

1 HERITAGE MUSEUM

Originally the Leyland Grammar School, the building dates from the C.17th although parts of the timber frame date from the mid C.16th. Living accommodation for the school master was added in 1799. In 1874 the school was closed due to deterioration of the building although in the early 1900's it was used for meetings for the Mens Sunday School Class. In 1977 the building was renovated and converted into its present use as a Museum and Exhibition Centre. Since 1951 the building has been Grade II listed.

2 ST. ANDREWS WATCHHOUSE

This Grade II listed building dates from the early C.19th. Although now used as a store to the graveyard the watchhouse was reputedly used for the storage of corpses prior to burial.

3 EAGLE & CHILD

Leyland's oldest inn, the Eagle and Child dates back to the C.16th although the main body of the public house probably dates from the C.18th with some C.19th additions. Part of the premises were reputedly used as Leyland's Court House with the cellars being used as holding rooms for offenders. There are also supposedly secret tunnels running from the cellars to Worden Park and the Old Priory in Moss Lane used by supporters of King Charles I escaping from Cromwell's Men. In 1981 the inn was renovated internally and externally to its present condition.

4 TOWN WAR MEMORIAL

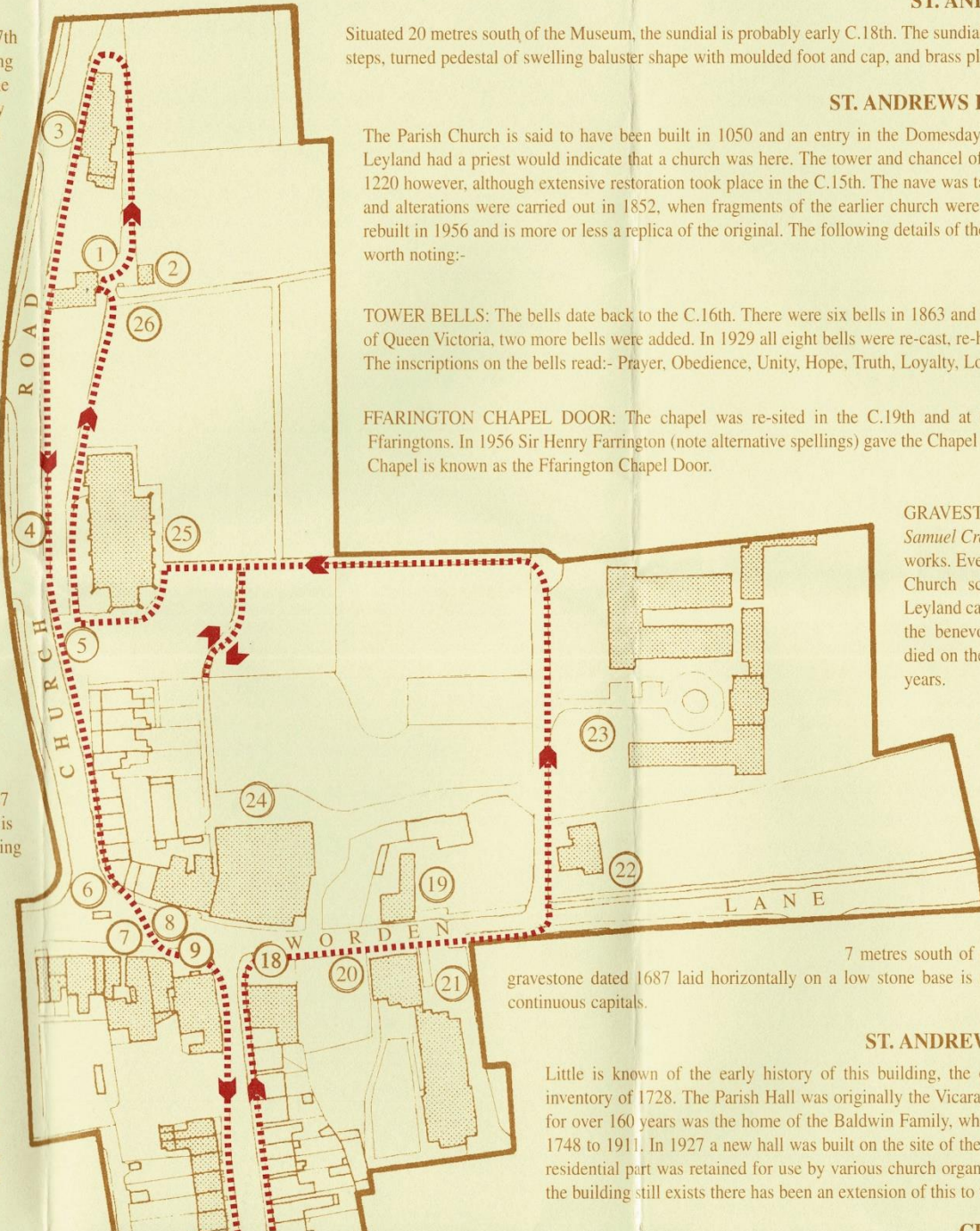
Erected to commemorate Leyland men killed in the Great War of 1914-18, it was extended to record the names of those killed in World War II 1939-45. Stones set in the wall surrounding the garden mark the regiments involved.

5 ST. ANDREWS GATEWAY AND WALL

The Entrance Gateway and Wall to St. Andrews Church is dated 1827 (incised into door lintol incorporated in the wall). The stone gateway is composed of a wide Tudor arch with moulded and battlemented coping between tall battlemented piers with trefoil panels. The wall which runs for c. 100 metres eastwards, forms a retaining boundary to the church yard which is elevated c. 3 metres above road level. The stick baluster iron railings on the wall are divided into groups of 20 by shaped posts with iron finals carrying a spiked rail.

6 LEYLAND CROSS

The village cross is the oldest construction in Leyland and marks the centre of the old village. The stepped base and shaft are quite ancient, the higher portion of the shaft and cross being of recent origin. The cross was broken during Puritan times and for many years until 1887 there were two gas lamps attached to the top of the shaft. In that year the cross was reinstated to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In the same year the iron pump and drinking trough that stood next to the cross were replaced by the present fountain and drinking trough.



ST. ANDREWS SUNDIAL (26)

Situated 20 metres south of the Museum, the sundial is probably early C.18th. The sundial consists of two circular stone steps, turned pedestal of swelling baluster shape with moulded foot and cap, and brass plate and scrolled gnomon.

ST. ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH (25)

The Parish Church is said to have been built in 1050 and an entry in the Domesday Book in 1086 recording that Leyland had a priest would indicate that a church was here. The tower and chancel of the present church date from 1220 however, although extensive restoration took place in the C.15th. The nave was taken down and rebuilt in 1816 and alterations were carried out in 1852, when fragments of the earlier church were found. The chancel roof was rebuilt in 1956 and is more or less a replica of the original. The following details of the church and grounds are also worth noting:-

TOWER BELLS: The bells date back to the C.16th. There were six bells in 1863 and in 1897, to celebrate the reign of Queen Victoria, two more bells were added. In 1929 all eight bells were re-cast, re-hung and two new bells added. The inscriptions on the bells read:- Prayer, Obedience, Unity, Hope, Truth, Loyalty, Love, Peace, Joy and Faith.

FFARINGTON CHAPEL DOOR: The chapel was re-sited in the C.19th and at that time was owned by the Ffaringtons. In 1956 Sir Henry Farrington (note alternative spellings) gave the Chapel to the Church. The door to the Chapel is known as the Ffarington Chapel Door.

GRAVESTONES:-

Samuel Crook:- famous for his charitable works. Every May Day children from the Church schools in the old Parish of Leyland came to church to commemorate the benevolence of Samuel Crook. He died on the 10th February 1776 aged 82 years.

William Walker:- located 20 metres south of chancel (Grade II listed). The gravestone dated 1588 consists of a stone slab on a low stone base on which is incised a life size primitive drawn figure.

Richard Sherdley:- located 7 metres south of chancel (Grade II listed). The gravestone dated 1687 laid horizontally on a low stone base is unusual in having 14 lines of continuous capitals.

ST. ANDREWS PARISH HALL (24)

Little is known of the early history of this building, the earliest reference being in an inventory of 1728. The Parish Hall was originally the Vicarage to St. Andrews Church and for over 160 years was the home of the Baldwin Family, who were vicars to Leyland from 1748 to 1911. In 1927 a new hall was built on the site of the vicarage outbuildings, but the residential part was retained for use by various church organisations. Although the front of the building still exists there has been an extension of this to the south of the main entrance.

CHESTNUT COURT (23)

Nos. 3 to 15 Towngate form a row of mainly late C.19th houses now converted to shops. Tudor House Cafe (No. 9) dating from 1710 is the oldest and finest of this particular group, possibly being two houses originally.

8 ROEBUCK HOTEL

This Public House dates back to the late C.18th when it was originally called the 'Stag'. It was renamed the 'Roebuck' in 1823 and until the end of the C.19th was used as a meeting place for the 'Court Leet'.

9 BAY HORSE

Little is known of the history of this public house although the present building appears on a map dated 1769. Originally the building was thatched but has since had a slated roof installed.

10 HAND LOOM WEAVERS COTTAGES

This group of 26 cottages with basement workshops, stand on the north side of Fox Lane, previously called Union Street and before that Liverpool Road. The cottages were built in or before 1802 and were known originally as the 'Friendly Society Houses' but are now better known as the 'Step Houses'. Nos. 22 and 48 have firemarks over the doorways indicating they carried fire insurance. No. 16 is also worth noting for the original square shop front and canopy.

11 RYLEY ALMSHOUSES

(Nos. 66 to 70 Fox Lane). These almshouses were built in 1887 out of a £2000 endowment given by Mrs Agnes Ryley. They are currently administered by the trustees of the Osbaldeston Charity.

12 OSBALDESTON CHARITY ALMSHOUSES

(Nos. 80 to 86 Fox Lane). In his Will of 26th November 1665, John Osbaldeston of Chiswick, London left £500 to be invested in land for the maintenance of the poor of Leyland. The first almshouses were built some time after 1691 on Cow Lane near Leyland Cross. In 1870 they were moved and rebuilt at their present location on Fox Lane.

13 FARINGTON ALMSHOUSE TRUST COTTAGES

(Nos. 92 to 100 Fox Lane). A group of five Grade II listed cottages dating back to 1852. The group consists of two end detached cottages with a central terrace of three cottages laid out in a formal symmetrical pattern that has changed little over the years.

14 FARINGTON ALMSHOUSES

(Nos. 102-112 Fox Lane). The original almshouses stood at Seven Stars and were founded in 1647 by William Farington. The present building was erected in 1849 by Susan Maria and Mary Hannah Farington. The Almshouses bear the inscription of the centre doors 'Founded and Endowed by William Farington of Worden 1649, Removed and Rebuilt 1849'. Above the other doors are various carved coat of arms.

15 LEYLAND CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket Club dates back to 1847, when matches were played on the Vicars Field off Beech Avenue. The present ground was leased from the vicar of Leyland, the Rev. Thomas Rigby-Baldwin in 1880 and shortly afterwards John Stanning owner of the bleachworks started building up the Leyland teams. By the end of the C.19th so many Leyland players had joined the County Side that Leyland became known as the 'Nursery of Lancashire'. In 1898, perhaps Leyland's greatest year, the first, second and third elevens played 58 games without sustaining a single defeat.

Formerly the Old St. Andrews vicarage, built in 1914 by local builders Marland Brothers Ltd., at a cost of £2,240. The Vicarage is now part of a sheltered housing scheme, again built by Marland Brothers.

THE LAURELS 22

Built by the Farington Family in the mid C.19th its arched windows and dark brickwork is typical of houses of this period in Leyland.

ST. MARY'S R.C. CHURCH 21

(See also Leyland House). The Roman Catholic Mission was established in 1845 by the Rev. Henry Anselm Brewer who was rector of St. Mary's Brownedge. In the summer of 1845 a chapel, dedicated like the Parish Church to St. Andrew the Apostle, was opened in Leyland House. In 1854 a new chapel was built for £500, under the new title of St. Mary's. The chapel was enlarged in 1919 and served the Catholic population of Leyland until 1964 when the new church of St. Mary's was built on Broadfield Drive. A war memorial to the Roman Catholics who died in both World Wars is situated in the graveyard.

LEYLAND HOUSE 20

(No. 10 Worden Lane). This Georgian town house of brick with stone facings and Doric columns was built in 1770 by William Pollard of Lytham. In the early C.19th it was occupied by a member of the Baldwin family (who gave nine vicars to St. Andrews Church). In 1844 the house was purchased by a Dr. Smith, who gave it to start a Roman Catholic Church in Leyland. In 1845 a chapel was opened in the house and was used as such until 1854 when the new chapel was built. In 1854 Leyland House became the Presbytery to the new church.

CLOUGH HOUSE 19

(No. 7 Worden Lane). This much altered C.18th house is probably a rebuilt version of a much older property. A family called Clough appears in the documents in the Faringtons of Worden Lane muniments relating to the upkeep of Whittaker Lane, as Worden Lane was then called.

OCCLESHAW HOUSE 18

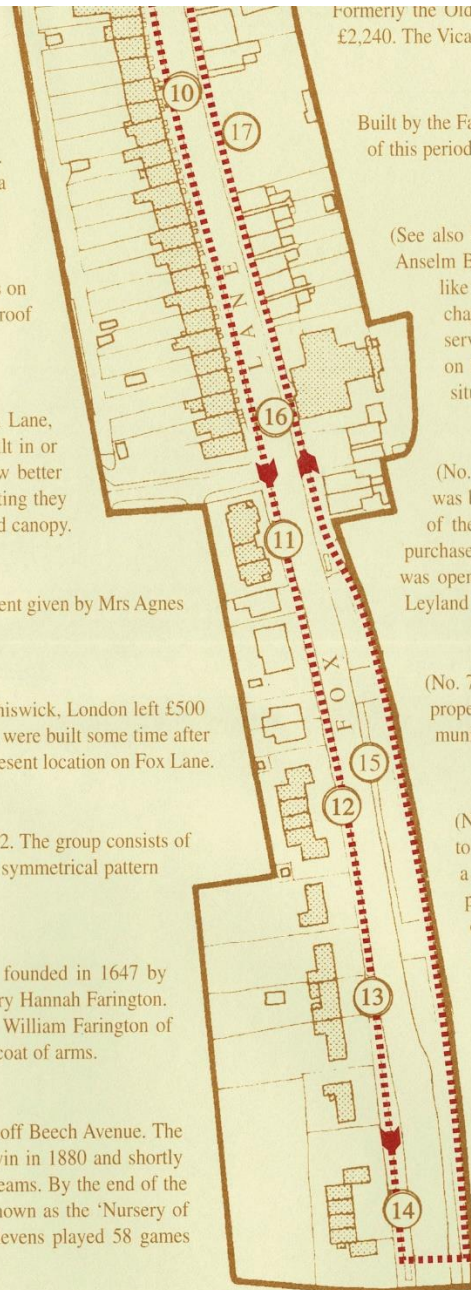
(No. 2 Worden Lane). This Grade II listed building was built in the early C.18th and is believed to take its name from an early occupier. In the C.19th the northern end of the house was used as a chemist's shop and post office, from which the first telegram was sent out of Leyland. Another part of the building was used as a printing works (1911-1931) by the well known Leyland family of Threlfalls. Some local residents can also recall the time when Occleshaw House was a hotel called the 'John O'Gaunt'. More recently the house has been used as a doctors surgery.

REMAINS OF NATIONAL SCHOOL 17

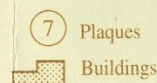
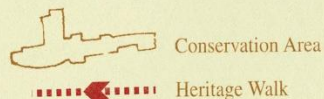
The wall between Nos. 27 and 41 Fox Lane is all that remains of the National School that once stood there. The school was known colloquially as the 'Top School', probably because it was at the top of Leyland, although some think it was more because the classrooms were all on the first floor with the caretakers accommodation underneath.

ST. ANDREWS C OF E SCHOOL 16

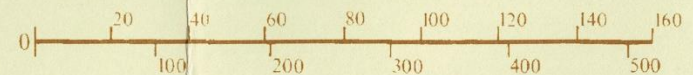
This Grade II listed building dates back to 1837 and was built by public subscription. One of two schools that originally stood on Fox Lane (see Plaque No. 17), it is still used as the infants annexe to Woodlea School which stands at the rear of the Almshouses opposite.



LEGEND



N



Metres
Feet

Leyland, a town founded on industry, yet once known as "The Garden of Lancashire" . . .

Situated on the edge of the West Lancashire plain, Leyland lies five miles South of the River Ribble and immediately to the west of the M6 (junction 28).

The original settlement, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book, was selected as the principal village of the Leyland Hundred, its manor eventually becoming the property of King Edward the Confessor in late Saxon times.

Leyland's chief link with the past is St. Andrew's church. Dating back to 1086, the church's age and its nearness to the ancient Leyland Cross, combine to mark this area as the oldest part of "the village".

The town's prosperity was founded on industry. Yet Leyland was an agricultural community, at least until the early 19th Century.

For it was then that the seeds of industry were sown when 26 weavers' cottages were built in Fox Lane.

From this insignificant start, Leyland grew into an industrial town.

But although it may have been weaving which had signalled the industrial revolution for Leyland, it was to be the manufacture of rubber goods, paint, and of course motor vehicles and engineering, which in the 20th Century would transform the village into a town.

By the 1950's it was attracting an average of 8000 workers a day from the surrounding districts.

Thankfully, expansion has not damaged the form and the fabric of "the village" of Leyland.

It is within this area that the Heritage Walk is situated.

The dominance of the church is self-evident, particularly in Fox Lane, from where the tower of St. Andrews punctuates the horizon by means of a visual full-stop.

Still in Fox Lane, the street and buildings combine to create a comfortable feeling of warmth and security, a "sense of enclosure".

It is this feeling which is further evident at the Cross. Clear

vistas are restricted because of the road configuration; from the top of Fox Lane there is no view of Church Road, and vice versa.

Another feature of the village is the linear quality of Fox Lane and Church Road. This allowed the retention of open space at the rear of any development.

From Leyland Cross, looking along Worden Lane, you will see the gates of Worden Hall, a remnant of the proximity of the Manor House and its family, visible yet remote, so confirming their status in the local community.

South Ribble Borough Council designated Leyland Cross a Conservation Area in 1979. This signified an effort to give the area special care, and an attempt to maintain and improve its character.

The Council can do this in a number of ways, for example:-

- * Buildings can only be demolished with the approval of the Council; even the loss of a minor building could have a detrimental effect.
- * Members of the public are given an opportunity to comment on plans for new buildings within the area, or alterations to existing buildings.
- * Grants are available to help maintain and repair properties.
- * The Council can exercise special controls on advertising.
- * There are even laws to protect trees within the Conservation Area.

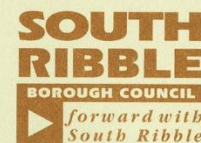
The Leyland Cross Conservation Area has considerable character and quality. It contains several listed buildings.

And it is the locality which forms the focal point of an area still known as "the village".

It lies on the fringe of the present town centre, yet it has remained virtually unchanged since the 19th Century.

The Heritage Walk follows a route of approximately 1 mile (1.5Km) and will take about an hour to complete.

To follow the walk please turn over and start at the Museum and Exhibition Centre in Church Road



LEYLAND CROSS CONSERVATION AREA

