



The Lancashire Automobile Club St Georges Day Run 2019



Route Information

Once again we bring you some of the finest rally roads from the 1950's and 60's when many of your cars took part in night rallies. This year we have returned to Blackburn Northern Sports for our start venue and will be taking in many new roads as we make our way to Heskin Hall to have comfort break and coffee then return through the Anglezarke and Pendle Hill before returning to Blackburn Northern Sports

This Route Information booklet will let you know a little about the places you pass through on this 120 mile journey.

First of all some information about the Club. The Lancashire Automobile Club was established in 1902. It rapidly gained a reputation for organising 'reliability trails' and hillclimbs. Some of the roads you will travel today probably featured on these early events. Think of your forebears as you enjoy today's event.

**Anthony Taylor
Clerk of Course.**



Start – Blackburn Northern Sports

The Club was formed in 1913, originally named Blackburn St. James' (affiliated to St. James' Church on Shear Brow.) After competing in the North East Lancashire League, the Club joined the Ribblesdale Junior League in 1922. In the period between the two World Wars a team from the Club also played in the Chorley and District League. The cricket ground was located at Longshaw, better known perhaps as Blackburn Railway Clerks' Ground and now the site of Longshaw Primary School.

In the early 1920's the club's benefactor, the late Joseph Bassnett, an ardent cricket supporter, bought a field at Pleckgate. In the late summer of 1923 a summer fayre was held to commemorate the official opening in the presence of local dignitaries. Soon after, the area in the centre of the field was excavated and drained.

Facilities at the Club have gradually been improved over the years. In the late 1960's a new clubhouse of modest proportions (an old prefabricated doctors surgery) was erected. This has been extensively remodelled and extended over the years and now houses the members' lounge and function room. Two new tennis courts were added during the 1970's followed in 1978 by the opening of two new squash courts together with new cricket and tennis changing rooms. This project created a new squash section at the club, which is still thriving.

Mellor (2.30mls)

Atop the highest hill on Mellor Moor, overlooking Mellor, is the site of a Roman signalling station and a now-disused Royal Observer Corps Nuclear Blast and Fallout Monitoring Station. The monitoring post was opened in July 1959, was decommissioned in October 1968 and is situated on a low mound ten yards west of a trig point overlooking BAE Samlesbury Airfield. Many people still believe that this was a nuclear shelter or an air raid shelter for the use of the local population during times of war. A millennium viewpoint pillar has been erected alongside encroaching onto the top of the post.

The village also boasts three disused quarries and the remains of an eel farm that was destroyed by fire in the 1990s.

Samlesbury Hall (5.40ml)

The hall was built with its solar end windows facing east, as was the practice. When the chapel was constructed 140 years later, it too was built to face east. However, when the chapel was connected to the main hall 60 years later, the angle of connection was less than 90° because of the solstice change in the Sun's position over the years. The chapel was originally built by the Southworth family to



upgrade the house to a manor house, which had to have a large household, a chapel and priest, a store of fish for Fridays, usually a pond and a water mill and a grain store. Therefore Samlesbury Hall reflects the building styles and religious beliefs from the 14th century to the present day. Samlesbury Hall may have been built to replace an earlier building destroyed during a raid by the Scots, during The Great Raid of 1322. The hall has been many things in its past including a public house and a girls' boarding school, but since 1925, when it was saved from being demolished for its timber, it has been administered by a registered charitable trust, the Samlesbury Hall Trust. This Grade I listed medieval manor house attracts more than 50,000 visitors each year.

Hoghton Tower (8.70ml)

The land on which Hoghton Tower stands has been in the possession of the de Hoghton family from at least the 12th century. The present building dates from about 1560–65, and was built for the Right Worshipful Thomas de Hoghton (1518-1580), replacing an earlier house on or near the same site. It has been suggested that the property has links to William Shakespeare through Alexander Hoghton who died in 1581.



King James I stayed in the house for three days on 15–18 August 1617. James was accompanied by his favourite George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham and by the Earls of Pembroke, Richmond, Nottingham, and Bridgewater; Lords Zouch, Knollys, Mordaunt, Grey, Stanhope and Compton; the Bishop of Chester many baronets and knights; and a crowd of Lancashire notables.[6] Following a petition of Lancashire folk he lifted the restrictions on Sunday recreations, that culminated in the publishing, initially just for Lancashire, and nationally the following year, of the Book of Sports.

In 1643 the house was damaged by Parliamentary forces during the Civil War. In February 1643, after the taking of Preston by Seaton, Hoghton Tower was besieged by Parliamentary troops under Captain Nicholas Starkie of Huntroyd. At the time the house held a garrison of only 30-40 musketeers, who capitulated on 14 February. But when the Roundheads entered the house, the powder magazine in the old pele tower, between the two courtyards, exploded with immense force, killing over 100 Parliamentary men. This central tower was never rebuilt.

From 1662, for over a hundred years, Hoghton Tower housed nonconformism in the Banqueting Hall, after Sir Gilbert's son Sir Richard (1616-1678) converted to Presbyterianism and by 1664 it had become a centre, in the Blackburn District, for both Independents and Presbyterians. John and Charles Wesley are reputed to have preached at Hoghton.

Brindle (10.60mls)

The name Brindle has its origin in the earlier *Burnhul*, the 'hill by the stream'. There is no direct reference to the village in the Domesday Book but the heavily wooded area in which it was situated is mentioned. The name partly explains the village's claim to be the site of the battle of *Brunanburh*, where in 937 King Athelstan "*won undying glory with the edges of swords, against the Norsemen*". The possible validity of this location was reinforced by the discovery of the great Cuerdale treasure in the nineteenth century; it can be seen in the British Museum.

At the heart of the village is the Parish Church of St. James, in pre-Reformation days known as St. Helen's. Its first rector is recorded as Ughtred in 1190. The present church tower was constructed about 1500 and two of the original bells are still regularly rung.



Lostock Hall (15.60mls)

Lostock Hall traces its origins to James de Lostock who in 1212 built Lostock's Hall in the then rural area of Cuerden Green in the township of Walton-le-Dale. A settlement expanded outwards

from Lostock's Hall, taking its name from the Hall. The former separate community of Tardy Gate is now for all intents and purposes a part of Lostock Hall - it used to be the farming community linking one part of rural Lancashire to another.

Leyland Motors (16.50mls)

A whole series of buses familiar to people all over the UK came from this factory. The single deck Leyland Lion, Tiger, Panther, Leopard. The double deck Titan PD series. Not to forget the Atlantean a Leyland design that radically changed the shape of buses all over the world. There were trucks as well the Beaver, Comet, Octopus and Hippo. Got to be careful though as specialist bus body builders used Leyland chassis so buses with the Leyland badge were often only the chassis. The last Leyland bodied buses were made in 1955.



The company started in a back yard in Leyland, Lancashire, and grew through its fine products, business sense and gradual consolidation. At its peak the name Leyland covered almost all the remaining British owned vehicle manufacturing companies from Alvis to Wolseley alphabetically (can't think of any beginning with X, Y or Z) making cars, buses, lorries, not to forget Fire Engines.

Of course the Centurion tank at the roundabout (17.05mls) was also one of Leyland's finest products!

Croston (26.95mls)

Croston has historic homes, a church that dates back to William the Conqueror and a cobbled packhorse bridge, erected in the 15th century, which crosses the River Yarrow.

The name of this village means 'Town of the Cross'. This name was given to commemorate a 7th Century Wayside cross which was used by the Celtic missionaries who brought Christianity to the North of England. The original cross is no longer there and it is thought to have gone in Cromwell's time. A new cross was placed in the village in 1950.



Church Street itself, which has rightly been described as one of the best preserved rows of 17th century cottages in Lancashire.

Rufford Hall (30.35mls)

Rufford's name derives from the Old English rūh and ford, the rough ford. It was a crossing place over the River Douglas. Rufford was recorded as Ruchford in 1212, Rufford in 1285, Roughford in 1318, Rughford in 1332 and Roghforth in 1411.

Part of the manor was granted by Richard Bussel, baron of Penwortham to Richard Fitton in the reign of Henry I. In 1278 his descendant and heiress Dame Maude Fitton married Sir William Hesketh. Sir William's grandson married the daughter of Edmund Fitton, who owned the other moiety of the manor which then descended with the Heskeths.

In 1339 Sir William Hesketh was granted a charter for a weekly market and annual fair. He fought at the Battle of Crécy in 1346, and was knight of the shire in 1360.

In the late 15th century the Heskeths built Rufford Hall. It was altered in 1661 and redeveloped in the 1820s. The family built Rufford New Hall in 1760 and enlarged it around 1798-99 when the family left the old hall for the new.

Martin Mere (31.00 – 36.00mls)

Once probably the largest freshwater lake in England Martin Mere was formed at the end of the last ice age, when water filled a depression in the glacial drift. Since then its size has varied as water levels have risen and fallen. The original giant lake can be seen on Saxton's map from 1579 and stretched from Rufford in the east, to Churchtown (then known as Meols) in the west. To the north of the lake were the villages of Mere Brow. The mere originally drained out in two places; at the western end the arm of the mere known as the Wyke drained into the Pool (or Old Pool) at what is now Crowland Street, Blowick, while at its eastern end it flowed into the river Douglas at Rufford. Active management of the mere began in 1692 when a channel was made in an attempt to drain it.

Further attempts to drain it were made in the 1780s, but effective drainage was only achieved in the mid-19th century with the introduction of steam pumping. Farms and market gardens were established on the rich soils of the reclaimed land. Between 1974 and 1982 sand from the former lake bed was quarried for use in glass-making at Mere Sands Wood which is now a nature reserve.

Martin Mere Wildfowl Trust (35.15mls)

Martin Mere is one of Britain's most important wetland habitats and is run by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the largest international wetland conservation charity in the UK.

The reserve itself covers over 350 acres and is visited by thousands of migratory wildfowl throughout the year, as well as being home to over 1,000 tame birds, many of which are on the endangered list.



Burscough Bridge (36.85mls)

Burscough developed originally as a small farming village on a low ridge above the West Lancashire Coastal Plain, and has Viking roots – Burh-skogr = fortress in the woods. Of early importance to the village was Burscough Priory, the ruins of which stand to the southwest of the current settlement. The priory formerly housed the tombs of the Earls of Derby, a prominent family in the region, which are now to be found in Ormskirk parish church. With the building of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the coming of the railways in the mid-18th century new developments took place north of the original village, in what came to be called Burscough Bridge, though the two communities have long since melded together.

Newburgh (40.10mls)

Newburgh has been described as arguably the most attractive village in West Lancashire. In 1304 an aristocratic businessman, Sir Robert de Lathom, bought a licence to start a weekly market in Newburgh.

Sir Robert probably chose the village for a market because it was close to his home at Lathom House. Many landowners increased their incomes in this way, since tolls were paid for using the market.

The village grew in commercial importance and held an annual fair as well as the market in June, on and around the Feast of Barnabas.

Newburgh became large and important enough to elect a Court Leet – an early version of a town council – whose members had responsibilities including ale-tasting (for quality!) and window-looking (for payment of tax).

The Derby family (the major local landowner) provided employment for the majority of the village. The Derbys were on the losing side in the Civil War, but eventually their estates were restored. However, they moved their main dwelling to Knowsley Park and cut their very close connections with the village, although they continued to own most of its land.

Parbold (41.00mils)

The earliest known reference to Parbold is in the late 12th century, where grants of land were made to nearby Burscough Priory (pronounced Bursk-owe). After the Norman conquest, Parbold was part of the Barony of Manchester. Little development occurred from this time to the mid 18th century. Parbold became a civil parish in 1894.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, a number of coal mines worked nearby, rather meagre, seams; hard sandstone was also quarried. Both coal and sandstone could be exported over the waterways; boatbuilding was a minor economic activity in Parbold around this time. The old windmill that is located next to the canal replaced an earlier water cornmill which once stood on Alder Lane, and was in use until 1985.

The village is dominated by Parbold Hill which rises to 400 feet above sea level and offers stunning views of the West Lancashire plain but also over the North West of England across to Liverpool, Manchester and Wales. Wood Lane, just off the main road, is also known for its views of the surrounding countryside.



Heskin Hall (47.56mils)

Construction started on this, the New Hall, in c.1545. In 1666 the Hearth tax records show it to be the largest property upon the manor, with 15 hearths.

Surprisingly, although there is a “de-Heskin” family that appears in the records, they do not appear to have any links with the Hall. Earliest records (1212) describe Eccleston and Heskin as one “Knights Fee” held by Roger Garnet. It’s in its later history that references to some of the most



well-known names in English history appear. In 1506 these lands, and others were sold to Edmund Dudley, Minister for Henry VII (later executed for treason). Although initially forfeit the lands did eventually pass to his widow, Elizabeth who married Arthur Plantagenet. this meant it could pass to his son, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, in 1511. He too fell foul of his ambition and was executed by Queen Mary. The third generation of Dudley’s did no better, Robert was executed by Elizabeth I. The Dudley’s misfortune was counterpointed by the rise of

the Seymour's. They too could not survive court intrigue and in 1556 the property was sold to a local nobleman, Richard Molyneux.

It remained in the hands of the Molyneux family until 1739 when it became part of the Mawdsley Estates until sold to Alexander Kershaw in 1744. A wealthy member of the new Industrial Rich who originally came from Rochdale he seems to have led quite a "free living" lifestyle. He never married but left three acknowledged children at his death in 1788, Edward Newman Kershaw, John Copper and James Kershaw. By a will dated 1786 Edmund inherited but on his death (again without legitimate children) it passed to his brother John. His death in 1833 again without legitimate children led to a legal dispute. It was the heirs of Mary (Kershaw) Scott who emerged victorious from court. The main issue of the case seems to have been if her children were legitimate i.e. had she married their father. The sister of Alexander she is said to have "escaped" from her wedding day fleeing the church door riding pillion with her lover, Ralph Scott. The court accepted witness testimony that they had married there being no written evidence.

The last people to occupy the Hall as a home were Lord & lady Lilford in the 1960's. She was an ex dancer and actress and on their divorce in 1969 the Hall went to her as part of her settlement. Since then occupation has been commercial, including Blackburn College and a double glazing firm, who both used it for training purposes.

The Ghosts

Probably the most talked about inhabitants of the Hall are the ghosts. There were three documented but one left, it is said, with his piece of furniture many years ago. The two remaining are a young girl and an older man that are said to date from the Civil War. The Hall and much of the surrounding County was a centre for much activity with several battles and skirmishes fought nearby. Indeed, the County saw many atrocities and fighting here was amongst the fiercest in the Country.

The Hall was allegedly an overnight stopping place for Oliver Cromwell as well as being a site for the hanging of religious martyrs. Certainly the then owner, John Molyneux, is known to have declared for Parliament but only after the fall of Lathom House (a Royalist stronghold) and he had to compound for the estate.

As to the ghosts themselves they are said to be the those of a young Roman Catholic girl named Mathilda who was hanged by a Priest found at the Hall by Cromwell's soldiers, as evidence of his conversion to Protestantism. Cromwell's soldiers were unconvinced and hung him from the same spot.

Whatever the truth of it is on record describing the haste of some of her guests to depart as a result of sightings and incidents are reported regularly to this day by staff and visitors to the Hall.

RESET TRIP!

Eccleston (1.00ml)

Its name came from the Celtic word "eglēs" meaning a church, and the Old English word "tūn" meaning a farmstead or settlement - i.e. a settlement by a Romano-British church. Evidence of the settlement dates back hundreds of years; St. Mary's Church dates back to the 14th century AD. The village was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, the book ordered by William the Conqueror to detail all settlements and farms in England for the purpose of tax collection. Worden Hall.

Worden Hall (3.55mls)

The land at present day Worden Park was acquired by Henry Farington in 1534 and would stay with his family for over 400 years. The earliest hall on the site was called Shaw Hall and this is shown on a 1725 map of the estate. The hall was enlarged in 1742 by Sir William Farington and a

later account described it as a “large irregular stuccoed pile, containing a suite of apartments used as a museum stored with natural curiosities, busts, marbles...paintings... some of them frescoes found in the ruins of Herculaneum...” These artefacts were brought back by Sir William on the then fashionable Grand Tour of Europe.

In 1837 James Nowell Farington aged only 24, inherited Shaw Hall. He soon decided that both house and estate needed to be enhanced. Much of the house had dry rot, so a large part was demolished and a major rebuild to the designs of the architect Anthony Salvin took place over five years. It was now that the name change occurred and the grand house from then on was known as Worden Hall. Some of the older parts that survived the rebuild included the Derby Wing (or Service Wing) built by George Farington in the early 18th century and the nearby farm buildings. The gardens and parkland had new creations added, many of which we can still see today: the sunken lawn, the Hornbeam tree maze and the picturesque follies of the ice house and stone arch over the Shaw Brook.

In 1847 James married Sarah Esther Touchet, a wealthy heiress. A huge wedding was held at the new Worden Hall. This lavish celebration featured a ball for 600 guests and even a hot air balloon. There was a Children’s Treat for 1500 pupils and a special meal for over 200 of the local poor. Sadly James died just 8 months later and the running of the estate was taken over by Sarah and his two sisters, Mary Hannah and Susan Maria. His sisters were remarkable women in their own right by the restrictive standards of the times: Mary Hannah was a keen biologist and Susan Maria specialized in history as well as being active in local charities and the Local Board (what would now be the local council). During the 1860s Cotton Famine the sisters organized relief for unemployed factory workers.

In 1910 Henry Novel Farington inherited Worden, and he was to be the last squire of the property. Soon after World War I parts of the estate began to be sold off, presumably to raise money. A devastating fire struck the house in 1941, severely damaging much of the newer parts of the hall and leaving it a burnt out shell. Henry died six years later and a huge part of the building’s historical contents, collected over so many years by the Faringtons, were auctioned off. In 1951 the estate was bought by Leyland Urban District Council who opened the 60 hectare grounds as a park for the public that same year.

Leyland Cross (5.60mls)

At the centre of the oldest part of Leyland stands the town cross and well. The cross shaft and steps are probably medieval and the well would have been a useful water source in the early days of the settlement. Leyland is one of the Lancashire Hundreds, which are large administrative areas set up in late Saxon times. (The other hundreds are Blackburn, Amounderness, Lonsdale, West Derby, Newton and Salford. It’s disputed as to what a hundred refers to. Some sources claim it is an area that could provide a hundred men-at-arms, others say it represents a hundred households, or perhaps a hundred hides (each hide being 120 acres- enough to feed a large family).

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hide being 120 acres- enough to feed a large family). The original function of the cross is not clear- it could be the market cross or an early preaching cross, or perhaps both. The town stocks and whipping post were also here until the end of Victorian times. It's not known when the top part of the cross was broken off, with some historical sources claiming it may have been done by puritans. A drawing from 1769 shows the cross to already be broken by then. Damage to crosses such as these was common across the country and many market and church crosses were attacked during the turbulent times in power struggles between factions of the Christian Church. Here in Lancashire many of our crosses have been knocked down, hidden and reused before finally being reinstated.



Anglezarke (11.80mls)

The general term given to the area surrounding the reservoirs is Anglezarke. This is a civil parish in the district of Chorley, Lancashire. It is dominated by a series of reservoirs that supply water primarily to Wigan, and a large expanse of moorland with much evidence of Bronze Age settlements.

Anglezarke derives its name from the Old English name 'Anlaf' & '-es' & the Old Norse word 'erg' meaning 'Hill pasture belonging to Anlaf'. The first use of the name was in 1202 when it was recorded as 'Andelesarewe'. By 1224 this had become 'Anlauesargh' and by 1240 'Anleshargh'. It lies in the West Pennine Moors in Lancashire, sandwiched between the moors of Withnell and Rivington, and is close to the towns of Chorley and Darwen.

The area of Anglezarke and Rivington was also the location of the 2002 Commonwealth Games Mountain Biking competition.

Anglezarke Reservoirs (12.00 mls)

In 1847, Liverpool promoted the Liverpool Water Act, which allowed it to look for water outside the city limits. Additionally, the city took over the local sewerage boards and appointed James Newlands as City Engineer. To replace groundwater supplies, surface reservoirs had to be built.

The first of these was at Rivington Pike. The Dam project was passed in 1847, but it was highly controversial and battles raged between the "Pikists", the supporters and the "Antipikists". The matter was resolved by the celebrated railway engineer George Stephenson, and the project went ahead. In August 1857, the first water from Rivington was delivered to Green Lane in Liverpool.

Today there are 8 impounding reservoirs at Rivington, with a total storage of over 4,000 million gallons from a modest catchment of 9,710 acres.



Belmont (18.65mls)

Before 1804 Belmont was known as Hordern and was part of the upper part of the township of Sharples in the parish of Bolton le Moors. The township contained cotton-mills, a large dye works owned by Thomas Rycroft that had a landmark chimney (which has been demolished), and a printworks; there was a paper works at Spring Side in Folds.

Edgeworth (25.05mls)

Edgeworth is of Anglo-Saxon origin, denoting a village in the hills and has had many spellings, from 'Eggwrthe' in 1212, Egewurth in 1221, and in 1277 Eggeswrth and Edgeword and Eggeworth in the year 1292. In the 19th century the preferred spelling was "Edgeworth", although "Edgworth", as used by the Post Office, is now the standard spelling.

Haslingdon Grane (30.55mls)

Haslingden Grane is a valley west of the town of Haslingden. Around the middle of the nineteenth century it contained a thriving community. About 1500 people lived in the valley, some 600 of them in a village close to the main road to Blackburn, and the rest in several dozen farms and hamlets scattered around the valley.

By the 1920s almost everyone had left Haslingden Grane. There had been a gradual decline in the opportunities for employment within the valley, and in addition the creation of a string of three reservoirs accelerated the process of depopulation. The village and most of the farms lay above the reservoirs, but as the Bury and District Water Board had bought most of the land in the lower parts of the valley residents were obliged to leave when their tenancies came to an end and farmers had to forfeit much of their best land.

Haslingden (37.65ml)

Part of what is now Haslingden, along with that of the neighbouring towns of Rawtenstall and beyond that Bacup were part of the Forest of Blackburnshire, that part being the Forest of Rossendale. The Forest was a hunting park during the late 13th and 14th centuries; 'Forest' referred to it being parkland rather than being heavily wooded, as the forest declined much earlier, during the Neolithic period.

Haslingden grew from a market town (a market was established in 1676) and later a coaching station to a significant industrial borough during the period of the Industrial Revolution. In particular with the mechanisation of the wool and cotton spinning and weaving industries from the 18th to the 19th centuries, and with the development of watermills, and later steam power.

Worsthorne (52.05ml)

The village had a close association with the Thursby family, benefactors of the Burnley area, and has a number of listed buildings. These include Jackson's House in the centre of the village, which was built in about 1600, and the Church of St. John the Evangelist which dates from 1833-1839. The original plans for the church, drawn up by architect Lewis Vulliamy, can be seen on the Incorporated Church Building Society website. It has a 61 ft clocktower, stained glass windows and wrought ironwork. The churchyard has the grave of a packmaster, a person whose job was to lead packhorses across the moors in special sunken trails that allowed the horses to walk unhitched since the walls of the trail prevented them from straying.

Brierfield (53.45mls)

The building of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, the Blackburn to Addingham turnpike road and the railway from Preston to Colne led to the town developing during the early 19th century. Before the new transport links were constructed, the town was just a scattering of farmhouses forming part of the township of Little Marsden, which also covered a large part of what was to become Nelson. The construction of the first cotton mill in 1832 off Lob Lane (now Clitheroe Road) close to the Marsden coal pit, led to the massive growth of the settlement during the mid-nineteenth century.

The town's war memorial features a large roaring bronze lion. The town is known for its part in the movement of the Quaker. A meeting house is still in use on the south eastern boundary of the town, and the bridge over Pendle Water at the foot of the town is called Quaker Bridge.



Fence (55.80mls)

Fence is a small village along 'Wheatley Lane Road'. It abuts the sister village of Wheatley Lane. Because of this, Fence and Wheatley Lane are often referred to together as 'Fence'. The present village now terminates to the west past St Anne's church, where the new bypass cuts the line of the old road.

Fence was in the Hundred of Blackburn. Up until late medieval times, it lay in the Forest of Pendle, the hunting preserve of the King. The name of the village, is derived from the fact that an enclosure was erected in the area, within which the King's deer were kept. This became known as the "Fence", and the community that built up around it over time took the name. In 1507, Henry VII "surrendered [the parcel called the Fence] to the use of the tenants of Higham, West Close and Goldshaw Booth, to be held by them and their heirs for ever." The first mention of Fence, is in a document of 1402, as 'Fens in Penhill'.

Newchurch in Pendle (57.50mls)

Famous for the Pendle Witches who lived there in the 17th century. Newchurch used to be called Goldshaw Booth. It has seen little change over the centuries - most of the buildings look very much the same. Jonas Moore, co-founder of the Greenwich Observatory was born here in 1618. He also lived in Higham. St Mary's Church at the center of the village (if you can call it a center!) is steeped in history. It's not that easy to see from the road as it's on the downward side of a steep hill with a row of houses at the top and the local primary school to the side. There was a chapel of ease on this site in 1250 and a later chapel was dedicated in 1544. The tower, although restored, is the only remaining part of that building. The current church was probably built in the 17th century, however it was only completed in 1740. The "eye of God" is built into the west side of the tower. To the East of the porch, up against the South wall, is the alleged grave (carved with a skull & crossbones) of Alice Nutter, one of the famous Pendle Witches. Each year since 1949 the ancient ceremony of Rushbearing is commemorated in August. There is a procession around the village and the new Rushbearing queen is crowned followed by a service of thanksgiving in the church.

Barley (57.80mls)

After a cow farm was established around 1266, Barley earned its livelihood from agriculture. This continued up until the 18th century. During the 18th century textiles began to be manufactured as an extra source of income. The brooks around Barley offered an effective source of waterpower which led to the building of several cotton factories. Two small cotton mills were built at Narrowgates and Barley Green. At its height, Barley Green Mill had 200 looms, until floods destroyed the building in 1880. The cotton twist mill at Narrowgates, which was built by William Hartley to spin cotton warp thread, and the adjacent weaver's cottages survive and are now private houses.



In December, United Utilities engineers were "stunned" to unearth a 17th-century cottage, complete with a cat skeleton, during a construction project in the village, near Lower Black Moss reservoir. There has been some speculation that the well-preserved cottage could have belonged to one of the Pendle witches, although there is no evidence to suggest that it did. Simon Entwistle, an expert on the witches, said: "In terms of significance, it's like discovering Tutankhamen's tomb". Frank Giocco, from NP Archaeology, who unearthed the building, said: "It's like discovering your own little Pompeii. We rarely get the opportunity to work with something so well preserved." Many artefacts from the building's latter years, such as Victorian crockery, a tin bath and a bedstead, were discovered around the site.

Pendle Hill (59.00mls)

On your left is Pendle Hill famous for the Pendle witch trials of the 17th century, when 19 local women were hung for being witches. The 400th anniversary of this event is celebrated this year. It is a very romantic hill, spiritually associated with George Fox's vision in 1652, the 17th century Lancashire Witches, and the location both for the book "Mist over Pendle" and the film "Whistle Down the Wind".



The hill stands at 1827 ft and varies in width from one to three miles. The historical relevance of Pendle Hill gives it a bleak and eerie quality. It was used as a burial ground in the Bronze age and a 7,000 year old burial mound can be found on the top. More recently in the 17th century the events which led to the hanging of the Pendle Witches took place. The evidence against them was hardly conclusive, but nonetheless a considerable mythology has grown up around the witches, whose memory is perpetuated by a hilltop gathering each Halloween.

Forty years after these events, George Fox claimed to have seen a vision of God on the summit, which led him to form the Quaker Movement.

Downham (61.90mls)

The Assheton family is responsible for keeping the village and surrounding well managed estate, including the farms and some of the houses in neighbouring Twiston, in its present unblemished condition. None of the properties on the estate is privately owned. The manor has been in the family's ownership since 1558 and has passed through a direct male line of the Assheton's since 1680.



Settlers came to the Downham area over 1000 years ago, probably in the 8th or 9th century, although the village does not get a mention in Domesday. Place

names suggest early settlement and a reference to the village elder or lord, Aufray [Alfred] the Saxon in early records suggest a settled community at the time of the Norman Conquest. Two ancient roads passed by taking travellers across this area of the Ribble Valley: the well known route of the Roman road from Ribchester to Ilkley passes along Downham Green to the north of the village merging beyond Downham with a much older route, probably part of the Irish Gold Road, which passes the south end of the village.

Chatburn (62.80mls)

Wednesday October 30th 1940

This is the day that the horrible reality of war came to the village. Early on that Wednesday afternoon a German bomber, circled very low over the village, so low in fact people could clearly see the pilot at his controls. As he passed over the village he released two bombs causing the death of 3 people, injuries to many others and extensive damage to many buildings. The three people killed were Miss Alice Robinson, who died later in hospital as a result of a direct hit on her house; Mrs Elizabeth Wilson, a resident of Ribble Lane, whose house was damaged; and Mr Lawrence Westwood from York, who was driving a petrol tanker through the village
Pendleton



Wiswell (67.00mls)

The name Wiswell is commonly spoken as wize. The true pronunciation is more like 'wize-well' consistent with the original spellings of "Wyswell" or "Wiswall". There are several theories about origins of the name. It is said to take its name from Old Molly's Well, a local landmark later to become known as Wise Woman's Well (Wise Well). Alternatively, it is thought by some that 'Wis' was the name or part of the name of a pre-Christian chieftain and the hamlet was developed because of a well which provided essential water, hence Wiswell.

Great Harwood (71.00mls)

Great Harwood is a town with an industrial heritage. The Mercer Hall Leisure Centre in Queen Street, and the town clock, pay tribute to John Mercer (1791–1866), the 'father' of Great Harwood, who revolutionised the cotton dyeing process with his invention of mercerization. The cotton industry became the main source of employment in the town, and by 1920 the Great Harwood Weavers' Association had more than 5,000 members.

And so the route returns to Blackburn Northern Sports from where we started. Hope you enjoyed your day.

Blackburn Northern Sports (76.25mls)

Welcome back to Blackburn Northern Sports for some light refreshments and a natter with your fellow entrants

We wish all entrants a pleasant and successful day and spectators a lot of interest and enjoyment watching these wonderful classic cars,

Anthony Taylor,
Clerk of the Course





The Lancashire Automobile Club Membership Application Form



Full Member's Personal Details

Title:	First Names:	Surname:
Address:		
Postcode:		
Home Tel:	Mobile Tel:	
Email Address:		
Please tick here if you want us to email you with information on club events.		

Associate Members* (if applicable.)

*Spouses/Partners/Children Under the Age of 18.

- Membership Annual Subscription £23.00 Full Member.
- Member and Associate £25.00 for a full member and associate member status for spouse/partner and under-18 children of the full member.
- Please note that Annual membership is renewable on the 14th March each year.
- Join after the 1st October and get the remainder of the current membership year and the full following membership year.
- Cheques are payable to **The Lancashire Automobile Club Ltd.**

Send the completed form with cheques to Andrew Ogden, High Lea Barn, Whins Lane, Simonstone, Lancashire BB12 7QU

Bank details for BACS payment Acc No – 61153668 Sort Code – 40-12-04 please email or post completed form and receipt to Andrew email highleabarn@yahoo.co.uk

For further information please email info@lancsautoclub.com .

Please include me in the mailing list for LAC events Yes/No

I am happy for you to include me in the Members' Handbook which will be published to Members only and will contain my name email address and phone number only. Yes/No

(If you wish to be removed from either the Mailing list, or the handbook, it is your responsibility to inform the club officials)

