

West Leeds Country Park and green Gateways leaflet
Phase 4.
Woodhall Lake to Cockersdale.

Pudsey.

Much of this route follows valleys running below the high ground of south and west Pudsey. Indeed the elevated position of Pudsey on the landscape is reflected in Domesday records, in which Pudsey is recorded as *Podeschesaie*, derived from *Pudoc*, an Old English personal name, and *heagh* meaning high ground. Atop this high ground is St Lawrence church, which is set on one of the highest points in Pudsey, a vantage point which means the church can be seen for much of our route.

Built in 1821 at a cost of £13 360, the church was consecrated in 1824. It is also gives it's name to The Pudsey St. Lawrence Cricket Club, which has a reputation for producing high quality Yorkshire and England players, including Sir Leonard Hutton, Herbert Sutcliffe and Major William Booth.

By the mid eighteenth century Pudsey was renowned as the largest clothing village in the West Riding, specialising in the manufacture of woollen cloth. Although by the 1870's spinning and fulling of the wool was carried out using steam power, weaving was still undertaken by hand. Eventually worsteds, which are stiff, smooth woollen fabrics, were also manufactured, and by 1912, there were twenty two mills operating in Pudsey.

Pudsey Bear, who first appeared on our screens in 1985 as the Children In Need mascot and official logo, was created by Joanna Ball, a graphic artist for the BBC, who is Pudsey born and bred and who's grandfather, Alderman Irvine Ball, was a past Mayor of the Borough of Pudsey.



1. Thornbury.

On a wet and windy October day in 1903, a taste of the Wild West chugged into town. Bill Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill arrived in Thornbury on the 5th October, with his Wild West extravaganza, complete with an entourage of 800 costumed performers, 500 horses and the Deadwood Stagecoach, all loaded into 49 railway carriages, pulled by four trains.

An eleven acre seated arena was set up on fields close to Leeds Road and 28 000 people arrived to watch battles and chases and demonstrations of sharp shooting.

Sadly the weather reined in the spectacle planned for the following day, as persistent rain turned the arena into a mud bath and wind collapsed a house onto part of the arena.



Bill Cody

2. Duckett's Crossing and Wildgrove Farm.

The level crossing which bisects the southern end of Dale Road is named after Richard Duckett, who was originally from Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales. In 1845 Duckett bought the Wildgrove estate, moving into the existing farmhouse which lay at the end of the access track. Later, he built himself a larger, grander property, situated on the other side, to the west of the track, and both properties can still be seen today. In 1854 a railway track was laid by the Leeds Bradford Railway Company, which crossed over his access road. In order to allow Duckett access to his farmstead, a level crossing was installed, which remains today, and is still known as Duckett's Crossing.

3. Gibraltar Mill.

Gibraltar Mill, which stood in the valley bottom below the hamlet of Gibraltar, or Delph End, was originally built in 1801 by Joseph Thackrah of Woodhall and Thomas Fairfax Carlyle. The mill was only Pudsey's second steam powered wool scribbling and fulling mill, and, up until the mid nineteenth century, was the largest mill in Pudsey. It was also the first mill in Leeds to install gas lighting, fitted after the building burnt down in 1812, after which Thackrah rebuilt the to a higher standard. This and a second adjacent mill became a major supplier of army uniforms, and employed a large local workforce. The mill remained standing until the 1930's, though the cobbled packhorse track, which led down to the mill from the Wildgrove estate, remains intact and accessible.

4. Uppermoor Quarry

Uppermoor Quarry is said to have been worked for hundreds of years, and was possibly medieval in origin. Certainly the sandstone it produced was used in the construction of the Moravian settlement, commenced in the mid 1740's, as well as many of the buildings in western Pudsey. The stone, which was celebrated as a hard, good quality building stone was known locally as "nell".

Much of Upper Moor was enclosed around 1813, following an Enclosure Act passed two years earlier. In 1730 part of the moor had been used for horseracing, and even earlier evidence of human activity existed in the earthworks which were visible prior to enclosure. It is likely that these basic fortifications were associated with Parliamentary troops, entrenched on the moor during skirmishes in Leeds and Bradford at the height of the English Civil War in the 1640's.

5. Smaleswell Mill and Buffy Lump

To the south of Gibraltar Mill, adjacent to Tyersal Lane stood Smaleswell Mill. This woollen mill was first constructed in 1821, but then rebuilt between 1844 / 45. On the night of 9th November 1867 a fire broke out in the boiler house of the mill, which at this time was owned by James Hargreaves, a cloth manufacturer. Despite the attendance of Pudsey's brand new fire engine, which was successful in extinguishing the fire, the roof fell in and £500 worth of damage sustained.



Buffy Lump

Buffy Lump cottage, a tiny cottage, which featured on the 1817 enclosure map, lay close to Smaleswell Mill. Built from stone taken from Uppermoor Quarry, this tiny remnant of Pudsey's past remains, almost unaltered, today.

6. Fox and Grapes Pub and Smaleswell Quarry

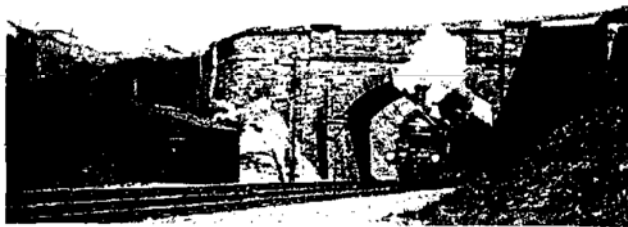
Formerly known as the Smaleswell Inn, the Fox and Grapes pub stands above the road which led down to Smaleswell Quarry in a little hamlet known in the nineteenth century as Jumbles Well.

By 1866 the pub had taken on its current name, and the landlord was Henry Horatio Hallas, who also owned the nearby Bankhouse public house. Hallas was followed by William Henry Clarkson, who was also the owner of Smaleswell Quarry. No doubt the

quarrymen he employed spent much of their wages in the pub he owned. Following a terrible accident in 1895, when a young girl fell to her death over the edge of Smalewell Quarry, the Fox and Grapes was chosen as the venue for her inquest.

7. The Greenside tunnel

In 1892 the Pudsey and Low Moor branch line, together with the quarter mile long Greenside railway tunnel opened. The tunnel entrance is situated just below the Fox and Grapes pub, adjacent to the bridge carrying the Smalewell Quarry track. The line continued west towards Bradford, travelling across Pudsey Beck along a man made embankment, said to be the largest of its kind in Europe. Many of the men employed in the construction of the railway took lodgings in and around Jumbles, and though the line disappeared in the 1960's, following Dr. Beeching's railway closures, the tunnel and embankment remain, testament to their hard work.



Train emerging under the bridge which carried the Smalewell Quarry track.

8. Bankhouse.

Although Bankhouse was originally known as Ulversthorpe, this fell out of use some 500 years ago, to be replaced in the eighteenth century by Lane End. When Moravian colonist arrived in the area in the 1740's, it was Bankhouse where they first settled, and a local man, Samuel Hills who became the first Pudsey man to be taken into the church.

9. The Bridle Roads - Scholebrook Lane (a) / Abey Lane (b) / Keeper Lane (c).

These old bridle routes hark back to a time when goods were moved around either by people on foot, or by mule. Indeed, Scholebrook Lane was nicknamed Jack Ass, in recognition of the pannier toting mules that carried coal to sell in the Pudsey area.

Keeper Lane, which runs down towards Pudsey from Bradford, was named after the gamekeepers cottage which was situated at the top on the lane. The track, which runs down to Hobroyd Bridge is picked up at the Leeds boundary by Abey Lane, named after Abraham Hutchinson, one time owner of Newstead House, which is situated at the top of the lane. The bridge takes it's name from Hobroyd Field in the

valley bottom, Hobroyd supposedly translating as the land cleared of trees where the hobgoblins lurk. Be warned !

10. Fulneck – The Moravian Settlement

In 1457 the first Protestant church was founded by Jan Hus in Bohemia, and it was from this that the Moravian Church found its direct origins. Following a period of persecution, refugees, many from Moravia, were forced to find a new homeland. Help came from a nobleman Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf, who in 1727 opened land in Saxony, Germany to the Renewed Church, where a settlement, named Herrnhut was established.

England formed a regular embarkation point for Moravian missionaries leaving for the Americas and West Indies. Eventually members of the Moravian Church settled here too. One such colony was founded in the mid 1740's on the twenty-two acre Falneck estate, a site identified by Zinzendorf himself following a visit in 1743. Initially the settlers renamed the estate Lambshill, but later changed name again to Fulneck, after a town in Moravia.

Initially the Moravian brethren occupied cottages and buildings at Bankhouse, until their new settlement was completed in 1748. This initial building phase encompassed a chapel, accommodation for the brethren and sisters, and a school. In 1753 there followed a boarding school for boys, and two years later the Girls' School opened. Added to this was a shop, bakery and various workshops, all linked along a broad terrace, known as The Terrace, which overlooked the Tong valley

Today this linear settlement has changed little, although the school, initially established to educate the children of Moravian missionaries, has long since been open to all children. Past alumni include Herbert Asquith, Prime Minister between 1908 and 1916, chemist and Nobel Prize winner Robert Robinson, and the actress Dame Diana Rigg. There is also a museum, which is open to the public during the summer months.



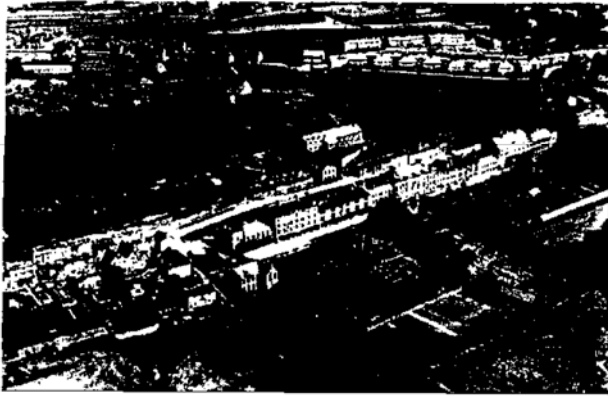
Herbert Asquith



Sir Robert Robinson



Dame Diana Rigg



Moravian Settlement – Fulneck (Around 1930)



Circa 1900 - The Terrace south front (Grade 1 listed) Showing the original Brethren's House in the foreground, and Sister's House at the opposite end, unusually, both are built of brick in the centre is the Grace Hall.

11. Sister's Wood.

The name *Sister's Wood* was given to this small, but well established, pocket of beech woodland by the Moravian settlers, and although named *Sister's Wood*, it was regularly visited by both the brethren and sister's, although on alternate days. Prior to the arrival of the Moravian settlers the woodland was called *Holdsworth's Wood*, named after the Holdsworth family who owned the Bankhouse Estate in the seventeenth century.

12. Fulneck Golf Course

Surrounding *Sister's Wood* is *Fulneck Golf Club*, which was established in 1892. The club was set up by the Reverend William Titterington, then Headmaster at the *Moravian Boy's school*, who, it is said, held the first meeting in his home. At this time

the course looked very different to today. Fairways were mown through fields of crops, and the open season was dictated by the agricultural year too – starting in August and finishing in April in order not to conflict with sowing, growing and the harvest.

13. South Park Mill

Built in 1874 by S. A. Jones and Co., and later extended, South Park Mill spun and manufactured worsted cloths at a time when the woollen clothing industry in Pudsey was at it's height.

14. Union Bridge Mill

Built in the late eighteenth century, this was the first woollen mill in Pudsey to use steam power in the fulling and scribbling process. The mill continued to thrive, moving on to produce worsted cloth, and by the end of the nineteenth century Union Bridge Mill was one of the main employers in the Pudsey areas, employing around 400 millworkers.