

## MADELEY TOWN TRAIL

The trail starts at the Madeley Town Council offices, **Jubilee House (1) (plaque A)**, originally a purpose-built Market Hall and arcade opened in 1870. After closure in 1903, it was used for a variety of commercial businesses including the Jubilee Nut & Press



Jubilee House

Works. Turn left and go down HIGH STREET passing two impressive buff coloured brick buildings, (Barclay's Bank was once a private house) before arriving at the **"Ænon" Baptist Chapel (2) (plaque B)**. Note the foundation stone laid in 1857.



Baptist Chapel

Next to the chapel is **St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (3)** built in 1853 in the early English style to a design of J. A. Hansom. Part of the adjoining presbytery was an earlier 'Mass House'.



St Mary's Church

Further along is **61-65 High Street (4)** which was converted into a single residence in the 1980s. The earliest part is of timber-framed construction and probably dates back to at least 1570. Adjoining is **Lumley Hall (5) (plaque C)**, a classical Grecian style building built in 1858 as Madeley County Courthouse. It was designed by George Reeves of London and built by the Nevett Brothers of Ironbridge. After closure in 1950 it was used as a church hall (popularly known as 'St. Mick's') and since the early 1970s has been used for a variety of youth and social uses and is now the home of Telford Amateur Boxing Club and Madeley Music Project.



Lumley Hall

Adjoining Lumley Hall is the former **Royal Oak Hotel (6)**. This 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick building was first licensed in 1850 and, with a large function room over the former stables, was noted for the part it played in supporting local sporting and friendly societies. It closed in 2009. Next to the pub at **58 High Street (7)** was the ironmongery and china shop run by Cliff and Fred Stodd (known locally as Stodd's bottom shop).



Royal Oak

Crossing over HIGH STREET close to the junction with STATION ROAD you come to **The Peoples' Centre (8) (plaque D)**. This attractive building, with polychromatic brickwork was built in 1865 as Mount Zion Primitive Methodist Chapel. It fell into disuse in 1977 when the Methodist congregation moved to Fletcher Memorial chapel. Since then, it has been used by a variety of community and voluntary groups.



Peoples Centre

On the opposite corner of Station Road is the **Maharajah Indian Restaurant (9)** which was once the Royal Exchange pub and prior to that was probably the home of the noted Methodist preacher, Mary Tooth. Walk up the HIGH STREET to the **CHEC building, 31 High Street (10) (plaque E)**, originally the Coopers Arms pub which closed in 1907. The upper floor was then used as a police station and the ground floor for boot makers and a hairdressers shop.



CHEC

Further up the High Street is **Madeley Stores, 13 High Street (11)** which was the childhood home of Matthew Webb, pioneering Channel swimmer. At the top of the HIGH STREET number **9 High Street (12)** is an imposing early 19<sup>th</sup> century buff-coloured brick building, originally a private house, and currently occupied by Lloyds Bank. Facing onto the HIGH STREET it also has an ornate late 19<sup>th</sup> century shop front that used to be Bryans, a high class tailor & outfitter.



Madeley Stores

Turn left at the top of the HIGH STREET, walk past the public toilets and down a pedestrian ramp. At the bottom of the ramp, you arrive at the end of CHURCH STREET. On the left is **Little Haye, Nos. 43 & 44 Church Street (13) (Plaque F)** which is one of the oldest buildings in the town with a probably medieval timber-framed two-bay hall with 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century additions. Between 1880 and 1930, the building was used by Benbow & Jeffrey, an ironmongery business. Further along CHURCH STREET you pass the **Rest Room (14)**, a meeting place for elderly people, developed in the 1920s out of the religious and social work of local businessman Robert Moore. In February 1934 the Rest Room was opened in Park Avenue, funded by public donations. This replacement was built in 1968, before the original one was demolished to make way for the shopping centre. Next to the Rest Room is the former **Infant School (15)** which was the first Methodist Chapel in Madeley. Built in 1833, it was used as a Wesleyan schoolroom for poor children from 1841. It became a Church of England infants' school in 1853, closed in the 1950s and is now a private residence.



Little Haye



Rest Room

Cross over CHURCH STREET to the **Six Bells Pub (16)** which was named after the peal of six bells in St. Michael's church. This was later increased by public subscription to eight bells, in memory of local people who died during the two world wars.



Six Bells

Continue along CHURCH STREET until you reach a triangular open space at the junction with STATION ROAD. Known as **The Green (Crosshill) (17)** it was the site of a barn used by John Fletcher's widow Mary as a preaching venue (demolished 1831). There is a memorial stone at the corner nearest the church.



The Green

Further along CHURCH STREET is the **Old Vicarage (18) (historic plaque)**, a 17<sup>th</sup> century high status red brick building. John Fletcher lived here from 1760 to 1785. His wife, Mary Fletcher, was allowed to remain in the Old Vicarage after his death and co-operated in a joint ministry with Samuel Walter and the ministers of the Wesleyan circuit based in Shrewsbury. From about 1799, she was joined by Mary Tooth, who worked for over 40 years in Madeley as preacher and class leader.



Old Vicarage

Opposite the Old Vicarage is the former **National School, 17 Church Street (19)**. Built in 1841, this is buff-



National School

coloured brick with stone dressings in a Tudor style. Sexes were separated with girls upstairs and boys downstairs. It was later used for juniors until the 1980s and is now a residential care home.



St Michael's Church

Next to the Old Vicarage you will see **St. Michael's Church (20) (plaque G)**. There has been a church on this site since Norman times, though the present octagonal building was designed by Thomas Telford and completed in 1796. The church remains largely as Telford designed it, apart from the addition of a chancel in 1910. The graveyard contains probably the best collection of cast-iron memorials in the country, including Fletcher's grave and that of the '9 Men of Madeley' who were all killed in a mining accident in 1864. At this point you can take an extended route by turning left along COALPORT ROAD (see **DETOUR A**) or continue to follow the main route along CHURCH STREET (please be careful along this part of the route as there are narrow or no footpaths).

On your left you will arrive at **Upper House & 'King Charles Barn' (21) (historic plaque)**. Upper House was built around 1621 as a farmhouse by Francis Wolfe. Around 1876 it was acquired by the Legge family, who owned Blists Hill brick and tile works. In 1937 it was inherited by William Dyas, one of Madeley's sporting heroes, who once played cricket with Dr. W.G. Grace. The adjoining 17<sup>th</sup> century barn is famous for being a hiding place for King Charles II after the battle of Worcester in 1651. Used as a local market in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it has recently been converted into private flats.



Upper House



King Charles Barn

As you follow CHURCH STREET around to the right, there is an attractive group of buildings including **Madeley Hall (22) (plaque H)**. This was a high status red brick building of 18<sup>th</sup> century date and was home to the Yate family in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Major Charles Yate (son of a former vicar of Madeley) won the Victoria Cross during World War One in 1914 at Le Cateau. Sir Charles Yate founded the first Madeley Scouts in 1926 (Sir Charles Yate's Own). Now a sheltered housing scheme owned and managed by Wrekin Housing Trust, Madeley Hall is not readily visible from the road but **please stay on CHURCH STREET to avoid disturbing older residents**. The plaque is located on Hall Barn, for many years a venue for social events. Beside it is the site of an old horse-drawn threshing engine, nowadays known as the cock pit. It is likely that the building was, in fact, used for both these purposes and that the circular area where the horse used to walk round to operate the threshing machinery was later used as a cock pit.



Madeley Hall

Continue along CHURCH STREET to the junction with PARK STREET. At this point you can take a further extended route by turning left up PARK STREET (see **DETOUR B**) or you can continue to follow the main route by turning right onto PARK AVENUE. On the corner is the former **Congregational Chapel (23) (plaque I)**. The chapel was built in 1874 and closed in 1985, by which time it was used by the United Reformed Church. Continue along PARK AVENUE.



Congregational Chapel

On reaching RUSSELL SQUARE, you can cross over the square to the **War Memorial (24)**.



War Memorial

Retrace your route onto PARK AVENUE and continue until you reach ANSTICE SQUARE.



Anstice

To the left is the **Anstice Memorial Institute (25) (historic plaque)**. This was built during 1868-9 to an Italianate design by John Johnston of London in memory of John Anstice of the Madeley Wood Company. Inside, a handsome oak staircase leads to the upstairs concert room. Lloyds Bank had a sub-branch in the Institute from the early years of the century until 1970. Walk to the end of PARK AVENUE and you will arrive



Fletcher Memorial Church

back at the start of the trail. From the corner of HIGH STREET, you can view the **Fletcher Memorial Church (26) (plaque J)**. This Wesleyan Chapel, which was built in 1841, has an imposing classical design with temple front in local yellow brick. In 1933, the chapel was renamed after the Revd. John Fletcher, a vicar of Madeley and a founding father of Methodism.

### DETOUR A (1 hour)

If you walk along COALPORT ROAD (again please be careful as no footpaths) you will arrive at the **All Nations Inn (27) (plaque K)** which is approached via a steep driveway. It was licensed in 1832 and tenanted for a time by the Baguley family who were also builders and responsible for construction of some local railway stations including Madeley Market station. Later run by the Lewis family, the All Nations is a famous home brew house.



All Nations

From the pub car park, you can look across **Lee Dingle Bridge (28)** with its imposing lattice girder framework spanning Legges Way. The large abutments have a blue brick base with sandstone caps and cast iron ornamental parapets. It was built around 1860, during the construction of the railway, to replace an earlier timber viaduct and was used to carry coal and ironstone from the Meadow Pit Colliery to Blists Hill Ironworks. The decking has been removed and it is no longer in use (please take care as there is a steep drop at the side of the bridge).

From the other side of the car park, you can also view up to the top of **Baguley's Wind (29)**, an inclined plane associated with Meadow Pit Colliery and now used as a footpath. It is mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in date, again replacing an earlier tram-road (again it is a steep climb over uneven ground so please take care if you walk to the top).

Retrace your steps along COALPORT ROAD to rejoin the main trail.

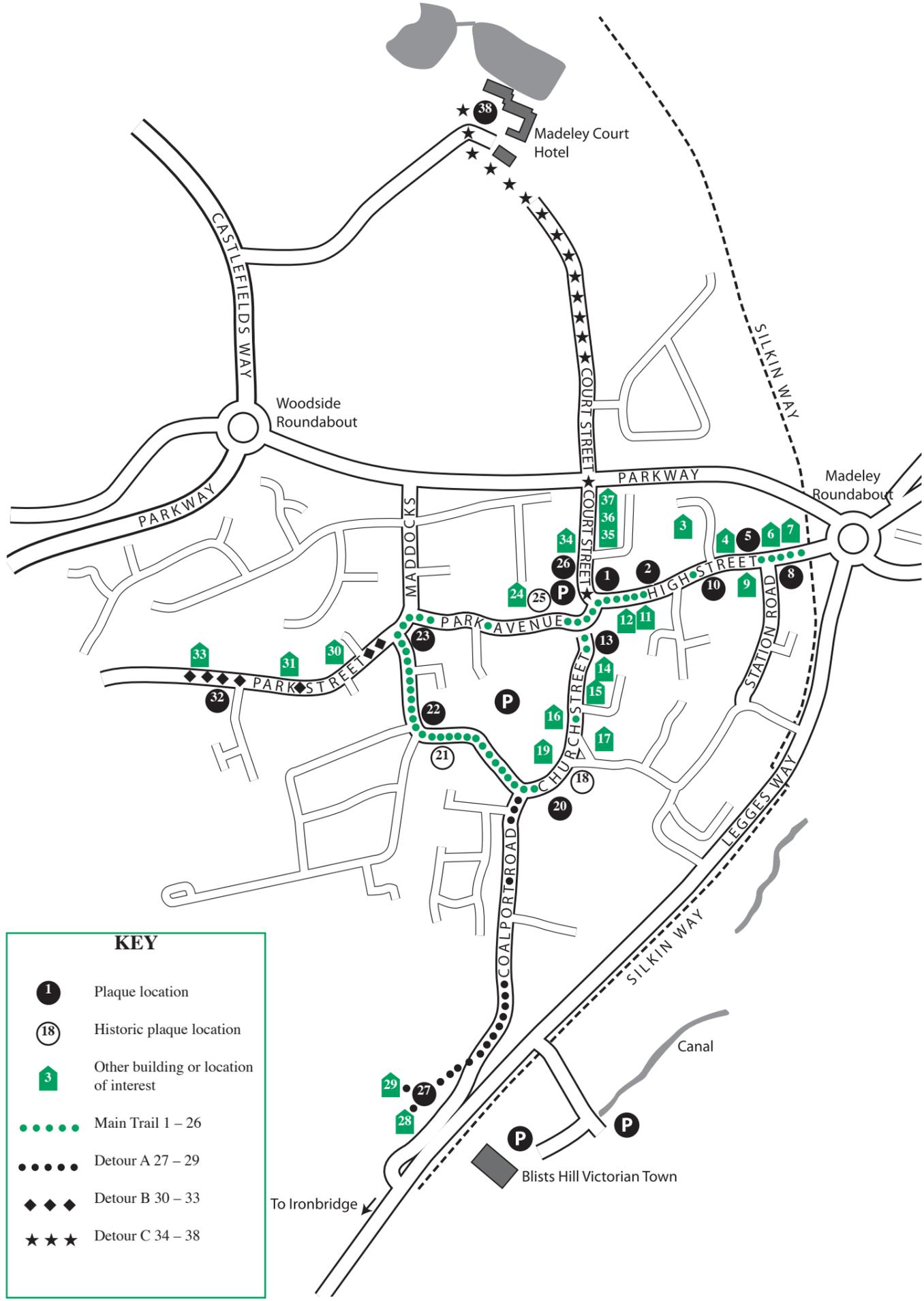
### DETOUR B (20 minutes)

Walk up PARK STREET. Opposite MAYFIELD is **10b Park Street (30)** which was previously Hallett's stores. In the 1930s, it was run by T. Dorsett, as an ironmonger, electrical and wireless shop. Further along is **18 Park Street (31)** which was once the Hanging Gate pub. Now a private residence.

You will eventually arrive at **77A Park Street (32) (plaque L)** on the junction with NEW STREET. It was built in 1859 as a Bethesda Chapel by the New Connexion Methodists.

**KEY**

- 1 Plaque location
- 18 Historic plaque location
- 3 Other building or location of interest
- Main Trail 1 – 26
- Detour A 27 – 29
- Detour B 30 – 33
- Detour C 34 – 38



The chapel closed around 1907 and was converted into the “Parkhurst” cinema on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1910 by the Stead family (later the West End, later the Regent).



77a Park Street

After the cinema closed in 1959 it was for some time an engineering works and later became a private house. Across from the former cinema is **33 Park Street (33)**, another former pub called the Turners Arms. A famous landlord was John “Stumpy” Brown who lost both arms above the elbows in a mining-related accident. However, he later learned to write and became a teacher and preacher. He also learned woodturning, holding a chisel with his feet and produced the fine turned balustrades in the Anstice. Retrace your steps down **PARK STREET** to rejoin the main trail.

**DETOUR C (1 hour)**

From Jubilee House, you can follow another extended route to Madeley Court Hotel. Turn right from **JUBILEE HOUSE** along **COURT STREET**. Opposite the Anchor Pub is **4 Court Street (34)**, once the home of Caddy Smith’s famous fish, fruit and potato stores (look for his faded painted advert on the end gable). As you pass the Anchor Pub, look out for **76 Court Street (35)** Polly Pritchard’s sweetshop (whose owner was notorious for cutting sweets in half to get the right weight) and **72 Court Street (36)**, once home to Charles Bartlam’s photographic studio. Next door is **71 Court Street (Albany House) (37)** built in 1843 by Thomas Blocksidge (painters and decorators). Crossing over **COURT STREET** by the Barley Mow pub you take the pedestrian crossing over **PARKWAY**. Carry on along **COURT STREET**. Continue until you reach **COURT ROAD** passing the ski centre on your left. You eventually take a public footpath with playing fields on your right that takes you to **Madeley Court Hotel (38) (Plaque M)**, a 16<sup>th</sup> century manor house that has been converted into a luxury hotel. Before the dissolution of the monasteries, Madeley Court was a grange of the Priors of Wenlock. It was acquired by Sir Robert Brooke



Madeley Court

in 1544. Improvements carried out by the Brooke family include a particularly fine Grade I listed gate house and an interesting walled garden containing the remains of an unusual ‘astronomical toy’. It was tenanted by Abraham Darby I from 1709 until his death in 1717. After 1840, when James Foster was mining around the property, the house declined rapidly and was eventually acquired by Telford Development Corporation before later restoration. Visitors to the hotel are welcomed and refreshments are available. Retrace your steps back to Jubilee House. If you prefer not to walk from Jubilee House, you can drive to the car park to the left of the hotel entrance and take a nature walk around the Madeley Court grounds.

This trail map and leaflet guides you around Madeley centre to the sites of 16 descriptive plaques on historic buildings. 13 new plaques have been commissioned by Madeley Town Council, with funding from Telford & Wrekin Council. Three buildings already had original commemorative plaques visible from the public highway. These were erected by Telford Development Corporation in the 1970s and have not been replaced. They are identified separately on the map – look out for their distinctive circular green design. There are a further two green plaques that are not visible from the highway so have not been included in the trail. One is in Madeley Court Hotel reception and the other is on the far side of Madeley Hall which is private property. The circular trail should take about an hour, starting and finishing at Jubilee House.

**Most surfaces along this trail are generally level. Following the suggested trail will require crossing busy roads and it is the responsibility of members of the public to ensure their personal safety. We recommend the use of pedestrian crossing points where available. PLEASE BE AWARE that some roads are narrow with sharp bends, and footpaths are not always present. All the plaques are visible from public areas, but please be aware that some are located on private property.**

There is a wide range of leaflets and books that give further information on the history of Madeley, many of which can be obtained from the Town Council. Find out more about the history of Madeley at :-  
[www.madeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/madeley-living-history-project](http://www.madeleytowncouncil.gov.uk/madeley-living-history-project)  
 or [www.madeleylocalhistory.org](http://www.madeleylocalhistory.org)

# Madeley Town Trail

**Discover Madeley's hidden historical gems on this self-guided trail**



Madeley Town Council is grateful for the financial support of Telford & Wrekin Council who have made this town trail possible.

Madeley Town Council wishes to acknowledge the work of Maggie Humphry who produced the illustrations and all the people who contributed information for the leaflet

**December 2012**

