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THE LEPER CHAPEL



The Leper Chapel



Do you recognise
this sign on
Newmarket Road?

The Leper Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene was built in the mid 12th Century. It was named after Mary Magdalene, the Patron Saint of Lepers and Leprosy.

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The Leper Chapel



Then

Can you see how
little it's changed
on the outside since
the 12th Century?



Now

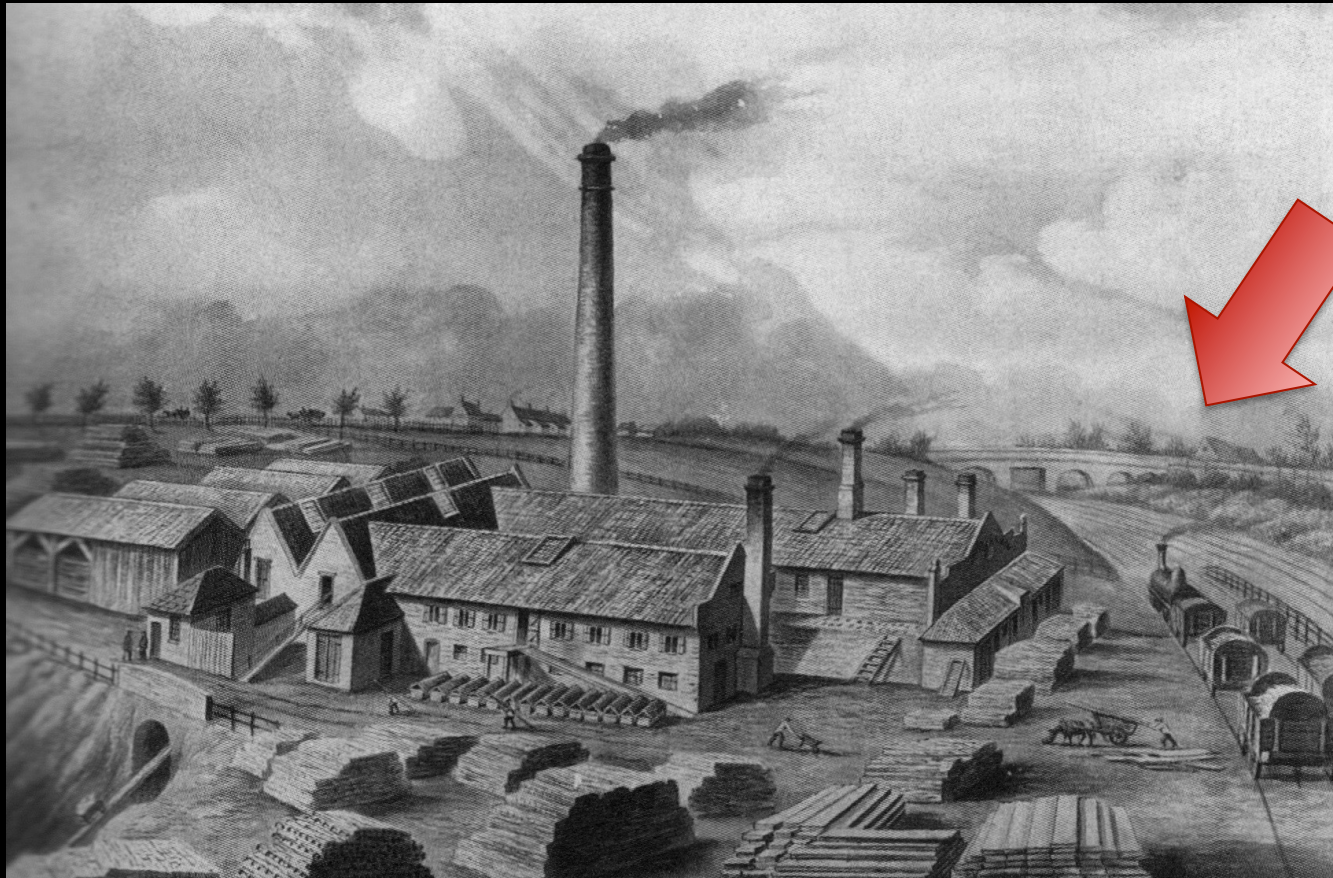
FACTOID!

The leper chapel is the
oldest surviving building in
the whole of Cambridge and
is over 800 years old!

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Where Was The Leper Chapel?



Can you see the
Leper Chapel in
the distance?

The Leper Hospital
was built on the road
linking Newmarket to
Cambridge away from
the centre of the city
of Cambridge.

What else can you
spot in the picture?

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Picture of Watts Brick and Timber Yard
on Newmarket Road, seen from
Coldhams Lane from around 1875

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The Leper Hospital

The Leper Chapel is the only remaining building left from the site's time as a leper hospital.

People were afraid of catching leprosy from other people, so medieval lepers were kept away from others in their own designated areas. Therefore the leper hospital was built as a place where lepers could pray, farm and live in isolation.



This is a photo of inside the Leper Chapel which was part of the Leper Hospital

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Life Was Hard as a Leper



Can you see the a leper being treated for their condition in and the marks they had on their bodies and faces?

Life was difficult as a leper, they were usually very poor people, who had to survive by making a small income from farming which they had to supplement by begging.

When they went out they had to wear clothes that marked them out and had to shout 'unclean!' or ring a bell to tell people they were approaching.

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Stourbridge Fair to the Rescue!

In 1211 King John decided that the lepers could use the hospital grounds to hold a fair and keep the profits for themselves. So Stourbridge Fair was born!

Once a year, at the beginning of September the hospital land became the meeting place for local traders to sell their wares.



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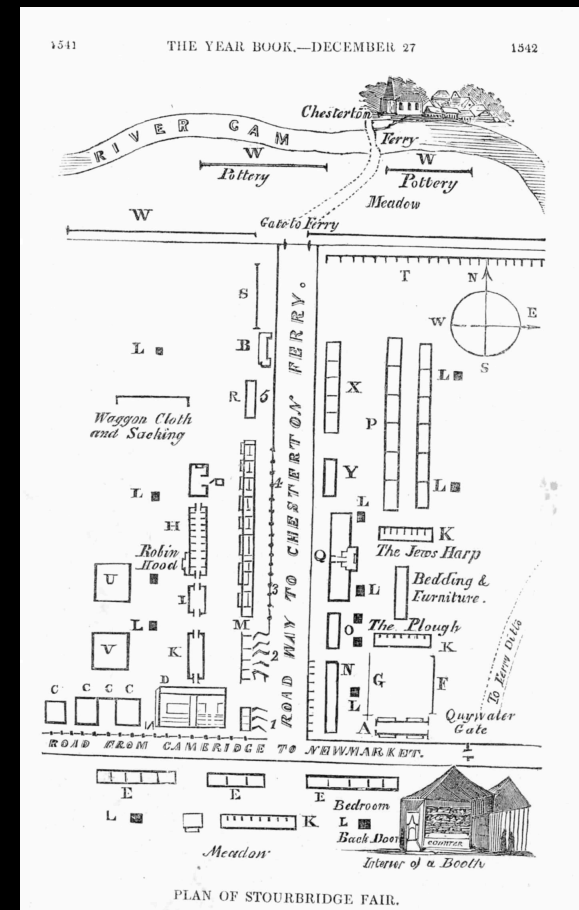
Stourbridge Fair to the Rescue!

The lepers wouldn't go to the fair, but could charge an entry fee and make money by selling goods and renting out spaces for stalls.

People sold all sorts of things, from pungent cheese and oysters to silks and spices from exotic lands.

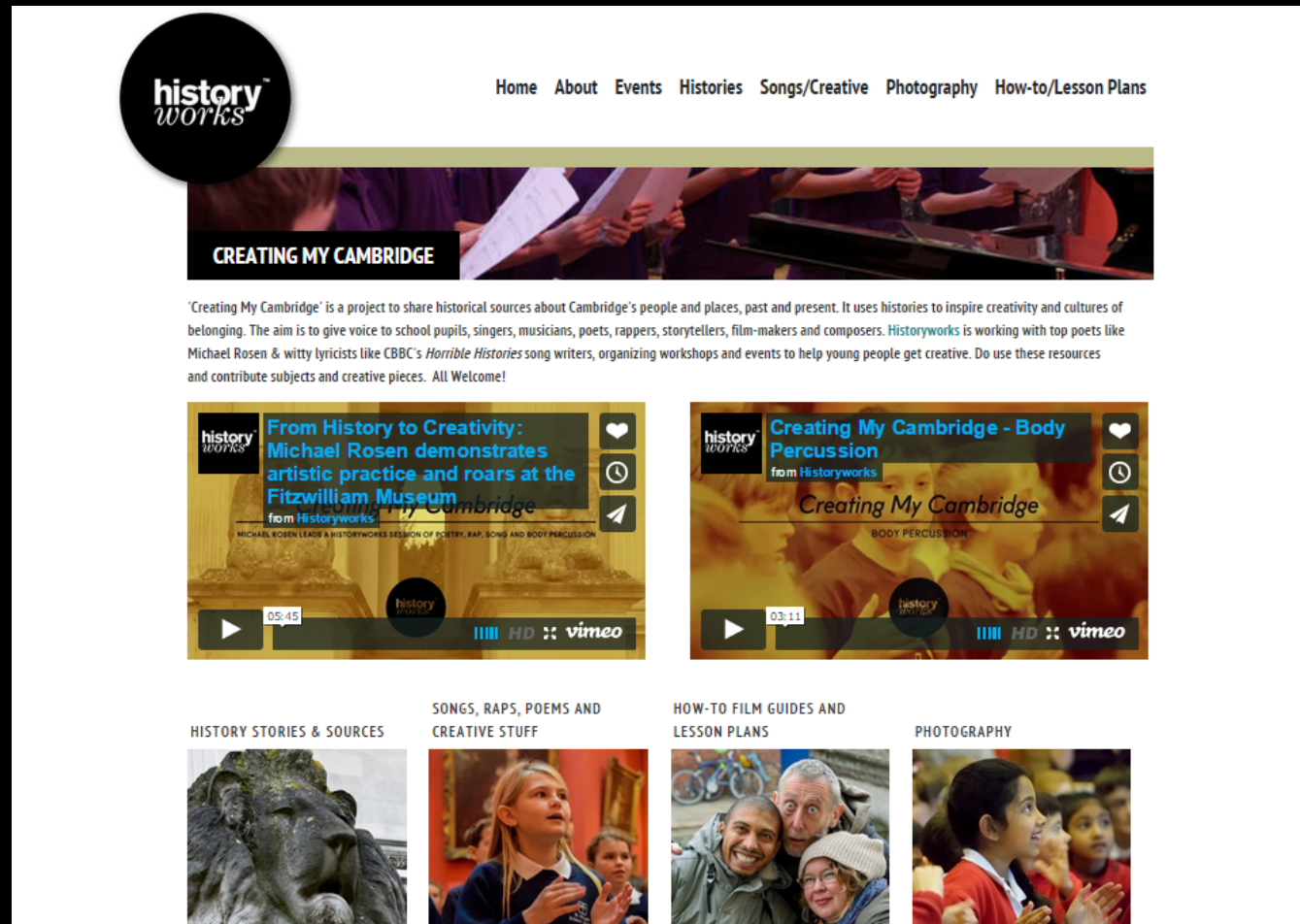
Can you spot that street names such as Oyster Row, Garlic Row and Mercer's Row still exist in the area today?

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Web Resources available at www.creatingmycambridge.com



The screenshot shows the Historyworks website. At the top left is the 'history works' logo. To its right is a navigation menu with links: Home, About, Events, Histories, Songs/Creative, Photography, and How-to/Lesson Plans. Below the menu is a banner for 'CREATING MY CAMBRIDGE' featuring a photo of children. Under the banner is a paragraph of text explaining the project. Below this are two video thumbnails. The first video is titled 'From History to Creativity: Michael Rosen demonstrates artistic practice and roars at the Fitzwilliam Museum from Historyworks' and has a duration of 05:45. The second video is titled 'Creating My Cambridge - Body Percussion from Historyworks' and has a duration of 03:11. Both videos are hosted on Vimeo. Below the videos are four categories with corresponding images: 'HISTORY STORIES & SOURCES' (a stone lion), 'SONGS, RAPS, POEMS AND CREATIVE STUFF' (a girl singing), 'HOW-TO FILM GUIDES AND LESSON PLANS' (a group of people), and 'PHOTOGRAPHY' (a group of children).

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Home About Events Histories Songs/Creative Photography How-to/Lesson Plans

CREATING MY CAMBRIDGE

'Creating My Cambridge' is a project to share historical sources about Cambridge's people and places, past and present. It uses histories to inspire creativity and cultures of belonging. The aim is to give voice to school pupils, singers, musicians, poets, rappers, storytellers, film-makers and composers. Historyworks is working with top poets like Michael Rosen & witty lyricists like CBBC's *Horrible Histories* song writers, organizing workshops and events to help young people get creative. Do use these resources and contribute subjects and creative pieces. All Welcome!

From History to Creativity: Michael Rosen demonstrates artistic practice and roars at the Fitzwilliam Museum from Historyworks

05:45

Creating My Cambridge - Body Percussion from Historyworks

03:11

HISTORY STORIES & SOURCES

SONGS, RAPS, POEMS AND CREATIVE STUFF

HOW-TO FILM GUIDES AND LESSON PLANS

PHOTOGRAPHY

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