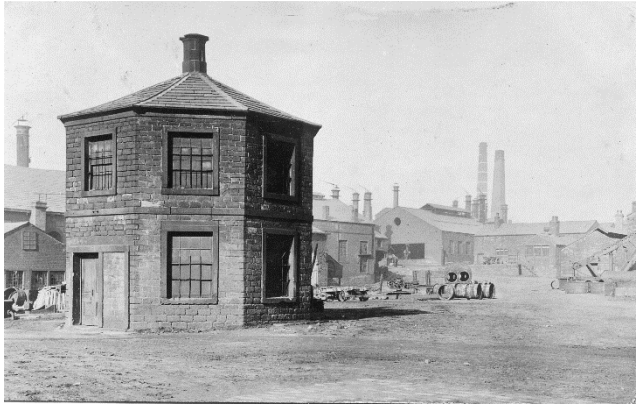


Low Moor Walks – Number 1



The original ironworks octagonal office on Brighthouse Road early 1900s

Iron Works Walk

Revised edition 2016

Fly Wheel – Huddersfield Rd – Common Road – Park Road – Lower School Street – Huddersfield Rd – Old Hill Top – Netherlands Avenue – War memorial – Brighthouse Road – Site of iron works – Short Row – New Works Road – Carr Lane – Holly Hall Lane – Huddersfield Rd – Markfield Estate – St Marks Place

Starting point: Fly wheel New Works Road BD12 0UD

Buses: 363, 686, 687 and 688

Parking: New Works Road

Distance: 2 miles: allow 1 hour 15 minutes

Surface: Mostly paved

Start in New Works Road and walk towards the fly wheel. The area on your right was part of the iron works site. This stretch of road used to be known as Long Wall Side – you can see why! Near the top of the road on the right is a significant reminder of Low Moor's former glory. It is a 30.5 ton, 16 inch flywheel which once was part of the Rolling Mill at the Low Moor Iron Works.

Walk to the top of the road, turn right and cross Huddersfield Road by the pelican crossing. The health centre in front of you was opened at the end of 2005. For many years the disused concrete-built coal

staithe was a familiar sight in this area with the phrase "Low Moor Coal Co, industrial and domestic". They held coal brought up by locomotive from the various pits in the area.

Turn right and then left up the footpath by the wide parking area opposite the bus stop. A steam locomotive used to cross Huddersfield Road at this point. There was a group of houses called Mather's Buildings in this area which was also known as the Puncheon Lump. (Puncheons were wooden pit props.)

At the end of footpath turn left into Common Road. Continue until the junction of Park Road on the right. Cross here and walk a little way up Park Road and then right into Lower School Street.

Before the mid 1970's this was a tightly packed area of old housing known as Hill Top and bounded by Lower School Street, Union Road, Manor Row and Huddersfield Road.

Walk along Lower School Street noticing on the left Edward Turner Close and Avery Tulip Court. Both take their names from former active workers with the British Legion who built these housing complexes.

Just before the row of town houses with gardens to your left, turn left and then right along the back of the houses by the garages. Continue forward keeping to the right through the shopping precinct and look for the pelican crossing to your right. This area was the site of Victoria Square and the Victoria Inn known locally as "The Drop". Notice the cobble stones to your right.

Cross Huddersfield Road. The large building to your right, which is now a commercial unit, was the Low Moor Picture House. (It opened in 1914 and closed as a cinema in the early 1960s). The premises were built as a mission hall in the early part of the 20th century.

The lower part of the beauty shop used to be well known as Dr Bowler's surgery. To its left stood Low Moor Post Office before it transferred to Common Road and then closed down completely in early 2005.

Follow the footpath opposite the crossing towards some industrial units. You are now in the area known as Old Hill Top.

Cross the road and keep left with low wall on your right and go along a snicket. You emerge at the old houses in Worsnop Street. The building with air conditioning units is the Guide Post Hotel.

Continue on and cross Low Moor Street. You are now in Hird Road which is named after the Hird family, Richard Hird was one of the founders of the Low Moor Company. The old houses on your left were occupied by the agents and managers of the Company.

Turn right in Netherlands Avenue. Opposite is Aldersgate Methodist Church which was built in 1974 to replace Wesley Place and Oxley Place Methodist Churches. The Low Moor Local History Group meets here (for details see the end of the walk)

Cross Common Road and make your way to the war memorial on the left. This part of Low Moor was once commonly known as the Guide Post. There was a big wooden signpost that stood in Cleckheaton Road near the wall of Holy Trinity Church (opposite). It gave directions to Bradford and Cleckheaton etc.

The war memorial was paid for by public subscription and erected in 1928. You will also hear it referred to as The Cenotaph. (*"Iron Poppies"* gives biographical details of the fallen of Low Moor in WW1 – see website for details)

With your back to the 1914-18 War inscription on the memorial walk down the short footpath and forward into Brighthouse Road. This road is so named as prior to the construction of Huddersfield Road in 1830s it formed part of the main route from Bradford to Brighthouse.

Up until the 1950s a small steam locomotive, referred to earlier, crossed the end of the road on tracks that connected the lower part of Low Moor with the iron works and the coal staithe, the site of which we passed at the beginning of this walk.

Some of the older residents of the area will be able to tell you of the "Arches" which stood across this stretch of road. It was a very high bridge which allowed the conveyance of ash from the iron works to the spoil heaps on the left hand side of this road.

After a little way you will see Short Row. on your left. They are believed to have been built in 1805 to house workers

at the iron works. The taller house on the left was added later. Long Row stood on the opposite side of the road in the area which is now part of the business park. The Long Row nameplate can be seen at the back of the brick-built building at the end of Brighthouse Road.

The first two furnaces were blown in on this site in 1790 using local ironstone. The plaque from one of the original furnaces can still be found on one of the old buildings in the complex but it is not accessible to the public.

Most of the area to your left is now occupied by BASF, formerly CIBA and Allied Colloids. There was once a large dam here to supply the iron works. Just before BASF gate 9 look right into the iron works site and notice the building with the pitched apex roof and the SSHQ sign. This was the main offices, (called the Counting House,) erected in 1848 to replace the original octagonal building pictured at the head of this leaflet.

Turn right into New Works Road and look out for the Long Row nameplate at the rear of the brick building. **Cross the road.** The row of old houses, although now in New Works Road, have an address of Wooller Road. The Woollers were an old family in this area. One of them was a butcher and also the local Registrar for Births and Deaths in the mid 1800s.

The Royal which also stands back from the road was formerly two separate pubs – The Foundry Arms and the Butchers Arms. At one time there were at least fifteen public houses in Low Moor for use by the thirsty forge men. The building in front of the Royal was formerly a butchers and grocers.

Turn left and cross Carr Lane and walk a little way down New Works Road until you are level with the post boxes. In the distance you can see the high level pipes linking one part of the BASF plant to another. Just beyond that point was the entrance to the New Beggin a later addition to the iron works in the 1830s. With the opening of this part of the works new housing appeared at Morley Carr – George Street and King Street. These stood a little way along the road to the right and were demolished in the 1970s.

The old building with its back to the road now used by NW Wire and Tube Ltd was the barn of Barraclough (later Dross House) Farm. The low building, now a café backs onto the yard where Harry Faulkner, the *Low Moor giant* lived in the early 20th century. He was said to be 7ft tall.

Notice the overgrown snicket to your right. Look for the old gas lamp which has been converted to electricity

Go back to the junction of New Works Road and Carr Lane, then turn left and continue past the town houses on your right. The Patent Hammer Pub used to stand here. Shortly you will come to a playing field. On 31st January 1948 a large hole appeared in this field to reveal a 190 feet deep coal pit!

Where the road narrows considerably there is a brick wall to the right. Behind it is Whitteron House with its former coach house. Dr John Whitteron (1820-1891) who lived here was a member of the first North Bierley Local Board in 1865. To the left of it stood the old Conservative Club known as “The Mule”.

On the opposite side of the road are Kellett Buildings – notice the blocked up taking in door high up on the gable wall. The next building, now occupied by a timber products manufacturers, was formerly the Fleece Inn. Carr Lane Tide (fair) used to be held in the field behind.

Just before the large stone building on the right a path called “The Tinkler” used to lead up to Huddersfield Road via a double flight of wooden steps. The stone building which is a now Stobart’s meat product manufacturers premises was originally Carr Lane School built by the Low Moor Company in 1863.

Immediately after Stobart’s turn right into Holly Hall Lane. This short steep road was part of Old Storr Hill, itself an old route into Wyke. Holly Hall at the top is now divided in two dwellings, Holly Hall itself and Holly Hall Cottage. Look out for the date of 1678 on the lower set of wrought iron gates.

At the top of the lane turn left and take the first turning right below the houses along a narrow snicket which brings you out into Huddersfield Rd.

This was the old boundary between Low Moor and Wyke. **Turn right into Huddersfield Road.**

If you want a better view of Holly Hall make a short diversion down Rosehill Crescent – the first turning on your right.

Take the next right into Markfield Drive and follow it round to the left into Markfield Close and go down a snicket between nos. 31 & 33. Near the bottom of the steps turn left along the side of the houses and when you emerge on an estate road, turn left and ignore the first right (Markfield Crescent) and make for what looks like a dead end. By no 42 take the snicket to the right which goes past St Mark’s Church graveyard on your left and comes out in St Mark’s Place.

There are some very old buildings here. Look out for the tall monkey puzzle tree in the back garden of the last old house on your right. Before St Mark’s was built this area was called Moorside. The houses to the left in St Mark’s Terrace were known locally as Brass Knocker Row, as some of the Iron Works managers lived there.

Carry on forward into New Works Road. Notice that there is a row of old cottages to either side. They were built with their backs facing Long Wall Side. It’s hard to believe that they would have been looking out onto fields. What a contrast to the scene behind them – smoky chimneys, flaming furnaces & crashing hammers! You are now back at the start of the walk.

You can download further copies of this leaflet from our website www.lmlhg.org.uk which also provides links to the late John Nicoll’s photographs of Low Moor.

You may also be interested in our South Bradford Local History Alliance website www.sblha.com which contains parish and other local records and links to related websites.

Low Moor Local History Group meets on the first Friday of each month (except August) at 2.30pm at Aldersgate Methodist Church which is opposite the war memorial which you have passed on this walk. Visitors and new members are welcome.

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This leaflet was originally sponsored by Low Moor Urban Village. There are four other walks in this series. Thanks to BASF - The Chemical Company – for printing this leaflet