

# CITY HERITAGE SCAVENGER HUNT



Chelmsford City is bursting full of history and now it's your opportunity to become a detective! Follow the City Heritage Scavenger Hunt to discover the evidence to answer 12 questions.

The tour will take you on a trip back in time to uncover the stories about some of our most famous local people recognised through special blue plaques, which can be found on the City's buildings. Use the map to help you find them.

1

### Mary Smith

A hat maker in Chelmsford back in 1800s, Mary's shop stood where Lloyds Bank is today. One night a fire broke out, known as "The Deplorable Fire". Mary and her two apprentices passed away from their injuries and now lay at rest in the Cathedral Gardens underneath a triangular gravestone.

What year was 'The Deplorable Fire'?

2

### Thomas Hooker

In 1626 Thomas, a Preacher, was invited by Chelmsford Church (Cathedral) to preach. Although popular with locals, his modern style was disliked by local bishops, leading to a warrant for his arrest. He began preaching to his congregation from the other side of the river in Little Baddow, outside the reaches of the law. Eventually he emigrated with his family to the United States. He was the author of the "Fundamental Laws of Connecticut" which were later incorporated into the first American Constitution.

What year did Thomas leave Chelmsford?

3

### John Johnson

In the 1700s Johnson was the County Surveyor and designed Shire Hall based on an ancient Greek/Roman palace. Johnson was presented with a silver cup for his work on Shire Hall after completing the project to the satisfaction of the magistrates, for less than the original estimate.

What year was Shire Hall built?

4

### Judge Tindal

Celebrating one of Chelmsford's most famous people, Sir Nicholas Conyngham Tindal, born in Moulsham Street in the 1700s. Educated at King Edwards the Sixth Grammar School and Cambridge University, his legal career began in 1809. As Lord Chief Justice he reformed Criminal Law after an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the then Prime Minister.

What year was Judge Tindal born?

5

### Guglielmo Marconi

Arriving to Chelmsford in 1899, Marconi set up the world's first wireless factory in Moulsham Street. They manufactured radio sets for Morse Code messaging, eventually supplying the radio equipment and operators for the RMS Titanic. Marconi later built the first purpose-built radio factory in the world based in New Street; this later became the location of Britain's first official radio broadcast.

When did Marconi set up his first wireless business?

6

### Frederick Spalding Senior and Junior

Frederick Spalding senior, a self-taught photographer, was the town's only professional photographer whose shop and studio stood at Number 4 Tindal Square. His son Frederick Junior became immersed in his father's occupation and in 1892 he moved the growing business to number 4 High Street and built a reputation as a portrait, landscape, and commercial photographer.

What year was Frederick Junior born?

7

### Half Moon Square

An old Inn, Half Moon, once occupied part of the site which is where the name comes from today. The first licensee of the Inn was one Jeremiah Ginn. In 1808 most of the timber framed buildings surrounding the Square were damaged by "The Deplorable Fire". The Inn survived but was partly pulled down in 1856 to widen the entrance to New London Road, eventually being removed completely in the early 1900s.

When was Half Moon Inn built?\*

8

### Doctor Benjamin Pugh

A surgeon and pioneer in midwifery and the inoculation of smallpox, he saved thousands of local lives. Born in Shropshire (1715) he moved to Chelmsford and married Amy Wall. With the help from the Wall family Dr Pugh inherited the land at 26 High St where he built the Mansion House. In the early 1770s Pugh introduced an Inoculation programme for the "Chelmsford Poor" making it one of the first towns in the country to be rid of the disease.

In what year did the doctor move into this fine house?

\*Hint look for the notice boards in Tindall St

9

### William Sturper

William ran a printers and stationery shop, close to where M&S now stands. In the 1700s he published a newspaper called "The Chelmsford Chronicle". The first edition contained a patchwork quilt of news and views, it was an immediate success. In the 1880s the name changed to the "Essex Chronicle" and moved to various offices on the High St, the last being the building near Shire Hall. The Chronicle is one of the oldest businesses in Essex.

What year was the Chelmsford Chronicle first published?

10

### Charles Dickens

The Inn that once stood here was best known as the "Great Black Boy" and was one of the most popular on the High St. In 1835 Charles Dickens stayed there and finding little entertainment, he wrote to a friend with the opening lines "If any one were to ask me what, in my opinion, was the dullest and most stupid spot on the face of the Earth, I should decidedly say Chelmsford." Chelmsford and the Inn also later featured in "The Pickwick Papers". The inn was sold in the mid 1800s and later demolished.

In what year did the Inn disappear?

11

### Stone Bridge

The first timber bridge at this location is thought to date from the early 12th century, eventually replaced by a stone structure in 1372. By the mid-18th Century the bridge again needed repair so John Johnson, the County Surveyor instigated its rebuilding using approx. 240 tons of Portland stone. The keystone on the bridge is inscribed with the year the bridge was built.

When was the new Stone Bridge built?

12

### Thomas Watts

A linen draper from Billericay, he was a protestant in the time of the Catholic Queen Mary 1st and because of his religion was accused of not attending church. He was examined on several occasions by both Justice Anthony Brown and Bishop Bonner, but neither could change his mind to attend church and he was eventually sentenced and condemned to be burnt at the stake. The day before his execution he was brought to the Lion Inn by the Stone Bridge.

In what year did Thomas Watts die?

To check your answers and find out more about each stop on the scavenger hunt, visit [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/scavengerhunt](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/scavengerhunt)

The information on Chelmsford's history has kindly been provided by Chelmsford History Walks and Talks.

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