

Mexborough

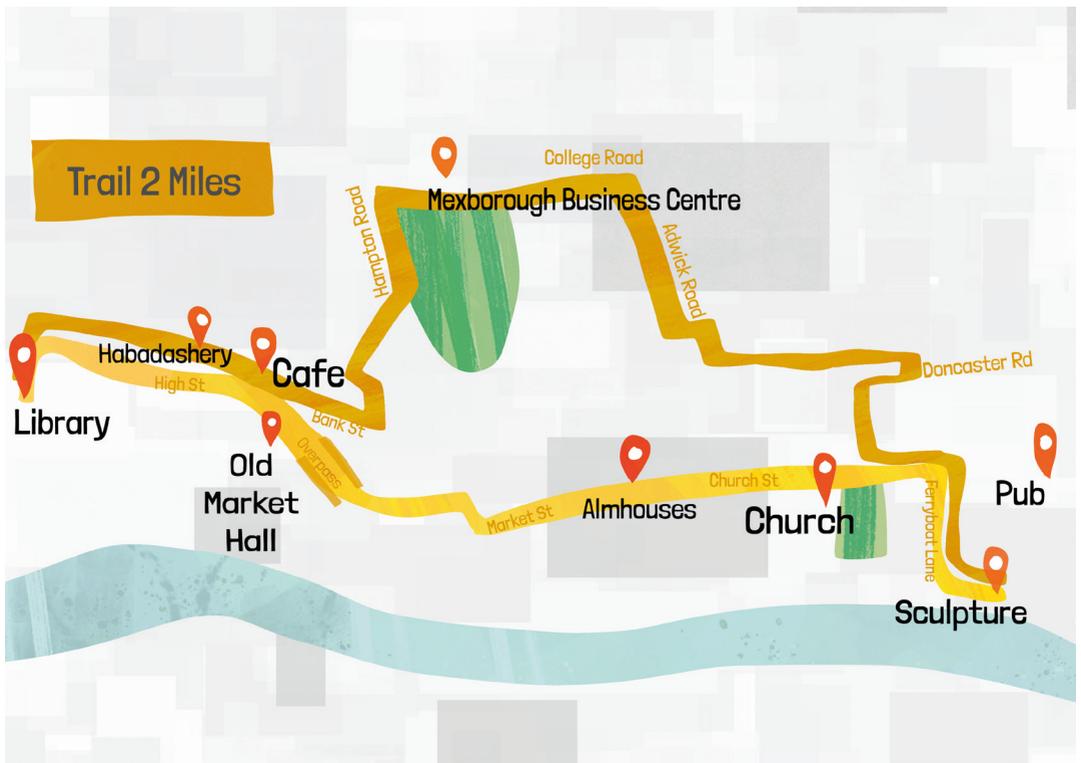
The Iron Man Trail

Follow the clues inspired by the classic
children's story by Ted Hughes





Did you know that a world-famous author grew up in Mexborough? Ted Hughes is the creator of *The Iron Man*, a book which has thrilled and entertained millions of children since 1968. Now you can find out more on the Mexborough Iron Man trail. First, make your way to Mexborough Library.



*Connecting
Stories*



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**DONCASTER
STORIES**

**The Iron Man came to the top
of the cliff.**

How far had he walked?

Nobody knows.

Where he had come from?

Nobody knows.

How was he made?

Nobody knows.



At the beginning of the story, seagulls help put the Iron Man together. How many seagulls can you find in the Mexborough Library window?





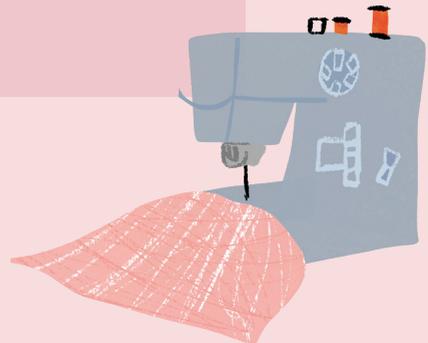
From the library, make your way up Hope Street and turn right onto the High Street. Walk until you see Teresa's Haberdashery on your left.



The hero of The Iron Man is a little boy. But what is his name? You can find him in the window of Teresa's Haberdashery. When you find his name, fill in the blank in the story below...

**One evening a farmer's son,
a boy named _____,
was fishing in a stream that
ran down to the sea.**

Now continue from the High Street onto Bank Street until you see The Tea Rooms @ 30 Mexborough on the left.



In the book, the local farmers bury the Iron Man under a hill - but he escapes, just as a family is having a picnic! An enormous iron hand comes up through a crack in the hillside...

The Tea Rooms has its very own Iron Man. Can you find it? Look for the suit of armour which is holding the missing word and fill in the blank in the story below.



The crack grew, it widened, it lengthened, it ran between them. The mother and the girl were on one side, and the father and the boy were on the other side. The little stove toppled into the growing crack with a clatter and the _____ disappeared.





Opposite The Tea Rooms, cross the road carefully onto Station Road, then go left onto Market Street. You'll see The Old Market Hall, a pub and restaurant on your right.

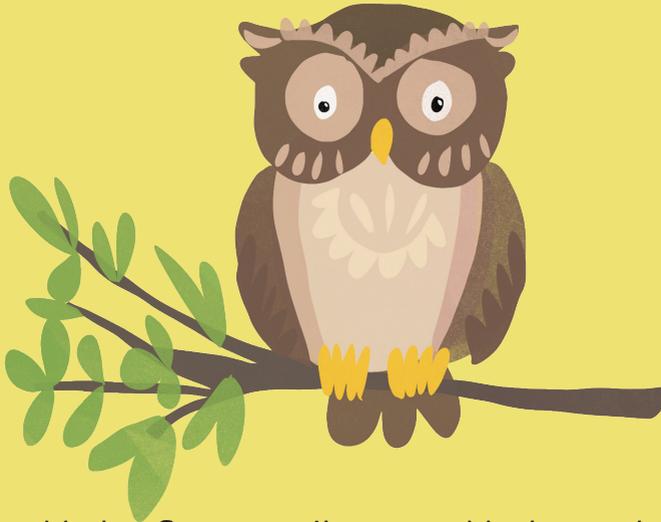
Our hero takes the Iron Man to a scrap-metal yard. "There," he cries, "Eat all you can!"

Can you find the Iron Man in the Old Market Hall window? It'll tell you the missing word from this part of the story...

As he lay there, a big truck turned into the yard and unloaded a pile of rusty chain. The Iron Man lifted a handful and let it dangle into his mouth - better than any

_____.

Continue along Market Street then go up the steps to the overpass. Cross the bridge and walk down until you see Market Street on your right. Can you spot the canal?



Go onto Market Street, until you see Mexborough Almhouses on your left. The next part of our story happens at night. How many night owls can you see on the shield on the front of the Almhouses?

Carry on down this street - Market Street becomes Church Street. Go past St John's Baptist Church and then you will see Ferryboat Lane on your right.



Before you turn down the lane, look for a pub ahead of you.
The name of the pub will tell you which terrifying creature
appears one night...

**All the people of earth stayed up,
gazing in fear at the huge black
movement of wings that filled the
night... terribly black, terribly scaly,
terribly knobbly, terribly horned,
terribly hairy, terribly clawed,
terribly fanged...**

The creature was a terrible

_____!

Make your way down Ferryboat Lane. On your right you will see a big house called Ferry Grange, then an uphill footpath. Follow this footpath round and over the canal bridge. On the other side, try to spot a wooden sculpture which will help you with your next clue.



The earth is attacked by this giant dragon from outer space. And who should be the one to challenge this terrible beast?
The Iron Man of course...

The Iron Man had a most stupendous idea. The Iron Man would go out, as champion of the earth, against this monster from space.



So how does the Iron Man challenge the dragon? You'll have to read the book to find out!

Now, we've got our own challenge for you... Ted Hughes also liked to write about nature and wildlife. Can you find the wooden sculpture by the canal, inspired by Ted Hughes's animal poetry?

Which three creatures can you find on the sculpture?

e _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ s _ , _ _ _ h



- Next go back over the bridge and up Ferryboat Lane the way you came. Turn left at the end, back onto Church Street.
- On your right you will see a footpath with a black gate just after Church Mews. Follow this footpath through Clayton Park, turn right onto Doncaster Road and follow until you find a zebra crossing.
- Make sure you cross safely, going left and then turning right at the roundabout onto Adwick Road.
- Cross the road using the pedestrian crossing near the police station. Turn left onto College Road. You're looking for Mexborough Business Centre on your right.



Mexborough Business Centre is open to the public. Did you know that this used to be the school that Ted Hughes went to as a child? Once inside, go upstairs and you will find a statue of Ted Hughes himself sat on a bench. Why not have your photo taken next to him?

**Post it up at www.facebook.com/DoncasterStories
We'd love to see it!**

The statue of Ted Hughes is reading one of his favourite childhood books. What is it called?

____ A ____ ____ R

(if the business centre is closed, find the poster near the front door to answer this clue)

Now make your way back to Mexborough Library. At the end of College Road, turn left onto Hampden Road. At the bottom, turn left onto Dolcliffe Road then right onto Bank Street. Follow this onto the High Street, then arrive back where you started. Show the staff your completed trail clues to receive your special Iron Man certificate.

Why not borrow a copy of The Iron Man from your local library? There are loads of other great books to choose from too!



Win a book! Send us your photos from the Iron Man trail.

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