

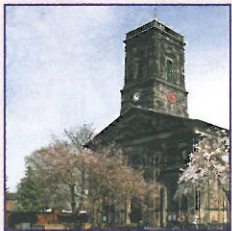
# Historic Information



## 1 Wellington Railway Station

Wellington Railway Station was a junction operated jointly by LMS and GWR; the Goods Yard was to the west. Trains went to Crewe, Stafford and South Wales via Much Wenlock as well as to Shrewsbury and Birmingham/London. The station cutting destroyed part of the burial ground; bodies

were removed and buildings have crosses in recognition of this. The north side had a turntable, engine sheds, coal store and water tower. South east is the bay once used by 'slip coaches' without engines and local 'dodger' trains. Horse drawn charabancs once took parties to The Wrekin from the Station Hotel. A new bus station with public toilets has been developed. Station Road was the site of the Talbot Hotel, one of the sites where the Town Improvement Commissioners met.



## 2 All Saints Church

An earlier church damaged in the Civil War was replaced with the present one, designed by George Steuart in 1790, with cast iron pillars hidden behind plaster. Northwards, past gates given by John Crump Bowring, a generous fish merchant and the site of the town lock-up, is The Green. An

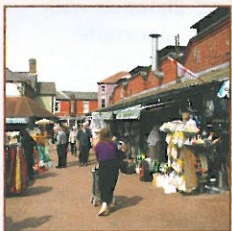
alley called Ten Tree Croft leads to an area where processed cloth was hung on tenterhooks. The Lych Gate commemorates the dead of both World Wars. South of All Saints is the cast iron memorial recording the Corbet family who made agricultural implements. Dr. William Withering, an 18<sup>th</sup> Century medical and scientific pioneer famous for formally introducing digitalis as a treatment for heart disease, was baptised at All Saints.



## 3 Market Square

Market Square was set out in Mediaeval times, then including Crown, Bell and Duke Streets between which market stalls have become permanent buildings. The Square had a building called Market House with a meeting place above until the lord of the manor sold it in around 1805. In the

former Houlston's/Hobson's shop are tiles indicating their trade as printers/publishers. Number One, the half timbered building, has two eccentric gables. Here followers of Sir Oswald Mosley tried to convert Wellington to facism in 1939 but started a riot. The Market is entered via Market Approach (formerly known as the Shambles). Wellington's Town Clock celebrated the millennium.



## 4 Wellington Market

Granted its first Charter in 1244, Wellington Market is a fully heated indoor market hall, housing over 120 shopping units. There is also an outdoor market area. Some of the finest food outlets around can be found in the market, with everything from bakers to butchers, fish to fruit

and veg. The market cafés are popular places to stop off and our delicatessens are great to visit, providing hams, cheeses and goodies from near and far.



## 5 New Street

New Street was set out in burgess plots, probably by Giles of Erdington around 1244. As usual the upper storeys are more historically interesting but several shop fronts have recently been improved. Several buildings retain timber framed walls hidden by fashionable brick in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

A plaque to Hesba Stretton (Sarah Smith), best selling Victorian novelist and friend of Charles Dickens, marks her birth place. Her book 'Jessica's First Prayer' sold 1,500,000 copies in many languages. She helped found the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, one of the fore runners of the NSPCC and campaigned on many social issues including the plight of poor children.



## 6 Walker Street

Walker Street was named for the fullers, nicknamed 'walkers' because they stamped cloth in tubs of water and fuller's earth. The Halifax (once Walter Davies, ironmonger) has ornamental brickwork above. The Market entrance is framed by an old

Fire Station, later Urban District Council offices. Two Post Offices, the latest built in the 1980s, were closed and moved into the Market. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays the extensive and fascinating market is open, including a large Victorian hall and part covered outdoor stalls. The Library was presented to the town in 1902 and extends into the former Union Workhouse that became Union Brewery. The modern extension was opened by the poet Philip Larkin, a former librarian.



## 7 Tan Bank

Tan Bank was the site of a Mediaeval tannery. It was once called Water Lane where a town pump was situated. The YMCA building on the corner (now Williams and Lamb) was once home to World Billiards. At the Northern End was Swine Market, near which Espleys later had a slaughterhouse and pork

pie factory. South east is a night club on the site of a roller skating rink, later Grand Theatre, where a 3D film system was invented. The Rechabite Hall was built by a teetotal friendly society but later became a snooker hall with a bar. Nearby was the Excelsior Carriage Works, which changed production to motor cars; these were wider and caused the invention of the now universal 'up-and-over' garage door. The Primitive Methodist Chapel is now a Mosque and their Sunday School a Pentecostal Church.

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