



ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS



Rushden & Higham Ferrers Historical Permanent Trail - BWF App No PT250

START & FINISH: Market Square, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, Northants NN10 8DZ
OS map 153 Grid Ref SP960685 Distance 11km
Fee £1.00 (€2,00 cash only) Souvenir sticker available on request

Weekday parking restrictions apply, but there is plenty of street parking nearby

Route last updated on 22 January 2016

This route description is valid from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

This walk has been established by members of the Ise Valley Vagabonds Walking Club (BWF Club No 70) and is a qualifying event in the IVV award scheme. It can be walked at any time.

This walk will visit many old, historic sites in both Rushden and Higham Ferrers. You will pass a number of blue plaques as well as sites mentioned in 'Love For Lydia' by H E Bates

Leave the car park at the exit next to the War Memorial and Town Hall, cross the High Street and turn left. At the Queens Head pub, turn right into Wharf Road (*public toilets after the pub*). Turn left into Westfields Terrace and continue until you reach Nene Road. Turn right. Continue on footpath to go between fence and leylandi hedge. At path from right (2 metal barriers), turn left into estate (*this is Shelley Drive*). Follow road until you reach a T-junction.

Q1. With which town is Higham Ferrers twinned?

(There is also a Permanent Trail at that town, as well as a 'Higham Ferrers Platz')

Cross road and turn right for 300 metres. Turn left (this is Hayway) and continue for 450 metres, until you reach Spencer Road. Turn right and continue to the end and enter the park. Continue straight ahead, until you get to the end of the tennis courts. Turn left on tarmac path, passing a BMX course. Ignore the bridge on the left and turn right, then left to exit the park via a wooden gate. Cross road **with care** and turn left. Immediately after Rushden Fire Station, turn right onto a cycleway. Follow this until you meet another tarmac path from the right (*this is the 'Greenway' and is a cycleway that links Rushden and Irthlingborough*). Turn left and follow to main road.

Cross the road via pedestrian crossings, aiming for the right hand side of the road ahead of you. Go uphill and, with Rushden Station on your left, turn right into Rectory Road, crossing to the other side when safe to do so. Continue along Rectory Road. Opposite the Rectory Road Health Clinic is a blue plaque.

Q2. When was The Salvation Army established in Rushden?

Continue along Rectory Road, cross via pedestrian crossing, turn left and then turn right after Rushden Learning Centre through 'no-entry' signs down (currently

unnamed) Coffee Tavern Lane to reach the High Street. Turn left and at the end, turn left along Newton Road. Cross over and pass by the Carnegie Public Library (*this was opened on 25 November 1905. Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) made his fortune in the steel industry, distributing a portion of his wealth through various charitable trusts, which included among their designated purposes the building of libraries. Inside can be obtained a very good free guide to the H E Bates Trail*).

Ahead to cross over the junction and keep going along Newton Road past Lidl, to reach, on your left, the old Fire Station and next to it Rushden Athletic Club. Turn right along Grove Road. House number 29, advertising 'Praed's Fine Ales & Stout' is the former Unicorn pub. Continue along Grove Road then turn right along Essex Road. At the end of Essex Road, cross over and turn right along Park Road, taking the first left into Albion Place. (*This was previously known as Green's Yard, because Green's factory stood at one end. Rock Cottage is named after an area of Rushden called 'The Rock' which was a poorer area of housing*). Proceed to the end and then down the narrow alley, to reach the main road. (*The building on the right, at the end, is the former Green's shoe factory. Dated 1874, it is the oldest existing factory building in Rushden*). Turn left along the raised causeway to reach the pedestrian crossing. (*The causeway was originally constructed to keep pedestrians out of the muddy road*). Cross over, turn right then turn left up Wymington Road. (*To your left is 'The Drive', the former entrance to Rushden Hospital, previously the Sanatorium. It is mentioned in 'Love For Lydia' as in the book Lydia was a patient there, having contracted tuberculosis*).

Ahead to pedestrian crossing, cross road and turn left then right into Hall Park. Follow the tarmac path for 175 metres, then turn left on smaller path between a small avenue of trees, following this round to the right at the far end of the park to reach the western exit/entrance. Turn right and go downhill on the wide tarmac path, passing a sun dial on your left (*the large circular flower bed in the grass to your right was the former site of the bandstand*). (*There are toilets to either side of the archway on your left*). Pass in front of Rushden Hall (*this is the setting for 'Love For Lydia' and was the home of the fictional Aspen family*).

Continue ahead, downhill, to exit the park and reach the main road. Turn right to house number 46 and read the plaque.

Q3. Who was born here?

Retrace your steps, past the entrance to Hall Park. At the traffic lights, cross both sets of crossings, then turn left downhill. At the end of the low wall, turn right, uphill, to pass the entrance of Tesco to reach the junction of (*unnamed*) Church Street, Rushden Café and High Street, cross over **with care** and go past the café into High Street.

(There are numerous plaques along here, generally high up. Keep your eyes open as there may be a question or two about them).

Proceed along High Street. Very near to 'George Alan' (& Mrs b's) is a plaque in the shape of a strip of film.

Q4. What stood on this site?

At the end of High Street, cross the road and pass The Railway Inn (Wetherspoon). Ahead to the traffic lights, turn right and cross to the left hand side of the road to your right. Ahead passing Rushden Station (*this is the home of the Rushden Historical & Transport Society and houses a CAMRA award winning bar*). Keep going along John Clark Way. After the railway bridge on your left, fork left onto the tarmac path, signposted 'The Greenway/Higham Ferrers'. (*This may be pointing in the wrong direction*). Walk next to the railway line until you reach a cross path. Turn left between three bollards and ahead to reach a large green. Continue along the left hand side of this (*Tollbar*) to reach the main road. (*Note the Rushden town sign on the left. This is one of four such signs on the approaches to Rushden. Each one has a different aspect relating to Rushden on it*).

Turn right. Just after the dentists is house number 67, presumed to be the birthplace of Higham Ferrers' greatest son, Henry Chichele (*he went on to become the Archbishop of Canterbury between 1413 and 1443*). Continue ahead past the Old Methodist Church to a pedestrian crossing. Cross the road and turn right into the centre of Higham Ferrers. Cross over Wharf Road and fork left along Hind Stile (*this was known as 'Behind The Style' in 1276*). At the end of the road, go ahead into the narrow alleyway and emerge at the main road, where turn left. In a few metres, opposite the 'Green Dragon Hotel', turn left again, through an archway, into a medical centre car park. Go through this and turn right along the road (*this is Saffron Road*). (*You will pass to the rear of the ruins of Chichele College. It was founded by Archbishop Chichele in 1422 and dissolved by Henry VIII*). At the end, go ahead on Saffron Road and almost immediately enter the cemetery via the small gate just past the right of the entrance arch. Follow the path to the right for approximately 30 metres to reach a distinctive grave.

Q5. Who is this in 'affectionate memory of'?

Retrace your steps and cross Saffron Road then turn left along Cemetery Lane to the main road. Cross via the pedestrian crossing and turn left, passing some almshouses. Continue to the roundabout and turn right along Kimbolton Road. At the end of the playing field, turn right through the barrier then, at the first lamppost, there is a noticeboard here about Higham Ferrers Castle. Take the gravel path behind the noticeboard and follow this meandering path until it rejoins the tarmac path (*this is the site of the Rabbit Warren. Rabbits were bred here to provide food for the castle*). Turn left, go through barrier and at end of grass area, turn left and follow path to reach a road (*this is Midland Road*). (*Opposite is the site of the former John White shoe factory*). Turn right passing John White Close (*this is built on the site of the castle*). Pass the library. (*The road/footpath on the right of the library takes you to the site of the station. It was built in 1890 to link with Kettering. It closed to passengers in 1959 and goods services ended in 1969. There is now no evidence of the station left at the site*). Turn right between metal gateposts to St. Mary's Parish Church. As you pass the church, turn left through the metal gate. (*The church was built between 1250 & 1280 and has a 13th century font. If it is open, it is well worth a visit*). Ahead of you can be seen the Bede House (*founded in 1423 by Archbishop Chichele to house '12 poor male residents with a Bedeswoman to take care of them'*). Turn right and pass the Chantry Chapel (*built in the 15th century. It was the Grammar school until 1906. The porch has a date of 1636 inscribed on the framework*). Ahead to pass the 14th century churchyard cross and exit the churchyard through the metal gate. Continue down the alley. (*The shop on the right at the end is the setting for 'The Sleepless Moon' by H E Bates. He lived in Higham Ferrers for many years with*

his grandparents. Many of his book and short stories are set in the town). Turn left into the Market Square to complete the walk.

We hope you have enjoyed the walk

If you are interested by anything that you have seen on the walk, please visit the web site of the Rushden and District History Society www.rdhs.org.uk & www.rushdenheritage.co.uk for a wealth of further information.

The Ise Valley Vagabonds have established other Permanent Trails at Bedford (2), Daventry, Kempston, Kettering, Kings Lynn, Leicester, London (2), Marston Moretaine (3), Oxford, Rugby, Stamford, Stratford upon Avon, Warwick, Wellingborough and Woodstock.

They are all qualifying events towards the IVV award scheme. Further information about these walks, the IVV, the club and all its activities can be found by visiting our Web Site www.vagabonds.org.uk

THE ORGANISERS ARE NOT LIABLE FOR ACCIDENTS, THEFT, AND/OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE ORGANISERS TO MAKE THIS A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EVENT.

**ISE VALLEY VAGABONDS
PERMANENT TRAIL REGISTRATION FORM**

TRAIL	Rushden & Higham Ferrers Historical Trail	
ROUTE UPDATED	22 January 2016	2017/1
DATE WALKED		
NAME		
ADDRESS		
TEL		
EMAIL		
ADDITIONAL WALKERS		
ENTRY FEE	___ Walkers @ £1.00 (€2,00) each	Total £
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED		£
Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of Insert cards Yes/No		
ANSWERS		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Comments		
<p>If you have a problem with this trail, please try and resolve it with the organiser. If you are unable to resolve the problem, then please contact the BWF Trail Officer.</p>		
<p>Please enclose a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (at least C6 (114 x 162mm) or DL (110 x 220mm)) with this form and send it to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carol Jones 138 Rushden Road Wymington Rushden Northants NN10 9LE</p>		