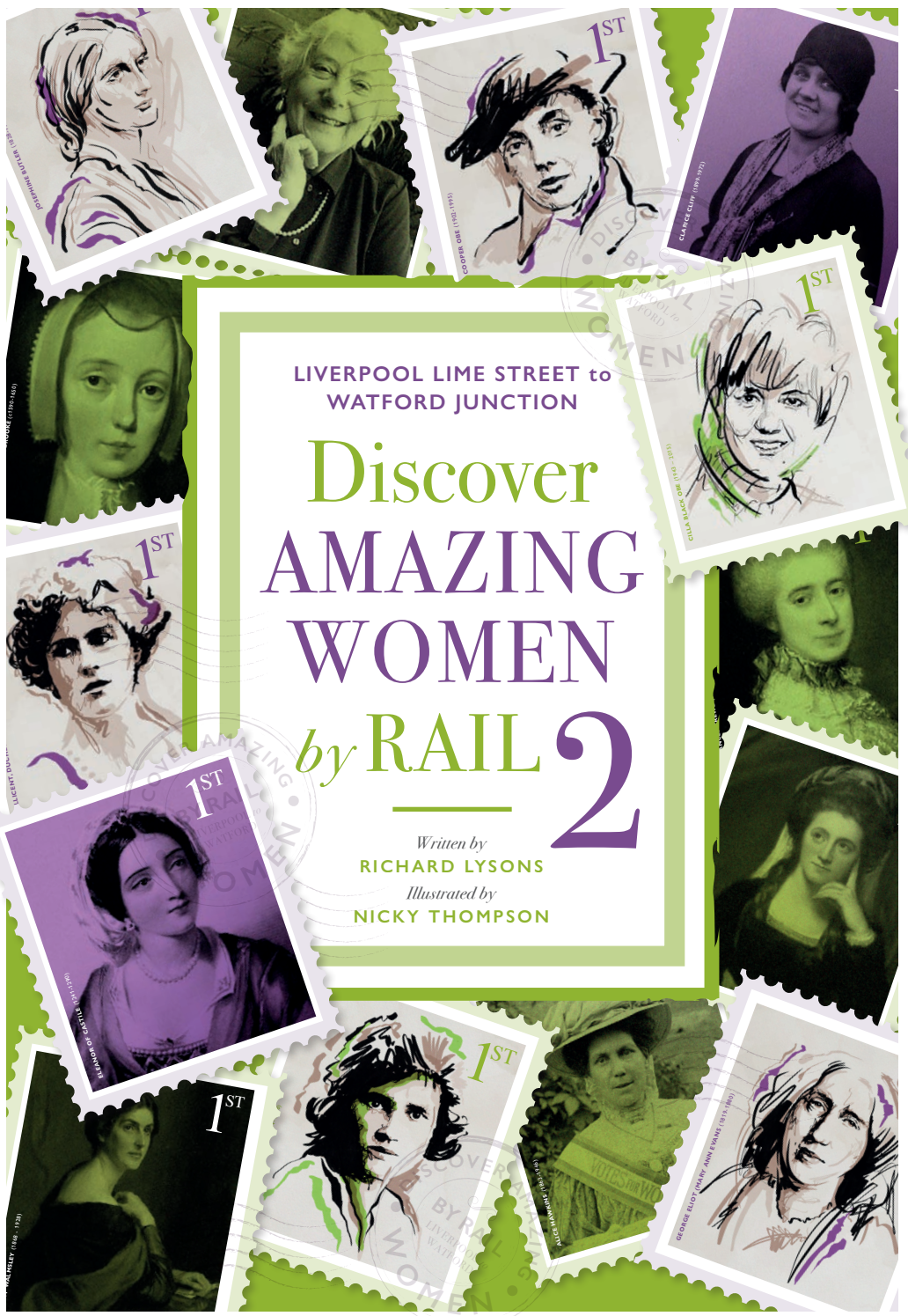


LIVERPOOL LIME STREET to
WATFORD JUNCTION

Discover
**AMAZING
WOMEN**
by RAIL **2**

Written by
RICHARD LYSONS
Illustrated by
NICKY THOMPSON



WELCOME

By Sally Buttifant MBE - a founder member of Women in Community Rail and passionate about community and railways.

It was so exciting to be part of the first Discover Amazing Women by Rail project, highlighting women with hidden histories, women who have achieved great things, women we shouldn't forget. What a privilege to be asked to write the introduction of Discover Amazing Women by Rail Part 2, following in the illustrious footsteps of Dame Jenni Murray but then I wondered could I do it? I am an ordinary woman, not many people know who I am! Then reading Discover Amazing Women by Rail Part 2, I was reminded that all of the amazing women you can discover by rail were ordinary women too, ordinary women doing extraordinary things. Ordinary women who seized opportunities to make a difference, so I too want to take this opportunity to encourage you to have a marvellous day out on the train and find out more about these fascinating women.

You can start your rail journey in Liverpool, and find out about the work of Josephine Butler fighting child prostitution or Kitty Wilkinson who realised the importance of being able to wash clothes and bathe to keep clean.

Walk the city streets following in the footsteps of the characters brought to life by Wirral born author Helen Forrester, stop off at the Cavern Club where Cilla Black started as a cloakroom attendant. A short train ride away is Crewe where suffragette Ada Nield Chew lived and worked. Ada raised awareness of poor working conditions in the factory where she worked and went on to be an activist with the Independent Labour Party.

Head south on the train from Crewe to Stoke-on-Trent and spend the day learning about the pottery industry in the main local museums. Oh, to own a piece of pottery by the talented Clarice Cliffe! Head to Trentham Gardens, part of the estate where Millicent, Duchess of Sutherland lived. The Duchess became a welfare reformer and served in France during the First World War, having organised a Red Cross Ambulance Unit. A campaigner, the Duchess was also known as "Meddlesome Millie", surely a sign that she was making a difference!

Onwards - there are fourteen stations to hop on and off at and 27 Amazing Women to Discover by Rail - take the opportunity and learn how ordinary women made such a difference!



Credits:

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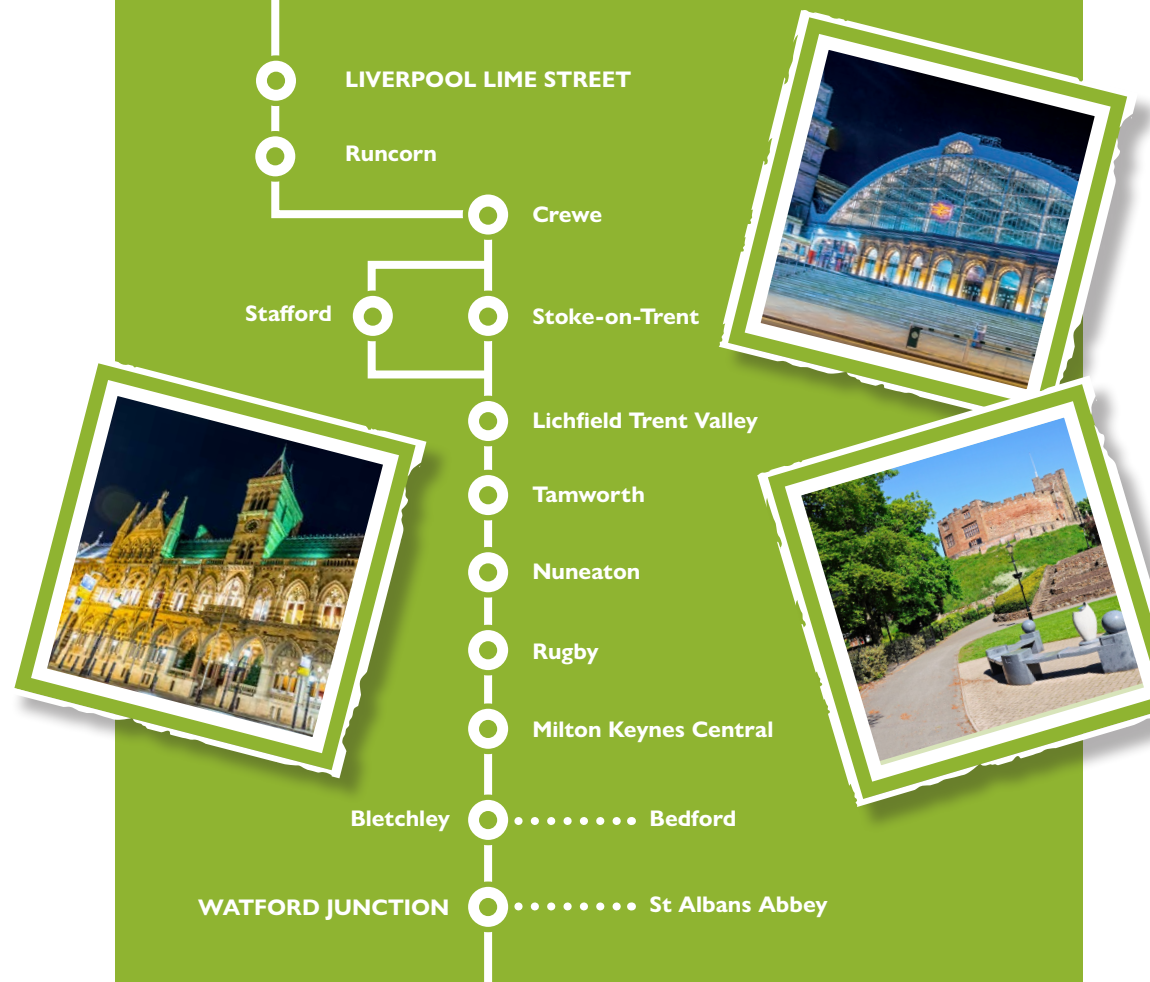
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Route Map...

The LNR route leaves Liverpool Lime Street and crosses the Mersey at Runcorn, soon reaching Crewe. The route now splits, one line goes via Stafford, the other through Stoke-on-Trent. The lines meet before Lichfield and the route heads south through Tamworth, Nuneaton, Rugby and Northampton. After Milton Keynes Central, the station at Bletchley links to Bedford on the Marston Vale Line. At Watford Junction, the Abbey Line goes to St Albans. Watford Junction is just 20 minutes from London Euston.



LIVERPOOL LIME STREET to WATFORD JUNCTION



Josephine Butler

1828-1906

Social reformer

Born in Northumberland, Josephine moved to Liverpool in 1866. Soon after arriving in Liverpool, she immersed herself in charity work and fought against child prostitution. Josephine was also part of the group that successfully campaigned to raise the age of consent from 13 to 16. In 1869 Josephine began her campaign against the Contagious Diseases Act. By touring the country with powerful speeches condemning the acts, she helped to ensure they were repealed in 1886.

Kitty Wilkinson

1786-1860

*Health reformer and washhouse superintendent
"Saint of the Slums"*

Kitty was born in Ulster and moved to Liverpool as a child. In 1832 she set up a wash-room in her kitchen to help combat the cholera epidemic. After the epidemic passed, Kitty pushed for the development of a public bath where the poor could wash themselves and clean their clothes. The campaign succeeded and, at the age of sixty, Kitty and her husband, Thomas, were awarded the position of Superintendents of the first public baths and washhouses. There is a marble statue of Kitty in St George's Hall.

LIVERPOOL



Credit: Courtesy St George's Hall

Itinerary

As you leave the station, you will see the statue of Bessie Braddock, politician and campaigner. Descend the steps and you will see the imposing St George's Hall in front of you. Discover the history and architecture of one of Liverpool's most iconic buildings and join in on a fascinating guided tour. Save time to taste the delights of the on-site coffee shop.

Walk through St John's Gardens, to the side of St George's Hall and you'll soon see the impressive buildings on William Brown Street including the Walker Art Gallery, home to some of Europe's finest collections of paintings, drawings, sculpture and decorative art. Here you'll find the World Museum featuring Egyptian mummies, casts of dinosaurs and lots more treasures from around the world.

To reach the striking Liverpool Cathedral, head back to the station and continue onto Lime Street itself, soon becoming Renshaw Street. Walk along until you reach St Luke's Bombed Out Church and then turn right onto Berry Street. At the end of this street, turn left at Upper Duke Street and walk uphill. Look out for interesting buildings along the way! You will soon see the massive sandstone cathedral that was only completed in the 1970's!

The Lady Chapel is the oldest part of the cathedral and is home to the 'Noble Women' stained glass windows. Among the 23 glass panels are portraits of Josephine Butler and Kitty Wilkinson.

Attractions

St George's Hall

St George's Place,
Liverpool L11J
stgeorghallliverpool.co.uk
Open: Monday-Saturday

Walker Art Gallery

William Brown Street,
Liverpool L3 8EL
liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
Open: Tuesday- Sunday and
Bank Holidays

World Museum

William Brown Street,
Liverpool L3 8EN
liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
Open: Tuesday- Sunday and
Bank Holidays

Liverpool (Anglican) Cathedral

St James Mount,
Liverpool L1 7AZ
liverpoolcathedral.org.uk
Open: daily



LIVERPOOL LIME STREET to WATFORD JUNCTION

Cilla Black OBE

1943-2015

Singer, television presenter

Born Priscilla White in Liverpool, Cilla Black went from part-time cloakroom attendant at the Cavern to appearing at the London Palladium. John Lennon introduced her to Brian Epstein and Cilla was soon signed to the Parlophone label working with George Martin.

In 1964 Cilla topped the British charts twice with *Anyone Who Had A Heart* and *You're My World*. From 1968 to 1976 she had her own series on BBC television. In the 1980s Cilla returned to prime time television with *Blind Date* and *Surprise Surprise* on ITV.

She died in 2015 after suffering a stroke.



LIVERPOOL

Helen Forrester

1919-2011

Writer

Helen was born on the Wirral, but her family moved to Liverpool when she was twelve years old. Helen's four books of memoirs describe her poverty-stricken life in the city before and during World War II. Helen worked for a charitable organisation on Stanley Street in the city centre. Although the family home is now demolished, you can still explore most places that Helen features in her books.



Itinerary

To reach the attractions at Albert Dock and the Pier Head, either take a Merseyrail train to James Street Station which is close to the waterfront or you can walk through the city centre following signs to the Albert Dock and Pier Head. On the way why not take a short detour to the Cavern on Matthew Street and see the Cilla Black statue.

Cross the busy Strand Street with care and head for the Museum of Liverpool on the far side of Canning Dock. This modern building tells the story of the city in fascinating ways and will appeal to all ages.

Clustered around the Albert Dock are the Maritime Museum and the Tate Liverpool art gallery, both well worth a visit.



Attractions

Museum of Liverpool

Pier Head, Liverpool L3 1DG

liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Open: Tuesday- Sunday

Merseyside Maritime Museum

Royal Albert Dock,
Liverpool L3 4AQ

liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Open: Tuesday- Sunday

Tate Liverpool

Royal Albert Dock,
Liverpool L3 4BB

tate.org.uk

Open: daily



RUNCORN



Lady Catherine Brooke
c1590-1650
Noblewoman

Catherine Brooke was the widow of Sir Richard Brooke. During the English Civil War, the Brooke family home at Norton was besieged by Royalist soldiers. While her son Henry was away from home, Lady Catherine Brooke refused to surrender the house and, with just 80 men, managed to repel the attackers.

Itinerary

Leave the station and walk under the by-pass; cross the road bridge and Waterloo Bridge over the Bridgewater Canal. Turn right towards the centre of the old town and follow High Street for the bus station. Take the 110 bus and ask for Castlefields/ The Barge. Buy a day-ticket. Once you alight from the bus, turn left for the Runcorn Cycleway and signs to Norton Priory. Turn right and walk along the canal towpath; it is a beautiful area. Go under the hump-backed bridge and turn off to the right and walk back over the bridge. Follow the red path for about a quarter of mile and you soon reach Norton Priory.

Runcorn Library is close to the town's bus station and has a good selection of local history books and also information on local attractions.

Catalyst is an excellent science-based family attraction on the other side of the River Mersey in Widnes. On a fine day we recommend the spectacular walk over the Silver Jubilee Bridge to Widnes. Look out for cyclists and take extra care walking on the bridge. There are breathtaking views of the river and the new Mersey Gateway Bridge.

Attractions

Norton Priory Museum & Gardens

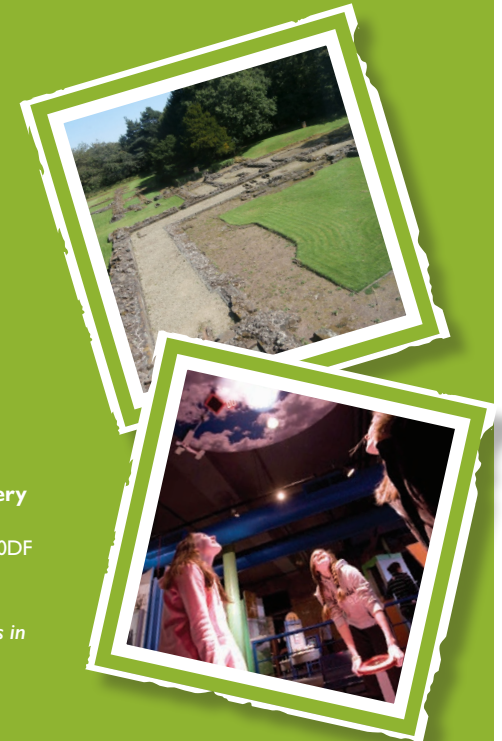
Tudor Road, Manor Park,
Runcorn WA7 1SX
nortonpriory.org
Open: Friday- Tuesday.
Seasonal opening times.

Runcorn Library

Granville Street,
Runcorn WA7 1NE
library.haltonbc.info

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre And Museum

Mersey Road, Widnes WA8 0DF
catalyst.org.uk
Open: Tuesday- Sunday,
Bank Holidays and Mondays in
school holidays.



LIVERPOOL LIME STREET to WATFORD JUNCTION



Ada Nield Chew

1870-1945

Suffragette; writer

Ada was born in Audley and later lived in Albert Road in Crewe. She worked at Compton Brothers Garment Factory and wrote a series of anonymous letters to the local paper about the factory's working conditions. The factory eventually found out it was Ada sending the letters and she was dismissed. After this, Ada became active in the Independent Labour Party and the Clarion newspaper, campaigning for women's suffrage.

CREWE



Lady Frances Crewe

1748-1818

Political hostess

Frances Greville married John Crewe in 1766 and lived at Crewe Hall and a villa at Hampstead. She was known for her sharp wit and knew many politicians and writers. The playwright, Sheridan dedicated his play, *School For Scandal* to Lady Crewe.

Itinerary

Leave Crewe Station, cross Nantwich Road carefully and follow the signs to the heritage centre. Go along Mill Street, walk under the railway bridge and turn right onto Vernon Way. Tesco is on your right and you will soon arrive at Crewe Railway Heritage Centre. Here you can explore the inside of an Advanced Passenger Train prototype, visit three signal boxes, ride the miniature railway and take photographs of standard gauge railway carriages and engines. In the exhibition hall there is an information panel about Ada Nield Chew and other interesting facts of this railway town's history. Look out for special events held at the centre throughout the year.

Crewe Hall is a Grade 1 listed Jacobean mansion two miles from the station, off Weston Road (B5472). After a disastrous fire in 1866, the hall was restored by E.M. Barry. After the Crewe family moved out, the hall was used as a military camp and for manufacturing. It is now a hotel, restaurant, health club and wedding venue. Why not book in for a tasty Afternoon Tea or a delicious dinner and experience the grandeur of the estate for yourself? From Crewe Station, although simple enough to find, the walking route takes around 50 minutes and is almost entirely by the roadside. A taxi ride from the station would take less than 10 minutes and is an alternative option.

Queen's Park is a traditional Victorian park, located just off West Street (A532). It opened in 1887 and still has its original layout with over 45 acres of land. Boasting idyllic walkways, crown green bowling, children's playground, boating lake, BMX track and outdoor gym. From Crewe Station it's approximately a 40-minute walk through quiet residential areas.

Attractions

Crewe Heritage Centre

Vernon Way, Crewe CW1 2DB

crewehc.org

Seasonal opening: April - October, weekends and bank holidays.

Small entrance fee applies

Crewe Hall (hotel, spa, health club & restaurant)

Weston Road, Crewe CW1 6UZ

crewehallcheshire.co.uk

Queen's Park

Victoria Avenue, Crewe CW2 7SE

cheshireeast.gov.uk

Open: daily





Susie Cooper OBE

1902-1995

*Ceramic designer
and manufacturer*

Susie attended evening classes at Burslem School Of Art and joined AE Gray & Co Ltd. Her specialism was hand-painted objects with muted lustres in hard wearing enamel colours. In 1929 Susie set up Susie Cooper Potteries with her brother-in-law and was awarded the Royal Designer For Industry by the Royal Society of Arts in 1940. She was the most influential and important woman in the British pottery industry, working for 64 years in the Potteries area.



Clarice Cliff

1899-1972

Pottery designer

Clarice was born in Tunstall and worked in the pottery industry from the age of 13 while studying in the evenings at Burslem School of Art. In 1927 Clarice was given her own studio, at Newport Pottery, where she was encouraged by her future husband, Arthur Shorter. Clarice developed the “Bizarre” style which used abstract and conical patterns, and by 1931 she was overseeing 1,000 workers including her own team of all female painters, nicknamed The Bizarre Girls. Clarice is now regarded as one of the most influential ceramic artists of the 20th century with her work being collected, valued and admired the world over. Clarice’s story is told in the film, *The Colour Room*.

Itinerary

Stoke-on-Trent consists of six towns so do not expect to see all these attractions in one day; you’ll just have to extend your trip or return to experience it all! Turn left out of the station and take a bus to Hanley (city centre). For best value, ask for a Potteries Pass and, after a short bus journey, you will arrive at the bus station. If you want to walk the route instead of taking the bus, it’s just over a mile and will take about 30 minutes, but the beautiful Hanley Park is along the way!

It is a short walk downhill from the bus station to the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery on Bethesda Street. Pick up a free Stoke-on-Trent pocket guide and map from the Tourist Information Centre here as well as individual guides to the other museums in the area. Upstairs are the breathtaking Ceramics Galleries, home to the world’s largest collection of Staffordshire ceramics including work by Clarice Cliff and Susie Cooper. On the ground floor there are Local History, Natural Science, Archaeology and Spitfire galleries, as well as an excellent gift shop.

Dudson Museum is a short walk from the Potteries Museum along Marsh Street. Turn right at Hanover Street and walk through the Dudson Centre reception area to the old bottle oven in the courtyard. We recommend the Staffordshire oatcakes in the centre’s superb cafe!

Etruria Museum can be reached by a walk along the Trent & Mersey Canal from Stoke-on-Trent Station. Follow the route to Spode, but descend the steps onto the canal towpath as soon as you have crossed the bridge. At Etruria you will see Shirley’s 1857 Bone and Flint Mill, the only remaining operational steam driven potters’ mill in the world.

Attractions

Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

Bethesda Street, Hanley ST1 3DW

stokemuseums.org.uk

Open: Wednesday – Sunday

Dudson Museum

Hope Street,

Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5DD

dudsonmuseum.vast.org.uk

Open: Monday to Friday
10am – 3pm

Etruria Industrial Museum

Etruria Vale Road, Etruria ST1 4RB

etruriamuseum.org.uk

Open: seasonal opening times
Entrance fee applies

World of Wedgwood

Wedgwood Drive,

Barlston ST12 9ER

worldofwedgwood.com

Open: Wednesday- Sunday

Emma Bridgewater Factory

Lichfield Street,

Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3EJ

emmabridgewater.co.uk

Open: daily

Tourist Information Centre

Bethesda Street, Hanley,

Stoke-on-Trent ST1 23DW

visitstoke.co.uk



Millicent, Duchess of Sutherland

1867-1955

Welfare reformer and ambulance volunteer

Millicent was born in Fife. In 1892 her husband succeeded to the dukedom of Sutherland. One of the family seats was Trentham. Millicent campaigned successfully against the use of lead in pottery glazing in the Staffordshire Potteries and earned the nickname "Meddlesome Millie". She founded the North Staffordshire Cripples' Aid Society. During the First World War, Millicent organised a Red Cross Ambulance Unit and served in France throughout the war. She was awarded the Croix de Guerre and both the Belgian Royal Red Cross and British Red Cross Medals.



Itinerary

For Trentham, take the 21 bus from outside Stoke-on-Trent Station. At Trentham remember to look across the road at the extraordinary Mausoleum. Wander through the shopping village with its distinctive wooden cabins. The Trentham Estate has award-winning gardens and you can see the remains of Trentham House that was demolished 100 years ago. Walk around the mile-long Lake, designed by Capability Brown. Why not take a picnic and stay the whole day?

For Middleport, take the train from Stoke to Longport. Walk up Station Street and turn left onto Newcastle Street and right at the roundabout. Turn right at Port Vale Street and you will soon reach the visitor centre.

For Gladstone Pottery Museum, take the train from Stoke-on-Trent to Longton Station. From the station, walk along Market Street and then up Uttoxeter Road. You will soon spot the famous bottle ovens on your right. See a range of traditional pottery making skills in action such as throwing, casting, hand decorating and bone china flower making. You can even have a go yourself!

Spode Museum is in easy walking distance of Stoke-on-Trent Station. Turn right out of the station, walk along Station Road and turn right along Glebe Street going under the railway bridge and over the canal and dual carriageway. Turn right onto Copeland Street and then left onto Elenora Street to reach the vast Spode Works.

Attractions

Gladstone Pottery Museum
Uttoxeter Road, Longton ST3 1PQ
stokemuseums.org.uk/gpm
Open: Wednesday- Sunday
seasonal opening times
Entrance fee applies

Middleport Pottery
Port Street
Burslem ST6 3PE
re-form.org
Open: daily
Entrance fee applies

Moorcroft Heritage Visitor Centre
Sandbach Road, Burslem ST6 2DQ
moorcroft.com
Open: Monday – Saturday

Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre
Elenora Street, Stoke ST4 1QQ
spodemuseumtrust.org
Open: Wednesday to Sunday
10.30am – 4.30pm March to December

Trentham Estate
Stone Road, Trentham ST4 8JG
trentham.co.uk
Open: daily, except Christmas Day
Entrance fee applies



Alice Hawkins
1863-1946
Suffragette

Alice was born in Stafford and lived in Red Lion Street, off Gaol Road. The family moved to Leicester where Alice worked as a shoe machinist. She joined the Women's Co-operative Guild and the Independent Labour Party. Alice soon became a leading suffragette, fighting to have an equal say in democracy. She was imprisoned five times in her struggle. Her husband, Alfred also actively supported the campaign. Alice's statue is in Leicester, but Stafford is equally proud of her achievements.

Stafford



Lady Isabel Stafford
1575- ?
Noblewoman

At the outbreak of the Civil War, in 1642, Lady Stafford, a Roman Catholic and Royalist, played a key role in keeping Stafford castle out of enemy hands. In 1643, now a widow in her sixties, she refused to surrender to the Parliamentarians. After a three week siege of the castle, Parliament captured the castle and soon after destroyed its defences so it could not be used against them, however the foundations remained, allowing the site to be rebuilt.

Itinerary

From opposite Stafford Station take the the No. 5 bus (save money and buy a return ticket) and alight at Castle Church. Take care crossing Newport Road (A518) and walk up the short drive to Stafford Castle Visitor Centre. Here you can delve into the rich history of the castle and pick up a souvenir of your visit. Grab a cold drink and explore the fascinating castle trail that takes you around the bailey and the woods, then up to the keep. Don't miss the medieval herb garden! Pick up your return bus from Newport Road heading back towards the railway station.

Take a leisurely stroll from Stafford Station through Victoria Park. Follow the signs to the town's Visitor Information Centre at the Gatehouse Theatre on Eastgate Street. Here you can pick up a copy of the Town Trail. The Ancient High House is the largest timber-framed town house in England and is home to a museum with period room settings and intriguing exhibitions.



Attractions

Stafford Castle & Visitor Centre

Newport Road, Stafford ST16 1DJ
staffordbc.gov.uk/heritage

Open: Seasonal opening times

Stafford Tourist Information Centre

Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street,
Stafford ST16 2LT

visitstafford.org

Open: Monday- Saturday

Ancient High House

Greengate Street, Stafford ST16 2JA
staffordbc.gov.uk/heritage

Open: Tuesday-Saturday



LIVERPOOL LIME STREET to WATFORD JUNCTION



Anna Seward

1742-1809

Poet

Anna moved to Lichfield in 1749 when her father became a canon at the cathedral and later lived in the Bishop's Palace where she stayed for the rest of her life. Anna went on to write poetry for many London publications, as well as a biography of Erasmus Darwin. She was involved in the landscaping of the Minster Pool, its curving shape inspired by a visit to the Serpentine in London.

LICHFIELD

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

1689-1762

Traveller, writer; vaccination pioneer

Lady Montagu wrote a series of outspoken poems about society's unjust treatment of women. She lost her brother to smallpox

which made her have her son inoculated in Turkey.

Lady Montagu brought the practice home to Britain where there was an epidemic in 1721. You can find a memorial to Lady Montagu in Lichfield Cathedral.



Itinerary

At Trent Valley Station, go up to Platform 2 and catch a train for the three-minute journey to Lichfield City Station. Leave the station and cross Station Road and Birmingham Road. Walk around the left side of the bus station and turn left, following signs to the cathedral. Ahead of you is Castle Dyke; walk through the old style Tudor Row with its quirky, independent shops.

You will emerge on Bore Street; turn right and then left to reach St Mary's with its single tall spire. Pick up a free street map here and pop upstairs for a coffee. Pick up the Minster's Trail, a heritage trail aimed at children.

Across from St Mary's is the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum & Bookshop. Explore the five floors of this 18th century house which was home to the creator of the first English dictionary.

Leave this house and turn right and walk through the Market Square. Turn left into Dam Street. Pass the beautiful Minster Pool on your left and you are soon facing the magnificent Lichfield Cathedral.

Enter the cathedral through the main west door and immediately on your left are memorials for both Anna Seward and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Sit down for a while and enjoy the peace and splendour of this medieval building.

On the west side of the cathedral close is the Erasmus Darwin House. Enter either via Beacon Street or through the wonderful Herb Garden. Darwin, grandfather of the more famous Charles, moved into this house in 1758 where he became friends with Anna Seward. Visit The Inventions Room, The Lunar and Seminar Room and find out more about this remarkable family.



Attractions

The Hub at St Mary's

Market Square, Lichfield WS13 6LG

thehubstmarys.co.uk

Open: Tuesday – Saturday

The Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum & Bookshop

Breadmarket Street,
Lichfield WS13 6LG

samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk

Open: daily.

Seasonal opening times.

Lichfield Cathedral

The Close, Lichfield WS13 7LD

lichfield-cathedral.org

Open: daily

Erasmus Darwin House

Beacon Street, Lichfield
WS17 7AD

erasmusdarwin.org

Open: April – October:

daily; November – March :

Thursday – Monday

TAMWORTH



Aethelflaed

c 870-918

Queen of Mercia and warrior

Aethelflaed was the daughter of Alfred the Great, King of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex. After the death of her father and brother, she ruled as Lady of the Mercians and built defences against the Danes in several towns, including Tamworth. Aethelflaed is classed as one of the most powerful women to have lived during the Dark Ages.

Itinerary

As soon as you leave Tamworth Station you will see the remarkable modern sculpture of Queen Aethelflaed by Luke Perry. The impressive statue cannot be reached on foot; however, you can get a good view and photograph from the pavement. A short five-minute walk away you'll find the town centre. Use the crossings over Offa Drive and Albert Road and walk along Victoria Road, following the signs to the town centre.

Tamworth is a small town with lots of fascinating buildings. To help find your way around, head for the Tamworth Heritage Centre (check on their website for current address). Look at the exhibitions in this volunteer-run hub and collect a copy of the Tamworth Heritage Trail.

Head for the marketplace and pop into St Editha's Church. Here you will find another impressive portrayal of Queen Aethelflaed in the stained glass window in this beautiful church.

While you're in the area, Tamworth Castle and Gardens are a must see. Walk the short incline to the Norman castle and you will be treated with splendid views over the town. Step inside to be transported back in time as you take a journey through five historic periods, all key to understanding the heritage of the castle. From here take a relaxing stroll through the beautiful Castle Gardens where you'll come across another Aethelflaed monument.

Attractions

Tamworth Castle

The Holloway, Tamworth B79 7NA

tamworthcastle.co.uk

*Open: Tuesday- Sunday and
Bank Holidays*

Entrance fee applies

Tamworth Tourist Information Centre

Marmion House, Lichfield Street,
Tamworth B79 7BZ
visittamworth.co.uk

Tamworth Heritage Trust

tamworthheritagetrust.co.uk

St Editha's Church,

St Editha's Close,
Tamworth B79 7DA

parishoftamworth.org/stedithas

Open: daily

Nuneaton

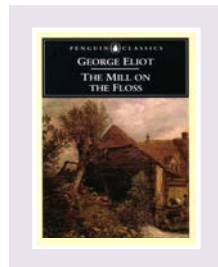


George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)

1819-1880

Novelist and poet

Mary Ann was born near Nuneaton before moving to Coventry and then London and is considered one of the leading novelists of the 19th century. Mary Ann used a male pen name to escape the stereotyping of women writers being expected to write romantic fiction. Out of her seven novels, all celebrated for their realism and psychological insights, *Middlemarch* and *Silas Marner* are the most widely read.



Itinerary

Nuneaton is rightly proud of George Eliot and several landmarks are named in her honour. Leave the railway station and walk down Bond Street to reach the town centre. Head to Newdegate Square to see the impressive statue of George Eliot.

Pass the Town Hall and carefully cross Vicarage Street; the museum and park are right ahead of you. Visit the George Eliot room and look at the display of artefacts associated with her.

On a fine day continue walking through Riversley Park and head for the small tunnel under the railway line. Turn right here and keep the Pingles Stadium on your left. You will soon come to Nuneaton Heritage Centre, based in an old primary school. Look at the exhibitions and treat yourself to refreshments.

Head to Nuneaton Library to explore their huge George Eliot collection, definitely worth a visit if you have time



Attractions

Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery

Riversley Park, Nuneaton
CV11 5TU

nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Open: Tuesday- Saturday; Sunday
afternoons and Bank Holidays

Nuneaton Library & Information Centre

Church Street, Nuneaton
CV11 4DR

[warwickshire.gov.uk/
nuneatonlibrary](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/nuneatonlibrary)

Open: daily

Nuneaton Heritage Centre

Avenue Road, Nuneaton CV11 4LU
nuneatonheritagecentre.org.uk

Open: Tuesday; Thursday; Saturday.
Other times by appointment.

Arbury Hall

Arbury Estate Office, Windmill Hill,
Astley, Nuneaton CV10 7PZ

arburyestate.co.uk

Open: Bank Holiday weekends only



RUGBY

Lady Dorothea Feilding

1889- 1935

Volunteer nurse.

Dorothea grew up in Newnham Paddox, just outside Rugby. She trained as a nurse at the Hospital of St Cross in Rugby, before volunteering as an ambulance driver on Belgium's Western Front. Dorothea's bravery earned her the Military Medal, the first woman to be given such an accolade during the war, presented to her by King George V. Others awards followed, including the Order of Leopold II, the Knight's Cross and finally the French Croix de Guerre.

Dorothea served in Flanders until the summer of 1917 when she got married. After a brief honeymoon, she returned to ambulance work in London. Dorothea's letters home have been published in a fascinating book, *Lady Under Fire on The Western Front: The Great War Letters of Lady Dorothea Feilding MM*.



Itinerary

Turn right out of the railway station and walk along Wood Street, turning left into Park Road. Soon you will see Caldecott Park, an attractive green space that's perfect for a pleasant walk, making time to visit the Toolshed Cafe.

From the park, walk along North Street into the town centre and you'll soon reach Market Place. Turn right into Little Elborow Street for the art gallery, museum and visitor centre. Visit the World Rugby Hall of Fame, celebrating the humble but inspiring story of the popular sport. Feeling peckish? Treat yourself at the excellent Maia Cafe. Make sure you pick up a copy of the Rugby Blue Plaque trail which includes such women as missionary, Louise Daniell and politician and magistrate, Mary Ruth Brooke.

Rugby School dominates the town. Founded in 1567, it is one of the oldest independent schools in the country. Rugby Union originated here and you can discover more with a guided tour of the building and grounds, bookable in advance through the school's website.

Attractions

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum

Little Elborow Street, Rugby CV21 3BZ

ragm.co.uk

Open: Tuesday- Saturday and Bank Holiday. Entry fee applies to the World Rugby Hall of Fame.

Caldecott Park

Evreux Way, Rugby CV21 2DT

Open: all year

Rugby School

Barby Road, Rugby CV22 5DP

rugbyschool.co.uk

Open for guided tours most Saturdays





Eleanor Of Castile

1241-1290
Queen consort

Eleanor was born in Spain and was the first wife of King Edward I. She travelled extensively with her husband including on the Ninth Crusade. Eleanor had at least 16 children, many of whom sadly died young. Upon Eleanor's death in Nottinghamshire, her embalmed body was taken to London. King Edward erected the famous Eleanor Crosses at each of the twelve overnight stops where her coffin rested on its way to London. Several of these memorial crosses still stand today, including one at Delapre Abbey.

Joan Wake CBE

1884-1974
Historian; archivist

Joan studied at the LSE. She helped found the Northampton Record Society. In the 1950's Joan was involved in saving the disused Delapre Abbey from demolition. The building became the Northamptonshire Record Office.



Itinerary

Turn left out of Northampton Station and walk up Gold Street towards the town centre, crossing St Andrew's Road and Horsemarket. In front of you is the massive 17th century All Saints Church. Head to the right side of the church for the tourist information centre in Sessions House. From here make sure to pick up a free Delapre & Hardingstone Walks leaflet as well as Ghosts Of Northampton Past, a clever interactive trail using your phone to meet characters from the past.

Walk along George Row, turn right after St Giles' Square for Guildhall Street and the town's Museum and Art Gallery. Shoe lovers delight! Here you'll find the world's largest collection of shoes with over 12,000 pairs!

For Delapre Abbey take the Number 7 bus from Bay 18 on The Drapery. The bus stop is right outside the Abbey Gates. Walk up the drive and head for this former monastery's visitor welcome area and shop. Inside the abbey you will discover 900 years of history through interactive, family friendly displays. Visit the quaint walled garden and stroll through 500 acres of beautiful parkland. Stop for a bite to eat at the Orangery Cafe.

The Eleanor Cross is a short walk through the woods on the east side of London Road, just outside Hardingstone village. It is one of the only three surviving memorials to Queen Eleanor. You'll find a replica of the most ornate Eleanor Cross in Charing Cross, London.

Attractions

Tourist Information Centre

Sessions House, George Row,
Northampton NN1 1DF

Delapre Abbey

London Road,
Northampton NN4 8AW

delapreabbey.org

*Open: Wednesday, Thursday and
Sunday. Entrance fee applies*

**Northampton Museum &
Art Gallery**

4-6, Guildhall Road NN1 1DP

northamptonmuseums.com

*Open: Tuesday- Saturday;
Sunday afternoons*

Eleanor Cross

Old London Road, Hardingstone,
Northampton NN4 8AX

LIVERPOOL LIME STREET to WATFORD JUNCTION



Baroness Jennie Lee

1904-1988

Politician & campaigner

Jennie Lee was a Labour MP for many years and served as Minister of the Arts from 1964 to 1970. She helped set up the Open University, based in Milton Keynes. Jennie's sheer determination was crucial in the planning of the university as she faced much opposition at the time. There is a building on the campus named in Jennie's honour.

Milton Keynes

The Bletchley "Girls"

The Bletchley "Girls" outnumbered the men by three to one at the secret codebreaking headquarters. They were mostly recruited from the Women's services: Women's Royal Navy Service, Auxiliary Territorial Service and Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Without the work of these women and their male colleagues, World War Two would have been prolonged.



Itinerary

Catch a train at Milton Keynes Central for the four minute connection to Bletchley. Turn right out of the station and cross Sherwood Road; Bletchley Park is right in front of you. This was the home of British codebreaking and played a major role in World War II. The house and various huts are now open to the public in this fascinating museum.

For Milton Keynes Museum, catch a train to Wolverton, a four minute ride away. The museum is 15 minute walk at the end of McConnell Drive. Alternatively catch a Number 23 bus from Milton Keynes Central to Millers Way which is a short walk from the museum. This wonderful museum has a 'Please DO touch' approach with displays of telephones, toys, farm equipment and much more. Allow yourself several hours to look round.

Attractions

Bletchley Park

Sherwood Drive,
Bletchley MK3 6EB

bletchleypark.org.uk

Open: *daily (except December
24th -26th) Entrance fee applies*

Milton Keynes Museum

McConnell Drive,
Wolverton MK12 5EL

miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk

Open: *Wednesday- Sunday*





Amy Walmsley

1867 - 1928

Schoolmistress and suffragist

Amy trained at Croydon Kindergarten College and was experienced in educating children and training teachers. She was appointed principal of Bedford Kindergarten School in 1895. The success of this school led to expansion to other buildings in Bedford over the next two years. Amy was a firm believer in the importance of quality nursery and junior education.

During the First World War she was very involved in providing welfare and recreation for the troops. In 1922 Amy became the first female county councillor in Bedford. There is a blue plaque at 14, The Crescent which was one of the sites of the training college.

BEDFORD



Dame Bertha Surtees Phillpotts

1877 - 1932

Scandinavian scholar, educationalist

Bertha was born in Bedford and both her parents worked in education. In 1898 she won a scholarship to Girton College, Cambridge where she studied medieval and modern languages. Bertha later became librarian at the same college. She visited Iceland and Denmark and became engrossed in the study of the archaeology, history and languages of Scandinavia. Bertha's research work included translations of Icelandic sagas, as well as studies of the links between Scandinavian languages and English. From 1926 to her death in 1932 she was director of Scandinavian studies at Girton.

Itinerary

Alight at either Bedford St Johns or Bedford stations. From Bedford St Johns station (MK42 9BT) head to Kingsway and then Prebend Street, carefully crossing Cauldwell Street to reach the river. From Bedford's main station (MK40 1DS) head along Ashburnham Road and Prebend Street for the river. We recommend walking along the banks of the River Great Ouse in an easterly direction towards the town centre; there is plenty to see.

The three museums all have free admission and are close to each other in the Cultural Quarter. The Higgins Bedford (art gallery and museum) is the best place to start. There is information about many other local attractions. There are permanent and temporary exhibitions of art. Fascinating displays in the museum galleries tell the story of Bedford, its people and their contributions. The John Bunyan Museum and Panacea Museum are both interesting. The Panacea Museum tells the story of another famous woman, Mabel 'Octavia' Bartrop. All three attractions serve refreshments, but check their websites for opening times.

Attractions

**The Higgins Bedford
(Art Gallery & Museum),**
Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3XD
higginsbedford.org.uk

Panacea Museum
9 Newnham Road,
Bedford MK40 3NX
panaceamuseum.org

John Bunyan Museum
Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU
bunyanmeeting.co.uk

**Marston Vale Line
Community Rail Partnership**
marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk

Marston Vale Line

The Marston Vale Line runs 16 miles from Bletchley to Bedford. The Marston Vale Line Community Rail Partnership works to engage the local community and help people get the most from their railway. The partnership manages the award-winning Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre.



Elizabeth Fuller
1644-1709
Benefactor

Elizabeth founded and built a Free School for boys and girls in 1704 as the existing school was too small. The new school had room for 40 boys and 20 girls. The Free School developed into the two separate Watford Schools which still exist today.



Daisy Colbeck
1890- 1965
Gardener

Daisy spent 20 years designing the garden at Cheslyn House and collecting species of unusual and exotic plants from around the world. Her husband Henry, an architect, designed the house. Since Daisy's death, the council has maintained the semi-natural woodland area that is often described as Watford's hidden gem.



Itinerary

Cassiobury Park is a short walk from Watford Junction Station. Walk along Clarendon Road towards the town centre. Turn right onto the High Street. Use the underpass to cross Rickmansworth Road and turn left past the Town Hall. The entrance to the park is soon on your right. The park is huge with a river, canal, paddling pools and two cafes to enjoy.

Cheslyn House & Gardens are now in the care of Watford Council and a Green Flag winner. It is a beautiful spot. Here you'll find three and a half acres of garden that are imaginatively laid out to invite exploration, providing a myriad of interesting areas including a pond, fernery, large herbaceous borders and an aviary. Take the 318 or 500 bus and alight at Ridge Lane on Hempstead Road. Walk up the lane and immediately on your right is Cheslyn.

For Watford Museum take the short train journey on London Overground to Watford High Street Station. Turn right out of the station and you will see the museum, sited in a Georgian town house which was previously the site of Benskins Brewery. Visit the Cassiobury Collection of Fine Art which includes portraits of the Essex family and the old hall and park.

Further up the high street is St Mary's Open Space, a conservation area which includes the parish church, a Sensory Garden, Elizabeth Fuller's Free School and modern sculptures and seating. It is a quiet spot away from the busy shopping centre.

Attractions

Cassiobury Park
Gade Avenue, Watford WD18 7LG
cassioburypark.info
Open: daily

Cheslyn House & Gardens
Nascot Wood Road, Watford WD17 4SL
Open: daily

Elizabeth Fuller Free School
Church Street, Watford WD18 0EB
(private offices)

Watford Museum
194, Lower High Street, Watford WD17 2DT
watfordmuseum.org.uk
Open: Thursday - Saturday



Boudicca Queen of the Iceni

c. 30 A.D. - c. 61 A.D.

Queen of the Iceni

Boudicca (or Boadicea) was the wife of Prasutagus. After her husband's death and the annexation of his kingdom, Boudicca led a revolt against the Roman forces in Britain and destroyed Colchester, London and Verulamium (St Albans). She was later defeated by the Romans and died by suicide or illness soon afterwards.



Anne Bacon

c 1528 - 1610

Scholar and letter writer

Anne Bacon was a translator and trained in several languages. She was married to Sir Nicholas Bacon, Queen Elizabeth's Keeper of the Great Seal. They had two sons, the younger one Francis became a philosopher and scientist. Anne translated key texts of her day from Latin to English. This was at a time when women's intellectual and academic achievement was not always encouraged. The ruins of Anne's house survive in the grounds of Gorhambury Estate. Both Anne and Francis are entombed in St Michael's Church in St Albans.

Itinerary

From St Albans Abbey railway station, come out of the station and cross the main road, Holywell Hill (A5183) carefully and head past the leisure centre on your left. Follow the signs for Verulamium Park. This massive park is great to walk through in all seasons with its lake, bird life and playgrounds. On fine days why not take a picnic? Follow the signs and you will reach Verulamium Museum. The museum tells the story of everyday life in Roman Britain and is a good starting point for all visits to the remains of the Roman town.

You can now walk down Abbey Mill Lane towards the magnificent St Albans Cathedral. The visitor centre and shop is worth popping into for information, guide books and postcards. The cathedral has its own cafe, Abbot's Kitchen.

Head back to the city centre. St Peter Street is a wider extension of Holywell Hill and Chequer Street. St Albans Museum and Gallery is situated in the historic old Town Hall. The building still has the Assembly Room, Court Room and Cells! There is a cafe and gift shop, and you can pick up information on St Albans' network of fascinating walks. The Hertfordshire Way can take you from Verulamium Park to the Gorhambury estate.

To return to St Albans Abbey station walk back down hill along Holywell Hill, passing lots of interesting independent shops and eateries.

Attractions

St Albans Cathedral

Sumpter Yard, St Albans AL1 1BY

stalbanscathedral.org

Open 7 days a week

Gorhambury Estate

St Albans AL3 6AH

gorhamburyestate.co.uk

Verulamium Museum

St Michael's Street,
St Albans AL3 4SW

stalbansmuseums.org.uk

Open 7 days a week

Entrance fee applies

St Albans Museum & Gallery

Town Hall, St Peter's Street,
St Albans AL1 3DH

stalbansmuseums.org.uk

Open 7 days a week

Abbey Line

The Abbey Line runs for 6.5 miles from Watford Junction to St Albans Abbey. The community rail partnership was established in 2005 and brings together partner organisations to increase usage of the line.

Planning a Marvellous Day Out...



The key to a successful and enjoyable marvellous day out is research and planning before leaving home. We hope that this booklet points you in the right direction and gives you inspiration, but please bear in mind that attractions, web addresses, opening times and ticket prices all change. Likewise, train times, bus times and bus routes change too so please double check details before leaving home. Many of the attractions are not open seven days a week (some attractions are closed on Mondays, especially in Liverpool). We hope you enjoy reading about our amazing women and exploring places associated with them.

When using public transport, remember that there may be less options on Sundays and bank holidays and that engineering work can mean rail replacement buses which take much longer than the usual train route.

Go to the London Northwestern website to learn about Off-peak, Super Off-Peak and Advance train tickets. These will save you and your travelling companions lots of money!

There are many ways in which you can purchase tickets for your day out:

Online through londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk or nationalrail.co.uk

- With the **London Northwestern Railway App**
- At a staffed station
- At a self-service ticket machine
- Call LNR on **0333 311 0006**

Community Rail...



Community Rail is a growing movement made up of community rail partnerships, station adoption groups and an army of volunteers from across Britain. These groups connect their communities with the railway and play a key role in delivering projects which promote inclusion, diversity, creativity, sustainable travel, as well making improvements and bringing stations back to life.

Anyone can get involved in community rail – schools, colleges, local businesses, rail passengers, youth groups, gardening groups, friends, anyone! Volunteers can give as much time as they can manage and the wide variety of activities mean that there is something for everyone to enjoy. Our 'Adopt a Station' scheme enables individuals or groups to adopt their own local railway station, to plant, paint, create and improve. Great friendships can be made with station staff, other volunteers and members of the wider community.

As a company LNR are committed to getting closer to the communities we serve as this will result in us building a better railway. LNR are aware that we are merely custodians of much-cherished national community assets and we want to work with local people to use stations and train services to reflect and enhance community pride and prosperity.

There are three community rail partnerships on these LNR routes:

- **Abbey Line Community Rail partnership**
Watford Junction- St Albans Abbey
abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk
- **Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership**
Bedford- Bletchley
marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk
- **North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership**
Crewe - Stoke - Derby
northstaffsrail.org.uk

Further Reading...

Rail Guides

Rail Atlas Great Britain and Ireland - S.K. Baker
British Railway Atlas - M.G. Ball
Railway Day Trips - Julian Holland

Biography/ Autobiography

- The Brookes At Norton Priory – Andrew Abraham
- George Eliot – Kathleen Adams
- What's It All About – Cilla Black
- The Housekeeper's Tale – Tessa Boase
- The Life And Writings Of A Working Class Woman – Ada Nield Chew and Doris Nield Chew (editor)
- Aethelflaed – Lady Of The Mercians – Tim Clarkson
- Eleanor Of Castile, The Shadow Queen – Sara Cockerill
- The Bletchley Girls – Tessa Dunlop
- Clarice Cliff – Will Farmer
- Twopence To Cross the Mersey; Liverpool Miss; By The Waters Of Liverpool; Lime Street At Two – Helen Forrester
- Building A Better Society – Liverpool's Historic Institutional Buildings – Calum Giles
- Noble Women Windows In The Lady Chapel At Liverpool Cathedral – Barry Hale (photographer)
- Lady Under Fire On The Western Front : The Great War Letters Of Lady Dorothe Feilding MM – Andrew & Nicola Hallam
- Mothers Of The City (Twenty Outstanding Liverpool Women) – Michael Kelly
- Local Heroines: A Women's History Gazetteer To England, Scotland And Wales – Jane Leggett – Susie Cooper – Alan Marshall
- Trentham Through Time – Alan Myatt
- Codebreaking Sisters- Our Secret War – Patricia & Jean Owtram
- Cassiobury: The Ancient Seat Of The Earls Of Essex – Paul Rabbitts & Sarah Kerenza
- Dear Duchess – Millicent Duchess Of Sutherland 1867 -1955 – Denis Stuart
- People Of The Potteries – A Dictionary Of Local Biography Vol. 1- Denis Stuart (editor)
- George Eliot – Jenny Uglow
- Fearless: Dorothe Feilding's War In Flanders, 1914-1917 – Patrick Vanleene
- Secret Postings – Charlotte Webb


Station to Station...

Liverpool Lime Street	Lime Street, Liverpool L1 1JD
Liverpool South Parkway	Woolton Road, Liverpool L19 5NE
Runcorn	Station Road, Runcorn WA7 5UB
Crewe	Nantwich Road, Crewe CW2 6HR
Longton	King Street, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 1EZ
Stoke-on-Trent	Station Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2AA
Longport	Station Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 4ND
Stafford	Station Road, Stafford ST16 2AA
Lichfield Trent Valley	Station Approach, Lichfield WS13 6HE
Tamworth	Victoria Road, Tamworth B79 7JT
Nuneaton	Bond Street, Nuneaton CV11 4BU
Rugby	Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3LA
Northampton	Black Lion Hill, Northampton NN1 1SP
Bletchley	Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6DZ
Bedford St Johns	Melbourne Street, Bedford MK42 9AN
Bedford	Ashburnham Road, Bedford MK40 1DS
Milton Keynes Central	302, Eldergate, Milton Keynes MK9 1LA
Wolverton	Stratford Road, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5FR
Watford Junction	Station Road, Watford WD17 1EU
St Albans Abbey	Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 2DN

Remember to use the London Northwestern website or App for train times and prices.

Information correct at time of print. Train times and venue details are subject to change.
Please double check before your visit.

With thanks to Community Rail Network, Women in Community Rail, Richard Lysons, Alice Mannion, Nicky Thompson, Abbey Line CRP, Marston Vale CRP and North Staffordshire CRP and community rail volunteers for their support. In addition, thanks to all attractions and venues featured in this guide for celebrating and bringing the history of these amazing women to modern audiences. Special thanks to Sally Buitant MBE, co-ordinator of the first Discover Amazing Women by Rail booklet project.



When we think about having a day out or taking a short break, how many of us get in the car and head out of the area? We don't appreciate that much closer to home there are different days out. The towns and cities along the LNR route between Liverpool and Watford have a huge variety of attractions. These conurbations can all be visited by rail which means the enjoyment of the journey and the destination – double the day out!

And it is the hidden histories of Amazing Women that lead us to discover gems like Norton Priory, Crewe Heritage Centre, the many Potteries museums, Delapre Abbey and Cheslyn House & Gardens.

Discover Amazing Women by Rail Part 2 has been brought to you by community rail creative partnership working together. We hope that you will enjoy exploring the towns and cities along the lines by using London Northwestern trains, spending money in local businesses and supporting their communities.

Vicky Cropper Clarke – Project Co-ordinator
Richard Lysons – chief researcher/ photographer
Alice Mannion – editor, copywriter

lemondropcreative.co.uk

