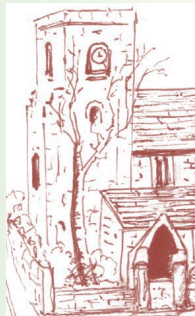
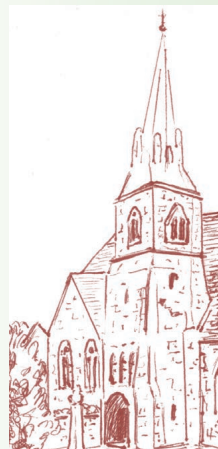


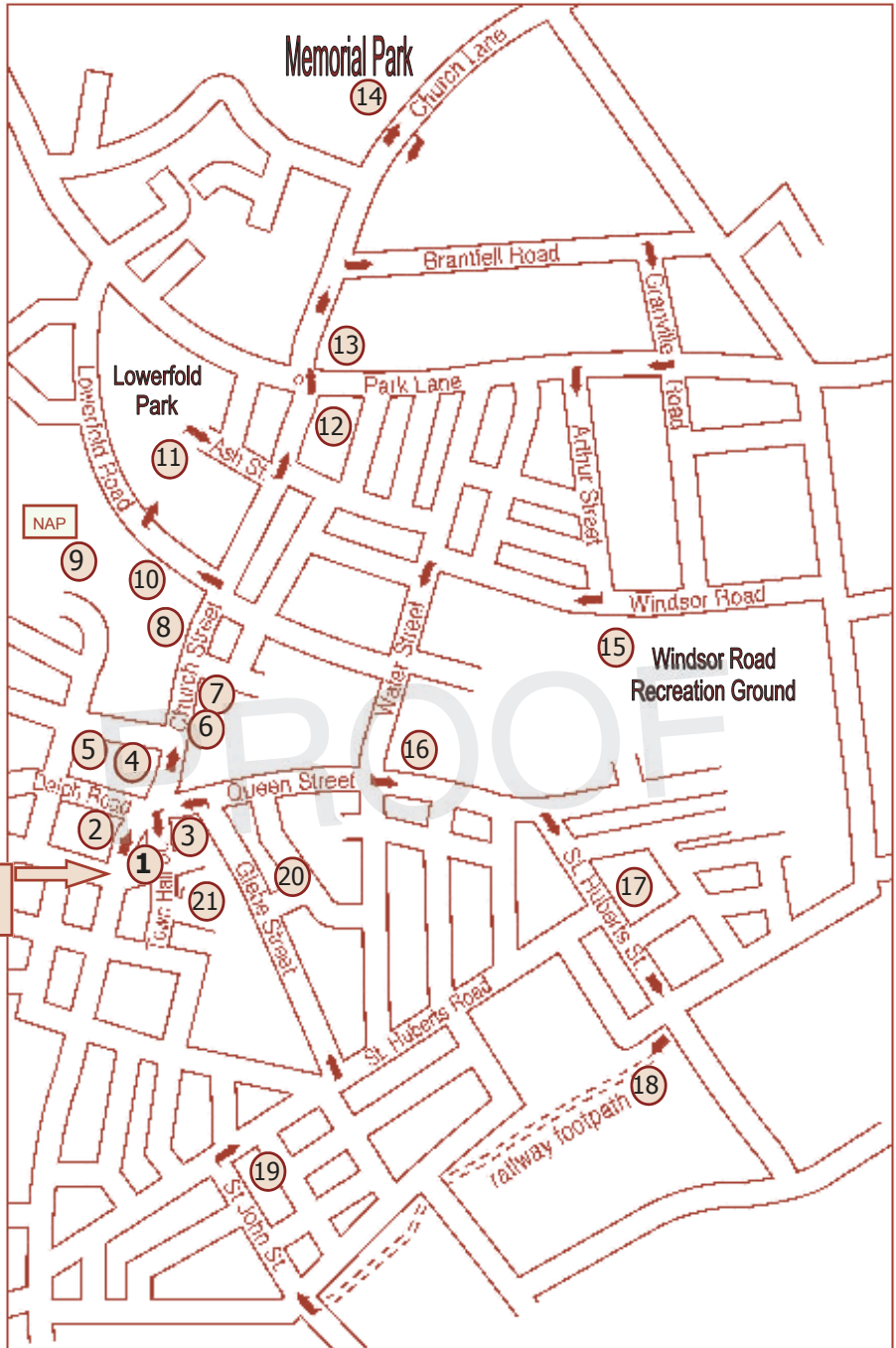
GREAT HARWOOD TOWN TRAIL



Great Harwood *n.* wood where hares are found



A GREAT HARWOOD CIVIC SOCIETY PUBLICATION



THE MERCER MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER. (1)

Great Harwood is a small town surrounded by countryside. Until 1925 it had always been owned by the Lords of the Manor, the last one being James Lomax, who lived at Allsprings.

Much of the oldest part of the town is centred round the Town Square. These houses were built from local stone quarried in Great Harwood.

When handloom weaving died out, cotton mills were built and people came in from the surrounding districts to work in them and needed homes. James Lomax rarely sold land, but he leased plots to builders and they built terraced houses.

Great Harwood was a planned town, spreading from the town centre and subject to the wishes of the Lord of the Manor. When the railway was made James Lomax decreed the way it should go.

The CIVIC SOCIETY'S Town Trail includes the most interesting places to see.



The Town Square is the starting and the ending point for our Town Trail.

Here you see Great Harwood's most famous landmark **THE MERCER MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER**. (1)

It was erected in 1903 in memory of John Mercer, F.R.S., F.C.S., MPh.S. the town's eminent Chemist, who invented the mercerisation of cotton.

The Town Centre is a conservation area and one of the oldest buildings here is **THE WELLINGTON HOTEL**. (2)

It was built around 1790 by Adam Dugdale, a local man, as a house and cotton warehouse. He prospered and eventually moved to Liverpool. He never forgot Great Harwood and in his will he left £100 to the Parish Church of Saint Bartholomew's for the benefit of the poor.

Before the widening of Delph Road there was a little cobbler's shop attached to the Wellington Hotel. In the census of 1841 there were eight shoemakers and one clogger in the town.

In addition to the old buildings are those built in the early part of the twentieth century, like the buildings at the top of Queen Street and the Town Hall on the Square.



Town Hall (3)

THE TOWN HALL (3) was built in 1900, shortly after the formation of the Urban District Council, on land where there had been a farm and a group of cottages.

oOo

Looking towards Church Street you can see a large stone fronted building with a date-stone '1911' at the top. This was built on the site of the old Queen's Hotel. Part of it was first used as a Billiard Hall, later as a Skating Rink, before returning to its original use as a Snooker Hall.



Just beyond the Snooker Hall are **TWO SMALL SHOPS (4)** with low roofs.

These were in existence in 1770, as was the Cross Axes alehouse next to them.

In 1770-72 the Lower Town was sold by Alexander Nowell and one of the tenements for sale was later identified by a member of the Lomax family as the Cross Axes

By 1825 there were six alehouses in the town, listed by the historian E.Baines.

They were :- The Cock
The Queen's Hotel
The Cross Axes
The Grey Horse (Old Billy)
The Dog and Otter
The Lomax Arms

Before heading up Church Street, cross the road and look up Delph Road and there on the right, built into a wall, you will find the **LINTEL (5)** from the very first school in Great Harwood.

The School was sited further up the road. It was built in the 17th Century by Colonel Roger Nowel, Lord of the Manor of the Lower Town.



Lintel (5)

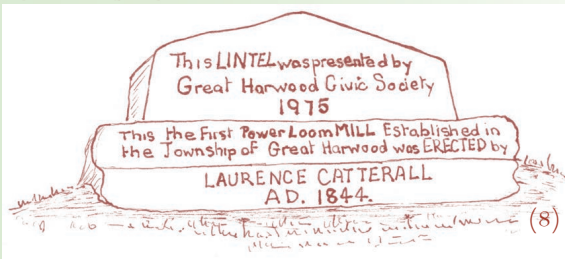
It was in use until 1838 when it was converted into two cottages. A new school was built in Queen Street and was known as the National School.

Retrace your steps and the trail leads up Church Street. On the right just past the Tavern there used to be two printing works, **CLOUGH & SONS (6)** and **CLEMESHA & SONS (7)** now cottages and flats respectively.

The firm Cloughs was first established in Delph Road but when Robin Top cotton mill was closed down in 1933 the printers moved their business to the mill offices. The first Great Harwood Advertiser was printed at the Clough & Sons premises in Delph Road. William Clemesha took over from the Tomlinson Printers.

oOo

Cross the road to **BANK MILL HOUSE (8)** the senior citizens centre and note the **LINTEL** preserved on the front lawn. It was recovered from Bank Mill when the building was demolished.



Bank Mill was the first power loom mill to be erected in the town, in the year 1844.

On this area of ground, looking up Church Street, there used to be a row of terraced houses with a shop at the top. The workers at Bank Mill were obliged to buy their groceries from this shop until the practice was stopped by law.

Behind Bank Mill House is the stream (**NAP**) (**9**) from Lowerfold, this can be seen by crossing the field behind Bank Mill House. This stream goes underground at this point and joins another stream (Causeway) which comes down Delph Road.

Continue up Church Street, turning into Lowerfold Road and on the left is the **YOUTH** and **COMMUNITY CENTRE** (**10**) which was built on the Bank Mill site and opened in 1989.

Cross the road and about 50 metres up on the right is the entrance to **LOWERFOLD PARK**. (**11**) The tennis courts, bowling green and children's playground are a great asset to the town and are used extensively. The park now belongs to the town but before the Second World War it was owned by the Congregational Church.

oOo

Walk through the park and out into Ash Street. At the end of Ash Street turn left back into Church Street and there ahead is **CHURCHFIELD HOUSE**. (**12**)



Churchfield House (12)

The house was built in 1854 and was the home of Mr. Milton Haydock who was a spirit merchant in Blackburn. He became a member of the Local Board and after the formation of the Urban District Council he continued his work in public service.

He bequeathed the house, garden and his library of books, with funds sufficient to maintain them for the benefit of the townspeople of Great Harwood.

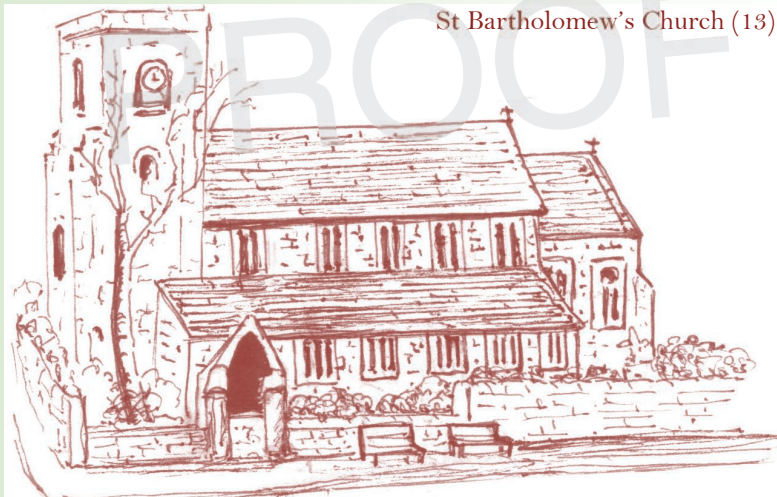
The house was renovated by Hyndburn Borough Council, making more rooms available for the public, which may be hired by any organisation.

On the east side of the house in the year 2000 the Millennium Garden, designed by Rachael Beardwood 11 years of age was added. Buried and marked within the centre of the garden is a time capsule.

oOo

If you now cross the road there stands

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH. (13)



The Parish Church has a long history and was first mentioned in documents in 1335. The Church was the centre of village life for hundreds of years.

The oldest part of the present church is the tower which was built in the 15th Century. It has a belfry and on its West side it has a built up doorway. The porch has a massive studded door, stone seats and a Holy Water Stoop, used before the Reformation. In early times much of the business of the church and village was transacted here.

The main body of the church was built in the 16th Century, no exact date being known. The style of architecture reflects this period. It held a chantry chapel founded in 1521 by Sir Thomas Hesketh, Lord of the Manor of the Upper Town and owner of the Manor House of Martholme.

As more people were required to work in the cotton mills the town grew and a bigger church was needed. The nave was extended in 1881 and a new chancel was added to it. When extending the nave, new windows were added, using old stone where possible.



Fragments of glass from the old chantry window were set into the new window of the South aisle, showing the **HESKETH WHEATSHEAF** and the initials **T.H.**

Pieces of old carved stone were also built into the stonework. The East window of the previous church was built into the wall of the Vicar's Vestry.

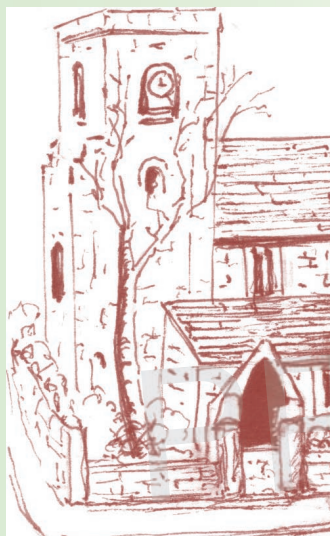
Outside the church in front of the North door is the oldest stone in the graveyard and reads :-

**Hic Jacet Corpus
Johan Smalley
1682**

'Here lies the body of John Smalley 1682'
He lived in the Upper Town of Great Harwood.

Another gravestone of great interest is that of John Mercer, the Chemist and all his family. This lies a few yards on the east side of the chancel.

Gravestones have now been moved and placed around the perimeter of the church. It will perhaps be of interest to know that between 1547 and 1888, before the making of the new graveyard in Blackburn Road, 14,546 people were buried here.



Inside the church, near the door, is an old poppy head bench dating back to the early 16th Century. On the seat is a Latin inscription which, when translated reads 'Pray for the soul of Hugh Stanworth and Letice his wife who caused this to be made'.

Another item of interest is the font with the initials, **IE / 1662**, it has a carved wooden cover of a later date.

The pulpit is a handsome wooden one with linen fold panelling. Also to be seen is a very old chest which could be the one mentioned in the Churchwardens Accounts of 1556 :-

'to ye smythe for making a barre to ye churched ore, and for a lock to ye chest in ye church3d.

oOo

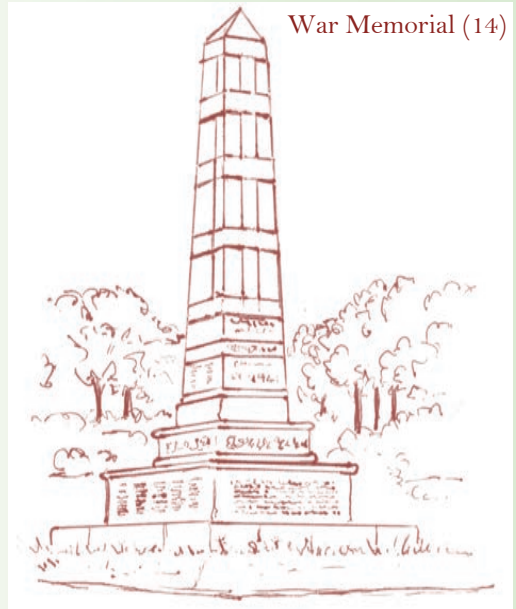
Turn into Church Lane, past the graveyard on the right and ahead is the Memorial Park. The land was given to the town by three local men; James Boardman Esq., William Pickup Esq. and Henry Milton Thompson Esq. The sports field on the right forms part of this gift.

In the park is the **WAR MEMORIAL (14)** unveiled on the 22nd October 1926.

It was erected in memory of the men who died in the First World War.

The design chosen for the monument was an obelisk of highly polished Creetown granite from Scotland.

The names of those who died in the 1914-18 and the 1939-45 World Wars and those of later British Military Campaigns are engraved on the obelisk.



Retrace your steps and turn down Brantfell Road. Admire the view across to Pendle and Read. Turn right onto Granville Road, right again up Park Lane and then left down Arthur Street, noting the architecture of the houses on the left. The wooden balconies are an unusual feature of a small town house.

Carry on down to Windsor Road. Here is another piece of land given to the town by the Lomax heiresses, to be used as a **RECREATION GROUND. (15)**

oOo

Turning to your right walk to Water Street and then turn left. Queen Street is ahead and as you turn left round the corner, the beautiful and imposing façade of the **MERCER HALL (16)** comes into view.

The Hall was built in the Renaissance style of architecture with money left to the town by Miss Maria Mercer, daughter of John Mercer the Chemist. Work was started in 1913, but had to be abandoned during the war. The Hall was finished in 1921, seven years after the foundations had been laid

The Hall offered ideal facilities for dances, concerts, meeting and other public functions. The main hall was converted into swimming baths in 1966.

Alongside the Mercer Hall are the Library and the Co-op Store opened in 2001. Behind the Library is the Fire Station. These last three buildings are situated on the site of the Britannia Mill which was closed in 1933.

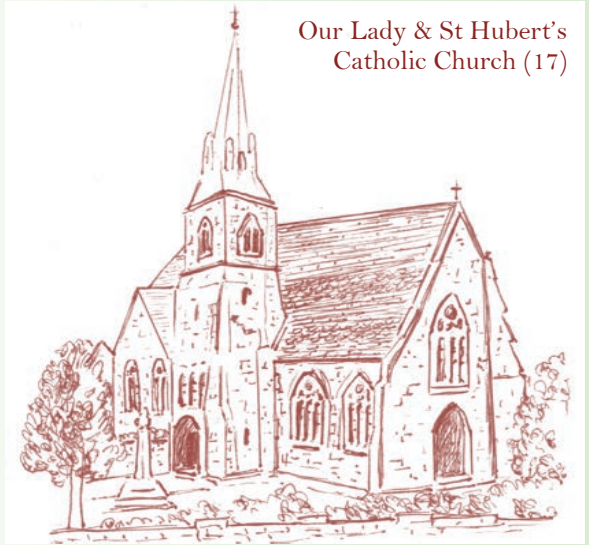


oOo

Carry on down to the Plough Hotel and across the road into Saint Hubert's Street and the church steeple of **OUR LADY and SAINT HUBERT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (17)** comes into view.

It was first opened in 1859 and was the gift of Mr James Lomax. The church was designed by the well known architect Mr E. W.Pugin, his Father Mr A. W. Pugin designed part of the Palace of Westminster, better known as the Houses of Parliament. The church has a magnificent altar of white marble. There are colourful Stations of the Cross and beautiful stained glass windows.

Outside the main door is the memorial to the Lomax family. James Lomax wanted to make Saint Hubert's Church an outstanding feature of Great Harwood, so he planned Saint Hubert's Road to be constructed straight and wide as an impressive carriage-way approach to



Our Lady & St Hubert's
Catholic Church (17)

The inside of the church and other treasures may be seen by

oOo

On leaving the church carry on forward up Saint Hubert's Street until the site of the **OLD RAILWAY (18)** is reached. All that remains is a footpath along the course of the railway.

The railway cutting has been filled in to the top of the railway bridges and the side walls removed from them, the bridges remain but are now underground.

When the railway was originally built the soil from the cutting was taken by horse and cart to make the embankment towards the viaduct at Martholome.

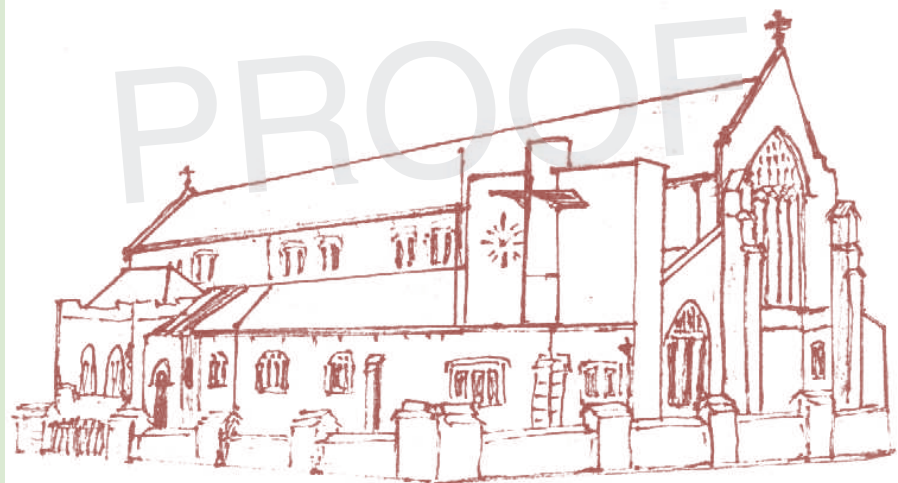
The railway was opened to passengers on 15th October 1877. Eighty years later the last passenger train ran on 30th November 1957.

Follow the footpath until you reach Meadow Street. At this point on your left are the Deveron and Palatine Cotton Mills, once thriving business on this site. Carry on along the footpath and turn right into St John's Street.

On the right are **SAINT JOHN'S SCHOOL** and the site of **SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH. (19)** Their history goes back to 1881, when a mission was started in the old Butts Chapel. Services were held in the Chapel until the school was built in 1888. Ten years later an iron church was erected alongside the school.

Saint John's Parish was formed in 1908 and the church was consecrated in 1912 and had beautiful stained glass windows dedicated to the memory of many benefactors of the parish. In addition it had magnificent reredos over the high altar made of oak and on each side the wall was panelled in oak with linen fold patterns. The chancel screen (dedicated in 1926) was of wainscot oak, fumed and wax polished. It was a new design, nothing similar having been erected in a church before.

St John's Church (19)



A porch at the main North West door was added in 1961. The work included a cross in white Portland stone and an electric clock. The church was demolished in 2009.

Turn right into Saint Hubert's Road and left into Glebe Street, until the imposing building of the **CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY (20)** is reached.



Co-operative Society
Building (20)

It was built on the site of the old church vicarage. Originally, the building housed offices and separate shops selling boots and shoes, tailored clothing, millinery and mantles, drapery and furnishings.

A plaque commemorating its opening in 1909 is now inside the building.

The car park on your left was the site of Prospect Mill known locally as Kemps. Nearby was the old Fire Station and the hooter at Kemps was used to call the Firemen in to attend a fire.

Turn left up Curate Street and left into Town Hall Street, 50 metres up on your left is the **OLD POLICE STATION. (21)** This was the first purpose built Police Station in the town and the original carved stone is still over the doorway. This street was originally called Police Street.

Retrace your steps back down Town Hall Street and you are now back at your starting point **THE MERCER MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER. (1)**

The Civic Society trusts you have enjoyed the Town Trail and some of the history of Great Harwood. Dates of Civic Society meetings and books about local history can be obtained from Great Harwood Library on Queen Street.

Great Harwood Civic Society would like to thank Lancashire County Council Healthy Streets Initiative for providing the funds for this reprint and The Prospects Foundation for co-ordinating this version.

The Healthy Streets Initiative aims to encourage active lifestyles and improve people's long-term health. In the 20mph zones people feel safer and more confident to enjoy their local environment through play and other street-based activities, walking and cycling. They are more likely to use public transport for their longer journeys and are at ease making shorter local journeys on foot and by bike.

Walking, cycling and using public transport reduce our consumption of fossil fuels, thereby lowering the production of climate change inducing CO₂ emissions.

All Drawings by Ivy Melling



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