

TOWN CENTRE PUB TRAIL

Worthing town has been home to over eighty public houses and a number of breweries. This number increases to over one hundred and thirty if outlying villages such as Tarring, Broadwater, Goring and Durrington are included. The oldest in the main town is thought to have existed south of the current shoreline just east of the pier – the only evidence for its existence being an old painting held in Worthing Museum that clearly shows a small wooden building with a typical pub sign. As with any town, over the years buildings change their usage from dwellings to pubs, to shops and very often back to dwellings. Many are not lucky enough to survive this process and are demolished to make way for a new development totally destroying any trace of original buildings. Not all 'hostelries' originated as public houses, many were inns, taverns, beer houses, tap houses and brew houses, all of which were controlled by different regulations. These days, although inns and taverns still exist they all come under the umbrella of public houses and are governed by the same regulations.

Duration: 90 minutes, 1.5 miles (2.4km).

Terrain: The trail follows pavements and pedestrianized streets, crossing roads which may be busy with traffic at certain times of day.



Spaniard



Albion



Montague Brewery



Victoria Arms



Buckingham Arms



White Hart



New Street Inn



Wine Lodge



Hare and Hounds



Wheatsheaf



Bar Release



Nelson



Ship



Vintners Arms



Warwick Arms



Stage



Swan



Lennox



Castle

1 Nautilus Court, BN11 3PR (site of the Wine Lodge) Opened in 1950 by Roberts, a family run off-licensing business, and built in the Spanish Villa style. Over the years it had many a name: Roberts Wine Lodge, Parade Wine Lodge and most recently The Litten Tree. A very unique building in Worthing and indeed in the surrounding area, it was demolished in 2003 and replaced with a block of seafront apartments, built in the bow-fronted Regency style.

2 New Street Inn Originally a simple beer house in c.1832, by 1862 it had become a popular brewery under the ownership of James Carter. The Carter family had been brewing beer in Worthing since before 1832. J and R Carter also ran a brewery in Chapel Road in 1858. The white building in the picture is still part of the original frontage, now a private house. This was also the home of George Pacy a one time landlord. Viewed from the south side looking north it can be seen just how large this building is. The rear 'Tower' is typical of brewery design. The road in front is a more recent addition, originally being just a simple alleyway between the brewery and what is thought to have been fishermen's yards. For a period the brewery was known as Pacy's Blood-Hole, a name said to have arisen because fishermen would gut their catch whilst enjoying a well earned pint.

3 White Hart Built in 1835 and closing in 1985, the White Hart would have formed one of the many pubs on a pub crawl of Montague Street. The original front, covered in glazed tiles, was typical of much pub architecture of the time. Sadly, this was lost when the building was rebuilt in 1985.

4 Buckingham Arms Opened in 1837 and closing in 1987, shoppers browsing in the Body Shop will have no idea they have stepped into Worthing's own Bermuda Triangle. The Buckingham Arms was one of three pubs so close together that you could almost throw a dart from one into the dart board of another – very handy if the landlord kicked you out!

The lower floor of the building was extended whilst still a pub and the door moved from a corner opening, typical of many pubs, to the current position we see today. Looking at the front of the building, towards the roofline, an architectural moulding can be seen where the name would once have been painted.

16 Stage, formerly the 'Jack Horner' and earlier still 'The Anchor', it may have also been known as 'The Golden Anchor'. Dating from at least 1811, it holds the honour of being the longest surviving pub in the centre of Worthing. Occupying a prime location in the heart of the old Worthing village it was rebuilt in 1895 and was occasionally used for coroner's inquests – most notably that of smuggler William Cowerson in 1832. The name 'Anchor' may have originated from the word 'Anker', a measure of brandy (10 gallons). Early guide books refer to the poverty of Worthing where land could be purchased for as little as 'half an anker'. Lyndhurst Road, on the corner of which it stands, was until 1874 called Anchor Lane.

17 Swan Occupation of the the 'Swan' site can be tracked back to the late 17th century. At the centre of old Worthing village it was then listed as a dwelling place, barn and 25 acres of land owned by Ferdinando Lindup, a yeoman of the area – a yeoman being someone who works his own land. By 1790 it was owned by Richard Lindup who developed it into a more



5 Victoria Arms The second pub in the triangle dates from c.1892 – 1984. Standing opposite the Buckingham, the building remains to this day. It would probably take an experienced eye to spot that this building was indeed a pub. An unusual feature is how it seems to stick out into the street – the reason being that the buildings each side were 1960s constructions built back from the original street line. Whilst standing facing the Victoria, to the left would have been the third pub in the triangle, the Kings Arms, occupying a position now taken by Argos. Built around 1830 and demolished in 1965, sadly, no known pictures exist.

6 Montague Brewery Worthing also had its fair share of dedicated breweries and this guide would not be complete without a mention of at least one. The Montague Brewery (and possible beer shop) had existed since before 1843 at 46 Montague Street. Development in the growing Worthing town caused renumbering of the buildings with the address changing several times. The building was, however, moved a few feet backwards to allow a better uninterrupted flow along Montague Street. The brewery survived up until the First World War when it finally closed and the building was taken over by Walter Brothers, a clothes retailer. The building was demolished in 1969 and replaced with shops.

7 Albion Surviving from 1800 until demolition in 1961, the name 'Albion' is derived from the ancient Greek name for the Island of Great Britain. With the Romans naming the country 'Britannia', it is easy to see how these once common pub names came into being. The Albion Commercial & Family Hotel was a Georgian building dating from around 1800 and situated in what was then Chapel Street on the site of White & Browns livery stables, thus accounting for the building's large footprint. Rebuilt around 1935 and closed in 1961, a subsequent development contained Gamley's the toy store. A later redevelopment replaced this with the Superdrug store in place today.

8 Spaniard Hotel Opened around 1790 and demolished in 1974, legend has it that the pub was named after a crew member from the Spanish Armada who was held captive there after their ship was wrecked – but this cannot be true as the Armada set sail for

substantial property. In 1842, the building became a lodging house and by 1849 it had become an 'Inn'. In 1938, it was enlarged, re-fronted and modernised.

18 Castle Situated at the far north of the town at the foot of the bridge that leads to Broadwater lies the 'Castle'. Originally the 'Castle Hotel & Tavern', built around 1873, it later became 'O'Conner's Bar' (1998 to 2001) and later the 'Tap & Tankard'. It has since reverted to the 'Castle Tavern'. The 'Castle' was at one time the HQ of the infamous Worthing Bonfire Boys. The railway bridge nearby, leading to the A24, can be viewed as the gateway to Worthing – the 'Castle' was not the only pub to offer an early welcome to visitors to the town. Standing with your back to the 'Castle', on the corner opposite stood the 'Norfolk Hotel' built in 1850 and demolished in 2005. Looking directly east across the road, this corner was occupied by the 'Lennox'.

19 Lennox This plot is situated at the top end of Chapel Road. In the 18th century this was the northern end of Worthing Street, at which time Worthing was a one street village. In the early 1800s a house occupied the plot owned by a local brewer. By 1820 a brewery seems to have existed somewhere on the site becoming the 'Teville Brewery' in 1834, the Crown Inn and Brewery in 1836. With the advent of the railway line and station building, this was later to be changed to the Railway Hotel. It later became the 'Lennox Hotel' and, in 1994, was finally renamed the 'Rivoli' to celebrate a cinema that once stood close by. The building was demolished in 2003 to make way for flats.

England two hundred years earlier in 1588. Many locals who recall the Spaniard will almost inevitably say that it was located 'where Boots the Chemist is'. In fact, it was situated not on the corner, but right at the very north end of the Boots building fronting onto Portland Road. This picture shows the pub after it was refronted sometime in the early twentieth century.

9 Hare and Hounds Recorded as a pub since at least 1852, this flint building dates to the late 18th century. It was remodelled and extended into the adjoining property in the 1990s. In the 1960s, the left-hand door opened into the small 'snug' bar with only just enough room for the door to open into it.

10 Wheatsheaf The current building is a rebuild in the mock Tudor style. The original pub, dating from around 1835, formed the end of a row of terraced cottages – an early photograph taken some time in the late 19th century shows the Wheatsheaf as a simple end-of-terrace building with a typical pub sign. This lends weight to the argument that the pub was converted from a normal dwelling and not purpose built. The adjoining cottages remained for a number of years after the later rebuild as did a further row of terraces to the right.

11 Bar Release To many this pub will always be known as 'The Fountain'. For a short while in the 1990s it became 'The Fathom and Firkin' – boasting its own micro-brewery, before becoming 'The Assembly' and now, 'Bar Release'. The original building dates to around 1890. A brewery once existed on this site run by Richard Carter with 'The Fountain' built later as an outlet for the brewery. It may also have been known at one time as the 'Fountain Tap'.

12 Ship Opened in 1933 as 'The Ship Grill' by John Gardner, it later became the Britannia Building Society. Apparently, the ship had portholes along the inside walls which were partially filled with water – at the touch of a switch a wave motion would start up in each one. It has also been said that when the national anthem was played no one was required to stand up. This was not a sign of disrespect, but rather one of tradition – the inside was built to mimic a galleon, where, due to the low ceiling, standing was

difficult and so the monarch's health was toasted from the seated position. The distinctive frontage was built by The Tower Joinery Works of Warwick Street.

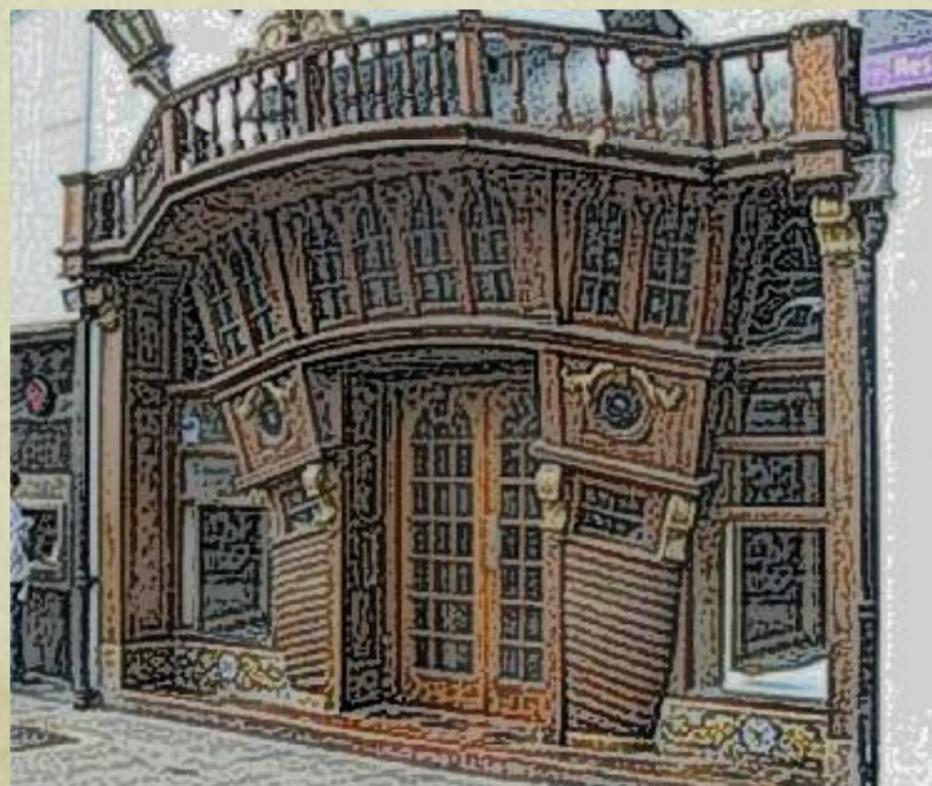
13 Nelson Inn Opened in 1785 and closed in 1961. An early drawing exists dating from 1820 at which time the 'Nelson' was a coaching inn. From 1803 until 1812 it became the meeting venue for the Worthing Town Commissioners (predecessors of today's Borough Councillors). Later becoming a hotel, the bar area moved to the rear of the building with access gained via the passageway to the right, still known today as Nelson Passage. These separate bars were commonly known as 'Shades' or 'Taps' with this one becoming 'The Nelson Shades'.

14 Vintner's Arms, to many it will always be remembered as the 'Thieves Kitchen'. There was a transitional period where it became the 'Vintner's Parrot' but in 2014 it underwent refurbishment and the name reverted to the 'Vintner's Arms'. The building that graces numbers 10 and 12 Warwick Street today, dates back to 1808 (with a rebuild in the 1830s) and is in fact made of two different properties. The right-hand side began life as Roberts Wine Merchants (pictured), and the left as Worthing & Sussex Bank, later Henty's Bank. Although the bank had the greater frontage, Roberts extended much further back. The distinctive yellow Worthing brick above the ground floor can also be seen in other buildings in the area.

15 Warwick Arms Looking at the north side of Warwick Street today, it's hard to believe that these were ordinary houses, each with a basement below street level. The Warwick pub itself would have been converted from a private residence. The property straddles both Warwick Street and Ann Street behind. The back section of the building was once a cabinetmaker's, later becoming a brewery. With the drinking area presumably at the rear, it was known as the Warwick Hotel Shades. The front became the more respectable main hotel entrance. In 1995, it became the 'Hogshead Cask Ale Emporium' – a hogshead being a barrel size of 54 gallons. In more recent times the pub expanded next door, and today, you can still see the difference in height on the frontage.

WORTHING HERITAGE TRAILS 9

TOWN CENTRE PUB TRAIL



Worthing Town Centre Pubs

This trail explores the pub history of Worthing town centre, visiting existing pubs as well as the site of those now closed or demolished.

www.worthingheritagetrails.org.uk
www.worthingpubs.com

Scan to open the guided walk on your smartphone
 powered by iwalk



The Worthing Heritage Trails are created by the Worthing Heritage Alliance (www.worthingheritagealliance.org.uk) and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
 Project Manager: Chris Hare – sussexhistory.hare@gmail.com
 Text by Colin Walton and Jimmy Hastell; photos courtesy of www.worthingpubs.com
 For details of local train and bus timetables and routes see www.westsussex.gov.uk/travelinfo



More information about Worthing can be found at www.visitworthing.co.uk
www.worthingsociety.org.uk