

11 Whitefriars, Church Lane

This sixteenth century, or earlier, timber framed house was once a group of cottages. Threatened with demolition in the sixties the owner fought hard to save them, and was ultimately successful. **Whitefriars** beautifully compliments the view up or down Church Lane.



12 75 - 77 High Street

These two buildings, formerly numbered 30 and 31 High Street, though modest in scale, represent the sort of building which made up most of central Halesowen before it was redeveloped.

The late 18th century front of **number 75** hides a well preserved 15th century timber framed Merchant's house with a particularly fine roof structure. The timber frame is still exposed at the rear which you can reach via the service road at the back.

Number 77 is a red brick building with a hipped roof, moulded wood eaves and a late nineteenth century shopfront. The interior of the building is also of interest as it still retains many of the original chemist's shop fittings and display items.

13 Churchyard & Cross

As you pass through the churchyard look at the former headstones which have been used to edge the footpaths. Many are more than three hundred years old and display interesting carved details and inscriptions.

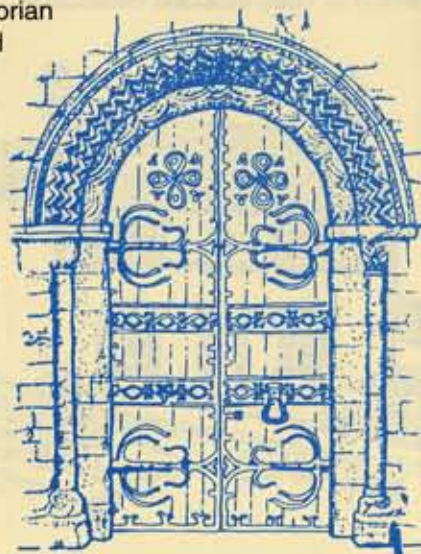
The walls to the Churchyard are of local New Red Sandstone, built in the late nineteenth century, with good wrought iron gates.



The medieval cross used to stand in Cornbow until it was blown down by a gale in 1908. It was rescued from a rubbish tip by Job Garratt, a civic minded local industrialist. It consists of a tall, cylindrical, stone shaft, much fractured and weathered, topped by a ball finial and small cross.

14 Church of St. John The Baptist

This large, impressive church contains work from the Norman to the Victorian eras. The original tower collapsed towards the west in the fifteenth century, taking with it the whole east part of the nave, which was then rebuilt quite differently. This explains why so much Norman work remains and yet the Church is not really Norman in character. The west and south doorways are Norman, the tower Perpendicular with a fine spire and the outer south aisle was added in 1883



by John Oldrid Scott. Inside, there is an excellent Romanesque font, and also a monument to William Shenstone of the Leasowes.

15 Shenstone's Grave

William Shenstone was a minor poet but a major figure in English landscape gardening. He began work on The Leasowes off Mucklow Hill in 1743, turning it from a grazing farm into a model of Romantic landscape design that was visited by many famous people of the time and was a considerable source of inspiration to others.



He devised a circuit walk around the farm and set up monuments, urns, statues, seats and follies at appropriate points to encourage visitors to appreciate the essence of the many different views.

Shenstone died in 1763, buried in the ancient churchyard in the shadow of the spire, which featured in several of his famous views. The Leasowes is now a Grade I Historic Garden.

16 Ivy House, High Street

Standing now rather alone, miraculously spared by the bulldozer, **Ivy House**, listed in 1950, is a pleasant, early nineteenth century, three storey house. Its doorway is particularly attractive, with a Tuscan cornice hood and shell pediment. It retains its original iron railings to the forecourt.



17 32 High Street

Built in 1897 as the St. John the Baptist Church, Sexton's House and Church House.

18 The George Inn

The George was built in the late eighteenth century. Its prominent position, by what is now a busy roundabout, shows off well its quoins (the corner stones) and its pleasant red brick with sash windows upstairs. From this point, known locally as 'Townsend', you can see the impressive building of Earls High School, formerly Halesowen Grammar School, which has occupied this site since the 17th century.

The trail ends here, however a final glance up Stourbridge Road reveals a view of

19 Former Zion Methodist Chapel, Stourbridge Road

A typical Methodist Chapel of the mid-nineteenth century, with a gabled facade and semi-circular headed windows and doorway. Dignified in its simplicity, it is now refurbished for offices.

Sponsored by Lloyds Bank plc



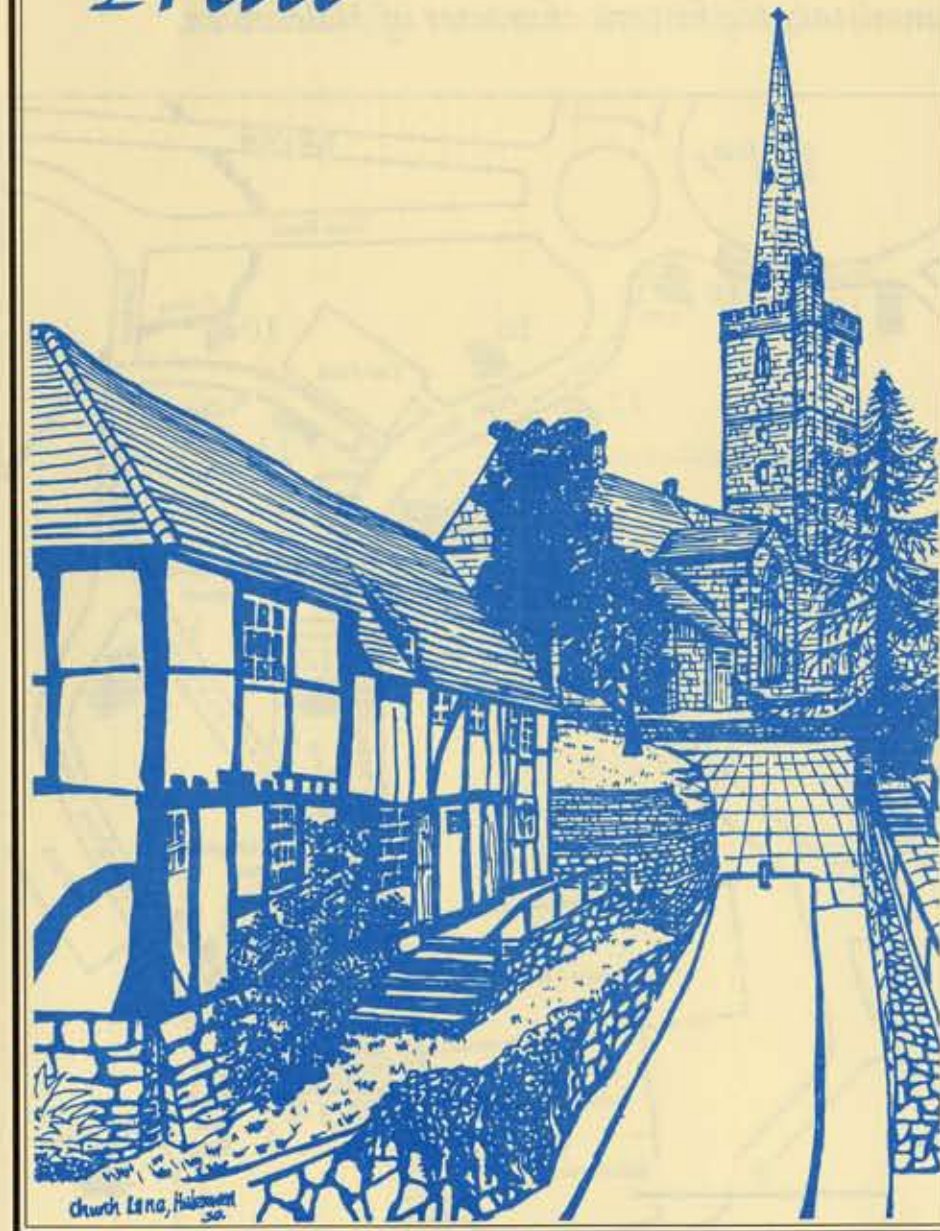
Published by



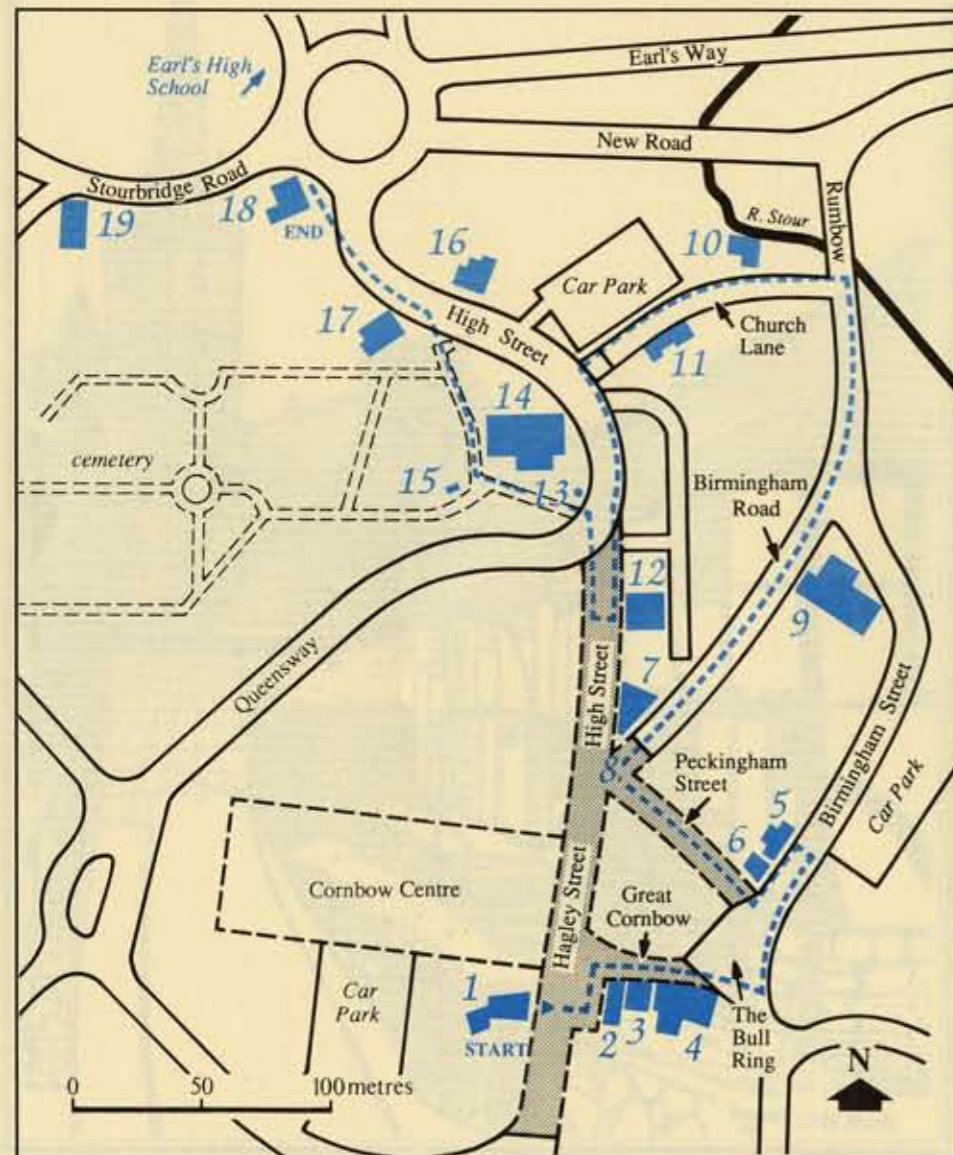
With the assistance of Halesowen Historical Society

Printed on recycled paper

Halesowen Town Centre Heritage Trail



The site of the present Halesowen Town Centre was once occupied by just one of the dozen or so small hamlets which made up the extensive Domesday manor of "Halas". In medieval times, this central area became a thriving rural market town receiving a Borough Charter from King Henry III in the early 13th century. The town centre has not altered significantly in size since that time, although a redevelopment scheme in the early 1960's replaced many of Halesowen's older structures including a few examples of 'half-timbered' buildings. The style of the new buildings is very different from the previous structures, nevertheless the original street patterns were retained, which together with the few remaining older buildings, help to capture the unmistakably historic character of Halesowen.



1 Lloyds Bank, Hagley Street

Designed by J. B. Chatwin during the Edwardian period, this set a standard for Lloyds Bank architecture, and was the first of many Lloyds Banks to be built in this style. The upper stories of pointed arches and terracotta panels remain.

2 Shops at the corner of Hagley Street and Great Cornbow, 27 Great Cornbow

These buildings represent a welcome oasis of older character and indicate how Hagley Street used to look.

A map, 200 years old, shows the name "Cornbow" confined to a short stretch of track beyond the River Stour, alongside a building identified as "Corn Mill".

What is now Cornbow was then High Cross, probably because the market cross, now in the churchyard, was here until 1908.

The area at the top of Cornbow, the Bull Ring (opposite **number 24**), was probably the market centre in earlier times.



3 26 Great Cornbow

This handsome 3-storey building still retains its original sash windows with rubbed brick arches and recessed panel door.



4 24 to 25A Great Cornbow

These imposing early nineteenth century buildings were formerly Halesowen Borough Council offices. The later canted bay window on the left of the main entrance to **numbers 25 & 25A**, still bears the Halesowen Borough coat-of-arms marking the position of the former Mayor's Parlour. **Numbers 25 & 25A** also include such features as a stuccoed Tuscan doorcase and crow-step gables.

Number 24 is built in Regency style with a good stuccoed Ionic doorcase and a fan-like tympanum (the decorated space above the lintel). Notice the date and initials set into the brickwork on either side of the front door.

5 The Queen's Head, Birmingham Street

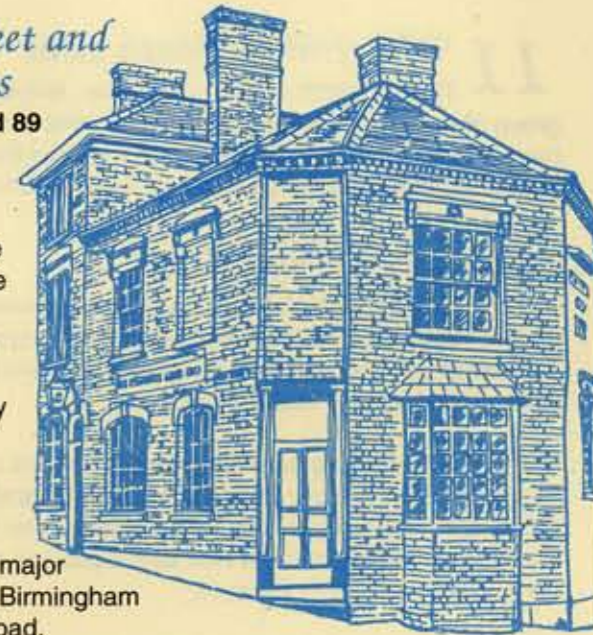
There was a Queen's Head in Peckingham Street as early as 1675. The present pub, now in Birmingham Street, is older than it looks, and despite its Victorian trimmings, could itself be seventeenth century.

6 11 Peckingham Street

This is a Victorian building with a pleasing assortment of windows, though the loss of its original shopfront is to be regretted. The intricate terracotta detail below the eaves is also a typically Victorian feature.

7 87 & 89 High Street and the Lyttleton Arms

The tall gabled **numbers 87 and 89 High Street** and the **Lyttleton Arms Public House** form an impressive historic frontage to this junction. It is likely that there has been a pub on this site since 1756, although the present building dates from the mid-late 19th century. The pub has an attractive apsidal end dictated by its position on this once busy road junction.



8 Until the 1960's this was a major road junction with traffic to Birmingham bearing right into Birmingham Road.

This is also the point where the Laconstone stood, a huge boulder, now buried, probably carried here in the ice age. In earlier times, a stream flowed across this point and continued down the present-day Birmingham Road to join the River Stour at the bottom of the hill.

Follow the former route of this stream down to

9 Former Methodist Church development, Birmingham Street



A sensitively designed new development, of shops and a restaurant, retaining the facade of the former church. Foundation stones laid by various local dignitaries can be seen by the front entrance including Benjamin Hingley, the M.P. for North Worcestershire which in 1889 included Halesowen

10 10 Church Lane



A pleasant Victorian cottage, at the bottom of what used to be Dog Lane. Remains of a structure under the bridge and several inlets under the cottage suggest that this was once a small watermill, one of many mills situated along the River Stour. The River Stour played a significant role in the industrial development of Halesowen providing the power for iron foundries and the manufacture of edge tools, vices, anvils and gun barrels.