

## U3A Alfresco History and Archaeology Visit

### Bradford City of Culture

Bob and I did a provisional trip round the Bradford Heritage Trail which was provided by Bill Black.. The comments we are about to make will refer directly to the map and the additional information provided. This should there fore be forwarded to members if they are to fully understand the comments made by us.

#### Travel

We went by train from Rochdale , it passed through and stopped at Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Halifax, Sowerby Bridge , and Mytholmroyd. Trains from Manchester Victoria to Bradford are approximately every 30 minutes. I would note that two of ours were cancelled, it was a Saturday!The railway station seemed a good starting point for the walk. The bus station is located at the same place as the railway station. I suggest anyone travelling by bus makes their own enquiries based on their starting point. We are unsure of parking if anyone is travelling by car but there was certainly a car park at the Kirkgate Shopping centre, and another at the Broadway Retail Centre which are both on the walk route

#### The Walk

The walk seems to naturally break into three areas, i.e. the central area not far from the railway station, leading down to the Broadway Retail Centre, an area going up to and beyond the Kirkgate shopping centre , and an area going to and around the cathedral,. The latter two can become steep. It is approximately 2 miles in length from the station and returning to it.

It is possible to start the walk at any point on the map, and follow streets as wished rather than taking the route described starting at point 00 in the city park. We reviewed the map for features to be observed before we embarked on the walk and identified those that we thought to be of most historic interest. As it happens we had time to cover the whole walk in under two and a half hours including having a light lunch in Gregg in the Kirkgate Centre

It was not always easy to determine which building was which as original signage was often absent , therefore our advice is to follow street names and directions very carefully. On occasions we found interesting buildings that did not appear to be mentioned on the walk, which sometimes confused us.

Places of interest we intended definitely visiting were as follows ( Please refer to the map and the description in the leaflet)

#### In the Central Area

- **28 St Georges Hall**
- **07 Bradford City Hall,**
- **00 City Park is round the corner on the other side of the City Hall .** From this Park could be seen the **Alhambra Theatre (05)** and **Bradford Live cinema (06)** and **02 the Science museum**. A simple diversion here would allow anyone who wishes to go and explore the area in more detail.
- **06a Sunbridge wells** a disappointment
- **08 Prudential assurance Building.** We could see this, used it as a place marker on the amp but it was nothing special, we have seen similar in other cities like Manchester

Carrying on here rather than progressing past the Prudential is the main Broadway Retail Centre shopping area which can lead to the area near the cathedral

## **The Area towards Kirkgate and return**

This begins to get quite steep and is not advised if you don't like walking uphill

- **09 Sunbridge Road walking uphill from the Prudential assurance building and passing 10. and 11, i.e. Queen Ann Chambers and Sunwin House**
- **12 The view down Ivegate .**
- At Rawson Place and Rawson Square it starts to get very steep but interesting
- **13 , the Rawson Hotel**
- **14, North Parade** and located the very fine example of Art Deco Glazing. I have to say we did not feel comfortable in the area and were happy when we got to the top and turned the corner on to Manor Row
- **15, The Yorkshire Penny Bank** is at the top of North Parade and rounding the corner at this point the route begins to go back down hill This building is stunning with its original signage still very evident in its gated doors
- **16 Manor Row walking down from the Yorkshire Penny Bank.**
- **17, the County Court, 1**
- **18, the Register Office,**
- **19, the Bradford library and literary Institute**
- **20 the Bradford banking Company building** can be seen back at the junction of Kirkgate

Here this higher Kirkgate section returns downhill to the central Area of the city which can be viewed without walking up to Kirk Gate

- **27 Bradford Commercial Bank.**
- **26 the wool exchange**
- **27 Piece Hall yard. ( easily missed)**
- **21 the Exchange rooms**
- **22 the Bradford Old Bank .** Walking along Kirkgate is the **Shoulder of Mutton Pub** dating 1825
- **23 The Midland Hotel** is opposite, an amazing building and entrance

## **The Area near the Cathedral**

This is not an easy area to walk as the Cathedral is accessed either by steep steps from the bottom of lower Kirkgate beyond the Midland Hotel , or up a steep hill called Church Bank. It can also be accessed by walking round the retail centre. Walking back from the Cathedral or to it depending which route you have taken you will pass. The following list is thus not necessarily in order depending on the route you take

- **36 The Cathedral**
- **24 Kala Sangam arts Centre**
- **28 Telegraph and Argus newspaper offices**
- **31 Little Germany**
- **32 American and Chinese Export Warehouse**
- **33 Law Russell warehouse**
- **34 Austral House**
- **30 Crown Court Building**

## Toilets and refreshment facilities

### Toilets

- at the station
- At the Kirkgate Centre
- At the Broadway Centre
- At the (07) Bradford City Hall, though these were shut when we were there, perhaps because it was a Saturday
- In cafes and restaurants
- In the Cathedral

### Refreshments

- **(06a)** Sunbridge Wells has a parade of small cafes Starbucks and Witherspoon.
- Kirkgate Centre Has a Greggs cafe with limited seating area
- Broadway Centre has a huge food court
- Just outside the Broadway Centre is a variety of restaurants and cafes ee.g. ZiZi s Italian restaurant and Pret a Manger

Hope this helps  
Sue and Bob Hayter  
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