

# Public Art Trail

## About the Public Art Trail

This walk was developed by Christopher Marsden with the aim of encouraging the visitor to look around and above shop fronts. It describes a selection of the art that you may find in the town.

## Information

For more information about Discover Huddersfield or to learn more about the project and how to get involved, please get in touch through the following media:

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Discover Huddersfield



HUDDERSFIELD  
Town Centre Partnership Limited



Designed by The SHARP Agency, printed by Riasca

# Public Art Trail

- ← One way traffic flow
- Parking
- Pedestrian area
- Key:



Discover Huddersfield offers new ways to experience this amazing Yorkshire town, through guided walks, talks and trails. See Huddersfield at its very best: grand listed buildings and small independent shops; a place for radicals from the Luddites to the Sex Pistols; birthplace of Rugby League; a town rich in creativity, stories, heritage and the odd ghostly encounter.



**1 St George's Square**

A 1½ times life-size bronze of Harold Wilson, born in Huddersfield, leader of the Labour Party and prime minister of the UK twice. He was noted for his 'man of the people' trademarks of a raincoat and pipe. Sculptor, Ian Walters. 1999. On the parapet of Lion Chambers is a lion, a fibreglass copy of the original, which was in Coade stone. 1853. High on Britannia Buildings is an accessorised Britannia. 1859.

**2 Estate Buildings Railway Street**

Lots of ornate stonework on the building. Note the little figures making rude gestures in the first-floor string of foliage – there is one above the left-hand shield over the taxi office at 7a. 1872.



**3 Market Place**

The figures above the entrance of Lloyds TSB are said to have been carved in situ, 1912. The later wooden doors have views of four well-known Huddersfield buildings. Sir John Ramsden erected a market cross, soon after 1671 when he obtained a Royal Charter to hold a weekly market in Huddersfield. It's a stone column with a four-sided cap and above that a stone finial orb showing monarchical supremacy. The carvings show shields or coats of arms that illustrate Sir John's antecedents.

**4 Kirkgate, Waverly and Somerset Buildings on Kirkgate, Church Street and Byram Street**

Ornate chimneys, elaborate dormer windows and swags are of interest at roof level. There are also highly decorated doorways and carved heads. Sculptor, Ceccardo Fucigna, circa 1883.



**5 Boy & Barrel Beast Market**

Pub sign is an outsized wooden figure on the roof – the lantern works.

**6 The Sun Inn (Now Herbert's and Cafe 36) Cross Church Street**

The gables at roof height are ornate with suns rising and setting. Below is a George IV 1829 coin.



**7 Queensgate Market Queensgate**

The nine relief panels in many brown tones on the market make up *Articulation in Movement*, the world's largest ceramic sculpture. The panels show abstractions of the building's dramatic roof shells above and soft organic curves of the market's produce. While climbing the steps to the right you pass through a bigger panel. Sculptor, Fritz Steller. 1969.



**8 Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery Princess Alexandra Walk**

The stone figures by the steps are called *Youth Awaiting Inspiration*, a boy symbolising literature and a girl, art. Sculptor, James Woodford. 1939.

**9 Huddersfield Town Hall Princess Street**

The façade has key stones featuring busts of Matthew Hale, Friedrich Handel, William Hogarth, Isaac Newton, William Shakespeare and James Watt. Can you identify them? Each has the tools of his trade portrayed. Sculptor, Thomas Stocks. 1881.

**10 BetFred and Max Photos**

Mosaic of *Development of the Woollen Industry* from a cottage craft to the beginning of the industrial revolution. Designer, Harold Blackburn. Mosaicist, Professor Lavagno. 1967.



**11 Prudential Assurance Corner of New Street & Ramsden Street**

*Prudentia*, symbol of Prudence on New Street elevation. Made of terracotta, she holds a serpent and a book suggesting wisdom. Sculptor, Birnie Rhind. 1898.



**12 Junction of New Street with Buxton Way and Princess Street**

**Four Cousins, Princess Street** Mosaic: *Facets of the Local Scene* Designer, Mural Consultants. 1967.

**Buxton House, Buxton Way** Mosaic: *Systematic Sequence in Line and Shade*. Artist, Richard Fletcher. 1969.

**13 Former Cooperative Building Princess Street and New Street**

The buildings above Wilkinson have four date stones with architectural carving. The finest is the soffit of the oriel window below the copper dome showing wheat with the motto **LABOUR AND WAIT**. Under the clock tower is the motto **UNITY IS STRENGTH**. On the corner with Queensgate is a pair of lions as flag pole bearers. 1846, 1886, 1893, 1904 & 1926.

Here New Street ends. The view beyond was described by James Morris in his 1963 *Road to Huddersfield* and in 1965 was the subject of LS Lowry's only painting of the town; *Huddersfield*. Both works are in Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery.