before crossing the road look up at the corner of the former John Turner's department store. Built in 1925, when Tudor Revival buildings were popular, a second storey was planned but never built apart from the corner. Cross the road to the **Yorkshire Building Society (4)** which dates back to the 16th century. It later became the Falcon Inn.

Walk down South Street on the left of the building before turning right under the sign of the golden glove to enter The Yards shopping centre. The large properties on Low Pavement originally had yards which extended as far as the River Hipper. When the population of the town began to increase rapidly, the yards, outbuildings and workshops were converted into living spaces which became slums. Today it is an attractive shopping area with art works above head height, and two sculptures.

Turn right up Theatre Yard to re-join Low Pavement, then turn left along the bottom side of the Market Place. As well as the Saturday general market this is where animals were sold until a new cattle market opened in 1900.

The Chesterfield Market Company was formed to raise the money needed to build a **Market Hall**. It was opened in 1857 with the butter market and corn market on the ground floor. The Corporation took it over in 1873. Today there are shops on the lower floors and an assembly room and offices above.

Continue straight ahead to the **Peacock Coffee Lounge (5)**. In 1962 the Council had an ambitious scheme (the Allen plan) which would have resulted in the demolition of the Market Hall and all of the attractive buildings on Low Pavement including the Peacock in order to build a shopping mall and car park over the entire open market. A scaled-back version of the plan resulted in the 'Hammerson Plan' of 1972 which