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Historical Walk Around the Village

Starting at the George Hotel, High Street.

- 1** The George Hotel shows timber framing at the rear. Parts of it date from the late 16th century north side, a jettied upper storey can be seen.
- 2** Tying platform opposite the Old Bakery (previously Village Forge). On this circular iron platform pavement the hot iron tyre was lowered onto the wooden cart wheel and then doused with water wheel.
- 3** War Memorial, Cagefoot Lane. The memorial was originally erected in 1923, and the plaques killed in the two world wars were added in 2000.
- 4** Air Raid Shelter, Park Road. The only surviving Second World War air raid shelter still on public pavement. See page 15. 5 Evangelical Free Church, described on page 15.
- 6** The Plough Inn dates from the 17th century, and is one of three coaching inns in the High Street.
- 7** The White Hart. The inn was used by the London to Brighton coach for a change of horses, and was a local tanners in the 17th century.
- 8** St Anthony's Cottage. This is the oldest of five "hall houses" in the High Street, and dates from the 17th century.
- 9** Martyn Lodge, Church Street. The blue plaque by the entrance door indicates that between 1810 and 1815 the home of Canon Nathaniel Woodard, founder of 16 "Woodard Schools" including Lancing, Hurstwood and Ardingly Colleges.
- 10** The Cat House. Built about 1550. In the late 19th century it was occupied by Bob Ward, a local tanner who decorated the house with images of cats with birds in their claws. This was to remind Canon Woodard that he had killed Bob Ward's canary.
- 11** Parsonage House. This was the home of Henry Bysschopp, appointed the first Postmaster General in 1660, a position he held for three years. He invented the first postmark, known as the "Bysschopp's mark".
- 12** St Peter's Parish Church, described on page 14.
- 13** Southlands and Bramble Cottage. These houses were built in 1834 as the "National Girls School" and were used as a school until 1952.
- 14** Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church, described on page 14.
- 15** The Tanyard Field was the site of Henfield's tannery from the mid 16th century until 1844. The site is now a public park.

because of the spring fed pond required to soak the hides.

- 16** Potwell. The blue plaque denotes that this was the birthplace of the botanist William Borrer.
- 17** Sandpits situated on both sides of Windmill Lane were excavated between the late 19th cent of rail from the pit tramway can still be seen in the hedge. A windmill once stood on the west side 1720 until c. 1908.
- 18** Tin chapel, built in the late 19th century and used until its congregation joined the Church in 1940s.
- 19** Pendrells. This cottage is mediaeval and was once occupied by the great grandson of Pendre Charles II in the "Boscobel Oak".
- 20** Infants School. William Borrer gave the land in 1844 for an infants school to be built, and it in 1957. It was then used as a youth club until 2004 and now turned into houses.
- 21** Cedar View. This was built as the village "workhouse" in 1736, and used until 1834. It is one of the buildings in the village with a roof made of Horsham Stone.
- 22** The "Borrer Bank". Along this bank can still be seen examples of rare flowers planted by William Borrer in the 19th century was part of his garden.
- 23** The Mill House and outbuildings which housed a steam mill, date from the late 19th century. The Mill House occupied the high ground just to the east and was demolished in 1953.
- 24** Heritage Trail plaque, Henfield Common. This gives historical information about the Common. The Common was grazed until c. 1950.

Circular Walk Around Henfield The 'Downland Panorama' walk; surely Henfield's favourite for a Channel mist sneaks over the Downs or the 'south westerlies' are in low mood. Distance 1 or 2 miles. Start at the point of High Street opposite The George Hotel. Go along Cagefoot Lane to the pond - LEFT along the road - cross road - up Weavers Lane to the top, 'THE NAB' and view the South Downs from The Dyke in the distance. Now LEFT down King James' Lane - cross road (A2037) - RIGHT - up the road where the BARROW HILL path divides, LEFT UP onto The Lydds. Either (for the 1 mile walk) LEFT down to the Mill House - down to Henfield Common - cross road (A281) - follow the causeway diagonally LEFT or continue about 1/2 mile to house on your LEFT - follow round far side of house and up lane to the cricket pitch. To return to village (far left across the common) you can:- A, simply turn LEFT and follow the road; B, (in wet weather) skirt LEFT of cricket pitch - cross rectangular Memorial Playing Field diagonally LEFT to the stream and paths through the wood; C, pass cricket pavilion to small road and follow it LEFT all the way to the footpath through wood. B & C go by cottages at the back of the common. Each way will take you about 1 hour. Uphill is The George.