

Dorking Heritage Trail

Trail 1

Begin at the south door of St. Martin's Church. Take the path into the busy High Street and turn left before crossing to the south side of High Street. Look left above the roofs and chimneys to the North Downs. The cultivated slopes of Denbies Vineyard contrast with the open downland of Box Hill. Continue along High Street, turning right into Dene Street and left up Heath Hill. The road opens out onto Cotmandene. This common land provides fine views towards Box Hill and to the spire of St Martin's. An 18th century painting of a panorama of Dorking shows 'two-stump' cricket being played on Cotmandene. The painting hangs in the Long Room at Lord's Cricket Ground.

Past the Almshouses, follow the Trail into Moores Road. The high brick walls here once enclosed the kitchen garden of the Deepdene Estate, a picturesque landscape centered on Deepdene House, demolished in 1969. Turn right at the petrol station. One of the many smithies in the town was situated opposite the present garage on the corner of London Road, roughly where the telephone exchange is now. At the Dorking Halls a bronze relief within the entrance of the Halls commemorates the composer Ralph Vaughan Williams who lived in Dorking. Cross Reigate Road and pass the Council Offices, a distinctive, modern, red brick building. The Trail then passes Pippbrook House, which now houses the Public Library, and into Old London Road. Cross with care, opposite Pippbrook Mill. This corn mill was one of several

along the banks of the Pippbrook stream. It fell into disuse in the 16th century but was rebuilt again in the 18th century. A narrow path beyond the Mill leads along the side of the mill pond. Turn left along

a narrow bridge into Wathen Road. A blue plaque on the left side of the street identifies the birthplace of Sir Laurence Olivier, one of Britain's most celebrated actors. Back into the High Street turn right.

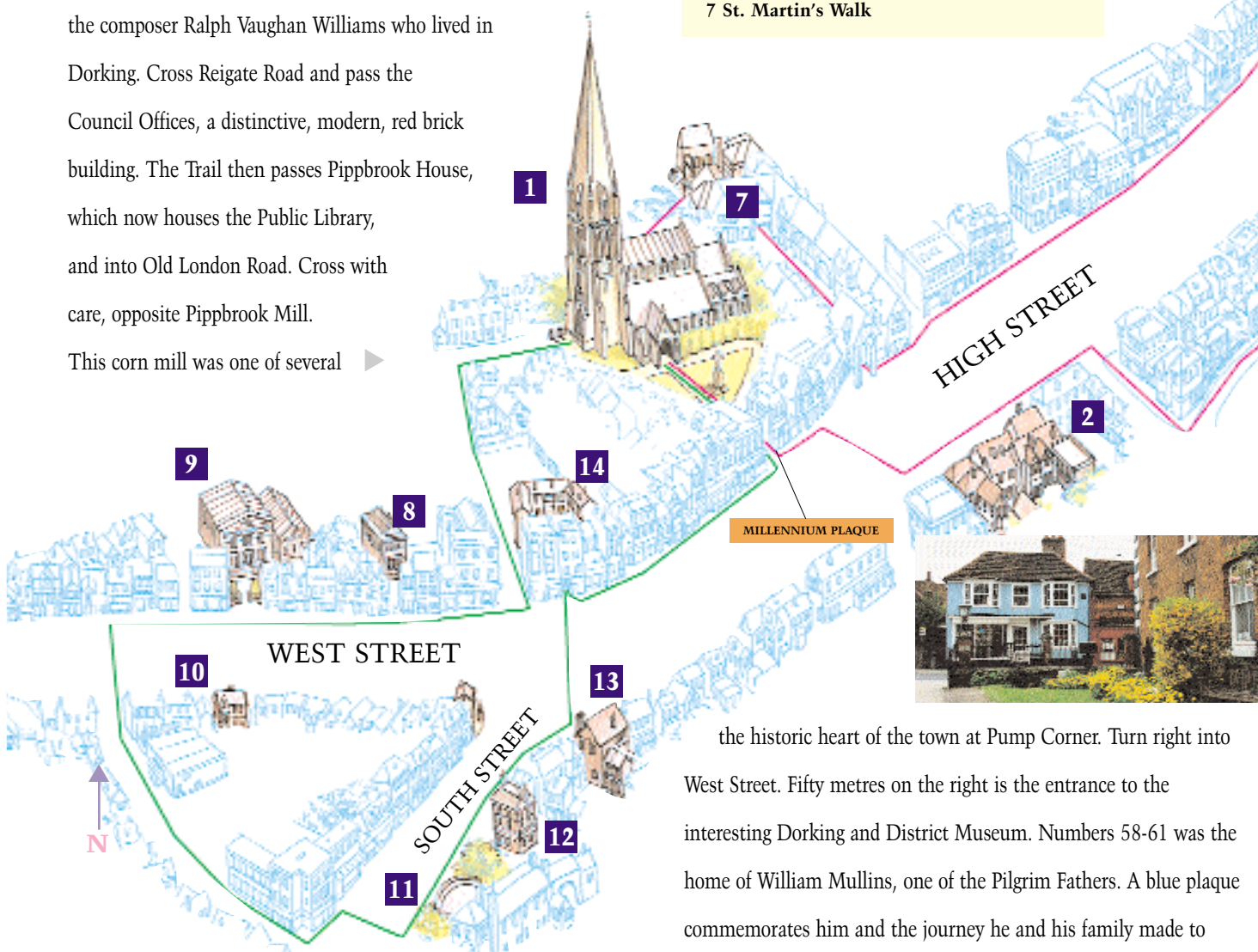
The shops here represent the late 19th century expansion of the retail heart of the town, including the Oddfellows' Hall, built in 1894 by local architect William Shearburn. Continue along the street, past the post office. The timber-framed building occupied by Café Rouge, opposite the

post office, probably dates back to the 16th century. Turn into the modern shopping centre of St Martin's Walk, under the projecting clock tower. At the back of the centre is a path into the churchyard returning you to your starting point. ■



TRAIL 1 PLAQUE LOCATIONS

- 1 St. Martin's Church
- 2 White Horse Hotel
- 3 The Almshouses
- 4 Dorking Halls
- 5 Council Offices
6. Hamptons
- 7 St. Martin's Walk



Trail 2

From the west end of St Martin's Church take a route through the church gates into Church Street. The row of neat 19th century cottages are dwarfed by the church spire, one of the tallest in England. Turn left into North Street and you will emerge into

the historic heart of the town at Pump Corner. Turn right into West Street. Fifty metres on the right is the entrance to the interesting Dorking and District Museum. Numbers 58-61 was the home of William Mullins, one of the Pilgrim Fathers. A blue plaque commemorates him and the journey he and his family made to America on *The Mayflower* in 1620. West Street is one of the town's oldest and most picturesque streets, which has an international reputation as a quality antiques centre.

Enjoy the distinctive shop frontages of West Street before turning left into Junction Road. This road was constructed in the 19th

century to relieve traffic congestion in the town. Turn left into South Street, crossing the street opposite the war memorial. South Street was once widened and the war memorial and a bandstand were incorporated into the scheme. By the 1930's, however, the noise of traffic made the bandstand impractical and it was later removed. A doorway to the left of the war memorial is the entrance to the South Street Caves.

Continue into High Street and walk as far as the bow-fronted shop of Robert Dyas before returning to the crossing and into Kings Head Court. Walk back along the High Street and left into the churchyard to complete your trail. ■

TRAIL 2 PLAQUE LOCATIONS

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| St. Martin's Church | 11 Rotunda |
| 8 Dorking & District Museum | 12 Bulls Head |
| 9 United Reformed Church | 13 Robert Dyas |
| 10 Harman's Antiques | 14 Kings Head Court |