

E) Blackburn Road is a turnpike road, built in 1826-27 to relieve distress among handloom weavers. The Hare and Hounds (which has Georgian architectural details), is of this period.

F) The Walk now follows Aspen Lane, the road from Church to Stanhill before the Industrial Revolution. Stanhill Ring Spinning Mill - (built in 1906-07), a well-known landmark, was demolished in the 1980's and a modern housing estate occupies the site. At the top of the hill is All Saint's a modern structure its original copper roof has been replaced.

G) Stanhill is a pre-industrial settlement, but the earliest buildings still visible date from the late 18th Century. Stanhill Hall was built in 1748, but was extensively altered in Victorian times as its turrets and "Gothic" - like windows show. The owners of White Ash Mill once lived here. The Post Office has long been associated with the birth of the industrial age. The plaque on the wall tells the story but some say the riots took place at Ramsclough. The Spinning Jenny on the plaque, is not that invented by James Hargreaves, but a later model. This fact was only discovered in the 1960's when the plans were recovered and the model of the 'Jenny' was made at Helmshore. The REAL Jenny is used by the Civic Society as its logo and used on this leaflet. The gardens next to the Post Office were dedicated as a memorial to the achievements of James Hargreaves and Robert Peel - both natives of Stanhill Village.

H) The view from Rushes Farm reveals much of the nature of the local landscape, the stepped plateaux falling steeply into the now densely populated valleys. The way in which industry and housing grew together can be clearly seen. The curious concrete structure caps the shaft of Stanhill Pit - once part of the Aspen Colliery. No coal is mined in Oswaldtwistle any more.

I) Brookside Printworks, of which few traces remain originates in the 1760's. The Peels founded it, but abandoned it after more riots in the 1779.

J) Vine Mills represent later industrial buildings. The earliest dates from 1874. Note also Vine House. Here the owner of Brookside Mill was besieged by a mob in 1879 after (successfully) reducing wages by 10%. Armed police quelled the riot.

K) There are a number of cottages dating back to the handloom weaving era in Union Road here. Holy Trinity Church dominates the scene, (Dates from 1880's.)

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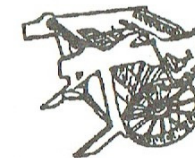
Oswaldtwistle Civic Society publishes 5 Walk leaflets, a Car/Cycle Trail - of the moorland and countryside of Oswaldtwistle, and two Heritage Trails:

1. "Aspden Valley Fairy Caves",  
(Ancient monument - rare 'bee-hive' shaped coke ovens),
2. Rhyddings Park & Urban Conservation Area.

The Society thanks Express Gifts Ltd, Church for financial support towards the cost of this leaflet.

# Walks in OSWALDTWISTLE

LANCASHIRE



## Number 1



*Stanhill Post Office  
Cottage where lived James Hargreaves  
inventor of the Spinning Jenny 1767*

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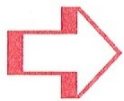
## PAST INDUSTRY

## Past Industry

The town of Oswaldtwistle as we see it today, is clearly a product of the Industrial Revolution. A visitor will see its streets of stone-built rows of houses, mixed with Victorian mills, as being little changed from a hundred years ago. However, this scene is actually the second stage of the town's urban development and there is plenty of evidence of the the original settlement to be seen too.

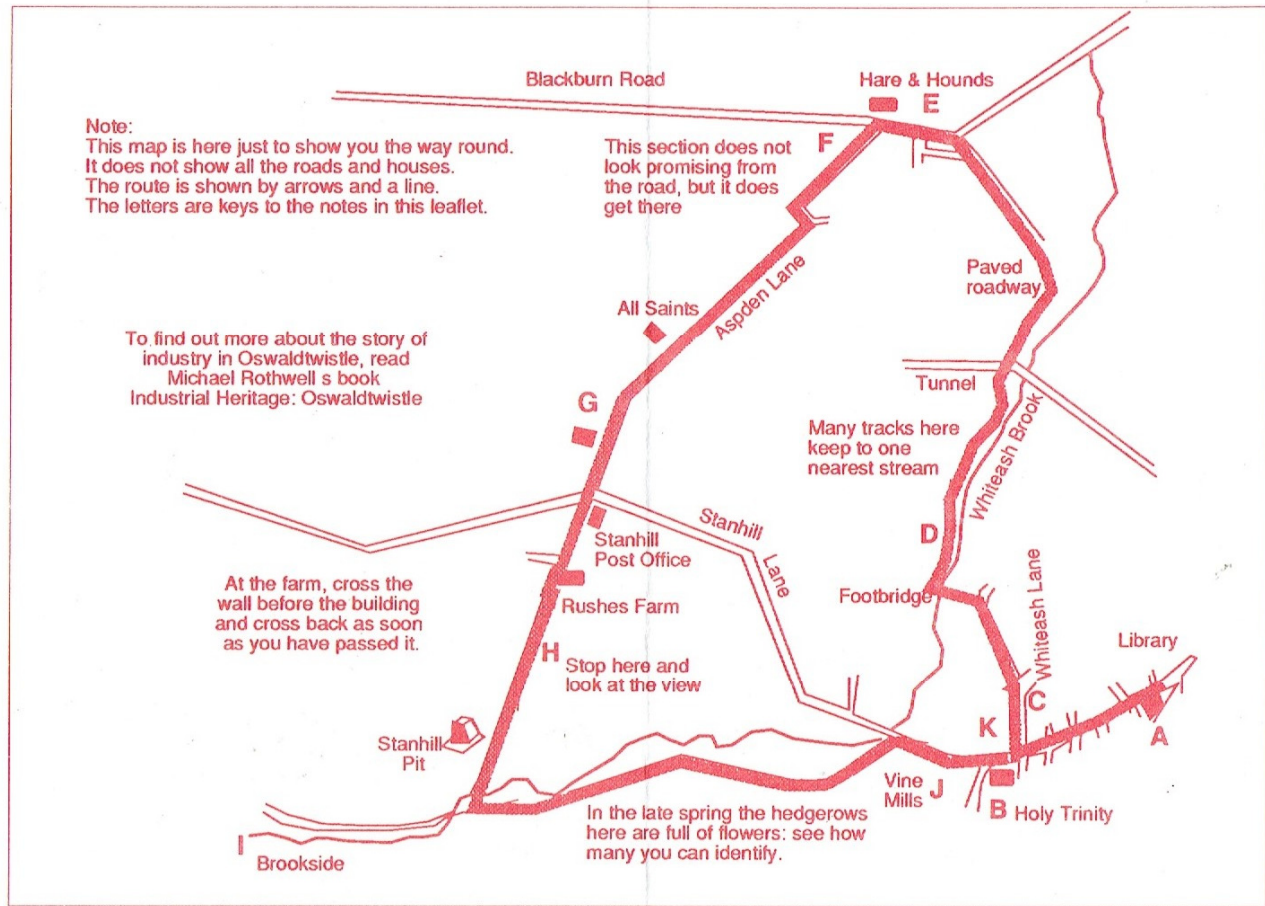
This walk sets out to show you how Oswaldtwistle, which is still growing and changing, evolved as the world was turned upside down by a revolution in industry.

The walk starts at the library (A) and ends at Holy Trinity (B) is mainly on pavements or dry paths and is almost three miles long. It should take about 1 hour 30 minutes to complete. The section between Stanhill and Brookside may be wet, and requires the crossing of two stiles. Waymarkers in the form of yellow arrows are in place.



ENJOY YOUR WALK

Please remember the Country Code



A) Library: This was built in 1914/15 on the side of the 'Old Folks at Home' beerhouse. Note the old town stocks near the entrance and the replica of the "Gobbin Lamp".

B) Cottages: numbered 289-299 Union Road are 19th century industrial dwellings, but are earlier than most of the buildings nearby. On the other side of the road, cottages numbered 340-344 are even older. The triple upper floor window suggests a connection with woollen handloom weaving; a major trade of the pre-industrial area.

C) There are a number of late 18th century cottages in White Ash Lane. Numbers 28 and 30 were once White Ash Farm.

D) Just below the footbridge the original ford and the weir of White Ash Mill lodge are visible. The walk now goes through the scant remains of the mill. Engine beds can be seen, the stream is partly culverted and paved, and after venturing under the new road by the unattractive tunnel, the old set-paved road is followed. The Mill was the first in Oswaldtwistle to be steam powered. Distressed handloom weavers rioted in 1826, and destroyed the 90 power looms. The owner later received £1889 in compensation. A novel "Th'Owd Factory" by W.B. Westall was inspired by these events. From 1870-1926 the mill was a paper works, and mounds near the footbridge are waste spoil heaps.