

**17 Claremont** The Brassey Institute constructed in 1878-80. It was built by Thomas Brassey MP for Hastings. Now the public library, it once housed the School of Art on the top floor and the rowing club in the basement.

**18 The Pier** Visible a short distance to the west, opened August Bank Holiday Monday in 1872. Almost completely destroyed by fire in October 2010, was rebuilt and opened again in April 2016.

**19 The White Rock Baths / Skate Park**

Opened with a men's pool in 1878 and the women's bath was added a year later. It also incorporated a Turkish Bath. Now the UK's largest underground Skate Park, which opened in 2010.

**20 Robertson Terrace** Lion and Unicorn sculpted early in 19th century by James George Bubb was intended for the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, they were later brought to Hastings by Decimus Burton. The figures represent the 'Arms of Dominion' from the UK Royal Coat of Arms - the Lion represents England and the Unicorn represents Scotland.

**21 Underground Car Parks** The borough engineer Sidney Little faced difficulties because this was the country's first underground car park. Not to be defeated he used design standards established for bridges. Look either side of the entrance and there is a gap under the road, so it is a bridge!

**22 Former Queens Hotel** Built in 1862 it was the town's biggest hotel with 200 bedrooms. It closed in 1981 and has since been converted to private apartments.

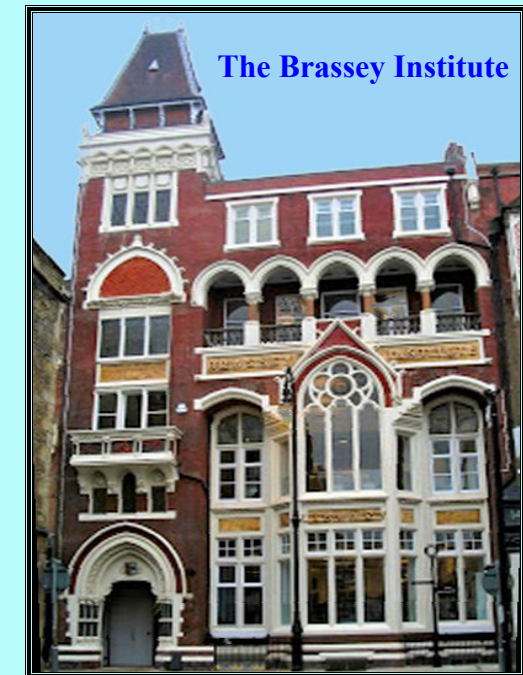
The Society has been set up for the following purposes in the municipal borough comprising Hastings and St Leonards-on-Sea.

- Serve as an umbrella organisation for existing groups in the Town concerned with conservation, heritage and development, in order to improve communication between them, share resources, and assist with and encourage information exchange and publicity.
- Promote enthusiasm for, and pride in, the Town throughout the community.
- Celebrate the 'Spirit of Hastings and St. Leonards' and promote its recognition as one of England's great historic towns.
- Help care for the beauty of the Town's natural setting.
- Work with the local authority, planning committees, voluntary organisations, charities, and other groups with similar aims to the Society, in planning for the Town's future.

**Membership**

Details of membership, with application form and subscriptions rates, are available from:

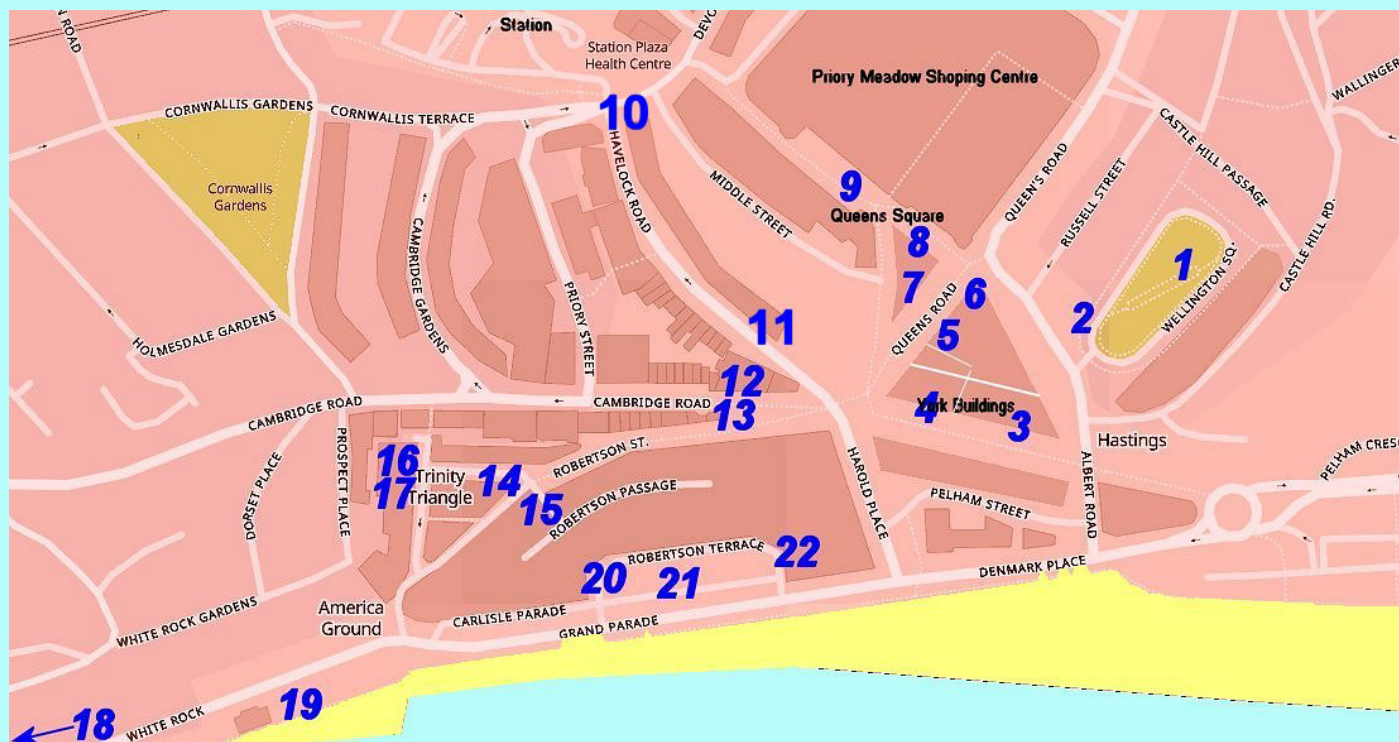
[www.hastingsandstleonardssociety.org.uk](http://www.hastingsandstleonardssociety.org.uk)



Hastings, for ever associated with the battle 6 miles to the North West, was an important established port even before 1066, being a fortified burgh and having a mint. Storms in the 13th century reduced it to a small fishing village based in what is known today as the Old Town.

By the early 19th Century, pressure from the growing tourist industry made developers move round the castle to the Priory Valley (Hastings' port prior to the storms) and the town centre grew to how we know it now. The arrival of the railway in 1851 hastened this process and the Hastings you see today contains some fine Victorian architecture.

## An easy walk starting from Wellington Square



**1 Wellington Square** Was built from 1825 after the Castle Cliff was cut away, allowing the Old Town to expand to the west.

**2 Wellington Square Baptist Church** Built 1838 is Grade II listed. Before its completion meetings were held in local public houses.

**3 Wellington Place, York Buildings** Look above the shops at the private houses that were all converted as the town expanded after the railway arrived.

**4 Wellington Place, York Buildings** Look for the shop which appears to be built from black glazed bricks which are 'Mathematical' tiles applied to timber frames to create the appearance of more expensive brickwork.

**5 Queens Arcade** Logie Baird's television workshop is a short distance into Queens Arcade, look on the wall for the plaque just as the roof height increases.

**6 Queens Road** The Odeon building was originally the Gaiety Theatre, which opened in 1882 and had a capacity of 1,600. It became a cinema in the 1930s.

**7 Queens Road** The Town Hall is Grade II listed and was built in 1881 after a national competition to produce a suitable design was won by Henry Ward.

**8 Queens Square** The statue of Prince Albert by Edwin Stirling - see information board.

**9 Queens Square** The cricketer statue by Allan Sly 1997 records this was once the Cricket Ground. The ball can be seen high up on a shop wall.

**10 Havelock Road** Note how Havelock Road is much higher than the roads to either side. This is because it was built up from spoil taken from the railway tunnels. A Victorian public house, originally the Old Golden Cross, stands on the corner (the cross is on the roof but only visible from a distance).

**11 Havelock Road** At the lower end of the road is the fine building of the Nat West Bank, constructed in the 1930s, originally the Westminster Bank.

**12 Robertson Street** As the roads merge, look above Yates, where a blue plaque records Charles Dickens reading from his works in 1861.

**13 Robertson Street** Memorial Art Gallery. Look high up on the wall roughly opposite Yates and you will see the name cast in the stonework. A very early photographers studio with large windows to provide much needed light.

**14 Robertson Street** Holy Trinity Church. A superb church built on a very difficult triangular site. Designed by Samuel Saunders Teulon in the 1850s who also designed the Drinking Fountain 1861 outside, which is Gothic style and Grade II Listed. It commemorates Sarah Countess Waldegrave (1787-1873) as a tribute to her charitable work in the town.

**15 America Ground** The area is so-named as, in response to the Corporation of Hastings attempting to take control of the land in the early 1800s, the inhabitants raised the flag of the United States of America as a symbol of independence (see plaque under painting).

**16 Claremont** Parsons Steam Printing Works 1878-80 Grade II listed. The Hastings Observer was once printed here. It is still published but printed out of town.