

- 1** Depart from Castle House towards the Cathedral. There are many interesting houses in Castle Street, starting with the St Ethelbert Alms Houses on your left. Founded in 1225 and updated in 1805, they housed 'ladies of exceptional character'. Across the street, nos. 5 and 6 are timber-framed with brick frontages. No. 8 has a classic, 16th/17th century interior; No. 25 is Castle House's Townhouse.
- 2** No. 29 houses part of the original 14th century hall of the College of Vicars Choral and Hereford Cathedral School, one of the oldest schools in the country, established in the 12th century.
- 3** Hereford Cathedral c1079 is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin and St Ethelbert. Its treasures include the earliest medieval world map, the Mappa Mundi, Chained Library, King John's signed 'King's Writ' and a 1217 revised Magna Carta. The newly-restored St John's Walk, a covered Tudor walkway linking the Cathedral to the College of Vicars Choral, has carved roof timbers of particular significance, both sacred and profane, and is one of two such intact Cathedral Colleges in Britain.
- 4** Go through Lady Arbour gardens and Bishop's Palace forecourt and view the statue 'Beyond Limitations' by John O'Connor. Turn left down Gwynne Street to the site of Nell Gwynne's house
- 5**, Charles II's long-term mistress. Passing the Left Bank, built by the Dutch supermarket magnate and Herefordshire benefactor Albert Heijn, cross over the old bridge c1490 and turn left down onto the riverside walk.
- 6** On the opposite bank of the River Wye you will see the 12th century Bishop's Palace, Vicars Choral's gardens and medieval watergate.
- 7** Along the path, you will pass a small, wooden sculpture of 'Dan', a bulldog owned by Dr. George Robertson Sinclair, a great friend of Sir

Edward Elgar's, and the Cathedral's organist In Elgar's *Variations Variation XI (G.R.S.)*, the initials belong to George but the music belongs to Dan. In Elgar's words, "The first few bars were suggested by [the] great bulldog Dan (a well-known character) falling down the steep bank into the River Wye (bar 1); his paddling up stream to find a landing place (bars 2 and 3); and his rejoicing bark on landing (second half of bar 5). Sinclair said "set that to music." I did; here it is."

- 8** Victoria Bridge is an iron lacework suspension footbridge, built in 1898 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. It bears her royal coat of arms and has recently been restored.
- 9** Cross over the bridge to Castle Green, former site of Hereford Castle, the ramparts of which are still visible. Hereford is the earliest Saxon town west of the Severn and St Guthlac's, a Saxon monastery, was on this site. Castle Cliffe house, the Castle's watergate and only surviving intact building, can be seen on the far left, by the river. In the middle of the green is Nelson's Column. Tuscan in style, it was designed by Thomas Hardwick and sculpted by Thomas Wood. It was erected in 1809 to salute Admiral Horatio Nelson, who was made a Freeman of the City when he visited Hereford in 1802. Sadly, Hereford couldn't afford a statue of him and used an urn instead. In 2015, cannons were added at the base of the column marking the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar.
- 10** Cross the park and St Ethelbert's Well, with a carved head of the King, can be found on the wall on the far left. The water was supposed to cure eye complaints.
- 12** On your left is The Fosse, a 18th century stuccoed house with fish scale roof. The Castle's moat (Castle Pool) is on the right, at the back of Castle House. Follow the path past the St Ethelbert's Gardens, turn right onto Castle Street and return to the hotel.



## THE RIVERSIDE WALK