



Discover 10 blue plaques following
this town centre walk

A self-guided walk
1.3 miles/2 km - 45 mins-1 hour



Blue Plaque Walk

Marlborough

29 The Green

WILLIAM GOLDING 1911-1993

Author and Nobel Literature Laureate lived in this house – “Our house was on the Green, that close-like square, tilted south”

From the Green, walk along Patten Alley past St Mary’s Church. As you emerge from the alleyway, look across the road slightly to the right

1-3 Kingsbury Street

BOB PELHAM 1919-1980

Pelham Puppets were created at 1-3 Kingsbury Street by Bob Pelham and a small group of employees in 1947

Take the steps behind the Town Hall (Perrin’s Hill) then cross the road

3-4 High Street

THOMAS HANCOCK 1786-1865

Inventor of vulcanisation of rubber

WALTER HANCOCK 1799-1852

Inventor of the Passenger Steam Road Carriage lived here

Stay on the same side of the road and walk to the other end of the High Street until you come to The Wellington Arms and The Food Gallery

48 High Street

THE GREAT FIRE OF MARLBOROUGH 28 APRIL 1653

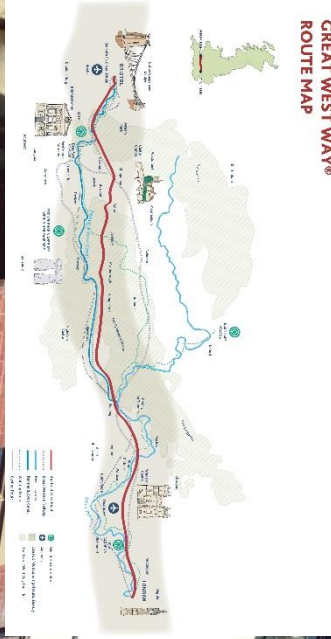
Began near this place, at the house of Francis Freeman, Tanner “Where in three hours were consumed at least 250 houses”



Our Tourist information point is open Monday to
Friday, 10am-4pm or visit our website

www.GreatWestWay.co.uk

Once an important coaching stop on the London-Bristol road, Marlborough is a handsome market town on the Great West Way. Take this 125 mile touring route the slow way and discover ancient landscapes and beautiful towns and villages at every turn



A potted history



Marlborough grew from a Saxon settlement (now

The Green, above) along the High Street to a

Norman Castle built on The Mound, a prehistoric

man-made mound now within the grounds of

Marlborough College. The castle was used and

enlarged by various kings until the early 14th

century. The Statutes of Marlborough, still part of

the law of England, were enacted here in 1267 by

Henry III. There was once a Royal Mint here.

In 1204 King John granted the town a charter,

formally establishing it as a market town. Markets

still take place every Wednesday and Saturday on

the original site in the High Street.

In 1642 during the Civil War the town was captured

by Royalists and the Mayor and prominent citizens

were marched through the snow to Oxford as

prisoners of the King. The Great Fire soon followed

in 1653.

In the 18th and 19th centuries Marlborough’s

position on the Great West Road to Bath and Bristol

made the town a major coaching centre. The

coaching trade dwindled as railways were

developed and the town’s largest inn, the Castle

Inn, became available for Marlborough College to

be founded in 1843.

*Continue along the street, crossing into
the precincts of St Peter’s Church*

St Peter’s Church

THOMAS WOLSEY 1473-1530

Cardinal Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor
of England

Ordained Priest in this Church 10 March 1498

*There’s a craft shop and café inside, and on certain days
tower tours offer a wonderful view of the town*

*From the church head along the A4 (Bridewell Street) past
the College and use the crossing to reach the other side of
the road. Go round the corner, under the arch until you
reach the porter’s lodge gates*

Marlborough College Gates

THE STATUTES OF MARLBOROUGH 1267 HENRY III

An Act of Parliament passed in the Great Hall of
Marlborough Castle near this place. “He made
many statutes for the betterment of his realm
and the manifestation of Common Justice”



*Cross the road and head back, keeping to the left of the
church where you’ll see some Interesting houses*

The Library

EGLANTYNE JEBB 1876-1928

Founder of Save the Children Fund taught in this
building when it was St Peter’s School

*Continue along the High Street until you reach the
colonnaded section. There are three plaques very close
together here – you’ll need to peer round corners into the
alleyway to see one!*



114 High Street (Susie Watson Design)

SAMUEL PEPYS, DIARIST 1633-1703

“...lay at the Hart a good house and there a fair
and pretty town...” on 165-16 June 1668

Parts of the Inn’s galleries remain in nearby buildings

114-116 High Street

LORD CHAMBERLAIN’S MEN

SHAKESPEARE’S COMPANY

Performed in the courtyard of the White Hart
through the archway in the 1590’s “All the
world’s a stage”

The Castle & Ball Hotel

THE BATTLE OF MARLBOROUGH 5 DECEMBER 1642

Near this place a Royalist Army fought their way
into the Town and defeated the Parliamentary
Garrison

Three plaques close together between
114 High Street and the Castle & Ball Hotel

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SAMUEL PEPYS DIARIST 1633-1703

*"...lay at the Hart a good house and there a fair
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Pelham Puppets were
created at 1-3 Kingsbury
Street by Bob Pelham
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Author and Nobel
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*"Our house was on the
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2. **St Mary's Church** walls are 15th century. It
was reroofed after the 1653 fire. A stone pillar
in the west wall, turned red by the intense heat,
is a reminder of the fire. Patten Alley is named
after an overshoe to raise the wearer out of the
mud

THOMAS HANCOCK
1786-1865
Inventor of the
vulcanisation of
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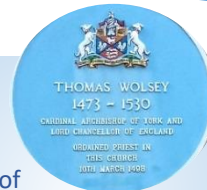
3. The **Town Hall** was built
1900-02, although there
has been a Town Hall on
this site since 1656



5. **The Priory** is an 1820 house in a style known as Strawberry Hill Gothic. It
overlooks gardens on the River Kennet and sits on the site of a 14th Century
Carmelite friary



THOMAS WOLSEY
1473-1530
St Peter's Church
Cardinal Archbishop of
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THE GREAT FIRE OF
MARLBOROUGH
48 High Street
28 April 1653
Began near this place, at
the house of Francis
Freeman, Tanner *"Where
in three hours were
consumed at least 250
houses"*



6. **St Peter's Church** dates from about 1460. It
survived the fire of 1653 but the interior did not
survive a massive Victorian facelift. Declared
redundant in 1974, it now houses a café, craft shop
and is also used as a space for exhibitions, lectures and
concerts. There are fine views of the town for those
taking the tower tour

7. The **Castle Inn** was built at the height of the coach trade. When this declined it became the first
building of Marlborough College, founded in 1843 for the sons of Church of England clergy. A prehistoric
Mound lies within its grounds (not open to the public). A Norman castle was built on the mound soon
after the Conquest in 1066. Legend has it that Merlin, King Arthur's mysterious wizard, is buried here,
hence the town motto *Ubi nunc sapientis ossa Merlini* - where now are the bones of wise Merlin?



THE STATUTES OF
MARLBOROUGH
1267 Henry III
Marlborough College
An Act of Parliament
passed in the Great Hall
of Marlborough Castle
near this place.
*"He made many
statutes for the
betterment of his realm
and the manifestation
of Common Justice"*



8. An intricately carved
door next to No 105
shows the history of
Marlborough back to
King John.
Look up at the gables
of the 1925 building
for some interesting
carved messages

EGLANTYNE JEBB
1876-1928
Founder of Save the
Children Fund taught in
this building when it
was St Peter's School



The **Library** was built
in 1853 as St Peter's school



4. The stone frontage at
Waitrose was the town's corn
exchange, subsequently used
as a fire-engine house and
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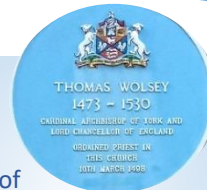
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