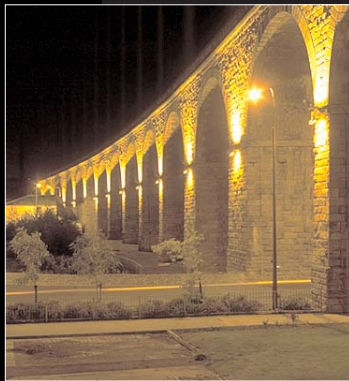


'Putting the heart  
back into our town'

**Things are changing in Accrington. A new Glass Market next to the Market Hall and associated shops are on the way. Improved lighting and Closed Circuit Television Cameras have made our town centre safer and friendlier for residents and visitors alike. Main car parks are well lit and have 24 hour Camera surveillance. Several have achieved the coveted Gold Standard for Secure Car Parks.**

**Our Community Safety Wardens patrol the town centre and are always ready to lend a helping hand should you have any problems whilst visiting Accrington.**



THE VIADUCT AT NIGHT

WHILST YOU'RE IN HYNDBURN  
WHY NOT VISIT:-

THE HAWORTH ART GALLERY  
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**UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN  
PLEASE TAKE CARE WHEN  
CROSSING OUR ROADS**



# ACCRINGTON ACORN TRAIL



Welcome to Accrington's Town Trail. We are sure you will find it interesting and enjoyable!

Like many towns in North East Lancashire, Accrington owed much of its growth and prosperity to the development of the textile industry - a fact reflected both in its architecture and design.



ACCRINGTON TOWN CENTRE

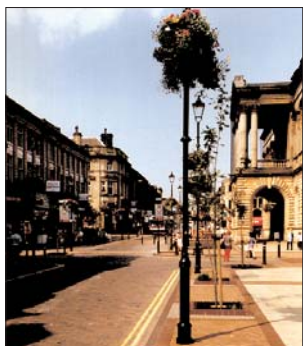
Accrington's greatest development took place during the 19th century, growing rapidly from a small village of 3,000 people in 1801 to 10,000 by the middle of the century and reaching its peak in 1911 when it was an industrial town with 45,000 inhabitants.



VIEW OF ACCRINGTON FROM THE COPPICE - c.1848

Although this historic old town has its roots settled deeply in times past it is equally proud of its present and eagerly anticipates its future.

Our journey begins  
outside the Town Hall



ACCRINGTON TOWN HALL

In 1858 - the year Queen Victoria was proclaimed Sovereign of India - this magnificent building in the Italianate style was built as a memorial to Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel.



TOWN HALL SHOWING NEW PEDESTRIANISED AREAS

Peel (1788-1850), whose forebears lived at Peel Fold, Oswaldtwistle, and whose family were the largest employers and the most extensive landowners in the district, is best remembered as the founder of the modern police force ('Peelers' Bobbies')

Following his death in 1850 a subscription fund was opened and a total of £1,056 was raised. The money was incorporated into a company called 'The Peel Institution, Market and Baths Company'. With the aid of a mortgage, the company raised about £11,000 which was sufficient for building the Peel Institution but the ambitious plans for the Market and Baths were later abandoned.

The building was originally leased to the Mechanics Institution for social and educational purposes when it opened in 1858 before becoming the Town Hall when Accrington was granted its charter as a Borough in 1878. The first Mayor was John Emanuel Lightfoot. His portrait now hangs above the stairs in the Library.

From the early 1860's a court room was also housed here complete with dock leading down to a holding cell.



MOSAIC DETAIL FROM THE FLOOR OF THE ENTRANCE HALL



FRONT PORCH OF TOWN HALL  
WITH ACORN DESIGN IN PAVING

Although the main Council Offices are located in more modern buildings, the Town Hall is still used for meetings of the Council and civic functions. Concerts, tea dances and other social events take place in the ballroom and the ground floor houses the excellent Accrington Information Centre - a must for visitors to the town.

Crossing into St. James Street and turning right into Willow Street you will see the former Mechanics Institution on the left



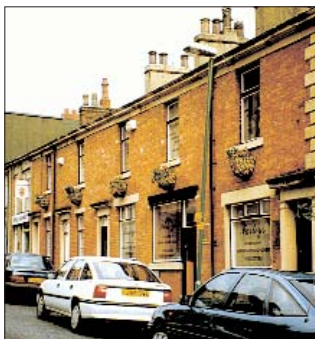
The Institution moved here in 1878, after its 20 year stay in what is now the Town Hall. The Institution provided the town's first permanent further education centre and remained in use until 1981 when declining membership and cost of upkeep led to its closure.



MECHANICS INSTITUTION PRIOR TO  
THE BUILDING OF THE LIBRARY IN 1908

Today the building houses the Register Office on the ground floor whilst the upper floor provides an extension to the Reference Department of the adjacent Public Library and holds the Local Studies Library.

Continuing along Willow Street, the splendid row of buildings on the right were originally built as houses and were converted into offices at the turn of the century.



OFFICES ON WILLOW STREET



The Berkley Restaurant and Banqueting Suite to the left opened in 1980. Built in 1864 this was a day school until 1901 before becoming a Sunday school for Cannon Street Baptist Church.

Reaching the end of Willow Street, turn left into Eagle Street. The construction of the Liberal Club in 1885 provided billiard and assembly rooms indoors and a bowling green at the rear. Accrington, previously part of North East Lancashire constituency, was mainly Liberal from 1880 to 1910. From 1937 to 1973 this was the home of the Accrington Arts Club. Its popularity continues in its new life as a nightclub!



3

As if to emphasise the commercial importance of this part of the tour, the former Manchester and Liverpool Bank, next door to the club, still bears the original stained glass 'Bank' engraved windows and the coats of arms of Manchester and Liverpool carved in stone



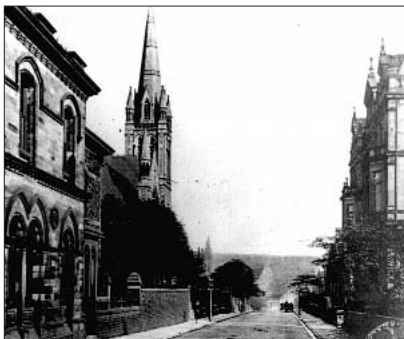
FORMER MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL BANK ENTRANCE



4

Turning left into Cannon Street you can see the former Conservative Club on your right

It was built in 1891, and was one of the largest in the country with a ballroom which could comfortably hold 1,000 people! The adjoining Victorian houses are now in use as offices for the legal and financial professions.



CANNON STREET WITH THE BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE LEFT - c 1880

To your left is Cannon Street Baptist Church, opened in March 1874 at a cost of £12,000, all of which came from church collections and fund raising events.

A left turn into St. James Street will put you in front of Gothic House

5



GOTHIC HOUSE

Latterly the Council's Tourist Information Centre and before that the Education Offices, this was originally the home of one of Accrington's 'characters'!

Charles 'Torney' Hall was a 19th Century solicitor of considerable repute and, judging from the elegance of his abode, clearly a successful practitioner of law!

Scottish philanthropist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) who emigrated to America in 1848, made millions through his iron works. Much of this wealth was spent on providing free libraries and educational and charitable institutions.



6

Accrington's Carnegie Library on your left is one such example

Built at a cost of £10,000 in 1907, its magnificent entrance features busts of Shakespeare, Milton, Homer, Scott and Dante.



THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY



7

On the opposite side of St. James Street, set in its landscaped churchyard, is the town's original parish church - St. James

Founded in 1546, it was originally a chapel of ease for Altham Parish Church.

Rebuilt in 1763 and further extended in 1828, it became a parish church in 1870. In 1897 the tower and belfry were restored and the bells rehung. A sundial near the porch bears the initials of Rev. Edward Rushton and his wife, Phoebe, who donated it in 1718.



ST. JAMES CHURCH

Memorials to the Peel Family and Thomas Hargreaves are to be found in the church, as are the colours of the famous 'Accrington Pals'.

Over the years this splendid building has witnessed many aspects of the town's life both noteworthy and notorious. As for example in 1834 when an outbreak of body-snatching was reported! However, on at least two occasions the culprits were disturbed and disinterred corpses were flung over the nearest wall as the thieves made a speedy exit!

Moving on ....

The path round the church takes you down a few steps to Church Street Gardens. If the weather's fine, a good spot to sit for a while and gather your thoughts. You're probably sitting in what was the public bar of the Bay Horse hotel, one of Accrington's oldest inns. The rear of the building carried the date 1751, but it is quite possible that it was in existence back in 1642. It ceased to be a pub in 1920 and collapsed in 1959.

Turning left along Church Street our next port of call is the Victorian Arcade on the right hand side



THE VICTORIAN ARCADE

Built in 1896 by Edmund Riley, this was one of the first shopping arcades of its kind in the country and is now a Grade II listed building. Originally intended as a theatre, the presence of the fast-flowing River Hyndburn under its foundations made this an unsafe proposition and an arcade to provide 'shopping in the dry' was agreed upon.



9

Walk through the arcade into Warner Street and you will find one of the oldest areas of Accrington

The street was built in 1821 by the Hargreaves' of Oak Hill, so they could easily make their way to St. James Church, and was Accrington's first paved road.



WARNER STREET

Across the street to the right you will see the Warners Arms

10



Dating from 1830, the town's stocks once stood next to the Warners Arms. Turn left up Warner Street, now part of the Town Centre Conservation Area. This street used to be lined with homes for the Hargreaves' family's workers from Broad Oak Printworks. Broad Oak achieved world-wide fame for calico printing and is now known for the discovery there of polyester in the early days of World War II.

Turn right at the top of Warner Street into Abbey Street

11



LAST CATTLE FAIR - ABBEY STREET

The town's first main thoroughfare dating back to 1790, when it was built as part of the Clitheroe to Manchester turnpike road by 'Blind Jack o'

Knaresborough'. Cattle markets and fairs were also held here until the beginning of the century.



ARDEN INN

Now the home of some delightful specialist shops, originally there were 12 inns and beerhouses along its length, several of which are

still going strong, including the Swan, the Black Horse, Duke of Wellington and the Arden Inn.

Continuing up Abbey Street,  
Black Abbey Street on the right



is part of Abbey Grange where the monks from Kirkstall Abbey, Leeds had a farm in the 13th Century.

When the first stage coach service ran through here in 1815 from Manchester to Clitheroe, the Red Lion Hotel - now 104 Abbey Street - was a popular coaching inn



ABBAY STREET - c 1900

This hotel was the scene of social gatherings before the Peel Institution - such as a dinner celebrating the Coronation of

King George IV and a concert and ball on the occasion of the Coronation of Queen Victoria. It was also the setting for meetings of the Anti-Corn Law League.

The Chartist leader Fergus O'Connor stayed here before addressing a public meeting in 1842 - the year Chartist riots and strikes erupted in industrial areas of the north of England. This was a time of depression and poverty in industrial Britain. Turn around here and go back along Abbey Street.



14

Walking back down Abbey Street make a note of the Black Horse Hotel



ACCRINGTON STANLEY FOOTBALL TEAM - c 1886

In 1878, a new town football team was formed here known locally as 'Th'Owd Reds'. They, along with neighbours,

Burnley, were invited to be one of the twelve founder members of the Football League in 1888, and were the forerunners to the world-famous Accrington Stanley.

After passing the Blackburn Road junction, the shop at the corner of Queen Street was the office of Charles 'Torney' Hall, of Gothic House

15



The architecture of these two buildings is very similar.

Take your next left into Infant Street - the Infant School of St. James' Church once stood here. Turn left at the bottom of Infant Street and walk along the bus station.



INFANT STREET SCHOOL - c 1840

This is Peel Street, built by the Peel Family as a route from their home at Accrington House to St. James Church.

You then come to Ogdens Jewellers



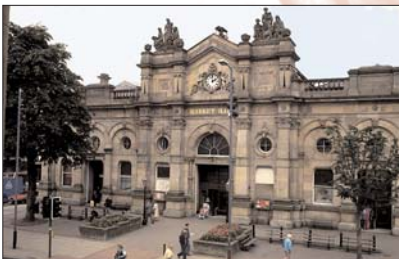
OGDENS JEWELLERS  
FORMERLY LLOYDS BANK

Originally the Cash  
Clothing Company and,  
until 1962,  
Lloyds Bank.

To the right you will see one of  
Lancashire's oldest Market Halls



Built in 1869 at an estimated cost of £6,500 - and  
still retaining its cast iron roof and galleries.

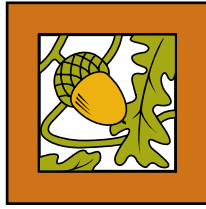


ACCRINGTON MARKET HALL

Before you  
conclude your trip,  
have a walk  
through. It is well  
worth a visit. Take  
particular note of  
the carved farm  
animals, poultry  
and game on the  
front and sides of

the building, together with the market clock, first set in  
November 1871.

Now you are back at the Town Hall where you  
started your tour. We hope you've enjoyed your  
journey through some of Accrington's history and  
will come back to visit again - soon.



Our town of Accrington, was so named because it was originally surrounded by oak woodland. Hence our acorn symbol which has been incorporated into much of our town centre including buildings, windows and street furniture.

Think of acorns and squirrels spring to mind. You'll find squirrels throughout our town centre, on road and car park signs, and squirrel models which can be found on various rooftops, windowsills and walls.

Occasionally, if you're very lucky, you may see real squirrels.

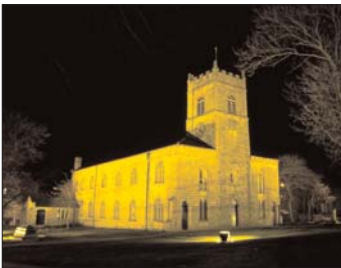
Look out for them!

Why not do your shopping in Accrington. Besides the usual stores you'd expect to find, we have many small specialist shops to browse around. Our Shopping Guide, along with other information on things to do and see in Hyndburn, is available from the Tourist

Information Centre which is based in our splendid Victorian Town Hall. The staff there are always ready to assist with any enquiries you may have.

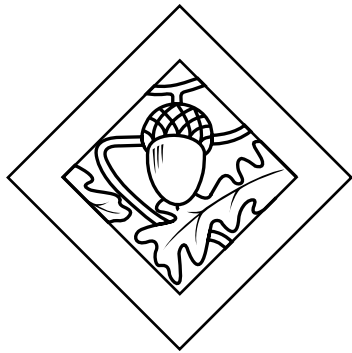


THE RED SQUIRREL



ST JAMES CHURCH - FLOODLIT AT NIGHT

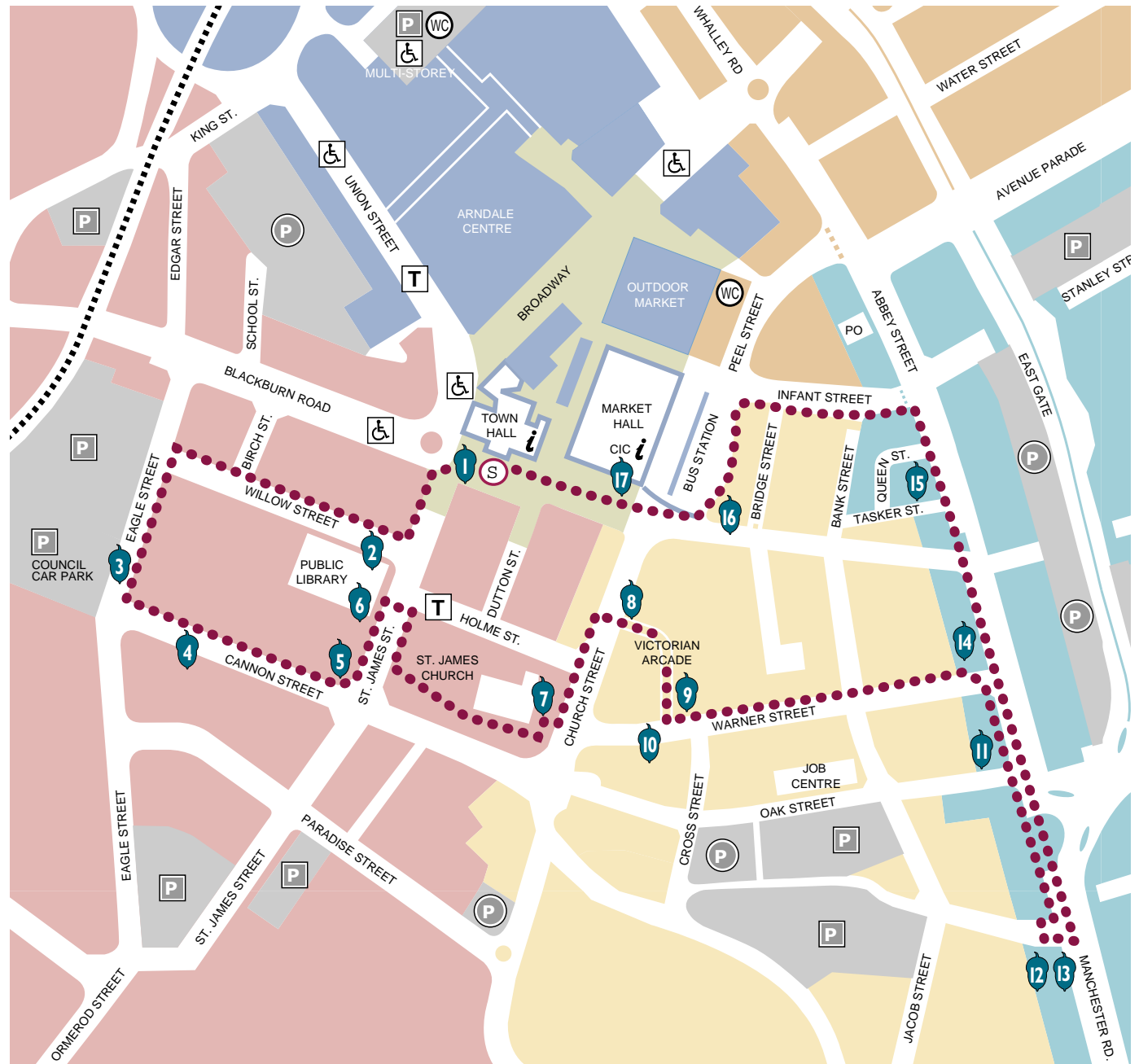
Accrington, n. tun where acorns are found / Town surrounded by oaks. (OE aecern + tun 'Akarington pre-1194 → Acrinton 1277 → Akerington 1296 → Ackryngton 1311).



'FROM LITTLE ACORNS MIGHTY OAKS GROW'

Thanks to the invaluable help of Hyndburn Local History Society, the local library and work of Mr. Craig Stephenson PhD, of Altham, the Council is proud to present this short walking tour. Entitled 'The Acorn Trail' in keeping with the meaning of the town's name - town surrounded by oak trees - and the acorn symbols to be found on selected buildings, this leaflet is designed to guide you easily around some of Accrington's most historic and interesting buildings.

Front Cover: Taken from Town Hall Floor Mosaics



- ..... ACORN TRAIL
- INFORMATION PLAQUE
- P PARKING
- DISABLED PARKING
- T TAXI RANKS
- PEDESTRIAN AREAS

**TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY ALONG THE ACORN TRAIL  
FOLLOW THE SYMBOLS IN THE PAVEMENT AND WATCH OUT FOR SQUIRRELS!**

THE COLOUR CODING ON THIS MAP REPRESENTS THE MAIN SHOPPING AREAS AND IS TAKEN FROM OUR SHOPPING LEAFLET WHICH IS AVAILABLE FROM THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE