

1. HIGH GREEN

High Green was once the centre of Cannock. It is a Conservation Area - an area of special architectural or historic interest. The majority of its properties date from the 18th to early 19th century.

The Bowling Green

The historian Stebbing Shaw tells us that in the year 1753 the bowling green was encompassed with a handsome brick wall. A pavilion is likely to have been built earlier, in 1752, on the side of the green opposite the existing pavilion. The mid 1800s saw a great deal of wrangling between the bowlers and the Local Board (later to become Cannock Urban Council) over ownership of the green. In 1896 a Deed of Trust was signed by both parties to ensure the green remained a bowling green forever. Over the years, the green has served as a social arena for events such as celebrations for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1877, when a group of tradesmen gathered to dine. In 1977, when he visited Cannock as part of Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee celebrations, Prince Charles 'bowled a wood' on the green.



The bowling green has been a prominent feature of Cannock town centre since at least 1753.
Image courtesy of the Conduit Trust

The Cannock Advertiser

Known today as High Green House, no. 71 High Green was once the site of Alfred Withington's printing business. In 1878 he launched the Cannock Advertiser, a newspaper that combined advertisements, announcements and reports on local and national events. When Alfred died his wife and son took over the business. The Cannock Advertiser was produced in its original form until 1985.



A view of High Green. The Cannock Advertiser offices are close to the tree on the right.
Image courtesy of Ray Smith

The New Hall and The Post Office

81 High Green was built in 1891 by Middlesex-born businessman J.D. Bumsted. Known as the New Hall, it had a suite of meeting rooms and a great hall that could seat up to 500 people, where a variety of shows and entertainment was held. In 1892 a gymnastic display was given, and in 1914 a series of lectures featured topics including Ancient Hunters and Lightning and Lightning Rods. Next to the New Hall, at 83 High Green, was a post office. Built in 1908, it too was owned by Mr Bumsted.



The Post Office in the early 1900s. New Hall, on the left was built in 1891.
Image courtesy of the Museum of Cannock Chase

John Wood School

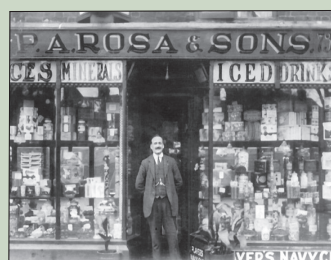
In 1680 Mr John Wood of London granted to certain trustees or feoffees and their heirs a house to be used and enjoyed by a school master for teaching and instructing children to read in Cannock. Known as John Wood School after its Cannock-born founder, the original building was situated here in High Green, opposite the Bowling Green. The spot is marked by a plaque on a wall inside what is now High Green Court. Records tell us that by 1817 some 40-60 children of pauper and the lowest classes of Cannock and nearby Cannock Wood were educated at the school each year. In 1937, after the roof was declared unsafe, the school was temporarily transferred to a room in the New Hall. In 1939 it was found a more permanent home at a site just outside the town centre and in 2005 relocated once more.



Image courtesy of Tony Baggett

P. A. Rosa and Sons

In 1900 Italian-born Peter Rosa emigrated to England with his wife. Soon after, they began to produce ice cream and sweets in the front room of their home. By the early 1920s they had set up two ice cream parlours and sweet shops - one in the neighbouring town of Hednesford, and one at no. 73 High Green. After Mr Rosa returned to Italy in 1938 his sons took over the business. In 1952 they sold it to the Satchwells, who continued to trade using the Rosa name. The shop here in High Green finally closed in the early 1970s.



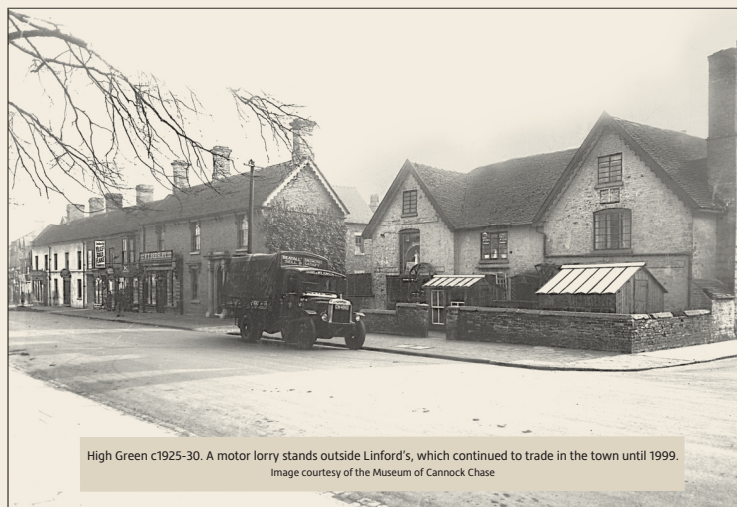
Rosa's, situated at 73 High Green, c1930.
Image courtesy of the Conduit Trust

Beesley's Grocers

In 1906 the grocery store that had been established at 77 High Green was sold to Mr F.T. Beesley. Local people recall how Mr Beesley kept watch for important customers from a glass-walled booth at the rear of the shop. He would greet the customers he favoured and invite them into his private rooms for a glass of sherry while their order was being prepared.

Linford's

No. 79 High Green might be the site of one of the oldest houses in Cannock, which was a half-timbered building. The brickwork of the current building suggests it was built during the late 18th century. In 1891 the house and gardens were sold to the entrepreneur Charles Linford. Part of the house was converted into a shop and Mr Linford began a carpentry firm, which he later expanded to become an ironmongers, glaziers and sawmill. His descendants continued the business until 1999. The building later became a public house called the Linford Arms.



High Green c1925-30. A motor lorry stands outside Linford's, which continued to trade in the town until 1999.
Image courtesy of the Museum of Cannock Chase

CANNOCK CHASE HERITAGE TRAIL

Cannock Chase Heritage Trail is a 10-mile route linking the towns of Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley. It passes through, or close to sites of historic or environmental interest, with interpretation boards along the way that tell the story of each location. The trail was initially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and several project partners in 2008.



Scan the QR code to download a map of the Cannock Chase Heritage Trail



Take on the **Cannock Chase Heritage Trail Challenge** with the **Cannock Chase Can App!**

Cannock Chase Can is an exciting health and wellbeing programme to help you make healthier lifestyle choices. It hosts a variety of wellness challenges which can be undertaken as an individual, group or family. Here's how you can get involved...

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Scan the QR codes on each interpretation board to bring to life elements of the Trail. Content has been created by local schoolchildren alongside professional artists and The Birmingham Repertory Theatre.



Collect all the QR codes for each themed trail to complete the challenge and gain points and rewards for your efforts.