

History

A hidden gem, St Mary Street is one of the most historic streets in Chippenham, with houses dating back to the 16th century. John Betjeman described it as 'the most perfect unconscious bit of English country townscape one could hope to find' and it even features in the opening credits of the Antiques Roadshow!

Flowing through the centre of the town, the River Avon offers an oasis of calm in the heart of Chippenham. Follow the riverside walk along its banks to see the wonderful wildlife. Stroll through Monkton Park, which hosts events including an open air cinema and Chippenham's annual folk festival.

2 St Mary Street

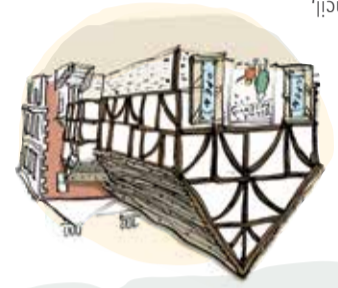
When the current Town Hall was built in the High Street in 1835, the function of the Yelde Hall changed, becoming a bank, armoury, fire station and eventually a museum. It is now used for special events and performances.

1 The Yelde Hall

Built in the 15th century, the Yelde Hall, or Guildhall, is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Chippenham. It was the meeting place for the Council, as well as the town's public meeting room, court house and jail.

Chippenham was first settled in the sixth century by the Anglo Saxons. It was a 'Royal' town, owned by the Kings of Wessex. Alfred the Great built a hunting lodge here to take advantage of the surrounding forests. It was in Chippenham on Twelfth Night 878 AD, that Alfred fought the Viking invaders eventually driving them from Wessex.

From the Medieval period, the town flourished, making its wealth from the wool trade. Being on the Great West Way, between Bristol and London, Chippenham was and still is an important market and transport hub. The arrival of the Great Western Railway in 1841, saw the town rapidly develop and become a centre for the railway industries as it is to this day.



3 Monkton Park and the River Avon

In 1995, the Buttercross was re-erected in the town by Chippenham Civic Society. It now stands as the centre-piece of the pedestrianised town centre, where a market is held each Friday and Saturday.

6 The Buttercross



The earliest church on the site of St Andrew's is thought to have been Saxon. It would probably have been built of timber and was demolished completely in order to build a stone church. The present church is thought to date from around Norman times (about 1120) although very little now remains. The current building dates mostly from the 15th century and is built in the perpendicular style.

4 St Andrew's Church



The museum hosts regularly changing displays in its temporary exhibition gallery and holds a varied programme of walks, talks, events. Don't forget to visit the museum shop selling a wide range of souvenirs, books and gifts inspired by the museum's collections.

5 Chippenham Museum

Housed in an 18th century townhouse, Chippenham Museum tells the fascinating story of this historic market town from its prehistoric origins to the present day.

9 Stanley Park Sports Ground

Our award winning site, offers flexible facilities for a range of sports and has hosted football, rugby, lacrosse, American football, table tennis and international Frisbee to name a few.

7 John Coles Park and Splashpad

Opened in 1922, John Coles Park is a beautiful green space offering a variety of activities for all ages. Its traditional Bandstand hosts free Sunday afternoon concerts, while the SplashPad is a great place for children under 12 to cool off on hot summer days. If that's not enough the park also offers a play area, tennis courts, a bowling green, multi-use games area and refreshment kiosks.

8 Neeld Community & Arts Centre

Built in 1835, the Town Hall plays a major role in the life of Chippenham and its Town Council. The building was generously funded by local dignitary Joseph Neeld MP. The ground floor once held a covered market, but is now home to Customer Services, where you can get information on public transport and places to visit.

10 The Brunel Arches

This impressive stone and brick viaduct was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, to carry the Great Western Railway through Chippenham.

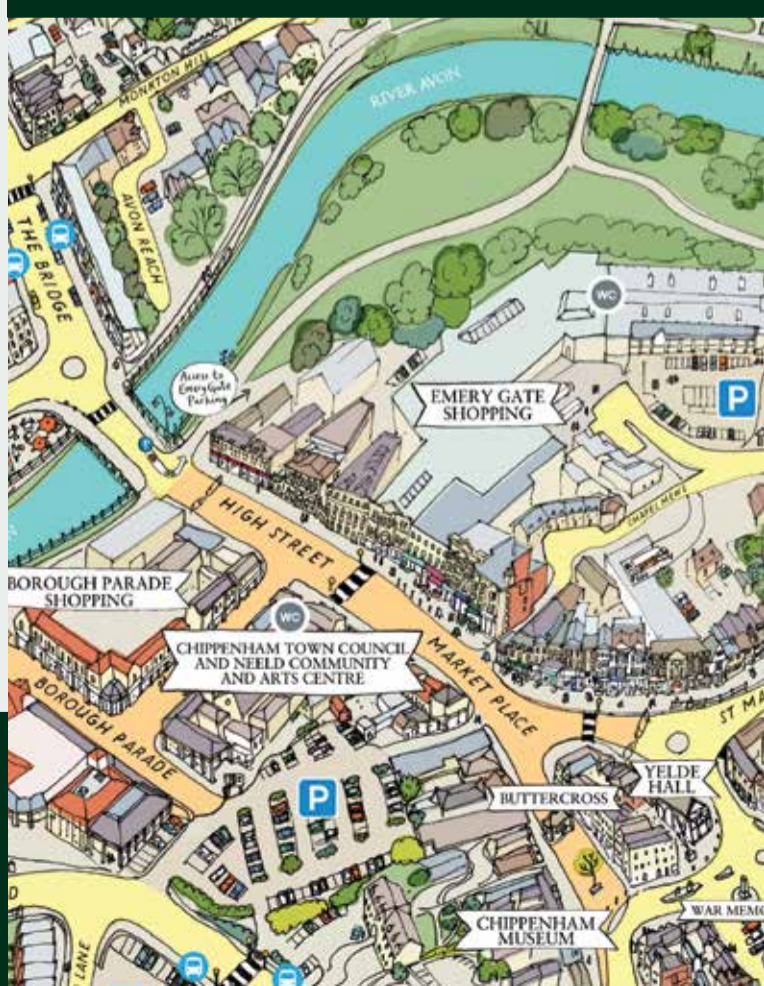
11 Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre

This state of the art building, near the train station, holds the Wiltshire and Swindon archives, with historic documents dating back to the 12th century. It also holds Wiltshire Local Studies Library with books, photographs, newspapers and other published material on the history of the county.



A guide to Chippenham

INCLUDING TOWN MAP



Exploring our town

Nestled on the banks of the River Avon and easily accessible by rail and road, Chippenham offers an ideal centre for relaxation and exploration of rural Wiltshire, Bath and the Cotswolds. Chippenham is 4 miles south of the M4 and on the mainline rail route from London Paddington to the West Country and just 10 minutes by train to the world-famous historic city of Bath.

Chippenham enjoys a reputation as a flourishing and lively market town, with a compact centre and thriving commercial life, it has been granted Purple Flag Status for its nightlife. Chippenham has a wealth of beautifully maintained parks, play areas and open spaces.

The combination of the ancient and the new, the historic architectural gems, excellent transport links, modern shopping centres and with some of the country's greatest houses and historic villages on the doorstep, makes Chippenham an idyllic location for living, working and visiting.



Visitor information

Customer Services at the Town Hall
The Town Hall, High Street
Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3ER
enquiries@chippenham.gov.uk
01249 446699

Opening Times
Monday to Thursday:
9am – 4.30pm
Friday: 9am – 4pm
Saturday: 9.30am – 3pm

Chippenham Museum
9–10 Market Place, Chippenham
Wiltshire, SN15 3HF
01249 705020

Opening Times
Monday to Saturday:
10am – 4pm

The Neeld Community & Arts Centre
High Street, Chippenham
Wiltshire, SN15 3ER
01249 446699

Opening Times
Monday to Thursday:
9am – 4.30pm
Friday: 9am – 4pm
Saturday: 9.30am – 3pm

Stanley Park Sports Ground
Stanley Lane, Chippenham
Wiltshire, SN15 3RP
01249 463905

Opening Times
Sunday to Friday: 8am – 10pm
Saturday: 8am – 5.30pm

Yelde Hall
Market Place, Chippenham
Wiltshire, SN15 3HF
01249 705020

Opening Times
Friday and Saturday:
10.30am – 3.30pm or by request

John Coles Park
Fleet Road, Chippenham
Wiltshire, SN15 1NZ
01249 446699

Opening Times
Mid-January to mid-November:
8am – dusk
Mid-November to mid-January:
8am – 4pm

Chippenham Town Council
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