

Key

- Cheltenham Story Locations
- Things to see nearby
- The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum



CHELTENHAM STORY MAP

This map has been created to celebrate Cheltenham's rich and diverse cultural history. It invites you to discover ten fascinating stories about the town. When exploring, please note that some terrain may be uneven. Take care when crossing roads, remain aware of potential hazards, and dress appropriately for the weather.

More information on each of these special places, including suggested walking routes, can be found by scanning the QR code below to reach the Cheltenham Story site. You can also find out more about Cheltenham's Heritage organisations and enjoy their in-depth resources in the Heritage Index section.

All stories can be navigated on foot from The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum as a central starting point. We've also included each story's what3words addresses, which you can enter on <https://what3words.com/>. The Wilson's what3words address is [///candle.haven.trial](https://what3words.com/candle.haven.trial).

This project is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Visit the Cheltenham Story site to learn more.

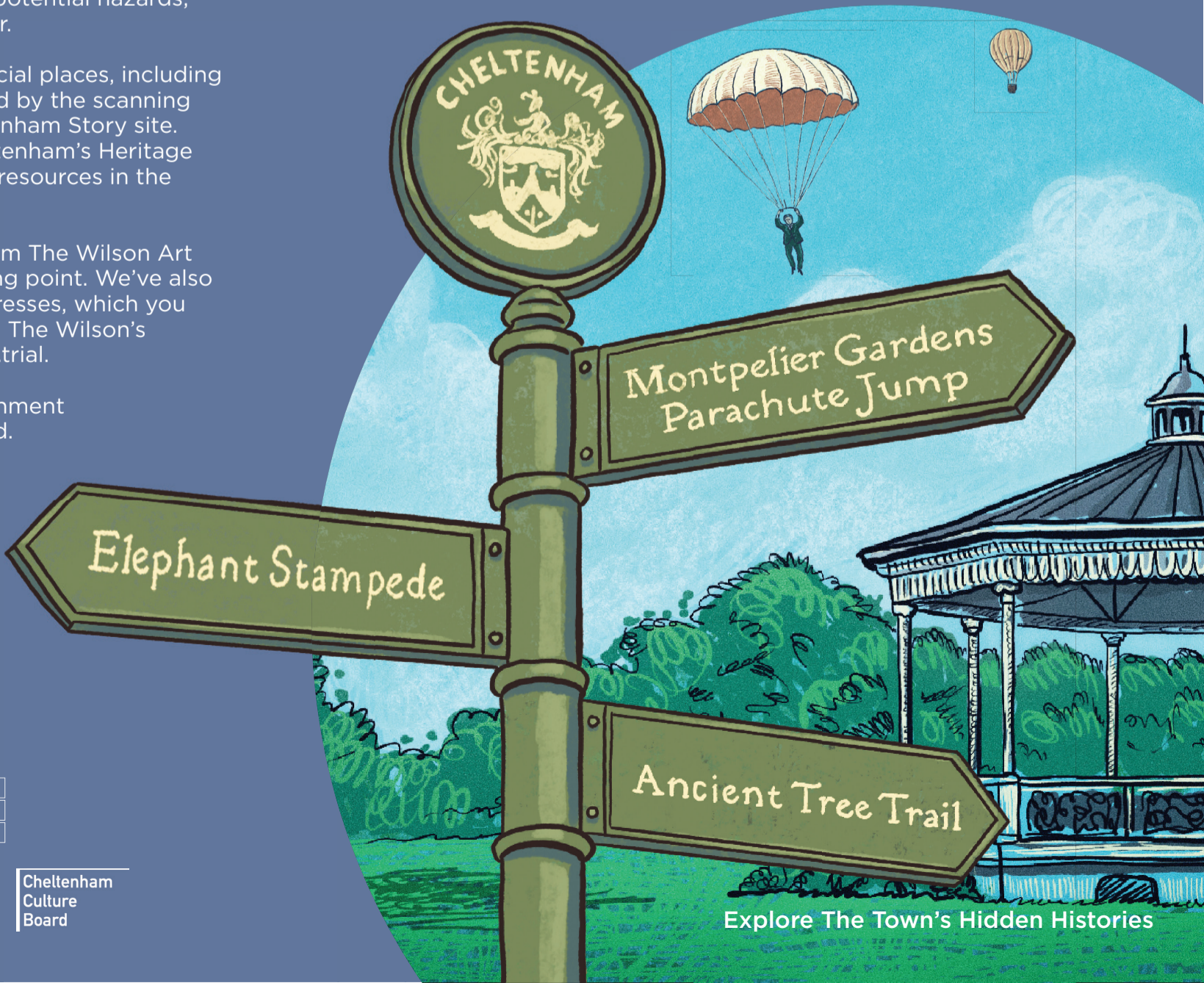


Funded by UK Government



Cheltenham Local History Society

Cheltenham Culture Board



Explore The Town's Hidden Histories

1. The Minster

Cheltenham Minster, formerly St Mary's Church, is Cheltenham's only surviving medieval building, in continuous use for over 850 years. Dating from shortly after 1133, it features a notable 14th-century Rose Window. Originally home to part of the town market during the medieval period, the Minster Exchange project and creation of Hub8 keep the minster a firm part of 21st century Cheltenham.

Nearby: The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum, 'Theme and Variations' by Barbara Hepworth.

THE WILSON 321 ft (95m) from The Wilson 1 min walk **///** flank.barn.arts



2. Brewery Quarter

The Brewery Quarter originated as Cheltenham's first commercial brewery, established in 1760 by Thomas Gardner. After surviving an 1887 fire and several ownership changes, it became part of Whitbread before brewing ended in 1998. The site has been transformed into the modern Brewery Quarter, blending historic buildings with shops, leisure and community spaces.

Nearby: The Winston Churchill Memorial Garden, The Honeybourne Line.

THE WILSON 0.2 miles (300m) from The Wilson 4 min walk **///** loads.impose.grapes

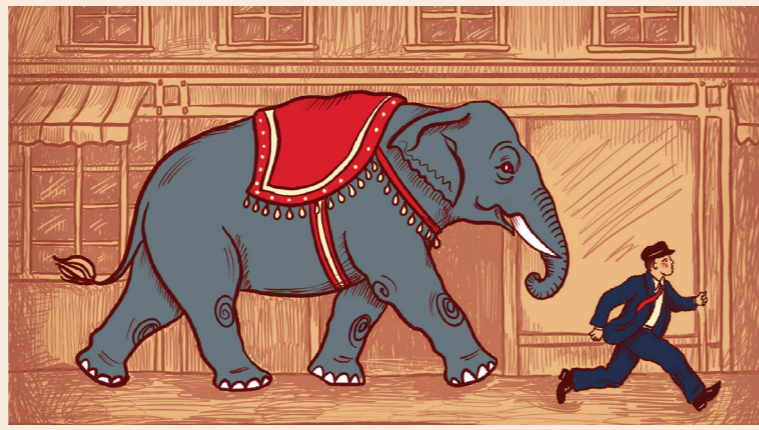


3. Elephant Stampede

On 26th March 1934, 3 circus elephants stampeded into Bloodworths, a pet shop on Albion Street, eating the seed and dog biscuits. It took 5 minutes to get them out. The story is commemorated by elephant mosaics on Grosvenor Place South, restored in 2025 using tiles from the original artist. There is a mistake in one of the mosaics - can you find it?

Nearby: The Vine, Sandford Park.

THE WILSON 0.4 miles (700m) from The Wilson 10 min walk **///** traded.backed.among



4. Montpellier Baths/Cheltenham Playhouse

Cheltenham Playhouse began as Montpellier Baths in 1806, offering spa treatments and producing the famous 'Real Cheltenham Salts'. Expanded during the 19th century, it later served as an Air Raid Precautions (ARP) centre in World War II before reopening as the Civil Playhouse in 1945. Today, it remains an important community theatre and cultural venue and is the home of the Cheltenham Fringe Festival.

Nearby: Eagle Tower Building, Cheltenham Lido.

THE WILSON 0.6 miles (900m) from The Wilson 12 min walk **///** safely.vanish.first



5. Lives of Colour

Kisumu became a friendship town of Cheltenham in 1985, promoting cultural exchange and community links. Kenyan migrant Lameck Ondego moved to the UK in 1989 and settled in Cheltenham in 1996, building a life through work, education and family. His story, which can be viewed in full on the Cheltenham Story website, represents the experiences of many migrants to the town.

Nearby: The Town Hall, Edward Adrian Wilson Memorial Statue.

THE WILSON 0.4 miles (700m) from The Wilson 10 min walk **///** rotate.extra.caring



6. Montpellier Gardens Parachute Jump

In 1838, John Hampton made Britain's first successful parachute descent from a hot air balloon over Montpellier Gardens, jumping from about 9000ft and landing safely in Badgeworth after 12 minutes. The gardens, originally part of Henry Thompson's Montpellier estate, became a public park in 1893 and remain a major cultural and recreational space in Cheltenham today, hosting the Jazz and Literature festivals.

Nearby: Caryatids, Montpellier Arcade.

THE WILSON 0.6 miles (1km) from The Wilson 15 min walk **///** select.calm.churn



7. Cheltenham and the Slave Trade

Lansdown Crescent is a Grade II listed terrace of Georgian classical-style houses in Cheltenham's Lansdown area, which was home to several people who were compensated after the 1833 Slavery Abolition Act, which paid £20 million to slave owners. This included William Alwick Hamer (£22,846 for 456 enslaved people), Edward Kendell (£1,303 for 59 enslaved people), and Eleanor Jopp (£283 for 14 enslaved people).

Nearby: Queen Victoria Penfold post box, Christ Church Cheltenham.

THE WILSON 0.8 miles (1.2km) from The Wilson 18 min walk **///** congratulations.major.dirt



8. Holst Victorian House

Holst Victorian House, built in 1833, is the birthplace of composer Gustav Holst (1874-1934), best known for composing 'The Planets' suite. Holst lived in the house until 1882. Visitors today have 8 period rooms to explore, including an impressive regency

drawing room and a kitchen with a working range, and can also view Holst's piano, gramophone, and Arts and Crafts music chest.

Nearby: Pittville Gates, Pittville Circus Road ghost house.

THE WILSON 0.5 miles (750m) from The Wilson 11 min walk **///** groups.shaky.marker



9. Pittville Park Tree Trail

Pittville Park was opened in 1825 by Joseph Pitt as part of his private spa estate, becoming free to use by 1954. Its tree trail showcases native species like oak and yew alongside more exotic trees such as Ginkgo, a Strawberry Tree and the American Pencil Cedar. Links to a tree trail guide can be found on the Cheltenham Story website.

Nearby: Pittville Pump Room, St Paul's Church.

THE WILSON 1 mile (1.6km) from The Wilson 23 min walk **///** penny.slang.coach



10. Hester's Way Public Art Trail

Hester's Way is a post-Second World War housing area in west Cheltenham, now home to around 20,000 people. As part of an ongoing regeneration project, it has developed the West Cheltenham Public Art Trail, a 5km route featuring community-created works including mosaics, sculptures and installations. A link to the map of the art trail can be found on the Cheltenham Story website.

Nearby: St Mark's - Cheltenham's national housing scheme, Princess Elizabeth Way Cheltenham Paint Festival artwork.

THE WILSON 2.1 mile (3.3km) from The Wilson 45 min walk **///** aspect.silk.melon

