

CIRCULAR WALKS AROUND BRAUNSTON

from nearby towns

up after them.

dogs on their

There are bus services to Braunston from nearby towns including Rugby, Daventry and Northampton. For further information ring Traveline: 0870 608 2608.

created a more direct route to London than the Oxford Canal and with double width locks, speeded up traffic. The six locks at Braunston

were completed in 1796. Boats are raised 35ft 6in.

The Grand Junction Canal

Acknowledgements
Our thanks to the late 'Dick' Herne and family for the bequest of his very comprehensive archives which have been invaluable. Also the inhabitants, past and present, and the friends of Braunston for their interest, support and information.

of water

People on working boats used the spring just past the cottage for a supply of wate and would carry it in decorated "Buckby Cans"

This leaflet is part of a partnership project, involving the following organisations:

Braunston Tunnel is 2042 yards long, wide enough for two narrow boats to

12

pass, and lined with three layers of bricks. Workers used picks and shovels to build the tunnel by candlelight. It was completed in 1797

and was a great engineering

leaving gates as you find them,

taking your litte

strike in 1923. Laden boats were jammed together over a long distance and the strike lasted for 16 weeks. It is worth remembering that some of the cargoes were perishable which must have added health risks and bad smells to the crew's hardships.

The tall chimney with the date 1897 in the brickwork was part of the pump house used to pump water back to the top of the locks. The area was one of the sites of the Boatman's strike in 1923. Laden boats were jammed together



tered at Birmingham Willi

IRCULAR WALKS AROUND BRAUNSTON ISCOVER HISTORIC BRAUNSTON

help us to

Please help us to look after Braunston by keeping to the footpaths and

CIRCULAR WALKS AROUND BRAUNSTON DISCOVER HISTORIC BRAUNSTON

telegraph office. The faint painted name "Pebody" is above the front door and like many houses in Braunston, it has its own well. Sarah Pebody worked there from 1874 for 30 years without a break Number 4, the Green, was a post and

people caught the disease and 19 died.

The raised pavement on the north side of the a Cholera epidemic began here. It was carried Braunston by infected bedding from a boat. 70 stood at the bottom of the lane were part of a traumatic period in village history when, in 1834 **©** 20 High Street was said to be provided for the nuns to avoid the mud of the un-made road. in Nuneaton. The boatman's cottages, which once route from Banbury to a mediaeval convent Cross Lane is named after the wayside cross which marked the

castellated top. It has been used as a café and builders yard before becoming a private dwelling. Milling ceased when the wind turned

here. Admire the panoramic view from the War Memorial

Oxford canals paid a toll according to the load they carried. Previously there was a gauging lock here, part of which is still visible. The building was shaped to enable the toll man to see boats approaching from either direction

christened, married or buried as many boaters have been known as the "Boatman's Church" can be seen for miles. It is The landmark crocketted tower worked on Rugby School Chapel

> (now the Grand Union) where boats passing between the Grand Junction

and

was a Toll House The Stop House

The Windmill was built in 1805. At one time it was higher with a

repairs and he fell to his death in the churchyard the sails on which a workman was carrying out

© 5

This typical brick canal bridge spans the Oxford Canal, which links the

You can recognise "The Old Bakery" from the Hovis sign. Bread was baked here until 1999. The original meat brought by local cottagers. cruck style house where the oven was also used on Sunday to cook and the windmill, for flour. It is a together with a farm, for grain bakery was family owned

> grooves on some bridges, caused by wet tow ropes when horses pulled the boats. decoration painted on some boats and notice the

traditional 'roses

and castles

following the lie of the land. When walking the towpath look out for the

meanders its way to Oxford Built as a 'contour canal' it

Coventry Canal with the Thames.

8

In the late 1700s, this area became a hive of activity because of its location

boating families, the Brays and the Whitlocks

where the original line of the Oxford Canal turned south, and used to be the junction of the two canals. Either side of the bridge are plaques dedicated to

The iron bridge at the entrance to the Marina is

at the junction of two important transport links: the Oxford Canal and the Turnpike road (A45). A wharf, workshops, inns, stables, blacksmiths, warehouses and canal employees houses were all built at this important site. Imagine how busy it

inn, claiming origins from 1672. A list of previous landlords is in the bar. on the wall by the front door records the names and initials of old village residents. Vandalism is not new! The "Old Plough" was a mail-coaching Scratched graffiti

> Oxford 6

mark the current junction between the and Grand Union Canals, constructed

The two iron bridges at Braunston Turn

9

The wooden bridge spans the joining of the reservoirs, which were built to

The unusual turnover bridge close to the junction when the Oxford Canal was re-routed in 1834

The brick bridge over the canal is known Butchers Bridge and is the

reservoirs are now used for leisure boat moorings retain water emptied from Bottom Lock. The

has rounded brickwork to

prevent towropes chafing Its design allowed horses

worth a visit. Constructed in 1849, it incorporates the chancel arches, clock, bells and font of the previous church and includes work by the Victorian architect William Butterfield, who also to be built on this site and is well All Saints Church is the third church

Having a towpath on both sides made it easier to turn

carried to the construction Braunston Tunnel were Bricks for use in

uncoupling from the boat

the canal without

land to the north is the site of a former brick works. Canal bridges. Excavated first of the Grand Junction

in either direction

Further copies of this leaflet can be picked up from Braunston shops and pubs, or by telephoning British Waterways on 01908 302500

Visit www.braunstonhistorysociety.co.uk for further information.

🖒 Nationwide Heritage Lottery Fun



Braunston Parish Council













achievement. Excavation started from each end and a misunder-standing caused an error in alignment. Renowned for its kink,

























































it was a costly mistake for the resident engineer, whose wages were docked! There is no towpath

through the tunnel, but a bridleway over the top. Boats were taken through the

passes over the top. Boats were taken through the tunnel by official Jeggers', who lay on their backs across the front of the boat pushing against the tunnel wall with their feet. Their fee for a loaded

boat was one shilling. Legging ceased when a

steam powered tug was employed.













































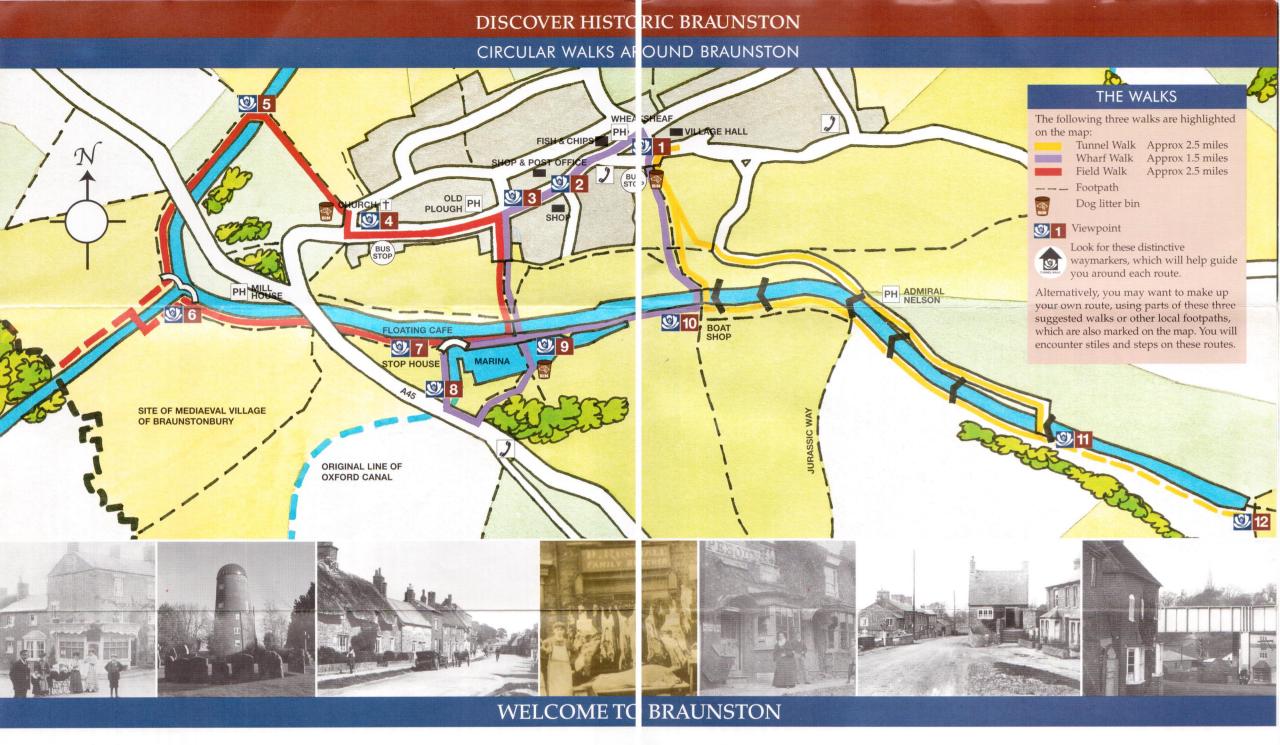












This leaflet introduces you to the rich heritage of the village and canal of Braunston and suggests some walk routes to help you enjoy your visit and discover more about this fascinating area.

Although little is known of Braunston's early history, it is referred to as Brandestone in the

Domesday Book in 1086 and described as a small farming community. The name Brandestone is of Saxon origin and its earliest known reference is from AD956

Braunston's location would have been attractive to ancient man, particularly because of the many

springs of water here, and its commanding position on a high spur jutting out into the surrounding countryside with fine views in every direction. It remained a rural community until the late 1700s, when the construction of the canals greatly influenced village life. Braunston became a central point in the

canal system, the main transport network at that time, around which goods were carried countrywide.

Although commercial traffic on the canals ended in the 1960's, Braunston is still busy with leisure boats, and retains many canal businesses. Boats are still built in Braunston to this day.