The church has a

The Hythe turned westwards into Gas Road. The Hall on the

Nature Reserves

The Baptist Church was the site of the town’s first

Built by the Reform Church in 1868 and then bought by

March Museum

Fox Narrowboats Ltd.

St Wendreda’s Church

Skylark Maize Maze

Sovereign Quarter Horses

March Mini Guide & Town Trail

March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8NQ

Fenland District Council, Fenland Hall, County Road, March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8NQ

Tel: 01354 652 863

Twitter: #Fenland Council

Facebook: Fenland District Council

Fenland District Council

Places to visit

For more information www.visitchesterfield.org

March Museum is a busy museum reflecting the area’s agricultural heritage. You can also learn about the drainage of the Fens.

Tel: 01354 655 300

Fox Narrowboats Ltd.

day experience or a 2 day mini break is an excellent way to meander along the tranquil waterways.

Tel: 01354 652 770

St Wendreda’s Church

Also in item 7 of the Walk. The church has a breathtakingly beautiful late 15th century double – hammer beam angel roof.

Tel: 01354 652 863

Skylark Maize Maze

A award attraction built into a garden centre and cut from a large field of living maize plants. As well as the maize maze to explore you will find many attractions.

Tel: 01354 741 212

Sovereign Quarter Horses

A multi purpose regional facility, offering western riding lessons for complete beginners to the more experienced rider.

Tel: 01354 631 964

Nature Reserves

The man-made landscapes of the Fens, formed by intensive agriculture and drainage, allows for many pockets in our countryside and urban areas where wildlife can thrive, providing great sanctuaries to wildlife.

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The Riverside Trail

The river, the old course of the Nene, is the hub of the town and the reason for the town’s development. In the 18th century March was a minor port with 8 vessels. Until the mid-19th century all goods came in and out of the town by barge. There were many pubs and businesses along its banks including a tannery, lime works and several mills.

1. The Riverside Trail begins at the Town Bridge which was built in 1830, to replace the former decaying timber bridge.

2. To your right at the top of Nene Parade, is the Ship Inn. During the mid 1800’s it was known as 'The Railway Man'. Extensive renovation during the 1990’s revealed exquisitely carved beams which were subsequently dated to around 1500.

3. Cross over the Bridge and look ahead of you into Broad Street. It is hard to imagine that this was once the ‘village green’ overlooked by large houses on the northern and eastern sides. On the western side was a brewery, maltings and the Chequers pub. A ‘cut’ from the river allowed the movement of goods by barge from the brewery.

4. The War Memorial was erected in 1920 and now commemorates those killed in both wars. The obelisk is 18 ft high and cut from Cornish granite. The soldier is carved from a single block of Italian Carrara marble.

5. The Fountain at the far end commemorates the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. It was originally a drinking fountain, fancied by horse and dog touts, made by Scottish engineers at Passipark.

6. Turn left into West End. After a few yards you will come to Gray’s Lane - which was named after Nathaniel Gray who owned the brewhouse in Broad Street. He was his bankruptcy in 1839 and the subsequent selling of the property, which saw the development of the town centre as we know it today.

7. Bank House, on the corner of Gray’s Lane was renovated in the Jacobean style in the 1840’s for the National Provincial Bank. More recent restoration revealed a much older building to which a stone façade and chimney heads had been added.

8. The older building had much smaller windows and a steeply pitched thatched roof. It may be one of the oldest buildings in March.

9. Continue along West End past several old cottages. At one time there were also a number of shops along here. (Note the Barkers Stone in the Foundations - perhaps purloined from passing barges)

10. The house next to the Health Centre, No. 38 West End, is one of the oldest properties in March. Dated 1626, it is Elizabethan with a Georgian extension. Inside, the house has elaborately carved wooden beams, one depicting the ‘Tree of Life’, the other grotesque heads and fantastic animals.

Cross over the footbridge and stroll back towards the town along the river path. This gives the opportunity to look back across the river towards the properties along West End and associated moorings. From this point The George Campbell Leisure Centre can also be seen.

11. To your right the new library has been built on the site of Acre Mill and White. The old granary was regularly supplied with corn by fleets of barges. In 1846 John Smith from Nottingham purchased the granary for his son Joseph who demolished it before erecting new buildings. In 1847, when the railway came to March, he installed the town’s first steam mill enabling flour to be sent all over the country.

12. Walk through Acre Road, which was part of the old High Dyke towards the car park. This area was once known as Little London with George Street and City Road encircling it. It contained a congregation of tiny houses, many one up and one down accessed by a ladder. In 1850, it was described as ‘full of squat and loft’, so much so that it was deemed to have caused the outbreak of cholera in which 441 people died. The houses contained no sanitation or drainage. The alleyways were quagmires and it was the custom to accumulate human excrement in chamber pots and throw it into the adjacent land - The Hythe. As a result the Hythe became very contaminated. Out of 1215 houses in the town 664 were affected. During the mid 1960’s the remaining houses were demolished and City Road car park came into being - why not now relax in the waterside park a few steps away.

St. George’s Fayre

St George is the Patron Saint of England. March celebrates St George’s Day by holding an annual family fun packed day. Well worth a visit.

Summer Festival

Open air music event and activities to appeal to all ages and music interest.