

WELCOME TO THE WIRKSWORTH OPEN ALL HOURS SELF-GUIDED TRAIL

What was butcher Hawley's secret ingredient?

What was Old Gran?

Would you buy bread from A. Killer?



Why did Coates hose down their joints of meat?

What did Marsden's once smell of?

EXPLORE OVER 700 YEARS OF TRADING HISTORY WHILE BROWSING TODAY'S SHOPS & CAFES

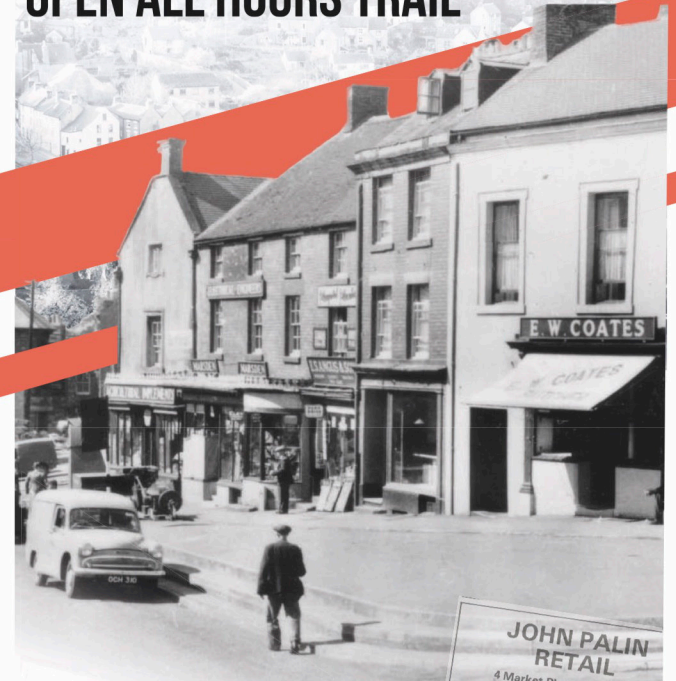


Wirksworth's historic shop architecture seduces many a visitor, as do the many independent shops. Look out for traces of history as you walk.

Ghost signs bear faint paint remains of shop names. Bricked up windows and doorways, extra large windows in houses, ironwork sign attachments over doors could be clues to former shops and pubs.

WIRKSWORTH

OPEN ALL HOURS TRAIL



INCLUDING TRAIL MAP

To discover more of Wirksworth's history, visit Wirksworth Heritage Centre, 31 St John Street, Wirksworth DE4 4DS.

01629 707000

www.wirksworthheritagecentre.org



Distance

650 metres / yards

Time

1 hour

Difficulty

Pavements with drop kerbs.
Includes pedestrian crossings.
Slight gradients.
Accessible trail.

Start

Wirksworth Library, The Old Market Place, Wirksworth town centre.

Finish

Wirksworth Library, The Old Market Place, Wirksworth town centre.

Toilets & Refreshments

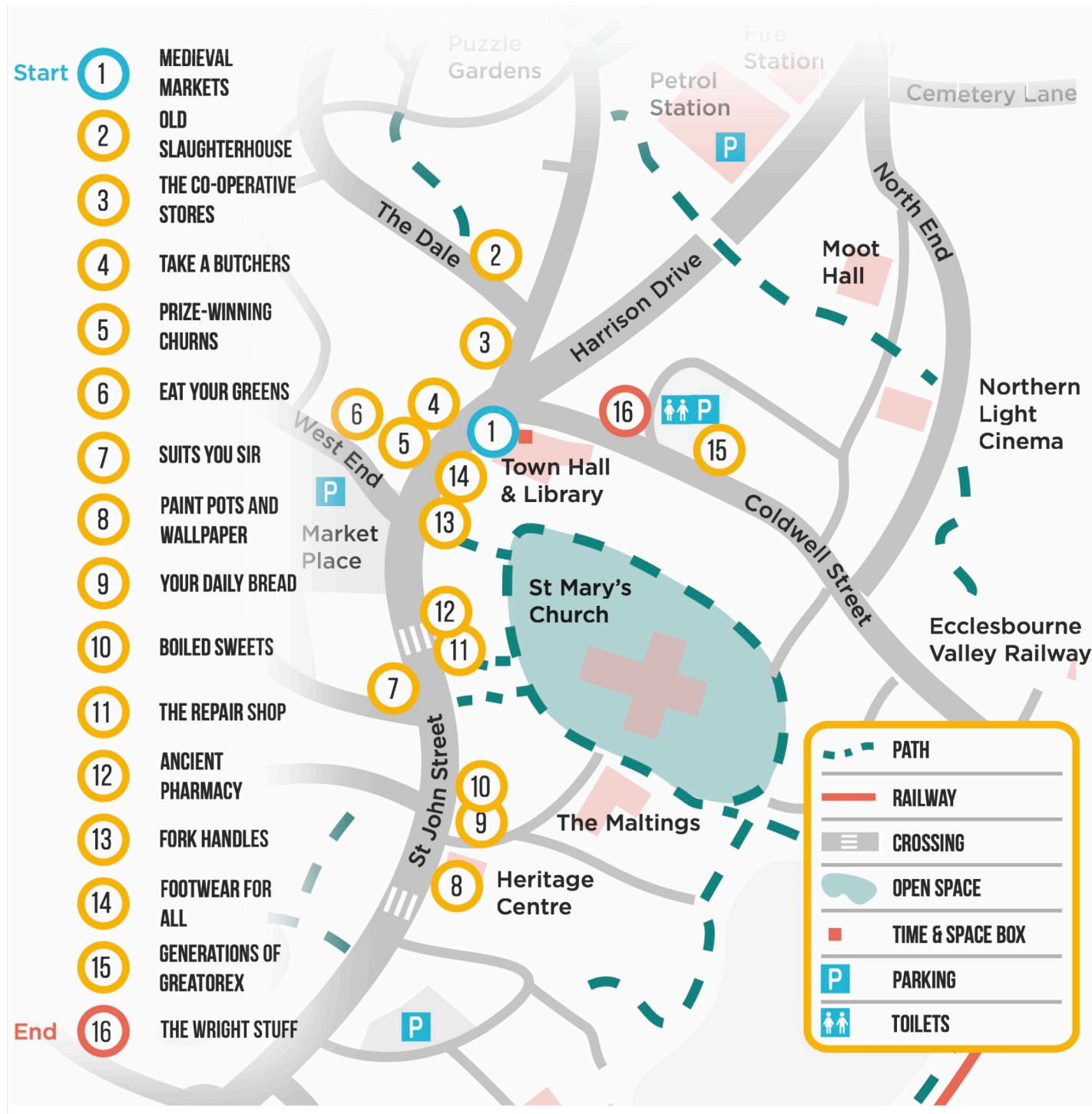
Town-centre cafés and pubs.
Public toilets in Barmote car park, Coldwell St.

This trail is part of New Opportunities Wirksworth's Wirksworth Works project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by Wirksworth Town Council.

It is based on the research of Wirksworth Historians including Pippa Bradley, Pete Chivers, David Killer, Mike Lewis, David Rance, Ann Rhodes, Josie Walter, Diana Webber and Adrian Wright. We are grateful to people who have shared their knowledge and memories of the town's shops. Photos courtesy of Tony Holmes, David Killer, Phil Richards and Wirksworth Heritage Centre.



HERITAGE
FUND



1. Medieval Markets

You are standing in the Old Market Place. King Edward I granted Wirksworth's first market charter in 1306, giving the royal seal of approval to an existing market. The Old Market Place included West End and hosted regular livestock and other markets, as well as the annual fair.



The weekly market had over 60 market stalls every Tuesday in the 1970s. The market dwindled as cars, supermarkets and out of town shopping took hold in the 1980s. A new purpose-built market place opened at the Memorial Gardens in 2018. Here the weekly Tuesday Market and monthly Farmers Market (every 1st Saturday) attract shoppers from Wirksworth and beyond.

2. Old Slaughterhouse

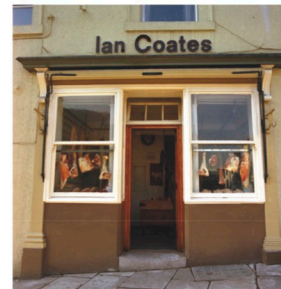
The gated yard once ran red with blood. Here Piggy Hawley stirred cauldrons of blood and fat to make black pudding and sausage. Hawley's special ingredient flowed from his ever-dripping nose. Look out for former shops at the foot of The Dale - revealed by their large display windows.



Co-op - drapers, grocers, hardware, electrical, greengrocers and butchers. The draper (Top Ken's) had a huge counter, numerous staff and offered made-to-measure suits. Staff issued 2 receipts - one for the shopper and one kept to calculate the end-of-year 'divi'. In the 1950s, Wirksworth customers received sixpence dividend for every pound they had spent that year.

4. Take a Butchers

For nearly 200 years this was a butcher's shop. Look for the cashier's booth inside. There was a slaughterhouse at the back and a pulley system for hauling in the carcasses. When the quarries were active, meat hanging outside needed a good hose down to get rid of the lime dust that settled everywhere.

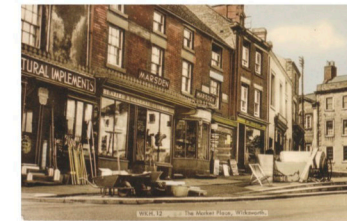


5. Prize-Winning Churns



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Wirksworth institution Marsden's began as tin men and braziers in 1764. They later dealt in everything from nails to handcarts, and won prizes for their milk churns. Marsden's remained in the same family until it ceased trading in 1983. This Aladdin's Cave of hardware reeked of paraffin and only the staff knew exactly where to find things. The Marsden's name continues today and is another Aladdin's Cave selling toys, jewellery and gifts. Look for the 1630s ceiling plasterwork inside the shop.

6. Eat Your Greens

Seven generations of Palins dominated local greengrocery for some 150 years. Palin's did weekly rounds of the villages, calling out their seasonal produce: 'Bananas! Pea aripe!' Customers remember Sam's twinkling eyes and Dorothy's booming jokes. In the 1930s, Palin's hung game and sold wreaths for Christmas.





7. Suits You Sir

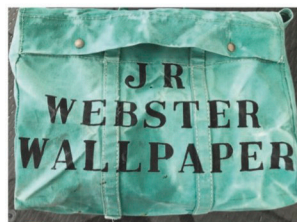
The fabric tradition continues in this shop. The building housed Mee's

tailors until the 1970s. Abraham Mee was a little man with a small grey moustache. This was the gentleman's outfitters that supplied the school uniform for Anthony Gell's. It was also wonderful for haberdashery and you could get any type of cotton for sewing.

8. Paint Pots and Wallpaper

The Heritage Centre hosts a fascinating museum of

Wirksworth's history. From 1966 to 1988, this was Webster's Wallpaper and Decorating Supplies Shop. The café inside is still called Webster's, after the family who gifted the building.



9. Your Daily Bread

From Victorian Baggaley's Pork Pies to Hall's Bakers & Confectioners, and Killer's Bakery, generations of Wirksworth bakers traded

here. Every day 2cwt (100kg) of coal fired ovens to 480°F to create a unique flavour. Customers queued down the street. Until the mid-1900s, some brought their Christmas roasts to cook in the big

bread oven. The Duchess of Devonshire had a loaf from here when she visited the town.

10. Boiled Sweets

Every wartime Wirksworth child knew Mrs Maskrey's shop full of sweeties in jars, to be weighed into paper bags. Mrs Maskrey hand-made sweets including butterscotch, set in flat tins and broken on request. On good days, Mrs Maskrey let children buy more than their ration coupons allowed! On bad days, she bashed the toffee tin so hard, customers got it as splinters.



11. The Repair Shop

Skopa's Zero Waste is a bang-up-to-date take on pre-

plastic shopping habits. Before Skopa there was Weston's electrical goods, supplying black and white TVs, radios, twin tub washing machines and more, for decades. They too reduced waste - they could fix anything electrical in their workshop.

12. Ancient Pharmacy

There has been a chemist on this site for over 260 years! The first druggists shop opened here in 1756. Inside you can see historic pharmacist's drawers and antique medicine bottles.

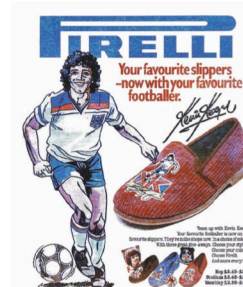


13. Fork Handles

This bistro was once a hardware shop to rival Marsden's over the road. Look for the Victorian ghost sign of Tomlinson's ironmongers on the bistro's wall by the jitty and Wirksworth Framing.

14. Footwear for All

Wirksworth's independently owned Fair Trade shop has a Tardis-like quality. How do they fit so much inside? Until the 1980s it was Hilton's Shoe Shop, selling wellies, plimsolls, slippers and smart shoes for work or nights out. Olivers took over in the 1980s and introduced handbags, hosiery, Doc Martens and sales. School shoe buyers were entered into a draw to win a child's bike.



15. Generations of Greatorex

The Greatorex family have had shops where these tea rooms are for over 100 years. Look for the date stone above the tea rooms to see when this was built.



16. The Wright Stuff

Tea dealer Charles Wright founded the company in 1795. His grandson Charles developed the

business known as Charles Wright and Sons in the second half of the nineteenth century, at Coldwell Street. They traded in wine and exported their own blended whiskies to Europe, the States and the Empire. Staff included clerks, carpenters, packers, bottlers, straw workers and carters. Wright's travelling salesmen visited over 70 outlets in Britain. Originally known as The Vaults, a large cellar stretched underground to store the whisky, with trademark brands Old Gran and Glen Haddon. The company closed in the 1950s.