

# 2. CANNOCK TOWN CENTRE

## Dr Butter and his private zoo

Dr Butter was a well-known doctor in Cannock. He was born in Forfar, Scotland in 1856 and moved to Cannock in the 1890s to set up his practice. He lived at Highfield House on the Wolverhampton Road in Cannock. The house later became the Police Station, but was demolished in the 1950s.

Many will remember his private zoo which he kept in his house. He had a range of animals including giraffes, ostriches, chimpanzees, a kangaroo, an elephant, an ocelot and rare animals such as the fossa and phalanger. He also attempted, without success, to train a zebra to pull his pony-drawn trap.



Image of elephant courtesy of Penny Lens  
Image of zebra courtesy of Andrii-Oliinyk



The photograph shows Dr. John Kerr Butter sitting in his BSA car with his chauffeur, John William Wardle.  
Image courtesy of Staffordshire County Council

## 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. Intended to support a healthy lifestyle, the trail is a facility for walkers and cyclists, offering walks and off-road cycle routes. The trail was initially funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and several project partners in 2008.**

The trail consists of mixed surfaces of tarmac, gravel and concrete. Gradients in some of the rural sections of the trail can be difficult for manual wheelchairs and buggies.

These include:

- A short section between Hednesford Park (along the former railway line) and Rugeley Road (A460).
- A short section near the concrete standing area adjacent to Brindley Heath Road.
- A short section between Cannock Chase Visitor Centre and Cannock Chase Forest Centre.

The trail passes close to wildlife sites of international importance. Cycle wheels, horse hooves, and feet, can severely damage these sites, and out of control dogs disturb wildlife. Please help us to protect wildlife by remaining on designated routes and by keeping dogs under close control.

**Remember to follow the Cannock Chase Code.**



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



## Cannock since the Second World War

During the 1950s and 60s, Cannock saw major redevelopment, particularly in the areas south-west of the town. Although many of the local industries have long since declined, Cannock has continued to develop and grow. In the town centre, the building of a new shopping centre was completed in 1996 and development of High Green Court began in 2002.

This photograph above dates from about 1910-1920. On the right is the Crown Hotel. On the left is the old market hall, built in 1869. They were situated in Market Place, near to where you are standing. Both were demolished in the early 1960s to make way for a row of modern shops.  
Image courtesy of the Museum of Cannock Chase



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...

Download the App for **FREE** today by visiting **Google Play** and the **App Store** and searching for **'Cannock Chase Can'**.



**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.