



8 The Mead

Home of the Betjeman family between 1951 and 1972

9 Betjeman Millennium Park

This peaceful, small woodland area was established as a Park in 1997 by a local Charitable Trust to celebrate both the Millennium and the work of John Betjeman. Lines from his poems feature on six stones, inscribed by the sculptor Alec Peever.



4 The Old Vicarage

According to the Rev. John Schaufelberger John would shuffle down here on a Saturday morning and say 'Boys! I've brought a bottle of sherry, just to have a little drink before lunch.'



10 The Shears Public house

Where John Betjeman was reputed to have regularly played darts in the early evening.



1 King Alfred Statue

Sculpted by Count Greichen 1876. John Betjeman and his family moved to Wantage in 1951. In John Betjeman's book, 'Archie and the Strict Baptists', Archie is shown flying over the Market Square and Statue. Grove and Farnborough are also featured.



7 Betjeman Lane

Previously known to some locals as Lord's Lane. The location is featured in the poem 'On Leaving Wantage, 1972'



6 Parish Church

The Church of St. Peter & St. Paul. Inspiration for 'Wantage Bells'. In the ringing chamber of the tower is a copy of 'Wantage Bells' written in his own hand. It is said that he wrote it for the wedding of his daughter Candida, during which the bells were rung.



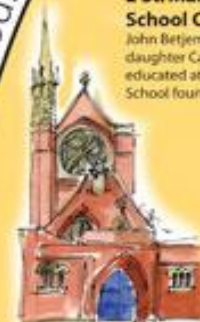
3 King Alfred's Kitchen

Penelope Betjeman's 'King Alfred's Kitchen' a tea shop which became popular with Oxford undergraduates.



2 St. Mary's School Chapel

John Betjeman's daughter Candida was educated at St. Mary's School founded in 1873



5 Vale and Downland Museum

Formerly the doctor's surgery from the mid-19th until 1974. Doctor Squires and his family were close friends of the Betjemans.



This pictorial map has been designed to provide a pleasant, gentle walk around the town of Wantage and places associated with Sir John Betjeman. It should only take around 1 hour. Please note that it is intended only as a general guide and more information can be obtained from the Vale and Downland Museum.

Other Literary Figures with local connections are Thomas Hardy, Thomas Hughes, John Masfield, Jonathan Swift, Compton Mackenzie and others.
Produced in conjunction with the Wantage Betjeman Festival 2011 www.wantagebetjeman.com
Contact: for more information about the festival or guided tours please contact Jim Mitchell on Wantage 01235 767975 or email: jamesmitchell@onevoice.freereserve.co.uk

Betjeman's Wantage



Priory Road

The Cloisters

Mill Street

Grove Street

Market Place

Wallingford Street

Newbury Street

Church Street

A417

A338