

# Newark curiosities trail

This is the final leaflet in a series of eight and the full range may be viewed on our website [www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk)

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Take the path to the right of the church, pass the south porch to the seating area. This is the site of **Ironmonger Row (8)**. First mentioned in 1367, the row was destroyed on the night of 23 December 1891 when fire broke out in a drapers shop in the Market Place. Note the chimney erected in 1854.

Pass into the Market Place and turn left into Bridge Street. Above the arched windows of the bank are **Electric Insulators (9)** which date to the 1920s when businesses relied on privately generated sources of electricity. These examples are associated with the supply from Pratt & Gelsthorpe, now a motor vehicle business.

Continue along Bridge Street, cross Carter Gate and walk down Balderton Gate until you reach **Belshaw's shop (10)** at the corner of Guildhall Street. Look to the right above the shop window to see a brick inscribed "T. Wilde MP / 21st May". This commemorates the victory of Serjeant Thomas Wilde, a Liberal, in the general election of 1831. Wilde enjoyed a high profile career becoming Lord Chancellor.

Cross the road, return towards the town and take the path to the left of the large Georgian house to reach **Beaumont Gardens**. Walk to the **Jubilee Arch (11)**, commissioned by the Town Council to mark the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2002. The arch, with half-pediments incorporating various aspects of Newark, was finally erected here after much controversy.

Continue towards London Road to reach **Beaumont Cross (12)**. Moved here in 1974, it dates from about 1300 but its origins are obscure.

Go to London Road and cross at the pedestrian refuge, turn right and then left into the entrance signed to Newark Town Bowls Club, the oldest bowling organisation in the county. The green opened in 1809. Its **Regency gothic club-house (13)** is one of the town's gems and has the totally appropriate inscription "Let no man be biased".

Return to London Road, turn left, walk to the traffic lights and keep left to reach the former **Hole's Brewery Offices (14)**. Built in 1881, the grandeur of the building is reflected in the magnificent carved mural of Newark Castle within the pediment above the main entrance. Look for the monogram

"CH", the initials of the original owners Caparn & Hankey. The offices and brewery are now apartments.

Return to the traffic lights, cross London Road, turn left and head for the **Pillar Box (15)** at the end of Carter Gate. This modern box stands on the site of the town's first 'iron receiving box' erected in 1856, a tapering, fluted style box with a vertical aperture.

Walk along Lombard Street until you reach the service road to the shopping precinct. Look up to see an **Ornate Sculpture (16)** carved for the new factory erected in Clinton Arms Yard in 1889 for the noted gunsmiths Charles Smith & Sons. It was moved to its present position in 1976.

Retrace your steps and turn left into Carter Gate. Look for **SportsDirect (17)** with stone quoins and part chimney breast remaining from a demolished building. Similarly, an incomplete plain ashlar pilaster at the right of John Anthony Shoes is all that remains of the C17 Warburton Temperance Hotel demolished in the 1960s. This was the birthplace in 1698 of William Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester 1760 - 1779.

The premises to the left of the nearby carriageway entrance housed Newark's Post Office from 1887 to 1908 and the **single storey building (18)** to the rear the sorting office. For many years this was Wilson's banana warehouse.

Turn around and walk through **The Arcade (19)**. Built in 1897, the brainchild of the brothers George and Frederick Atter, it became a fashionable shopping place. Note the curved window at the Market Place end. This was once part of Stanley Noble's small bakery shop known as Pie Corner.

Walk along the south side of the Market Place and note the **Saracen's Head Bust (20)** and information plaque on the former hotel. Continue to the former Clinton Arms Hotel but note that the reference to the King's Arms on its information plaque is incorrect. The former name was The Kingston Arms.

Continue into Stodman Street and pause by the entrance to **Haart's (21)**. This was originally a long, narrow tunnel under the 4-storey building which led to Cawkwell's Yard and on to Lombard Street. At one time the yard had 30 cottages. The boarded door to the left, by the entrance to Greggs, was the entry

to Hardy's Yard which also linked to Lombard Street.

Walk along Stodman Street until you reach **Inizio (22)**. The coggled brickwork and protruding metal beam clearly show the intention to rebuild the property on either side. Note the "Harston's Yard" name-plaque above the entrance by Atelier's. The smaller letters show that it was made by the "Wellington Foundry, Newark", probably in 1863. Similar original yard and street name-plaques can be seen around the town.

Continue to the end of the street and look across at the **Corn Exchange (23)**. Designed in the Italian style by London architect Henry Duesbury with a prominent date-stone for 1847, it was not opened until 1848. The large statues represent Commerce and Agriculture. The glass roundels in the tower were intended to house faces of a clock but the money to pay for it was not forthcoming.

Turn left, go to the pedestrian crossing and cross Castle Gate. Turn right and walk past the Corn Exchange until you come to the open area by the entrance to the Castle Grounds.

Walk down the steps or ramp to reach the riverside beneath the castle. This is **Cuckstool Wharf (24)**, the site of the town's cuckstool or ducking stool, a popular medieval punishment. It was usually reserved for women who were strapped into a chair, swung out over the river and ducked the ordered number of times. 'The Cuckstool' is recorded in 1565 with the last use in 1801.

Return to Castle Gate and walk through the Castle Grounds to the **Gilstrap Centre**. If the Centre is open go in and look at the elaborately carved **Romanesque Arch (25)**. Thought to have been the entrance a chapel within the Castle, it was erected here by the Friends of Newark Castle in 2009. Reputed to have been either unearthed in the Castle Grounds and recovered from the river, it lay in the Castle undercroft for some 50 years.

Regain the Castle Grounds from the **Gilstrap Centre** or from **Castle Gate** to end the walk.

