

Horsham Society

with John Steele



Society launches free guided walks

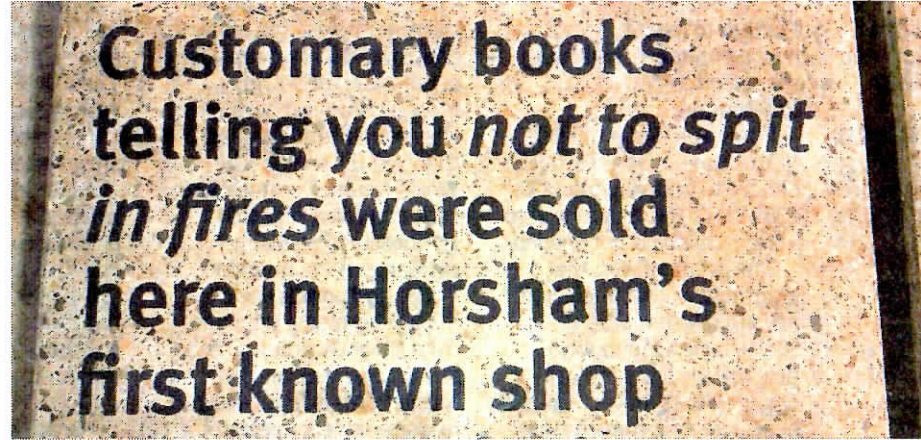
Horsham is a lovely town with over 750 years of recorded history and a proud heritage. Now there is a new way to see it and to show it off to our many visitors and residents alike.

The Horsham Society is launching a new programme of Horsham Welcome Walks to share our history and show off our town.

Know where to look and there is so much more to see and enjoy. Stand on the same spot as our ancestors and see virtually the same street scene they would have seen.

Look up and see the decorative plasterwork above the shops in West Street, look down at the plaques in the paving denoting points of interest.

The town centre still retains its mediaeval street layout, complete with its twittens and the open space of Carfax, now free of choking traffic. All around are traces of our history from the many wooden framed buildings, some hiding behind more recent frontages, to the modern buildings and trappings of the 20th and 21st centuries. All have a story to tell of a town that has evolved over the centuries in response to England's economic, political



Plaques in the paving denote points of interest

and social changes, as well as changing fashions and local circumstances.

Horsham's role as an Assize and market town made it an important centre of trade, commerce, justice and administration but later there were lean years when the town was much less prosperous. All these factors left their mark and their stories.

Today the town continues to evolve as the nature of the high street changes and

businesses unheard of a generation ago now thrive in our old, and not so old buildings.

It is this ability to recreate itself without losing its charm which will ensure that Horsham continues to prosper offering a wide range of shopping, eating and cultural opportunities, and a place where modern hi-tech companies want to set down their roots. So when does it all start? Well, the first guided walk is on Sunday 3 April then

every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon starting from outside Horsham Museum in the Causeway at 2.30pm.

Each walk will last about an hour and will be taken at a fairly leisurely pace. The route is wheelchair friendly but children and vulnerable people should be accompanied by a responsible adult. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day.

The walks will run throughout the spring and summer whatever the weather with the season ending on the last Wednesday of September. So please tell your friends and bring your visitors and family along. Phone the museum on 01403 211661 for further details. If you can't join us, or prefer to walk on your own, pick up a copy of the Horsham Town Trail leaflet from the museum.

Whatever you decide, we hope you find a way to share our pride in our town.

The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership is open to anyone who shares these concerns. For more information, visit the website www.horshamsociety.org or phone 01403 272814.