

Hull's Guildhall and nearby Buildings and Monuments.



Hull's Magnificent Guildhall stands along its length in Alfred Gelder Street but faces East at the junction with Lowgate. A road runs around the rear of the Guildhall called Hanover Square, a fine name although it is in reality a road. Beyond and parallel to Hanover Square lies Guildhall Road which runs back in the direction of Victoria Square, and at the corner is the former archives (which are now in the newly built History Centre off Freetown Way just to the North of the tour). The former archive is the building with the conical tower to the left and the Guildhall tower is between it and what were warehouses – remember Queens Gardens was a dock until 1932. The warehouses are now occupied by offices and the nearby Hull College.

This photograph shows the Guildhall Tower at the East End of the Building peeping out behind what used to be the archives building and a converted warehouse that served the adjacent Queens Dock, now a park called Queens Gardens.



The other buildings of great interest in the immediate area include

St Mary's Church, in Lowgate,



about which more later in this article

Three John Scotts pub, which was formerly the main Post Office for Hull, and way before that, in the 15th Century Suffolk Palace, La Poles, but seized by Henry 7th again more later about this site Hull now closed and moved, but (again more later.)



owned by a wealthy local family, the De and left to his son, Henry 8th in his will – and the original Main Post Office for converted into the 3 John Scotts Pub –

These buildings are , in the main, either opposite the Guildhall or just across the road.

Also close by is the monument to William Wilberforce, Hull MP and campaigner for the abolition of slavery in the 18th century. It was moved as part of a new traffic plan and more information on this is contained in the audio and written guide. This can be seen from the corner of the former archives building at the corner of Guidhall Road or you can take a closer look by walking up Wilberforce Drive on your left and crossing at the pedestrian crossing opposite the College.



William Wilberforce, Hull MP and campaigner 18th century. As you may know by now this Bridge but is now in the campus of Hull College. traffic plan and more information on this is guide. This can be seen from the corner of the corner of Guidhall Road or you can take a

The Guildhall, which you have reached on stage 8 of the walk, and is photographed on page 1 is the main administration office of Hull City Council. It faces east, which was, when constructed, and opened in 1916, the direction of most of Hull's commerce, towards the High Street and the Market Place. Like many Cities the commercial centre has moved now, in fact to the West leaving the Guildhall with its main entrance facing the back of the main shopping area.

This is a fine building, designed by Sir Edwin Cooper and carries listed building status (granted in 1973) but was completed in 1916 from a start in 1903.

The original site of administration, by non-elected Justices of the Peace, was situated at the Southern end of Market Place, beyond the Statue of William of Orange, called in 1333 a Moot Hall, later a Common Hall and then Guildhall. This is at the opposite end of one of the roads leading from the junction with the Guildhall called Lowgate.

The Guildhall was built to incorporate, in the western section, the Police Courts, the name of which can still be seen embossed in the black ironwork of the western doors and these courts became the Magistrates Courts in 1952. The building also housed Quarter Sessions, a middle tier form of Court until 1970 when Crown Courts were devised and this Court eventually moved across the road to the Modern Crown Court in 1998, together with the County Court for Civil Cases which also followed across the road. A complete holding cell block was incorporated in the Guildhall and a van dock, built for prisoners coming from Jails, is still in existence, half way along Guildhall Road, which is the short road around the back of the building and which you can get to on foot. A man called Otto Brand, charged with murdering a trawler lad called Pepper, appeared at the Court in the predecessor to this building on the same site and in 1882 Brand, a trawler skipper, was hung at Leeds jail. Many other prisoners, charged with murders and the like started their (i) legal careers in this building and ended them on the gallows at Leeds Armley Jail.

You can enter the building via the large doorway on the Eastern edge of the Guildhall and helpful Reception staff are on your left. Although you can organise a tour of this fine building, a week's notice is required and if you do not have this luxury you can view the sort of building it is internally along the main corridor, ending with a statute of the founding King who granted Hull a charter way back in the 1200s – King Edward the 1st. If you do go on a tour you are in for a treat seeing the Civic Part of the Building, the Mayors Parlour, Reception rooms, the Council Chamber and the Magnificent Banqueting Hall.

The corridors are lined with oak, and have many oak carved fruit, flowers and vegetables adorning the doorways. There are also ships crests on the walls, depicting the maritime history of Hull and its relationship with visiting war and merchant ships.

Incidentally the Mayor of Hull also carries the ceremonial title of Admiral of the Humber, one of only 3 Mayoral Titles in the Country to also carry the rank of Admiral, the others being the mayors of Chester and London.

When Queen Victoria visited Hull in the 1850's it is said that she did so reluctantly in view of Hull's refusal to admit her ancestor Charles 1, and Prince Albert persuaded her to come and a painting of Albert can be seen in the Lord Mayor's parlour. It is very unusual to see a picture of Albert alone – usually he is portrayed with Queen Victoria. This is not to say they arrived separately, or that they had had a row – they didn't and hadn't as far as is known hadn't had a row but Albert's enthusiasm for Hull was known and appreciated.

Opposite, built at more or less the same time as the Guildhall is the former main post office, now the 3 John Scotts Pub, and above, following conversion, many flats. The building has similar design features to the Guildhall, and has a large archway leading into what was the Post Office yard, for horse drawn and then mechanical vehicles owned by the Post Office. The most remarkable thing about the pub is its odd name – 3 John Scotts. This comes from 3 rectors of the Church opposite – St Mary's – 3 incumbent vicars were all called John Scott and in charge from 1816 to 1883. Handy for those who had difficulty with names but confusing for the rest. Across the road from the pub, called Lowgate, next to the Modern Crown Court building is St Mary's Church which is opposite this pub, or perhaps it should be the pub that is opposite the Church.

Let's start with the outside of the Church. In the shot above you can see the under arch pathway along Lowgate and on the right, the main entrance to the Guildhall. The Church was first finished in 1333 – some thirteen years after the main church nearby – Holy Trinity. It is built on the site though of former chapels and if you look to the left hand side is a lane, logically called Chapel Lane. An arresting feature is the tower, which straddles the footpath into Lowgate. In the 1440s the Church was re built and in 1507 the Tower was added but not well built and fell down 11 years later. In 1697 it was re-built, properly this time and it still stands today. It was built over the footpath to accommodate some widening of Lowgate. Some of the church glass in the chancel windows is from the 1300's and contains the symbol of three crowns, the symbol of the City of Hull.

We really ought to go into this fine building. There is a door inside the tower arch and another door accessed through the small church yard to the right as you face the Church. A major internal restoration of the Church was carried out in the reign of Elizabeth 1 in the 1500's. As you go in you are immediately struck by the ancient, medieval feel of this building.

Look to the top of the pillars holding up the Church and you will see carved fish, weasels and leopards! What a combination! The altar is from the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1 and the organ dates back to 1751.

Back out of St Mary's look across again at the 3 John Scotts. (Of course you may want to go in for refreshments and you would be going back across the road from St Mary's into the former old Main Post Office.) The main entrance to the pub is where the main entrance to the Post Office used to be, in Lowgate. The post office yard round the corner in Alfred Gelder Street. But before that on this corner stood Suffolk Palace, home of the wealthy Hull merchant Robert de la Pole and his family until it was seized by Henry 7th and bequeathed to his son, Henry 8th. In 1539 Henry 8th went to York to meet the King of the Scots (James) who did not turn up (and I for one don't blame him). Henry went back to London via Hull and stayed at Suffolk Palace. It is thought he went bowling in Bowlalley Lane, at very early form of a bowling alley although this is not certain but he certainly ordered greater fortification for Hull including the whole of the East Wall down to the River at what

was Sammy's Point (now the Deep). He had an awareness of the strategic importance of the City. He sailed across the Humber with his Queen Anne Boweyn, landed in Lincolnshire and travelled back to London.

At the Corner of Bowlalley Lane is a building that had been a shipping exchange, then an insurance office, then a Youth Court, then a pub. It is also said that a maid at Suffolk Palace found herself pregnant to a Lord of Suffolk Palace and hung herself in the orchard in the palace grounds. Cleaners at the building when used as a Court are said to have seen a grey lady ghost and smelt apples in the autumn! Make of that what you will but Suffolk Palace was constructed where the 3 John Scott's pub is now and there was an orchard on the site of this closed pub referred to. Incidentally Suffolk Palace became Hulls armoury, the one Charles 1 was after – see the section on the Civil War.

As you come out of the Guildhall to your left but on the far side of the road, is the large column and on top is a statue of William Wilberforce, MP for Hull and slavery abolitionist. This now sits in the centre of the Hull College Campus and is 90 feet high, constructed in 1834 and cost then £1,250. It moved here from Monument Bridge in 1935. When it was dismantled the statue and column was cleaned, moved and rebuilt. It had been suggested that it might be moved for City of Culture year but the cost, at more than one and a half million pounds, proved prohibitive. Monument Bridge is described in stage 2 of your tour guide.