

CLITHEROE HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2021



EDIBLE ENGLAND

Watering holes, inns and eateries, at just over a mile this walk reveals how our town has changed – and in many ways how it has stayed the same.

Each title is a link to an image on Lancashire County Council's heritage photograph archive at <https://redrosecollections.lancashire.gov.uk> for you to compare the view from past to present.

1. MAYOR'S PARLOUR (LIBRARY)

The enquiry desk area of Clitheroe library used to be the mayor's parlour where the mayor may have entertained guests. The window over the stairs would have looked onto York Street once, before the library's extension in 1990. Above the mayor's parlour is the original Council Chamber, used today for meetings and library activities. Compare the height of the air vent and the windows in the photograph to the room today and you'll notice that the floor used to be much higher. Could the waist-height ledge be the original floor level?

2. WHITE LION

In the photograph there appears to be a temporary gate on the passageway alongside the White Lion Hotel in Market Place, and the keystone over the passageway is still marked Private Road which might explain the gate, although now this is public access. We're not sure what the gentleman in the photograph's role was, if any. There are still iron rings on the front of the building where animals would have been tethered.

3. HEALD WELL AND BUCK INN

Heald (sometimes spelled Heild or Hield) was thought for hundreds of years to refer to a 'cover' or 'shelter' of some description. There is, however, no archaeological evidence to support this idea and recent research by staff at Clitheroe Library, corroborated by the English Place-Name Society, suggests that Heald Well might in fact mean something like 'well (or spring) at the slope'. Imagine the lay of the land between the upper St Mary's Well near Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and the lower Heild Well, and you'll see that this well sits at the foot of that slope. There are records about this well in the Court Leets, for example of fines incurred for washing 'yarne', 'lether' and 'garbidge' in the town's drinking water, and other anecdotes like the travelling Ventriloquist who fell in one night while drunk.

The Buck Inn on the corner of Shawbridge Street and Lowergate was replaced, probably during the 1920s, by the new inn of the same name. The distinctive shop-front of the building next door hasn't changed though.

4. BROWNLOW ARMS AND THE VICTORIA

The Brownlow Arms was on the east side of Market Place and The Victoria was directly opposite. Both are now clothing shops, although the Brownlow Arms had been demolished and replaced, and until recently had been a bank. The cash point is now a miniature library.

5. THE STATION HOTEL AND MILK DISPATCH

The Station Hotel is one of Clitheroe's more intricately adorned buildings with elaborate stonemasonry throughout. Milk was delivered by train. The milk dispatch, assembled outside the station building directly opposite The Station Hotel, must have been quite a sight. Next time you pick up some milk from the shop consider the supply chain today, and then what that must have been like a hundred or more years ago.

6. RAILWAY VIEW INN (THE CASTLE PUB)

Looking at old photographs can sometimes feel like archaeology, and we can only wonder what the lives were like of the people in the photograph. If you zoom in on the image it looks like it has been snowing, so who these people are and what brought them all to sit for a photo outside on a snowy winter's day might forever remain a mystery. We do know what became of the building: The Railway View Inn is now The Castle pub.

7. STOCK WELL

Referred to for centuries as Stocks Well, Stock Well has in fact nothing to do with Clitheroe's town stocks. More research by Clitheroe Library staff, again corroborated by the English Place-Name Society, has demonstrated that Stock Well, derived from Old English stocc, most likely means 'well (or spring) by the tree stump' and harks back to the original deforestation or clearing of what would become the Stock Well Meadow, before its more recent incorporation into what is now the castle grounds. Imagine a Clitheroe with fewer man-made landmarks. How might you navigate or refer to areas of the town? Which geographical or natural features would you rely on?

8. HOLMES MILL

Holmes Mill is a former textile mill. Some of the buildings retain the name of their original purpose, such as the Spinning Block and the Boiler House. Inside the beer hall you'll find the old industrial machinery of the Engine Room. Based on the rendered walls and the position of the windows, we think this photograph was taken on Woone Lane. The iron fire escapes, while old and now well rusted, may be a later addition.

9. METHODIST CHAPEL (THE EMPORIUM)

The Old Methodist Chapel is now The Emporium coffee shop, wine bar and brasserie. The congregation merged with Trinity Methodist Church on Parson Lane in 1962 and the Old Methodist Chapel on Moor Lane was closed. It became the Emporium in 1998.

10. NATIONAL SCHOOL (PICCOLINO'S)

From 2009 until September 2021 this was an Italian restaurant, but it has served several other uses in its time. For many years this building was used for the manufacture of electronics. Built in 1839 its original purpose was a National School. Along with the British Schools of the British and Foreign School Society, these schools provided first near-universal system of elementary education to the children of the poor in England and Wales. Eventually they were absorbed into the state system, either as fully state-run schools or as faith schools funded by the state.

11. THE RED LION AND MELIA'S

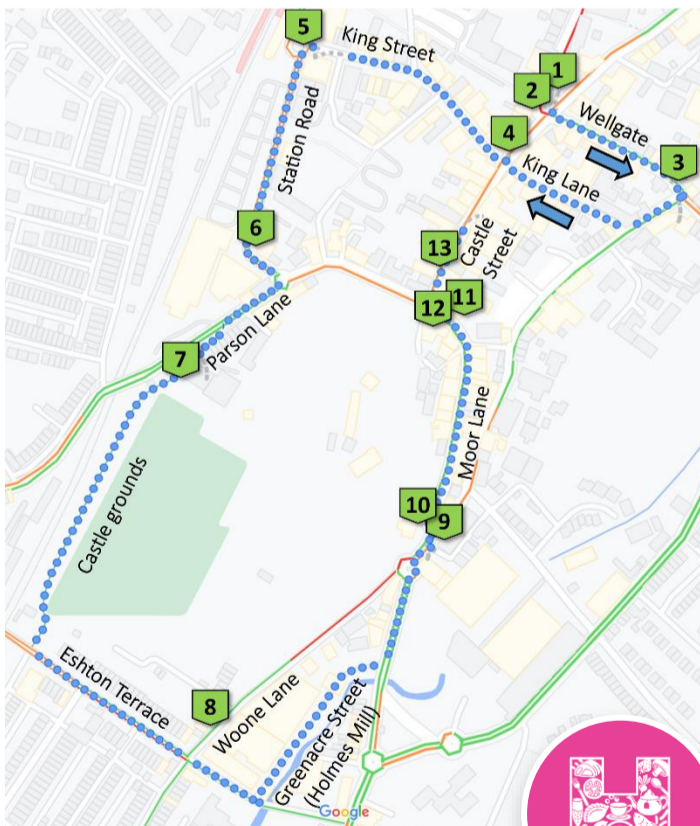
The distinctive archway helps us identify The Red Lion pub, now 7 (Green Theory) and 9A (Abu Gypsy & Fig) Castle Gate. Having **originally been next door** at what is now Elan, Melia's Grocers and Tea Dealers later moved into these premises. Melia's was a significant British retailer selling groceries with stores often specialising in tea. The grand opening of Lords Butchers on Tuesday 30 March is being promoted in the window, which likely dates this photograph to either 1962 or 1956.

12. J. SEFTON TEA & COFFEE (PARTY PEOPLE)

On the opposite side of Castle Gate we find J. Sefton Tea & Coffee Merchants, now Party People. Proudly advertising Cadbury's, Rowntree's and Fry's, we imagine this was favourite shop for those with a sweet tooth. The distinctive stonework help us identify the location because our photograph is labelled "10 Castle Gate" and Party People is now 12 Castle Gate. Number 10 is now Number 10 Literature & Lifestyle, so Seftons may have occupied 10-12 when this photo was taken.

13. CASTLE RESTAURANT (MORTIMERS)

The Castle Restaurant is now Mortimers estate agents. Our old photographs tell us that there were lots of cafés and places to eat in Clitheroe, and this image shows us that the Castle Restaurant had a café next door. It still does – now it is occupied by Costa.



We hope you have enjoyed the walk. If you have any thoughts we'd love to hear them, so please email us at clitheroe.library@lancashire.gov.uk or message us on twitter [@LanclsLibraries](https://twitter.com/LanclsLibraries) or on facebook [LanclsLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/LanclsLibraries)

All images are taken from Clitheroe Library's local history photograph collection. We look forward to opening the collection up for in-person browsing and viewing soon.

View this image set on Red Rose Collections [here](#).

We are grateful for support from Clitheroe Heritage Open Days Steering Group, with thanks for additional research provided by volunteers from The Arts Society (NADFAS) and Clitheroe Civic Society's 'Clitheroe Town Trail' by Alan Dixon. All errors and omissions our own.