

DUDLEY PUBLIC ART HERITAGE TRAIL



March 2020

WELCOME TO DUDLEY'S PUBLIC ART TRAIL

This tour allows you to experience Dudley's fabulous pieces of public art and is just one part of Dudley Council's suite of self-guided tours for the town centre - including the brilliant Geology Heritage Trail (showing 23 locations showcasing millions of years of geology history), Heritage Trail (detailing 40 key locations throughout the town), Dudley Time Trail (30 bronze ground plaques) and the Tecton Trail (Dudley Zoo's 12 examples of 1930s reinforced concrete structures).

Find out more about these trails at www.dudley.gov.uk (search Dudley trails).



INTRODUCTION . . . Dudley's Quizzical Art Trail

As the historic "capital" of the Black Country, Dudley contains many intriguing pieces of Public Art from the past 200 years. Follow our "quizzical" trail and see if you can answer some of the (historical or art historical) questions below.

You can walk the core town centre and Priory Park trails together in around an hour. If you have more time, take a longer diversion for an extra hour through the Churchill Shopping Precinct and cross King Street and walk up Hall Street to take in the Wolverton Road trail.

Photos courtesy of Brian Carr except 11, 40 and 56 (Dudley Council) and 25 courtesy the Lewis family, and 34, Simon Bruntnell.

TOWN CENTRE TRAIL PART 1:

Start at the Council House steps

1 Salamander window frames flanking the Council House entrance, in bronze by Walter Gilbert, 1934-35. The Salamander features in the Dudley Coat of Arms as a symbol of industry.

Q: Why might it also be seen as a contemporary symbol of regeneration?

William Bloye's studio created the famous column capitals with the faces of local dignitaries nearby.



2 Limestone relief on the corner, also by William Bloye's studio, depicting St Benedict and the Priory, plus the Castle and a Knight, 1934-35.



3 Memorial stone to Bert Bissell who ran the renowned Vicar Street Bible Class. Nearby in the ground is his Time Trail plaque.

A related commemorative stained glass window panel designed by the Borough Artist can be found at Dixons Green Methodist Church (only viewable by arrangement).

Q: Name the mountain Bert climbed annually in a peace pilgrimage for some 50 years.

Enter Coronation Gardens

4 Workers' Memorial Stone, to commemorate those killed or injured at work.

5 Apollo Fountain in bronze by William Bloye, 1939.

Q: What style did the sculptor adopt to create his masterpiece?

6 War Memorial Obelisk, created by Jones of Dudley from designs by Steve Field and Nigel Cox, 2002.

Cross Ednam Road and the Broadway to see:



7 The Objects of Technology, four sculptures in York stone carved by John Vaughan from designs by Steve Field, 1992. (Ask at the kiosk to enter the College courtyard, or view from pavement).

Q: Which Italian art movement (in painting) is alluded to in the figurine representing fashion?

Walk down the Broadway to Priory Park

PRIORY PARK TRAIL

8 Two "milestones" carved by Michael Scheuermann, 2013; one shows the seal of Gervase Paganell, an early Lord who built the Priory in penance for his father Ralph's sins!

9 Decorative mediaeval style floor tiles in the Priory ruins, by local school children working with Company of Artisans, 2013.

Q: Which Order of Monks lived here and what colour were their habits?

10 Jon Mulvaney's "People Group" in oak at the head of the pond, 1993.



11 Maggy Howarth's pebble mosaic of 1993 depicting the Priory monks:

Q: What four daily activities are depicted?

Through the Rose Garden and left to:

12 On the Pavilion is a Blue Plaque (2016) to Duncan Edwards, who grew up on the Priory Estate.

Down the central boulevard:

13 Stag and Doe "Wordsearch" steel gateway, a competition winning design by Carol-Ann Richards, a student at Dudley College, 2012, referencing the former Deer Park.

Q: How many hidden words can you find?



14 "The Return of Dorothy Round" in bronze, designed by Steve Field and sculpted and cast by John McKenna, 2012.

Q: What major tennis Championships did she win, and when? What local school did she go to (now demolished)?

Exit the Park and up Priory Road

15 Contemporary abstract bird in resin that echoes an Art Deco bird by Alan Bridgewater that once occupied the same site; the artist of this one unknown.



16 Gothic Gateway in steel designed by the Borough Artist and fabricated by Robert Foxall Colley of Moor Forge, with laser cutting by Mid Therm, 2013.

Q: Which Saint is depicted and what are his symbols?

Up the Broadway again to re-join the main core trail

TOWN CENTRE TRAIL PART 2:

17 Contemporary stone Obelisk designed and carved by John Vaughan, 2019.

Q: Whose work is the inscription taken from, and what nationality was the poet?

Detour up Tower Street and back to see:

18 Police Station doors and sculptures by Bridgewater and Upton, 1941.



19 The Baylies's Charity Schoolboys sculpted in Coade stone by William Croggan, Dudley's earliest surviving sculptures dating from 1823, now embellishing Astons Auction rooms.

Turn right up towards Green Man Entry passage



20 Green Man Entry Features - designed by Steve Field the Borough Artist, with the mask heads modelled by John McKenna, 1994, and 2015.

Q: How many images of the Green Man can you find, and what does he symbolise?

21 Statue of the Earl of Dudley in Sicilian marble, by Charles Bell Birch, 1888.

Cross the road to see:

22 St Edmunds Church gateway features designed by Steve Field and fabricated at D R Harveys in Dudley, 1994.

23 St Edmunds Churchyard, an incised stone carved by John Vaughan from designs by Steve Field, 1994, part of a small landscaped garden designed by Keith Rowland.

Further up Castle Street use the crossing at Fisher Street to see:

24 "Industry and Work supporting the Family and Education", a truly major work in fibreglass by Edward Bainbridge Copnall, 1964, commissioned by the then Borough Architect John Lewis for Birdcage Walk.

Q: The huge figures are in the style of the relief sculptures of an ancient civilisation - which one?



Take the one hour extension through the precinct to the Wolverton Road Trail or carry on and skip to No.43, Duncan Edwards

25 Former Site of the "Churchill Screen" in glass by Bainbridge Copnall, 1969 (Above Home Bargains). It was vandalised in the 1980s and much weathered, so that the surviving panels had to be removed in the early 1990s.

Q: What was Winston Churchill's most famous hobby?



Pass down the side of Home Bargains and cross the 1960s footbridge to see:

26 "Family Group" in elm, carved from a single tree trunk by Bainbridge Copnall, sited 1969.

Q: The work of which very famous British sculptor influenced the style of the figures?

27 Twelve filigree metal banners designed by the Borough Artist which depict the arms of the various families occupying Dudley Castle, 1994.

Walk round the corner and up Hall Street

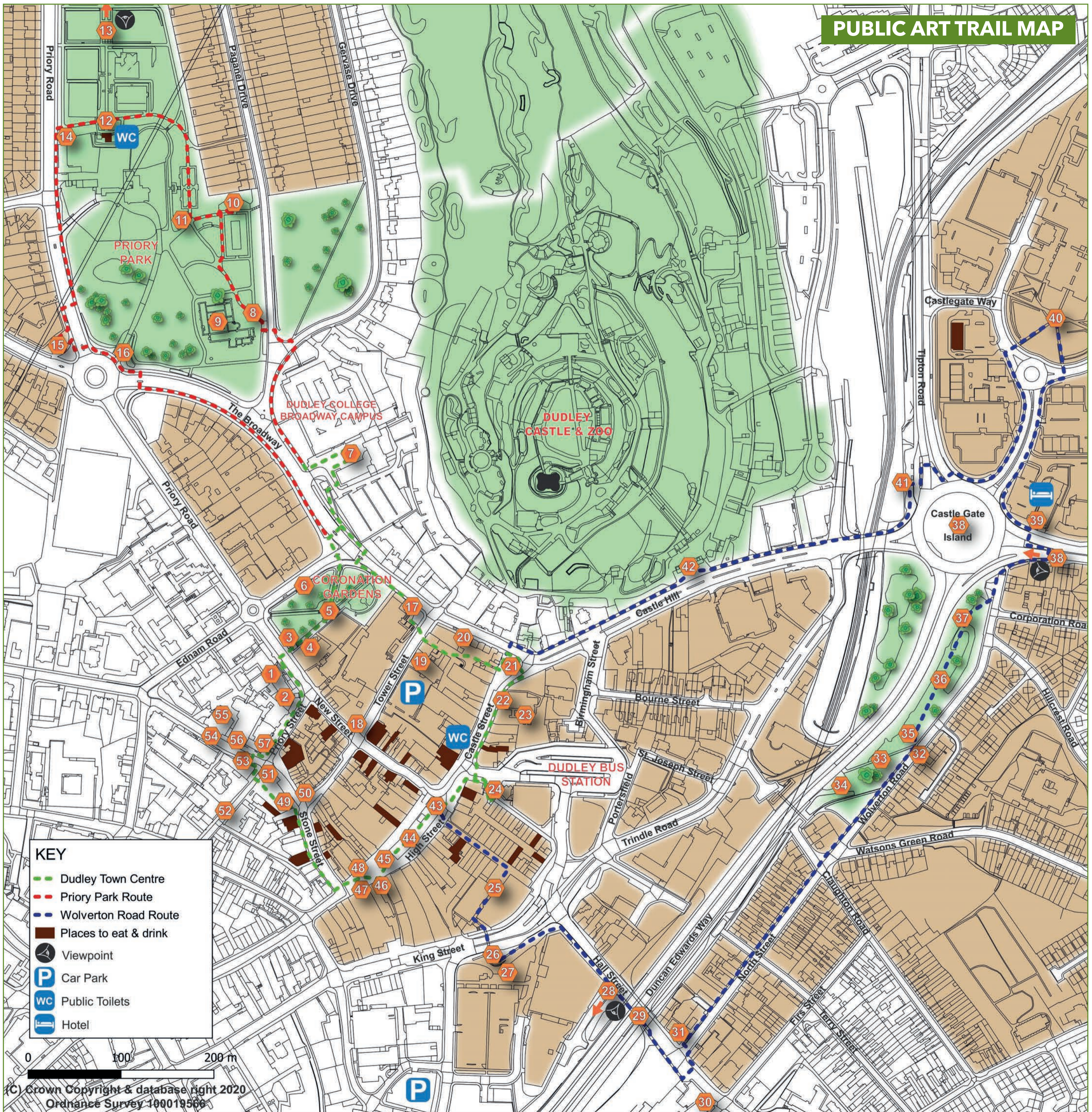
28 Viewpoint at Dudley Row, for the "Salamander in Flames" at Flood St designed by Borough Artist Steve Field and fabricated in steel by R & R Flavell of Apollo Fabrications, 2001. See no. 1 for the symbolism of this artwork.

29 Blue Brick stripes to the by-pass retaining walls, representing the coal seam that helped Dudley prosper which is just under your feet.

30 View of Bean Cars stone relief.

Q: Name the 1930s Land Speed Record car Bean Car made at their Tipton works nearby, and name the driver.

PUBLIC ART TRAIL MAP



Cross Hall Street with great care; it is a very busy road:

31 Swag relief and window surround in terracotta, date unknown, placed on the façade of a modern building.

Walk down North Street past Teddy Grays sweet factory and the metal works which made some of the town centre features, to reach where North Street becomes Wolverton Road

32 "Living Fossil" in steel based on fossilised algae, by Natasha Carsberg, 2001.

33 Giant "Hand of Time" in aluminium by Jon Mulvaney, 2001. The stone object the hand reaches for was designed by a pupil from Castle High School.

34 "Dawn of Time" abstract by Michael Lyons, 2001, in steel fabricated at Mayflower Engineering. This represents a sunrise and also a cross section through the strata of Dudley.



35 "Gastropod Fossil" by Michael Konu, in Kilkenny limestone, polished one side, 2001.



36 "Standing Stone" by John Vaughan in limestone, 2001.

Q: Which French-born sculptor who died in WW1 might have influenced the style of the abstract figures within this piece and the spontaneous direct carving of it?

37 "Labyrinthine Mound" by Jim Buchanan, earthwork of 2001. At the top is an artificial cement boulder inscribed with the image of a Labyrinth.

Q: What is the difference between a Labyrinth and a Maze?

Pass through a little snicket to reach the main road crossing to see:

38 View point for "Cycle" by Andrew Burton, a major multi-part sculpture on the roundabout, celebrating Dudley's history and also aspects of the colourful life of Dud Dudley, 2001.

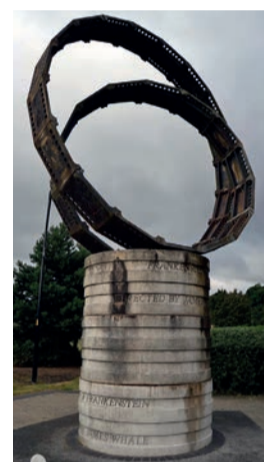


Q: Who was Dud Dudley, and what did he claim to have achieved?

Note: he has a Time Trail plaque in Castle Street.

Cross the road to see:

39 Abstract relief on the Premier Inn, artist and date unknown.



Walk round the corner into the Castlegate Development to see :

40 James Whale Memorial film spool in cast iron on a concrete "film canister" plinth, by Charles Hadcock, 2004.

Q: Name three of the films made by this Dudley born director. Plus name a film made about his later years, after he died?

Exit the development and cross Tipton Road to see:

41 Giant Cannonball by Andrew Burton, a witty "offshoot" in ceramic and cement to his giant "Cycle" sculpture on the roundabout of 2001.

42 Zoo entrance canopy in concrete by Lubetkin and Tecton, 1937.

The animal paving motifs in the ground in front were designed by the Borough Artist in 1994.

END OF WOLVERTON ROAD TRAIL DIVERSION

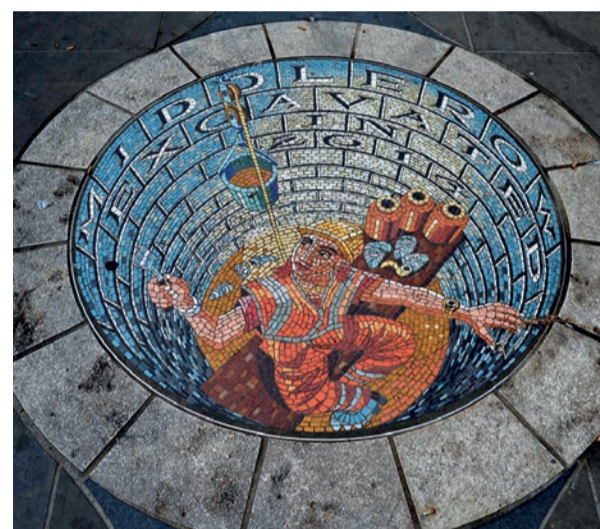
Return to the central Town Centre Trail via Castle Hill then Castle Street

43 Duncan Edwards in bronze, by James Butler RA, 1999, plinth designed by the Borough Artist, with incised lettering by Malcolm Sier front and back, detailing Edwards' amazing footballing achievements.

Walk up the central Market Mall to see:

44 Trompe l'oeil floor mosaic designed by Steve Field and laid by Helen Sweeting and Richard Ellis, 2015 - inspired by chalk pavement art illusions, it depicts the Well and its contents found by archaeologists in 2014 when investigating the former street "Middle Row" that once occupied the centre of the Market Place.

Q: What Victorian "fast food" is depicted?



45 The Market Place Fountain by James Forsyth, mostly of Portland Stone, 1867.

Q: Who penned the inscription around the fountain?

46 "Long Entry" artworks: floor plaques and metalwork, designed by Steve Field and made at the Leander Foundry and D R Harveys respectively, dated 2015 and 1994. The imagery of the three surviving ogee arches is derived from the mediaeval manuscript the Luttrell Psalter, in that the curved route of the passageway reflects a mediaeval burgage plot boundary.

47 Ben Boucher in bronze, on a Portland stone "poetry" seat, both designed by Borough artist Steve Field, with the figure modelled and cast by John McKenna, David Purser acting as the model. Boucher wrote the humorous poem about the market inscribed on this seat and its companion, but was also very active politically as a Chartist.

Q: Which rock and folk group recorded his Chartist song of 1847?



48 Darby Time Trail plaques, 2015, whereby you can try to emulate the feats of Dudley's Victorian World Champion Jumper Joe Darby, by a standing jump between them!

Turn right into Stone Street, past the façade of Darby's former pub the Albion you will find:

49 Stone St Square Glass Cone Plan designed by Steve Field in 2004. The plan of the former Dudley Flint Glassworks Cone is depicted, with the 11 "pots" used by the glassworkers set around a central furnace; the radial lines also help represent the blowing irons they would have used.



50 Pease Lane railings, tiny motifs of pea pods opposite, 1994, modelled by Laurence O'Toole, reference a former street name.



51 Abstract seat in granite with glass inserts designed by Peter Whitehouse in 2004, in front of it is a maze designed from recycled setts by Borough Artist Steve Field.

Make a short detour down Priory Street and back to see:

52 Classical figurehead keystones on the County Court building of 1858.

Down St James's Road to see:



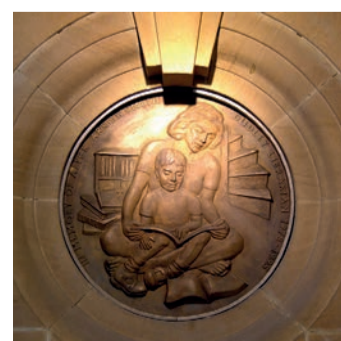
53 Geological windows to the former museum, designed by Steve Field in 1992, each one individually sandblasted by a student at Dudley College's School of Glass.

Q: Which surrealist painter's words are inscribed here? (His paintings were partly inspired by the rock formations of his homeland)

54 Dudley Library sculptures by H H Martyn and Co., 1909.



Q: Whose Renaissance work in the Medici Chapel has clearly inspired the reclining figures of Literature and Science?

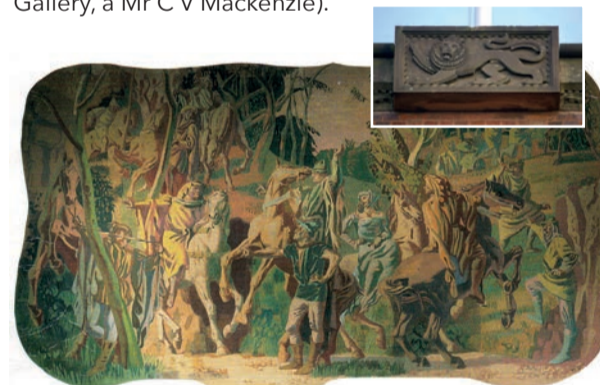


55 Arrowsmith Memorial in bronze, inside the porch, designed by Steve Field and modelled by John McKenna, 1996.

Leo Field is depicted being taught to read by his mother Cathryn.

Q: What is the name for a circular panel of this nature ?

56 Dudley Town Hall, high up is a Venetian style Lion by Bloye's studio of 1926-28. Inside backstage, but only viewable by special arrangement, is a mural of 1948 by Hans Feibusch (depicting the Lord of the Castle Roger de Somery hunting, the faces are from local portraits including the then Curator of the Art Gallery, a Mr C V Mackenzie).



Round the corner into Priory Street:

57 War Memorial Tower, stone sculpture of St George and the Dragon by William Bloye, 1928.

Q: Which famous novelist especially composed the inscription on the balcony? (His novels are often set in a fictional West Country known as Wessex)



Return to no.1 the Council House steps and the start of the Trail



Useful visitor information

Free 2 hour parking centrally is available in Tower Street, DY1 1NB and off Stafford Street, DY1 1RT.

Pay for 3 hours and enjoy a break enroute at the Gather community cafés in the Priory Park pavilion and in the Churchill Precinct, or at one of the many excellent commercial venues in the local vicinity.

Note: There is a steep walk back up Priory Road and the Broadway if you visit the Priory Park Trail. There is also a steep walk back up Castle Hill if you make the extra diversion to Wolverton Road.

Where possible we have directed you to a safe crossing point, but please note that Hall Street is a very busy road that does not have a crossing, so cross with care.

There are public toilets available in Castle Street for your convenience.