



THIS SHEET is designed to help you make the most of your time in Ledbury. It gives brief information on what you will discover in the streets leading from the Market House – the iconic heart of the town. The 17th century Grade I listed building was built primarily as a corn warehouse, raised off the ground on stilts. Today its upper room is used for exhibitions and meetings while markets are still regularly held in the space beneath.

THE HIGH STREET

THIS WIDE THOROUGHFARE IS LINED WITH GEORGIAN AND TUDOR BUILDINGS – many of the former facades stripped back to reveal their original timbered origins. Facing them are the stone buildings of **St Katharine's Hall** and almshouses. Behind, in what used to be orchard gardens, **The Master's House** (like so much else now faced in the red brick of many later additions) reveals a fabulously restored interior with its 16th century timbered Great Hall. St Katharine's was designed in the 14th century as a 'hospital' complex to administer to the poor and sick. Today the Hall is used for markets and events with the chapel open on Fridays for worship. The Master's House is home to the town library service and also has a John Masefield archive.

CHURCH LANE

TUCKED BEHIND THE MARKET HOUSE is the oldest remaining part of the town where many 16th century buildings still line the cobbled lane leading up to the church of **St Michael & All Angels**, the town's oldest and largest civic building which has been a centre of worship for over 1,000 years; the detached bell tower is notably rare and of many treasures within, stained glass windows by William Morris are not to be missed.

Walking back down towards the High Street, three of the ancient buildings are open to the public – and entry is free of charge – although donations are always welcomed to contribute to their ongoing maintenance!

On the right is the **Heritage Centre**, formerly the Old Grammar School. The story of Ledbury's past is displayed in this 15th century timber building which is believed to have been built by East Anglian woollen merchants. There are displays on the architecture and geology of the area, and there are reminders for children of how things used to be in times past.

On the other side of the lane is **Butchers Row House Museum**, a black and white building that has been moved from where it originally stood in the centre of the High Street. It features many items of local interest, some dating back to the Battle of Ledbury in 1645 as well as a small collection of musical instruments.

Lastly, before arriving back at the Market House is **The Painted Room** (detail below) where extensive restoration in 1989 revealed wall paintings thought to date back to the 1560s. You can also book onto a guided tour from here.



THE HOMEND, THE SOUTHEND AND NEW STREET

FROM CHURCH LANE, TURN RIGHT INTO THE HOMEND where you will find a range of architectural styles, countless hidden alleyways to explore and a fascinating mix of quirky shops, with a growing specialisation in vintage and previously owned fashions.

Returning down the High Street, be sure not to miss Tinsmiths Alley, the Design Quarter and Tilley's Alley as you head towards the magnificent Grade I listed buildings surrounding the Top Cross.

On the left corner, the much restored late 16th century mansion is now apartments but look across to the house on stilts on the other side of the road – and wonder how it has survived 20th century traffic – clearly with

Ledbury laureate, John Masefield in Tilley's Alley.



difficulty. Ahead is **The Southend**, a wonderful enclave of virtually unspoilt Georgian buildings, or turn into **New Street** – 'new' in the 13th century – and you will discover more shops, cafés and, not least, the 16th century **Talbot Inn** with its panelled room, scene of many historic events. Opposite is the side entrance to **The Feathers Hotel**, recalling its days as a Royal Mail staging post between London and Hereford; go through the gateway and follow the lane down the side of the hotel to return to the High Street.

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