

Conversation pieces for a memory-friendly trail

INTRODUCTION

Abbot's Hospital was founded by George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1619. It was not a hospital in the modern sense of the word, but a place providing shelter for the elderly poor of the town.

Today, Abbot's Hospital continues to offer town centre accommodation in a supportive environment for local elderly people.

A magnificent Jacobean Grade I listed building situated at the top of Guildford High Street, Abbot's Hospital is opposite Holy Trinity Church, the burial place of its founder George Abbot.



1 DOOR

As you walk through the entrance arch, take a moment to look at the door. What do you notice about it? Run your hands over the door and describe what it feels like.



2 POOR BOX

Notice the Poor Box as you enter the Hospital, showing the date it was founded. Is the box warm or cold to touch?



3 FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Stand in this beautiful space for a moment. Can you hear anything? Does it feel peaceful or busy? Does it feel as if we are in a bustling town centre?



4 COURTYARD

As you stand in the courtyard, look around you and share what you notice. You may see some of the items listed below:

CLOCK

BELL

G A PLAQUE

CHIMNEYS



5 GARDEN

The garden today is used to grow flowers and ornamental trees. In the past, the residents would have grown their fruit and vegetables here.

Do you like gardening? Talk about what kind of things you enjoy growing.

Describe your favourite flower. What colour is it? Is it scented?



6 MUSEUM

Look at the information boards around the museum.

One of them shows old fashioned tradesmen – a blacksmith, confectioner and cobbler.

Do you remember people doing these jobs? Did you ever use a blacksmith or cobbler to mend something?

What was your favourite sweet to buy in the sweet shop? Describe how it tasted and smelt.



7 COMMON HALL

Notice the candles that would have been used to light the room before we had electricity.

Do you remember using candles for any occasions?

There are cooking pots over the fire too. Have you ever cooked anything in pots like these?



8 CHAPEL WINDOWS

As you enter the chapel, look at the windows. What thoughts come to mind? What colours can you see? Do the figures remind you of a story? What sort of glass is this?

Which is your favourite part of this window?



9 DRAWING

Draw a picture of the best thing you have seen on your visit today.