

# The Wokingham Blue Plaque and Mosaic Trail – PT321

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Distance 11km

Entry Fee £1.00 per walker (Cheques to be made out to Thames Valley Walking Club)

Award: There is no award.

Start Venue: Wokingham Theatre, Cantley Park, RG40 5TU

Car Parking: Free parking at start.

Public transport: Train Station en-route, buses stop in town centre.

Facilities: Cafe and toilets at start, numerous cafes and hostelrys in town centre.

Terrain: Urban pavements, country footpaths and minor roads.

## Route Description (Updated 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024)

With back to Wokingham Theatre, leave carpark in top left corner through gap between gate and hedge. Turn left, follow wide gravel path, lined with stumpy lampposts, around bends and across drive into second field, keeping right to the first corner. Stay on path as it bears right to the road, turn left on pavement, passing sign for 'Glebelands Carehome' on left. At mini-roundabout bear right into Milton Road.

(Opposite Bird Mews is 'Martin&Pole, Nicholas', note blue plaque). At end of street turn sharp right around 'Tudor House' (note blue plaque) staying on right into The Terrace. (Blue plaques at number 15 and the 'Queens Head'). At the end of The Terrace, continue ahead on pavement to the traffic lights and pedestrian crossing. Cross and turn right to St Paul's Church, turn left through the lych gate.

Question 1: At the 2<sup>nd</sup> tombstone on the left, 'K-S formerly the Rifle Brigade', where was he wounded? ( Answer on other side)

Follow path to right of church, exit churchyard on path over pink bridge, bear left and turn right at road to T junction. Turn left, passing railway station, note blue plaque on end of footbridge, cross bridge. Cross Station Approach at pedestrian crossing, bear right to cross Station Rd, then bear right into Wellington Rd. Ignore 1<sup>st</sup> park entrance at Earle Crescent and ahead to turn left into Elms Field, pass the sculpture of a song thrush on left. Ahead on path to long wooden bench by the fish mosaic.

Carry on to Everyman Cinema entrance, (film mosaic) and behind you, in front of single wooden gate into playground, the spaceman helmet mosaic. Turn right into Alexandra Court with Nuffield Health on left, dogleg left and right by 'the Brown Bag' and up slope to road. Do not cross. (Opposite on right is 'Kaanaanmaa', just to the left of the white wall is a blue plaque for the old workhouse.) Turn left on pavement, pass Wokingham map mural on left ahead to the left of the Town Hall, (oak leaf mosaic by second door on right). Turn right at corner.

Question 2: What type of creature is depicted on the water trough?

Pass front of Town Hall (blue plaque) and right again (poppy mosaic by second bench). (If Town Hall visitor centre is open you can pick up leaflets on plaques and mosaics). Cross road at pedestrian crossing towards 'Barclays', turn right. Just before 'the Red Lion' (note red lion mosaic by pub) turn left into alley. Immediately before carpark turn right on enclosed pavement. Ahead, hedge on left and car park on right. At car park payment machine, bear half right towards the grey railings, take the enclosed footpath past the old library and the 'Water Babes' sculpture to reach the road.

Turn left, pass the Dukes Head on your left and straight on crossing Norton Rd and Kendrick Cl, ahead under the arched bridge. Immediately before the next roundabout by 'keep clear' on road, bear half left on gravel track and ahead through chicane by gate on enclosed footpath. Ignore footpath on left, ahead through chicane by gate onto drive. Keep left as drive turns right, note blue plaque on brickwall on left, then look at the building beyond the gates.

Question 3: What shape is the unique window to the right of the white topped gate posts?

Pass gates on left, ahead on footpath to end. Turn left on tarmac lane (permitted footpath), cross brick-walled bridge to footpath junction. Turn left on enclosed footpath to end. Cross footbridge to reach lane, turn right. Follow lane, straight on at crossroads, still on Gipsy Lane to end. Cross Murdoch Road, straight ahead on lefthand pavement, passing speed camera.

Cross road at zebra crossing, turn right on pavement and immediately turn left into alleyway. At end, follow the path as it bears left. At the play area on left, turn right to exit the park in far corner to road. Turn right, passing 'Westende Junior School' to T junction. Turn right, pass the Shell Garage, at 'St Crispins Leisure Centre', turn right, bearing left on footpath to 'St Crispins School' carpark. Bear half-right to main entrance, note blue plaque.

Question 4: What is on the left wall of the portico of the main entrance?

With entrance behind you, head to main road, turn left. Pass the Leisure Centre and the Shell garage, cross Seaford Road. Just after house number 89, turn left on alleyway. Straight on at end, on Wescott Road, turning left into School Road on righthand pavement. Turn right at end of railings, passing Wescott School (note blue plaque on wall) to T junction. Turn right, to reach the post box.

Question 5: What are the Roman numerals below the royal cypher?

Just before crossing Wescott Rd look to your right at blue plaque on Church House. Cross road at zebra crossing and turn right passing fire station on left to corner. Turn left to pedestrian crossing, cross road and turn right, (opposite the 'Boish Akhi', on the other side of the road, there is a blue plaque on the 'Overhangs'). Cross Cross Street, pass the Ship Inn, turn left on pavement into Wiltshire Road. (At next junction note old county boundary marker at far side of Rose Street).

Turn left into Rose Street (blue plaque at number 31) pass the Wokingham Methodist Church, turn left through bollards into Peach Place, (fish mosaic on wall of 'Cafe Mosaic' on left). Turn right to Bush Walk, (toilets to right of 'Eden Lounge' behind water point) through metal gates between 'Antique Rose' and 'Eden Lounge' passing bush mosaic. (Gates closed on Sundays, pass toilet, turn left at road and left at end to Boots to cotton reel mosaic.)

Exit 'Bush Walk', turn right (cotton reel mosaic in front of 'Boots', by cycle rack). Cross road by 'HSBC', turn right, walk past fireworks mosaic. (Blue plaque on side of 'Nationwide' in Broad Street Walk). Cross road at pedestrian crossing, turn left. Just before Wokingham Pharmacy, turn right through courtyard, to Montague House

Question 6: To the right of the blue plaque, what does the motif at the top of the bricked up window depict?

Retrace your steps to Wokingham Pharmacy, turn right, follow pavement around righthand corner, passing old County Police Station. Pass Waitrose car park entrance, cross road at pedestrian crossing and immediately turn left into Glebelands Road. Cross road at traffic island and turn left. Just before Acorn Drive, turn right on cycle path to 'Cantley Park'. At road bear right crossing Bishops Drive onto cycle path opposite.

At multi-path junction turn left on new rubberised tarmac path through gap in fence into park. At T junction turn right on path towards the yellow arch passing the 'Interactive Play Space' on left. At 'T' junction, turn left, pass yellow barrier, straight on road passing Cantley Park Cafe and toilets on right to Wokingham Theatre and the finish.

For further information on the Blue Plaques visit:

[https://www.wokinghamsociety.org.uk/blue\\_plaques.html](https://www.wokinghamsociety.org.uk/blue_plaques.html)

For further information on the Mosaics visit:

<http://www.rosalindwates.co.uk/the-wokingham-mosaics.html>