The Lye & Wollescote WALKING TRAIL

This clockwise circular trail begins at the Car Park at the rear of Christ Church on the right as you travel along Lye By-pass, A458 Orchard Lane (one-way system). Proceed on foot along the alleyway at the side of the Church turning left into High Street. Allow 45 minutes.

LYE-SPY

Look out for the answers to the Lye-SPY quiz as you walk the trail!

### Sir Cedric Hardwicke's birthplace

The unique memorial at the site of Lye Cross House, designed by sculptor Tim Tolkien, great-nephew of J.R. Tolkien, takes the shape of a row of film highlighting some of Sir Cedric's best known roles.

### Lye High Street, early 1960s

Clifton Cinema (former)

Rev. James Scott of Netherend opened the first chapel in Lye. After 1806, an additional church, designed by Francis Smalman Smith, was built in 1817 in red brick with blue and yellow bands. It still contains its original shop front, and is now a retail unit.

### The Centre Building

Elda Cartright's clothing shop, with the date of 1901, another Owen Freeman design, was the first building in Lye to have an electrically illuminated sign. The building retains many of its original features including the shopfront.

### Broadfields House

Dr. Henry Christopher Darby of Broadfields House was an ardent supporter of the local St. John's Ambulance Brigade. He was a pioneer in the treatment for haemorrhage and donated the 'Christopher Challenge Shield', competed for every two years amongst ambulance and nursing divisions in Worcestershire, for the amount of haemorrhage. Dr. Darby died in 1917 and was buried in the Lye & Wollescote Cemetery.

### Congregational Chapel (Mount Zion) (now the Ghanaian Welfare Association)

Built in 1827, it was also known as 'Woods' Chapel after two of its benefactors, George and Thomas Wood, shoemakers and drapery manufacturers. Note the two almost identical memorials at the front of the building.

### Rhodes Building

Dating from 1831-82, and almost certainly designed by Owen Freeman, it was built of red lichen bricks with decorative red terracotta bands and ashlar blocks on the gable ends inscribed 'The Neth Industrial' and 'Dominant in Business'.

### Bank Buildings

Originally the Midland Bank, the building is dated 1901 and was designed by Thomas Robinson in the Jacobean style with interesting Dutch gables. Lye & Wollescote Urban District Council, formed in 1937, held its meetings in rooms above the bank.

War Memorial

Erected in 1926 by George Brown & Sons of niblockmakers to commemorate the town of Lye & Wollescote. The Rhodes Building was also designed by Robert Smith.

### Clifton Cinema

The cinema was the height of luxury with seating for over 1,000 people. Dancing audiences sat in the cinema in the 1960s before it became a ten-screen cineplex. The upper part of the frontage still retains its Art Deco design.

### Lye Public Library

Designed by Frederick Woodhead, Steadforth House was opened in 1951 by Sir Edwin Hardwicke. A plaque on the High Street side of the building commemorates this event. Note the impressive pillared doorway with the Steadforth Borough Coat of Arms above.

### Rhodes Building, High Street

Thomas Rhodes was a pioneer who brought the steam-driven flax-breaker to Lye, and provided work for the people of Lye. In 1839 he founded the Penwortham Works which employed seven men in 1840 and employed over 60 people producing flax, linen, bunting, horse and wool sacks and bleachers. He gave his name to "Rhodes Buildings" on the High Street, and donated his spare time to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He died in 1906 and was buried in the Cemetery.

### The Unitarian Church

Rhodes Building, Clifton Cinema and Bank Buildings create the distinctive Dutch gables of Dennis Street in the distance.

### The Centre Building with outer porch

Salem Chapel

Built in 1995 and designed in an attractive Brutalist style by Owen Freeman, all 80,000 bricks used in its construction were donated by local brickworkers. Note the foundation stones, one of which bears the name of Mrs E. Fletcher, Lady of the Manor."