



STORY
IN STONE

MOSAIC HERITAGE TRAIL & MAP

Story in Stone is a unique mosaic heritage trail which links the historic market towns of Sandy, Potton and Biggleswade



Mosaics have been used for thousands of years to decoratively record histories and celebrate events. Thanks to the Romans we have many examples in the UK. The methodology remains the same, but weather and future-proofing demanded a few changes.

This magnificent mosaic heritage trail illustrates some of the historic events which took place in the market towns of Sandy, Potton and Biggleswade. We are indebted to the huge input made by the local history societies who selected these stories.



Telling the story of Sandy, Potton & Biggleswade through mosaic



The aim was to leave a legacy for future generations and the best people to do this were the local communities under the master mosaic artist Oliver Budd and project manager Carolyn Blake. Workshops ran from January 2017 to February 2018 involving 11 schools as well as many members from the three communities.



This three town project was part of a £4m Market Town Regeneration Scheme made available by Central Bedfordshire Council and managed by Sandy Town Council.

The Mosaics



The Mosaic Heritage Trail is comprised of 15 panels measuring a total of 26.9 metres end to end. Look out for Captain Sir William Peel throwing a fizzing bomb in Sandy, the fire in The Crown Inn of 1785 in Biggleswade, and the windmill and Champion car in Potton. Discover the stories and many more.

Each mosaic panel has a plaque next to it explaining the stories told in the mosaic and who was involved in making them. The plaques have distinctive coloured bands around them representing their town council colours. Oliver Budd the mosaic artist designed all the panels for the communities to make in the workshops, working from the briefs set by the history societies.



Making these mosaics involved selecting and cutting tiles and tesserae, laying them out rather like a jigsaw and then fixing them onto a mesh with glue, ready to be fixed into panels.

When you follow this heritage trail don't forget to read the information on the plaques and before you visit look at www.storyinstone.org.uk for a greater understanding.





Explore our three Historic Market Towns...



Sandy is set in the Ivel Valley and the Greensand Hills. Its location has been strategically important for thousands of years. Evidenced by the two Iron Age hill forts and relics from a thriving Roman settlement which are on display in the town. The views from the Pinnacle and RSPB Lodge are unrivalled, with a great walking and cycling network, shops and restaurants. Sandy is well worth a visit.

www.SandyTownCouncil.gov.uk



Potton, a historic parish dating from the 13th Century, once famous for its horse fairs (the largest in the country during the mid 1800 to 1900s), local beer and the Great Fire of Potton in 1783, which destroyed a large part of the town. Today, it's a great place for eating out and browsing independent shops.

www.PottonTownCouncil.co.uk



Biggleswade is set on the River Ivel, a busy town was once at the heart of market gardening country. During the 18th C. it was an important coaching centre on the Great North Road, and many old inns remain today. Its most famous son is Dan Albone (1860-1906), who invented his own bicycles and tractors at the Ivel Cycle Works. Today relax on the market square at one of the cafés or restaurants.

www.BiggleswadeTownCouncil.gov.uk



Exploring the trail in sections or the whole route?

Your options are endless, you can complete the whole trail in a day - or see it in sections with friends after lunch or coffee, in-between shopping, or just whilst exploring the town. Will you run the trail, walk it or drive... it's up to you?



The full circular trail - all routes approx. 14 miles By car - Drive between each town and park in the centres, then use the map to lead you round, you will find postcodes on the map for your satnav.



By foot - Follow the trail around the towns and then use the rights of Way footpath networks between each town to explore and enjoy the beautiful countryside.



By bike - You have the option to include some off road routes using bridleways instead of staying on the main roads between towns.



By bus - take the bus between the towns, check out schedules and routes at www.CentreBus.info



By train - between Sandy and Biggleswade why not hop on the train, the journey takes just 4 minutes. Check the times at www.NationalRail.co.uk



These trails are within the northern end of Greensand Country - an island of distinctive, beautiful and loved countryside in the heart of Bedfordshire. Find out where to eat, stay and discover other trails, events and attractions on the interactive map at www.GreensandCountry.com or at www.LetsGo.org.uk



Image courtesy of Greensand Country

Footpaths to discover around and between the towns are; Biggleswade and Sandy Green Wheel and the Weneslawe Walk.



www.storyinstone.org.uk



Central Bedfordshire Council

