In 1841 five young employees of local industrialist Frederick Schwann went to their employer to ask him to fund a library to improve their reading and writing skills. Schwann formed the Young Men’s Mental Improvement Society, which quickly evolved into teaching classes in a wide range of subjects. It became a Mechanics Institute in 1843, alongside many other local educational bodies across the country, before joining with the Huddersfield Female Educational Institute in 1884 to form the Technical School and Mechanics Institute. It became a Technical College in 1896, a College of Technology in 1968, a Polytechnic in 1970, before becoming a university in 1992.

The opening of the Ramsden building in 1883 was the first building on the Queensgate site, where most of the University is based today. The University celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2016. During the trail today you will learn more about the history of the campus’s built environment. To access an audio version of this trail, or for extended facts about some of the buildings, visit [http://www.heritagequay.org/hudtrail](http://www.heritagequay.org/hudtrail)

There are 5 activities for your group to do during the tour, all you need is a mobile phone. Tag your entries and share your trail experience with others on social media with the #hudtrail

**Ramsden Building** – The Ramsden Building was designed by Edward Hughes - a pupil of George Gilbert Scott - in the Gothic Revival style. Before being used for classes a Fine Art and Industrial exhibition, visited by over 300,000 people. The facade features arms of the Guild of Clothworkers, the Borough of Huddersfield, and the Ramsden and Brooke families, all of whom helped fund the building. The triptych mural at the top of the stairs was painted by Head of Art JR Gauld as the College’s First World War memorial. You can listen to stories of 19th century teacher Anton Ludwig by visiting [http://www.heritagequay.org/hudtrail](http://www.heritagequay.org/hudtrail)
**Sir Patrick Stewart Building** – This building was refurbished in 2005 to house the university’s drama department. Formally the Milton Congregational Church, it was established in 1883 after a large group of dissenters followed their liberal Calvinist minister from Ramsden Street Independent Church. For a time in the 1990s it was the student union and also a nightclub called Eden and Bel-Air.

**Joseph Priestley Building** – Teaching space on campus was a perennial problem, and after public fundraising, construction on a new Chemistry building began in 1936. The photograph shows the foundation stone ceremony in July 1937. Completed in 1939, it was immediately commandeered for war use. Between 1941 and 1946 it housed the Avery Hill Teacher Training College who had been evacuated from London. War time classes for radio mechanics and the women’s ATS were also taught here.

**St Paul’s Hall** – St Paul’s Church was designed by John Oates and built by notable local builder Joseph Kaye between 1829 and 1931. At the opposite end of the old road from the parish church of St Peter’s it was built to serve a growing local population. It became the College Chapel in 1968, a new Philip Wood designed organ was installed in the 1970s. The University converted the space to a concert hall in 1980, and it is now used for graduation ceremonies and hosts the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival each November.

**Activity:** Go into St Paul’s Hall and take a photo of your group recreating a famous play on the stage, tag it on social media #hudtrail
**University Main Entrance** – This view now looks on to the Harold Wilson Building, which was built in 1996. The photograph shows the old view, dominated by the Textile and Engineering towers. Built at the end of the 1950s they replaced the Textile Industries Building on Princess Street which had been demolished in 1961.

**Activity:** Take a photo of your group posing on the Pride pedestrian crossing like the Beatles Abbey Road photograph (be careful of traffic!) tag it on social media #hudtrail

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**University Square** – The Square was redeveloped in 2016 after many of the buildings round it reached completion, including the Creative Arts Building, Student Central and the Oastler Building. The photograph shows the former sunken courtyard, and the position of the old Great Hall where the Creative Arts Building is now sited. The original open-air walkway under the Schwann Building to the canal has now been filled in to create the atrium space and Library entrance.

**Activity:** Can you take a photo in the current Plaza area in the place where the bench is in the photo below? #hudtrail

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**Schwann Building** – Built between 1974 and 1977, the Schwann Building has dominated the Huddersfield skyline for the past 30 years. Designed to provide space for the growth in student numbers in the 1970s, its hillside location connects the upper campus with the canal below. The upper floors were originally student accommodation, and the lower floors house administrative departments, support services and the Library, and connect to the new Student Central and Sports Hall facilities which opened in 2014. It also contains Heritage Quay, the University Archives service. Pop in and see us on your tour and try out the big curvy screen!
**The Green** – From here the impact of campus re-development over the 20th century can really be seen. St Joseph’s Primary School was distinctive with its rooftop playground and subsequently became the Students’ Union before being demolished in favour of a purpose-built space in 2005. Re-developed as the Brontë Lecture Theatres in 2014, they now hold large seater lecture theatres and smaller teaching spaces.

On the left the Edith Key Building originally housed the Music department in the 1960s. It now provides research facilities for the School of Human and Health Sciences.

On the right the Technology Building has been modernised from the initial weaving workshops to house recording studios, and from 2016 a new Railway Research Institute.

**Canalside Buildings** – Converted from two former mills, these award-winning conversions have successfully conserved an important part of Huddersfield’s textile heritage. Canalside West was converted from Firth Street Woollen Mill, which had been built in 1865 and produced cotton, before moving into carpet production in the 20th century. Since 1995 it has been the home of the School of Computing and Maths. Next door, Canalside East was part of Larchfield Mills. Built as a steam powered mill in 1865-6, it was leased to George Brooke, who produced fancy woollen and worsted goods, and now houses the School of Computing and Engineering.

**Barbara Hepworth Building**– The first building to be built on the Western side of campus, it is named for local Sculptor Barbara Hepworth, and houses the new school of Art, Design and Architecture. Costing £30million, it is full of innovative shapes and architecture, inside and out, and opened in 2019. It has facilities for students to experiment and explore laser cutting, 3D printing, motion tracking and specialist studios.

**Activity:** Can you take a selfie featuring the old Canalside and new Hepworth buildings in one photo? hudtrail
The Canal – The Huddersfield Narrow Canal was constructed between 1794 and 1811 to connect the Broad and Ashton canals via a tunnel at Standedge. The canal fell into disrepair after the expansion of the railway, until the popular campaign to reclaim them for recreational use led to its restoration in 2001. The canal and towpath now form an attractive route through the centre of the campus.

Activity: Take a canal selfie with your group and post it to social media #hudtrail

Final Quiz – Now you’ve toured campus, can you answer some of the questions below about information you may have learnt on the way?

Q1. Can you name two of the institutional names the University used to be called in the past?

Q2. There used to be a nightclub in the Sir Patrick Stewart building. It had two names – can you remember one?

Q3. What was the Joseph Priestley building used for in WWII?

Q4. What three words are above the war memorial in the Ramsden building?

Q5. What year did construction of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal begin?

Q6. The student union was once housed in the old St Joseph’s School building – what was distinctive about this particular school building?