A Short History of Garstang

Garstang is an attractive, popular market town which sits on the banks of the River Wyre and also is the centre of the Parish of All Hallows at Argentine. Known as the Natural Beauty from where the river springs.

Garstang was recorded in the Domesday Book as Gamestane and continued as Rolls Charter to be held in the 12th century, and a market from 1280. The early market town was built for the Hanseatic League. This was not for long, however, when Garstang became the centre of the trade in cloth.

The town has a population of 13,760 and is a centre of the Wyre Valley as well as the Wyre estuary. The town has an old market hall built in 1680 but burnt down in 1750. Rebuilt in 1774 and again in 1939, the building was a market place and the market cross was built in 1629 and widened in 1829 and 1929. Its use is for the town hall, council chamber, civic services, and the main council offices.

For the Medium Length Walk

Continue to walk up Bridge Street and turn right at the church. At the second stile (next to a fine Oak Tree), stop and pass the more attractive church on Back Lane, now Park Hill Road. The Catholic Church was built in 1858 and the smaller church on Back Lane, now Park Hill Road, was built in 1820.

For the Long Walk

Continue along the towpath until you arrive at the Wyre Bridge. This is a restored 18th century structure which was opened in 1889 in Bridge Street. It had windows over the river and was used as office accommodation. It was built in 1629 and widened in 1829 and 1929. Its use is for the town hall, council chamber, civic services, and the main council offices.

Growth

Many pleasure craft and a home for ducks and swans. As you reach the car park look across the river to the Coach House Mews following the path down to the riverbank. Continue to walk up Bridge Street and turn right at the church. At the second stile (next to a fine Oak Tree), stop and pass the more attractive church on Back Lane, now Park Hill Road.

Acknowledgements

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Garstang and District Partnership

Heritage trail

Awards for All.

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Garstang
Garstang Heritage Trail

The Garstang Heritage Trail follows the history of the town. The trail will guide you past the owners of the historic buildings and landmarks that remain today.

This large, red brick building was originally the Boys\n\n\nThe front part was originally the Boys\n\n\n1. Old Council Offices. Start the walks from Old Council Offices. no.32 onwards.

There are three options for walks (shown on the map in different colours), varying in distance, all starting from the Th'Owd Tithebarn, along the canal and river.

2. Long Walk (easy), along the High Street, on the right hand side was the Congregational Church. This is the oldest family business in Garstang. It was founded in 1656 and has been in continuous use ever since. The present building was erected in 1763 and a new entrance was added in 1879. The building formerly called the Shovel and Axe is just beside the church. It was once the town's only public house. The building was destroyed by fire in 1939 and it was rebuilt in 1940.


4. Maximum Length (long). The buildings on this side are all on the original High Street. You will see the famous "Eagle and Child" in the first Roman Catholic Church and Priest's House, which were removed in 1954.

5. Entrance to Garstang Cemetery. Garstang Cemetery was founded in 1755 and is 12 acres in size. It is still in use today. The cemetery contains the graves of many famous people that have rested there. The "Small Dark Hole" – Garstang's Prison Cell. The area surrounding the Cross was the original Market Place. Edward II granted the market charter on 28th May 1306.

7. The Mounting Steps. The steps were particularly useful for ladies riding horses and was a stud centre.

8. Laburnum Cottage. The Royal Oak Hotel was originally a Posting House on the London to Manchester road (the old pack horse inn). It was once a T emperance House and had a stabling, and fodder for the horses and was a stud centre.

9. The Pack Horse Inn. The Pack Horse Inn, which lost its licence in 1901 and then continued as a T emperance House and has been used as a public house ever since. The hotel sign refers to the legend of the "Eagle and Child". It was one of the town's two Posting Houses and is now the church hall. Go left in front of this to the building by public subscription in 1847. This is the oldest family business in Garstang. The steps are 17th Century or earlier and give access for horses and coaches to stables at the back of the building. They often changed names to match the adjoining shops.

10. Stoops Hall. The current red brick building was built in 1913 for the Garstang Corporation which includes two halberds and a large gable with a clock tower. It was rebuilt in 1912. The inn sign refers to the legend of the "Eagle and Child". It was one of the town's two Posting Houses and is now the church hall. Go left in front of this to the building by public subscription in 1847. This is the oldest family business in Garstang. The steps are 17th Century or earlier and give access for horses and coaches to stables at the back of the building. They often changed names to match the adjoining shops.

11. The Kings Royal Lancashire Regiment, 5th Battalion. This building is the former headquarters of the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. It was built in 1796 and was the home of the Royal Oak. The Royal Oak owned much land stretching to the main road to reach the far part of Church Street. The building formerly called the Shovel and Axe is just beside the church. It was once the town's only public house. The building was destroyed by fire in 1939 and it was rebuilt in 1940. The area surrounding the Cross was the original Market Place. Edward II granted the market charter on 28th May 1306.

12. Chapel House/Weind House. The area surrounding the Cross was the original Market Place. Edward II granted the market charter on 28th May 1306.

On your left you will pass the parish church of Garstang, St. Thomas's. The agent of the Lord of the Manor carried on the traditional to this day. It was also Garstang market is still held every Thursday and the area surrounding the Cross was the original Market Place. Edward II granted the market charter on 28th May 1306.

On the right hand side of the high Street look for number 35, an old coach house.

Further up Croston Road is the original Market Place. Edward II granted the market charter on 28th May 1306. You will see in front of you the arched windows of the Market House and the T own Hall was the first Catholic Church and Priest's House, which were removed in 1954. It commemorates Queen Victoria's Jubilee. It was erected in 1912. The inn sign refers to the legend of the "Eagle and Child". It was one of the town's two Posting Houses and is now the church hall. Go left in front of this to the building by public subscription in 1847. This is the oldest family business in Garstang. The steps are 17th Century or earlier and give access for horses and coaches to stables at the back of the building. They often changed names to match the adjoining shops.

On the left hand side of the road you can see the old gas and water offices. The steps were particularly useful for ladies riding horses and was a stud centre.

On the right hand side, the Royal Oak Hotel was originally a Posting House on the London to Manchester road (the old pack horse inn). It was once a T emperance House and had a stabling, and fodder for the horses and was a stud centre.

To the left of the garage on the far side of the High Street is a representation of the Eagle and Child legend attached to Lathom Hall. The Earl of Derby - who built Greenhalgh Castle near Ormskirk. When Thomas Stanley, the first Earl of Derby died in 1559, all his property went to his young son Sir Edward Stanley, who built Greenhalgh Castle.

On the right hand side is the Congregational Church. This is the oldest family business in Garstang. It was founded in 1656 and has been in continuous use ever since. The present building was erected in 1763 and a new entrance was added in 1879. The building formerly called the Shovel and Axe is just beside the church. It was once the town's only public house. The building was destroyed by fire in 1939 and it was rebuilt in 1940.

Walk down the High Street. Most of these small buildings extended to it. At the roundabout turn right and walk up Park Hill Road. On your left you will pass the Old Council Offices. Walk down to the river. It was used for many centuries as a brewery and is still used by the Garstang Brewery for the production of the famous "Eagle and Child".

Walk down to the market house and the Town Hall was the first Catholic Church and Priest's House, which were removed in 1954. It commemorates Queen Victoria's Jubilee. It was erected in 1912. The inn sign refers to the legend of the "Eagle and Child". It was one of the town's two Posting Houses and is now the church hall. Go left in front of this to the building by public subscription in 1847. This is the oldest family business in Garstang. The steps are 17th Century or earlier and give access for horses and coaches to stables at the back of the building. They often changed names to match the adjoining shops.

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