

# North Walsham

## Horrible Histories Ghost Trail

The quiet North Norfolk town of North Walsham has dozens of horrible stories hidden behind its quaint exterior. From the ghostly goings-on in the church, to the haunting of an alleyway by the ghost of a young girl, you'll find many a story to entertain you on our Horrible Histories Ghost Trail. Follow the map, study the stories, and search for all the answers to our questions here.

### 1. Gargoyles

St. Nicholas church dates from around the year 1330. Two of the gargoyles fell off the church tower and did not break. These gargoyles are sticking out their tongues and have staring eyes to ward off evil spirits.



- A. Why do the gargoyles have their mouths open?
- B. What is the use for gargoyles when it rains?

### 2. The Rebels of North Walsham

In 1381, rebels rose up in the County of Norfolk and were put down by the forces of the Bishop of Norwich. They had attempted to seek safety in the church but the church had not yet been blessed. It was not yet 'Holy Ground' so the Bishop slaughtered the rebels and ended the battle. Their remains were found some years later.

The statue commemorating the peasants revolt can be found in the War Memorial Park. (See 2B on the map.) How many peasants are there in the carving?



### 3. The Mysterious Ceremony



What is the name given to a ghost and also an alcoholic drink?

In the olden days, there was a dare for townsfolk leaving the White Swan pub to run around the church backwards three times, after which it was said organ sounds could be heard coming from the empty church.

When a man called Stumpy Covell got on the shoulders of his friend Joe Bush to look through the church window, he saw ghostly figures walking up the aisle towards the altar. In his shock, he fell against the window and with that the figures disappeared into the night...

#### 4. The North Side of the Church

Strangers and the dispossessed people of North Walsham were buried here at the north side of the church. The cold temperature and eerie atmosphere make this an unpleasant place to be at night time. It is rumoured that some people have been joined by an unearthly presence and some claim to have been “followed by an unearthly shadow.”



How many square bolts are to be found on the wooden door?

#### 5. Black Shuck

On Back Street (now a car park), a man was taking an evening stroll. He felt something watching him and turned to see a big black dog with red eyes staring at him. This made him feel very uncomfortable so he tried to get the dog to leave. Failing this he went to kick the dog, only to find his foot went straight through it. Little did he know he had encountered the devil dog of Norfolk, also known as Black Shuck, who roams around looking for his owner.



From standing where Black Shuck was sighted, how many shops can you see?

#### 6. The Haunting of Mrs Barry



Hamlet Close (6B on the map) was once home to Mrs Barry, a famous actress who travelled to London after the mysterious disappearance of her husband. Upon her return to her home town she was confronted by the skull of her dead spouse, whom she had actually killed and concealed with help from the local gravedigger. The site of the theatre, as well as Hamlet House where she had lived, is rumoured to be haunted by her ghost. Can you hear her reciting lines for the play?

Look for the plaque that commemorates Fisher's Theatre. Over what period did the theatre stand at location 6?

#### 7. The Unknown Girl

She'd travelled long and far through the blizzard to get to the work house. Terrified, lost and frozen she rested upon a little door. Knock. Knock. "Let me in. Please," the little girl begged. But no-one answered, so she sat down in the snow and there she died.

Rumour has it, to this day that her spirit lives on to look out for other little girls. Can you see her? What colour is the door against which she rested?



