

Pershore – A Georgian Market Town



□ *By*

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Auriol Ainley

Pershore & District u3a



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- ❑ Pershore is a small elegant market town on the banks of the river Avon, roughly in the middle of England south of Birmingham
 - ❑ A settlement since the Iron Age – evidence of Roman occupation has been discovered
 - ❑ Population around 9000.
 - ❑ In the Vale of Evesham, renowned for its rich fertile soil and perfect climate for growing fruit, vegetables, asparagus
 - ❑ It has beautiful Georgian architecture, a wonderful ancient Abbey, gorgeous views towards Bredon Hill, the Malvern Hills and into the Cotswolds
 - ❑ And an agricultural college, independent shops and a locally run theatre/cinema. And very friendly people!



Leisure Centre
Riverbank Youth Centre
Riverbank Water
Museum & Visitor Centre
Museum Shop
Museum Café

Pershore Baptist Church

Welsh Living and community

K&C Carpets & Vinyls

LIMA THEATRE GALLERY


NUMBER 8



BRAND AMBLY BATHS



The Abbey Church of the Holy Cross

- In 681 land given to fund a Monastery, in 972 took the Benedictine rule
 - Suffered several fires, in 1540 under King Henry VIII the monastery was dissolved and destroyed
 - Town saved the East End which still remains
 - One of England's finest examples of Norman and Early English architecture
 - Tower has 8 bells regularly rung for services and special events and celebrations, such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
 - Holds orchestral concerts, choirs and singers, both local and international
- 





The Story of Pershore, The Abbey and the Park

No.1 From Ice to Fire



1 DURING THE ICE AGES HUGE GLACIERS COVERED THE LAND. WHEN THEY MELTED THEY CUT OUT THE VALLEY WHERE THE RIVER AVON FLOWS AND LEFT BEHIND GRAVEL TERRACES.



2 TRAVELLERS CARRYING SALT FROM THE DROITWICH AREA FORD THE RIVER AT A NARROW CROSSING POINT. THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF PERSHORE.



3 THE GRAVEL TERRACES MADE THE LAND WELL-DRAINED MAKING IT GOOD FOR FARMING. FIRST NEW STONE AGE OR NEOLITHIC PEOPLE FARMED HERE...



4 ... THEN ABOUT 4000 YEARS AGO CAME BRONZE AGE FARMERS.



5 ROMAN SETTLERS ALSO FARMED HERE. THE REMAINS OF MANY OF THEIR FARMS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE AREA.



6 THEN CHRISTIANITY CAME TO BRITAIN.



7 THE PRIESTS WOULD SPEAK IN VILLAGE SQUARES, OFTEN STANDING BY PREACHING CROSSES.

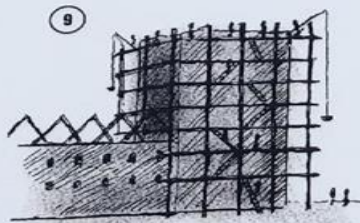


8 AD 681 - KING AETHELRED OF MERCA GRANTED LAND TO HIS NEPHEW OSWALD TO BUILD A MONASTERY AT PERSHORE.

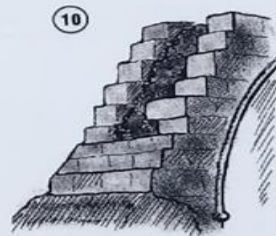


9 AD 972 - EDGAR GRANTED A CHARTER TO PERSHORE AND BISHOP OSWALD OF WORCESTER ESTABLISHED BENEDICTINE MONKS THERE.

PERSHORE COMES FROM TWO WORDS - *PERSC* OR *PERSC* MEANING A BROAD RIDGE WITH A GENTLE SLOPING END NEAR WHERE OSIERS GROW.



10 BY 1130 THE NORMAN BUILDING WAS COMPLETED. THEY USED WOODEN SCAFFOLDING MADE FROM POLES LASHED TOGETHER.



11 THE WALLS WERE MADE FROM FACED STONES WITH A RUBBLE IN-FILL BETWEEN.



1223 - FIRE DESTROYED MUCH OF THE OLD NORMAN CHURCH.



THE REBUILDING USED THE EARLY ENGLISH STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE...

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

good services, good value



Pershore Abbey Mission

Various notices and mission statements are displayed on the board, including a section titled 'Thank you' and a section for 'Tuesday 11th 10-11.30'.

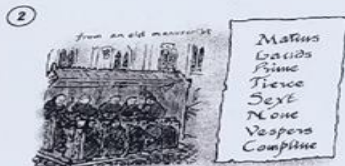


The Story of Pershore, The Abbey and the Park

No. 2 The Benedictines Rule



ST BENEDICT FOUNDED THE BENEDECTINE ORDER OF MONKS. HIS MOST FAMOUS MONASTERY IS AT MONTE CASSINO IN ITALY. BENEDICT SAID MONKS SHOULD HAVE NO PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND SHOULD DIVIDE THE DAY INTO THREE PARTS.



THE FIRST PART WAS DEVOTED TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD. THERE WERE EIGHT SERVICES EACH DAY. THEY LASTED IN ALL ABOUT FIVE HOURS AND BEGAN AT 2 AM.



THE SECOND PART WAS FOR STUDY OR WRITING AND ILLUMINATING OR DECORATING MANUSCRIPTS.



THE THIRD PART WAS SPENT WORKING IN THE FIELDS OR GARDENS.

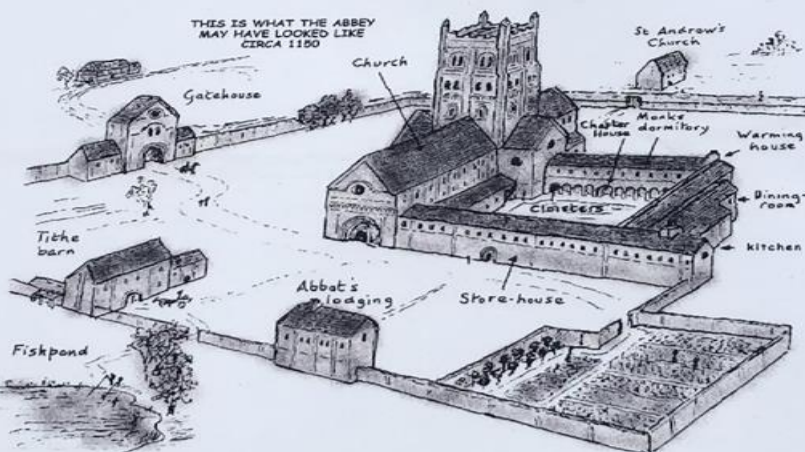


... OR CATCHING FISH IN THE FISHPOND.



St. Andrew's today

FOLLOWING EDWARD'S GIFT OF LAND AT PERSHORE TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY, ST ANDREW'S WAS BUILT TO SERVE THE TENANTS OF THE ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER.



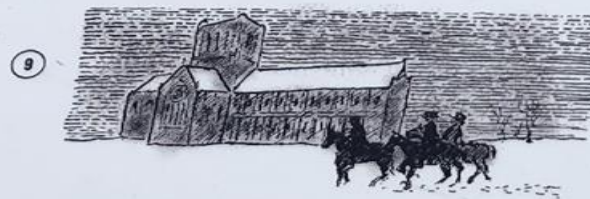
THIS IS WHAT THE ABBEY MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE CIRCA 1150



THE ABBOTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WEEKLY MARKETS AND BOTH HELD COURT IN PERSHORE.



1534 - HENRY VIII DECLARED THE ACT OF SUPREMACY. BY THIS HE MADE HIMSELF HEAD OF THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND INSTEAD OF THE POPE.



21 JAN 1540 - THE COMMISSIONERS ARRIVED AT PERSHORE. AFTER NEARLY 900 YEARS THE DAYS OF THE MONASTERY WERE OVER.



MANY OF THE BUILDINGS WERE DEMOLISHED. SIR JOHN RUSSELL BOUGHT MOST OF THE STONE.



THE LOCAL POPULATION RAISED £400 AND BOUGHT THE MONKS' CHOIR TO USE AS THE PARISH CHURCH. IT BECAME KNOWN AS HOLY CROSS



The Story of Pershore, The Abbey and the Park

No.3 Roundheads to Roundabout Today

1



1563 - PERSHORE HAD 216 FAMILIES. MOST PEOPLE WERE FARMERS BUT THERE WERE ALSO BUTCHERS, BAKERS, A COOPER AND AN ILLEGAL TOBACCONIST.

2



1635 - TRADE IMPROVED WHEN WILLIAM SANDYS OF FLADBURY MADE THE RIVER AVON A NAVIGABLE WATERWAY.

3



JUNE 1644 - DURING THE CIVIL WAR BETWEEN KING CHARLES I AND PARLIAMENT THE BRIDGE AT PERSHORE WAS BROKEN DOWN TO HALT WALLER'S ADVANCING ROUNDHEADS. 40 MEN WERE DROWNED.

4



ROUNDHEADS BURNT DOWN THE ABBEY HOUSE. PEOPLE GREW TIRED OF BOTH SETS OF SOLDIERS STEALING GOODS AND TAKING HORSES.

NOVEMBER 1644 - ROYALIST TROOPS, AND PARLIAMENTARY CAVALRY, FOUGHT A SKIRMISH AT PERSHORE.

Parliamentary Helmet



If you offer to shelter me and my castle will assuredly give you battle.



NOV 1645 - ON BREEDON HILL 3000 CLUBMEN FROM THE DISTRICT GATHERED TO PROTEST.

...THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR PRINCE RUPERT'S MEN.

5



BY THE 1660s THE NORTH TRANSEPT HAD FALLEN DOWN. A BUTTRESS WAS BUILT TO SUPPORT THE TOWER.

6



BECAUSE ROADS WERE SO BAD SEVERAL TURNPIKE ACTS WERE PASSED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEM. THE ROADS WERE IMPROVED AND BY THE 18th C COACHES FROM PERSHORE COULD REACH LONDON IN TWO DAYS IN SUMMER AND THREE IN WINTER.

11



1848 - AN APSE WAS ADDED TO THE EAST END OF THE CHURCH.

13



1913 - WHEN ANCIENT IVY WAS REMOVED FROM THE WALLS SEVERE CRACKS WERE FOUND IN THE SOUTH TRANSEPT. THE WESTERN BUTTRESSES WERE ERECTED.

14



1960 - THE SANCTUARY WAS CHANGED AND THE ALTAR WAS BROUGHT FORWARD.

7

CHANGES CAME TO THE LAND AROUND THE TOWN. THE OPEN FIELDS OF HOLY CROSS WERE ENCLOSED IN 1762.

9



...AND PAUPERS WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO BE INOCULATED AGAINST THE DEADLY DISEASE SMALL POX.

10



THE ABBEY OF THE 1790s WAS NOW TO SEE MANY CHANGES.

12



1871 - PINNACLES WERE ADDED TO THE BUILDING.

15



1972 - THE MILLENIUM OF THE ABBEY WAS CELEBRATED. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA JOINED THE LARGE CONGREGATION.

16



THE SOUTH TRANSEPT, TOWER AND PINNACLES.

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

good services, good value



Architecture – The Georgian Period

- 1714-1830 is the Georgian period after the Hanoverian Kings George I, II, III and IV
 - Trade expanded, consumerism and popular culture blossomed. Wool dealing, glove making and market gardening flourished, Pershore became prosperous and fashionable
 - Many of the beautiful houses are Listed Buildings
- 



BAR AND
KITCHEN



BAR AND
KITCHEN

1000 11111

Polly's

The Royal Arcade

Super Market



Coffee &
Takeaway
Deli

Elderly
people

DISABLED







The Story of Pershore, The Abbey and the Park

No.4 A Race Through the Years



Pershore Abbey Chronology

- 681-89 Ethelred of Mercia gave estates to Oswald to establish a monastery at Pershore.
- 972 King Edgar's charter confirmed the estate. The Benedictine Rule was introduced.
- 976-83 An anti-monastic reaction. Two thirds of the Pershore estate seized.
- 1002-20 A new church built by 1020 following a fire in 1002.
- 1056 Earl Odda, benefactor died at Deerhurst and was buried at Pershore.
- 1065 Edward the Confessor gave the alienated lands to endow Westminster Abbey.
- 1090-1130 The Norman Abbey built. The south transept and tower piers remain.
- 1223 A fire on St Urban's day destroyed the Norman quire.
- 1239 The Early English quire and the combined triforium and clerestory completed.
- 1288 Another fire brought down the Norman tower and ruined the quire roof.
- 1290-1330 The ploughshare lierne vaulting and the tower rebuilt in the Decorated style.
- 1540 Surrender of the monastery. The monks quire bought for £400 to be the parish church.
- 1686 The north buttress built to support the tower after the transept fell.
- 1862-4 Restoration by Gilbert Scott. The lantern tower opened up.
- 1913 Cracks in the south transept and the vaulting. The western buttress built.
- 1960 Re-ordering of the sanctuary by George Pace.
- 1992-4 Restoration of the south transept, tower and roofs.
- 1996-7 Laying of stone floor with under-floor heating after archaeological investigation.

Abbey Park



Map key

Black under layer - 1904 map
Blue over layer - 2007 map



The Park

Originally the Abbey grounds was used by the monks for growing vegetables, fruit and for fish from the ponds.

In 1762 the land around the land around the farm and the open fields of Holy Cross were enclosed its likely the Park was a farmed area.

1904 maps show two fish ponds, still in existence and areas of orchard.

Abbey house was built after dissolution of the monastery as a private residence. Rebuilt into a gothic mansion in Victorian times. Bought in 1910 by monks who lived there till 1928. Demolished in the 1930s.

Pershore Bowling Club building in the 1930s.

Play area opened in 1957, refurbished at intervals over the years. The latest being in 2006.

Public Conveniences constructed in 1993.

Car Park at Abbey Road constructed in 1997.


Water Play opened in Summer 2005.

Skate Park opened in Summer 2006.

WYCHAVON
DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services, good value



The Bridge


- ❑ Over the river Avon, originally built in 1413 by the Monks
 - ❑ 1644 – damaged during the English Civil War
 - ❑ Rebuilt with local stone from nearby Elmley Castle
- 







Fruit Growing – particularly the Plum

- ❑ Fruit growing since medieval times
 - ❑ 1827 – Yellow plum discovered growing wild in ancient local Tiddesley Wood, a settlement since the Ice Age. This became the Pershore Yellow Egg Plum
 - ❑ 1887 – 2 varieties purple plum resistant to Silver Leaf disease, this became the Pershore Purple Plum
 - ❑ 1870 – records show 900 tons of fruit being sent to markets at harvest
 - ❑ 1914-1918 – food scarce – plums shipped by steam train all over England
 - ❑ 1927 – GWR Railway named the first and only engine after a fruit – The Pershore Plum!
- 

August Bank Holiday
Weekend Extravaganza
27-29 AUGUST 2022

**SATURDAY 27 AUGUST &
MONDAY 29 AUGUST**

Plum Alley

Plums, entertainment
and merchandise

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST

Family Fun Day

In Abbey Park

- Plum Plodders 10K race
- Plum Pooches in the park dog show
- Plum Praise Service

MONDAY 29 AUGUST

Plum Fagre Day

In Abbey Park

- Classic cars
- Teddy Bear Parachute Drop
- Teddy Bear Zip Wire

Both days

- Art Trail in the Abbey
- Plum Fun Zone
- Entertainment
- Food Village
- Trade Stands
- South Worcestershire Lifeguards

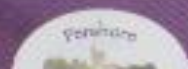


WORCESTERSHIRE'S
VALE & SPA

*Pershore
Plum Festival*
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
2022




For more information call:



www.pershoreplumfestival.org.uk




Pershore Plum Fayre

- ❑ Held during August, the whole town goes plum crazy!
 - ❑ 1920 – was the 'largest plum show on earth'
 - ❑ Still attracts thousands of visitors to the town
 - ❑ Worcester Race Course recently revived the 72 year old 'Hand O'Plums Chase' during August to celebrate Pershore's Plum Fayre
- 



Plum considered a 'super food'

- ❑ Plums are a very valuable fruit for our health
 - ❑ The local butcher makes Plum Sausages, Plum pork pies and other delicacies
 - ❑ Plum beer is brewed locally
 - ❑ Locally made plum jam, jelly, chutney, puddings And soap!
- 

Traditional beef suet
Shredded Beef Suet
serving suggestion



Abbey Butchers
Best of British

**Our Own Made
Persnore Sausage**

Pork, plum, spring onion & ginger

£4.99 lb (£11.00 kilo)













Pershore – a gentle and interesting place to live!

A Perfect Place for Plums!

Visitors are always very welcome!

We look forward to seeing you here!

