

In 1395 by Archbishop... priests attached to All... is an important spiritual... for the whole County in... friend Grocyn was... King Henry VIII dissolved... of the property was much... 17th century when... It is now leased as...  
**Street to the river's edge.**  
**Millennium River Park**  
 In the South East... inum, Maidstone's... opened up access to the... 10-km path from Teaton... October 1999, the award-... Millennium Bridge (below)... of the new park.

**18 - Maidstone Bridge**  
 The first bridge to occupy this site was probably built in the 14th century to provide a more direct route to the commercial heart of the town than the ford located further upriver. One of a number of similar crossings constructed of local ragstone during medieval times at Aylesford, East Farleigh and Teston, the original bridge was finally declared unsafe in the 1870s. The current bridge was built in 1879 by Sir Joseph Bazelgette, the engineer responsible for the Thames Embankment and the London sewage system. **Walk under the bridge.**

**19 - Riverside**  
 The riverside was once a hive of industry. Local ragstone was shipped down the River Medway to build the Roman wall of the City of London, and later the Tower of London. After 1729 upriver navigation was enhanced to enable Maidstone to trade with the whole of the Weald. River traffic was still considerable in 1900, but as roads improved river transport went into terminal decline. Today, the River Medway is used for recreation and visitors can enjoy the beautiful scenery on board a river boat. **Then turn right to cross through the underpass.**

**20 - Fairmeadow**  
 Fairmeadow became notorious during the persecution of Protestants by Queen Mary, when seven Protestant martyrs were burned at the stake here in June 1557. These executions may have accounted for the Puritan backlash in the town in succeeding decades. A tree-lined embankment was laid along the Medway in 1699 making Fairmeadow a fashionable place to stroll and providing one of the first public walks outside of London. **Turn left and walk towards...**

**21 - Corpus Christi Hall**  
 This 14th century building was originally owned by the Corpus Christi Fraternity, a society of local tradesmen who regulated business. observed certain religious services and provided for elderly and infirm members. The Fraternity lasted until 1547 when it was seized by the crown during the suppression of religious guilds. The town then bought the hall and it served as Maidstone Grammar School from 1549-1871. The medieval hall is now leased to a private business. **Turn right up Earl Street.**

**22 - Earl Street**  
 The street (below) takes its name from Earl's Place, a major medieval town house with grounds that once occupied the whole area. A double-fronted town house (no. 31/33) was owned by Andrew Broughton, Mayor of Maidstone. Broughton was Clerk to the High Court and signed the death warrant of King Charles I in 1659. When the monarchy was restored in 1660, Broughton was charged with regicide. He fled and spent the rest of his life in exile in Geneva. **Turn left into Fremlin Walk.**

**23 - Fremlin Walk**  
 Fremlin Walk shopping centre (below) is built on the site of Fremlin brewery, owned by Ralph Fremlin, who by 1861 was Kent's largest brewer. Fremlin's connections in East India were symbolised by his trademark elephants and weathervane, examples of which will be on permanent display in the shopping centre.

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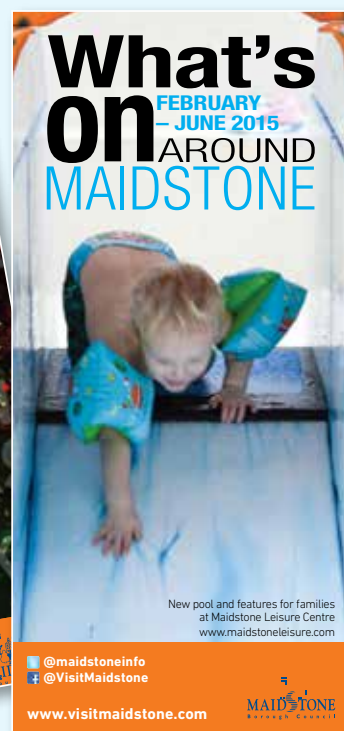
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