

The Mansfield Quaker Heritage Trail tour can be followed by leaflet or audio downloads to your device or a combination of both. You can download the audio tour at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/quakers-heritage-trail

The audio tour contains additional information than that contained in this leaflet. You can decide how much you want to see and how far you want to walk. The tour does not have to be completed all at the same time. The whole tour should take around 1-2 hours depending on walking pace and how long you spend at each point.

1 Bus station - site of Old Quaker Meeting House

To start this tour, you should be standing at the Quaker Way entrance of Mansfield Bus station, (NG18 1LP) in front of the Mansfield Quakers memorial plaque.

The memorial plaque remembers those Quakers who were once buried here but whose remains now lie in the Mansfield cemetery. Quaker meetings for worship take place in meeting houses, not churches. Not many people know that this bus station was built where the Old Quaker Meeting House once stood. The Old Quaker Meeting House burial ground provided the final resting place for approximately 150 Quakers from the 1700s to the 1950s.

To continue exit the bus station onto Quaker Way and stop just outside the bus station entrance.

2 Quaker Way & Quaker Lane

The road that once led to the Quakers Meeting House was named Quaker Lane. You used to be able to walk along Quaker Lane, up to the ornate gates of the Old Meeting house which was surrounded by a stone wall, behind which lay the tended graveyard. Quaker Way was named in memory of the Old Meeting House and burial ground. To continue to the Almshouses, turn right and carry on along Quaker Way. Continue under the viaduct onto Albert Street and cross over St Peter's Way straight onto Nottingham Road, where you will find the Almshouses immediately on the right.

3 Almshouses

The almshouses were built by Elizabeth Heath for the poor. Six for Quakers and six for members of established church, in 1691. Her allocation shows that she was well aware of possible trouble from the church authorities, if she had used the allocations solely for Quaker members, who at this time were badly treated by the authorities. The garden area behind the houses was used as a burial ground, and Elizabeth herself was buried here.

To continue to St Peter and St Paul Church, turn around and cross back over St Peter's way again. Walk back along Albert Street and take the first right onto Midworth Street and follow this road down. This road leads into Church Side and the Church will be on the right.

4 St Peter and St Paul's Church

George Fox (1624-1691), founder of the Quaker Movement, is said to have had his first Revelation on walking past this church in the 1640s during the time of the English Civil War. It was here that he began to form his ideas about God that he felt compelled to preach to others. It is known that George Fox had his first converts in Mansfield.

To continue to the Clocktower of the old Metal Box factory, continue along Church Side turning right onto Bridge Street. Take the first left onto Toothill Lane (you will recognise this road by a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of it). Follow this lane uphill and take the second right onto Rock Valley just before the viaduct. Follow Rock Valley down and round to the left, where you should continue until you find the Clocktower on your right.

5 Clock Tower of the Metal Box factory

The Clock tower is all that remains of the Mansfield Metal Box company. Run by Barringer, Wallis and Manners, three prominent Quaker families, the site was divided into two sections, the "Rock Valley Mill" to the north, which produced mustard and the "Rock Valley tin works" in the south. The clock tower was added in 1927 as part of a four-storey tower block built to provide more space for production floors and machinery in order to enhance the company's production capability.

Retrace your steps back to the top of Rock Valley, turn right and go under the viaduct. Go past Handley Arcade on your right until you reach the traffic lights where you should turn left down Leeming Street towards the Market Place and Town Hall. At the bottom of Leeming Street, turn right and head up West Gate to the top. Cross over St John's Street and go straight ahead until you come to a metal feather sculpture. Continue down Westfield Lane that lies opposite this sculpture, to the right of the round building. Westfield Folkhouse is the big building on the right.

6 Westfield Folkhouse

The Westfield Folkhouse originally belonged to the Manners family the same Manners family who ran the Mansfield Metal Box Company. The last of the Manners family to own the building was Rachel Manners. Rachel, a widow, was very concerned about the welfare of the large number of girls employed at the Metal Box Company. She left her house to be used to benefit the young people of Mansfield and it is still used for this purpose to this day as a young people's centre operated by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Retrace your steps back to the end of Westfield Lane and turn left onto Chesterfield Road South. Continue along until you reach the Catholic Church of St Philip Neri and stop here.

7 St Philip Neri Catholic Church - site of George Fox's House

George Fox, founder of the Quaker Movement, lived as an apprentice shoemaker in a humble house on this site. In living memory of George Fox, a plaque was placed on the wall of his cottage stating that George Fox once lived there. This was unfortunately lost when the cottage was demolished.

Continue along Chesterfield Road South, past the Supermarket until you reach Rosemary Street. Cross over onto the right hand side of Rosemary Street. Go past the Baptist Church until you come to the New Friends Meeting House on the corner opposite the pharmacy.

8 New Friends Meeting House

The New Friends Meeting House was built in 1973 to replace the Old Meeting House that had been demolished to make way for the new road. The New Meeting House sits adjacent to the 1647 Garden of Reflection which contains gravestones from the original burial site and also celebrates the lives of George Fox and Elizabeth Hooton who introduced George to silent meetings for worship.

This concludes the Mansfield Quakers Heritage Trail. Directions back to Mansfield Market Place are located on the map contained within this leaflet.

The Mansfield Quaker Heritage Trail

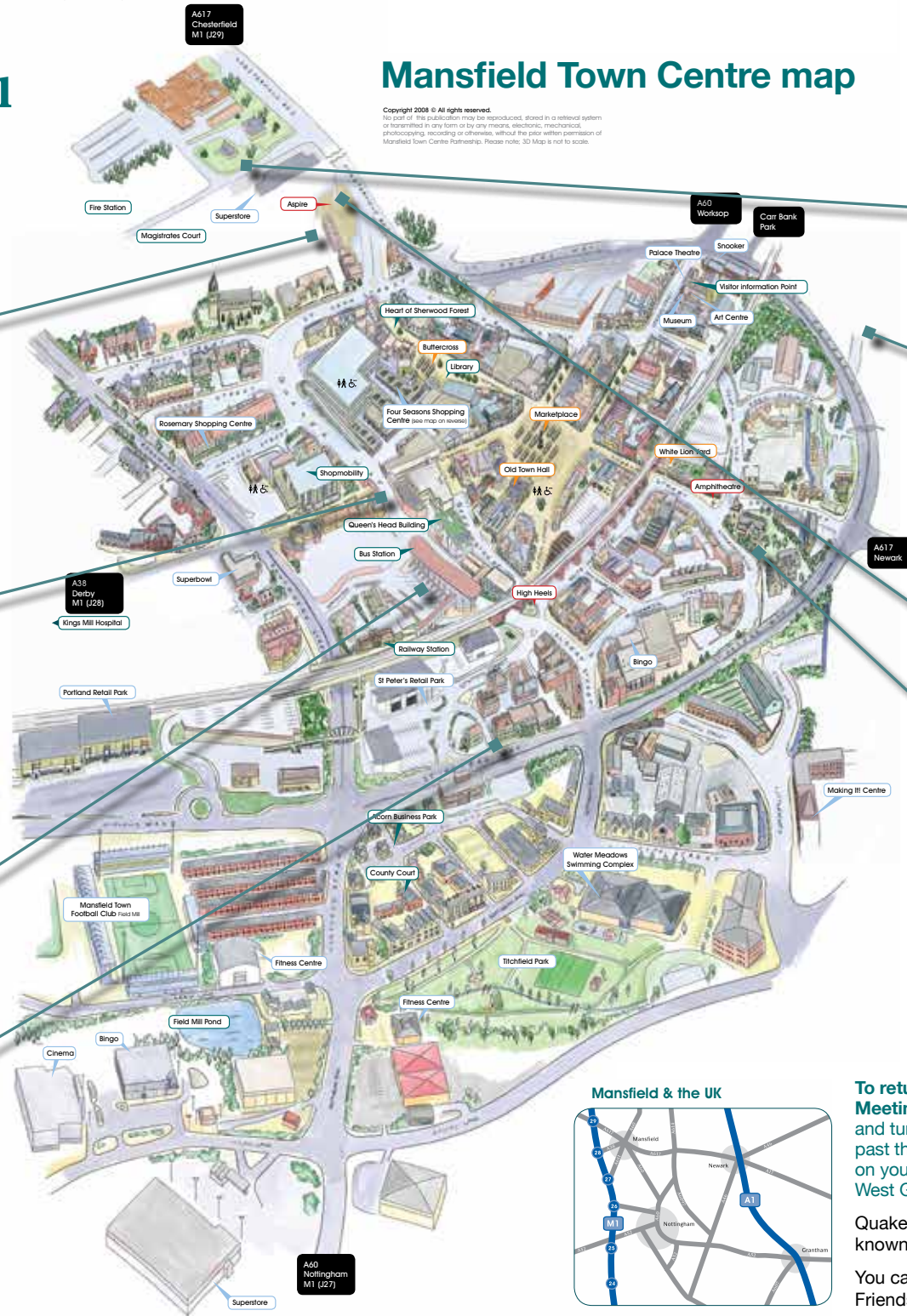


George Fox

The Mansfield Quaker Heritage Trail

Mansfield Town Centre map

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Westfield Folk House, Westfield Lane 6



Quaker Way and Quaker Lane 2



Bus station - site of the Old Meeting House 1



Almshouses, Nottingham Road 3



The New Friends Meeting House, Rosemary Street 8



Clock Tower of the Metal Box factory, Rock Valley 5



St Philip Neri Catholic Church, Chesterfield Road - site of George Fox's House 7



St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Church Side 4

To return to the centre of Mansfield from the New Friends Meeting House, re-trace your steps back along Rosemary Street and turn right at the bottom into Chesterfield Road South. Head past the supermarket and the Catholic Church which should be on your right. Cross St John's Street and continue straight down West Gate until you reach the Market place.

Quakers, or the Religious Society of Friends as they are now known, still meet and worship in Mansfield today.

You can find out more about them by calling in at the New Friends Meeting House on Rosemary Street (NG19 6AB).