The map shows streets including St Bartholomew's Church, High Lane, Church Lane, Hospital & Health Centre, Beech Rd, Graycwood Rd, Derby Road, Church Road, Tanners Lane, To London, FP, Museum, VIC, From Portsmouth, Bridge Road, Hall, Car Park, Hotel, High Street, Pathfields Close, Car Park, Fire Stn, West Street, P.O, Lower Street, Town Meadow, Car Park, WC, Lower Street, Town Hall, Petworth Rd, Courtsmt Road, Shepherds' Hill, Sand Rock, College Hill, Courts Hill Rd, Hill Rd. Numbered points 1–18. Compass N.

RCS'09

THE HASLEMERE SOCIETY

ViC
**Haslemere Visitor &
Local Information Centre**

HASLEMERE TOWN TRAIL
No.2
Shepherds' Hill & Church Lane

Shepherds' Hill

The name Haslemere first appeared in 1220 when, as part of the Manor of Godalming, it was granted by Henry III, together with its market, to Richard, Bishop of Salisbury. In 1393 Haslemere was given an annual fair by Royal Charter, as well as a weekly market. In 1596 Queen Elizabeth I granted two fairs a year and a market every Tuesday. With its burgesses paying rent to the Lord of the Manor from mediaeval times, the town returned no fewer than two members of Parliament until the Reform Act of 1832, when it lost its status as a borough.

Until the opening of the railway line from London to Portsmouth in 1859 the population had remained below 1,000. By 1897 it had grown to 2,000 and in 1903 it had risen to 2,650. Haslemere stood in two parishes – the south and west area was in Thursley, but curiously the main part was a mere Chapelry in the parish of Chiddingfold until 1868 when it became an independent parish. Tanning was a long established trade, along with iron and glass making, which were both prominent industries in Elizabethan times. Other occupations were turnery, hoop and brush-stock making, spinning, weaving and farming. Today there are still some light industrial estates; at one of these the Dolmetsch factory for early musical instruments is prominent.

LOWER STREET and SHEPHERDS' HILL (lower end)

Start at the bottom of Shepherds' Hill and look up the road to see the curve of picturesque 17th & 18th century cottages (1). Below these cottages the early 20th century building between Shepherd's Hill and Lower Street was built as The Empire de Luxe, the town's first cinema, but is now flats. Now walk in a westerly direction along Lower Street, once known as Pylewell Street and, for a time, Station Road. Across the road the Hope Baptist Chapel (2) was built in 1862. Next door are two rows of late 19th century cottages with bricks dated 1882 and 1876 in the decorative friezes above the doors and ground floor windows. Next door to these cottages the forge of William Maides, a well known local blacksmith, once stood. Further along on the south side of the road some of the picturesque tile-hung cottages fronting onto the High Pavement used to have half-doors and in the early 19th century one housed a dame school. Under the eaves of No. 29 (3) some of the holes for wooden mullions, used to contain cloth coverings before windows were glazed, can still be seen. The last of these cottages is called The Good Intent and, as its name suggests, was once a small inn. This succeeded an earlier public house, the Anchor (4), which occupied the white building on the opposite side of the road until it closed in about 1850. Along the north side of this part of Lower Street there were tanneries and also, at the beginning of the 19th century, a pottery making pots and dishes decorated with slip (an example is displayed in Haslemere Museum). The tile-hung Yew Tree Cottage is about 400 years old. Up on the hillside stands the Congregational Chapel (5) built in 1804. A larger building was added in front of it in 1880-81, most recently used as the United Reformed Church, but both buildings have now been converted into flats. Turn left up the wide Chapel Steps and then left, in front of the row of 19th century cottages. Just above the old church buildings is Old Well Cottage (6), once the home of the last water carrier Hannah Oakford who charged to deliver pails of water from wells in the town before there was a piped water supply. *The next section may be steep and muddy, you can avoid this by returning down the steps and continuing along Lower Street to the bottom of Sandrock where the routes rejoin [*].*

SHEPHERDS' HILL (top end)

From Old Well Cottage continue on up the path. Fork right at the yew tree, along the bank passing behind the row of cottages. Approximately half way along the cottages turn up left and then right when you reach a metalled drive. You eventually arrive at the top of Shepherds Hill. A very short distance to the right and you can catch your breath on a seat at the viewpoint (7). From here the heath of Hindhead, owned by the National Trust, is visible to the north on the horizon. Sir Robert Hunter, one of the three founders of the National Trust, lived in Haslemere. Continue uphill and the next building is Anderson Court (8) of interest because it began as the first cottage hospital, designed and given to the town in 1898 by the architect John Wornham Penfold and his sisters. At the crossroads at the top of the hill Broad Dene (9) stands opposite in Hill Road; one of the finest "Arts and Crafts" buildings in the county. A blue plaque records that it was built for artist Walter Tyndale (1855–1943). Turn sharp right between some railings and down into Sandrock, a sunken lane. At this point the name Courts Hill Road is a reminder of the Court family who farmed here in Elizabethan

times. They were followed later by the Penfold family. J.W. Penfold (mentioned above) was born at Courts Hill in 1828 and later lived in the old house called Penfolds (10) at the foot of the hill. Bear left at the bottom. **[*] At this point, where Sandrock joins Lower Street, the two routes rejoin.**

From the grassy triangle at the bottom of the hill you can see Town Meadow, in the top right corner of which was the Pylewell, one of the two public wells in the town. Follow the fine stone wall around Penfolds Corner which was constructed during the Great Depression (see details on the small bronze plaque above the seat in the recess opposite the road junction). Across the road on the left corner of Tanners Lane is Verandah Cottage (11), once a summer retreat for the famous artist Helen Allingham.

Verandah Cottage

Close by is Tudor House or Sheepskin House (12), built some four hundred years ago for a merchant, and where the skinning and curing of furs took place in the attics.

Tudor House

Towards the railway station the road can be crossed by a light-controlled crossing. Then return towards Tanners Lane noticing the fine chimneys on the building opposite Tudor House. Turn left into Tanners Lane, once known as Hallane or Halland Lane, which formerly led to the Hall of Piperham near the Church. On the west side is Redwood Manor, a house once called Oaklands and built in the 18th century, probably by a tanner called William Bristow. Continue up Tanners Lane and bear left over the railway footbridge and round to the right, crossing Church Road, and you will reach Church Hill Green. Church Hill House (13) is a beautiful Queen Anne house with the earlier Church Hill Gate, dated 1589, attached on its left. Beyond is the Parish Church of St. Bartholomew which was rebuilt in 1870-71 to a design by J.W. Penfold. It stands on the site of a much earlier building and parts of the tower date from the 13th century. In the north aisle are two windows dedicated to local poets– Alfred Lord Tennyson, who lived at Black Down and was

Poet Laureate to Queen Victoria, and Gerald Manley Hopkins, who lived just to the north-west of the church at The Garth in High Lane.

St. Bartholomew's Church

In the cemetery beyond the churchyard, across Derby road, are the graves of the famous scientist Professor Tyndall and the publisher Sir Algernon Methuen. Behind the church, on the corner of Derby Road and High Lane, stands the old school building (14) dating from 1816; now called "The Link" it is used for many Church and other activities.

CHURCH LANE

Leaving the church, cross the road on the left of the green and walk down Church Lane to cross the railway bridge. Where this crosses the cutting was once Silk-Shop Mead and further on Weavers End (15) is a reminder of this late 18th century local industry. *Care should be taken here as there is no footpath and the road is narrow.*

Further up on the right hand side is Little Barn (16) formerly called Coxcroft and one of the many old timber-framed buildings in the area, built from brick or stone with the upper floor tile-hung to give greater protection from the weather. In the cellar and reading upside down is a gravestone inscribed "Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Chitty, who died in September 1726 aged 78 years". It probably came there as rubble waste when the church was rebuilt.

Leaving the Hospital, built in 1923, and the Health Centre on the left, you continue to a crossroads. A plaque across the road at Pound Corner (17) indicates where an enclosure for keeping stray animals such as hogs was built in about 1827. Turn right into the High Street. Finally on the west side of the road, passing Heath Edge (18), once a farm house and probably dating from the late 17th century, you are now opposite Haslemere Educational Museum, the start of Town Trail No.1.

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