

Take a Pictorial Walk through History along The Dymchurch Heritage Trail

Discover where Smugglers
lived and hid their
Contraband ...and the old
Courtroom and Gaol
where many ended up!



Find out about the two old
Forges where Blacksmiths
issued local Coins.



Visit the Norman
Church dating from
the mid 1100s,



See where famous Authors, Artists
and Actors once lived including
Edith Nesbit and Russell Thorndyke,
the creator of Dr. Syn, the Smuggler.

Martello Towers, the Old Mortuary,
the spot marking the Gallows, the Old Workhouse and
much more all lay along the Route of The Heritage Trail.
With the help of old Photographs, we hope you can
envisage how Dymchurch looked not so long ago.
To find out more about these and other Buildings, visit
www.dymchurchheritagegroup.co.uk

The World, according to the best Geographers,
is divided into Europe, Asia, Africa, America,
and Romney Marsh.

From The Ingoldsby Legends by Rev. Richard Harris Barham

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The Heritage Trail - The History

1. Rose Cottages, 49-55 High Street

During the 18th century until 1842, The Rose Inn was situated in one of these cottages and, in 1793, William Wood was the landlord. The artist Paul Nash lived here in 1923.

2. Dormer Cottages, 19-27 High Street

Built in the 15th century, one of them became Smiths Stores, this is now the Hospice Furniture Shop. The cottages have, at different times, had some famous people living here, including Edith Nesbit, Noel Coward and artist, Paul Nash.

3. The Corner House Restaurant

Alex's Pie & Eel Shop was situated here in the 1950-1970s. It was formerly four residences known as Allcorn Cottages.

4. Mackett's Cottages, 10-16 Mill Road

Built in 1740, they became the village workhouse in 1791. In 1836, it was closed and the inmates were transferred to the Union Workhouse in New Romney.



5. Old Tree Cottage, 22 Mill Road

A Grade II listed 18th century cottage built originally for agriculture workers. Between the 1920s and 1950s, it was owned by the notable actor/director Milton Rosmer. Some of his productions were Lady Windermere's Fan (1916), Little Women (1917), Wuthering Heights (1920) and Goodbye Mr. Chips (1939). He befriended Russell Thorndyke and produced his film, Dr. Syn, in 1937.

6. Dr. Syn's Restaurant & Guest House, 24 Mill Road

This building has seen many changes. This Grade II listed building was originally a residential cottage called Mewslade which later became known as The Cat & Kettle Tearooms. After that, it became Dr. Syn's Restaurant and, later, Guest House.

7. Dunkirk End, 26 Mill Road

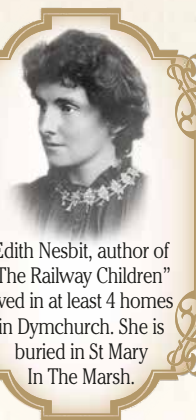
There is a date stone on Dunkirk End of 1736 together with the masons' marks A.K. & R.H. To the left is a herring hang where fishermen used to smoke their fish. This building is Grade II listed and the small window in the gable end that looks down Mill Road, is believed to have been a smuggler's lookout.

8. Bridge View & Middle Cottage, 24 Mill Road

These two cottages to the left of Dunkirk End date from the late 1700s.

9. Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway

This 15" gauge railway was the passion of Captain J.E.P. Howey and was opened on the 16th July 1927. During World War II, it was requisitioned by the War Department which ran a miniature armoured train. The railway also helped with building the PLUTO pipe line that stretched across the English Channel to France. Dymchurch Windmill stood on this site until it was demolished in 1906.



Edith Nesbit, author of
"The Railway Children"
lived in at least 4 homes
in Dymchurch. She is
buried in St Mary
In The Marsh.

10. Old School House, 15 Mill Road

Built in 1800 by Jeremiah Wraight as a village school, the Parish paid him 4 guineas per annum rent. Mr. George Roberts was the first school master in November 1800.

11. Wraights Cottages & Sunny House, 7-13 Mill Road

Built in the 1700s, during 1819 William Wincles lived here and was, like many of the villagers, a smuggler. On 26th March 1819, he was seized by a Customs Officer on Dymchurch beach. He was tried in New Hall Court, found guilty and sentenced to 3 months in gaol. If you can, pay a visit to the Gaol, you can see where he carved his name and date on the wall.

12. Martello Tower No. 25 (in the car park)

In 1841 there were 23 people living here in very cramped conditions. During the night of 12th June 1944 two Royal Observer Corps, Mr. Archie Wraight and Mr. Ernest Woodland, reported the sighting of the first V1 "Doodlebug", to cross our shores. 2,400 of these bombs fell on Kent.

13. The Ocean Inn, 2 High Street

Built in 1733, the mason's mark has the initials I.F.E. The earliest records show that in 1840 William Parris was the owner and landlord of The Ocean beerhouse. The name was changed to The Victoria in 1897, possibly to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. In 1952 during renovations, the original name was found on a mural behind the wallpaper and it was decided to change the name back to The Ocean. The mural is on the wall for all to see.

14. Smugglers Chest, 4 High Street

Dating from 1784, the same William Parris was the first known owner. In 1794, because of the lack of small coinage in circulation, he issued his own halfpenny token. Wellworth Stores was here for 32 years until 2003.



15. Pilgrims Hospice Bookshop, 10 High Street

Formerly five cottages, the Hoper family lived in the front two cottages in the High Street around 1891, where they sold sweets and bakery produce. In 1939 Beatrice Hoper, with the help of her mother, took over the shop and called it Beat's Sweet Shop. After Beatrice died, her sister took it over and when she retired it was sold to Iris Findley. Iris died in 1999 and left the shop to The Pilgrims Hospice.

16. Dymchurch Amusement Park (MW's Fairground)

In the 1930s this was a small fairground with a putting green. Prior to this, it had been allotments for the Coastguards. The roller skating rink, is still there under the ghost train.

17. Coastguard Cottages, 26-40 High Street

Built in 1905, they replaced the cottages that were in the garage car park opposite Well Cottage & Oak Cottage (34).

18. Martello Tower 24

Built in 1806, this Martello Tower is now owned by English Heritage and is open to the public on particular days. If it is open, do take the opportunity to pay a visit to this wonderfully restored building of the Napoleonic period.



