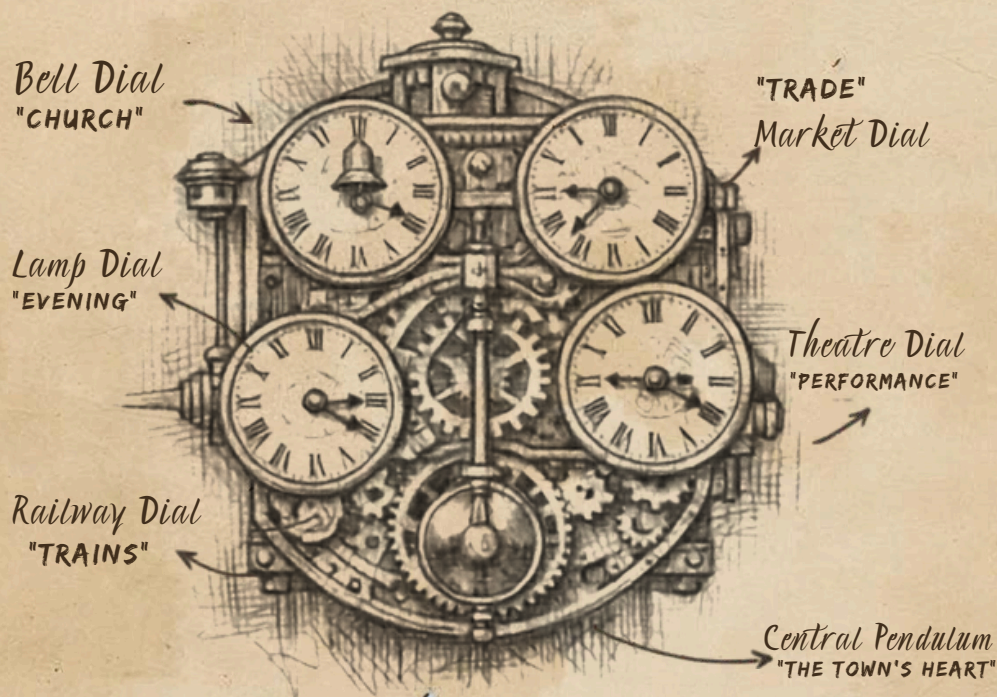


A hidden message, a vanished clockmaker, and a trail of clues waiting to be solved...



BASINGSTOKE

Time Mystery Adventure



Enjoy being detectives for the day.
Solve clues and puzzles together.
Discover local history.



3-4 hours of fun



3.5 miles



All ages

BBfG

Meet the Time Mystery characters



Clara Halfacre

Born in 1866, Clara Halfacre is the daughter of Samuel Halfacre, a respected coach maker from Basingstoke. Growing up among travellers, merchants and performers passing through the town, Clara developed a fascination with storytelling and the theatre. At the age of sixteen she left Basingstoke to pursue an acting career in London.

In 1890, Clara returns to her hometown to perform at the Corn Exchange (now called The Haymarket Theatre) in a production of *The Lady of the Lantern*.

What should have been a simple visit home soon becomes something far more mysterious. After one of her performances, Clara decides to take an evening stroll through the streets of Basingstoke. As she passes the ruins of the **Holy Ghost Chapel**, a man steps quietly from the shadows.

It is **Elias Soper**, the clockmaker of London Street. Without explanation, he presses a folded note into Clara's hand before disappearing into the darkness. Inside the note is a strange message about time, the rhythm of the town, and clues hidden across Basingstoke. Clara soon realises that if she is to understand what Elias has discovered, she must retrace the path she walked that night.

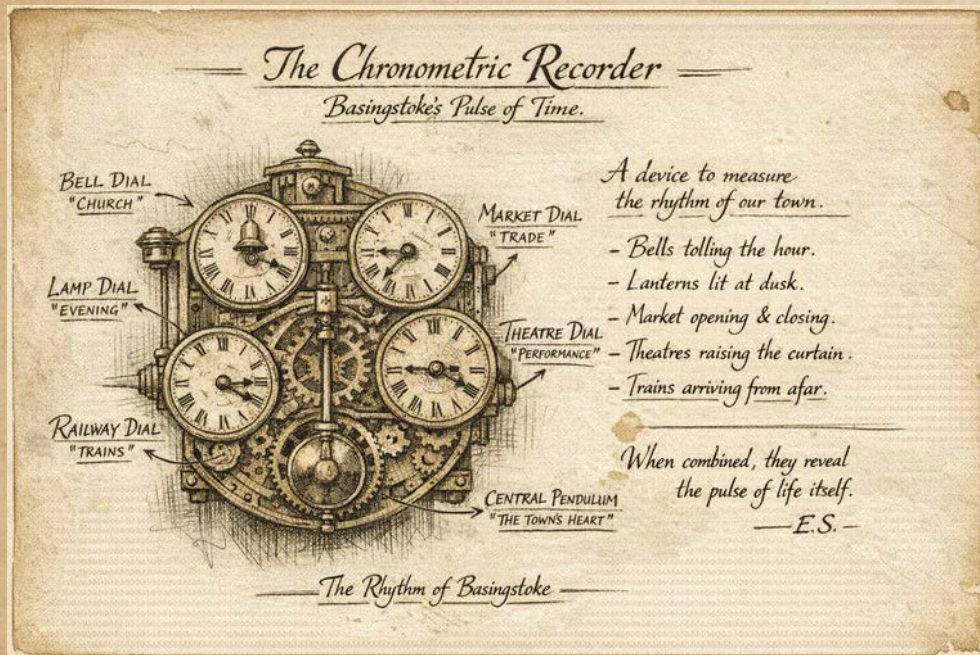
Elias Soper

A skilled clockmaker with a workshop on London Street, Elias Soper has spent many years studying the mechanics of time. But Elias believes time is not measured by clocks alone. He believes every town has its own pulse, a rhythm created by church bells, markets, theatre performances, railway arrivals and departures, and more.

To measure this rhythm, he has designed a remarkable device.

He called it: **The Chronometric Recorder**

A mechanical instrument intended to measure **The Pulse of Life and the Rhythm of Basingstoke.**



Evidence piece No. 1
Copy of note Elias Soper handed to Clara Halfacre on that mysterious evening

Welcome Detectives! Please Read!

You're about to explore Basingstoke in a whole new way, uncovering hidden details, solving clues, and following a trail through the town's history. **Before you begin your investigation, please take a moment to read the important guidance below;** it's there to help keep everyone safe and ensure the trail can be enjoyed by all.

Now... sharpen your senses, detectives, and enjoy the Time Mystery Adventure.

Basingstoke Business for Good CIC (BBfG) – Treasure Trail Participation Guidelines & Disclaimer

1. Participation at Your Own Risk

By taking part in this treasure trail, participants do so entirely at their own risk. Basingstoke Business for Good CIC (BBfG) accepts no liability for any injury, loss, damage, or expense, including those arising from participant actions, third parties, or environmental conditions.

2. Independent Activity

This treasure trail is a self-guided activity. BBfG does not supervise participants and is not responsible for individual behaviour, decisions, or safety while completing the trail. For the best experience, we recommend taking part in small groups. If you're in a larger group, split into smaller teams, staggering start times, to keep things fun and respectful for others.

3. Health, Safety and Responsibility

Participants are responsible for:

- Their own safety and wellbeing at all times
- Ensuring they are physically able to take part
- Following all local laws, road safety rules, and public guidance
- Taking appropriate care when navigating roads and public spaces

4. Children and Supervision

Children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

5. Respect Private Property

- Do not enter private property at any time
- All clues can be solved from publicly accessible areas
- If a location appears inaccessible, do not attempt to reach it

6. Be Respectful of Places and People

Participants must:

- Be considerate of residents, businesses, and the public
- Avoid causing noise, disruption, or nuisance
- Treat sensitive locations (including cemeteries, memorials, and places of worship) with appropriate respect

7. Environmental Responsibility

- Do not litter or damage surroundings
- Leave all locations as you find them

8. Accuracy and Changes

While every effort is made to ensure the trail is accurate and accessible, BBfG cannot guarantee that all historical facts are correct and that locations, clues, or conditions will remain unchanged. Please note that the characters and the device within the adventure are all fictitious. If you notice any updates required due to changes outside of our control, please let us know at hello@bbfg.org.uk.

9. Trail Information

This is a Basingstoke Business for Good CIC (BBfG) activity. For more information, visit: www.bbfg.org.uk

By taking part, you agree to follow these guidelines and accept full responsibility for your participation.

Let's get started!



Basingstoke, 1890

Clockmaker Elias Soper vanished without a trace, but left behind a trail of clues hidden across the town. Only those who follow the path through its streets, churches, parks and markets may uncover the secrets he left behind. It's time to walk in the footsteps of Clara Halfacre and discover whether you can reveal the truth *before time runs out*.

Your Mission starting point & what to take with you.

Detectives. It's time to put on your deerstalker caps, have your notebooks at the ready and eyes peeled, so you may solve the Basingstoke Time Mystery once and for all. Basingstoke is counting on your intelligence and careful eye. **Remember to print off your Time Mystery Adventure pack and take a pen or two. Having access to a calculator (for sums) and Google Maps (to check your location) may be handy too. Finally, make sure you bring suitable clothing for all weathers (or check the weather forecast).**

Firstly, head to **The Haymarket Theatre, Wote Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7NW**. *The route is circular, so you'll return to this spot later in the day. There are lots of car parks including Castons Yard, Joices Yard and Festival Place. The Mission starting point is 5-10 minute walk from both the bus and railway stations. Public toilets are located in Festival Place and there is plenty of places to grab refreshments in the local vicinity and near clue 10.*

Clue 1

Facing the Haymarket Theatre, look around the area to find three words made from these letters:

**KESTOBASING
REEL SMETRS KA**

Solve the anagram AND write the answer in your **Evidence Log** on page 3.

Directions

Next. Still facing the theatre, head through the alley way to the left of the theatre and turn left towards Market Place and Winchester Street. Note the interesting tiles on the floor!