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SELF GUIDED HISTORY TRAIL

- Solve clues
- Discover local history

Suitable for all ages



SOLVE THE CLUES & FILL THE GAPS

What was Willesden like a long time ago?

From 900AD pilgrims travelled from the City of London to see the holy shrine & legendary holy waters of Our Lady of Willesden at St Mary's Church. The shrine of the Black Madonna is still there. Before railway building began in the 1870s, Willesden was a rural hamlet with scattered farms & villas, houses around a green and a single pub called The Spotted Dog. Here's what happened next...

Was Willesden ever green?

Yes

From 19_8[H] the British government invited people from Jamaica & India & Pakistan to 'help rebuild Britain' after the war.

1950

1960

New migrants worked in the new NHS, on the buses & in factories like the McVities _____[J] factory & the Smiths crisp factory.

Until the 1950s, Willesden was mainly Irish & Jewish. New Jamaican & Pakistani communities grew alongside them through the 1960s.

1970

1980

Cheap rentals & the 'largest squat' in Europe' at _____[L] attracted back-packers from Australia, New Zealand & Canada.

*Squat means living somewhere for free. It is illegal.

1990

2000

The Welsh Chapel was transformed to become the True Buddha Temple by 2010. Devotees are from Taiwan & Korea.

2010

2020

Brent Central -----[M] was the first joint Covid vaccine and testing centre in the UK in 2021.

_____ [A]
Cathedral owned land by the station & sold to house builders to make homes for new commuters.

1870

1880

In 1887 the _____ [B]
Railway Line opened & by 1889 the railway linked the city to rural _____ [C].

1890

Many new houses were built & the High Road took the form in has today. The library opened in ___94 [D].

1900

In 1905 new _____ [E]
trams linked Willesden to Cricklewood & Paddington.

1910

In 1914, _50[F] Belgian refugees arrived in Willesden at the start of the First World War. Local churches & synagogues looked after them.

1920

In 1925 the station was revamped with bright _____ [G]
tiles in the ticket hall & a diamond shaped clock.

1930

Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe joined a growing community and a new synagogue opened on Heathfield Park in 1934.

1940

Willessden's munitions factories & railways were a target for German bombs during World War Two.

60S/70S ARTISTS RECORDING IN WILLESDEN

JETHRO TULL
MOTT THE HOOPLE
SUPERTRAMP
DONOVAN PINK FLOYD
THE KINKS FACES
GERRY RAFFERTY
AMERICA HAWKWIND
LOU REED PAUL SIMON
ALICE COOPER YES
COCKNEY REBEL

Through the 1970s record shops, recording _____ [K] & live music venues boomed. Willesden became the British home of reggae.

Willessden-based record companies spread Jamaican music across the UK

Willessden Green joined the Bakerloo Line in 1939 & the Jubilee Line in 1979

In 1993 Willessden town centre got Conservation Area status. A brand new library & culture centre opened.

In 2011 The Spotted Dog pub's front - including the dog's head sign - was preserved when it became flats.

Zadie Smith's book White Teeth published in 2000 is based on her mixed heritage & growing up in 1990s Willessden.

WILLESDEN GREEN NOTICE BOARD

1

Start at Willesden Green Station, near the street corner.

Facing the station look up to find the missing 12 letter word & write it at B.

2

Turn right, then left onto Station Parade.

One station on the line in (1) contains the letters found in Cheese & Ham. The answer is above the door of No 1. Station Parade. Write it at C.

3

Continue on Station Parade towards the mini cab office.

Look beyond for an unscrambled MOUSE (adding a Q). Write the answer at M. What is the colour of the roof? Write this at G.

4

Return to the station and continue to the right*, stop at the first road on the right.

Look up the brick wall behind, writing the avenue's name at A.

*Look at the murals opposite. Find more details on the map.

5

Continue on the main road looking carefully at the buildings on the other side of the road.

Stop when you see two birds with beaks facing each other above a door. Write down the name above the door at L.

6

Continue to the lights. Cross to the traffic island.

Ahead on the left spot a building* name that 'sparks' your interest. 'Plug in' the gap at E.

In the 1930s an art deco space was built here to show off modern electric appliances. The name is all that is left.

7

Cross at the lights and turn left onto Willesden Lane.

Walk to a large temple (B on the map) to find a black urn through the railings. Multiply the number of legs by the number of golden deer on the roof. Write the answer at F.

Note there is Clue I

8

Turn back towards the High Road. Take the first left turn onto Heathfield Park. Continue to find a large corner building (a church).

Look closely at the column tops for stars (a clue that the building was a synagogue in the past).

9

Continue towards the building spotted at E. Turn left to join the High Road again.

Use the info on the map to spot points of interest along the way.

Take a closer look at the murals by Sainsbury's then cross the road to Costa (the old Spotted Dog pub)

10

From Costa, continue along the High Road & cross at the traffic lights towards the old library. Look at the Grange Road side of the new library building.

In the books displayed find The Travels of Fovre Englishmen 1612. Fovre is Old English for a number. Write the number at H. (You will also find the number on a plaque on the library building showing the year the first library was built)

11

Go back across the High Road and continue left.

At Willesden Green Baptist Church look at the initials of the founders carved into the walls. One set of letters reversed makes a hot drink. Write down a 7 letter word that goes with it at J.

12

Cross Huddlestone Road.

Look at the date above the door of the old police station. Take the first two digits. Add them together. Turn the last digit upside down. Could this be useful in an emergency?

13

Cross at the crossing and turn right.

Find the name of the next church. It's an anagram of ST SEW DARN.

14

Continue to Maybury Gardens. The answer to K is a little way down on the right.

Look for a doorway and write down the 6 letter word above it (ignore the 9 letter word)

Did you know the 5 most spoken languages (after English) in Willesden are Polish, Portuguese, Somali, Arabic & Gujarati?

SEE TAHAY

SALAAM

KEM CHO

OLA BOM DIA

CZESC

HELLO

Points of Interest

- A** Cat mosaics in celebration of local resident Louis Wain, the early 20th Century cat artist.
- B** The old school house by the True Buddha temple. It was once the only Welsh school outside Wales.
- C** The LSWB emblem on the bank at No.5 High Road stands for London & South Western Bank.
- D** From 1963 No.13 High Road was Musicland Records. Owner Lee Gopthal co-founded Trojan Records
- E** There is a beautiful rose window at St Andrew's Church, tucked inside the courtyard at the west end & the Islamic College next door was originally St Andrew's School.

START HERE!

Look at the directions & clues pinned to the Willesden Green Notice Board.
Write your answers in the gaps in the timeline...



20 MIN WALK TO
ST MARY'S CHURCH
& SHRINE

Bricks used to build in the 1880s
came from the Willesden Brick &
Tile Works. Bricks were made
using local clay.

The trail ends here.
Stop for a rest or keep
exploring using this map

= Big name musicians still record
here at the complex just behind
the shops. It is now known as
Battery Studios.

THE
LOST
SHEEP

The 'Green' was
around here!

Can you see the spotted
dog's head just above the
door of Costa coffee?

The Spotted
Dog pub
dates from
1762

In 2020 street artists Static
created murals near the station &
Sainsbury's.

5 MIN WALK
TO
SYNAGOGUE

5 MIN WALK TO
HINDU TEMPLE
EST. 1975

25 MIN WALK TO
QUEENS PARK

10 MIN WALK TO
WILLESDEN
JEWISH CEMETERY
EST. 1873

morgan

High Road

Brondesbury Park

Willesden Lane

Walm Lane

STATION
PARADE

WILLESDEN GREEN STATION

RAILWAY

THE SPOTTED DOG

A

A

C

D

E

B