

## WALKING HISTORY TRAIL OF CAMBRIDGE - FROM ST. PHILIP'S SCHOOL TO MARKET SQUARE



**history**  
*works*

### User Guide

This walking trail will lead you from the Romsey area along Mill Road to the Market place in the heart of Cambridge, exploring the important stories along the way including the prehistoric pterosaurs of Coldham's Common, the workhouse on Mill Road, Queen's Victoria's Coronation Feast on Parker's Piece and give you insights into the Cambridge Coat of Arms, the coming of the railways, the story of football, and much more!

Michael Rosen has composed poems about Cambridge people and places pinned to the history trail which Historyworks has recorded with some new songs performed by local primary children to entertain you on your journey. The trail lasts approximately 90 minutes. To find further trails and an electronic copy of this leaflet please go to:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails/>

### The Audio Trail

Audio Trail downloadable in MP3 format available on the web at: [www.audioboom.fm/historyworks](http://www.audioboom.fm/historyworks)

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This trail & accompanying audio have been devised and produced by Helen Weinstein, to whom all suggestions for revisions should be directed ([historyworkstv@gmail.com](mailto:historyworkstv@gmail.com)).

Narration of the trails by Michael Rosen. Michael Rosen is a poet, novelist, broadcaster, famous for his poems like 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'Chocolate Cake', and for this project his poems include 'The Listening Lions' and 'Coldham's Common'.



### ABOUT CREATING MY CAMBRIDGE

'Creating My Cambridge' is a public art project led by Professor Helen Weinstein 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, filmmakers and composers. Historyworks is working with top poets like Michael Rosen & witty lyricists like CBBC's Horrible Histories song writer, Dave Cohen. Historyworks organizes workshops and events for people to get creative. Do use these resources and contribute subjects and creative pieces. We will be tagging artworks to the topics in the trails. To find further trails, please go to:

<http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails/>

### ABOUT HISTORYWORKS

Historyworks delivers top quality media products for museums, galleries, archives, libraries, community groups, academics, schools, colleges, universities, radio and television companies.

Historyworks supports the practice and theory of Public History and Public Art in the UK by promoting education programmes and partnerships. Historyworks bridges the gap between knowledge and public engagement with creativity and impact.

Historyworks produces made-to-measure documentary films, radio programmes, podcasts, vodcasts, stills, sound installations, websites, apps, radio and tv tasters and show reels. To get in touch with our team email us at [historyworkstv@gmail.com](mailto:historyworkstv@gmail.com)

### G Sedgwick Museum

The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences was founded in 1904 in memory of Adam Sedgwick. It was designed as a working museum where research could also take place, to discover more about our earth's treasures.

The museum's collection now holds over 2 million items, including rocks, fossils and minerals and some of which are approximately 4.5 billion years old! The collection includes coprolite (fossilised dino poo) found on Coldham's Common, which Michael Rosen has written a number of poems about, one called 'Pterosaur Poo' and one called 'Coldham's Common'!

### H Great St Mary's Church

Great St. Mary's foundations were thought to have been laid around 1010 and it was first recorded in legal documents in 1205 when the Church was called 'St. Mary-by-the-market'. It became the University of

Cambridge church when scholars arrived in 1209 and it completely burnt down in 1290, which wasn't surprising, as it was surrounded by thatched roofed buildings and wooden market stalls. Eventually in 1478 they started rebuilding the church- which is the church you can see there today - but it took ages to rebuild which got town and gown into trouble with the monarchy.

### I The Fire of 1849 in Market Square

On the night of Saturday 15th September 1849 there was a huge blaze which came to be known as the Great Fire of Cambridge Market. It started in a textile shop but became out of control once a chemist caught fire, because the chemicals for the medicines blew up like a firework display! The townspeople tried to put out the fire with buckets from Hobson's fountain, but the key was missing, so water had to be brought up from the River Cam behind King's Chapel in a long human chain which took too much time. All the old timber structures of the market area were destroyed, which is why you see stone and brick buildings by the market today.

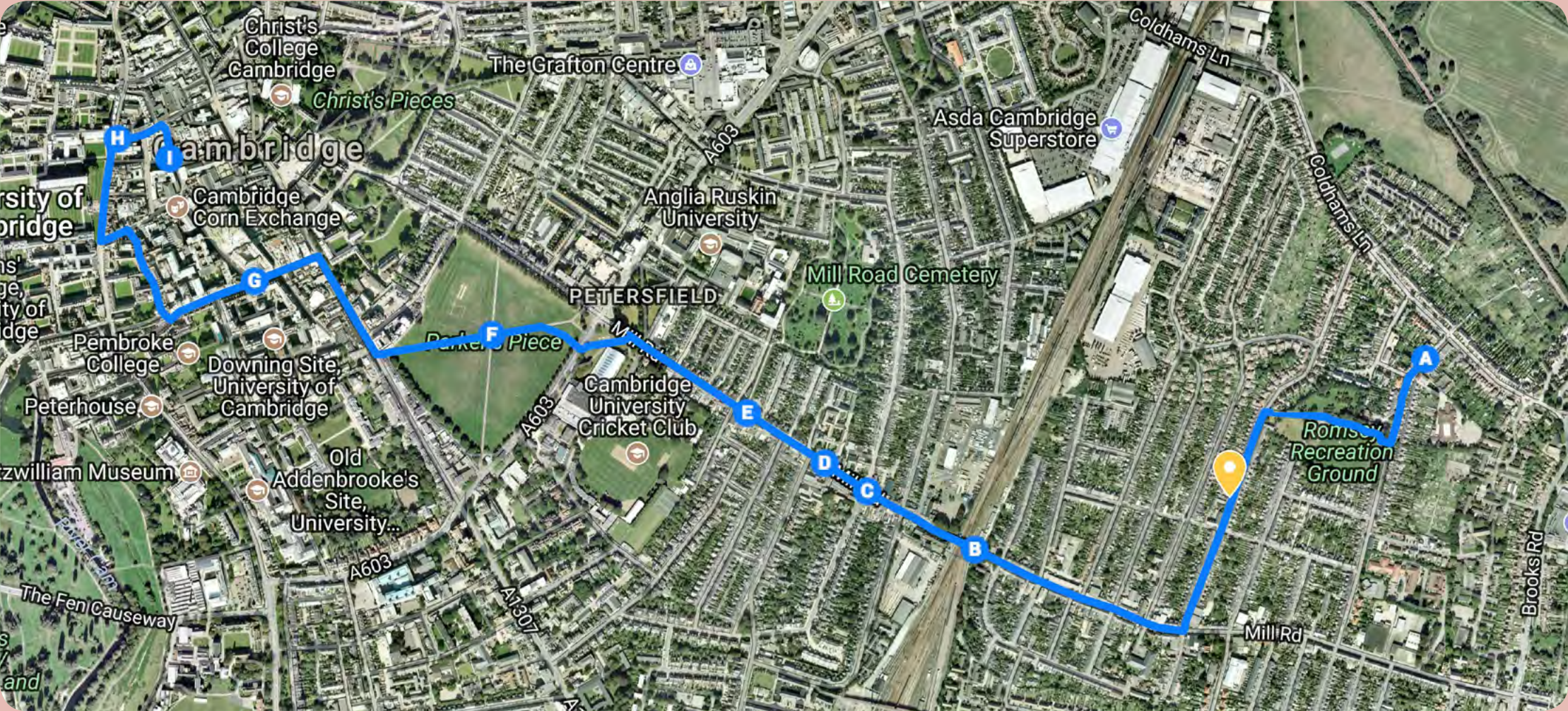


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### A St Philip's Primary-Victorian School

St. Philip's School was not originally situated in its current location on Vinery Way. but was on St. Catherine's Street, and was originally built as a church school in connection with St. Barnabas Church, opening in in Victorian Era in 1886. The school was for girls and infants only and originally had just one school room, but was later enlarged to cater for growing numbers of children. In 1894 another St. Philip's school was opened for boys in Ross Street, where Ross Street Community Centre is today, as boys and girls were taught separately and taught different lessons from each other in the Victorian Era.



### B Coming of the Railways

The first successful railway locomotive train ran in 1804 and Stephenson's Rocket was designed in 1829. Railways then started to expand across the UK. Eventually the railway reached Cambridge during the Victorian Era, in July 1845. When Cambridge station opened the first trains travelled to London and Norwich. The old Great Eastern route to Cambridge had some of the fastest trains on it- with a train recorded going at 70mph! The Victorian design of the station was mainly the inspiration of architect Francis Thompson and was extremely grand in comparison to other stations on the route, with its arches and columns.



### C Cambridge Bath House

The Bath House on Mill Road was once a place where local people would visit to wash, as everyone did not have mains water like we do now. So many people would have to go along to their local 'bath house' to get clean! It was used as a Bath House from the late 1920s to the 1970s and helped improve hygiene in the local community. 'Gywdir House' as it was previously known was built in the Victorian Era and was lived in by a number of local families from 1850 onwards, including a number of doctors and was therefore called 'The Doctor's House' by many. You can hear a song about the Bath House on our website.



### D Ditchburn Place - Victorian Workhouse

Ditchburn Place is the oldest surviving building on Mill Road and opened as a Victorian workhouse in 1838. The workhouse took in people who were not able to be employed in society and would otherwise be homeless or starve to death. It was a place of great shame and people would do anything to try not to be admitted there. It closed in 1930 to become a hospital, serving as a war hospital in World War II then a maternity hospital from 1948 when the NHS was founded. In 1983 it was converted into sheltered accommodation for the elderly, as it still is today.



### E Two Mills of Mill Road

Mill Road was named after the windmill that once stood in this area. The exact location of the windmill is not known, however the windmill probably stood in what are now the back gardens of 56 and 56A Mill Road. There is very little record of what the windmill actually looked like, however there are a number of sketches of Parker's Piece from the Victorian Era that show the windmill in the distance. We do however know that the first mill was built in the 18th Century and was closed down during the Victorian Era, sold in 1844 by owner George Humphrey, before being redeveloped into shops and houses that you can see in the area today.



### F Parker's Piece

Parker's Piece is one of Cambridge's most famous open spaces, named after college cook, Edward Parker. Originally part of Trinity College, it was acquired by Cambridge town in 1613 as grazing land. In the 19th Century the Cambridge Rules of Football were first devised there, which then inspired the Football Association's official rules that are used today! In 1838, a feast for over 15,000 people was held in honour of Queen Victoria's coronation, with bands, choirs, games and fireworks. The Olympic Torch was brought to Parker's Piece on its way to the Olympic Stadium for London 2012. It was the starting point for the third leg of the 2014 Tour de France cycle race, and continues to be a popular place for football, cricket and community gatherings.