

TEN THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT MARKET DRAYTON

SAXON TIMES

A SAXON SETTLEMENT CALLED DRAITUNE IN HALS WAS KNOWN ABOUT IN 650 AD.

GODIVA RIDES AGAIN

LADY GODIVA, WIFE OF LE OFRIC EARL OF MERCIA, OWNED DRAYTON PARVA IN THE LATE 11TH CENTURY.

THE MARKET CHARTER – IT'S OFFICIAL

SIMON, ABBOT OF COMBERMERE, ACQUIRED A MARKET CHARTER FROM HENRY III IN 1245AD. THE TOWN'S PRESENT MARKET FLAG IS BASED ON THE ABBEY'S COAT OF ARMS.

THE GREAT FIRE AND TWO CHARLIES

CHARLES II RAISED MONEY NATIONALLY FOR REBUILDING MUCH OF THE TOWN AFTER THE GREAT FIRE OF 1651. PERHAPS THIS WAS BECAUSE CHARLES I ACTUALLY DID SHELTER AT THE CROWN INN DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

A BETTER BUTTERCROSS

THE BUTTERCROSS WAS ERECTED IN 1824, COMPLETE WITH A FIRE BELL AND THE CREST OF THE CORBET FAMILY (LORDS OF THE MANOR). THE PRESENT STRUCTURE IS THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF MARKET HOUSES STRETCHING BACK TO 1560, WHEN THE ORIGINAL "MARKET HOUSE" WAS ERECTED, SOMEWHERE OFF THE HIGH STREET.

CATTLE, CATTLE EVERYWHERE

THE STREETS OF THE TOWN AT ONE TIME WERE ALSO NAMED AFTER THE ANIMALS TRADED IN THEM – CHESHIRE STREET WAS HORSEMARKET STREET, STAFFORD STREET WAS SHEEPMARKET STREET, GREAT HALES STREET WAS BEASTMARKET STREET, AND SO ON WITH LAMB SHUTT AND STOCK LANE. IN 1870 THE CATTLE WERE REMOVED FROM THE STREETS AND TRADED IN A NEW SMITHFIELD OR CATTLE MARKET, NEXT TO THE RAILWAY STATION. IT LEFT A SWEETER SMELLING TOWN.

MOTORING AND THE PREMIERE VOITURE

MR J RODENHURST OPENED A GARAGE AT 27 SHROPSHIRE STREET, AND SOLD THE FIRST CAR IN MARKET DRAYTON IN 1901. IT WAS A SMART FRENCH MODEL.

VERTICAL TAKE-OFF

IN 1908 ARTHUR PHILLIPS, A BICYCLE MAKER, BUILT A PROTOTYPE VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AIRCRAFT FROM HIS WORKSHOP IN QUEEN STREET. NO ENGINE AT THE TIME WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO LIFT MACHINE AND PILOT VERTICALLY, BUT A SMALLER SCALE MODEL DID TAKE TO THE AIR AT PELL WALL. HIS SONS WERE NAMED WILBUR AND ORVILLE.

BLANDINGS IN SHROPSHIRE

P G WODEHOUSE'S SAGA TAKES PLACE IN THE SHROPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE. BLANDINGS CASTLE IS PROBABLY APLEY CASTLE (WITH A TOUCH OF WESTON PARK), BUT MARKET BLANDINGS IS ALMOST CERTAINLY MARKET DRAYTON.

BRAVO FOR SIR ARTHUR

BEFORE THE DAYS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S FIRST PUBLISHED STORY WAS ABOUT THE BRAVOES OF MARKET DRAYTON. THEY WERE A GANG OF SHEEP RUSTLERS AND LATER MURDERERS.

USEFUL INFORMATION



THE FACTS FOR YOUR TRAIL

THIS HISTORIC TRAIL IS A PROJECT DESIGNED, PAINTED AND PRODUCED BY MARKET DRAYTON PEOPLE. ALL THE ARTWORKS WERE PRODUCED FREE BY THE ARTISTS OF THE TOWN. ALL BUILDINGS, SITES, LOCATIONS FOR THE PICTURES ARE DONATED BY THE LOCAL BUSINESS AGAIN NO CHARGE. THE TRAIL ITSELF GIVES YOU A FEEL OF THE TOWN PLUS AN INSIGHT INTO THE HISTORY OF MARKET DRAYTON. THERE ARE ALSO POST CARDS AVAILABLE AS A MEMORY. LOOK IN OUR SHOPS FOR THEM. CREATIVE DRAYTON IS ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ARTISTS TO JOIN US AND HELP PRODUCE OTHER PROJECTS WITHIN THE MARKET DRAYTON BOUNDARIES. PLEASE CONTACT

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PICTORIAL HISTORIC TOUR OF MARKET DRAYTON

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