

Visit the places and projects we work in partnership with...

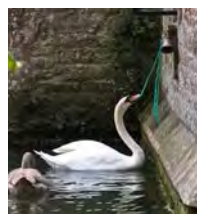


- The Bishops Palace & Gardens
- Wells Cathedral
- The story of the Monmouth Rebellion
- The Almshouses
- Wells in Mosaic
- Wells & Mendip Museum
- Wells in Bloom
- The Tourist Information Office



And enjoy...

- Wednesday & Saturday markets
- The Bishops Barn & Recreation Ground
- The Wells
- Famous film locations
- The bell ringing swans
- Listening to the Town Crier



This trail leaflet and all the plaques shown are the work of

Wells Civic Society

which was founded in 1952 and since then has maintained its aim of protecting and enhancing the historic built environment and helping to care for the natural environment which is so important to the City's setting in the heart of Somerset.



The Society offers events, talks, visits, projects, research, exhibitions and much more, often working in partnership with local and national organisations.

Bringing together knowledge and expertise on planning and conservation issues the Society also works with local government to protect the heritage and with local businesses to support and develop the City's visitor and retail economies.

To find out more about the Society and its projects see: www.wellscivicsociety.org.uk and www.wellsinmosaic.org

Annual membership is £15pp (£20 couples) and from £25 for corporate membership.

A membership form can be found on the website or contact the Membership Secretary: blackmore.clare@btinternet.com

Or for further information contact the Chair: chris.f.winter@btinternet.com

For recent activities and information see www.facebook.com/wellscivicsociety

Follow the
Plaques Trail
to explore the
**Historic City
of Wells**

and all its charms
and curiosities



1 The Liberty and East Liberty
The Liberty is the area of land, including the Cathedral, consisting of Ritchie Hall (1894), the adjacent Polydor Vergill house (C15th), the corner property, Cedars House (1758) and Claver Morris House (1699).

2 The Rib and Elizabeth Goudge
Elizabeth (1900–1984) was a best-selling author in both the UK and the US from the 1930s into the 1970s, and inspired J K Rowling to write the Harry Potter books.

3 The Swan Hotel
From its origins in 1422, The Swan has accommodated many famous guests including King Henry VII, Winston Churchill, and Queen Anne of Denmark

4 Sadler Street and Brown's Gate
Since the mid 13th-century, Sadler Street has been the main entry to the city from the north, along which are Brown's Gate (c.1450), the White Hart Hotel (replacing a building from 1301 to c.1497), and the Swan Hotel (first mentioned in 1422).

Beyond the City Centre:

17 Edgar Wright
Film director Edgar Wright was a student of Wells Blue School (1985–92). He directed the hit movie 'Hot Fuzz', which was filmed in Wells.

18 Wells Gallows
During the 17th and 18th centuries here stood the place of public execution for hanging, drawing, quartering and burning at the stake.

5 The Mitre Hotel
On this site was one of the city's most important posting inns, with stabling for 100 horses for the Royal Mail, with a history dating back to 1605 when it was known as the 'Flower de Luce'.

6 Barclays Bank
Here in 1685 the notorious Judge Jeffreys tried 542 people in one day for joining the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion against King James II. All but one were convicted and 94 were executed.

7 The Market Place
Bishop Bekynton's New Works (1451–2) form the northern side of the Market Place, and the water fountain replaces a medieval conduit built in 1451.

8 The Crown
Photographer Bert Phillips had a studio and shop here from 1855–1979, before it became part of the hotel.

9 The High Street
The High Street dates from the 12th Century, with King John granting the right to hold a weekly market and five annual fairs. The wider middle part (the 'Shambles') became the main market area.

10 Guardhouse Lane
Guardhouse Lane is named after an eighteenth-century guardhouse used to house Napoleonic prisoners-of-war (c.1790).

11 Broad Street
Originally called Wet Lane and subsequently Water Lane, this finally became Broad Street when widened from a modest 3.5 metres to its present size in 1838. It was previously occupied by dyers, a smithy, the Bull's Head Inn and Jacob's Well.

Enjoy a walk around the City, exploring the stories, past and present; see how many plaques you can find!

There are 26 plaques in all – some a little outside of the City centre and some inside shops and businesses, which may not be accessible. For more details see: www.wellscivicsociety.org.uk/plaque-awards

16 W G Grace visit
English cricket legend W G Grace played on what is now the Wells Recreation Ground in 1867, and was bowled out for a mere three runs.

15 Brine's Brush Factory
7a Portway is the former entrance way to Brine's brush factory (c1869).

14 St John Street
St John Street and Southover were the main entry to Wells from Glastonbury. It was named after the Priory of the Hospital of St John the Baptist (founded c.1220), a religious community in the area.

13 Wells Almshouses
Comprise Llewellyn's and Charles' (established in 1636), Bubwith's in St Cuthbert's churchyard (founded in 1436), and Harper's on Chamberlain Street (from 1726).

12 The City Arms
The City Arms in the High Street was used as the city's gaol from 1606, following which an inn was incorporated into the site by 1689. There has been an inn here ever since.

