

PETERSFIELD HIDDEN HISTORY TRAIL

Explore some of Petersfield's hidden history through this short walk around the town centre.



1 START OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM

The steps leading up to the churchyard from St. Peter's Road are called the Jolliffe Steps, named after an important family from the town's past (more on them later). These steps were their private entrance to the church that led from family's home, Petersfield House. This house was located just south of St. Peter's Road and was demolished in 1793.

2 IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH

The picture below shows how the south side of the Square once looked. The buildings shown were demolished in the 1890s for sanitation reasons, opening up the view to the church. The only traces that remain are the arches on the south-eastern side of the Square and a roof outline on the side of No. 24 The Square.

3 NO. 6 & 8 SHEEP STREET

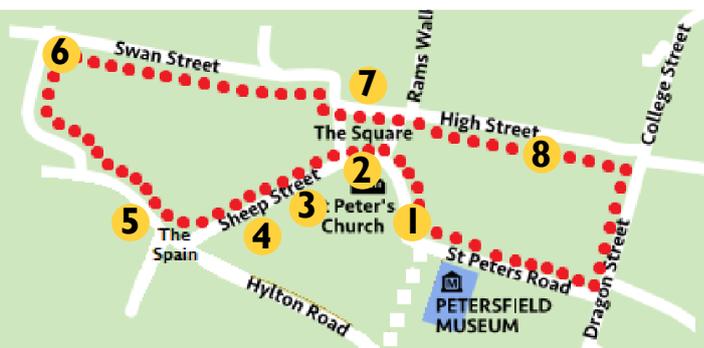
In the 19th century it was land, not people, that carried votes. Major landowners like the Jolliffe family used this to their advantage. With no secret ballot they could legally evict tenants who didn't vote how they wanted. These two houses were split in two by the Jolliffe's, giving them double the votes. The additional house numbers can still be seen under the canopies.

4 NO. 18 & 20 SHEEP STREET

You would never guess it by looking at them from the front but these two buildings once one large timber-framed hall house, dating from the 15th century. Over time, they were divided up into two houses and at that stage the upper floor of No. 18 was raised and its exposed timber frames were covered with mathematical tiles.



2



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5 THE SPAIN

This area is considered one of the earliest settlements of the town. There are several ideas about the origins of the name: it may be the fact that Spanish merchants visited here; it could be derived from 'Spayne', an old name for tiles at a time when most buildings were thatched (a sign of prosperity); or it may come from weaned or 'spained' lambs.

6 CORNER OF SWAN STREET

In 1771 the Jolliffe's donated these cottages for use as a workhouse, as commemorated on a plaque on the Swan Street side of the building. 22 people, mainly old women and children, lived here, though as many as 50 people stayed here in the Winter. The Petersfield Poor Law Union was formed in 1835 and a new Workhouse was built soon after on Love Lane.

7 THE SQUARE

The Corn Exchange on the Square was built in 1866 and was used once fortnightly for the sale of corn. More often it was used as the Town's prime venue for concerts and plays, social gatherings and formal dinners – it even hosted a circus! It remains in use today, with some alterations to its original design (see picture above).

8 HIGH STREET - ASK ITALIAN

This is one of the few buildings in Petersfield to retain its period appearance. It dates from the late 16th century, although it has had a few renovations over the years. One of the original Tudor windows still remains on the upper floor—you can see it directly above the entrance porch.