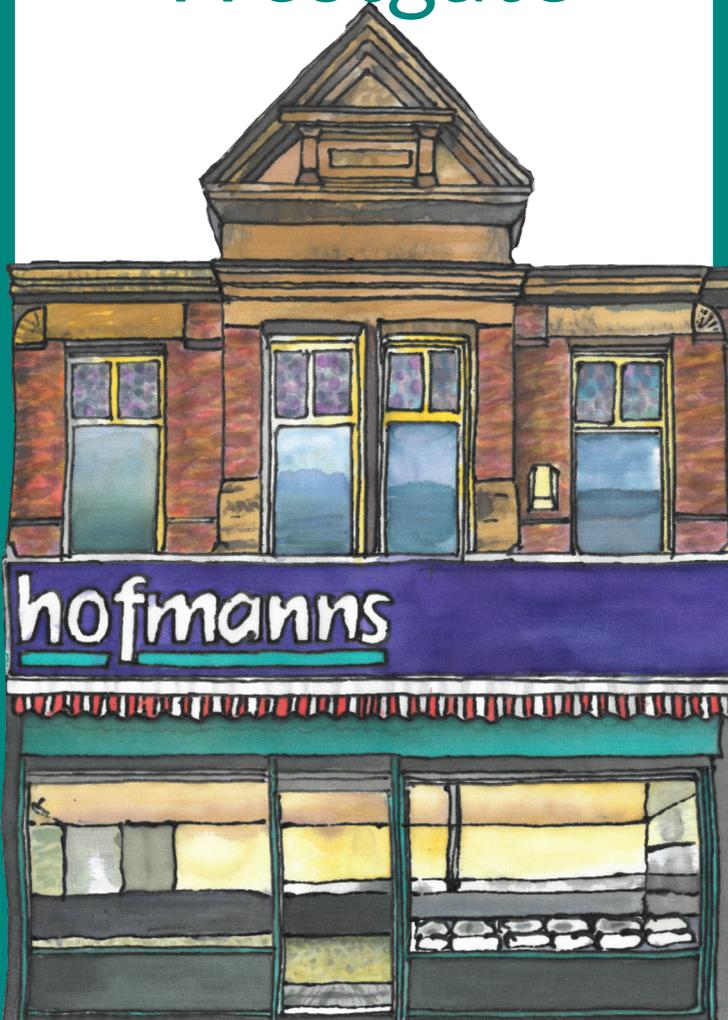


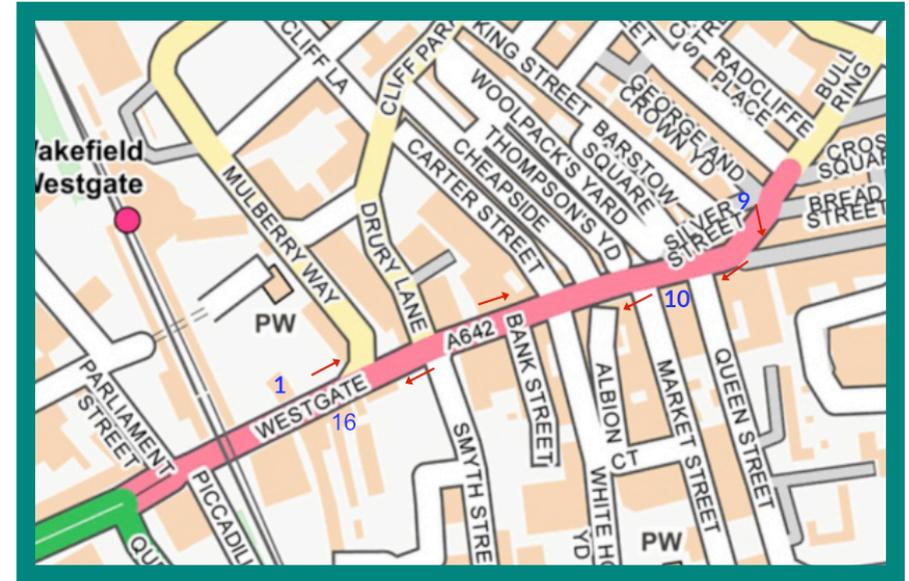
# Look Up Westgate



Look up Westgate is an arts project led by Edgelands Arts on behalf of the Westgate Heritage Action Zone. Funded by Wakefield Council and Historic England.

Communities from across the Westgate area have worked with Edgelands Arts to create images of buildings along the street. have been turned into a series of coasters and vinyl window stickers, showing interesting architectural or historic features on the buildings.

The project encourages participants to look up and find the beauty in the street as they travel along its length. When you scan the QR code at the bottom of each coaster or to the side of each window sticker, you will be brought to this online booklet, where you can find historic information about the buildings, living history memories, or architectural facts.



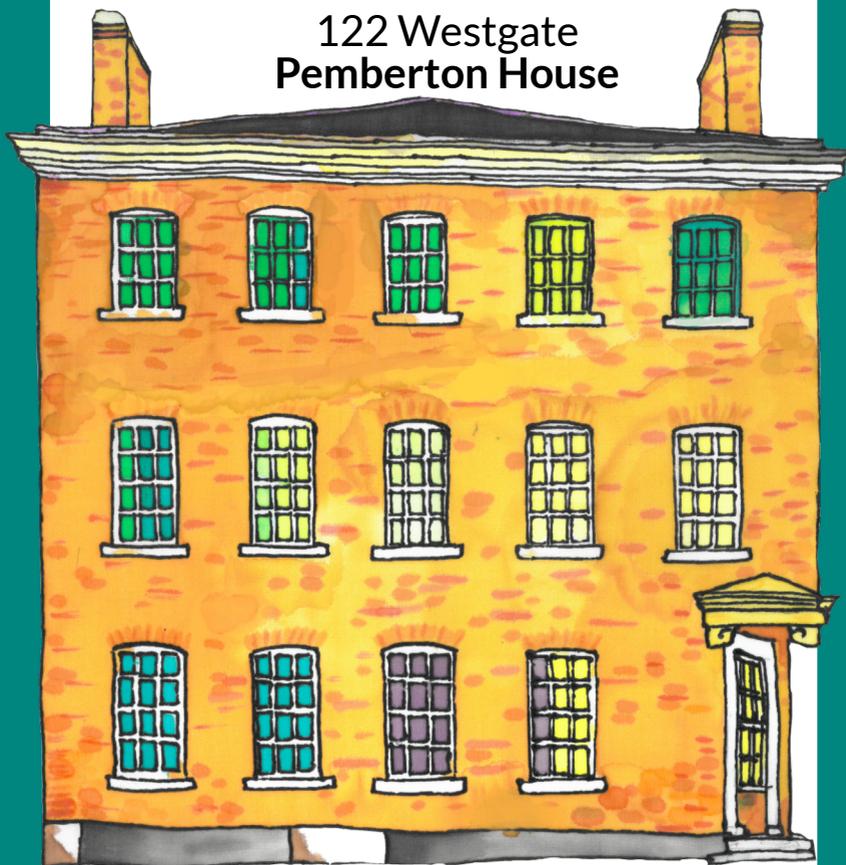
You can follow the trail however you wish, as there is no set route, but the map above gives you an idea of where the Window stickers begin and end.

Be sure to check out some of the yards and alleyways off the main street as you wander, but remember, safety first and, if you can, take a friend to enjoy the trail together.



1

## 122 Westgate Pemberton House



Painted by Leah Vasey-Saunders

This house was built for a rich woollen merchant, Pemberton Milnes, in about 1752, when lower Westgate was lined by similar wealthy homes. But as pollution from mills and coal fires increased in the early 1800s, the wealthy moved out. This building then housed the *Wakefield and West Riding Herald* until 1910.

2

## 102-104 Westgate The Black Horse Public House



Painted by Claire Dunne

In the 1800s the Coroner would hold inquests into sudden deaths at the nearest convenient place, often the pub. Wakefield's Coroner held an inquest at the Black Horse into the death of Hannah Haselgrave who died on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1844. She had been severely mauled by a bear which escaped from its cage in the Zoological Gardens just across Back Lane, and died shortly after.

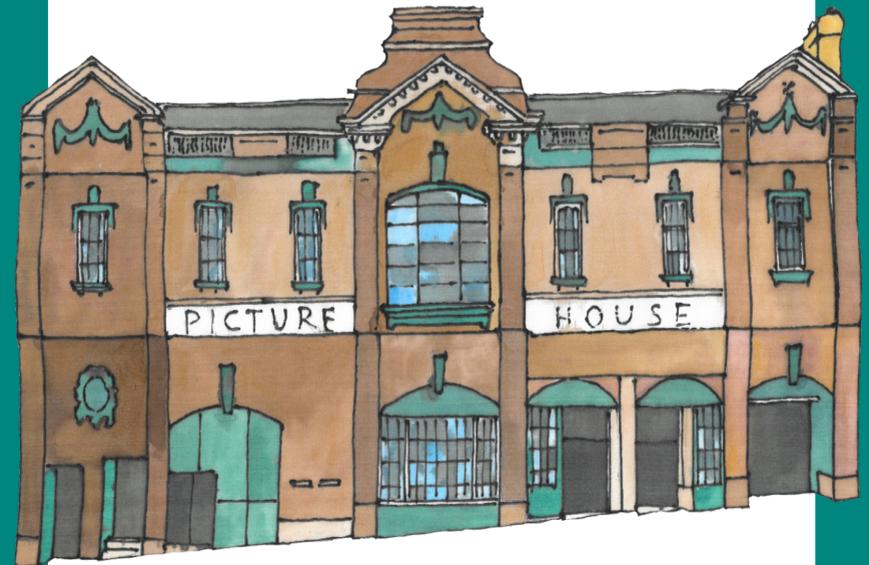
## Theatre Royal Wakefield



Painted by The Davies Family

A purpose-built theatre was erected here in 1776, where famous actors and actresses, like Sarah Siddons, performed. In 1894 it was replaced by a new theatre by Frank Matcham. During the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, it served as a cinema and then a bingo hall. It was magnificently restored and re-opened as a theatre in 1986. Look up to the round windows of the top floor to see the heads of Mozart, Shakespeare, Beethoven and actor/manager David Garrick.

## 82-86 Westgate



Painted by Amy Lilley

The Picture House was the first purpose-built cinema in Wakefield. It opened in 1913 at the height of the popular rush for this new kind of entertainment. It was a grand building, seating 1,480, with the latest safety features. On Thursday 16th October 1924 fire broke out in the projection room, but thanks to its fireproofing the audience all got out safely, although the projectionist suffered burns.

5

## 80 Westgate

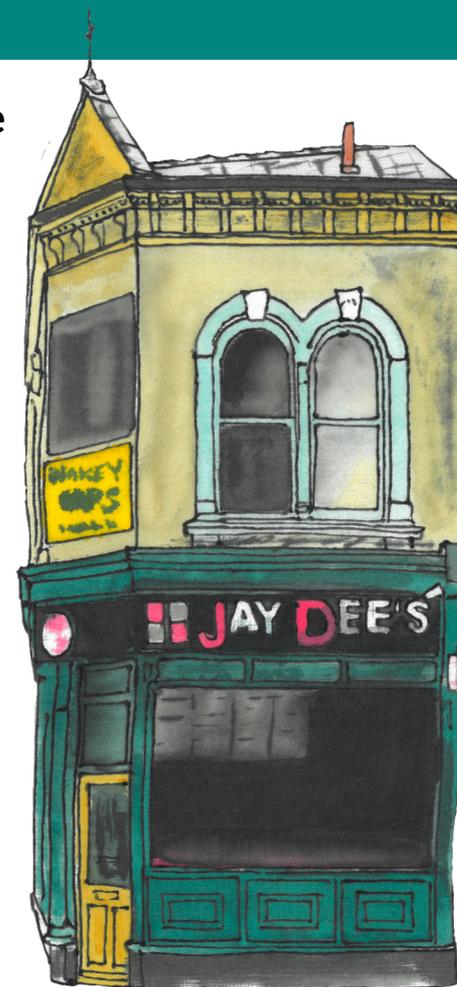


Painted by Helen Thomas

For many decades this property was occupied by wine and spirit merchants. John Tansley in the late 1800s was followed by Fred Fisk who bought the property in 1906. He acquired not just the shop on the Westgate frontage, but also storerooms, offices, stables, bottling warehouses and storerooms in Prospect Yard at the back.

6

## 76 Westgate



Painted by Jen Watson

Carter Street was developed from Major Burton's yard with housing and shops between 1851 and 1861. A small garden survived fronting onto Westgate, but there was so much pressure for space on Westgate that this little lock-up shop was squeezed into the garden space in 1878. It has housed a variety of shops over the years. Look up to see small heads decorating the window heads.

## 50-52 Westgate



Painted by Jacqui Taliesin El Masry

50 and 52 Westgate were shops which for much of the 1800s were occupied by retailers such as grocers and bakers. After the Great War they fell empty and Lloyds Bank converted them into a bank which opened in 1928. It was later Flares nightclub.

Behind 50 and 52 Westgate is the Woolpacks Inn, where on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1870, a treat for workers from Major Bakers' worsted mill developed into a fight, both indoors and outside. The police were called but were unable to restore order and the fight continued into the night.

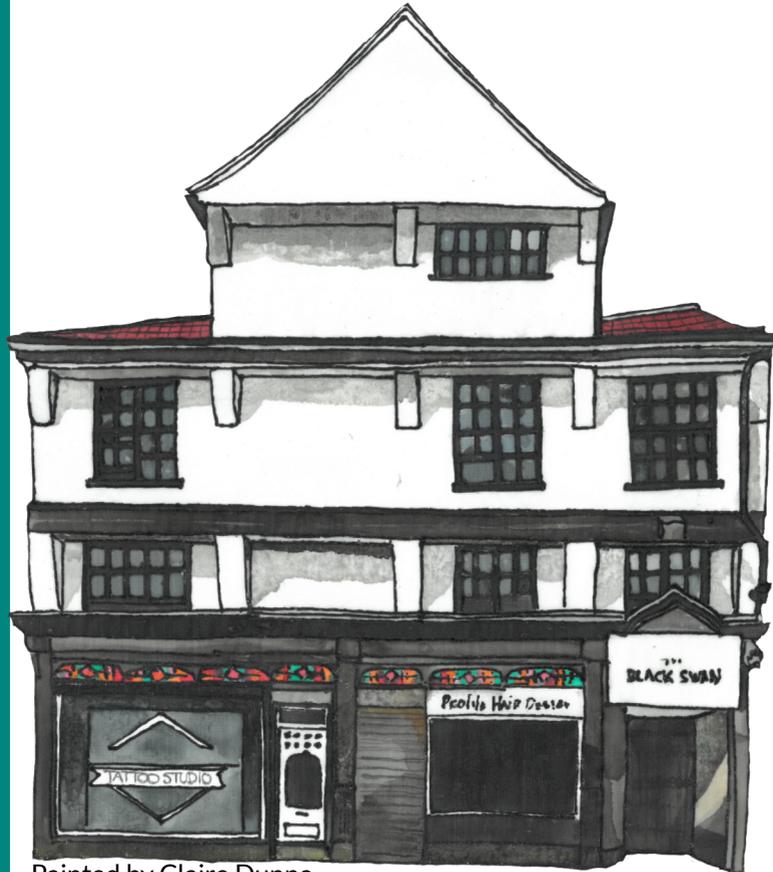
## 14 Silver Street



Painted by Tony Wade

Silver Street was home to upper class shops in the 1800s: tailors, drapers, milliners, umbrella makers and watchmakers. In the 1860s and 1870s this shop was home to Oldfields, a saddlers, and in 1888 was John Eland and Co, tea dealers.

6 - 8 Silver Street  
The Black Swan



Painted by Claire Dunne

There has been an inn on the site from at least 1698 when it was called The Golden Bull. By the 1790s the inn, now the Weaver Inn, was in a more recent building at the back, as the front had become divided into two shops, not long after that, it became the Black Swan.

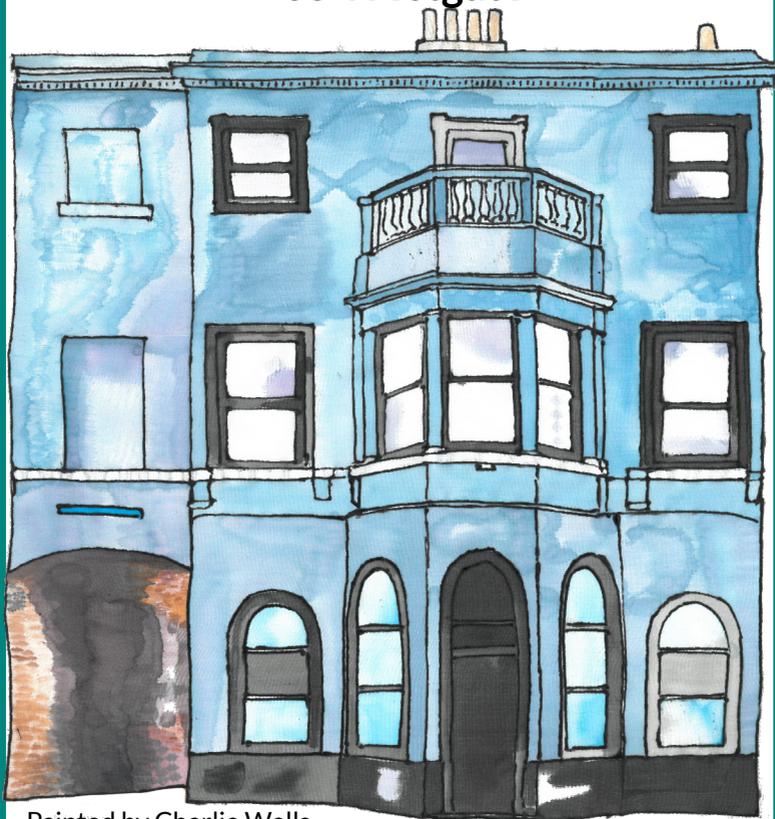
51-55 Westgate  
Westgate Studios



Painted by Irene Purcell

This magnificent Georgian building replaced the previous Black Bull Inn in 1774. The new inn had spacious public rooms, over 50 commodious bedrooms and stabling for nearly 100 horses. The site also housed a variety of other businesses. Later Prudential Insurance took over the building in 1921, then Martin's Bank in 1941. It now houses bars, nightclubs and artists' studios.

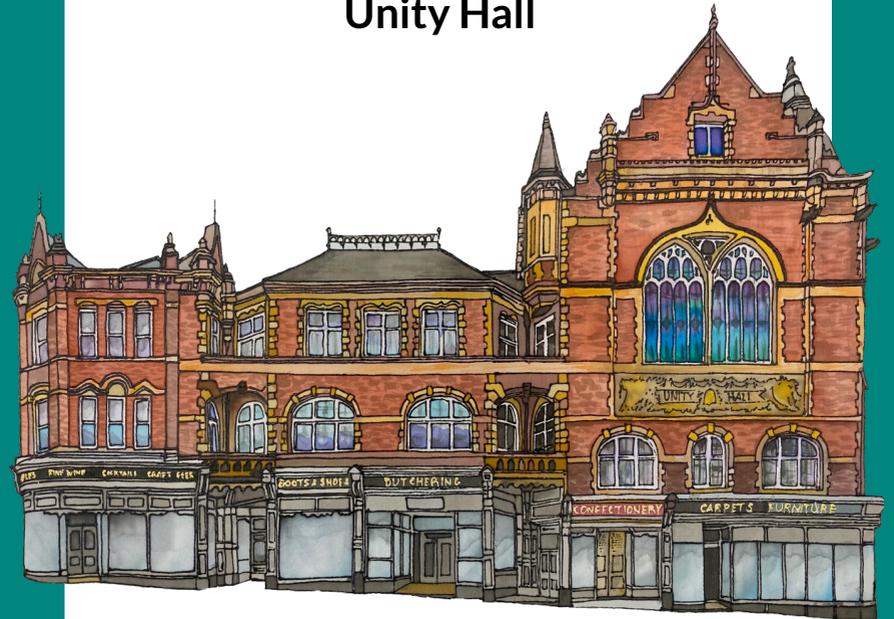
## 65 Westgate



Painted by Charlie Wells

This house, built a few years before 1808, was 'purposely erected for carrying on the banking business' for the Ingram, Kennett and Ingram bank. There was also a dwelling house behind for one of the partners, Benjamin Kennet Dawson, Esq., and his family.

## Unity Hall

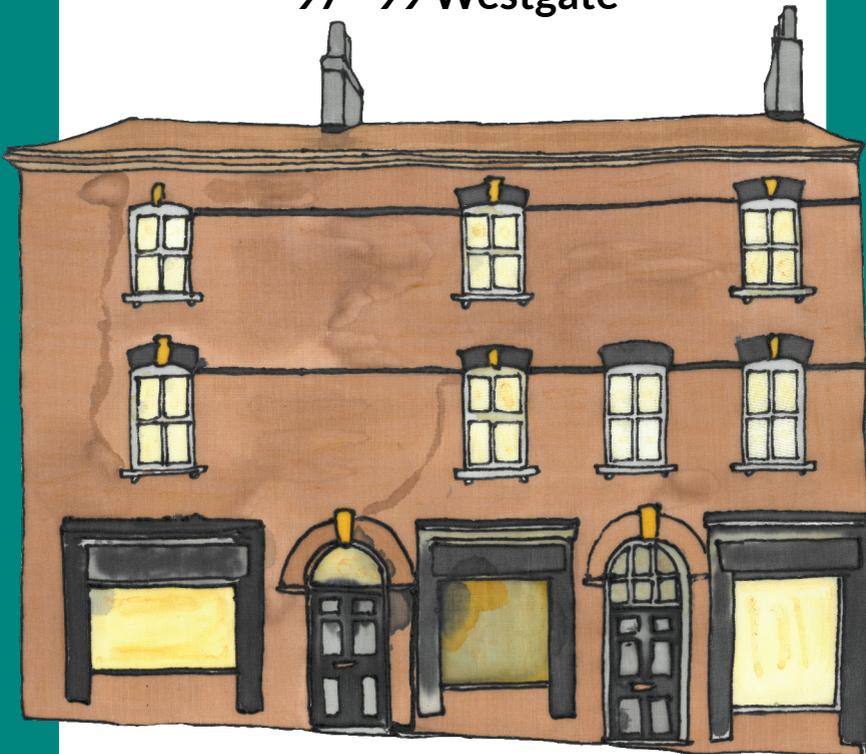


Painted by Kath Stringer and Nicki Embleton

This building started life as the Wakefield Industrial Co-operative Society, founded in 1867, where customers were shareholders, receiving a 'divi' (dividend) from the profits. Faced with competition from supermarkets, the Co-operative Society moved out in 1971, but the building continued to host all sorts of events, ranging from concerts to wrestling. In the 1970s and 1980s it was a top music venue, hosting names such as Screaming Lord Sutch, Dave Berry and Be-Bop Deluxe.

13

## 97 - 99 Westgate



Painted by Amanda Patrick

The Great Northern Hotel was, effectively, the station hotel standing opposite the old entrance to Wakefield Westgate Railway Station. It later became the HQ for John Smith's Brewery in Wakefield. It stands on the site of the former Cooper's Arms which had existed from at least 1820.

14

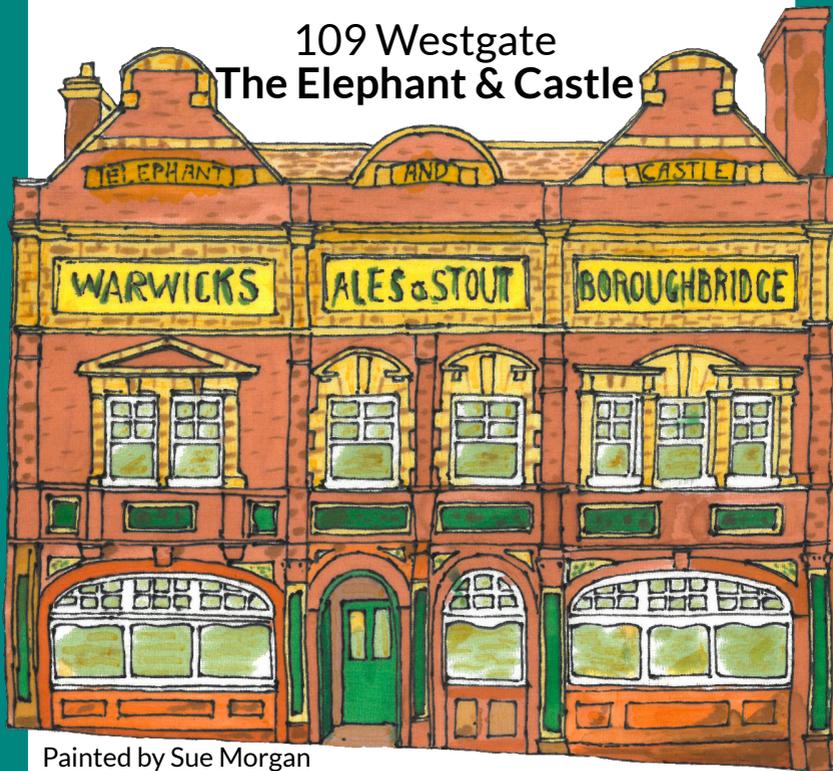
## 101 - 103 Westgate



Painted by Nastaran Damirchi

Further down Westgate there were smaller shops, some of them owned by women like Mrs Storr, tobacconist, at 103. Some shops continued to carry on the same kind of business, even when the owner changed. A series of fishmongers and then fried fish dealers were at 101 Westgate from the late 1800s to well into the 1900s.

## 109 Westgate The Elephant & Castle



Painted by Sue Morgan

This inn has existed from at least the 1700s, but its colourful tiled front dates from the early 1900s. The pub was the venue for several inquests, and for various groups who met there. Census records in the 1800s show that the yard continued to be used for stables, and that a horse-cab business was established there.

Henry Clarkson in *Memories of Merry Wakefield* (published in 1887) recorded his memory of public floggings using a cat-o'-nine-tails. The prisoner was tied to the back of a cart which was driven at walking pace from near the Cathedral to the Elephant and Castle yard where gunpowder was rubbed into the wounds so that scars would be left.

## 111 - 113 Westgate



Painted by Claire Walker

German émigré Charles Hofmann established his pork butcher business here in 1902. It is still in the family today, producing award-winning pork pies and sausages along the yard, where originally there was a garden with pigs and chickens. The relocation of the railway station made the shop front unviable and it is now a dress shop. Hofmann's still have several shops in the area, including one at the top of Westgate

## Special Thanks

With thanks to

[Wakefield Historical Society](#) Volunteers for their research and support in completing this booklet. Further information and future completed research for the project will be found on their [website](#). They have also suggested further reading for those wishing to know more about the buildings in this series. Which can be found overleaf.

Kevin Trickett and the [Wakefield Civic Society](#). Their booklet *Wakefield, City of Sculpture and Public Art*, is available to purchase on their [website](#).

[Creative Wakefield](#), which brings together Wakefield's cultural and creative sector.

All the participants and individuals who completed paintings in the streetscape and gave us their memories of their time on Westgate.

You can find the Westgate Heritage Action Zone Exhibition [here](#) and further information about the work of Edgelands Arts [here](#).

## Suggested Further Reading



Painted by Sharon Shephard

[Unity+Heritage](#), by Judi Alston

[Twixt Aire & Calder](#) - A website, curated by Wakefield Libraries with historical images from across the Wakefield District, including Westgate

*Wakefield District Heritage*, ed. Kate Taylor, 1976

*Right Royal, Wakefield Theatre 1776-1994*, by Kate Taylor, 1995.

Article about the Black Horse Inn by Ken Rowley on [WHS website](#)



Painted by Aisha



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Historic England



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