

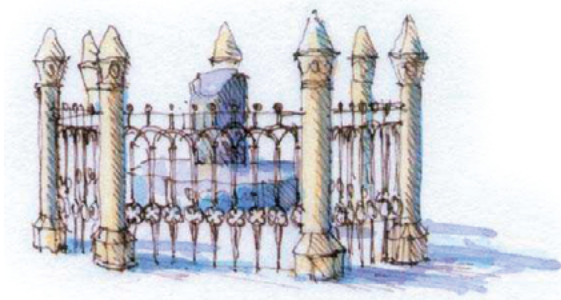
The Jubilee Trail



This is a trail focussing on Kingston's Royal Heritage.

It will take around one and a half hours. Add another half an hour if you take the optional extensions.

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames is officially recognised as the foremost of the four such boroughs in England and Wales. The others are Kensington & Chelsea, Windsor & Maidenhead and Greenwich. The name Kingston is derived from the Saxon word Cynges Tun, meaning 'King's estate'. It is believed that in Saxon times it was the site of a major church. The only evidence of such is in the Anglo-Saxon chronicles where, in the earliest known reference to Cynges Tun, a Great Council was held in 838 AD, over which King Egbert (Grandfather of Alfred the Great) presided and oaths were sworn at the altar.



Start at the Coronation Stone (1) next to the Guildhall

Kingston's Coronation Stone is in the ornate circular-railed feature on the open area to the right of the Guildhall as you face the building. The names of the seven Anglo-Saxon kings, reputed to have been crowned in Kingston in the tenth century, are written around the base. The Stone was later used as a mounting block for horsemen in the Market Place, but in 1850 it was set, with great ceremony, on a special base and surrounded by ornamental railings. It was moved to the front of the Guildhall in 1935. The Stone and the railings are Grade 1 monuments. The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon

Thames, Councillor Sushila Abraham commissioned the refurbishment of the Stone and installation of the Information Board in 2022. To find out more about the Coronations and the Stone visit Kingston Museum and All Saints' Church.

The Guildhall (2) was opened in 1935 by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and granddaughter of Queen Victoria. The architect was Maurice Webb, who also designed the 1930s Wood Street façade of Bentall's, under guidance provided by Leonard Bentall. The building contains portraits of Queen Anne, painted and presented by Sir Godfrey Kneller in 1706, and of Queen Elizabeth II painted by Arthur Pan in 1953, and incorporates



linenfold panelling from the old Tudor Town Hall. The portraits are located in committee rooms where meetings take place regularly and can be seen by prior arrangement. There have been several royal visitors, including Queen Elizabeth II in 1961, 1992 and 2002. Before moving on, note the gilded images of 'Hope' and 'Plenty' on the entrance doors, the horizontal fasces lictoriae (bound bundle of wooden rods with an axe) carving over the entrance which shows that the building once held a Magistrates' Court. Note the carvings and artwork above and the weather vane, which depicts a bargee and his faithful dog, barges being essential to the trade of Kingston.

As you leave the Guildhall and turn left you will come onto **Clattern Bridge**, one of the oldest bridges still in use in England (3). Cross the road using the pedestrian crossing by the Police Station and walk towards the right over the Bridge, stopping to read the plaque set into the brick parapet. The bridge

takes the road across the Hogsmill River, which runs into the Thames. The name 'Clattern' is believed to be from the clattering sound of the hooves from horses.

As you turn back south along the High Street, passing the Rose Theatre, note the green plaque on the wall of the building immediately after the theatre which shows that Eadweard Muybridge, pioneer of the moving image, was born here.

Continue, passing some attractive 16th, 17th and 18th century properties and you will arrive at **Picton House (4)**, once owned by Cesar Picton, who was brought from Senegal in 1761 as a child.



The plaque on the wall will inform you about its famous black owner who became a wealthy coal merchant in the borough.

Further along the High Street turn right onto **Queen's Promenade (5)**, made in Queen Victoria's reign and named after her. The Queen often came through Kingston on her way to Claremont House in Esher. Turn right back towards Kingston along the river walk.

Optional extension

To see *St Raphael's Roman Catholic Church (6)*, turn left and continue along Queen's Promenade about 500 metres. Look across to the other side of Portsmouth Road and you will see the Church, an Italianate building, built in 1848 by local landowner Alexander Raphael as a private chapel. Royal weddings were held here in the 19th century. The Prince and Princess of Wales (later Edward VII and Queen Alexandra) came here to the wedding of Princess Helene of Orleans, great granddaughter of King Louis Philippe of France, in 1895. A festive arch was constructed over the road to greet them.

If the church is open do take the opportunity to look inside and especially note, on the left wall, the monument to Princess Anne of Lowenstein Wertheim Freudenberg (Lady Anne Saville). She attempted to be the first woman to fly across the Atlantic, but sadly the attempt was unsuccessful.

Walk back towards Kingston along the Queen's Promenade to the Charter Quay Development.

End of optional extension.

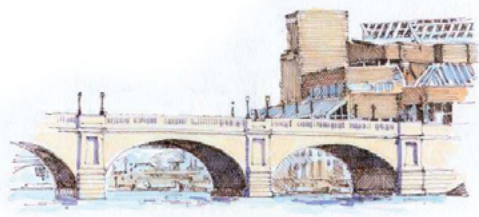


As you walk back along the riverside towards Kingston, note the attractive views, particularly of Kingston Bridge. The Charter Quay Development completed the River Walk, created a wetland area, erected around 100 flats, a piazza with cafes and restaurants and, facing onto High Street, the Rose Theatre. Stop on the footbridge over the **Charter Quay wetland area (7).**



Look downstream at **Kingston Bridge (8).**

It replaced an earlier wooden bridge in 1828. The Duchess of Clarence, later Queen Adelaide, opened the bridge and gave her name to the main shopping street. Her husband later reigned as King William IV. The Bridge was widened in 1914. More strengthening and widening work had to be done in 1999 to 2001. The Duke of Kent visited Kingston in June 2001 to unveil a tablet halfway across the bridge marking the completion of significant bridge works.



Kingston's old wooden bridge was the only crossing above London Bridge until 1729. Residents of Kingston broke the bridge deliberately in 1554 to stop



Thomas Wyatt and his rebels from crossing. For this loyalty Queen Mary Tudor gave Kingston, already entitled by Royal Charter to hold two annual fairs, the right to hold an additional fair on two days in July. You will find a picture of the old bridge in the Museum. Remains of the medieval bridge were excavated and along with the remains of a medieval 'undercroft', have been re-sited in the basement of the John Lewis store.

On the other side of the river is **Hampton Court Park (9)** and beyond it, Hampton Court Palace. Many Kingston tradespeople helped to build the Palace in the 16th century. William Morer of Kingston was paid 10 shillings for 500 floor tiles for the Great Hall and Edmund More carved the royal arms on stone tablets over the gateways. The fresh water supply to the Palace flowed in lead pipes and by gravity pressure from the height of Coombe Springs on Kingston Hill, the pipes running under the fields and laid on the bed of the river. It was used for cooking, washing and 'flushing'.

Look out for swans who have, comparatively recently, returned to

Kingston. From the 14th century, ownership of the swans on the Thames has been shared between the Crown and the Vintners' and Dyers' Companies. To find out about 'swan upping' and Royal Watermen visit the Museum.

As you pass the open area, which was once the site of the Eagle brewery, note the brass plaque at the end of the low wall facing the river. Take a few steps away from the river and where indicated in the paving, is the site of the well which served the brewery. Malting and brewing were two of Kingston's foremost industries.

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The river offered many leisure opportunities, including regattas, and Kingston is mentioned in "Three Men in a Boat" by Jerome K Jerome. In 1953 a great Tudor River Pageant celebrated the Queen's coronation. However, for the majority of Kingston's

past, the river acted as the 'highway' to London and Europe as Kingston was essentially an inland port. You will shortly arrive at the 'Wetland area' and, walking across the narrow bridge, take the opportunity to spy nesting wildlife.



From the Wetland area, turn your back on the river and walk towards the Market Place. You will notice a kiosk into which have been built old roof timbers that once formed part of the **Castle Inn in the Market Place (10)**, do read the plaque for more details. Also note the adjacent sculpture of the Flock of Mallard Ducks.

Leave Charter Quay along Shrubsole Passage leading into the Market Place and, in the passage, note the **panels which detail the history of the Market Place**, which were installed here in 2002 **(11)**.

You are now standing on the west side of **Kingston's ancient Market Place (12)** which retains the same shape as in medieval times. Royal Charters have enabled Kingston to set up markets to sell goods for over 800 years. The most famous charter was granted by Charles I who, in 1628, gave Kingston the right to ban other markets within 7 miles.

In the Museum you will find Kingston's first surviving Charter, granted by King John in 1208, and some medieval jugs and pots that were made in Kingston. Many were sold in London, some to the royal household.

The Market Place was laid out about 1170, in the time of Henry II. Its buildings, including some inns, faced

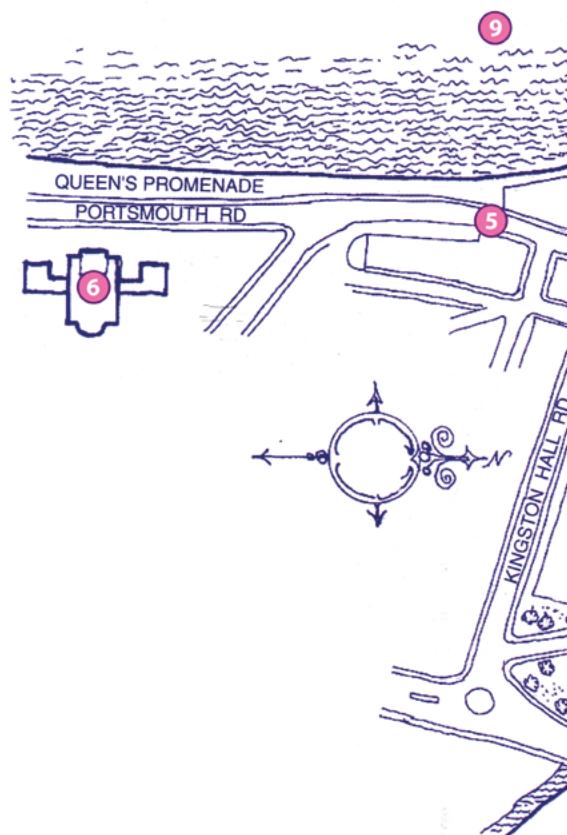
into the Market Place and backed onto small wharves. A tannery and a candle maker's business were both notorious for their smells.

You can see a model of Kingston in 1813 in the Museum. Find out how many inns, malthouses and breweries were near the Market Place.

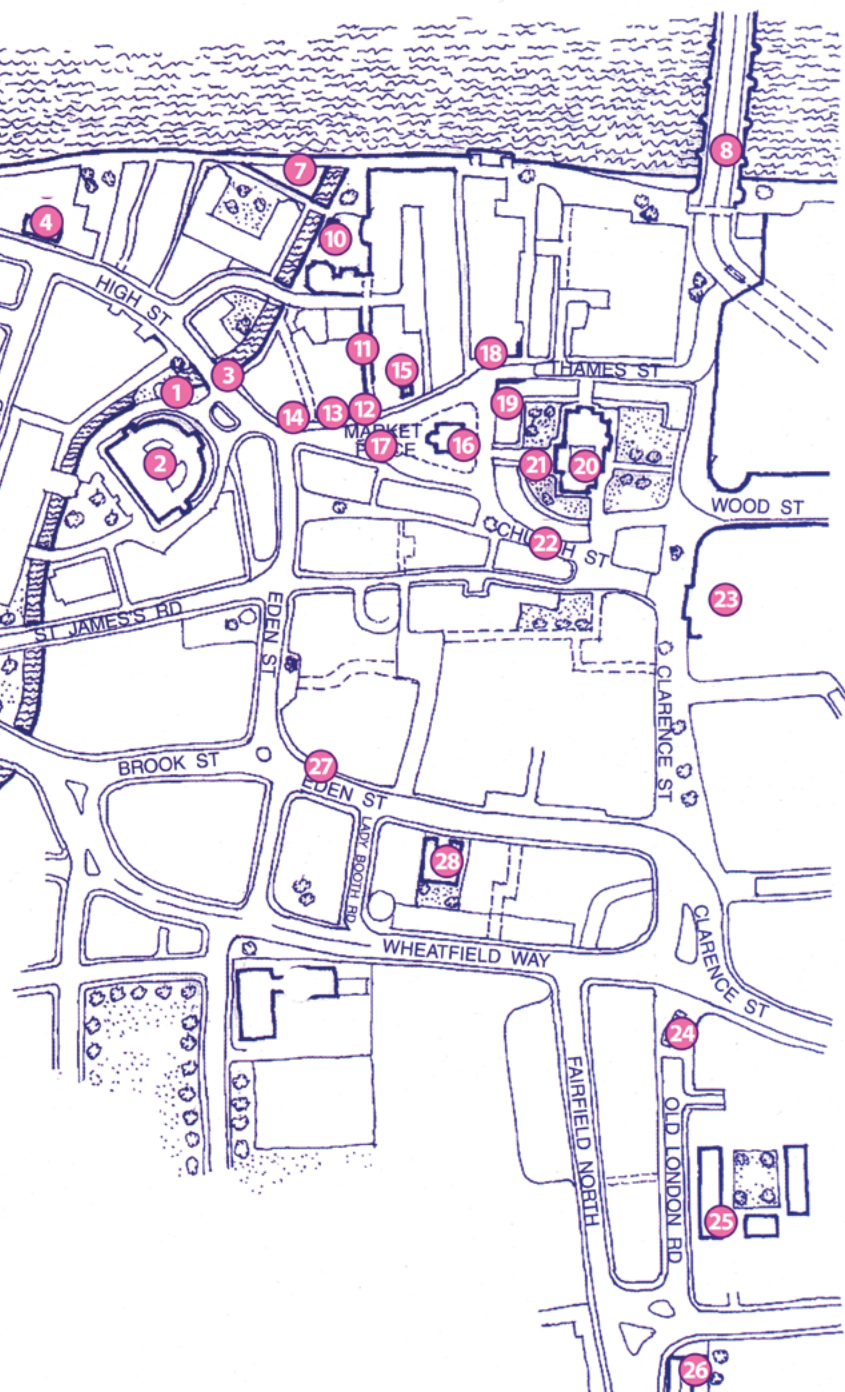
The inns around the Market Place were used by the London to Portsmouth coaches. **The Druid's Head** survives today **(13)**. The Griffin was improved in 1851 by its proprietor, John Williams who added the fashionable Assembly Room, patronised by royalty, the only part of the Griffin that still remains.

Williams styled himself 'Royal Postmaster', and the **Royal Coat of Arms** is displayed on the frontage to this day **(14)**. On the site of Next (formerly Hides Department Store), stood the Castle Inn built in 1537, whose beautifully restored **Jacobean oak stairway** forms part of the shop **(15)**.

The Market Place was once a place of punishment. In 1513 Thomas Denys was burnt here for practising the 'heretical' movement known as Lollardy. In 1572 'rogues and vagabonds' were whipped around the Market Place and branded on the ears. Old pictures show the stocks and pillory beside the Town Hall. There was also a ducking stool.



- 1 Coronation Stone
- 2 The Guildhall
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- 17 Henry Shrubsole, three-times Mayor of Kingston
- 18 Nuthall's Restaurant and Banqueting Rooms
- 19 Thames Street
- 20 All Saints' Church
- 21 Chapel of the Coronations
- 22 Numbers 6 to 8 Church Street
- 23 Bentall Centre
- 24 'Out of Order'
- 25 Cleaves' Almshouses
- 26 Lovekyn Chapel
- 27 Kingston's seven Saxon kings
- 28 Library and the Museum



The stool was used to punish scolds who were paraded around the Market Place to the river where they were ducked.

The Market Place was also a place of celebration. Tudor May games and dances were held here. We know from 16th century Borough Archives that the church bells were rung for royal occasions, for example when Jane Seymour, wife of Henry VIII, died, and when Queen Elizabeth I passed by on the river on her way to Hampton Court.



Royal proclamations were traditionally announced from the balcony of the Town Hall, now the Market House. Buildings were decorated for Queen Victoria's Jubilees. Queen Elizabeth II visited the Market Place in 1992, and again in 2002 for her Golden Jubilee.

A massive inscribed pewter plate made by the Royal Pewter maker, which is in the Museum, was used to serve a huge piece of beef to 700 schoolchildren in Kingston Market Place to celebrate the coronation of King George IV in 1821.

In the middle of the Market Place is the **Market House (16)**. A Victorian building dating from 1840, it was the Town Hall before the present Guildhall was built. The gilded statue is of Queen Anne and was made by sculptor Francis Bird in 1706. This came from an earlier building on the same site that was substantially rebuilt during Queen Anne's reign. The Borough Archives record that a great



'rearing' dinner was held to celebrate the event. The York Stone paving on the ground floor of the Market House reveals that the ground floor was once an open trading area. The town's administrative centre and a magistrates' court were on the first floor.

The memorial in front of the Market House is dedicated to **Henry Shrubsole, three-times Mayor of Kingston** who died in office in 1880 (17). The people of Kingston considered that he should be best commemorated by the erecting of a public water fountain, the statue depicting a water carrier and the young child representing 'the future'. Note the old stone water trough immediately behind the statue which provided refreshment for horses and, on market days, to thirsty livestock.

As you walk to the left of the Market House, you will find a road in front of you. This is Thames Street, which heads towards Kingston Bridge. In medieval times a mansion called Bishops Hall belonging to the Bishops of Winchester once stood to the west of Thames Street on the riverside. Hugh Herland, royal master-carpenter, lived here in 1392. Herland designed the famous hammer beam roof in Westminster Hall for Richard II.

Note on the left, the fine 1902 stone façade of 3-5 Thames Street, which

was formerly **Nuthall's Restaurant and Banqueting Rooms (18)**. Alongside, adjacent to King's Passage down to the river, is a Georgian façade, which belies the true age of the building behind, this being a timber structure Tudor building dating from the late 16th Century.

Diagonally across, on the corner of **Thames Street**, note the little building 13 Market Place which dates from 1590 (19).

The impressive façade of 14-15 Market Place, was designed by architects for Boots the Chemist, who took over the building and erected the historical façade in 1909. The building was expanded to the right in 1929 and shows important people connected with Kingston including King Edward the Elder, King Athelstan, King John, Edward III and Queen Elizabeth I.

When Boots took over the building in 1909, the ground floor was the Chemist but upstairs, on the first floor was a lending library and reading room, Jesse Boot's wife wanted the public to be able to read in comfort. Note the leaded windows and stained glass. One could sit and read and look out on Kingston from the setting of a 'country house reading room'. Coincidentally, prior to the arrival of Boots, the building was Phillipson's Lending Library. It is said that Queen Victoria used the Library.

Turn right, away from the corner and then left into the gates of **All Saints' Church (20)**. The gates were presented by the East Surrey Regiment, which was later merged into the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The Regiment enjoys the Freedom of Kingston.



As you walk towards the church door you will be crossing the site of St Mary's Saxon Chapel, sometimes called the **'Chapel of the Coronations' (21)**. Look for the 4 plaques on the low walls of the pathways.

The remains of the chapel collapsed in 1730, killing the sexton and injuring his daughter, Esther Hammerton. You can find the story in Kingston Museum.

Inside the Church look for a memorial brass dedicated to wealthy Kingston lawyer Robert Skerne and his wife, who

was the daughter of King Edward III, and his mistress, Alice Perrers. Visitors to All Saints' can find out more about its history in the church's heritage gallery.

As you come out of the church by the same door head back into the Market Place. Turn left, and left again, walk towards Clarence Street along Church Street you will find the flower stall where there was once a pig market.

Numbers 6 to 8 Church Street (22) was once the Rose Tavern, owned by William Shale, a valet to Henry VIII; inside can be seen some fine original timbers.

Ahead of you is the **Bentall Centre (23)**. Note the modern entrance and the earlier 1930s façade to the left which curves round into Wood Street and faces the John Lewis store. This is the work of architect Maurice Webb, as mentioned earlier for the Guildhall, and under the specific request and guidance of Leonard Bentall, it reflects the Sir Christopher Wren design of the south face of Hampton Court Palace. The Queen unveiled a plaque commemorating its restoration on 29th July 1992.



Optional extension

Walk the length of Clarence Street and instead of turning into Eden Street continue straight on for about 50 metres and cross the road, walking into Old London Road to the famous collapsing telephone boxes. This sculpture, made by David Mach in 1989, is called '*Out of Order*' (24). Further along Old London Road on the left are *Cleaves' Almshouses* (25), built in 1668 with money given by William Cleave for elderly residents of Kingston. There is a beautiful sundial on the wall. The alternating bricked window bays were initially designed to be glazed but are an example of reducing the effect of the later imposed 'Window tax'.

Go to the end of London Road. Look across the main road. On the corner, opposite Kingston Grammar School is the *Lovekyn Chapel* (26). This private Chantry Chapel was built in 1309 by Edward Lovekyn. Royal consent was needed, and this was obtained from Edward II in return for the cancellation of debts owed to Lovekyn for arranging the marriage feast of the King's father, Edward I, to Princess Margaret of France. Queen Elizabeth I gave the chapel to Kingston to form a Grammar School by the Royal Charter in 1561. Queen Elizabeth II visited Kingston to celebrate the School's 400th anniversary in 1961.

Go back to the telephone boxes and turn left. Cross over the road at the traffic lights towards the Cattle Market bus station. Carry on along Wheatfield Way towards the Museum on your left.

End of Optional extension.



As you turn right, walk the length of Clarence Street, cross at the pedestrian traffic lights and turn right down Eden Street.

Before turning left into Lady Booth Road to go to the Museum, continue a little further down Eden Street, you will see on the brick wall opposite a ceramic mural depicting *Kingston's seven Saxon kings (27)* and buildings and characters connected with Eden Street.

As you walk down Lady Booth Road and cross the road (Wheatfield Way) at the pedestrian crossing you will see opposite you the *Library and the Museum (28)*. Both were built with contributions from Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish American benefactor, and were opened in 1903 and 1904 respectively.

You will finish your walk at the Museum where you can find out more about Kingston's Royal Heritage.



You can research the history of Kingston in the Kingston History Centre which is located at the rear of the Guildhall. Contact the History Centre at [*local.history@kingston.gov.uk*](mailto:local.history@kingston.gov.uk)

Please note that there are dedicated Volunteer Kingston Tour Guides who each weekend (and weekdays by arrangement) offer free tours of the town.

You can contact them at their website [*www.kingstontourguides.org.uk*](http://www.kingstontourguides.org.uk)

We hope you have enjoyed your Jubilee Trail.

Produced by the Friends of Kingston Museum & Heritage Service in association with the Kingston Tour Guides and the Kingston upon Thames Society. Revised by the Friends of Kingston Museum, Heritage Service, Kingston Heritage Service and by the Mayor Cllr Sushila Abraham and her consort Dr Matthew Abraham as part of the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Illustrations by John Richards. © Friends of Kingston Museum & Heritage Service, 2022. Front cover illustration by Rachel Corwin ©.



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