

NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAIL

1. Close by the top of the High Street, in West Green, in what is now **Victoria Mews**, Quaker and education pioneer **Sarah Robinson (1787 - 1875)** founded in 1827 a charity school for 80 boys and 40 girls. She gave education to hundreds of children before the Education Act 1870 made elementary education available to all children in England and Wales.



In 1955 the school moved to a new site in Ifield and is now St Margaret's Church of England school.



2. A short walk will bring you to 11 **Victoria Road** where **Francis Thompson (1859 - 1907)**, poet and essayist, lodged 1905 - 06. His most remembered poem is *The Hound of Heaven*. He is sometimes mentioned as a possible Jack the Ripper suspect.

3. Just off Ifield Avenue, close to Crawley Leisure Park, **John Goepel (1906 - 1994)**, who named the streets of Crawley New Town, lived at 9 **Little Crabtree**. In Tilgate he signed his work by naming a group of 'cathedral' streets and closes - **Gloucester Road, Oxford Road, Ely Close, Peterborough Road, Exeter Close, Lincoln Close** - to spell out his name.

4. Continue on Ifield Avenue, across Crawley Avenue into Ifield. At the junction of Ruser Road and Ifield Green, on the wall of **The Masonic Centre, Frederick Knott (1916 - 2002)** is commemorated. He wrote *Dial M for Murder* at his parents' cottage, Little Balgair, now demolished, in nearby Langley Lane. After performances on television, London and Broadway stages, the play was filmed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1954.



5. Follow Ruser Road a few hundred metres to Ifield Street. At the former village inn, now **Old Plough Cottage**, Quaker and prison reformer **Elizabeth Fry (1780 - 1845)** 'in September 1837 held a satisfactory meeting with the people'. You can see her portrait on the reverse of the English £5 note.

Ifield Green, St. Margaret's Church, Ifield Barn Theatre and conservation area are well worth a short walk. If you have time take a short drive to **Ifield Mill**, normally open on the last Sunday afternoon of the month.

From Ifield Green, take a 10-minute drive, via Crawley and Southgate Avenues, to **Tilgate Park and Lake**. In the town's other main recreation area, **Goffs Park**, you will find **Crawley Museum**, normally open on Wednesday & Sunday afternoons, where you can see many aspects of the town's past.

NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAIL



Tilgate Lake



Milton Mount Gardens

6. LEGENDARY speed enthusiast, **Sir Malcolm Campbell (1885 - 1948)** broke the world land speed record nine times between 1925 and 1934. He had a cottage by Tilgate Lake, known locally as Campbell's Lake, and tested components of his Bluebird crafts on the water there. He also broke the world water speed records four times.



Buildings of note within the area are the crescent-shaped shopping parade in **Tilgate** and the 'cheese houses' in **Furnace Green**.

7. At the junction of **Haslett Avenue** with **Three Bridges Road**, **Dame Caroline Haslett (1895 - 1957)**, who was born in Worth and later lived in Three Bridges, is commemorated. An electrical engineer, she became in 1924 first director of the Electrical Association for Women.

Three Bridges Station, on the London to Brighton line, is also the junction for the Arun Valley line. Locally it was the gateway to the four great estates of the area: **Crabbet Park** and **Worth Park** to the east, **Tilgate Park** to the south and **Buchan Park** to the west.

8. Travelling past Three Bridges Station into Pound Hill, bear left into Milton Mount Avenue and up to **Milton Mount Community Hall**.

Here **James Pulham (1845 - 1920)** laid out the gardens as part of Worth Park Estate, home of Sir Francis Montefiore. He also designed the rock gardens at royal residences Sandringham and Buckingham Palace. His artificial stone and rock was known as Pulhamite, of which many examples remain in the gardens. While there enjoy the peaceful **Worth Park Gardens and lake**.



9. From Milton Mount, head south on the Balcombe Road to **Turners Hill Road**, where on the left you will find the cottage Caxtons, in which **Philip Webb (1831 - 1915)** lived 1900 - 1915. The architect of National Trust property Standen near East Grinstead, he was also co-founder with William Morris of the Society For The Protection Of Ancient Buildings.



While in the Worth area you may like to visit **Worth Church**, Saxon in origin and sensitively restored. By the church door, surrounded by a low blue fence, is the grave of **Robert Whitehead (1823 - 1905)**, inventor of the self-propelling torpedo (1866).



THE CRAWLEY HERITAGE TRAIL



This plaque is one of six installed under the Awards for All grant.

Crawley has a past to be proud of. Yet how many people know of its associations with, for example, Charles Dickens, Oscar Wilde, Jack the Ripper and water speed record holder Sir Malcolm Campbell?

To recognise some of the town's rich heritage, Crawley Arts Council has installed plaques marking significant sites and people, people who were of local and national importance. This leaflet guides you around Crawley to the sites of the plaques.

Sponsors

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TOWN CENTRE TRAIL



1. Start the Town Centre trail at the focal point of Queens Square, the **Bandstand**, which originally stood at Gatwick racecourse, opened in 1891. In 1948 the bandstand was sold to Crawley Development Corporation for £60. It was refurbished and re-erected in 1958, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the Square and Gatwick Airport. Nearby is the *Martlets Tree* sculpture by **Richard Quinnell and Peter Parkinson**.

2. Cross the Square towards The Broadway. In 2007, at the end of The Broad Walk will be the *Crawley New Town 60th anniversary commemorative art work*, signed by Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh during their 2006 visit. Also look up to the corner of T.J Hughes at the sculpture *Family Group* by Sussex sculptor **Richard Browne (1921 - 1990)**. In 1947, when Crawley was designated a New Town, the area had a population of some 9,500. In 1959, when the population had grown to over 50,000, *Family Group* was erected to symbolise the spirit of the enlarged community.



Walk down The Broadway and turn left into and across The Boulevard to start your visit to the High Street, which is strong in literary links and period buildings such as The Punchbowl, Bar Med, Jubilee Oak, Brewery Shades, White Hart, Ancient Priors and a 16th century shop. At the junction with Ifield Road is the sculpture *Golden Tree* by **Joss Smith** surmounted by two crows symbolising aspects of the town's history.



TOWN CENTRE TRAIL



3. A contributor to the humorous magazine *Punch*, **John Leech (1817 - 1864)** as a medical student lived from 1833 at the bottom of the High Street in **The Tree**. From 1843-1848 Leech illustrated the Christmas stories of Dickens.

Tucked away behind The Tree and The Boulevard are the **Dyers' Almshouses**, maintained by the Dyers' Company, one of the great London livery companies.



4. Continue up the High Street to **The George**, where **Mark Lemon (1809 - 1870)**, the first editor of *Punch*, dined with his contributors to plan the next issues of the magazine. 'Those *Punch* people' included Charles Dickens, some of whose stories Lemon dramatised. A former coaching inn, The George is still a major part of the annual 'Old Crocks' London to Brighton veteran car run each November.

5. **Mark Lemon** lived at the top of the High Street in **Vine Cottage**, now the site of a restaurant. His youngest daughter, **Kate**, at the age of eight was the model for Lewis Carroll's *Alice In Wonderland*, drawn in 1864 by another *Punch* artist, John Tenniel.



6. Heading back towards Queens Square you come to **The Friary**. Among those buried in the cemetery is **Lord Alfred Douglas (1870 - 1945)**, 'Bosie', gay companion of Oscar Wilde. A minor poet, 'Bosie' wrote the immortal line 'I am the Love that dare not speak its name'. He is buried with his mother, the Marchioness of Queensbury, to whom he was devoted.



7. A few metres away, under a cross inscribed C.W.B., is **Catherine Walters (1839 - 1920)**, dubbed 'Skittles' from her early life in a Liverpool skittle alley. The great love of Wilfrid Scawen Blunt of Crabbet Park, she has been called 'the last of the Victorian courtesans'.

Also in the cemetery is the grave of **Una Pope-Hennessy (1876 - 1949)**, biographer, notably of Charles Dickens, Charles Kingsley and Edgar Allan Poe.



From The Friary either return to **Queens Square** or visit **St John's Church** or the **Memorial Gardens** by the **County Mall** shopping centre.