Folkestone Old Town Treasure Trail
Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to enable group leaders to facilitate the completion of the Treasure Trail. It does not contain the answers to the questions, but rather gives clues where to find them. A separate sheet giving the answers is available. A set of Information Cards is also available which will give you more detailed background information about some of the people and places mentioned on the trail.

1. Look for the blue plaque on No. 3 Albion Villas.

2. The tree is on your left as you enter the churchyard. Look for the blue information panel on your right.

3. Look for the church welcome sign.

4. The information panel is on the stable yard doors, on your left as you leave the churchyard.

5. The answer is in writing.

6. The information panel is on the black railings, outside the gardens.

7. You may need to use the information card about The Bayle Battery to help with this question. The Battery is now a private residence, please do not go through the gates.

8. The information panel is on the wall near the top of the Parade Steps. To look at the front of the building, you will need to descend the first part of the steps.

9 & 10. The route you take here will depend on whether you wish to avoid steps, and whether you are taking the long or short route.

11. As mentioned in the Information Cards, you can see the old well through the window of No. 41, opposite the bottom of the Bail Steps.

12. The answer is on the memorial plaque. If you are following the short route, the answer can also be found on the information panels underneath the Commemorative Arch near the War Memorial.

13. The information panel is on the wall of the building.

14. There is a suitably located commemorative panel.

15. The answer is carved into the base of the cross.

This is where the Treasure Trail ends. The church is open to the public on some days and welcomes visitors.

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This information sheet is designed to assist a group leader in completing risk assessments for undertaking the 'Folkestone Old Town Treasure Trail' by identifying some of the risks which may be encountered on the trail.

It is not intended to replace a group leader’s own risk assessment and does not claim to identify all possible risks. It is recommended that group leaders undertake a preparatory visit to complete a risk assessment.

1. The trail map shows colour coded trails. Blue shows the short route, which contains moderate slopes and uneven surfaces. Purple shows the longer route, which has steeper slopes and uneven surfaces. The paths marked in gold contain steps, which may be steep and uneven. All surfaces are slippery when wet.

2. Traffic will be encountered at various points along the trail. Particular care should be taken when crossing the road by the War Memorial, as visibility is limited. The Bayle, Bayle Street, and The Parade are not pedestrianised, but there are pavements. The Old High Street is, in theory, closed to traffic during the day. However this is rarely observed. Tontine Street is busy with traffic.

3. Payers Park contains children’s play equipment. Use of this equipment does not constitute part of the trail.

4. The pavement at the top of The Old High Street, leading up towards Rendezvous Street, is very narrow and is partly obstructed by bollards.

5. Care should be taken when visiting the churchyard. Many of the grave stones are old and some are leaning over.

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Here are the answers to the questions. You may want to refrain from reading this sheet until after you have completed the Treasure Trail!

1. Little Dorrit.

2. Weeping Ash.

3. 630AD.

4. The Priory.

5. The British Lion claims to be the oldest public house in Folkestone.

6. The pond was created by reopening a Roman aqueduct.

7. There were six cannons on the battery during the Napoleonic Wars.

8. The creature on the front of the building is a gryphon (griffen).

9, 10 & 11. These are Points of Interest, rather than questions which need answers.

12. 25th May 1917.

13. The Court or Common Hall.

14. William Harvey was born on 1st April 1578 and was famous for discovering the circulation of the blood.

15. The Mayor of Folkestone used to be elected at the Town Cross.
Charles Dickens

Born: 7th February 1812 in Portsmouth.

Died: 9th June 1870.

Charles Dickens was an author and social critic. He created some of the world's best known fictional characters and is widely regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era.

He was also a prominent campaigner for children's rights, education and other social reforms.

In 1855, Charles Dickens took up residence at No. 3 Albion Villas, Folkestone, where he wrote 'Little Dorrit'. During this time he was known to frequent the British Lion Public House.

His other works include A Christmas Carol, Oliver Twist, Great Expectations, David Copperfield, Nicholas Nickelby, A Tale of Two Cities and The Old Curiosity Shop.
Saint Eanswythe

**Born:** c614 in Kent

**Died:** c640 in Folkestone.

**Shrine:** The Parish Church of St. Mary and St. Eanswythe, Folkestone.

**Feast:** 12th September.

Eanswythe was the Daughter of King Eadbald, who ruled Kent from AD616 to AD 640. In AD630, Eanswythe founded the first nunnery in England in Folkestone. After its completion, she lived in the Benedictine Priory with her companions.

She was guided by the monks of St. Augustine. According to legend, Eanswythe brought water uphill to the Bayle Pond. This may have been possible by reopening a Roman aquaduct.

During restoration work in 1885, a lead reliquary was discovered in the walls of the parish church. It is widely accepted that these are the remains of St. Eanswythe, hidden during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536.

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The Bayle Battery

A Battery refers to a group of guns or cannons commanded by one officer. The Bayle Battery was known to have four guns in 1698, but the fort may date back to 1539, when fortifications were built along south coast on the orders of Henry VIII.

Extensive alterations to the fortifications on The Bayle were made during the Napoleonic Wars. By 1798, there were six guns on the Bayle Battery manned by the Folkestone Volunteer Artillery as well as a residence for the chief gunner, a powder magazine and a well.

During an inspection on September 25th, 1808, it is recorded that 'some excellent shots were fired at a small barrel, distant more than two miles from the shore'.

The Battery is now a private residence.
The ‘German Consulate’

Known as Shangri-La, this building is at the southern end of a terrace constructed in 1894.

Local folklore tells that this building was a German Consulate, used by spies in WWI to send signals to enemy ships in the Channel.

Supporters of this theory draw attention to the ‘German Eagle’ under the upper windows or the building, which can be seen from the Parade Steps. The creature is, in fact, a Gryphon and nothing to do with Imperial Germany. The gables of the other houses in the terrace are similarly adorned with mythical creatures.

Shangri-La is now a private residence.
The Old High Street

The Old High Street is an ancient route connecting the Bayle with the Harbour and The Stade. Many of the buildings here date back to the 18th Century. Some buildings still retain original features, including a well on the ground floor of No. 41.

![The Old High Street, circa 1920](image1.png)

![The Old High Street, circa 1962](image2.png)

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Tontine Street

On the evening of 25th May 1917, a single 50kg bomb fell on Tontine Street. It exploded just outside Stokes’ Grocery Store, destroying the shop completely and damaging many others.

Many people, including women and children, were out shopping at the time. Sixty one people were killed and many more were badly injured. Florence Rumsey (left), aged 18, was working as a wages clerk in Stokes’ at the time of the air raid. She was one of those who died.

The site of Stokes’ Grocery has been left as an open space to commemorate this event.
William Harvey

**Born:** April 1st, 1578 in Folkestone.

**Died:** June 3rd, 1657 in Roehampton

William Harvey was an English Physician who is best remembered for being the first to describe in detail the systematic circulation and properties of blood being pumped around the body.

He was educated at the University of Cambridge and the University of Padua and took up the position of Physician in Charge at St. Bartholemew’s Hospital in 1609.

His birthplace in Church Street (formerly Mercery Lane) is marked by a plaque and there is a statue erected in his honour situated on the Leas.
The Church of St. Mary and St. Eanswythe

The Parish Church of St. Mary and St. Eanswythe was largely rebuilt in the 19th Century, although many parts dating from the 13th and 15th Centuries still remain.

In 1885, a cask holding the remains of a young woman was discovered within the church walls. These are believed to be the relics of St. Eanswythe.

The churchyard is also of historic interest. To the north of the church lies the Town Cross, erected in 1897 on steps dating from medieval times.

Under a charter of Edward III, the town's burgesses would gather at the cross on the Feast of Our Lady (September 8th) to elect a new mayor. The election now takes place in the Town Hall, but is celebrated at the church during the Town Sunday Service, usually the last Sunday in June.