

BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM

Big Local
Birchfield



Birchfield Heritage Trail!



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Birchfield Heritage Trail

The Birchfield Heritage Trail is a celebration of the history and diverse cultural heritage of this area of Birmingham situated north of the city-centre and a short distance from the Alexander Stadium – home to the Birchfield Harriers and one of the main venues for the Commonwealth Games 2022.

The trail will reveal some of the hidden secrets of the Birchfield area, how the place has changed over time and the many links between Birchfield and other parts of the world including Commonwealth countries.

1 Cavendish House – now Grosvenor Road Studios

Home in 1872 to James Henry Stone – brother of MP and photographer Sir Benjamin Stone, the building later became the Hollick and Taylor Studios – one of the oldest operational recording studios in the UK.

2 Wellington Court, Lyndon Close and Mr Teasy-Weasy

Built in the Art Deco style, these flats were home to the first TV celebrity hairdresser, Raymond Bessone or Mr Teasy-Weasy. “A teasy-weasy bit here and a teasy-weasy bit there”

3 Calthorpe Arms, Wellington Road, and the Birchfield Harriers

The Calthorpe Arms was the headquarters for the Birchfield Harriers from 1877 to 1881. The club's opening run was held here. Now one of the UK's premier athletic clubs the Harriers are based at the Alexander Stadium in Perry Barr.

4 Lea Hall, Wood Lane, and the Muntz Family

Lea Hall was built for the Muntz family in 1790. The family combined business and politics, with three members of the family – George Frederick, Philip Henry and Philip Albert Muntz all representing Birmingham in Parliament over a period of 66 years – though never more than one at a time!

5 6 Wellington Road – home of Henry Bowyer Joseph Lane

The home of Henry Bowyer Joseph Lane, prominent architect, and water colourist, once stood here at 6 Wellington Road. His father - Henry Bowyer Lane - benefitted from the compensation paid to slave owners following the Slave Compensation Act 1837.

11 6 Grosvenor Road and Captain Alfred John Loftus FRGS

Captain Alfred John Loftus retired to 6 Grosvenor Road after a lengthy career at sea and a distinguished role as hydrographer to King Rama V of Siam (now Thailand). King Rama V had a British tutor – Anna Leonowens –who along with his father, King Rama IV, was portrayed in the musical – “The King and I”.

6 The Endwood, Hamstead Road

Once a private residence and home for a period to William Henry Muntz, the building became an hotel and then a pub, and is now a Madrassa.

7 + 8 SS Journey and St Mary's Parish Church, Handsworth

This sculpture by artist Luke Perry was inspired by the migrations to Handsworth by people from around the world. It is also a reference to the Windrush generation; Commonwealth citizens who came to the UK between 1948 and 1971 and named after the Empire Windrush which arrived at Tilbury Dock, London on 21st June 1948.

Sometimes called the “Cathedral or Westminster Abbey of the Industrial Revolution” St Mary's, Handsworth is the resting place of Matthew Boulton, James Watt and William Murdoch. Also buried in the graveyard are Essau and Henty Smith, King and Queen of the Black Patch Romany Gypsies.

9 The Vale

As the term “Vale” suggests, this is a valley through which a stream flows (now underground) from Handsworth Park to the River Tame. The shops were built in the last decade of the 19th century and along with the pub (since demolished) was, and still is, the nearest thing Birchfield has to a centre – once a village – now an “urban village”.

10 United Reformed Church, Wilton Road, and George Philip Lempriere

Wilton Road URC was built on land owned by the Lempriere family. George Philip Lempriere was a famous balloonist and aeronaut, and a founder member of the Midland Aero Club in 1909.

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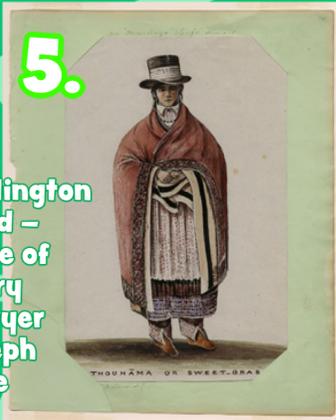
8.
St Mary's Parish Church,
Handsworth



7.
SS Journey



6.
The Endwood, Hamstead Road



5.
Wellington
Road -
home of
Henry
Bowyer
Joseph
Lane

