

TOWN TRAIL 1



The Sidney Walter Centre



The Hollies



The Swan



Haverfield House



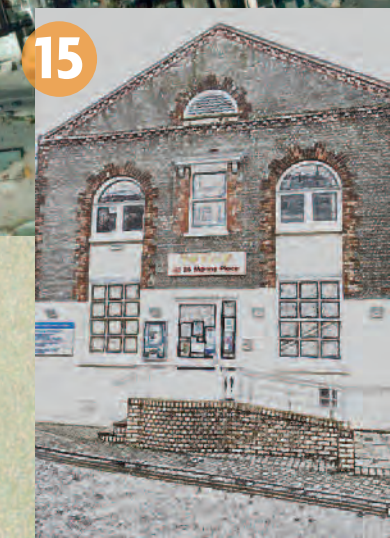
Fair Lawn



The Connaught Theatre



14 The Old Nelson
15 Wesleyan Chapel at
24 Marine Place
16 Bedford Cottage



Bedford Row



Stanford Square



Warwick Street



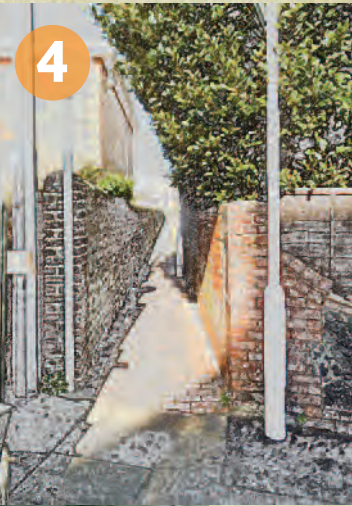
'Guitar Junction'



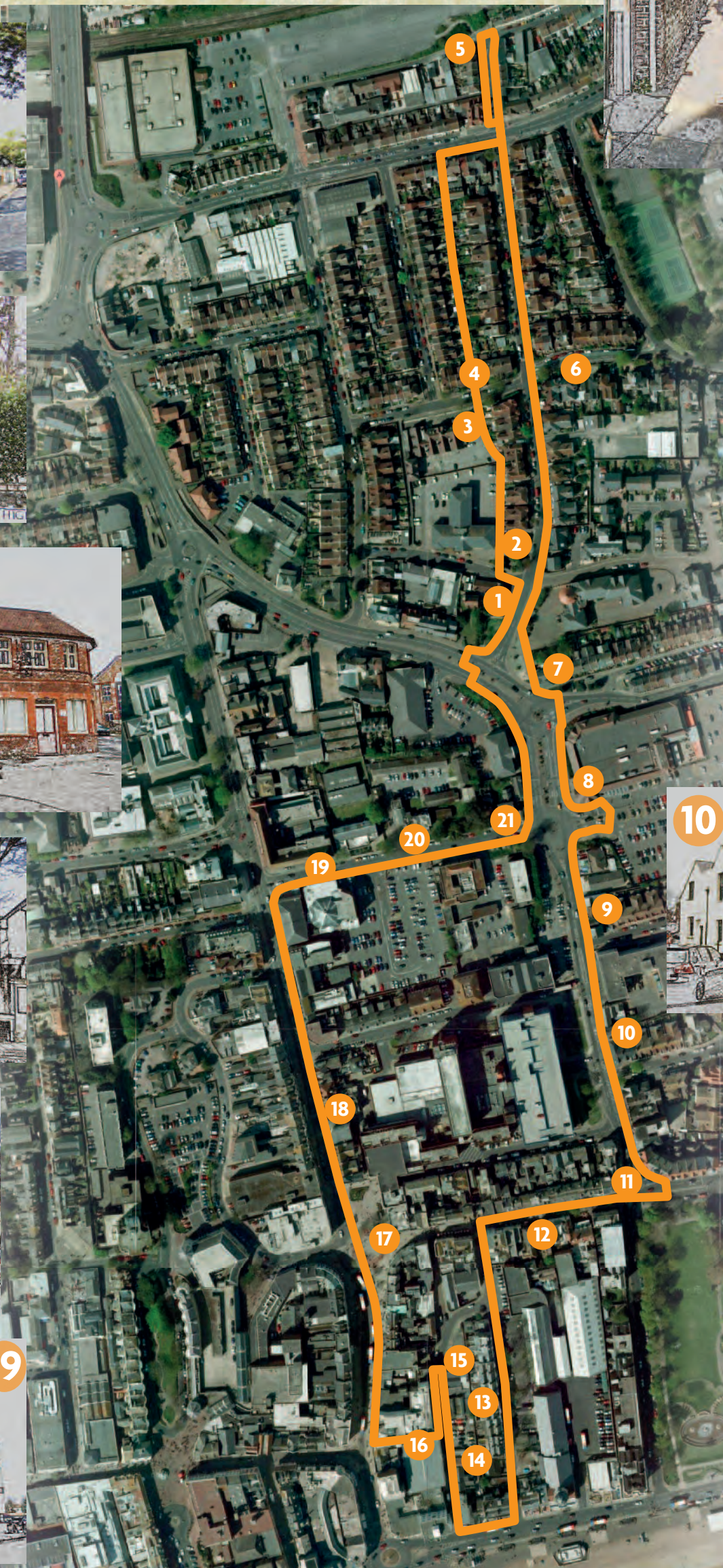
Fancy Coffee



The Stage



The Quashetts



WORTHING HERITAGE TRAILS

TOWN TRAIL 1

Introduction: This trail begins at the Swan in what was once the old village of Worthing and then follows down the High Street (once just 'Worthing Street'), turning into Warwick Street, the trail enters an area of Worthing that was developed as the seaside town and resort emerged following the visit of Princess Amelia in 1798. The trail continues up Chapel Road and into Union Place, returning to the Swan.

Duration: 90 minutes

Terrain: follows pavements – this trail should be suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

1 The Swan. A public house since 1849, when it was known as the White Swan. The building dates from the eighteenth century, when it was the home of Richard Lindup, later becoming a boarding house. The date '1938' above the entrance lintel refers to rebuilding work carried out in that year.

2 The Hollies, now offices, was originally a private house of some distinction, being constructed of the much sought-after Worthing 'yellow brick'. These bricks were fired from clay extracted from Worthing seashore. This particular seam was excavated between c. 1800 and c. 1830. Later bricks were more orange in hue rather than the yellow/cream colour found in the bricks at the Hollies.

3 The Sidney Walter Centre is situated within the Little High Street Conservation Area. It was built as Sussex Road School in 1902 and retains many original features. The school closed in 1964 and two years later was re-opened as the Sidney Walter Centre, being

named after the founding chairman of the Worthing Youth Council.

4 The footpath or 'twitten' that runs down the eastern side of the Sidney Walter Centre can be followed to Broadwater Street East, a mile to the north. There has been speculation that this footpath, known as 'the Quashetts', once linked the medieval chapel of Worthing with St Mary's at Broadwater, although a walker today will see it connects the Swan with the **Old House at Home!** At one time the path, which may be medieval or earlier, probably continued onto the Downs and Cissbury Ring.



15 24 Marine Place, today a youth drop-in centre, was built as a **Wesleyan Chapel** in c.1826. It later became a Masonic Hall.

16 The Nelson Passage, is a little alleyway, easily missed. An exit from the north side of the alley used to lead to Nelson Shades – a 'shady' bar long since closed. From South Street it is possible to see the bow-fronted windows of the old Nelson, above the modern shop window façade.



17 The Old Town Hall, built c.1830, stood where the steps and concourse leading to the Guildbourne Centre are now situated. The Old Town Hall was much loved in Worthing as a focal point of the town centre. It lost its function when the current Town Hall was opened in 1933, but it remained in use for other civic purposes until its demolition in 1966.



18 Market Street was one of the first streets laid out following the passing of the Worthing Town Improvement Act of 1803. It remained a largely intact Regency street until it was demolished, virtually in its entirety, between 1969 and 1970, to make way for the Guildbourne Centre development.

19 The Connaught Theatre was opened in 1933, under its actor-manager, Bill Fraser. Considered to be a good example of an Art Deco building, the original black and white tiles that faced the building were removed in the 1980s. A proposal to close the theatre at this time led two brothers to go on hunger strike until the threat was lifted. Today, the Connaught hosts more films than plays and its long-term future remains uncertain.

20 Fair Lawn, a once elegant villa dating from the 1820s, is now incorporated into the modern retirement flats complex that surrounds it. For several decades, until the current conversion, Fair Lawn was the local adult education centre. In the early nineteenth century it was the home of the geologist, Dr. Frederick Dixon.

21 Union Place derives its name from the Act of Union between Britain and Ireland passed in 1800. As Worthing developed into a seaside resort in the years following 1800, many new residential streets were laid out, fronted by grand houses. Union Place was one such street. **Haverfield House** is now a lone survival from that elegant age.

6 Tower Road gets its name from the Italianate water tower that was built here in 1857. It was the major source of drinking water in Worthing, capable of holding 200,000 gallons of water. However, its contamination in 1893 led to an outbreak of typhoid fever during which 188 people died. In 1898 a water pumping station was opened on the Downs at Hillbarn Lane and the water tower became redundant. It was demolished in 1924.

7 The Stage, previously known as the Jack Horner, and originally, the Anchor, is believed to be the oldest public house in the town centre. It was rebuilt in the late nineteenth century. The inquest into the death of William Cowerson, a smuggler shot dead by coastguards, was held at the Anchor in February 1832.

8 'Burdens', a farmhouse dating from at least the mid-eighteenth century, and Alma Cottage, named after the famous battle in the Crimean War, once stood here. Although listed as buildings of historic and architectural interest, they were demolished in 1959. Many other historic buildings dating back to the time when Worthing was an agricultural village, were lost at this time.

9 Fancy Coffee (still known to many older residents as the 'Toby Jug') has for many decades now served as a tea shop or café. It is probably the oldest surviving building from the old village, dating back to the late seventeenth century.

10 This collection of buildings (until recently, 'Guitar Junction') date from the eighteenth century. Although altered and modified over the years, they still represent a precious survival from the old village. Worthing's first known butcher's shop was situated here.

11 Warwick Street was built in the early nineteenth century to accommodate the town's growing middle-class population, only



later in the century were the properties converted into shops. Some of the buildings on the south side of the street date back to the eighteenth century and represent the earliest phase in the development of Worthing as a seaside resort.

12 Stanford Square is a modern development, but Stanford Cottage, now a restaurant, is an eighteenth century building. Jane Austen stayed here in 1805

13 Bedford Row was built between 1803 and 1806 and is a grade II listed building. The bow-fronted architecture, is in its earliest form here. The style allowed the maximum light into the rooms, and reached the height of its popularity in the 1820s when it was replicated across much of Brighton. No.7 Bedford Row, originally Bloss's Boarding House, was refronted in Victorian times, breaking the continuity of the Regency terrace. The naturalist, W.H. Hudson, was believed to have stayed at no.8 towards the end of his life.

14 Bedford Cottage was saved from demolition in 1988. It is now a grade II listed building. Flint cobbles and yellow brick feature in its design. The building dates from c.1800. It is similar to Threadpaper House which stands behind it to the south. Local tradition claims it as a 'fisherman's cottage', although its situation in what was, in the early nineteenth century, a highly fashionable quarter of town, suggests this was unlikely.

WORTHING HERITAGE TRAILS

TOWN TRAIL 1



The Old Village and Regency Town



www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

The Worthing Heritage Trails are a project created by the Worthing Heritage Alliance (www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk) and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

General visitor information about Worthing can be found at www.VisitWorthing.co.uk

More information about the history of Worthing can be found at www.oldworthingstreet.com
www.worthingcommunityplay.org.uk
www.worthingsociety.org.uk