1 Start at the Clarendon Centre, facing Hyde Town Hall. This is the town's traditional market place, with Victorian bus shelters previously used by trams.

The foundation stone for the Town Hall was laid by the mill owner and Mayor, Thomas Ashton, on 30 June 1883. Built in red brick with stone facings it was opened on 27 June 1885. Brick building were a symbol of prosperity, as were the clock and bells, a gift from mill owner Joshua Bradley. The Town Hall houses Harry Rutherford's painting, "Northern Saturday" The Chartist statue commemorates the working class movement for voting rights. The Seal statue recognises Hyde Seal Amateur Swimming Club's treble in the World Water Polo Championships, 1904- 1906.

2 Walk along Corporation St, to the right of the Town Hall. Pass the original Post Office. Hyde Festival Theatre opened in 1913 as the Alexandra Picture House, with a billiard hall upstairs. The Theatre Royal opened in 1902. In the 1970's it became a cinema, before closing in 1993. Pass the Jamia Mosque

3 Turn right along Great Norbury St, passing Hyde Central Station. Opened in1858 as Hyde Station, trains departed here for Sheffield and London.

4 At Manchester Rd, turn left Just past Aldi, turn left onto the canal tow path.   Look for the Blue Plaque, remembering the Hyde Lane Colliery disaster.
Cross the canal, turn right.
The Peak Forest Canal was opened in 1899 to transport limestone from Dove Holes, Derbyshire. By 1948 it was in decline, but legally had the right of way when the motorway was planned. It was reconstructed to enable the M67 to be built. Wharfingers House is a renovation of the canal warehouse and home of the Wharfinger, the canal supervisor. Look for the half mile markers !

5 At Dunkirk Lane, turn right (between Kenyon's factory and Newton Hall). William Kenyon and Sons is a family owned rope making firm. They made the ropes used by Sir Edmund Hilary on his conquest of Mt Everest in 1953 Newton Hall is a cruck frame building, the oak timbers dating from c1370. It was the home of the Newton family, who sold it to the Duckinfields. In the 1850's it was a farm house. It has been extensively restored.

6 Turn right onto Dukinfield Rd, turn left into Throstle Bank Rd, and straight ahead under the railway bridge. The terraced houses on the left were built by mill owners and rented to their workers.

7 At the roundabout, take the 3rd turn into Park Drive towards Hyde Park. The park opened in 1904 on land given by the Ashton family. Look out for Batley Hall, which replaced the Ashton's Newton Hall home, the Bandstand (1922), and the Garden of Tranquillity.

8 Leave by the Park Rd entrance. Walk along Park Drive and turn left into Newton St. Street names on the left reflect that this was the site of the Ashton family mills—Carrfield Mill Rd, Zorbit Mews.

9 Flowery Field Church is on the right. As the local population increased due to industrial expansion, residents asked Thomas Ashton to build a church. He told then to come back when they had raised £1,000. He then built the church at his own expense. The £1,000 was invested to supplement the Minister's stipend. The church opened in 1878.

10 Continue along Newton St, left into Clarke Way, right into Pitt St, and follow the footpath on the right across the M67 footbridge. Go right, back on to Market St , and into the Clarendon Centre..
Look out for the Blue Plaque which marks the former site of the Norfolk Arms public house. Here in 1829 almost 700 cotton workers met to discus a threat by employers to reduce their wages. 29 men and women were killed, and many more injured, when the floor of the room collapsed, leaving the victims to crash into the cellar.
Retrace your steps back to the Town Hall..
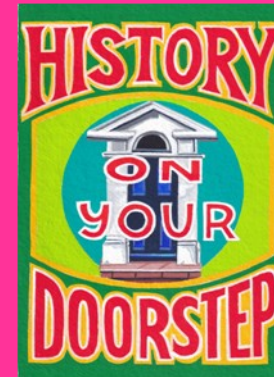
For further information

2024

Hyde Historic Walk

History on Your Doorstep

Dunkirk Lane

6

5

Newton Hall

Dukinfield Rd

Lodge Lane

Park Drive

7

8

Hyde Park

Throstle Bank St

Towpath

Newton Street

OPENING OF THE
FLOWERY FIELD CHURCH
TEA PARTY TICKET
DECEMBER 19TH 1878

9

Clark Way

10

Foot Bridge

M67

J3

Market St

A57 Manchester Road

4

New · Theatre · Royal, · Hyde.
The Popular Place of Entertainment.
Only the Best Companies Engaged.
Popular Prices.
Manager - J. W. MALONEY.

Peak Forest Canal

3

2

Town Hall

1

Hyde Central

Corporation St

Great Norbury St

Market Place