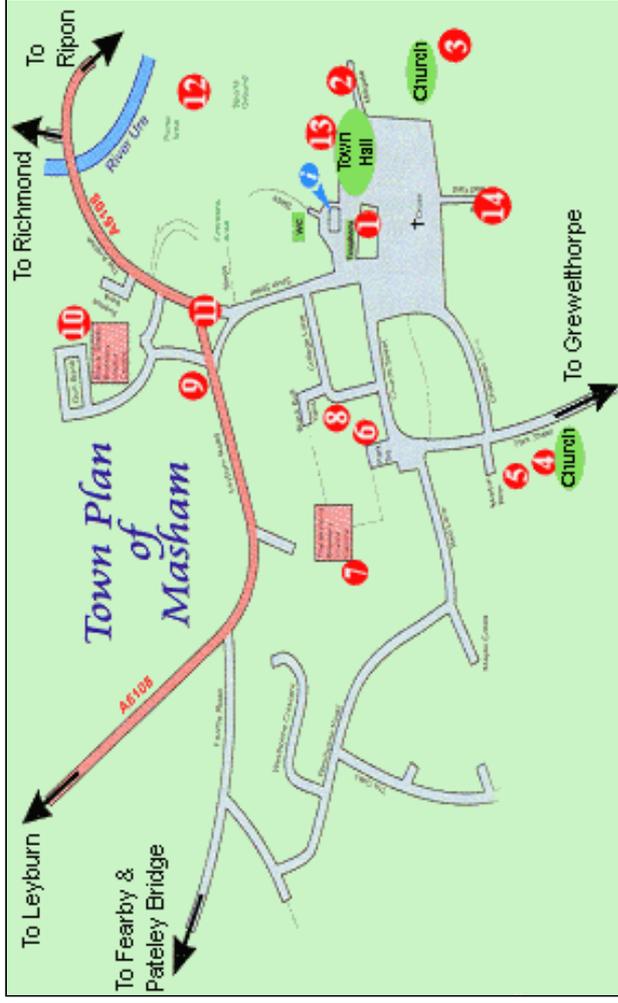


## Discover Masham – A Town Walk – 1 Hour

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Leave the market place via Chapman Lane, an ancient route westwards out of the town and you will pass the Alms Houses (4) endowed by Mrs Vernon Harcourt in 1853, each inhabitant receiving 5 shillings a week.

Turn left into Park Street and cross the road to find the Methodist Chapel (5) with its beautiful front garden. At the top of Park Street you will find the HSBC Bank and Library originally the Mechanics Institute (6) erected by public subscription in 1856. just off the square is T&R Theakston Brewery (7) where you can see a traditional Coopers Workshop in action - one of only 8 working coopers in the country. On turning left into College Lane, you will find College House (8). This was for the Peculier Court of the Prebend Of Masham. After the dissolution of the Monasteries, Henry VIII granted jurisdiction of this court to the masters and fellows of Trinity College Cambridge. The word Peculier came from the Norman French meaning particular rather than odd. The court has its origins in the 12th century and exercised a great deal of local power. Many people were prosecuted over ecclesiastical offences - not attending church, swearing and brawling, drunkenness, using enchantments, harbouring a Catholic priest and telling fortunes to name but a few.

At the end of College Lane, turn left into Silver Street which will bring you to the White Bear Memorial (9). Here on the 16 April the German Luftwaffe dropped two parachute mines, demolishing the public house and several cottages, killing six people. Follow the road onto Gun Bank and you come to the Black Sheep Brewery (10) set up by Paul Theakston. The brewery and bistro are housed in the old maltings of the former Lightfoot Brewery.

Retrace your steps and at the bottom of the hill you will find the fountain (11) erected in 1887 to mark the Golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. At the top of the hill you can admire the view over the recreation ground (12) alongside the river. This was given by Lord Masham as a permanent memorial to those who fought in the 1914-18 war.

The avenue of Limes leading to the 18th century bridge over the River Ure was planted in 1875 to mark the opening of the railway. At the end of the avenue and over the bridge across the road, is the large field where the annual Steam Fair and Organ Rally is held. Turn from Silver Street into the Little Market Place and you will see the Town Hall (13) built in 1913. In 1917 it was used as a convalescent home for soldiers serving in the Leeds 'Pals' Battalion. This building was also used as the town cinema.

We hope that you have enjoyed your tour and will remember Masham, which makes an ideal base when exploring beautiful Wensleydale, and the local area.

Masham is frequently used as a film set, most notable films are Days of Hope (1976), Black Jack (1978), A Day in Summer (1988), Fair Game (1994) and currently, Heartbeat. Whilst on your tour of Masham, take time to explore the many different shops and galleries around the town square and in the Kings Head Yard.

We begin at the Market Cross (1) in the centre of the spacious market place where a market has been held since 1393 when a charter was granted by Richard II. More recently a Saturday market has been added. In December a special Victorian Market is held followed by a torchlight procession through town, in the evening. As you leave the square via Millgate, at the northeast corner you will pass the school, founded in 1760 by the Lord of the Manor, William Danby. Further along Millgate, which is the old route out of Masham, is the old Poor House (2) with its adjacent cell. As you cross the cattle grid, ahead of you is Mill House, part of the 17th Century mill. Turn right here, up across the field, and you will pass one of the Masham Leaves as you go through The Kissing Gate into the Churchyard.

The town is dominated by the spire of St Mary's Church (3). The spire itself dates from the 15th century but the church is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and there is evidence of an earlier church, most notably the remains of a Saxon Cross in the churchyard near the porch. Among the many memorials to be found inside the church, the stained glass window celebrating the millennium is well worth viewing.

As you leave the churchyard you are back in the market place. During the last century as many as 70,000 sheep were sold every year on this site and in September the Masham Sheep Fair revives these traditions, giving the opportunity of seeing many rare breeds of sheep and goats, as well as witnessing events such as dog agility and sheep racing!

Just off the Market Square, in the King's Head Yard, you can watch daily demonstrations of glass making, at a vibrant craft workshop in the centre of town.(14)