

# PURLEY

## MAP & HERITAGE TRAIL



### Welcome to Purley

Purley sits within the cosmopolitan London Borough of Croydon, the name Purley is derived from 'Pirled' meaning Peartree Lea in Anglo Saxon and it is the Peartree that has become the symbol of Purley. Once mostly Farmland the town grew rapidly in the 1920s, a bustling town centre with suburban roads providing spacious homes located against a green backdrop- whilst still within close proximity to London with its excellent transport links. Purley is now a bustling, diverse, modern suburb, yet an array of history hides within this small close-knit community town.

#### 1 Purley Station (Blue Plaque Site)

Since 1841 a station has been on this site, renamed 'Purley station' in 1888, known previously as 'Godstone Road' & 'Caterham Junction'.

#### 2 Jolly Farmers (Blue Plaque Site) and Brighton Road

The Jolly Farmers is the site of two blue plaques, the first celebrating the site of an old wooden Beer house and the second to acknowledge the woe water which traditionally flooded the area. The Purley Rotary Clock unveiled in 1973 at the crossroads and can be spotted on the island opposite. The Brighton road shopping area is home to a collection of Victorian Mock Tudor and Art Deco buildings of architectural significance from the 19th and 20th century.

#### 3 Purley High St

At the end of the High Street Astoria Court was built on the site of the former cinema, opened in 1934 but demolished in the late 90's, a floor mural signifies its cinematic history.

#### 4 Christ Church

Christ Church dates from 1877, built as the new parish church for Purley.

#### 5 Rotary Field

Site of the Iron Railway, reputedly the world's first 'public' railway and the Iron Horse sculpture.



#### 6 Purley War Memorial Hospital & The United Reformed Church

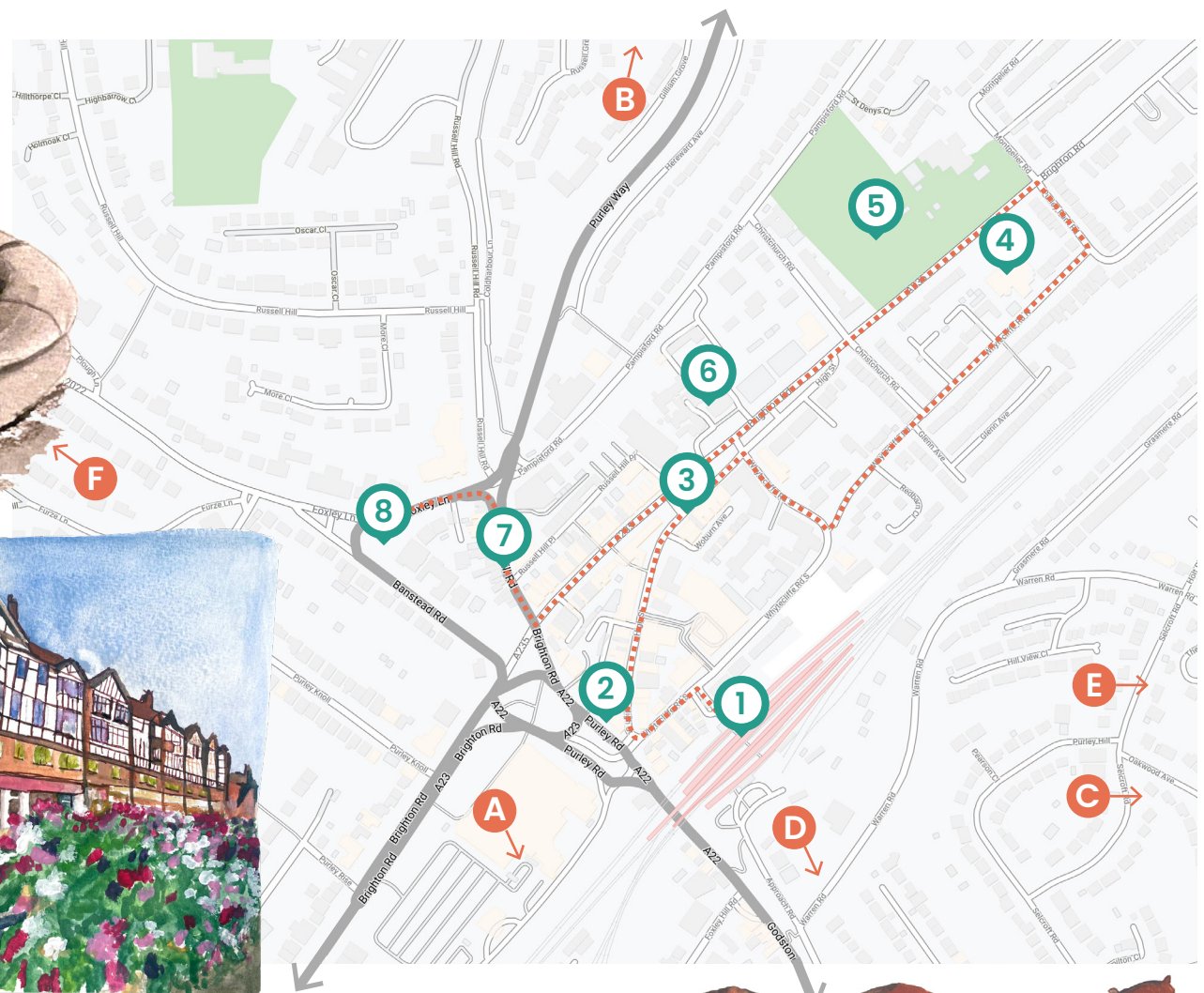
Originally a cottage hospital Purley War Memorial Hospital was renamed after World War I. A milestone marker from 1743 can be found at the front of the hospital ground. The United Reformed Church next door, built in 1903 was used as a First Aid Post in World War II.

#### 7 Russell Hill


Russell Hill Parade named after Lord John Russell, the first president of the Warehousemen, Clerks' and Drapers' School, which opened in 1866 and can be found a short walk up the hill. Since 1962 the premises have been occupied by Thomas More and Margaret Roper Schools.

#### 8 Purley Fountain & Library Gardens (Blue plaque site)

Site of the Purley Fountain, built to commemorate the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). A Blue plaque on the Library building also identifies the site as where Southern England's first Railway once ran through.



### How to get to Purley

 Purley station is served by Southern, South Eastern and Thameslink trains to London, Horsham, Reigate, Caterham, Tattenham Corner and Gatwick.

 Accessed by busses 60, 127, 166, 289, 359, 405, 407, 412, 434, 455, 466, 612 and N68.

 Located 15 minutes from Junctions 6 & 7 of the M25 and at the crossroad of the A22 and A23.

# interesting PURLEY FACTS



## Nearby Places of Interest

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fact

### Purley was made famous by BBC Sitcom Terry & June

The popular BBC sitcom that aired from 1979–1987 featured Purley as the home of its middle-class characters Terry & June. The series was voted in the top 100 British Sitcoms.

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### Famous Residents

Purley has been the birth place and home to a number of notable residents over the years, including;

Michael Arthur–Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University  
Jay Aston–singer with the band Bucks Fizz  
Derren Brown–magician and mentalist  
Peter Cushing –Actor  
Brian Fahey– composer  
Andy Frampton–Footballer  
Shelagh Fraser–Actress  
Laura Hamilton–TV personality  
Nigel Harman–Actor  
Sir Bernard Ingham–Margaret Thatcher’s former press secretary  
Sir David Lane–Ground breaking Oncologist  
Martin Lee–Singer with the band Brotherhood Of Man  
Archibald Low–Pioneer of radio guidance systems  
Ray Mears–Tv survivalist  
Ron Noades–Former chairman of Wimbledon FC, Crystal Palace and Brentford FC  
Innes Hope Pearse–Doctor  
Susanna Reid–Tv Presenter  
Francis Rossi–Lead singer of the band Status Quo  
John Horne Tooke–English politician & Philologist from the 18th century  
Wilfred Zaha–Premiership Footballer

#### A Kenley Aerodrome

The former 'Royal Air Force Station, Kenley' was an airfield station for the Royal Flying Corps in the first World War and the RAF in the second world war. It played a significant role during the Battle of Britain as one of the three RAF stations tasked with the defence of London. The site now owned by the Ministry Of Defence remains an active airfield. More recently the Kenley Revival Project which was a Heritage lottery funded project, preserves and protects the Aerodrome. The Aerodrome is the most intact fighter airfield from World War II and is also a popular local spot for walkers and cyclists and leads onto the open space of Kenley Common.

[www.Kenleyrevival.org](http://www.Kenleyrevival.org)  
[www.Kafg.org.uk](http://www.Kafg.org.uk)

#### B Croydon Airport Purley Way

Opened in 1920 Croydon Airport was the UK's major and only international airport during the interwar period. The airport held the acclaim of being the birthplace of the world's first air traffic control and having the world's first integrated airport terminal. During World War II its name changed to RAF Croydon, as its role changed to a fighter airfield to support the Battle of Britain. Also famous as the departure point of Amy Johnson's first Solo transatlantic flight. The airport closed in 1959 when London Heathrow airport became the primary airport for London. Guided tours are available through the Historic Croydon Airport Trust.

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



#### C Peter Cushing's Childhood Home (ENGLISH HERITAGE Blue plaque site)

The house in St James' Road, Purley was the childhood home of Peter Cushing OBE (26 May 1913–11 Aug 1994) the Actor's career spanned 6 decades and he appeared in over 90 films, his best-known roles included the Hammer Production Horror Films and Star Wars.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

#### D Gardner's Pleasure Resort (Blue Plaque site)

The main entrance of the resort can be seen from the Godstone road, established in 1892 at the foot of Riddlesdown Common, until 1931 it was popular with Victorian Day Trippers coming in their thousands, to partake in entertainment such as swing boats and coconut shys.

#### E Riddlesdown Common

43 hectares of beautiful green space, owned and maintained by the 'City of London Corporation', consisting of chalk grassland, ancient woodland and forested paths with far reaching valley-views of the surrounding Surrey countryside. Offering an abundance of space for walking and enjoying local wildlife such as wild flowers, birds and butterflies.

[www.Cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.Cityoflondon.gov.uk)

#### F The Webb Estate

The Webb Estate is an exclusive residential conservation area, designed by William Webb (1862–1930), then a local Estate Agent he began its development in 1888. His concept was to have a 'Garden Estate' for commuters to London. Webb laid out a garden landscape and then introduced 225 unique properties within the estate. The Webb estate is also home to The Lord Roberts' a village store from 1907, renovated in 2017 to a coffee shop.



PURLEY PANEL

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