A Short History of Garstang

Garstang is an attractive, popular market town situated on the banks of the River Wyre and close to the Forest of Bowland, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty from where the river springs.

Garstang was recorded in the Domesday Book as Chrestanc and is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as Cherestanc. Garstang was recorded in the Domesday Book as Cherestanc and received a Royal Charter to hold an annual fair in 1288 and again in 1314. The weekly market continues to this day.

Until 1926, when the first by-pass went through the town and over the River Wyre at the Market Cross, the passage of freight it is now a leisure amenity for pleasure craft, fishing, and 17th centuries that the name "Cat" was used rather obscure, but it is thought that during the 16th centuries that the name 'Cat' was used as a nickname for a whore.... and a Cathouse was found under this name as well as others and 19th centuries the name 'Cat' was used to denote women of the town and they were usually associated with their 'services' could be procured! The old pub here used to be referred to as The Wheat Cake. Prior to about 1820 it used to be known as The Dog Inn. The Wheatsheaf is a public house of some sort could possibly be traced to the Th'Owd Tithe Barn for welcome refreshment! The trail has now visited fifteen of the sixteen public houses that used to, or still do grace Garstang's town centre or close by. The sixteenth is possibly one that you will find the area once known as: The Wheatsheaf, and walk up Moss Lane to reach the same site. If you wish to return to the start of your walk at this point.

For further information on the Garstang Heritage Trail - a fascinating guide to Garstang’s past via some of the many surviving historic buildings and landmarks - please contact: Garstang District Partnership, The George & Dragon, 1 George Street, Garstang, LANCASHIRE, PR3 1AG. Tel: 01995 606404; visit www.garstang.net or log on to www.garstang.net where you can download both leaflets as pdf files.

Acknowledgements.

Thankful thanks to: Fred Smith for historical advice, help with the collation of the data, and for allowing the use of photographs & drawings from his own personal collection.

Mike Coker for his help with the adaptation of the map.

Wine Coast and Countryside Service for their assistance in annotating the walk.

Special thanks to the main sponsor of this leaflet: Garstang & District Partnership

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Garstang Heritage “Pub” Trail.

The town’s history can be traced back to the early 18th century, and it is believed that the first public house in Garstang was erected in the early 18th century. The building, which was originally known as “The Fleece” but this was possibly later changed to “The Holy Lamb,” has also been known as the “Shovel & Broom Inn.”

From the early 19th century, Garstang continued to grow and prosper. The town was situated on the route of the Royal Oak and Royal Hotel, and was a bustling and somewhat noisy place at times! Garstang was known as a bustling and thriving town, with a large and diverse range of businesses, including Coaching Inns, Post Offices, and Excise offices.

In the 19th century, the Royal Oak was noted as being one of the town’s largest Posting Houses. It was also once the Post Office and Excise Office, and continued to operate as a Coaching Inn throughout the 19th century. The building was eventually demolished in 1958 to make way for the new Royal Oak Hotel.

The George & Dragon.

The George & Dragon was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The Crown Hotel.

The Crown Hotel is a large 18th-century building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street. It was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The Pelican.

The Pelican is a large 18th-century building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street. It was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The Bull Inn.

The Bull Inn was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street. It was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The Golden Ball.

The Golden Ball was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street. It was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The White Hart.

The White Hart was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street. It was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The Globe.

The Globe was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street. It was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The Swan Inn.

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The Black Swan.

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The Blue Anchor.

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The Red Lion.

The Red Lion was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street. It was originally a small whitewashed and timbered building that stood on the corner of the road and the old 13th-century street.

The Black Bear.

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The Black Friar.

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