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Turn right with the gallery behind you and follow the footpath along the A322 to start this trail (numbers 1-4). Cross the road at the White Lyon and Dragon, which was built to the left of the 'old' New Inn where Sime drank with (and drew) his village companions (5). Walk towards the church, then take the footpath left through the churchyard, noting Sime's grave on your right (7). Continue down the sloping path and straight ahead across the field, past the single tree, to the gate at the far side then follow the path along the ditch. This emerges onto a track beside the gateway to a Victorian house. Follow the track straight ahead until you come to a cluster of buildings on your right, the nearest of which is Pine Copse Bungalow (8). Turn back and re-trace your steps until you reach a point where paths cross. Whitmoor Common is criss-crossed with numerous footpaths, and the above map shows a suggested route if you wish to see numbers 9 to 12. Numbers 11 and 12 can also be accessed by returning to the gallery and walking a little further along the road. Please take care when crossing the roads, and be aware that the ground may be muddy past the churchyard in wet weather.



The Sime Gallery at Worpleston (www.sidneysimegallery.org.uk) houses a major collection of the fascinating and highly characteristic work of Sidney Herbert Sime (1865-1941), the renowned illustrator, artist and caricaturist.

Many of his works have close links to the area immediately surrounding the gallery. This trail will guide you to some of those places and provide a backdrop for the local characters, many of them Sime's drinking companions at The New Inn, that feature in his work.

There is a map to help guide you on the back of this leaflet, and two more walking guides are available at the gallery, along with a family Trail of Discovery to be used in the church of St Mary the Virgin.

1 THE SIME GALLERY

When Sidney Sime's widow Mary (shown here in an oil painting by Sime) died, she bequeathed all those of her late husband's pictures that remained in her possession, along with drawings and memorabilia, to the Trustees of the Worplesdon Memorial Hall. The gallery was opened with proceeds from the sale of Crown Cottage in 1956.



2 THATCHERS BARN AND SURROUNDING AREA

This area was once Perry Hill Rose Garden. The Sime caricature here shows George Henry McCreedy, the proprietor during the 1930's. He's shown dressed in eastern style robes, holding a blue rose indicating both Sime's love of oriental imagery, and McCreedy's quest for the elusive colour through hybridisation.



3 THE OLD POST HOUSE

Home from the early 1900's to Duncan Tovey (1872 - 1918) and his wife Connie, friends and neighbours of the Simes. A fascinating man – entertainer, actor, soldier and writer. His posthumously published book, Grey Kilts, includes this portrait by Sime. He is buried near to Sime in St Mary's Churchyard.



4 CROWN COTTAGE

Previously The Old Crown Inn, the home of Sidney and Mary Sime from 1904. Sime used the old stable in the garden as his studio, and artifacts dug up in the garden are displayed in the gallery.



5 SITE OF THE NEW INN

Now The White Lyon and Dragon, in Sime's day this was where the New Inn (old building) stood. William Brewer Buckle (1873-1835) was the landlord and Charles Wadey (1894 – 1960), was the husband of Buckle's daughter Florence. Charles appears in a village football team photograph in the Memorial Hall, and is easily recognisable from the Sime caricature on the far right. Florence ended her days at Deepdene (no.11 on the map), where she kept the caricatures from her father's days at the New Inn. These were eventually acquired for the Sime Gallery.



6 ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, mentioned in the Domesday Book, dates back to the 13th century, with a 15th century tower. It was restored in 1866. It was also the site of a semaphore tower, long since demolished. There is a children's Trail of Discovery for the church available from the gallery.



7 SIME'S GRAVE

Situated behind the church, this is a small, unremarkable memorial to a remarkable artist. Close by is his neighbour and friend Duncan Tovey, a Commonwealth War Grave.



8 SITE OF THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

An isolation hospital was built on Whitmoor Common in 1899, primarily to deal with smallpox cases. It closed in 1936, having served very little purpose. Thomas Poole was caretaker from 1918-1932. The lodge still exists, now named Pine Copse Bungalow.



9 GOOSERYE

John Wise was butler to Sir Laurence Edward Halsey at Gooserye, an extensive house built on the site of a farm in 1908. Halsey was responsible for building the Worplesdon Memorial Hall which opened in 1922.



10 STONEBRIDGE COTTAGE

John Leonard 'Jack' Sime (1866-1946) was Sidney's brother. He and his wife Maria moved to Worplesdon around 1911, living first at Stonebridge Cottage and then Perryfoot at Rickford. John was caretaker of the Memorial Hall for a time.



MORE LOCAL CHARACTERS

Herbert Barnes, a poultry farmer, lived at The Elms (no. 12 on the map).

Leonard Collins worked at Christmas Bakery and lived on a smallholding at Jordan Hill.

Ross Jones was a Chauffeur working for the Arbuthnots at Merrist Wood.

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